

## **PRESIDENT'S AGM REPORT**

**HELD JUNE 17, 2021**

**Via Google Meet Conferencing**

The activity of the Friends of the East Gwillimbury Library  
January 1 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

The year 2020 will go down in history as the year the pandemic began. It hit us in the first quarter of the year and things were not the same for the rest of the year and well into 2021.

Along with many other organizations and businesses, The Friends had to postpone and pivot. That said, we still were able to contribute \$4,284 to the following library projects:

- Write On! Contest for students
- The Summer Reading Club
- Books for Babies
- A TV and TV stand for the Mount Albert branch

Because of COVID some Wish List items were postponed and the unused funds applied to 2021 expenditures.

Our seventh annual Shabby Chic sale planned in June was cancelled due to COVID restrictions. At the end of 2020 we decided to extend all 2019 memberships to the end of 2021 because we were not certain what benefits we could offer and we wanted to show appreciation for past support. Due to lost revenue from Shabby Chic and membership dues we sent out two fundraising appeals and received. \$1,535.00 in donations.

Our last in person author event was held in February 2020 with a return visit by Anthony De Sa who opened our eyes to albinism in East Africa with a moving PowerPoint presentation and a new novel. Michelle Sagara, who was scheduled to come in April was postponed indefinitely. No events could be planned for the fall.

We held an in-person board meeting in February and monitored the COVID situation month by month. We postponed our June AGM and met again in-person in September. By October we were having virtual meetings and held the 2019 AGM in October via Google Meet. Virtual meetings continued until the end of the year and beyond.

During the fall we surveyed our members and audience to see if virtual author events would be of interest. The response was positive and by year's end we had two best-selling authors booked for 2021 via Zoom provided by the publisher.

Instead of an award presentation, the winners of the Write-On contest were recognized through a video to which we contributed. We also joined with the other community partners in re-designing and paying our share towards a replacement sign for the Literacy Garden which was deteriorating after 10 years.

We continued to provide input to the Health and Active Living Plaza design which will include a new library in Queensville.

As a membership-based organization our members are our key supporters and are the backbone of the organization. In 2020 we had 77 members. Thanks to Nora Evans for handling the membership job so efficiently.

Our social media presence and the library IT staff have been our lifeline during these times. Payments online through Square and getting word out quickly through Facebook have assisted us greatly. Thanks to Christine Glenn for her help with social media and publicity and to Helen Bzonkova for so graciously taking on new financial challenges.

My personal thanks go to each Board member. Each has special talents to contribute and assists us so willingly. I also wish to pay tribute to Angela Ramsay who was Acting CEO for most of the year and who along with her staff, were a tremendous support to our group while dealing with unprecedented changes in how the library operated during a pandemic. As I write this were the lockdown restrictions are loosening and return to normal, though not here yet, seems achievable.

Thank you all for making a difficult year a success.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Brydon

President

June 17, 2021