

Friends of the North Grenville Public Library,

Your executive hopes that you and your families are adjusting to the ever-changing pandemic restrictions and remain healthy. Our Annual General Meeting is another event which will be impacted by the pandemic. It will not be advisable to gather as usual in November this year. According to our constitution, we can delay the meeting until February 2021. The executive has decided to send a brief up-date now and then, depending on circumstances in February, have a meeting or “modified accounting of our year” through written communication.

It is with regret but with best wishes that the executive accepted the resignation, for personal reasons, of chair Jeffrey Murray. Jeff was vice-chair for several years and became chairman in 2018 when Helen Bunn stepped down and moved to Oakville. In addition to his chair responsibilities, Jeff did many other jobs for Friends. Our membership information had been updated by Ivan Russell, a dedicated member and volunteer. Jeff took over this responsibility in 2017 and notified members of upcoming events. In December 2019, when Pat Babin moved to Dundas Manor, Jeff assumed the responsibility for writing and compiling the newsletter. He has prepared the income tax receipts for the past two years.

How many people will it take to fill Jeff’s shoes? That is yet to be determined. Jeff will be dearly missed by all of us. However, Joan Simpson has agreed to serve as Chair until a new executive can be confirmed through an AGM. Other members of the executive are: (list)

Judy Fader Levere (Secretary)

Barbara Rousseau (Treasurer)

Rachel Brown (NGPL CEO)

Mary Carlson (NGPL Board Representative)

Jane Rocchio

Barb McDerby

Rebecca Cambell

Our activities since the last AGM have been limited due to the pandemic. The Family Fun Fest was a hit as usual. Thanks once again to Kerry Badgley and wife Sue and George Buys for the seasonal, interactive entertainment. And thanks to Jane Rocchio and Joan Simpson for the refreshments.

The Friends participated in the Robbie Burns Celebration at St. Johns United Church. The food was delicious and Doug Hendry hosted while Fiddlehead Soup provided lively entertainment. As most of you know, one of our entertainers, Ursa Meyer suffered a severe stroke in May that left her right side paralyzed. With personal determination and with the help of funds raised in Kemptville, Ursa is recovering. She is out of hospital, living in Ottawa and has started one of her performance arts courses at university. She still has a rigorous program of rehabilitation but is able to walk and can raise her right arm.

The Project Coordinator for the Digital Literacy Programs started in December, but the programs for Seniors and Coding/Robotics for kids were put on hold in March due to COVID-19. With all in-person programming cancelled, staff responded by developing on-line activities. In September, the library staff was treated to a luncheon catered by Geronimo Coffee Shop. Barbara Rousseau capably organized the event to thank staff for their dedication and hard work during the pandemic.

Soon we plan a membership drive because even during the pandemic the library needs Friends!