

# Can You Wax Lyrical About Your Library?

## Library group reaches out to creative readers

By Blaine Marchand,  
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Are you an aspiring songwriter? Are you someone who has fond memories of using the Rosemount Library when you were younger? Is the branch still part of your daily life? If so, then the Rosemount Expansion and Development (READ) group has an exciting and fun opportunity for you – to create a song about our local library.

During the public consultations earlier this year, undertaken by READ in partnership with Councillor Jeff Leiper, participants expressed their deep affection for Ottawa's only surviving Carnegie library, which will celebrate its centenary in 2018.

Residents spoke of how their experiences at the library inspired them, connected them to the Kitchissippi community, and provided a safe place to

learn, read, do homework and use the internet. They praised the staff at Rosemount who provide them with a variety of excellent services.

Interestingly, these sentiments perfectly capture the vision Andrew Carnegie had when he decided to finance libraries in the US, Canada, and beyond. In Carnegie's own life, libraries played an important role – his early years in Scotland, and his adolescent years when he lived with his family in the Pittsburgh area of the US.

A key factor in his development, Carnegie believed, was his ability to borrow books from the personal library of Colonel James Anderson, an industrialist and Civil War veteran, who opened his collection to working boys every Saturday.

For Carnegie, this allowed him to acquire knowledge and to better himself. Having made

his fortune, also as an industrialist, Carnegie decided to facilitate others so they would have the same opportunity: funding libraries was his way of giving back.

Now, aspiring song writers can express how central the Rosemount Library is to them. Still in the conception stage, creative ideas on how the song is performed will be developed collaboratively over the coming months. For instance, the song could be a rap song, feature a range of singers, representative of the diverse community that uses the library, with each person telling of their own personal experience.

READ is asking songwriters to bring ideas and creativity. READ is also in discussion with a videographer from Kitchissippi to provide visuals for the taping of the song. All those interested or wanting more information

are invited to e-mail READ (readrosemount@gmail.com) by July 15th.

READ is an organization of local community members committed to ensuring that Rosemount Library remains a branch that meets the needs of its users throughout the 21st century. READ is committed to keeping this issue in front of Ottawa politicians and the Ottawa Public Library Board (OPLB).

A report on the recommendations from the recent consultation sessions will be presented to the OPLB by Councillor Leiper in the near future. READ will present an accompanying but separate report at the same time. Anyone interested in learning more about READ can visit their website [www.readrosemount.ca](http://www.readrosemount.ca) or is welcome to attend the next meeting on Monday June 27th, from 7 to 9pm, in the Laurel Room of the Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington Street West.

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