

In This Issue >>>

Message from our Chair
Thanks to Judith from FMMPL
Who Killed the Curator?
Live! @ the Library
Reminder for Auction 2024
Message from the Editor



Volume 2, May 2024

NEWSLETTER

Get updates on our events and initiatives three times a year!

Did you know?

As the Friends of MMPL, we help raise funds to support an award-winning library. It just received its latest Provincial Certificate of Accreditation, awarded to only 36/206 libraries in the province. This opens up various funding streams for the library.

In February, 2024 Christine Row was named public librarian of the year, and the library was recognised for expanding its STEM program for youth aged 8 to 17 to all Lanark Country libraries.

Huge congratulations to Christine Row and all her wonderful staff. It is our great privilege to raise funds to support such a vital library with exemplary programming for the community.

~ Barb Carroll

An Update from our Chair, Barb Carroll

We have certainly started 2024 with a bang! We donated \$20,000 to the library in 2023 and this year we have already donated \$9,000. The library will continue our support of the library's fine-free service, support the expansion of the library's digital collection (audio books, Kanopy streaming service), and fund 5 Book Club bags with 10 books in each.

We began 2024 committing to our major annual fundraisers – the auction and the book sale. A Play Reading did run in March and was a huge success, made possible by a few lucky breaks. A playwright offered her play which she directed. Well known and accomplished actors signed up to read parts, and one of the actors donated a stage riser to help with visibility.

Our Friendships are looking for more donated merchandise to sell, or for donations to enable them to purchase crafts at wholesale rates. If anyone can help, please let us know at friends@missmillslibrary.com.

Thank you all so much for all you do and all the time and good humour you put into making the Friends the success it is.

Who Killed The Curator?

On March 11th, the Friends produced our first play reading in collaboration with playwright Kathleen Reichelt, who also directed the show. She recruited local actors David Frisch, Kathleen McCreery, Joey Graff, Shannon Riley, and Jennifer Pfitzer to read the parts. David Frisch built and donated a stage riser so the actors were fully visible to the audience.

In preparation for the play reading we sold 86 tickets, a full house. The stage was set and the play reading began. It was magical and left the audience begging for more. They would have liked the play to be longer but loved the play, the actors, and the experience. For a first time event we could not have hoped for a greater success.

~ Barb Carroll

Live! @ the Library

From out of the stacks and into the sunshine, *Live! @ the Library* is pleased to present an award-winning 5-piece bluegrass band on Sunday, June 2 in the garden of the Almonte Branch of the Mississippi Mills Public Library. They will be performing classics from the likes of Bill Monroe, The Stanley Brothers, Jimmy Martin, and the Osborne Brothers. With founding member Dan Potter on mandolin and vocals, Christine Potter on 5 string banjo and vocals, Jim Bossert on upright acoustic bass, Marc Rochon on guitar and vocals, and Ottawa-based musician George Laing on fiddle and vocals, the band offers up powerful vocal harmonies and engaging storytelling in the country and gospel styles. They will perform for us on Sunday, June 2 at 2:30 PM. Please bring your own lawn chair. In case of rain, the concert will be move inside the library. Tickets are \$20 (plus service fee) and can be purchased through TicketsPlease.ca.

~ Pam Harris

DON'T FORGET!

3

The Friends online auction of local services is happening again in 2024. We begin soliciting donations in mid-February, and the auction runs in May/June. It is all done by July 1. We are now putting together our committee. So far John Coderre will act as Chair and Barb Carroll will manage the auction site and take care of publicity.

We are looking for committee members to: Help as co-chair and solicit gift certificates from downtown businesses, contact donors who can provide a service but are not business owners and help with publicity. If you are willing to help in any of these ways, please contact either John Coderre or Barb Carroll at: friends@missmillslibrary.com. It is an exciting and fun event!!

JUDITH DIFRUSCIO

Friend Judith DiFruscio's health has forced her to step back from her active involvement in the Friends of MMPL for at least the next 6 months. As we all know, Judith has been a key figure in our Annual Book sale. Over the last 3 years she has chaired the Book Sale Committee and turned it into a highly successful fundraiser to support the library.

Judith gathered an excellent committee, was able to get the use of a vacant retail space, and put out a call for used books. And they came – an estimated 10,000 of them in each of the last two years. They were sold by donation and, with the help of the Friends, made proceeds upwards of \$6500 a year. With co-chair Susan Muston, Judith started planning for the 2024 book sale earlier than usual, which means the book sale is well enough organized that it can proceed smoothly. Susan Muston has taken over as Chair, and others have stepped up their commitment. That this has happened so quickly is a tribute to Judith and her leadership. Making the sale a success again is something we can do for Judith as she takes the time she needs, and we are all intent on making that happen. We wish Judith well and hope to see her back as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will miss her ideas, her organization, her ability to delegate, her editorial skills, her wonderful way with words, and her sense of humour.

~ Barb Carroll

**INTRODUCING:
GLENDA JONES!**

Glenda has lived in the area for 35 years. She and her husband Alan live on 24 acres of land, 18 of which is a beautiful forest they have conserved over the years. They have given much to the community and have been President, and Treasurer or Secretary of almost every volunteer organization in town, earning them a volunteer award.

