



CARPORT SALE NEWS MAY 2016

Dear Friends of Brooke and Friends of Friends of Brooke,

It was wet – the wettest day in Metro Vancouver this year and the wettest day in May in the last 15 years – but the 11th annual Brooke Forbes Legacy Fund Garage Sale wasn't to be stopped. The rain actually worked to our advantage, because a nearby annual lawn sale put on by residents living on dozens of blocks on Blenheim street didn't happen and their customers came to our sale instead! We even overheard one new customer tell his wife (who he phoned to find out which cookbooks he should buy) that this is a "good one". He'd earlier described our event as "no ordinary garage sale" because there were no Nora Roberts' books! Apparently, there are plenty of them at other sales. He was actually looking for Eye Magazine (published for a year and a half in the late sixties with a focus on the counter culture), but we couldn't help him with that.

The wet weather also prompted a couple who were taking three kids camping to load up with toys and books to keep the kids amused inside their tent. Fortunately, we had a great selection of both from the donations we received from Vancouver Kidsbooks and other Friends of Brooke.

We had tons of donations and couldn't spill out into the alley, so the garage was really packed as you can see below. Also, note a new banner about Brooke and the Fund on the left side of the photo.



Several of our regular customers and supporters turned up. Tony who always buys CDs was there. He added vinyl to his purchases this year. The rather large collection of vinyl we had to sell was a real attraction. The second-hand book store owner also came. He used to spend hundreds of dollars at our sale. This year, he bought \$35 worth. People just aren't buying books like they used to. And another couple who runs a small business and always comes to the sale, were happy to walk away with the complete works of Hemingway, Salinger and Maugham, published in the 30s and 40s and in pristine condition.

In keeping with Brooke's love of stories, here's more of what we heard and observed:

- A man who bought an armful of CDs told us how upset he was at the new rules imposed by eBay US. He says he has a large roomful of CDs which he's been selling easily on the American eBay. He has recently had to rely on eBay Canada and his sales have plummeted.
- Another man bought a Bobbsey Twins series. He has a core collection of 500 copies of the Bobbsey Twins, Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew and he sells the rest online. Lots of e-commerce going on!
- One young man bought a bunch of kids toys and books for his girlfriend who's setting up a daycare and another young man combed through our great collection of cookbooks and bought the Book of Kale (of course, it's the West coast) and another one on seafood. He said he likes cooking and he wants to learn how to prepare seafood.
- In response to my attempt to sell more cookbooks, one woman said she doesn't cook anymore. She said her son is a chef and when he's home cooking and she's the sous chef, she can't seem to do anything right. Her pieces are too thin or too thick, too long or too short. She takes too long and her appliances aren't up to par!
- Another customer who was curious about Brooke said that he listens to CBC Radio all the time (except for when he goes to the traffic station) and there's only one show he'd like off the air. He doesn't get its relevance!
- Grandmothers were out in force stocking up on toys and books for their grandchildren. One woman bought 20 Wooden Cork Pop Guns. Remember those? She was going to put them in gift baskets for the kids attending her grandchildren's birthday parties.
- Not all our visitors went away happy. One woman had her eye on one of the pieces of Tibetan jewelry. (The Tibetan jewelry was a big draw and we had decided we weren't going to bargain on the price. In fact, we had tons of jewelry, thanks to another special donation, and sold most of it.) This woman made several attempts to get a Tibetan necklace for a lower price but we held the line. She then informed us that if you have a garage sale, you're expected to bargain. She left in a huff. That particular necklace sold at full price about an hour later. Other customers weighed in and said they didn't think people should be bargaining at our sale because the proceeds are going to charity.
- And finally, as is the case with most gatherings these days, there was a discussion about the American election and how concerned people are that Trump may have a chance. One of our donors said that her daughter and family will definitely be moving back to Canada if Trump wins and another family she knows is also making plans to move back.

At the end of the day, **more than \$700** was raised for the Fund, bringing our total in the Fund up to \$55,000. Given the challenging weather, we were very happy with the result.



As you know, the funds raised go to supporting minority youth discovering the joy of making radio. Our current recipient is the Kaleidoscope Program being offered in Richmond, B.C. Joan recently attended an Open House at Kaleidoscope. The local MP was there, too. You can probably pick out who he is in the photo.

If you'd like to donate to the Fund, you can go to the online giving portal at the link below and your tax receipt will be emailed immediately:

<https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=2022&AID=2174>

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Garage Sale a success. Thank you to those who have donated for several years, some since the beginning in 2006 and thanks and welcome to the new donors.

We really had a fantastic range of items to sell this year. We'll be back in touch before the end of the year with more details on what the 2015.16 recipients did and news of who will be receiving the funding for 2016/17.

Have a great summer everyone.

Cheers,

Joan (Andersen), Syd (Portner) and Sid (Sawyer)

The Garage Sale Team!