

Fostering Learning, Building Community

2023-2024 Annual Report for AGM – June 19, 2024



English-language Educational, Cultural and Social Programming – Free for all

- Over 200 free group activities in the past 12 months, in person, online and hybrid.
- In-person attendance has been growing with online program delivery still popular.
- Lunchtime Series Weekly talks, musical performances and film screenings.
- Digital Literacy Weekly two-hour Internet Peer Café sessions online and monthly Digital Help Hubs with one-on-one assistance in person.
- Digital Media Activities for Seniors Digital community mapping project carried out with Concordia University faculty and students.
- Financial Literacy 25 information sessions on personal finances and estate planning.
- Job Search Workshops and Help Over 50 sessions, many geared to newcomers.
- AWE creative art-making and writing workshops, some online and others in person.
- Book Club Discussions about English-language fiction led by Mary Soderstrom.
- Atwater Poetry Project National Poetry Month event, search for a new funder.
- Exhibitions of art and history Sixties Scoop Survivors in Portrait by Trina Slapcoff, Prints of Montreal-area Scenes by Gigot aka Mary Hughson, Historic Collection Exhibition and Atwater Writers Exhibition (AWE).



Library

- 40,000 items for adults English-language books, DVDs, eMaterials and seeds
- Specialty collections: Indigenous, Scottish, Black, and Quebec English-language.
- Downtown residents living with a loss of mobility benefit from our home deliveries.

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Community Outreach

- We emphasize outreach and collaborate with other community groups and schools.
- We tailor activities for partner groups and conduct some sessions at partners' premises.



Infrastructure - Heritage Building Maintenance and Digital Upgrade

- Over the past 12 years we have tastefully conserved and updated our beautiful heritage building all except the interior windows.
- Maintenance is now being emphasized and we are preparing a detailed manual.
- We recently purchased all new computer hardware and software, upgraded our network and are migrating critical applications to the cloud to improve security.



Finances

- We are in a stronger financial position than we were before the pandemic.
- We manage expenses carefully with 9 FTE paid staff and more than 100 volunteers.
- We have had small cash surpluses for several years.
- 2023 revenues were 17.7% greater than those for 2022 with significant increases in what we earn ourselves (rentals, fees, book sales) and fundraising revenues.
- We spend more than before the building upgrades on operations and maintenance for example, for the elevator and air conditioning.
- We now have modest investments generating interest revenues.