

# Friends

of Mississippi Mills  
Public Library

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025



PREPARED BY:  
BARBARA CARROLL

# 2025 REVIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends:

What a year 2025 was! We exceeded all expectations in all our major fundraisers. In total we raised \$33,434 against expenses of \$7627 making it possible to donate a record-breaking \$22,988 to the Library. Our major fundraisers, the Annual and Christmas Book Sales, the On-Line Auction, and the Play Reading surpassed the same events in 2024. The Friendships in the two branches of the Library also raised more than they have done since we stopped selling at the Saturday markets in 2023.

Thanks to our 2025 donations, the Library was able to maintain a fine-free library, introduce an automatic checkout system to supplement the existing in-person system, establish an online booking management system, and purchase 100 lighter chairs and dollies that to facilitate setup for the many in-library events. A further \$1,488 in Friendship purchases was retained by the library from their Square account.

We gained two new members last year . We also saw an increase in our social media presence. By the end of 2024 we had 274 online followers. These figures increased to 345 at the end of 2025 .



## A WORD FROM THE CHAIR – 2

It is true that we have put on quality events that are well-organized and professional, and that many of our Friends have worked very hard to raise funds for the Library with these events. Their efforts are exemplary. Those on the organizing committees for our events continue to gain in expertise, streamlining the events, and making them more appealing to the public. They continue to donate more and more hours each year. They all truly do us proud.

We don't work in a vacuum, however, and we simply could not do what we do alone. Our success relies on our very generous community who volunteer to act in our play readings, provide local services for the online auction, donate used books of generally high quality to the book sales, contribute items for sale at our Friendshops, and offer to play at our Live! @ the Library concerts. Without this commitment from the local community, we would not be able to hold our fundraisers or have money to donate to the Library. We are enormously grateful to the community and proud to be able to promote the value of shopping locally at our local businesses and organizations.

This is not all the community does, however, it also supports our fundraising events by buying tickets to play readings and concerts, purchasing Friendship items, bidding on the auction items of local services, and filling their arms with books at the book sales.

The Friends set up all the fundraising events and makes them happen, the community does the rest, and our Library benefits. We give a huge shout out and much gratitude to our Friends, and to our fantastic community, and also to the ILbrary who is always supportive of us. Thanks to you all. You make the Friends want to continue our efforts.

**Barbara Carroll, 2026  
Chair, FMMPL**

# REPORT FROM MMMPL CEO/CHIEF LIBRARIAN

Dear Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library,

On behalf of the Library Board, myself, and all library staff, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your many contributions to the library and to our community. You have once again shown what a group of innovative and committed individuals can accomplish.

In 2025, you helped eliminate barriers to library services by supporting the fine-free program with a \$4,000 donation, ensuring equitable access for everyone, regardless of income, and supporting lifelong reading and learning. You also supported the implementation of a new booking management system with a \$1,500 donation. This upgrade allows patrons to reserve book clubs, schedule tutor appointments, and book rooms online, greatly streamlining the reservation process and increasing use of library spaces and collections. Your \$3,000 donation toward a self-checkout station has empowered patrons to check out materials independently, including sensitive items, while enabling staff to be more mobile for other essential tasks. Finally, your generous \$13,000 donation allowed us to purchase 100 chairs and 7 dollies to support library programs. This contribution has already made noticeable impact on the smooth setup and delivery of events such as the Lanark Literary Award Gala and the Free Expression & the Public Library lecture. The Library also used its Square account to process Friendshop purchases and collected and retained an additional \$1,488.

In total, the Friends of the Library have contributed \$22,988 in 2025, supporting not only current needs but laying a foundation for years to come. Your generosity has helped modernize the library with new software and technology that enhances accessibility and strengthens the community's connection to the library.

I have seen firsthand the planning, collaboration, effort, hard work, and enthusiasm that you bring to being Friends of the Library, and I am truly grateful. You are an amazing group and a tremendous asset to this community.

Thank you!

Berta Madrigal Abaroa  
CEO/Chief Librarian  
Mississippi Mills Public Library

# **IN 2025 THE FRIENDS SUPPORTED:**

**FINE FREE LIBRARY**

**SELF-CHECKOUT STATION**

**BOOKING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**100 CHAIRS & 7 DOLLIES**

# WHAT THE FRIENDS DID IN 2025

## STAGED PLAY READING

In April 2025, Playwright Jackie Bennett brought her 2-Act Comedy “**GET WHAT YOU NEED**” to St. Andrew’s United Church in Pakenham. The Friends partnered with her to produce 2 same-day shows: renting the church hall, promoting the shows, selling tickets, feeding the cast between shows, and offering snacks at intermission. Both shows were a huge success with the audiences wanting more. We didn’t sell out either show but the hall was  $\frac{3}{4}$  full for each show. Our Vice Chair Nancy Cardin provided the meal for the cast and the snacks for intermission. Jackie Bennett donated half her fee back to the Friends, and the Church waived some of its expenses. This allowed us to make nearly \$6,000.



