

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2023
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 June 2024**

I have the honour and privilege to provide the President's report for the year ending 31 December 2023. In my first year as President, I can report that the Atwater Library has continued its progress towards financial stability, building improvements, organizational efficiency and this with outstanding service to our clients. I am daily amazed at what the Library accomplishes on a shoe-string budget.

The Board of Directors provides stability, corporate memory and the initiative to move governance forward. The Strategic Roadmap put forward last year is being implemented gradually. The board itself is evolving and I must thank two members who have decided to "retire". John Aylen, our former president, has served on the board for eight dramatic years, that included the Covid-19 experience. His vast expertise in communications, publications and his circle of friends came to the fore on many occasions to help the Library. John - a sincere thank you from the Board and all members, as we look forward to your continuing help and dedication as a valued advisor. Also, Richard Conrad is leaving us after 6 years on the Board of Directors where he gave valuable input to our press and government relations, especially as a proud resident of Westmount. His years of incisive reporting and wordsmithing were put to good use for the Library. Thank you- Richard, as we too look forward to your generous advice as we move forward.

When one looks at the government grants and relations, the organization of the weekly Lunchtime Series, leadership and efficiency of our very small staff, and the co-ordination of so many aspects of the Library's functions, high praise is due to Lynn Verge, our Executive Director. Lynn seems to work 7 days a week involved in every aspect, and this in detail, of what makes the Library the outstanding Montreal resource that it is. I was personally involved getting our 100-year-old Hemsley clock back into operation over the welcome desk. Lynn was there for every challenge. Her leadership of our small but dynamic staff highlights their dedication and expertise to see the Library be much more than the old image of a Library with books on shelves. Lynn - thank you for being our conscience and leadership soul.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of our volunteers who contribute so much to the operations of the Library. From providing one-on-one help with digital devices, giving personal help with job searches to newcomers, to organizing the seed library, to overseeing the newly re-opened and spectacular Bookshop, to cheerfully welcoming visitors at the circulation desk and the Computer Centre help desk - the Atwater Library is simply blessed to have so many dedicated volunteers. On behalf of the Board, also all volunteers, I thank you and look forward to working with you as we reach our 200th anniversary. What a story of endurance and service.