Sweet Smell of Success

The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA) launched *pot-pourri 2008* on Oct. 9 at the Main branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL).

A compilation of winning poems and stories from the 2007 Awesome Authors Youth Writing Contest, which took place from November 2007 to February 2008, *pot-pourri 2008* includes 18 English poems, 10 French poems, 18 English short stories and 6 French short stories.

“All three judges were extremely impressed with the quality of the writing, which keeps improving with returning Awesome Authors,” said Catherine Seaman, coordinator of Children’s and Teen Service for the OPL. “It’s so reassuring to know that reading and writing are still at the forefront, despite the popularity of TV and computers!”

The Awesome Authors Youth Writing Contest is a joint venture between the OPL and FOPLA, which encourages Ottawa residents between the ages of 9-17 to submit poems and/or short stories in both official languages. The stories are reviewed by successful local authors and prizes are awarded to the top three in each category.

“*pot-pourri* is fast becoming more than just a way the Friends of the OPL can support literacy and showcase Ottawa’s young talent,” said Lori Nash, president of the FOPLA. “*pot-pourri* has gotten rave reviews from many local and youth authors. The community is starting to realize that picking up a copy of *pot-pourri* is not only a fantastic way to support local youth, local authors and your local library, but it’s also a great read.”

*pot-pourri 2008* is available now for only $12.95, plus shipping and handling.

You can order your copy by calling 613-580-2424 ext. 14383 or e-mailing marie.petersen@bibliottawalibrary.ca All proceeds from the book will be used to support the OPL and its literacy programs.

To learn more about FOPLA, the grassroots organization that supports the OPL, visit www.ottawapubliclibraryfriends.ca
Dear Friends,

Kudos

Congratulations to all the volunteers working in our bookstores and at book sales in our system. You are doing a remarkable job.

Congratulations also to Cathy McDonald and Norma Goldsmith for the very successful bag of books book sale at the Walter Baker Centre. They were able to sell over 700 bags of books left over from the Mammoth Book Sale and brought out a whole new group of FOPLA book buyers.

The Friends won four awards this year: A certificate of appreciation from the city of Ottawa, the June Callwood Award for Outstanding Volunteerism in Ontario, the Bodart Award for Advocacy from Friends of Canadian Libraries, and the Baker and Taylor Award for Community Service from Friends of the USA Libraries. We are preparing a special certificate for each of you to commemorate this occasion, which will be given out through your bookstore manager with our thanks and appreciation.

"These are tough times... you can help by speaking out for your branch and your community"

The Newsletter

We have changed the format of the newsletter to reduce the cost of production and mailing. The newsletter will initially be sent to our members in English. Those that wish to have the French edition, or an electronic copy should call or email the office at 613-580-2424 ext. 14383 or marie.petersen@bibliootwralibrary.ca

Advocacy and you

SOS — Save our Services!

The OPL does more for less. The OPL has the highest circulation per capita and the lowest cost per use of similar libraries in Ontario (see page 6).

Our library is the largest bilingual public library in North America and has increased circulation by almost 50 percent since amalgamation, yet has decreased staff by 7.4 full-time employees. Despite this, it is award winning and garners the second highest satisfaction rate of city services next to the fire department.

But the OPL is falling behind. Compared to similar libraries in Ontario the OPL has the smallest library space and is below the mean for: operating dollars, service hours to the public and the number of items for patrons to borrow (see page 6).

In periods of economic challenge the use of the library service goes up. Any cuts to the OPL budget by city hall means drastic cuts to library service because the service is stretched to the maximum.

These are tough times. We expect that, as seen in past recessions, there will be a significant increase in the use of the library. At the same time city hall is preparing to cut all city budgets to cope with the economic pressures. We need to lobby councillors to support the library budget without further cuts.

You can help by speaking out for your branch and your community. Tell your councillor your library service is needed and is part of the very social and economic fabric of your community.

With kindest regards,
Lori Nash

Si vous préférez recevoir ce bulletin en Français, prière de nous écrire à marie.petersen@bibliootwralibrary.ca ou nous rejoindre au 613-580-2424 poste 41306.
If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically please contact us at marie.petersen@bibliootwralibrary.ca or call 613-580-2424 ext. 41306.

