



The Friends of the Library are launching a community fundraising drive focusing on the children's floor of the Mary Benson Library. Please join with us!

Newly built and updated libraries are community centres that feature interactive opportunities for patrons' and readers' engagement. This is most important in the areas devoted to children.

As our town attracts new families, increasing numbers of children with their families are seeking out these resources. Covid demonstrated that education must be coupled with social engagement, and the children's floor has become such an educational and resource space used for home-schooling and tutoring. Children's library centres have a buzz!

The library wishes to refresh this experience amid up-to-date collections. Library staff have developed a five-step plan:

- Expansion of collections, including in new formats.
- Physical improvements through art and display areas.
- Updated hardware and software.
- New child-development and engagement opportunities with games, maker-space items, building toys for a variety of ages, group presentation focal points.
- Furniture, equipment, study-areas, listening centres, varieties of shelving.

This is an ambitious vision! One that exceeds regular budgeting, and one which requires an ability to initiate such improvements progressively over a 2-year period.

Please consider a two-year commitment as a donor to the Port Hope library directly by debit, cheque, or old-fashioned money, or Canada Helps to assist us in building this bright future. Please ensure that your donation is designated Friends of the Library (FOL) such that the funds are used for the children's area. And please let us know by email ( FOL24PH@gmail.com) if this has been possible, so that we can regularly update you about progress. We suggest an annual gift of \$100, or an amount that is sustainable. Contributions of \$25 and above, when addressed to the library, receive a charity tax donation receipt.

Please help us to grow the Library's many Friends as an active and sustaining community.

