



ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DOUGLAS DAVEY, PRESIDENT

OPLA

2022 OPLA Membership: 887

I would like to begin by thanking you for putting your trust in me as your OPLA President. It has truly been an honour. If you are thinking about taking a greater role in the direction and advancement of the profession, I highly recommend volunteering for OPLA! It's a great way to make an impact, forge new connections, and improve your understanding of the complexities of libraries across the province. Learning about and supporting the unique issues of small, rural, and northern libraries has been a real high point in my time with OPLA.

As public libraries got back into the swing of things post-shutdown, we saw many changes in our libraries. At times, things seemed to move right back to the way they were in the "Before Times." At other times, our services changed in ways we couldn't have imagined a few short years ago. Whatever the world throws at us, public libraries have proven that they can roll with the punches and come back strong.

OPLA Council was kept busy with our many activities and events. We also took some time to review the procedures for our many awards. It took a lot of scrutiny, effort, and discussion, but the result was worth it: greater consistency and clarity in every step of the awards process.

HoOPLA editor Andra Steel kept the public library world informed of everything from large-scale, sector-wide events to individual library initiatives.

This year's RA in a Day event was held on May 9, and focused on Essentials & Fundamentals. The event was a big success, with double the number of attendees from just a few years ago! Congratulations to The Reader's Advisory Committee.

Equity and Bias Awareness in Community Engagement was the theme of the Community-Led Think Tank event on June 14. I want to offer my thanks to the Community Led group for tackling such a vital topic. Feedback was

excellent, with one saying that the event "inspired me to know that it IS possible!"

For this year's Child and Youth Expo, the hard-working OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee selected the intriguing theme of "Deliver Us from Legacy: Bridging the Gap to Inclusion." How can we break out of our old ways of doing things, and begin to move toward a new and more inclusive model? It's such an important question to ask. Once again, the event was a true success.

The OPLA's very own Research & Evaluation Committee launched a Resilient Libraries survey in the summer of 2022, to understand how libraries can thrive, both during the pandemic and in the future. The results, which are sure to be interesting, will be shared at Super Conference, just search for the phrase "resilient libraries."

"Book tasting with the Best Bets" will return to Super Conference, serving up a delicious helping of the best in new Canadian books for kids and teens. For adult learners of English and ESL students, Best Bets also creates their "Light Reads, Great Stories" lists each year, which can be found under "Other Reading Lists" on the Forest of Reading page.

Our OLA Super Conference theme is a timely one: Walking in Two Worlds / Marcher entre deux mondes. With all the changes (and, let's be honest, the often-unsettling daily news reports) we've experienced in the last few years, how many of us feel like we are walking in two worlds every day of our lives? I want to thank our returning OPLA Super Conference Planners, Hamid Printer and Ashleigh Dronyk, for their ongoing efforts, and working with the OLA staff and Super Conference Team to create the first ever truly hybrid Super Conference!

I look forward to working with President-Elect Ryan Moniz and the entire OPLA Council as we serve public libraries in 2023.