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Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association
A New Friend in Your Corner

The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA) held an open house to celebrate the official opening of the new self-serve location on Oct. 16.

Under the management of volunteer Karen Zeitler and Jim Houghton, the new site is now known as The Carp Book Corner.

Local media, politicians, library officials and the public were all invited to the opening to view the new location, meet FOPLA's volunteers and enjoy some refreshments.

Since its soft opening in June 2008 The Carp Book Corner has already raised more than $1,200 for library materials and services not included in the regular budget.

FOPLA invites all community members to visit The Carp Book Corner, located at the Carp library branch at 3911 Carp Rd.

For more information about The Carp Book Corner please visit us on the web at www.ottawapubliclibraryfriends.ca or call 613-839-5412.

Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association — Board of Directors

Lori Nash — President
Maurice Claude — Vice-president (Vanier)
Bruce E. Blackman — Treasurer
Charlene Elgee — Secretary (Orleans)
Andy Billingsley — Past-president

Shirley Felker — Ottawa local committee
Cathy McDonald — Nepean local committee
Sue Guarda — Cumberland local committee
Joan Dewis — Greenboro local committee
Heather Murphy — Kanata district
Ashley Whitelocke — at large
Georgia Whitehall — at large

Part-time staff
Marie Petersen — Administrative Assistant
Catherine Armstrong — Accounting Assistant
April Duffy — Public Relations Assistant
FOPLA board volunteers
Teresa Battram — Membership Directory
Aimee Rae — Editor
Frank Dugal amd Don Elgee — Photographers

Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association
101 Centrepointe Drive 2nd floor
Ottawa, Ontario K2G 5K7
613-580 2424 ext. 14388
President Lori Nash 613-824-5385
lori.nash@rogers.com

Photos by: Barry Dewis


Right: Reta Campbell, FOPLA volunteer, chatting with Joan Dewis, FOPLA board of directors.
Putting the Pieces Together

Puzzled over the new local committee governance policy? Here’s what you need to know.

One Body, Several Arms

The local committee governance policy divides The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA) into seven local committees.

Each Ottawa Public Library (OPL) branch and each FOPLA bookstore shall be governed by one of these local committees.

Each committee governs library branches and FOPLA bookstores that have either a combination of branches with the same manager and/or branches within an eight kilometer radius of the district branch.

Governance Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Committee Name</th>
<th>Library Branches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>Main, Sunnyside, Carlingwood, Rosemount, St. Laurent, Rockcliffe, Rideau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Felker (613-237-4179)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepean</td>
<td>Centennial, Centrepointe, Emerald Plaza, Ruth. E. Dickinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy McDonald (613-823-2599)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland- Orleans</td>
<td>Cumberland, Orleans, North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlene Elgee (613-830-4981)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenboro</td>
<td>Greenboro, Alta Vista, Elmvale, Greely, Metcalfe, Osgoode, Vernon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Dewis (613-521-1304)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanata</td>
<td>Hazeldene, Beaverbrook, Constance Bay, Carp, Fitzroy Harbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Murphy (613-592-1090)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanier</td>
<td>Vanier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maurice Glaude (613-742-0176)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goulbourn-Rideau</td>
<td>Stittsville, Manotick, Munster, North Gower, and Richmond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Nash (613-824-5385)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each local committee shall be represented by one director, who will sit on the board of directors and attend all board meetings.

To nominate a director, each local committee must hold an election. Therefore each branch and each bookstore will be represented on the FOPLA board of directors.

Your Money Spent Your Way

During the fiscal year, each local committee may reserve money to further the causes of local library branches within its jurisdiction.

The local committee governance policy gives each committee these funds proportionally, through the following allocations:

- Each local committee automatically gets to reserve an amount of up to $5,000, after expenses, of the revenue it generates.
- Each local committee automatically gets to reserve an additional amount of up to $3,000 if in the previous two years the committee has generated booksale revenue in excess of $40,000.
- Each local committee gets to reserve $4,000 for each additional bookstore in its cluster.
- Finally, each local committee gets to reserve an additional amount of $1,000 per branch that is within its jurisdiction.

A local committee may at any time request that any part of its account be transferred to the general line of the general operating account of FOPLA. This request must be made in writing to the treasurer.

