

GIBSONS & DISTRICT LIBRARY FOUNDATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 5, 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I wish to begin with a salute to a strong supporter of both the Library and the Foundation – Celia Fisher. As all here know to our great grief, Celia passed away suddenly just a week and a half ago of a heart attack. There are no words to say how much we will all miss her great heart, her great smile, her great kindness. Celia was a strong supporter of the Library from its inception, and of the Library Foundation as well. Last year, Celia was at our AGM, drawing on her years of experience organizing union and community group events and guiding the election of officers. On the Friday before she passed, Celia and her dear friend Judy Campbell (the Foundation's past president) volunteered to sit at Sunnycrest Mall and gather memberships for the Foundation. We figured if they got a dozen we'd be happy. They got three times that number, plus a donation and an offer of assistance from a young man at GBS. And Celia, who knew half the community to call them "friend" and knew the other half by reputation, had a great time visiting and shaking people down. Please, let us hold Celia's memory in our hearts and her family and friends in our prayers.

Just over a year ago, Carol Doyle and I were elected to the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, swelling its numbers from four to six voting members. After this riotous action, we held our first meeting of the Board. Then-president Judy Campbell, planning a move to Vancouver, tendered her resignation and in the deafening silence that followed Carol and I nominated each other and subsequently agreed to serve as Co-Chairs. In the Spring, with her volunteer calendar full, Carol tendered her resignation – leaving us with four voting Trustees on the Board.

To be effective in moving the Foundation forward, we urgently need more community representation on the Board.

The first step in achieving this, is to raise community awareness of the Foundation's actual existence. This has begun in a modest way with publicity about cheque presentations, and a series of articles in a local newsletter targeting seniors on the Coast. To arrange more presentations to groups such as the Rotary Club, Legion, Harmony Hall Seniors, Chamber of Commerce, etc. requires time and attention and frankly, none of the four remaining Trustees has the time to do this. We need a Membership Committee to arrange the schedule and also to tap into the existing potential membership base – that is, existing library patrons and the greater community. Please, and I am begging here, if anyone is willing to assist in forming a membership committee, please step forward, call me, email, or communicate in any manner you see fit.

Right now, the Library is fundraising to enhance the Children's Section, and their appeal noted that if every library patron donated \$3, they could easily do the refurbish. BUT – if every patron were a member of the Foundation and paid an annual \$5 membership fee (about the cost of a latté) then there would have been no need to approach the community. The Foundation would have covered the cost – and that's what it's supposed to do. That is its mandate – to fund programs and projects beyond basic maintenance and operating costs.

This past year, the Foundation has enjoyed good financial returns on its investments, which Treasurer Greg Russell will explain in his report.

This past year, we've needed those returns as the Library has dealt with the challenges of meeting the needs of a growing community and a very active user base. We began by presenting \$5,000 in December of 2015 towards the cost of enhanced exterior signage for the Library, and doubtless now that the SCRD has funded the roof repairs this will soon be in place. In June we presented an additional \$35,000 towards the Reconfiguration Project, to make better use of existing space. And we've been asked to assist in funding the Children's Library enhancement, which the next Board – to be elected today – will consider as its second order of business.

The Board meets quarterly, and meetings typically last about 45 minutes. We review the investments and consider any requests for funding. We do not plan fundraising events because we do not have the resources to do so. We do not plan grant-writing campaigns because we do not have the manpower capacity to do so. We do not plan membership drives because we do not have the time or the energy to do so. Do you see a pattern here? There is a huge opportunity to grow the Foundation IF – if we work as a team, with the Library, and the Friends of the Library, and the Foundation sharing information and other resources to achieve two very simple goals:

- **To keep our library doors open to our growing community.**
- **And to serve our community's needs to the very best of our ability.**

Your assistance, both in the past and going forward, towards meeting these goals is warmly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Jeal, Foundation Chair

November 5, 2016