Glenda was recruited for the Friends by Barbara Carroll. She brings a lot to the friends and not only her experience with volunteer organizations. She is an excellent event planner and helped raise record breaking funds in the Hike for Hospice and 3 birdhouse auctions. Her “git ‘er done” attitude, her enthusiasm, and her tremendous energy makes these events run smoothly and effortlessly.

Glenda is an avid reader and is very often seen in the bookstore or at the Hub. She loves to buy books and pass them around until they end up in the FMMPL Book Sale!

Welcome Glenda!



WHO KILLED THE CURATOR
By Kathleen Reichelt
A staged reading featuring:

Shannon Riley Jennifer Pfitzer David Frisch Kathleen McCreery Joey Graff

Sunday, March 10, 2024
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Mississippi Mills Public Library
Almonte

presented by Friends of Mississippi Mills Public Library

Reserve your seats on [Ticketsplease.ca](https://ticketsplease.ca)

\$20

Friends of Mississippi Mills Public Library

Present their annual online auction

4F auction concoction: Fun, Food, Fashion & Favourites

WWW.32AUCTIONS.COM/FMMPL2024
VIEWING: MAY 15 - JUNE 9, 2024
BIDDING : JUNE 10 - 21, 2024

Friends of Mississippi Mills Public Library

Live! @ the Library

www.crsbluegrassband.com
CRS Bluegrass
www.facebook.com/CRSB

Sunday, June 2 2:30PM
Almonte Branch Garden, Mississippi Mills Public Library
In case of rain or heat the concert will be in the Main Room

Tickets: \$20
TICKETS PLEASE!
[TICKETS PLEASE.CA](https://ticketsplease.ca)

**INTRODUCING:
BRENDA DONNELLY**

Brenda has lived in Almonte for 28 years. She has a strong commitment to FMMPL: She works on a casual basis at both branches of the Library and has used the computers, the Tutor, and the seed library.

Brenda joined the FMMPL to help raise funds for the library and to have some fun with people in our community. She brings much to the Friends including a wealth of administrative experience and a strong history of working with Boards and volunteer groups.

Brenda’s interests include her family (11 grand-children), gardening, music, reading, and all 3 of her dogs. She likes historical fiction and, to her pleasure, has recently discovered Michael Connelly.

Welcome Brenda!



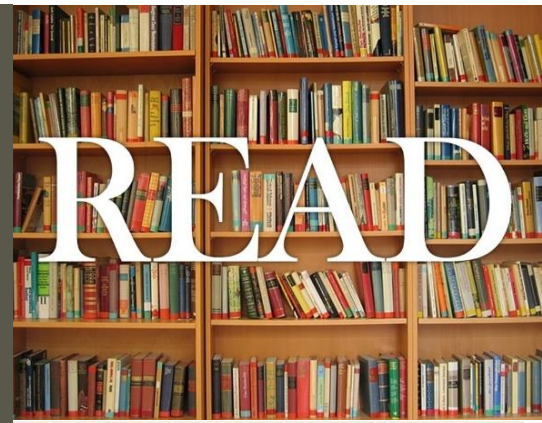
finalthoughts...

The Friends of Mississippi Mills Public Library has a Newsletter now to let you know about upcoming events at our Almonte and Pakenham branches . If you would like a copy, it can be emailed to you simply contact <friends@missmillslibrary.com>

Do you have any friends looking for a way to connect with their community? We'd love to have them join the Friends of the Library! We meet at the Almonte and Pakenham branches and have several committees they can join as well.

If you would like to submit an article for our readers, you can contact me at <friends@missmillslibrary.com>

Thanks for dropping by!
Sandy Coutts Sutherland
Editor



In the Next Issue >>>

Welcome back!

Silent Auction Report

2024 Book Sale

Report on Potluck

Recommended Summer Reading from Friends!

The Heron's Cry by Ann Cleeves
Inspector Morse: Last Bus to Woodstock by Colin Dexter
The Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George
The Little French Bistro by Nina George
The Woman Who Walked into Doors by Roddy Doyle
Paper Trails by Roy McGregor
Qimmik by Michel Jean
Une nuit de tempête by Yves Beauchemin
Le portrait by Suzanne Aubry
The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters
The Alternatives by Caoilinn Hughes
A World of Curiosities by Louise Penny
Threads of Life by Clare Hunter
The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning by Margareta Magnusson
A Most English Princess by Clair McHugh
Love, Clancy by W. Bruce Cameron.
Why We Remember by Charan Ranganath
Outsider by Brett Popplewell
River Momma by Zalika Reid-Benta
The Sleeping Car Porter by Suzette Mayr
The Difference by Marina Endicott
All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Becoming a Friend is easy!

All we need is your name and contact information, and your \$10 annual dues. The best way to do this is to pick up one of our brochures as you come into the Almonte library and fill out the information on the last page. Then take the brochure and your \$10 and hand them in to the front desk in the library. The library staff will pass it on to us.

Alternatively, contact any Friend and let them know you want to join and they can forward your name and contact information to the Secretary.

Any questions? Contact us: friends@missmillslibrary.com.