

# FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI MILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Friends via Zoom  
Feb. 28'23

*Friends*  
of Mississippi Mills  
Public Library

# FROM THE FMMPL CHAIR

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## FRIENDS!

In the beginning, 2019, The Friends were an informal group, shepherded by Margo Hay-Goodings and supported by Christine Row (CEO). The Friends formalized in Jan., 2020. Some of those original founding members are still with us: Margo, of course (Staff liaison from 2020 to her retirement in spring of 2022, still an active volunteer); Gail, Lynn, BarbaraA; Lucy, Pat (who became our first Secretary) and Pam (exiting first Chair). We have really flourished since then with 28 members active in some way and still growing. We established just in time for covid to hit but we came out of the gate running all the same - covid never really slowed us down. We quickly adapted to zoom meetings and although one of our first primary fundraisers was cancelled we forged ahead and started making and selling facemarks and establishing ourselves outside the Almonte branch with a small market table coinciding with the Almonte Farmer's Market. Since then, every year we are slowly building up our initiatives, raising more and becoming recognized in the community to the point people are asking when and where our next event is so they can join in.

2022 proved to be the year we really blossomed! Our two signature events - The Silent Online Auction and the Great Big Book Sale were huge successes! Well attended and netting us together about \$11,250. Wow! Thank you to our hard working volunteers and to the community for supporting both the Friends of the Library and the Library. So much to celebrate!

We held an author series in partnership with Mill Street Books with Heather Tucker, Jon Reid, Brenda Chapman and wrapping up with Tim Cook in Jan.'23. Each event provided it's own appeal and audience; all were well attended and provided people a diverse and engaging series to talk about. We are also so excited to let you know that we will be partnering once again with Mill Street Books to bring you formal Governor General David Johnston speaking to us about his new book, **Empathy**. Stay Tuned!

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# FROM THE FMMPL CHAIR

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(Cont. from p 2).

Our Friendshop continues to feature new local artisans including the artful sewing of one of our volunteers, Gail, and we are constantly adding new items from branded mugs, coasters, chacuerterie boards, hand knit socks and mitts, clothing, hand made cards and more! Be sure to check us out or if you have anything you would like to contribute contact: **friends@missmillslibrary.com**

Our Summer Market Table is an extension of the Friendshop, only it's held outdoors, out side the Almonte Branch, on Saturdays throughout the summer.

A wonderful new event to look forward to in 2023 is our Solstice Concert Series. Our first concert is Mar. 19, 2 pm, with Jen Noxon and the Brindled Cats. June we bring you TRiPOD (Kathryn Briggs, Terry Tufts and Beth Tufts) in the garden (weather permitting). September to be announced and special plans are afoot for our children's concert in December. Our 3rd Annual online Silent Auction is upcoming in June with our the Great Big Book Sale book sale following in October. Stay tuned for details.

## Pam Harris

Chair, FMMPL

### Kudos!

Thank you to our first executive (2019-2023): Pam Harris (Chair), Scott Chamberlain (Treasurer), Patricia Coderre (Secretary). It was a wonderful, succesful, happy first run. Thank you. Welcome and thank you to our new executive (2023-2025): Barb Carroll (Chair); John Coderre (Treasurer), Pam Harris (Secretary/Past Chair).

### JOIN US!

Want to learn more about the Friends or join us? Go to our page on the Library website: <https://www.missmillslibrary.com/about/#Friends> to learn more or email us at [friends@missmillslibrary.com](mailto:friends@missmillslibrary.com). If you prefer to make a financial donation requiring a tax receipt, the donation should be given to the library directly earmarked for the Friends. If no tax receipt is needed, then donations can be made to the Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library (FMMPL).



# FROM THE MMPL CEO

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The Mississippi Mills Public Library's mission is "To inspire lifelong learning, provide equitable access to information, advance knowledge and strengthen our community." With help from the Friends of Mississippi Mills Public Library, we have contributed greatly to our mission throughout 2022. Together we have strengthened our community by providing engaging life long learning events and the Friends' fundraising efforts have helped ensure equitable access to information for all residents of Mississippi Mills. The Friends' author events and the Square Foot Gardening workshop provided residents with new lifelong learning experiences. These events contribute to the culture of Mississippi Mills, elevating the diverse programming opportunities for residents. Through these programs, people come together and a sense of community is strengthened. In fact, the Tim Cook event had over 120 people registered, which is a huge cultural event for a community of our size.

Through the many Friends' fundraising initiatives, the Library has been able to offer fine free service without needing to cut other programs due to the lack of revenue from fines. Providing fine free service ensures that all residents have free access to library resources. This step removes financial barriers and promotes equitable access to information. Funding from the Friends has made this a viable reality.

The Friends have proven to be a dedicated and highly successful group of motivated volunteers. Through your efforts, the Library has continued to grow into a thriving community hub.

