



For Immediate Release

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Former long-time FOPLA Board President to receive prestigious Order of Friendship award

The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA) is pleased to announce that former Board President and long-time FOPLA volunteer Colin Plows has been nominated to receive the Ottawa Public Library's (OPL) Order of Friendship award.

The prestigious award, which is bestowed by the Ottawa Public Library Board, recognizes outstanding volunteer contributions by individuals, groups, or associations that improve OPL's ability to deliver services and programming to the community.

Since joining FOPLA as a Local Committee Representative for Cumberland-Orléans in 2010, Mr. Plows has demonstrated outstanding dedication to FOPLA's advocacy and fundraising efforts for the benefit of the Ottawa Public Library. After becoming President of FOPLA's Board of Directors in 2011, Mr. Plows helped strengthen FOPLA's organizational structure, increased membership recruitment, and introduced strategic planning that raised FOPLA's annual average contributions to OPL by more than 10 per cent.

Mr. Plows is also esteemed for his ability to be creative and collaborative in his interactions with volunteers, other FOPLA Board members, and OPL staff and stakeholders. His commitment has helped ensure that FOPLA's work will align with OPL initiatives for many years to come, and continue to strengthen Ottawa's public library community.

Mr. Plows is a retired naval officer who holds a Bachelor of Science, Physics and Physical Oceanography. He is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2013) and the Golden Jubilee Medal for the Order of Military Merit (2009). The Order of Friendship will be presented to Mr. Plows during the OPL Board meeting on October 11, 2016, which will be open to the public (except for in camera items). For more information on meeting times and locations, please go to bibliottawalibrary.ca.

The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association is a registered charity that advocates for literacy in Ottawa by raising funds in support of the Ottawa Public Library. Through the sale of donated books, FOPLA has gifted more than \$1,000,000 to OPL over the past four years for programs and services not covered by the Municipal budget. More than 300 dedicated volunteers support FOPLA in a variety of roles. For more information on FOPLA, please visit www.ottawapubliclibraryfriends.ca.

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