

Co-chair Report for 2023

2023 was an eventful year for Friends of North Grenville Public Library. We held three successful events and welcomed two new executive members. We published an e-newsletter and participated in a community volunteer forum.

Our two new executive members have been valuable additions. Diane Lapierre has been an outstanding secretary. She has introduced us to a new format for minutes based on the annual plan. Ruth Barrie has been a hard-working member-at-large. Her faithful attendance at meetings and thoughtful comments have been appreciated.

Our March 2023 Annual General Meeting was well-attended. The proxy vote for those unable to attend ensured that a quorum was reached and voting could proceed. Our guest speaker, Phil Jenkins entertained everyone with stories about interviewing authors. We all recalled and reflected on books read in years past. After our brief business meeting that re-elected our executive, we enjoyed socializing while indulging in tasty treats.

In April, we held our second Babin Inspirational Event featuring a panel of four local authors, Mary Jane Maffini, Barbara Fradkin, Paul Sharpe and Mark Van Dusen. The audience and members of the panel engaged in a thought-provoking discussion. The delicious English Tea that followed with sandwiches and sweets was so popular we have decided to make it the annual refreshment at this event.

Although we did not meet during the summer, we did provide supplemental funding to the library for the hiring of a summer student who conducted an outstanding summer programme.

In October, we had a very successful fundraiser thanks to the generous support of Friends and members of the community. Special thanks go to our sponsors Connie Lamble, the Jonssons of Jonsson's Independent Grocer and Hygiene Now who covered our costs so that all the money we raised could be put towards the purchase of a badly needed new computer with literacy activities for the children's area. Many local businesses made wonderful donations ensuring a profitable silent auction. To The Moon And Back was a very entertaining presentation by Ottawa Story Tellers Gail Anglin, Tom Lips, Jack Pyl and Susan Sweeny Hermon.

In December, Emily Farrell and Barb Rousseau successfully persuaded 100 Men Who Care that the children of North Grenville deserved their support. Their donation resulted in the purchase of a second computer for children.

The only disappointment of the year was the poor turnout at our Winter Fun Fest. Due to the lack of community interest over the last few years, the executive decided to discontinue this event. We thanked Kerry and Sue Badgley and George Buys for their many years of performing at past Fun Fests. In lieu, \$500 was donated to the library to support innovative children's programs.