## ONLINE AUCTION

The 2025 Auction, “**THE BEST OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS**” was the Friends 4<sup>th</sup> auction, and it is now a well-oiled machine. Last year we had to expand the number of entries to accommodate those wanting to donate services. A good problem to have! Most of our donors were delighted to participate again. We also had more participants bidding than we have had before. All of these together tell us our auction is well supported by the community. We offer free advertising to local businesses and organizations, and give the community an opportunity to shop locally. While our primary focus is on raising funds for the Library, these are both important secondary goals for us. In 2025, the Friends auction grossed nearly \$8,400.



# WHAT THE FRIENDS DID IN 2025 ... 2

## ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Over the past few years, the Friends Book Sale has grown in every way possible. In 2025, the community donated 10,000 books. We could display 5,000 at one time which meant constant restocking, and a varied inventory. This prompted visitors to return to the sale more than once. It showed. This year the Friends made just over \$10,750. Once again prices were by donation.

Without a doubt the book sale is our most labour-intensive fundraising event. The core committee alone donated around 100 hours each throughout October sorting and organizing books. It was appreciated. Those visiting the sale were extremely complimentary about the organization. The Book Sale has now become an event the public looks forward to and watches for each fall.



## CHRISTMAS BOOK SALE

The Friends finished 2025 with our second Christmas book sale featuring like-new books of every genre, giftwrapped book packs, children's books, Christmas-themed books, as well as books that were first editions or autographed by the author. The room was decorated and oozed a Christmas spirit. In response to this effort, 250 people shopped over three days leaving \$3,610 in donations. That people loved the opportunity to buy books for Christmas gifts was shown in their comments: "awesome", "fantastic", "love it", "great selection of books", "great community effort", "highlight of the year for us".

# 2025 REPORT FROM THE TREASURER



Due to the many volunteer hours put in by Friends, 2025 was a banner year. We raised a total of \$33,434 against expenses of \$7627, for a record net surplus of \$26,807. As a consequence, we were able to give the Library \$22,988, an all-time high.

Major fundraisers were the October and Christmas Book Sales (\$14,370), the spring Auction (\$8,358) and the Play Reading (\$5,884). The Friendships in the Almonte and Pakenham branch libraries raised \$2,175. In addition, the Library used its Square account to process and retain \$1,488 in Friendship purchases, bringing the Friendships total funds raised to \$3,513.

At year-end Friends had \$21,215 in our bank account, ready to meet the Library's needs in 2026.

# 2025 DONATIONS' SUMMARY

## TOTAL DONATIONS TO MMPL

**\$22,988**

INCLUDES \$1488 RETAINED BY THE LIBRARY FROM THE LIBRARY'S SQUARE ACCOUNT FOR FRIENDSHOP PURCHASES

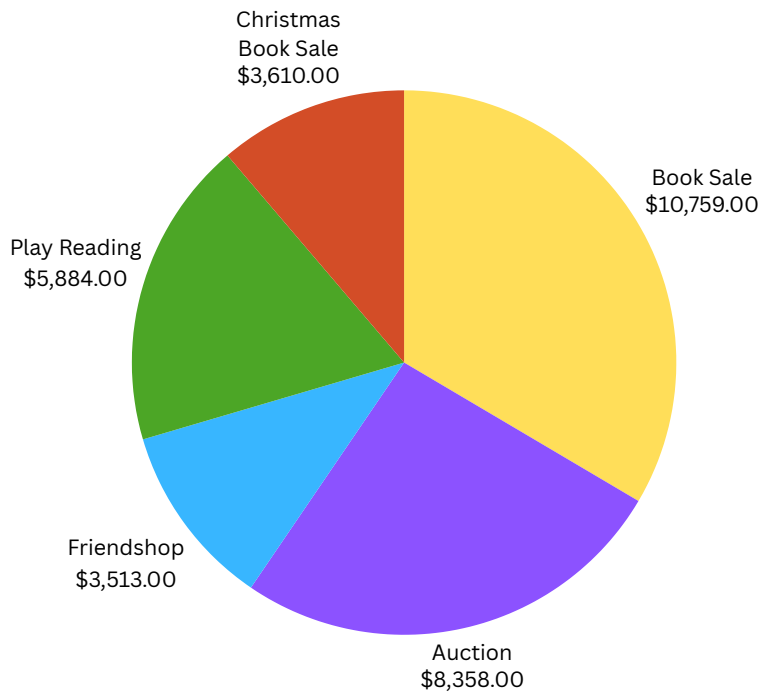
**\$4,000**  
FINE FREE  
LIBRARY

**\$1,500**  
BOOKING  
MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM

**\$3,000**  
SELF CHECKOUT  
STATION

**\$13,000**  
CHAIRS FOR IN-  
LIBRARY EVENTS

# 2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY .. 2



**FIGURE 1: INCOME FROM OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISING SOURCES**

**FIGURE 2: INCOME VS. COSTS OF MAJOR FUNDRAISERS (%)**