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Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association
Governance and Procedures

- Each local committee must have a chair, board representative, secretary and treasurer.

  The chair of a local committee and the board representative can be the same individual, but do not necessarily have to be.
- Each member of a local committee is a member of FOPLA in good standing and can be a volunteer with one or more bookstores or a paid member.
- The chair of the local committee is elected by the members of the local committee in attendance at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the local committee.

  A majority of the votes is required to elect the chair. The AGM should take place in May.
- The FOPLA board of directors representative of the local committee is elected by the majority of members of the local committee at an AGM and holds office for two years.

  The position is ratified at the FOPLA AGM in June.
- Each local committee must hold two meetings a year: one in May to elect their chair and board representative and one in November or December to establish a bookstore budget and wish list for the branches in their jurisdiction.
- The secretary of the local committee, and the treasurer are appointed by the local committee at a meeting of the committee.
- Minutes of the meetings must be taken by the secretary and a copy must be given to the secretary of FOPLA within a week of the meeting.
- The chair of the local committee presides over the meetings of the group and is responsible to sign the financial acknowledgment as set out in the financial policy.
- The treasurer of the local committee must sign the financial acknowledgment form as provided for by the financial policy and return a copy to the treasurer and secretary FOPLA upon appointment/election to their position.

A bilingual anthology of poems and short stories written by the winners of the 13th annual Awesome Authors Youth Writing Contest.

“What a wonderful array of talent and creativity shines through these poems and short stories. Words, delicious words, have been carefully crafted and honed to convey thoughts and ideas; ideas tender and bold, poignant and stark, whimsical and humourous, but all evocative and brimming with originality.”

Rachna Gilmore – best-selling children’s author and winner of the Governor General’s Award.

48 Authors
9-17 years old
18 English poems
18 English short stories
10 French poems
6 French short stories

AVAILABLE NOW!

Call 613-580-2424 ext 14383 or email marie.petersen@bibliootwalibrary.ca to order.

ISBN: 978-09784372-1-3
Price: $12.95,
plus postage and handling
Release Date: October 2008
Format: Trade paperback,
  5” x 7¾”, 126 pages

Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association

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We Need Your Support, and That's a Fact!

Despite analysts insisting that those of us in Canada, and especially Ottawa, are best prepared to weather the current economic storm, the community is beginning to feel the pressure of the growing economic crisis.

"Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries"

Some might feel this is a time to cut back funding to much needed services like the Ottawa Public Library (OPL), but the facts suggest the opposite. The library will need more funding than ever to help Ottawa through this tough time.

**Fact:** In tough economic times public library use increases.

This spike in demand, which has been seen during past recessions, will add pressure to an already overwhelmed system. The Ontario Municipal Benchmark Initiative (OMBI) compared the OPL to similar sized Ontario libraries like Toronto, Hamilton, Greater Sudbury, London, Windsor, Brant, Waterloo and Thunder Bay and the results illustrate the reality.

**Fact:** The library’s budget is already stretched too thin.

The OPL’s operating budget is only $36,079,580. Within the OMBI the OPL has:

- The highest annual circulation @11.3 items per capita
- The lowest cost per use @$1.70/use
- The least amount of space @ 0.48/capita

The OPL is below the OMBI mean and median for:
- Operating dollars per capita
- Annual number of service hours per capita
- Number of holdings per capita

**Despite this, the OPL:**
1. Makes effective use of technology – according to task force on e-government in June
2. Rates high in customer satisfaction
3. Is award winning
4. Contributes to our recognition as a Smart City
5. Serves as the largest bilingual public library in Canada

**The OPL generates revenue:**
- From special grants and projects and services
- From fines and fees which is the highest of large public libraries in Canada
- By partnering with FOPLA which is the largest Friends fundraising group in Canada
- By partnering with the new Ottawa Public Library Foundation
- From individuals who have established special library funds with the Community Foundation of Ottawa

**Where does the Library get the funds?**
**90% comes from the City of Ottawa taxes**

**Fact:** The OPL has a mission to build a strong Ottawa community by supporting literacy and lifelong learning, fostering inspiration and enjoyment and connecting people to each other and the world.

