

ANNUAL REPORT 2015  
O.P.L.A Readers' Advisory Committee

**Members of the O.P.L.A Readers' Advisory Committee**

Diana Krawczyk (Chair), Mississauga Library System  
Nicole Adams (Vice Chair), Oshawa Public Library  
Kristen Cashera, London Public Library  
Pauline Dewan, Wilfrid Laurier University  
Andrea Dunn, Markham Public Libraries  
Jennifer Green, Oshawa Public Library  
Melanie Kindrachuk, Stratford Public Library  
Elsa Ngan, Toronto Public Library  
Lindsay Tyler, CNIB Library  
Julie Wendland, Lennox and Addington County Library  
Maureen Johnson, Hamilton Public Library (OPLA Liaison)

**2015 Committee Highlights/Achievements**

***Committee Changes***

The committee elected a new chair, Melanie Kindrachuk, and vice chair, Andrea Dunn, for 2016. Nicole Adams, Elsa Ngan, Lindsay Tyler will be leaving the committee. Soheli Nabizadah from the Toronto Public Library and Megan Renkema from the Caledon Public Library will join as new members in 2016.

***Readers' Advisory Core Competencies***

The fourth competency – Reader Development – was completed and the full information package was posted on the committee page of the OPLA website. The committee will offer training sessions at the Superconference beginning in 2016 which feature information from the competencies. The committee will develop a session each year to highlight different readers' advisory skills required in public library work.

***RA in a Day Workshop***

Based on the popularity with readers, the 2015 RA in a Day was dedicated to romance. The committee connected with Harlequin Books to offer a panel discussion of the genre with Dana Hopkins and Karen Reid. The participants were then encouraged to try their hand at titling a romance book from the cover, developing a dating profile for popular romance characters and reading a romance in 5 minutes. Molly O'Keefe and Maureen McGowan from the Toronto Romance Writers were on hand to speak about local authors and the opportunities for library connections. Maya Rodale, bestselling romance writer, demystified the genre and encouraged the audience to advocate for romance and romance readers in their libraries. Finally, Lisa Schimmer, a cataloguer for NoveList and winner of the RWA's 2015 *Cathie Linz Librarian of the Year* award, explained how her work to expand the description of subject classification for

romance is helping readers. The event featured an expanded marketplace and wonderful book prizes!

***OPLA Award for Leadership in Adult Readers' Advisory***

Applications for this award were reviewed and the 2015 recipient was Bessie Sullivan, Haliburton County Public Library. Bessie was presented her award at the 2015 RA in a Day. Applications for the award will accepted until April 30 to allow for the annual ceremony at RA in a Day.

***Connections***

The Readers' Advisory committee provided feedback to the new "Loan Stars" initiative which will provide Canadian librarians will pre-pub book reviews. Kristen Cashera and Jennifer Green will be participating on the steering committee.

***Publications***

Once again, committee members developed a list of Best Bets, with readalikes for each title, and contributed articles to the Open Shelf on readers' advisory topics, sharing their knowledge and expertise.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Diana Krawczyk (Chair),  
O.P.L.A Readers' Advisory Committee  
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