



# **FRIENDS OF TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**An Update for the  
Toronto Public Library Board  
January 23, 2023**

**Frank Velikonja, President, Friends of TPL, & Chair of South Chapter Board  
and Rosemary Fontaine, Chair of North Chapter Board**

# History of the Friends: Key Events

- 1990      Began with Friends of North York Library supporting the North York Library System
- 1993      First used book store started at North York Central Library
- 1996      Friends of Toronto Public Library set up in old City of Toronto
- 1998      Amalgamation of library systems in new City of Toronto
- 1999      Second used book store opened at Toronto Reference Library
- 2001      Amalgamated Friends of TPL formed with two chapters:  
                  North Chapter and South Chapter
- 2013      First \$1 million donated by the North Chapter
- 2017      First \$1 million donated by the South Chapter
- 2022      Total funds donated to the Toronto Public Library Foundation:  
                  \$ 2.75 million

# Activities of the North Chapter - 1

- First bookstore “*Book Ends*” ran from 1993 to 2016
- Bookstore closed for 3 years due to renovations at North York Central Library
- New store **BOOKEnds** opened on November 7, 2019 – new space much bigger and brighter



# Activities of the North Chapter - 2

- Major effort in 2019 to get the bookstore and its volunteers going again
  - then interrupted by COVID shutdowns
- North York Central Library management very supportive and helpful
- We receive many donations delivered directly to Library loading dock



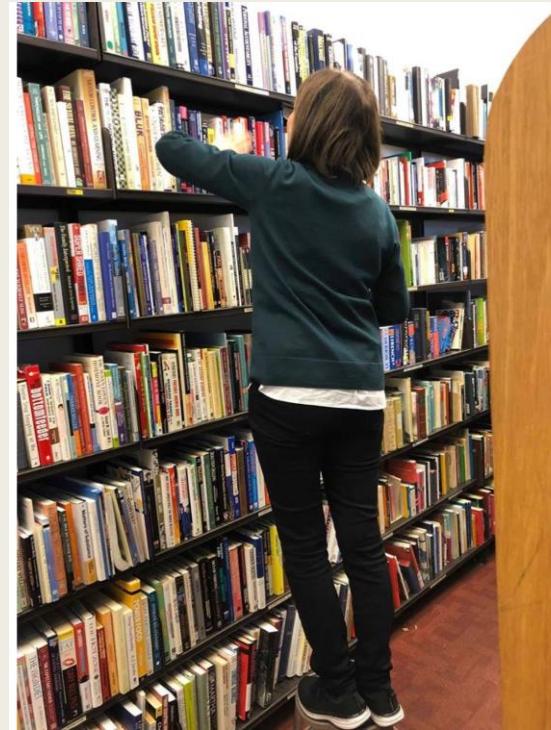
# Activities of the North Chapter - 3

- New store is in North York Centre Mall, Concourse Level, next to the Library
- Currently have 30 volunteers involved – no paid staff
- Store hours are Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm and Fridays from 10 am to 6 pm



# Activities of the South Chapter - 1

- Run the store at TRL – BOOKEnds South; open Wednesdays to Saturdays
- Store located on ground floor of Toronto Reference Library
- Currently have 50 volunteers involved – no paid staff



# Activities of the South Chapter - 2

- Organize **special event sales** at the Reference Library – Clearance Sales, Treasures Sales and Lobby Sales
- Promote our store and the Sales on social media – e.g., Facebook



# Friends Funding for 2023 TPL Programs

Funding donated in December 2022 to the TPL Foundation  
for 2023 TPL programs

## North Chapter:

- ❖ Leading to Reading program \$ 53,000

## South Chapter:

- ❖ Kindergarten and Grade 4 Outreach programs \$ 80,000
- ❖ Programming for youth: Publication of Young Voices magazine, workshops and conference \$ 30,000
- ❖ TPL Foundation (for admin support) \$ 1,000

**TOTAL DONATION** **\$164,000**