

*Friends of Uvic Libraries  
Newsletter* appears twice  
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## Showcasing the Showcases

Ann Saddlemyer

If you have been in the McPherson recently you will have observed the new art gallery space warmly inviting and quietly contained at the far end of the Information Commons. Not many however realize that treasures from the Maltwood Collection can be seen on almost every wall of the Library, and in all the offices. Also, when walking up the staircase one is greeted by the faces of the holders of the Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence - thirty-one so far.

Down on the basement level you will find more treasures. Music Audio and Media Services has mounted an impressive celebration of the life and works of the late Murray Adaskin. During the fall term this will be replaced by a new exhibition featuring the work of two well-known musicians, the late Uvic professor Phillip T. Young, who was also an historian of musical instruments, and another notable Canadian composer who has recently moved to Victoria, Robert Turner.

To the left of the same rear wall are two cases providing a small sample of the treasures from Special Collections and Archives. One showcases a collection of Broad­sides ranging from the 18th century to the present, including a fine sampling of works by the Irish artist Jack Butler Yeats; the other case exhibits Broad­sides and other work by Wendy Bender (later Morton) when she was principal proprietor and designer of the Fireweed Press in Sooke.

Pass through the doors of Special Collections and you will find further delights. Directly in front of you is a small representation of the generous gift by Cathleen Smith of Sidney of her collection of the works of the noted illustrator and author of children's books, Maurice Sendak. Around the corner is a permanent exhibition from the wide range of materials donated by Bruce and Dorothy Brown. A full list of the Brown Collection is available; the Sendak collection is not yet fully catalogued.



The Murray Adaskin Display outside Music, Audio and Media

## Editorial Remarks

Victor Neufeldt and  
Ann Saddlemyer

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Friends of UVic Libraries. As the number of Friends grows, so too will the newsletter, keeping you up to date on events and activities of special interest to our membership. In each issue we plan to showcase various collections, projects and individuals, and keep you informed of developments within the Libraries as they too expand. We welcome suggestions for future columns, news of members, and your own memories especially with respect to the collections and their history as we chart the progress of the heart of UVic – its libraries.

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Mark your calendars for  
Adventures in  
**Book Collecting: A  
Series of Three Talks  
by Keen Collectors**  
November 12, 19 and 26,  
2003  
7:30 p.m.  
University Club  
Wild Rose Room

See insert for further details  
or visit the Friends Website  
at [ateway.uvic.ca/lib/admin/  
friends/events.html](http://ateway.uvic.ca/lib/admin/friends/events.html)

## Friends Getting Together:

### Report of the Programme and Events Committee

Joan Coldwell

Volunteers with a wide variety of interests make up the Programme and Events Committee for Friends of UVic Libraries. John Tucker and Lloyd Howard are UVic faculty members, the former a Professor of English specializing in Old Norse and Old English, the latter a Dante specialist and Chair of the Hispanic and Italian Department. Judith Terry, novelist (*Miss Abigail's Part*) and children's literature specialist, is a retired member of the Department of English. Elizabeth Levinson has published two books about eating well on Vancouver Island, *Getting Fresh in and around Victoria* and, just out, *An Edible Journey*. Joan Coldwell chairs the committee. She is a retired Professor of English and Women's Studies from McMaster University (and previously UVic) who specializes in Canadian fiction and poetry.

The Committee is busy planning a number of book-related events, such as the series on collecting scheduled for November (see insert). There will also be special lectures by well-known writers, internet workshops and informal get-togethers.



A bibliophile at a "Roadshow" book display

To date, our events have taken the form of collaboration with other bodies. The formation of the Friends was announced during one of the annual events sponsored by the Richard and Margaret Beck trust. On 20 March, 2003 Dr. Vesteyn Olason of the University of Iceland gave an illustrated lecture on *The Books of the Icelanders* after which Chancellor Emeritus Norma Mickelson formally announced the founding of the society and invited audience members to become Friends.

On 7 June, 2003 the Friends Programme and Events Committee worked with the University Bookstore and the McPherson Library on the day-long *Antiquarian Book Road Show*. On this popular occasion, people were invited to bring two books for professional appraisals



A young guest enjoys the Strawberry Tea

by local antiquarian book sellers, and to enjoy a number of displays, including a Friends booth, and to partake of a strawberry tea (tables decorated by this committee!). This event was part of UVic's 2003 Celebrations to mark 100 years of education by UVic and its predecessors.

Suggestions for Friends events you would enjoy or the names of possible speakers would be most welcome. Please pass along Suggestions to me by email at [coldwell@uvic.ca](mailto:coldwell@uvic.ca) or by telephone at 250-656-9320.

