

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This wraps up my second year on the Board of Trustees, and my second year as Chair. Terms are for three years, and while I had initially planned to step down as Chair this year there are some encouraging developments, and if the Board agrees I would like to continue – and also use this year to find a successor.

This past year, the Foundation contributed to the Library reconfiguration project, and an additional sum to the Children's section revamp. While we don't make these contributions solely to get our photos in the paper, it's nice to get recognized by the recipients. We are therefore gratified that the Library Board will be providing permanent recognition through signage in the library. This sort of recognition reminds our community that the Foundation exists, and support through bequests and donations helps us continue to fund various capital projects and keep our library abreast of technological developments.

This past year, we considered whether it would be advantageous for the Foundation, with its limited resources, to fold the funds it is administering into the Community Foundation and have them manage the portfolio. The Community Foundation would deliver only the interest generated on the funds invested (although without ties to projects – this would be income for the Library budget). Any large-scale projects would have to be funded through a CF grant based on the total funds they manage, and the Library Foundation investment capital would no longer be accessible. So, for example, if the Library raised – through various means – a few million dollars for the Foundation's trust account held with the CF, that capital would be held and invested by them and the interest paid annually to the Library. If the Library decided it wished to build a new facility, they could not access those millions held with CF – they'd have to start a whole new campaign. This lack of flexibility was the main reason the Trustees decided that moving the Foundation's funds into the CF would not be in the best interests of the Library, going forward.

Unfortunately, we have not managed to launch any fundraising initiatives this past year. An attempt to get a Foundation membership drive going in February, which the Town proclaimed for us as "Love Your Library Month" fell flat when snowstorms shut down transit, blocked roads and generally made a mess of the best-laid plans.

We did manage to capture a bit of interest and membership last fall, just prior to our AGM, thanks in large part to the late Celia Fisher. A lifelong volunteer, community builder and strong supporter of the Gibsons Library, Celia's last act of charity was to sit at the Sunnycrest Mall and sign up members for the Foundation. It was wonderful. Half the world, it seemed, passed by and visited with her and she and past president Judy Campbell signed up about 30 people. We are so grateful that Celia's life touched our Foundation.

Celia recognized the need to raise awareness of the Foundation's existence; we need more than just a day in the Mall or a plaque on the wall. We need volunteers to help

with fundraising and friendraising events. To that end, we hope to work with the next Library Director to build synergy between the Library's volunteers and staff, and the Foundation. With mutual support and mutual goals, we can build towards a strong future for this community hub.

At this point I am pleased to announce that Leslie Thompson of Abundance Fundraising Counsel has agreed to join our Board of Trustees. As a fundraising professional with more than 30 years in the industry, she will be a welcome addition. Because she is still actively working as a professional fundraiser, she has indicated she cannot head up a fundraising committee but would be interested in serving on the Board in a more administrative capacity. Unhappily, she cannot be persuaded to take on the role of Chair. I tried. When the Board meets, following this AGM, to elect officers, Leslie has indicated she would be willing to serve. Unfortunately she cannot attend today's meetings as she is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Sechelt Arts Festival, and is on site today ensuring everything is working smoothly there.

I look forward to the coming year, working with our Board of Trustees, with the Library Board, with our new Library Director – whoever that may be – and hopefully with the Library's volunteers to build a strong Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Jeal, Chair
Gibsons & District Library Foundation
October 14, 2017