

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 30, 2019

My report addresses the activity of the Friends from
January 1 to December 31st, 2018.

2018 was a most successful year for the Friends of the East Gwillimbury Library though it was one of change and loss. We contributed almost \$9,000 to library projects and established a capital reserve fund for future fundraising needs. Items we funded from the Library's Wish List were:

- Write On! Contest for students
- The Summer Reading Club
- Books for Babies
- Reading Buddies support Supplies
- Wireless Microphone for Mt Albert branch
- Partnership with Marquee theatre programing

In addition to these items we contributed \$5,000 towards the refurbishments at the Holland Landing branch.

Our fifth annual Shabby Chic sale took place in June in the Temperance Hall and netted almost \$1,400. This amount was \$300 lower than last year. We will be adopting a new approach to pricing and donations for the upcoming sale in 2019. The East Gwillimbury Gardeners again sold plants from their tent outside the sale which has proven to be an added draw for people coming to the sale.

Marie Coulter left the board in June 2018 but had the fall author, Eden Robinson confirmed, and she helped us a great deal after her departure. Catherine Brydon took over the author liaison position in the fall.

Newfoundland author Wayne Johnston made a return visit in February and in April the dynamic and engaging Kim Thuy won the audience over. We presented her with a Vietnamese pottery bowl that she seemed to appreciate and in return refused to take payment for her appearance. As mentioned, indigenous writer, Eden Robinson visited in

October and read from her second novel in a trilogy. Net income from three author events and other ticket sales was almost \$3,300.00. We donated books or tickets to author events as door prizes at appropriate Cinemania Screenings.

Our homemade treats are still a draw at such occasions. We are especially grateful to Karen Faris for all the work this entails and for providing us with a floral arrangement each time to use as a raffle prize.

Thanks to the Town for allowing us to use the Council Chambers and for their co-operation and assistance. Marlene Johnston continued to assist us as our council liaison until the municipal election and then council appointed Tara Roy-DiClemente for the four-year term of council.

I mentioned it was a year of loss. We were shocked and saddened when we learned of the sudden death of our board member and friend Helen Bradstock. She was a very active member of the board as well as a talented visual artist and had agreed to act as Facility Manager for our author events. This was a new position created when Marie left, as we decided to split up her duties. Many of us attended the Celebration of Life for Helen and Cathy Sands kindly offered to take on the Facility Manager duties.

In September Library CEO Michelle Alleyne left our library community for a position with the Toronto Public Library. She and her staff had been great supporters of our activities by selling our tickets, promoting our events in the library newsletter, website and social media and co-coordinating the purchases of books for us to sell at the author events. We welcome Monika Machacek whom we knew well and who is enthusiastic and innovative.

As a membership-based organization our members are our key supporters and are the backbone of the organization. In 2018 we had 93 members (10 fewer than the previous year). Thanks to Nora Evans for getting people to renew and signing up so many new members.

Over the past year I attended public meetings to provide input on the new Healthy Active Living Plan, and a few library board meetings. I met with staff at Bradford West Gwillimbury Library to share some of the successes our Friends group has had. I am

one of a handful of representatives on a new umbrella group for Friends groups across Canada facilitated by the Ontario Library Association. We meet three or four times a year by conference call and are working on a website and online Education Sessions for Friends groups. This is a replacement for FOCAL which disbanded over a year ago.

At the end of 2018 we had to move our meetings from the EG Chamber of Commerce board room but were grateful for such an inexpensive and pleasant location.

Our social media presence grew stronger last year thanks to Christine Glenn and Suzanne Sherman Rose. We have decided to produce only one newsletter a year because our followers can get news of our events and activities much faster on Facebook. Thank you also to library IT staff who regularly link us to their home page and social media platforms and help us get our message out quickly.

My personal thanks go to each Board member. You all have special talents to contribute and give so willingly of your time. We appointed Michelle Cowan to complete Helen Bradstock's term and have nominated her for a two-year term at this meeting.

Thank you all for a successful 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Brydon
President

May 30, 2019