

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**MAY 25, 2020**

The activity of the Friends of the East Gwillimbury Library  
January 1 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

2019 was a most successful year for the Friends of the East Gwillimbury Library as we dealt with sold-out events and utilized live-streaming.

We contributed \$5,324 to the following library projects:

- Write On! Contest for students
- The Summer Reading Club
- Books for Babies in East Gwillimbury
- Storytime Carpet for Mount Albert
- Local history cabinet to hold maps, Microfilm, rare books, and pictures
- New Books for Babies partnership with Southlake Regional Health Centre

Our sixth annual Shabby Chic sale, organized by board member Suzanne Sherman-Rose, took place in June in the Temperance Hall, and raised almost \$2,000 which was about \$150 more than last year. Our new donation pricing policy was successful as we tried to get the message out that this was a library fundraiser and not just a bargain hunt. The East Gwillimbury Gardeners sold plants outside the sale which has proven to be an added draw for people coming to the sale.

We hosted four author events and their success continues to build. Ian Hamilton read from his new thriller in January on one of the coldest nights of the winter. The mystery of Tom Thomson's death as researched by John Little brought new audience members in April with an interest in history and non-fiction. In May, Anakana Schofield was our 50<sup>th</sup> author who read from her novel, *Bina* which is set in Ireland and deals with end of life decisions. The final event in November sold out seven weeks in advance and necessitated streaming the presentation into another room in the building. Jennifer Robson's book *The Gown* was a hit with book clubs and readers alike and we were honoured to bring her to East Gwillimbury. Net income from these author events was \$3,720. We donated books and 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 door prize. We are grateful to the Town for allowing us to use the Council Chamber and Atrium for our events.

In April we joined the Mayor and council in honouring Karen and Barry Dempster who have contributed so much to the cultural fabric of our town. Karen was the founder of the

Friends of the Library and she and Barry started the Southlake Cinemania Film circuit which continues through a partnership between the EGPL and Newmarket Public Library.

We were sad to lose former councillor Marlene Johnston in the fall and in memory of her contribution to the library and her guidance with our library quilt project, we added her name to both library quilts.

We benefit from the expertise of councillor Tara Roy-DiClemente as council liaison and we welcomed Tim Houlahan as the library board representative at our meetings. We were delighted when Angela Ramsay was appointed Deputy CEO in 2019.

We continued to provide input to the Health and Active Living Plaza design which will include a new library in Queensville. I attended the Volunteer Appreciation night on behalf of the Friends and awarded the Write On prizes in the fall.

As a membership-based organization our members are our key supporters and are the backbone of the organization. In 2019 we had 93 members. Thanks to Nora Evans for handling the membership job so efficiently.

We have increased our social media presence and the library IT staff have been most helpful in assisting with this. We can now accept memberships, donations and ticket sales by credit card which is a necessary service today. We no longer print a paper newsletter because of costs and Facebook is much more immediate.

My personal thanks go to each Board member. Each has special talents to contribute and gives so willingly of her time.

Thank you all for a successful year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Brydon  
President

May 25, 2020