

Kingston Frontenac Public Library

Meet your Library Board 2015-2018

Barbara Aitken



Education:

- B. A. (Honours) History and Political Studies, Queen's University
- B.L.S., University of Toronto

Experience:

- Queen's University, Public Services Librarian, 1962-1965; 1987-2002 (took early retirement);
- KPL Head of Reference, 1966-1969
- Musee de l'homme, Palais de Chaillot, Paris, France, 1965
- UNESCO, Education Division, Documentation, Paris, France, 1966

Professional Affiliation:

- Certified Genealogical Record Searcher, 1979-2005; Certified Genealogist, 2005-2014, Board for the Certification of Genealogists, Washington, D.C.
- Association of Professional Genealogists, member

Awards:

- Top 50 in 50 – honoured as an Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to a branch, as nominated by Kingston Branch OGS, in the 50th anniversary year of OGS, 2011
- OGS Citation of Recognition for contributions to The Society in furthering genealogical research in Ontario, 2002, one of two awarded in 2002

Volunteer Activities:

- Ontario Genealogical Society Kingston Branch
- Retirees` Association of Queen`s Council

Library Connections:

- Frontenac County Public Library Board Trustee, 1970-1972, 1973-1979 (Kingston Township representative)
- Lake Ontario Regional Library Board Trustee, representative. from FCPLB, 1973-1979
- Library patron of KPL and KFPL since 1962
- Friends of KFPL member
- A city-appointed member of the KFPL Board since 2004, including five years` service on the Calvin Park Building Committee

Why you applied to be on the Library Board:

I volunteered in order to help contribute to this vital community service that seeks to provide the information, education and leisure needs of our citizens in Kingston and throughout Frontenac County.

Library Vision:

To support the leadership of the CEO towards fulfilling the KFPL Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. I am willing to work hard as a volunteer on the Library Board to promote library service in support of personal enrichment, life-long learning, and community interaction in Kingston and Frontenac County.

What I`m reading / watching / listening to:

- Jean Guehenno, Diary of the dark years, 1940-1944: collaboration, resistance and daily life in occupied Paris
- David Halton, Dispatches from the front: Matthew Halton, Canada`s voice at war
- Sandra Martin, Great Canadian lives; a cultural history of modern Canada through the art of the obit
- Tessa Boase, The housekeeper`s tale; the women who really ran the English country house

Judith Brown



Education:

- B.A. Queen's University
- M.Sc. State University of New York at Buffalo Principal's Course OISE, University of Toronto

Experience:

- Teacher for 40 years:
 - Canada: Ottawa
 - Former Frontenac County School Board
 - Beechgrove Children's Centre
 - International teacher: Bermuda, Egypt, China
- Supervisor of Education, Prison for Women
- Adjunct Professor, Queen's University, ECE (Early Childhood Education)
- Director: FWTAO Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario
- Past President of CFUW Canadian Federation of University Women
- Kingston Founding member and President of Afro-Caribe Community Foundation of Kingston
- President of PROBUS Club of Kingston - Frontenac

Library Connections:

I have always been an avid reader.

I stressed the importance of literacy to parents as I taught Kindergarten for many years and incorporated as much reading for Joy and information as possible during my teaching.

I often made trips to the library with my classes and my own children.

Why you applied to be on the Library Board:

Actually, to be quite honest, being on the Library Board was my second choice, so I look forward to it being a "good omen," and as successful as the other 2nd's in my life. I am the 2nd child of 7, my career has been my 2nd choice and I have enjoyed it immensely.

2nd has been great for me.

Library Vision:

- To continue the wonderful programming and services which I have come to experience and value.
- To see if there are areas which we can improve, through talks and research on what is happening in other libraries throughout Ontario and Canada.

We must protect our libraries at all costs, as they are paramount to help us all in our endeavours to remain " Life long learners."

As I see it, the library is leading those of us who do not go to formal places of learning any more to stay in line with the growing body of technology.

It is important that we show the value of the library at a time when some places are considering reducing library services.

What I'm reading:

Ebony Roots, Northern Soil

Perspectives on Blackness in Canada

Ed Charmaine Nelson

We are Water: Wally Lamb

And the Mountains Echoed: Khaled Hosseini

Looking forward to reading "The Best Laid Plans," by Terry Fallus before he visits Kingston in early March.

I have just finished giving talks on Black History in Canada for Black History Month.

Ralph Gatfield



Background:

B.A. Trent University

Peterborough Teachers' College (64)

Library Connections:

I have been an avid library user since I was a child.

I represented Frontenac County on the library board for two terms, and now the City for a second term.

Why you applied to be on the Library Board:

- Concern for the future of libraries in the digital age.
- Desire to volunteer in the community.

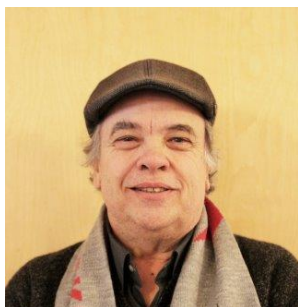
Library Vision:

Libraries must continue to evolve and stay relevant in the lives of our patrons in our rapidly changing technological lives. I believe the way to do this is to equip our staff with the latest technology, train them appropriately, and assist them in every way possible meet the needs of our patrons.

