

## Co-chair Report for 2024

2024 was an eventful year for Friends of North Grenville Public Library. We held three successful events. We participated in Canada Day festivities and in a community volunteer forum.

Our March 2024 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, Victor Suthren, dressed in period costume, related fascinating details about the life and exploits of Captain Cook. After our brief business meeting that re-elected our executive, we enjoyed socializing while indulging in tasty treats.

In April, we held our third Babin Inspirational Event featuring a panel of four local musicians Keeley Brown, Herb Cloutier, Arthur McGregor and Caitlin Thorne. The musicians shared their journeys through spoken word and song. The discussion concluded with a lively jam session. The delicious English Tea that followed with sandwiches and sweets was enjoyed by all. Everyone present agreed it was the best event to date.

In June, Romance on the Road was performed at St. John's United Church. Friends and members of the congregation enjoyed the afternoon performance. Proceeds from ticket sales were shared equally.

July 1<sup>st</sup> executive members manned a booth at Riverside Park. We had treats and creative building blocks for the kids and free books by Canadian authors for the adults. Although we didn't meet during the summer, we did provide supplemental funding to the library for the hiring of a student who conducted an outstanding summer program.

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, Oxford Village and McDougal/Brown Insurance who covered our costs so that all the money we raised could be put towards supporting library programs. A generous donation was made to support the Musical Instrument Lending Library which is open every Saturday and has become quite popular. Local businesses made wonderful donations of dog related items ensuring a profitable silent auction. Guided Tails was a delightful evening of tales some touching and others humorous, told by Kim Kilpatrick. Blind since birth, Kim was accompanied by her guide dog, Ginger. Kim was so well received that we decided to use some of the proceeds from this event to bring her back in 2025 to an event for families. Herb Cloutier and Mary Moore provided lively dog-related musical entertainment. Sometimes the audience couldn't resist joining them.

In September it was agreed that we would replace our fee schedule for membership with a donation. This necessitated that we update our By-Laws. We also changed the Executive Committee Terms of Office. Due to the difficulty of recruiting members, we no longer limit the term to six consecutive years. Also, the Chair does not have a vote except to break a tie. Although this decision was made in September, it was not ratified until our February Executive Meeting.