

Rosemount Library Revitalization

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Ensuring Community Voices are Heard

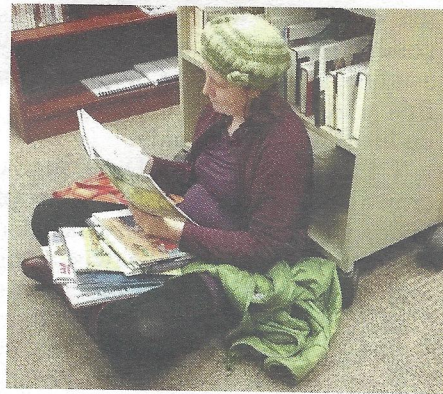
by Josh Nutt, Chair of READ
Rosemount

On October 3, the Ottawa Public Library hosted a very well-attended open house regarding the revitalization of the Rosemount library. The small lower-level meeting/program space at Rosemount was packed as members of the community circulated to examine design ideas for the future Rosemount. Attendees shared their own ideas and feedback by writing on Post-it notes and attaching them to various poster-boards created by +VG Architects.

The open house was busy and shows that our community is keenly interested on the future of our local library. I heard great ideas for how to make Rosemount better and a bit bigger. The OPL and +VG Architects must take the time to reflect on what the community said and incorporate the feedback into the preliminary design. READ will continue to hold the OPL accountable and will push for a presentation from the architects when the preliminary design is released in December 2018.

One particular design element that invoked criticism was the OPL's focus on outdoor space. Many attendees expressed concerns that outdoor space would have limited use given Ottawa's climate. In READ's view, the focus should be on expanding and improving the indoor space.

The ongoing community consultations allow residents to give feedback on all aspects of the proposed renovation. READ believes that Rosemount must meet the demands of the diverse and growing Kitchissippi neighbourhood.



Revamped outdoor areas at the OPL Rosemount Branch will not guarantee year-round comfortable reading spaces to rectify current crowded conditions. READ members stress the importance of additional indoor space. Photo courtesy of READ.

The library should be redesigned so it becomes an innovative, interactive, and integrated community hub. READ also encourages people to consider what design features would allow Rosemount to serve the high-needs and vulnerable groups and individuals in the community.

The Ottawa Public Library is still seeking feedback through an online survey. As well as the survey, the display boards and photos used at the Open House are also on the OPL website at bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/rosemount-revitalization-presentation.

A second consultation will present a preliminary design based on the input received from the community. READ will ask that the format for this December consultation feature a presentation by the architects, followed by a question and answer session. It is important that there be a dialogue so all attendees can hear each other's viewpoints.

For more information: visit the READ website <http://www.readrosemount.ca>.