What I'm reading / watching / listening to:

I read many current novels, and enjoy music of all kinds.

Jim Neill (City of Kingston Councillor)



Background:

- B.A. (McMaster University)
- B. Ed (Queen's University)
- M. Ed (Queen's University)
- City Council (1991 – 1998) (2010 to present)
- Public Educator (1978 – 2011)
- Vice-President, OSSTF District 26

Library Connections:

- Former Teacher Librarian 16 years of the past 20 years, member of KFPLA, including Past Chair
- SOLS Board member including Chair
- Ontario School Library Board

Why you applied to be on the Library Board:

- Love of reading; Community activist

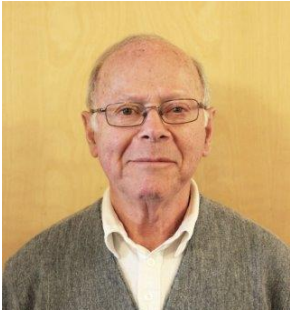
Library Vision:

- Maintain and expand library services and collections
- Make KFPL part of our Community Cultural Hub initiative

What I'm reading / watching / listening to:

Canada Reads I had missed.

John Purdon (Vice-Chair)



Background

- Attended McGill University and received a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering;
- Worked over 30 years in the Quebec Public Service, 12 years as an extension agricultural engineer and 20 years as a manager;
- Retired to Mountain Grove in 2001 and took on some leadership roles with the Seniors Club and the United Church;
- Elected to Central Frontenac Township council in 2006, served as Township councillor for 8 years, and 4 years as a County of Frontenac councillor

Why you applied to be on the Library Board:

After serving 4 years (2011-2014) as the County of Frontenac councillor appointed to the KFPL Board I thought that my experience and availability could be useful for another term.

Library Vision:

Public libraries are an essential service and my main objective is to continue working with all our partners to improve our facilities and services.

What I'm reading / watching / listening to:

My main reading and watching interests are geography, sports, science and politics;

I enjoy listening to country classics.

Claudette Richardson (Chair)



Employment: (current)

- Human Resources - Staffing, Correctional Service of Canada

Education:

- St Lawrence College, Kingston Campus Diploma in Business Administration – Human Resources
- Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution, Third Party Neutral Program graduate, St. Paul's University, Ottawa, Ontario
- Graduate Studies, Psychology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario
- Honours B.A. Psychology, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario

Awards:

- Long Term Service Award, City of Kingston (Nov 18, 2014)
- James Bain Medallion, Public Library Trustee of the Year (OPLA)
- Kingston Police: Commendation of Merit (Kingston Block Parents)

Professional Affiliation:

- Certified Human Resources Leader (C.H.R.L.)

Volunteer Activities:

- Victim Services of Kingston & Frontenac: volunteer and supervisor
- Parish Volunteer Screening Committee Coordinator, Holy Name of Jesus Parish
- Secretary/Treasurer of Neighbourhood Watch, Kingston

Library Connections:

As a child, I was a page at my school and community libraries, then had a part-time job as the student librarian at the Reference desk at Laurentian University Library throughout my undergraduate years.

When our 3 kids were at École Cathédrale, our schools lost their Teacher-Librarians, so I volunteered as the school librarian (1996-2000), until they hired EA's with some library training, as I could not imagine nor countenance a school functioning without a school library.

I have been a city-appointed member of the KFPL Board since 2001 (Chair since 2007), appointed to the SOLS Trustee Council 6 since 2007, have served on the SOLS Board since 2008, and was one of the 2 OLBA Super-Conference organizers in 2007 & 2008.

Why you applied to be on the Library Board:

Libraries have been a mainstay of my life, as a child, a student, a parent and an adult. My involvement with the KFPL Board has deepened my appreciation of the role of the Public Library in general and KFPL in particular, enriched my life experiences immeasurably, and given me the opportunity to engage more fully in my extended community of Kingston and Frontenac.

Library Vision:

I see KFPL as a pillar of the communities it serves, providing expertise, information, recreational reading, training, and access to a world of resources to the people of Kingston and Frontenac in comfortable and welcoming public spaces. I intend to further that capacity over the next 4 years, by:

- advocating for a well-resourced Public Library System in Kingston & Frontenac
- helping KFPL attain the minimum standards outlined in the Branch Services Master Plan
- guiding KFPL in the direction of our Strategic Plan, aligned with those of the City of Kingston and the County of Frontenac
- ensuring good governance, so each member of the staff has the direction and latitude to provide excellent library service

What I'm reading / watching / listening to:

"The Orenda" by Joseph Boyden

"Sister Outsider" by Audre Lorde

"And the River Still Sings" by Chris Czajkowski

Audiobook: "The Pearl that Broke its Shell" by Nadia Hashimi, Gin Hammond

Somnath Sinha



Background:

My wife and I emigrated from India to Canada in 1999. I started in Kingston with Alcan's Kingston Research and Development Centre. I am now with a software consultancy firm, working at CFB, Kingston. I am a Mechanical Engineer.

