

**Friends of the Mississauga Library System  
2020 Annual General Meeting  
October 15, 2020**

**President's Report**

- Through the end of 2019 and into early 2020, the Executive discussed plans on how to carry on the activities of the Friends with the anticipated two-year closure of the Central Library for renovations, then scheduled for December 24, 2020.
- Revenue from book sales continued to be strong to the end of 2019, and we exceeded our 2019 target for revenue, thanks to the efforts of Margo Harvie, Ashok Sagar, Rabia Fatima, Caroline Derouet and the rest of our Wednesday and Saturday book sale volunteers.
- The Library's wish list for 2020 was approved at the November 21, 2019 monthly meeting. That list included:
  - Continued support for bussing of school classes to local library branches
  - Continued support for Summer Reading Club and Grade 4 Read to Succeed programs
  - Continued support for Author Visits to libraries
  - Support for plants at CHU, and hydroponic gardens at PCR, LPK and WDL branches
  - Support for a new Summer Reading Challenge for Teens and Adults, new Indigenous programming and program boxes for maker spaces
- With the 2019 revenues and the careful stewardship of our finances by our Treasurer, Shanaz Fancy, the Friends were well positioned to support these activities in 2020, and to adjust to the upcoming closure of the Central Library. Then the Pandemic happened. On March 13, 2020, we were told that Mississauga Library System facilities would be closing until April 5. Subsequently, we received notice that the libraries would remain closed to customers and volunteers until further notice.

- This meant that our book sale revenue from branch sales was cut off due to a lack of customers, and online book sale revenue was suspended due to lack of access to our stock of books to ship. We also suspended our receipt of donated used books.
- During this time, the Friends continued to provide financing for Library programs, such as Author Visits, which could be provided via the internet, but other programs such as bussing or reading clubs, were suspended.
- Promoting literacy: no request for funding was received from the Mississauga Regional Spelling Bee
- Promoting library education: Jim Wilde Library Education Award not awarded this year due to pandemic.
- Our Monthly Board Meetings were suspended, as we could not meet in person and our activities had all but ceased, and our Annual General Meeting, usually held in June, was postponed until October.
- On September 15, Mississauga libraries re-opened to the public with reduced hours, reduced services, limited numbers of patrons and a one-hour time limit and no access as yet for volunteers. Our book sale areas are not accessible to the public at this time. We have not received permission to access our online book sale stock at this time.
- The new closing date for the Central renovation is March 20, 2021
- Challenges:
  - The Pandemic – revenues have fallen to a trickle, although the restrictions also mean that our expenditures have been similarly reduced.
  - Eva Kolaczowski: Eva has the distinction of being the longest serving member of the Board. She is stepping down this year as Vice President, but she will continue to serve as a Director on the Board. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our appreciation for her 25 years' of service to the Friends of the Mississauga Library System.

- Departure of Betty Philip: Betty started as a volunteer with the book sale many years ago and returned in 2017 as Secretary of the Board. Circumstances have required her to resign from that position and leave the Board. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Betty for all of her contributions to the Friends.
- We currently have four vacancies on the FOL Executive, including Vice President.
- Departure of Sheila van den Heuvel-Collins: Sheila moved to Peterborough in September of this year. She volunteered with the book sale for many years, and was essentially in charge of organizing our children's and youth donations for sale at the Central Library. Thank you, Sheila, from the Board of the Friends.
- Good news:
  - Rabia Fatima has agreed to fill in as Secretary in the interim.
  - Despite the impact of the pandemic, our finances remain strong, we have a leadership team that is committed to our goals and we have a group of volunteers who are anxious to return.
- The Friends would like to acknowledge the benefits of our City Registered Group status:
  - Rooms for monthly meetings and AGM
  - Group-liability insurance
  - City liaison – Ingrid Keuper-Dalton
  - Permission to apply for use of City by-ways to advertise
- Thanks to all my fellow members of the Executive: Eva Kolaczowski, Shanaz Fancy, Margo Harvie, Betty Philip, Ashok Sagar, Caroline Derouet and Rabia Fatima, for their contributions and support over this challenging year.
- Thanks to all of our book-sale volunteers, for their efforts in maintaining and improving our major fundraiser. We hope to see many of you again in the not-too-distant future.

- Thanks to our library liaison, Ingrid Keuper-Dalton, and to all of the staff who make our Library System something we are proud to support.
- Thanks to all of our members for their ongoing support and participation.

Submitted by Michael Jones, President, Friends of the Mississauga Library System