

## **Brief Conference report**

Heather Watson, Edna and I made a presentation to the OLA Conference on Friday Feb. 2. Our presentation was very well received. We discussed our activities – the Friends events, the Art Gallery etc. and why we had done them.

- Lack of awareness of the library
- Council unsure of library's worth
- Less than 5% of population using library
- Need for funding
- Insufficient staff time to do programs

The results of our efforts made a strong impact.

- Budget went from \$39,000 in 2010 to \$103, 000 in 2018
- We have free use of municipal facilities, which helps keep our costs down
- The number of library card holders has increased by 100%

After the presentation the President of OLBA came and spoke to us and offered to come if we were going to hold a volunteer appreciation event (at his own cost). Also Rob Black CEO of the Rural Ontario Institute asked us to do a blog of our presentation so he could include it in their magazine. And Kim McMunn a librarian suggested we do a webinar so others could learn from it.