

Report from a Co-Chair

Our AGM for 2024 was well attended and we welcomed Janne Ritskes as our speaker. Her presentation about her work in Cambodia as well as her project, Shalom Small Homes here in Kemptville, was thought provoking and inspirational and several copies of her book were purchased.

2025 was a transitional year for the Friends. In a short period of time, we lost four valued members of the executive, three officers and a member at large. We were in some doubt as to whether we would be able to continue. It was decided that we could not pull together a fall fundraiser and instead had to focus our efforts on replacing these individuals.

Fortunately, the bleak future brightened considerably when three highly qualified people agreed to assume the roles of co-chair, secretary and treasurer. Now we could put our energy into planning our future and how best we could serve the library that is so important to this community.

We were again invited by 100 Men who Care but this time we were not able to secure the full funding. We did receive a few hundred dollars which we earmarked towards our impending insurance costs.

We were able to be involved in several events before the departure of the former executive members and they included Romance on the Road on June 1st – a series of vignettes dealing with several aspects of romance. This event was a shared venture with St. John's and the profits were divided between the two organisations.

Canada Day found us in the lovely Maplewood Park where we talked with a lot of the people gathered there and gave away a considerable number of books. They were delighted to receive them and Joan was equally delighted to have fewer books to pack up and move to Nova Scotia.

We were also able to help support the summer student programme at the library and plan to continue that worthwhile endeavour going forward.

We did not meet in the summer but convened for our first meeting in September, getting to know our new members in person. With all the changes to the executive, we were not able to organize a fall fundraiser but we do have a couple of projects in the planning stages for the balance of this year. As plans unfold, we will post updates on our Facebook page.

We are currently an executive of eight. The bylaws state that Friends should be no less than seven and no more than 12 members. If you, or anyone you know would like to make it an ideal nine, we would be happy to talk.

Thank you.

Ruth Barrie