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Ottawa Library Friends' Group raises \$350,000 for OPL

Ottawa, ON—The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA) is proud to announce that in 2016 they donated \$350,000 dollars to Ottawa Public Library branches. These funds are used to purchase materials and equipment, and support programs not covered by the Ottawa Public Library's (OPL) municipal budget.

Thanks to the generosity and support of the Ottawa community, FOPLA collects gently used books and resells them at their 26 locations. FOPLA's volunteer-run bookstores and self-serve bookshelves are located at library branches across Ottawa, and the organization also holds a monthly Mammoth Sale at the James Bartleman Archives and Library Materials Centre.

The funds donated to the Ottawa Public Library by FOPLA go towards tangible items to help improve the functionality and physical appearance of local branches, as well as support events and programming that help OPL's branches reach out to their local community.

Highlights of items purchased by OPL with FOPLA funds in 2016 include:

- Over \$156,000 towards new furniture and shelving
- Over \$10,000 towards Aboriginal and Older-adult programming
- \$6000 sponsorship of the Awesome Authors Youth-Writing contest
- Over \$19,000 towards programming and community events

“Without FOPLA's dedicated team of volunteers, none of these important program and branch enhancements would have been possible,” said Tim Tierney, Chair of the OPL Board and City Councillor for Beacon Hill-Cyrville. “We appreciate all that the Friends do to support OPL programming and branches across the City.”

FOPLA's contributions to OPL help benefit programming and services for children, teens, and families, as well as the general public. Through their programming, services, and events, the Ottawa Public Library helps promote literacy in Ottawa and supports families and individuals in all areas of the community.

About the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association

The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA) is a registered charity that supports the Ottawa Public Library and the promotion of literacy in our community. Through the sale of donated books, FOPLA has donated more than \$2,800,000 to OPL for programs and services not covered by their municipal budget. Visit www.ottawapubliclibraryfriends.ca.



For further information, please contact:

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