Library Connections:

I volunteered to serve with the library in 2011. This is my second term and it is our way of doing our civic duty. I have been a subscriber of the library system, and am a bibliophile.

Why you applied to be on the Library Board:

I wanted to make sure that the public library system gets passed on to the next generation of Canadians as our common intellectual tradition and cultural inheritance.

Library Vision:

The public library system is the repository of our collective heritage, and thus holds the key to what we are to become in the future. It is the next best thing to having a living ancestor who anchors you to the land in which you live, and binds you to the people with whom you work.

My main objective is to emphasize that our programs and services reach more people, within the fiscal constraints.

What I'm reading / watching / listening to:

America Alone: Mark Steyn

Our Culture, What's Left of It: Theodore Dalrymple

The Revolt of the Elites: Christopher Lasch

Monica Stewart



Background:

In my current position at Queen's University, I help to attract new talented faculty and senior staff to the University, and help new families to get settled. Promoting our region's amenities, such as the library system, is an important aspect of my work.

I also volunteer on the board of Kingston Youth Employment Services (KEYS) and have been involved in a variety of community agencies (United Way, Community Foundation for Kingston & Area, Kingston Immigration Partnership) at the board and executive staff level. More background at LinkedIn.

Library Connections:

My first library connection was my grandmother – she took me to the library in our town every week. When she could no longer walk all the way there, I became her shut in service, and, of course, I always picked up books for myself.

When I was the E.D. of the Kingston District Community Information Centre, forerunner of 2-1-1, KFPL hosted our office in the Bishop's House at Central for several years. Through my many years of involvement with Community Information Centres provincially, I met many colleagues who operated information centres out of libraries.

Why you applied to be on the Library Board:

I believe in the importance of public libraries as a valuable community resource.

Through my volunteer work and employment I have gained a comprehensive understanding of Ontario's public library system and the environment in which it operates (fiscal, legal, community). I enjoy contributing to an organization on the basis of some of the things I have experience with (board governance, fund development, community development, provision of information and referral).

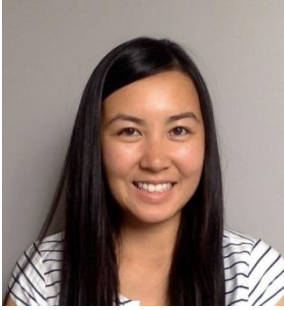
Library Vision:

- Supporting leadership of the CEO towards the existing mission/vision of KFPL
- Raising awareness of the benefits of our library system throughout Kingston Frontenac with funders, decision makers and community partners
- An up-to-date and innovative organization which partners extensively in the community

What I'm reading / watching / listening to:

I recently made the switch to an e-reader and am really enjoying the ease of getting my library books online, from detective stories to travel guides. My grandkids love the Llama Llama books, for those I still borrow the hard copy!

Catherine Tang



Background:

It was schooling that first brought me to Kingston. I spent 5 years at Queen's in the Concurrent Education program, and am now a teacher with the Limestone District School Board. Community involvement has always been important to me, and in my time here in this city, I've had the chance to spearhead as well as participate in a number of arts, cultural, and educational initiatives.

Library Connections:

Growing up, I visited the library frequently. We would go after swimming lessons at the community centre, and it was my first stop whenever I had a school research project. The library introduced me to Laura Ingalls Wilder and to the value of non-fiction texts (which I still prefer over fiction).

When I moved to Kingston, I promptly signed up for a library card, and I remember being blown away by the currency and diversity of its holdings. I've used this card to check out materials for myself, as well as for my class. Now that we have a 4-month old, we are also making our way through the library's board book and Babybug collections.

Why you applied to be on the Library Board:

The library is one of the community's most important cultural spaces, and as society changes, the library must also adapt to serve its users. I've always held KFPL in high esteem for the range of what it offers in both its physical collection and its programming, so I wanted to be part of the team that ensures the continuation and development of this in years to come.

Library Vision:

The library is not only a place to amass physical holdings, but also a space in which the community can meet and grow. It's a place of learning and of discovering passions, and hopefully, one where those things can be shared with others.

My main objective is to increase awareness and use of the library through the development of new partnerships as well as the growth of existing connections. I would love for every child in the area to be a library card holder!

What I'm reading / watching / listening to:

The Opposite of Loneliness by Marina Keegan; Issue No. 12 of Darling Magazine; #EdChat radio; I also follow a number of blogs.

Mayor Ron Vandewal



Background:

- Secondary School
- Have owned my business my entire working career
- Have lived in Sydenham all my life
- Married with 4 children, and 3 grandchildren
- Involvement with many committees

Library Connections:

- County Council
- Mayor of South Frontenac
- Was a member of council when the new library was built in Sydenham.

Why you applied to be on the Library Board:

I was interested to see how the library worked so was appointed by the County.

Library Vision:

To see how the library system works and hear how decisions are made in rural locations.

What I'm reading / watching / listening to:

- Mostly council and associated literature
- Try to watch some sports
- 60's and 70's rock