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**OPLA Readers' Advisory Committee
2018 Annual Report to OPLA Council- January 31, 2019**

Membership

Andrea Dunn (Chair)*

Kristen Caschera

Dawna Wark*

Jennifer Green

Laura Peacock

Julie Wendland

Jeff Dodge

Emma Primeau

Charmaine Atrooshi

Neil Arsenault

Reagan Kapasi

*outgoing members

In 2018, we bid a sad farewell to our chair and long-time committee member Andrea Dunn, as well as committee member Dawna Wark. Happily, we also welcomed new member Emma Primeau.

Our annual RA in a Day Conference was held on Friday, April 20th at the Mississauga Civic Centre. The theme was "Bringing RA Online: #reading and #socialmedia." Participants got to learn about what other libraries are doing with their social media and how our favourite bookstagrammers garner buzz about books, and also got some time to practice creating their own social media posts. We also featured two wonderful authors, Susanna Kearsley and Annie Spence.

Our 2019 RA in a Day conference is planned for April 29th 2019 at the North York Central Library, and will focus on the horror genre.

Outside of event planning, the committee worked with the Open Shelf steering committee to publish six articles in Open Shelf about various RA-related topics. We have also been working with OLA staff to offer webinars featuring topics from our core competencies, as well as book-talking our Best Bets picks. Our 2018 Best Bets, as well as previous years selections, are available on our website.

And finally, a big thank you to all of our hard working committee members for all they do and to OLA staff for making it all possible!



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OPLA Best Bets Committee

2018 Annual Report to OPLA Council – January 31, 2019

2018 OLA Best Bets Committee Members

Vivien Keiling – Co-Chair (Barrie Public Library)

Faith Roebuck Shergold* – Co-Chair (Midland Public Library)

Sheilah O'Connor (Toronto Public Library)

Kara Miley (Toronto Public Library)

Theresa Power (Centre for Equitable Library Access)

Jade Noble* (Shelburne Public Library)

Lisa Marie Williams* (Oakville Public Library)

Jennifer Patrick (Oakville Public Library)

Lyndsay Irvine (East Gwillimbury Public Library)

Julia Campbell (Whitby Public Library)

*outgoing members

In 2018, the Best Bets Committee underwent some unanticipated changes in membership due to movement in careers and personal circumstances mid-season. A call was placed for new members and we were able to add two new members to the 2018 committee: Lyndsay Irvine from East Gwillimbury Public Library, and Julia Campbell from Whitby Public Library. We continue to accept applications at this time.

Despite losing members part-way through the season, the committee was still able to read and evaluate approximately 400 titles, which has been this committee's annual average over the past few years. The committee will be meeting on January 10, 2019 to finalize the Top Ten Best Bets of 2018. The awarded titles will have their authors/illustrators and publishers notified, and the list will be made officially announced at the 2019 Super Conference.

In 2018 we moved to a new model of presenting our Best Bets at Super Conference – “Book Tasting with the Best Bets”. This format allowed for more interaction between participants and created better flow and choice for the audience to learn about titles specific to the demographic they are interested in. The format was highly successful and is being continued at the 2019 Super Conference.

Best Bets once more participated in the 2018 Festival of Trees in Toronto and will be present at the 2019 Festival. As in previous years, we received a good response from participants, both students and teachers alike at this past year's Festival. As result of the unanticipated membership changes, the committee did not participate as actively with the other OPLA committees as initially planned for this season and was unable to attend the 2018 Child and Youth Expo. That said, Best Bets is in discussion with the Readers Advisory Committee to create another joint webinar to offer through the Education Institute in 2019.

At events such as Super Conference, Festival of Trees, and the Child and Youth Expo, the Best Bets committee shares our Top Ten lists – current and past years' – and highlight Canadian materials that are selected based solely upon their own merit for their intended audience. As the committee accepts all titles based on the eligibility criteria that they are written and/or illustrated by a Canadian and published in the given year, there are minimal barriers for small publishing house or independent publishers from having their title considered and recognized. These lists continue to be valuable resources for teachers, parents, and library staff as readers' advisory and collection development tools.



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OPLA Community-Led Committee Annual Report 2018

Committee Membership

Alicia Subnaik Kilgour, Niagara Falls Public Library (Co-Chair)

Tracy Munusami, Oshawa Public Libraries (Co-Chair)

Amy Solecki, Meaford Public Library

Beverly King, Halton Public Library

Lindsey Long, Thunder Bay Public Library

Laura Stern, Milton Public Library

Loretta Tang, Toronto Public Library

The committee started 2018 with a mostly new group, and quickly started planning the 2018 Community Led Think Tank: Harvesting Your Community Connections. The Think Tank was held on October 1st 2018 at the North York Central branch of the Toronto Public Library.

Stepping down from the committee are Alicia Subnaik Kilgour and Lindsey Long. We thank them for their dedication to the Community-led Libraries Committee. The committee is actively searching for two new members.

The Community-led Libraries Committee is getting ready for another great year. This year the committee is planning a database for shared resources and another Think Tank for the fall.

The group hopes to meet in person at OLA and will reconvene via teleconference in February.



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**OPLA Children and Youth Services Committee
2018 Annual Report to OPLA Council- January 31, 2019**

Membership

Cameron Ray (Co-Chair)

Amanda Wilk (Co-Chair)*

Kelley England*

Amy Kay*

Kate Marczyński*

Ryan Eduardo Moniz

Sara Forsyth

Jordan Graham

Brooke Windsor

Esteban Dorado-Troughton

*outgoing members

The committee vetted the questions and updated them for this years Children and Teen Survey. The survey questions were disseminated to all of Ontario libraries and the information was received back to form the basis of the survey.

The survey information was analyzed by Sarah Roberts of OLA and put into a written format. Amanda Wilks and Cameron Ray reviewed and edited the document and helped to form it for printing and online distribution.

For the first time the survey was launched at the Child and Youth Expo and Cameron presented on the highlights and major changes contained within.

The committee lost 3 members including co-chair Amanda Wilk. Jordan Graham has stepped in as Co-Chair for 2019 alongside Cameron Ray.

The committee is prepping itself for finding 3 new members as well as a major overhaul of the survey questions in order to get a larger number of libraries to involved themselves in the survey so that it can be an even better advocacy tool.