

Nellie McClung Branch caretaker Rawb Knott takes a break from stacking boxes of books donated by Poor Richard's Bookstore owner Joanna Hagar. More than 15,000 titles will be up for sale during a library fundraiser April 17 and 18.

Vic News April 7 2004

Closed store's books to aid public library

Jennifer McLarty

Victoria News

A fundraising sale of the Poor Richard's Bookstore inventory won't make the Greater Victoria Public Library rich, but it will definitely boost its budget.

The two-day event at the Nellie McClung branch on Cedar Hill Road is expected to attract literature lovers from across B.C., Alberta and Washington State.

"Some of these books are valued at a hundred bucks, and people will be getting them for 10 bucks," said Michael O'Hagan, sale coordinator and Friends of the Library volunteer.

"We can only allow 80 people in at a time, but the problem I see is getting them out. They'll be like kids in a candy shop."

Poor Richard's Bookstore owner Joanna Hagar, who closed her popular North Park neighbourhood shop March 13, donated more than 15,000 titles to the library.

About 30 boxes have been reserved for library shelves, but everything else remaining from the store's closing out sale is up for grabs.

"Joanna Hagar is a highly respected book antiquarian," said O'Hagan.

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"I suspect that will be another strong draw."

Hagar ran Poor Richards out a three-story heritage home on Balmoral Road for 22 years.

She's been credited with creating one of Victoria's premier used-book collections, and with sparking a wave of restoration projects in North Park.

A "preview and purchase" evening for the library sale is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m., April 17. It has a special admission charge of \$2. The official sale is April 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Book prices range from 50 cents for pocket books to \$2 and up for hard covers.

Titles span fiction and non-fiction.

Proceeds from the event will support library programs and services.