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Volume 7, January 2026

NEWSLETTER

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

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2026 the MMPL implements their leadership succession plan. The current CEO/Chief Librarian Christine Row is being seconded to the Brockville Public Library, and she will act as mentor to the incoming CEO/Chief Librarian in Mississippi Mills, our very own staff liaison, Berta Madrigal Abaroa. The Friends will get a new Liaison staff member when Berta's replacement is hired.

Christine and Berta, huge congratulations!

Thanks for being such a supportive duo for the Friends over the last few years! We truly appreciate you both!

Message From Our Chair, Barb Carroll

Well, 2025 was a wonderful year for The Friends. We were able to donate \$21,000 to the Library, \$2,000 more than last year. This was possible because our major fundraisers, the Staged Play Reading (\$5884), the online auction (\$8358), and the Annual Book Sale and the Christmas Book Sale together (\$14,369) all out-performed last year's events. Even the Friendshops earned \$2175, the best they have done since we stopped selling at the Saturday markets.

While these figures certainly speak to the commitment and tremendous amount of hard work put in by the Friends, particularly those on the events' committees, we also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the community members who acted in the play reading, to the businesses and organizations who donated their services to the auction, and to the community that so generously donated books for the book sale. Without this generosity we would not have been able to mount our fundraising events. We are also indebted to those who attended the Staged Play Reading, those who bid on the auction items, and those who purchased books at the two book sales. As the saying went, people donated their books, created space in their bookshelves, and then filled that with "new to them" books!

To the Friends volunteers and the community at large, I extend a heartfelt "Thank You!" for allowing us to support our Libraries so generously. You all blow me away!! Team work it is!

The Friends Finish 2025 with Successful Christmas Book Sale!

Following the huge success of the October book sale, the Friends held their second Christmas book sale, this time in the same unit, inside the Rexall Mall. This 3-day, highly attended event was held on December 5th to 7th. Similar to last year's sale, a large effort went into adorning the room with an abundance of festive and Christmas spirit, while offering a sorted selection of like-new books. Genres of nearly every type were offered, in addition to prewrapped Christmas book gift-packs, Christmas themed books, and a large selection of top-quality children's books.

Over the 3 days, approximately 250 people passed through the doors, generously leaving nearly \$3500 in donations (doubling that of 2024), with many happy customers walking out with bags full of books. Many comments like awesome, fantastic, and love it, were written down, including great community effort, and "love,love the Almonte Library – the book sale is a highlight of the year for us." Reading comments like these are gratifying to the dedicated volunteers who put the sale together, and also give a reassurance to the overall Friends that all our hard work throughout the year is recognized and highly appreciated.

Truly, a rewarding and delightful way to finish off the year.



DON'T FORGET!

In January, 2026 Friends General Meetings will continue to be held on the last Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am in the usual meeting room. Our incoming Secretary Brenda Donnelly managed to change her work day to accommodate us. Thanks Brenda!

Our AGM will be held in the large meeting room of the Almonte branch of the library at 10:30am on February 24, 2026, followed by our regular February meeting right after.

We are focussing on our silent auction and our 2 book sales as our only fundraisers in 2026. The emphasis will be on streamlining them further. Friends are encouraged to research and develop new fundraising ideas for inclusion in the 2027 line-up.

2025 OCTOBER BOOK SALE REPORT

The Book Sale Committee is extremely grateful to our community who donated in excess of 10,000 books for the sale, most of which were of very good quality. We also extend a heartfelt thanks for the many hours donated by our Committee and Friends to sort and do shifts. We are also, again, thankful for the very generous use of the Rexall Mall unit for the sale.

The good news is that the 2025 book sale was the most successful to date. We raised over \$10,000. Over seven hundred people visited the book sale over two weekends. According to feedback, the sale is now expected and looked forward to by book donors and buyers alike.

The book sale is an enormous event. The Committee members who sorted, reviewed, and displayed books, and worked shifts during the sale, spent all of October at the tasks, clocking up 515 hours. Seventy-five hundred books were displayed for sale. We recycled as many as we could but still there remained some books in such poor condition that they had to be taken to the dump. Thanks to Lorne Heslop for providing his truck for that task.

INTRODUCING:

Terri-Lynn Mollins

If you've been to our books sales this year you probably noticed a new face: Terri-Lynn Mollins!

Originally from Saint John, NB, Terri has been married 32 years to her husband Paul. They have two adult children, one in Ottawa and the other in NB. Terri served with the Canadian Forces for 27 years starting her career as an Avionics (AVS) Technician and retired as a Personnel Selection Officer (PSO) Captain. She has lived and travelled across Canada. Following her retirement from the Canadian Forces, Terri worked in various administration positions before retiring in 2025.

Terri enjoys arts and crafts and reads daily before bed. She is a fan of both fiction and non-fiction.

Spending time in nature and feeding a multitude of squirrels, chipmunks, birds and deer on their rural property is something she enjoys.

"I have volunteered with many organizations since being a teenager. I love to travel and am looking forward to new trips in the near future. I enjoy great food, the Arts/Music/History, meeting new people and trying new things as variety is the spice of life!"



INTRODUCING :

Michaela Koster

Michaela raised and home schooled four children and, in the process, held 44 library cards! During their childhood she was involved with both the Guides and the Scouts. When her children were grown, Michaela took a break from volunteering and spent a number of years cleaning houses.

Her family background is German and most of her family still live there. Visiting family opened a world of travel. When she finished high school, Michaela moved to Paris for a year as an au pair to improve her French. Since then, she has travelled throughout Canada and plans to visit Newfoundland, NWT and Nunavut. She has also visited New Zealand 4 times and seen most of that country — "I absolutely love it."

Michaela's hobbies include reading and writing, gardening, photography and, playing the drums.

"I love yoga, meditation, and nature studies. I am an avid reader and am very widely read. My very favourite places are bookstores, libraries, and used book stores and I very much look forward to getting involved in the Friends book sales."

finalthoughts...

The Friends of Mississippi Mills Public Library's Newsletter will 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> or view it on the MMPL website.

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 Cou tts Sutherland

Editor



In the Next Issue >>>

AGM update

New Library Liaison for the Friends

On-Line Auction report

June meeting

Update for Live! @theLibrary

In 2023 the Friends launched Live! @theLibrary. Our idea was to host small, intimate concerts, twice a year: spring in the Almonte Branch gardens and a family show in December. Since then we have hosted TRiPOd, Jen Noxon, a fantastic puppet show partnered with the Mississippi Mills Youth Centre, Bluegrass band CR5, classical flutist Gertrude L tourneau and classical guitarist Garry Elliott, and MoonFruits. Each live concert brought hand clapping and foot stomping with each live band bringing its own unique musical presence. Whether indoors or out, people thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Unfortunately though, we learned that there are quite a few costs associated with hosting live concerts and when more and more bands and musicians did not provide their own sound, we started incurring more and more costs detracting from our fundraising efforts. For this reason, we have decided to wrap up our live concert series for the time being. We have one show left for June 2026. Stay tuned for final details!

We on the concert committee (Margo, Lucy and Pam) had a lot of fun and laughs pulling these concerts together. We learned so much and enjoyed so much - there is nothing like music to unite and uplift.

Thank you all for participating and making this such a great run and for the money we raised to support the library. Thank you.

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, we can now accept e-transfers. Please send to friends@missmillslibrary.com.

Any questions? Contact us: friends@missmillslibrary.com