*Thank you!*

Sincerely,

**Christine Row**

CEO, MMPL



# THANKS TO THE FRIENDS:

## Your library is fine free! Mississippi Mills Public Library

This decision helps the library better achieve its mission to inspire lifelong learning, provide equitable access to information, advance knowledge and strengthen our community. **Eliminating fines means:**

### **eliminating barriers to service.**

Residents unable to afford extra costs can continue to use their library



**overdue material is more likely to be returned.** The library saves money in replacement costs



### **promoting lifelong literacy.**

An example: families are encouraged to borrow a variety of books to expose children to a wide-range of stories. Families often take home over 20 books every visit! If fines accumulate, a family on a fixed income may not be able to afford fines and may avoid visiting the library again

**increased library membership & circulation rates.** According to Calgary Public Library, “eliminating fines raised circulation, brought lapsed users back, and boosted goodwill among patrons

### **offering equitable service.**

Overdue fines are not applied to digital collections. The library wants patrons to choose their favoured formats, without worrying about costs. Having fine-free circulation for ALL collections is equitable service

**Fines are unsustainable revenue.** Based on declining fines revenue, which started before the fine-free pandemic, the library budgeted \$4300 in fines for 2022. Fine Free Fundraising Events can replace lost revenue. Such activities build community—allowing those with financial means to give, while not adding financial burden to those with limited funds





## **WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING**

### **SECOND ANNUAL ONLINE SERVICE AUCTION**

June 12 – 24, 2022

The second annual Friends online auction of local services donated by individuals, businesses and community organizations was held in mid-June, 2022, with a goal of \$4500 to offset the Library budget shortfall resulting from the recent elimination of all Late Fees. The event was widely publicized in social and conventional local media, and via posters throughout Mississippi Mills. We received offers of 75 services, with 57 of them being distinct. One third of these services were auctioned for above the listed value of the service. One hundred and thirty seven people bid on the auction items, and when the auction closed and our expenses were paid, we had raised \$4175 for the library. In addition, we received 2 large donations from community services that happened outside the auction, but entered the auction as donations. These totalled \$1354 which took our total to \$5256. We overshot our goal and we had such positive feedback from both service providers and winning bidders. But, most of all, we had fun!

### **Book Sale: Mammoth; Great Big; Giant!**

Whatever size you want to call it, our 2022 Book Sale was our best fundraiser yet! Woot!

The 2022 Book Sale was held in the Rexall Mall for three days from Friday to Sunday in late October.

The objective was to raise funds for the purchase of large print books for the Library.

After expenses the Book Sale netted slightly over \$6000, exceeding all expectations.

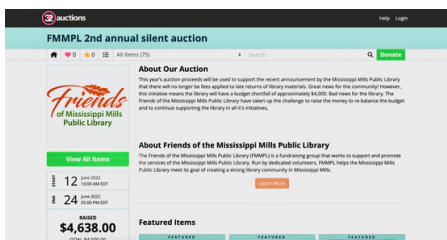
The Book Sale Committee was effectively chaired by Judith DiFruscio, assisted in the planning phase by seven other members. During the sales weekend, most members of Friends participated.

Kudos and thank you!



