

For Immediate Release
Thursday, February 15, 2018



Friends of the Ottawa
Public Library Association

L'Association des amis de la
Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa

Ottawa Library Friends' group raises largest donation in organization's history



Photo: OPL CEO Danielle McDonald, OPL Board Chair Tim Tierney, and FOPLA President Chantal Cloutier at the 2017 cheque presentation.

OTTAWA, ON — The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA) is proud to announce that in 2017 they donated \$360,000 dollars to the Ottawa Public Library (OPL), their largest single donation since FOPLA amalgamated in 2003. Funds are used to purchase materials, equipment, and support programs not covered by OPL's municipal budget.

Thanks to the support of the Ottawa community, FOPLA collects gently used books and resells them at their 28 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 Centre in Nepean.

The funds donated to the Ottawa Public Library by FOPLA are used 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 2017 include:

- Programming about the residential school experience as part of OPL's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Sponsorship of OPL's Canada150 Dominion Day Strawberry Social event
- Sponsorship of OPL's 2017 Awesome Authors Youth Writing Contest
- Sponsorship of OPL's October Customer Appreciation "Book Bag Blitz" event
- Furniture refresh at the Blackburn Hamlet and North Gloucester branches as part of their recent renovations.

- Shelving upgrades at the Carlingwood and Hazeldean branches.

“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 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.



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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 \$300,000 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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