

Gibsons & District Library Foundation
Annual General Meeting
November 30, 2020

Report from the Chair

It's safe to say that characterizing 2020 as being a difficult year is an understatement. However, I can truly say that I feel blessed to live and be involved in the community we are all a part of. The Sunshine Coast is somewhat of a refuge from many of the more difficult challenges other communities are faced with on a day to day basis. However, that does not mean that we are immune to the physical, psychological or emotional effects of COVID-19.

That said, one of the most important and indispensable amenities that sets our community apart is the Gibsons & District Public Library. Through the leadership of Heather Evans-Cullen, her staff and the GDPL's board, the library has met the challenges presented by COVID-19 ensuring services and support are, and will continue to be, available to its patrons. Their efforts have been 2nd to none.

As a Foundation we are, as we always have been, committed to our mandate to support the Gibsons & District Public Library. And our updated constitution and bylaws will reaffirm our purposes and the rules by which we are governed. Both of which are being presented for your consideration this evening.

After our last AGM the priority for the board was to strike a new committee to draft comprehensive updates to our constitution and bylaws. And buoyed by the success of the Giving Tree fundraiser we were eager to start planning the 2020 version. Both initiatives were on their way when everything changed. But work on both fronts continued since a 'return to normal' was seemingly right around the corner.

To that end, the draft bylaws and constitution were completed in the hope of a Spring AGM. But as time passed, the decision was made to delay both the AGM and the launch of the fundraiser. And with an uncertain timeline and what 'the new normal' will ultimately look like the fundraiser's focus is being revisited.

But one element is up and running. Initially the Sa Boothroyd '10 reasons to visit the Gibsons Public Library' tea towels were going to be sold during the fundraiser's run. But we decided that there was no reason to wait so they are now available at the library's circulation desk. We are also in the process of securing a table at Sunnycrest

Mall for one weekend this December to help spread some Christmas joy. And, with the blessing of Heather EC we're working on a curbside event or two for outside the library.

Although the pandemic has disrupted much of our daily lives the world is still turning and there are any number of things the board needs to work on getting done or simply doing better. Therefore, we've been putting energy toward administrative and organizational aspects, expanding our membership and how best to promote and grow the Foundation. For example, a new committee is in the process of formalizing criteria to help garner and evaluate comparable estimates for our new website. Other areas of focus will include an in-depth evaluation of our investment situation including development of an investment policy. And a committee to address updating our policies and procedures manual is in the works for 2021.

In closing, I'd like to thank you all for your ongoing support of the Foundation.