

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Young local writers and artists recognized for original, inclusive works

OTTAWA, ON—The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA) is pleased to announce the publication of the eleventh edition of *pot-pourri*, an anthology of original written work by the winners of the Ottawa Public Library's (OPL) 2017 Awesome Authors Youth Writing Contest.

OPL's annual contest invites Ottawa youth to submit original works in both official languages. The categories include short stories, poetry, and new this year, comics. The winners included 61 talented adolescents between the ages of 9 and 17 from across the national capital region.

FOPLA also held a cover design contest for local artists between the ages of 9 and 17. The winner, Sumaya Deen, submitted a colourful, compelling mixed media piece. When describing her art, Deen said, "The main message behind my piece is: regardless of your beliefs, your race, skin color, or your ethnicity, we are all equal and balanced as a whole."

FOPLA has published *pot-pourri* since 2007, and sponsors the Awesome Authors Youth Writing Contest as part of their commitment to support the Ottawa Public Library's programming and services.

FOPLA also holds an event each year to launch the anthology, where winning authors are presented with a copy of *pot-pourri* to commemorate their achievement in front of family and friends. This year's event was held Monday, November 6th, 2017 at Ben Franklin Place in Nepean. Guests heard excerpts from a selection of winning authors in both official languages.

pot-pourri 2017 can be purchased online at www.fopla-aabpo.ca/shop/. The 2018 Awesome Authors contest will begin accepting entries on December 1, 2017. For more details, please go to bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/about/awesome-authors

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About the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association

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 used books, FOPLA donates more than \$250,000 annually to OPL for programs and services not covered by their municipal budget. More than 300 dedicated volunteers support FOPLA in a variety of roles. For more information, please visit www.fopla-aabpo.ca

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Friends of the Ottawa
Public Library Association

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