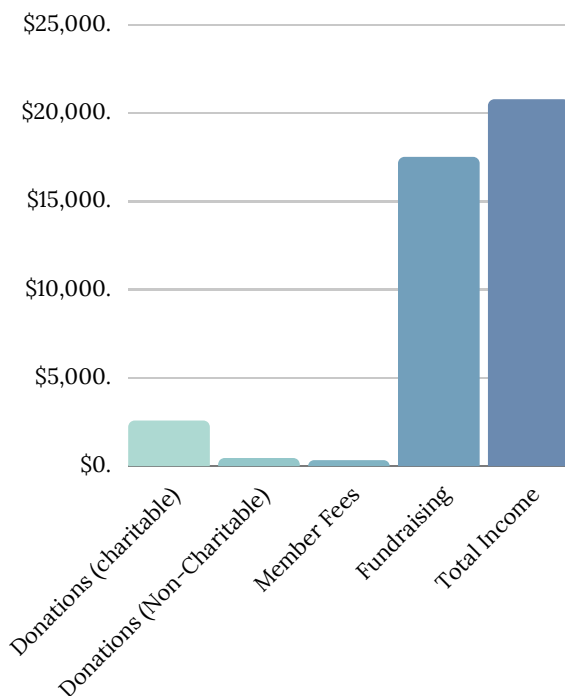


# WHAT WE DO: PHOTO COLLAGE



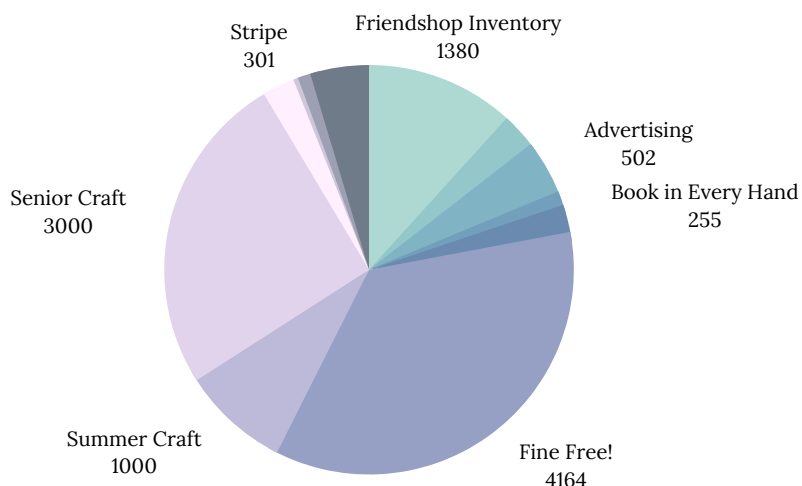
# LET'S TALK MONEY!

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**FIGURE 1. INCOME 2022.**

This bar chart shows total income (\$) from our main funding sources for 2022.



**FIGURE 2. EXPENDITURES 2022**

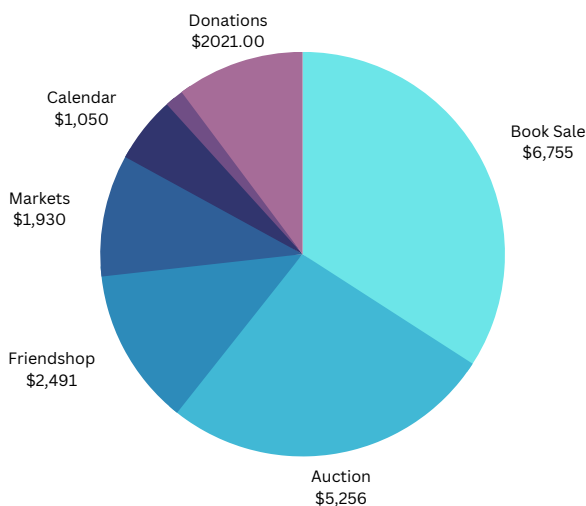
This pie chart shows our expenses (\$11,787.00) for 2022 and what those expenses were for. The items for the summer and senior craft, fine free! and book in every hand were funds contributed to the library for these projects.





# LET'S TALK MONEY!

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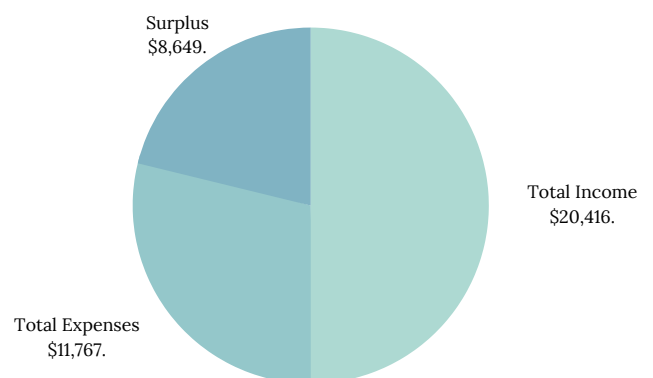


**FIGURE 3. FUNDRAISING PROJECTS**

Income from our Fundraising Projects in 2022

**FIGURE 4. TOTALS**

Total Income vs Expenses 2022.  
Expenses includes money we have given to the Library.



We had a wonderfully successful year ending up with **\$16,346**. after expenses in our bank account to start out 2023! (This includes residual surplus from 2021 as well). Yippee! what a great way to start out our new year - some of this money is already earmarked for the large print books, thanks to our wildly successful book sale. This is thanks to our very hard working group of volunteers. Our full financial statement is currently held at the Almonte Branch in the FMMPL binder. Please ask at the service desk.



## Member Spotlight

The Friends are so grateful and happy that we have Gail Chaplin. Gail has been volunteering for the library long before the Friends became an official group. She is the powerhouse behind all our book bags, summer hats, facemarks... pretty much anything new in our Friendshop is most likely there because Gail made it. One thing, well two, incredible donations that Gail has made to the library are quilts! Her first one sold at our first auction in 2021 and in 2022 she surprised us by making a lovely seasonal quilt, pictured here. Happily it found a special home just after Christmas. It's a win win and win scenario: Gail gets to engage in some wonderful creative projects, the Friends benefit from the donation which in turn is given to the library to enhance it's projects, events and initiatives and a lovely patron gets to take home a real treasure. We can't thank you enough! Thank you Gail!

