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**OPLA 2016 Annual General Meeting
Metro Toronto Convention Centre
Thursday, February 2nd 2017, 8:00a.m.-9:00 a.m.**

OPLA Readers' Advisory Committee Annual Report 2016

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

- Melanie Kindrachuk (Chair), Stratford Public Library
- Andrea Dunn (Vice Chair) Markham Public Libraries
- Diana Krawczyk (Past Chair), Mississauga Library System (*outgoing*)
- Kristen Cashera, London Public Library
- Pauline Dewan, Wilfrid Laurier University (*outgoing*)
- Jennifer Green, Oshawa Public Library
- Julie Wendland, Lennox and Addington County Library
- Megan Renkema, Caledon Public Library
- Jeff Dodge, Vaughan Public Library
- Soheli Nabizadah, Toronto Public Library
- Maureen Johnson, Toronto Public Library (OPLA Liaison)

2016 Committee Highlights/Achievements

Committee Changes

The committee welcomes 3 new members to begin their tenure in 2017, including Dawna Wark, Hamilton Public Library; Laura Peacock, Kitchener Public Library; and Charmaine Atrooshi, Ottawa Public Library.

Readers' Advisory Core Competencies

The full set of core competencies is now finished and posted on the OLA website. The First Competency was edited and revised in 2016, and the Second Competency will be revised in 2017.

RA in a Day Workshop

RA in a Day 2016 was organized around the theme of internal RA Training. Entitled "Investing in RA: Skill Building Strategies", the day looked at various training techniques from libraries and booksellers, and provided some hands on activities as well.

The event opened with an inspirational talk on the reasons why we are passionate about sharing books, by Ann Walmsley, author of The Prison Book Club, as she talked about how books changed inmates' lives.

Next, a panel of four librarians from a range of system sizes talked about some of the tools and training they offer internally, and some of the RA programs and services they provide to their patrons.



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Our lunchtime speaker was the bestselling author of *The Couple Next Door*, Shari Lapena.

Following lunch there was a roundtable activity asking each table to recommend reading to an imaginary patron assigned to each. There were lively discussions and various suggestions for each scenario. These lists have been shared on the OLA website.

To close the day, a panel of booksellers talked about how they train new staff who have no specialized experience on how to passionately handsell books. They also shared their own versions of the Readers Advisory conversation. A look at this topic from slightly outside our own field proved very illuminating.

Held once again at the University of Toronto's Faculty Club, the event was sold out and plans are underway for the 2017 event, which has been moved to the spring – April 21, 2017.

OPLA Award for Leadership in Adult Readers' Advisory

Applications for this award were reviewed and the 2016 recipient was Amy Colson, Mississauga Library System. Amy was presented her award at the 2016 RA in a Day.

Connections

In response to a request to work together with the Children's and Youth Best Bets Committee, the RA Committee Chair and Vice Chair delivered a 2 part EI webinar along with 3 members of the Best Bets Committee on Nov.29 and Dec.1, 2016. These provided an overview of the Competencies and a look at their relevance to Youth Services, as well as highlighting Best Bets from both committees. The first session "broke" the EI system due to the high turnout and had to be restarted!

Publications

Once again, committee members developed a list of Best Bets, with readalikes for each title, for the RA in a Day workshop. This list is posted on the OLA website shortly after the event each year.

The Committee contributed monthly articles to the Open Shelf on readers' advisory topics, sharing their knowledge and expertise; they also regularly updated event information in HoOPLA.

Respectfully submitted by:
Melanie Kindrachuk (Chair)
O.P.L.A Readers' Advisory Committee
December 2016