ANNUAL REPORT 2010
O.P.L.A Readers’ Advisory Committee

Members of the O.P.L.A Readers’ Advisory Committee
Sharron Smith, (Chair) Kitchener Public Library
Shonna Froebel, (Vice Chair) Barrie Public Library
Nicole Adams, Oshawa Public Library
Catherine AuYeung, Toronto Public Library
Maureen Johnson, Hamilton Public Library
Diana Krawczyk, Mississauga Library System
Chris Sheehy, Markham Public Library
Bessie Sullivan, Haliburton County Public Library
Virginia Van Vliet, Toronto Public Library
Alexandra Yarrow, Ottawa Public Library
Patricia Eastman, Toronto Public Library (OPLA Liaison)

2010 Committee Highlights/Achievements

Readers’ Advisory Core Competencies
The Committee continued the work begun in 2008 to develop the components for RA competencies (the skills needed by public library staff to provide a high level of service to adult readers). The committee focused on the first competency – Collection Knowledge and the full information package will be posted on the committee page of the OPLA website.

RA in a Day Workshop
RA in a Day 2010 was another successful achievement for the committee. The full day conference featured a variety of speakers; the day began with a presentation "Putting Readers First: An introduction to the reader-centred approach" with Rachel van Riel, the director of Opening the Book, a U.K. based company that focuses on reader focused library service. Her presentation was followed by a lunch author talk with Terry Fallis. The afternoon session focused on Empirical research on reading, and its implications for advising readers, Dr. Raymond A. Mar from York University discussed a number of findings that hint at a social benefit to reading and discuss the implications of this work for advising readers.

The final session of the day involved several members of RA Committee Members presenting ideas, sites, and ways to incorporate/utilize book trailers into library Web sites and programming. Due to feedback and high interest, the topic of using book trailers on library websites and for programming will be expanded into an EI topic. Additionally, all committee members submitted annotations for their top reading picks for the year, this has become an annual part of the day and the list is available on the committee webpage.

The day also featured a number of readers’ advisory focused poster sessions, topics presented include:
1. Book trailers on the radio (Haliburton Public Library)
2. Tips on creating a staff picks publication (Toronto Public Library)
3. Readers’ advisory wiki for staff (Toronto Public Library)
5. Readers’ advisory programming meets the silver screen (Kingston-Frontenac Public Library)

The poster sessions have proven very popular and are now a regular feature of the event. Based on participant feedback, satisfaction levels for the event was very strong and all presentations were well-received. Session handouts were posted on the committee website; planning for the 2011 has begun.

**Super Conference**
The committee planned a session at conference featuring library/publishing blogger Nora Rawlinson. Regrettably, due to inclement weather, the speaker was unable to travel to Toronto. Projected attendance for the session was high, and comments from those arriving to attend indicate disappointment, the committee has rescheduled the speaker for 2011.

The committee continued its support of the “One Book, One Conference” program, which promotes the reading of the Evergreen winning title, Come Thou, Tortoise by Jessica Grant. The committee hosted, along with members of the Evergreen committee, discussion sessions during conference.

**Networking Event**
The committee hosted a reception during Superconference, providing an opportunity for those involved in providing adult readers’ advisory to gather.

**Education Institute Sessions**
The committee worked with Liz Kerr, OLA Education Director, to develop a monthly series of RA focused sessions for the Education Institute. These sessions have proven very popular and will continue in 2011.

**OPLA Award for Leadership in Adult Readers’ Advisory**
Applications for this award were reviewed and the 2010 recipient was Richard Ficek, Oshawa Public Library.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sharron Smith (Chair),
O.P.L.A Readers’ Advisory Committee
February 4, 2011