**Fact:** It can’t do this with even less money.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>2007 Actual</th>
<th>2008 Estimated</th>
<th>2009 Projected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Statistics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items borrowed</td>
<td>10,083,595</td>
<td>10,250,000</td>
<td>10,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic visits</td>
<td>5,054,551</td>
<td>5,750,000</td>
<td>6,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>8,485</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>8,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>195,596</td>
<td>197,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-library visits</td>
<td>4,286,900</td>
<td>4,300,000</td>
<td>4,400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer hours</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>44,500</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value volunteer hours at $15 per hour</td>
<td>$660,000</td>
<td>$667,500</td>
<td>$675,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OMBI</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library uses</td>
<td>22,974,751</td>
<td>24,000,000</td>
<td>25,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual circulation per capita</td>
<td>11.30</td>
<td>11.40</td>
<td>11.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number library holdings/capita</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of square feet/capita</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual $ amount spent on library materials per capita</td>
<td>4.86</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>5.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library cost per use</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating cost per capita</td>
<td>$43.85</td>
<td>$43.50</td>
<td>$43.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual number of library service hours/capita</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association
What You Need to Know About the OPL

Geography
Ottawa's size and geography impose unique resourcing and financial challenges for the library. Spanning 2,976 square kilometers, 90 kilometers east to west, Ottawa is 80 per cent rural. This creates increased vehicle costs, need for specialized equipment, telecommunications, and serving multiple communities.

Bilingual Service
The Ottawa Public Library is the largest officially bilingual public library on the North American continent and must provide responsive and effective service in both official languages.

Amalgamation
- 11 separate library systems were merged to form one single library system in 2001, second in size in Ontario to the Toronto Public Library
- OPL has 7.4 fewer full-time employees in 2008 than at the time of amalgamation

Funding of Library
- OPL is funded 90 per cent from city of Ottawa and 10 per cent from external revenues (including provincial grants, fines, and fees and grants)

OPL also generates revenue
- Special grants, projects and services
- Fines and fees (which are the highest of public libraries in Canada)
- By partnering with the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (which is the largest Friends fundraiser in Canada)
- By partnering with the Ottawa Public Library Foundation

Volunteers at work in the library
- 500 Friends of the Library volunteers donate 20,000 hours to raise funds in 12 bookstores located at branches
- 350 volunteers, students and interns contribute an average of 24,000 hours a year to the library

Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association
Friends of the Library Bookstores

Library Bookstores
For opening hours, please call the bookstore or see our website at www.ottawapubliclibraryfriends.ca

**AfterWords** (Centennial Branch)
2870 Richmond Road Ottawa, K2H 5C4
613-828-5350

**The Bookworm** (Cumberland Branch)
1599 Tenth Line Road Cumberland, K1E 3E8
613-580-2954 ext. 5

**By the Book** (Greenboro District Branch)
363 Lorry Greenberg Drive Ottawa, K1T 3P8
613-580-2957 ext. 32626

**The Friends Bookshop** (Main Library Branch)
120 Metcalfe Street Ottawa, K1P 5M2
613-580-2945 ext. 32346

**Second Editions** (Nepean Centrepontie Branch)
101 Centrepontie Drive Ottawa, K2H 5C4
613-580-2424 ext. 41491

Ongoing Self-Serve Bookstores
(open during library hours)

**The Bookery** (Alta Vista Branch)
2516 Alta Vista Drive Ottawa, K1V 7T1

**Book Nook** (Hazeldean Branch)
50 Castlefrank Road Ottawa, K2L 2N5

**Carp Book Corner** (Carp Branch)
3911 Carp Road Car K0A 1L0

**Déjà Vu** (North Gloucester Branch)
2036 Ogilvie Road Ottawa, K1J 7N8

**Encore Orléans** (Orléans Branch)
1705 Orleans Blvd. Orleans, K1C 4W2

**Serendipity** (Centennial Branch)
3870 Richmond Road Ottawa, K2H 5C4

**Signets Vanier Bookmarks** (Vanier Branch)
310 Pères Blanes Ottawa, K1L 7L5

Opening Soon (Stittsville Branch)
1637 Stittsville Main Stittsville, K2S 1A9