

OPLA Readers' Advisory Committee Annual Report 2019

Committee Members

Kristen Caschera (Chair), London Public Library
Jennifer Green (Vice Chair), Oshawa Public Library
Neil Arsenault, Brampton Library
Charmaine Atrooshi, Ottawa Public Library
Sarah Bonish, Mississauga Library System
Elizabeth Campbell, Bradford West Gwillimbury Library
Jeff Dodge, Vaughan Public Library
Kat Drennan-Scafe, Hamilton Public Library
Laura Peacock, Waterloo Public Library
Emma Primeau, Oakville Public Library
Reagan Kapasi, Toronto Public Library

2019 Committee Highlights & Achievements

Committee Changes

After five years on the committee, Julie Wendland left in May. Reagan Kapasi left temporarily in September, and will re-join the committee when she returns from maternity leave. In anticipation of upcoming committee changes in 2020, we put out a call for new members, and we welcomed Kat Drennan-Scafe, Sarah Bonish and Elizabeth Campbell to the committee at the end of 2019.

Core Competencies

The committee continues to review and revise the core competencies on an ongoing basis.

RA in A Day Conference

The 2019 RA in a Day conference was held on Monday, April 29 at North York Public Library. We had 98 attendees for this year's conference. The theme this year was *Out of the Shadows: Taking the "Scary" out of Horror Readers' Advisory*. Participants learned about the features of the horror genre from panellist Amy Jane Vosper and James Grainger, and got lots of horror recommendations from the Dewey Divas. The day featured not one, but two great authors – Alex West, who has written extensively about horror, and Nick Cutter, a horror author who has been called Canada's Stephen King. Participants also got the chance to solve an escape box, and learned how to host a podcast program in their own libraries. We received much positive feedback from participants.

OPLA Award for Leadership in Adult Readers' Advisory

Unfortunately, there were no nominations for the Readers' Advisory Award this year. We hope to promote the award more widely in 2020.

Publications and Collaborations

The committee contributed four articles on various readers' advisory topics to Open Shelf magazine in 2019. We are working with the Best Bets Committee to present a collaborative webinar in 2020.

Submitted by Kristen Caschera
Chair, OPLA Readers' Advisory Committee
December 2019