## Be a Friend

Norma Mickelson

The UVic Library needs you – so why not be a friend? Recently, a new group was formed – Friends of UVic Libraries. As the second largest research library in British Columbia and the largest on Vancouver Island our library supports learning and research for all those at UVic – staff, students and faculty to say nothing of many members of the community. Friends of UVic Libraries are dedicated to enriching the Libraries' resources, ensuring the excellence of academic programs and extending cultural and intellectual resources to the community.

By becoming a Friend, you help with acquisitions and with supporting innovative projects in library technology and information access. You will also receive the newsletter and will be invited to various library events such as workshops, library tours and Friends sponsored events.

It's easy to become a Friend. Just send in the membership fee with an application form (see insert or find it on the Libraries Gateway at <http://gateway.uvic.ca/lib/admin/friends/default.html>)

Become a Friend today – you will be welcomed warmly! And you will be helping UVic Libraries maintain their reputation for excellence.

## From the Chair

Terry Sherwood

The Friends Executive Committee and I would like to extend a warm welcome to members of the recently established Friends of the UVic Libraries. This new group constitutes a further step in building relationships between the Libraries and the communities they serve, both inside and outside UVic.

The conception of "friend" assumes a reciprocal relationship which is happily beneficial to both parties. For supporters of the Libraries, the membership in Friends provides opportunities to enjoy expanded access to library resources as well as interesting, lively programming related to those resources. (Elsewhere, the *Newsletter* indicates the kinds of events intended by the Friends.) For the libraries and their staffs, creation of the Friends ensures a most welcome body of supporters committed to the Libraries in their central role as a community resource.

University libraries have increasingly looked to their Friends for support in meeting expanding library needs through donations. Many library Friends groups encourage the donation of books that enhance collections in specific subject areas; rare and valuable books are invited for Special Collections. Some invite non-targeted financial donations that can be used to supplement library discretionary funds. The rapidity of technological change frequently defines the need for such funds.

Most important, the Executive Committee and I look forward with pleasure to meeting you at Friends events in the future. We hope that you will join us in inviting others to become members.

## University Librarian's Message

Marnie Swanson

Thank you for being among the first to become a Friend of UVic Libraries. In its first year, the Friends have already become a dynamic group, bringing people together to enjoy, support and learn about the Libraries, and celebrate learning.

The Libraries' resources and services are essential in teaching and research activities, in a host of University fields of study and programs that have direct relevance to our lives on Vancouver Island, and throughout British Columbia and the rest of Canada.

In addition to its role in educating new generations and in serving the greater community, the Libraries play an essential role in supporting life-long learning considered necessary by members in our society.

I hope you will enjoy the benefits of membership, and I look forward to meeting you at the Friends events.

Mark your calendars for the

UVic

### Authors Event

Thursday, November 6, 2003

7:00 p.m.

University Bookstore

Readings

Refreshments

and more

Watch for your invitation

# Renovations at the McPherson Library

Wendie McHenry, Projects and Planning Librarian

For more than a decade, the McPherson Library has struggled to provide services in an overcrowded environment. Built in 1964 and expanded in 1974, the building was designed for 7,000 students, whereas enrollment now exceeds 18,000. Growth of the print collection combined with electronic developments has strained the library's capacity. Through study and consultation, including input from staff, faculty and students, the University of Victoria developed a plan for renovation and expansion of the facility.

Minor Capital Funding provided the means to renovate portions of the basement, the second, the third, and most recently, the first floor. Each phase included seismic upgrading, lighting, ventilation and fire suppression. These renovations are designed to fit in with the future building plan as well as complement the original architecture of the library.

First floor renovations centralize high use services to the building core: the Loan/Reserve Desk, the discharge area, the McPherson Gallery and the Map Library have been relocated to enhance visibility of all service points on one side of the floor. The main corridor is now opened up to reduce traffic congestion, combining the entrance and exit. A central reference desk, an electronic classroom and new Gateway workstations form the first phase of the Information Commons. Comfortable seating and study tables in the former loan desk area balance the need for quiet study on the floor. In addition to these changes, new finishings, lighting, flooring and furniture create a warm and welcoming environment.

Once funding is available, the next phase in first floor renovations will include moving current periodicals forward and expanding the Information Commons throughout the remaining floor area. Group study and resource rooms for students with disabilities are also planned.



**Renovations in progress at McPherson Library**

With the many challenges inherent in renovating, we at UVic feel fortunate that the McPherson Library is such a solid, attractive building. Careful planning makes it possible to "link new spaces with old as well as linking the library of the future with the library traditions of the past." (The New McPherson Library Preliminary Program of Requirements Report, June 30, 2000, p. 6)

With the completion of the latest phase of the first floor, several objectives have been met:

- increased visibility and access to service points on the main floor
- moved Map Library into McPherson building
- reduced congestion
- created an Information Commons
- improved staff work areas
- established balance of quiet and active space
- updated work stations
- increased and improved study spaces
- upgraded technological infrastructure



**The new Reference Desk and part of the Information Commons**



**The new Loan Desk and Reserve Reading area**