



READ - The Rosemount Expansion and Development Group **2016 Annual Report**

READ is a community group that has been working for over two years to advocate for an expanded and redeveloped Rosemount library. Through our engagement with the community and library staff, READ has determined that the current site of the Rosemount library is too small to meet the community's current and future needs.

Therefore, READ is advocating for:

- Expansion and redevelopment of Rosemount to be included in the 2016-2018 OPL capital budgets.
- An ongoing consultative process engaging the community and local branch staff.
- A beautiful, well-designed, welcoming, efficient and effective operating space that continues and expands Rosemount's role as a community hub and gathering place.

What has READ done in 2016?

Community Consultation

- READ hosted professionally facilitated community consultations with assistance from Councillor Jeff Leiper.
- Consultations led to the creation of the [Rosemount Library: The Next Chapter](#) report.
- Participants in the consultations consistently expressed a desire for more space at Rosemount. The community is interested in having more multi-use space and resources available at other branches such as a dedicated teen section and additional computer space.

READ's Conclusion

- Unfortunately the current site is very limited and expansion is not possible. After the consultations, READ determined that Rosemount must be relocated to meet the community's needs.
- In coming to this conclusion, READ developed a statistical base of library data to ensure that READ's recommendations were sound and based on evidence and data that was available.
- READ began to advocate to the OPL board for a relocated and expanded library. READ made [specific recommendations to the OPL Board](#).
- READ recommended that the Library Board commence work as soon as possible and in partnership with the local councillor, READ, and the community at large, to create a greatly expanded new library that provides modern library services to the Rosemount catchment area within five years.
- READ presented at the OPL Board's meetings in 2016, [most recently on December 6](#). Our presentations focused on the overcrowding at Rosemount, the lack of services compared to

other similar branches, and the limitations of the current location.

Communication and Advocacy

- READ received media attention from CBC and the Ottawa Citizen when it presented at the Library Board's meetings. READ has also received [consistent coverage in the Kitchissippi Times and NewsWest](#).
- READ communicated with the local community associations and has the support of the ten community associations in the library's catchment area, as well as two others that are nearby.
- READ maintained active links with elected and appointed officials at all three levels of government through meetings and written briefings.
- READ has communicated with schools and parent councils to ensure that they are aware of our advocacy. READ also engaged the community by attending events such as the Elmdale BookFest and the Hintonburg craft show.
- READ volunteers ran a "[yarn-bombing](#)" campaign to help raise awareness about the community consultations. Volunteers knitted dozens of miniature books which were then used in an art installation outside of Rosemount.

OPL's Decision

- In the 2017 OPL budget, the Library Board decided to pause any plans to renovate the existing Rosemount space. Instead, library staff will prepare a business case examining opportunities to move the library to new location where it can meet the community's needs now and in the future.

READ's Goals for 2017

- READ will continue to engage with community members and other stakeholders. We will continue to attend events and solicit feedback from the community. We invite anyone who is interested in Rosemount to attend our monthly meetings and visit our website for more information.
- READ hopes to be an active partner in the decision-making about the future of Rosemount. Our volunteers are ready and willing to assist the Library Board complete its task of preparing a business case considering future opportunities for Rosemount.

READ Rosemount

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