



READ - The Rosemount Expansion and Development Group **2017 Annual Report**

READ is a community group that has advocated for over three years for an expanded and redeveloped Rosemount library. Through community engagement, READ determined that the current site of the Rosemount library was too small to meet the community's current and future needs. READ does not support the proposed superficial renovation to Rosemount because it will not add the space required to meet the community's needs.

What has READ done in 2017?

Information Gathering

- READ volunteers gathered data about all the OPL branches to support the case that Rosemount is overcrowded and our community deserves the same services that are available to other communities.
- READ volunteers researched library revitalization projects in other cities across Canada and how those cities are funding their infrastructure renewal.
- READ gathered a list of potential sites for an expanded new library.

Advocacy

- Advocated for the 2018 OPL capital budget to include the redevelopment and expansion of Rosemount at nearby site.
- Presented at the OPL Board's meetings in 2017, including when the Board considered Rosemount's future on October 10th and when the Board passed the OPL Budget on December 5th. Our presentations focused on the overcrowding at Rosemount and the growth in our neighbourhood, the importance of library resources to the community, and how other Canadian cities are funding library upgrades.
- Sought an ongoing consultative process engaging the community and local branch staff.
- Urged the OPL to build a beautiful, well-designed, welcoming, and efficient space that expands Rosemount's role as a community hub and gathering place.

The Rosemount Business Case

- The OPL hired a consultant to evaluate renovation and new-build options for Rosemount.
- READ was disappointed that it was not involved in developing the scope of the business case. The final business case set a hard financial budget for the project, which effectively eliminated any possibility of expansion. In READ's view, the entire process was designed to lead to the conclusion that only a superficial renovation of Rosemount was possible.
- READ was disappointed that the consultant's report did not assess the benefits of an

expanded Rosemount Library. Furthermore, READ believes that the report relied on faulty or misleading data in its analysis of Rosemount's overuse and the community's level of need.

- Following the business case, the OPL chose to proceed with a \$2 million superficial renovation. The renovation will not expand the space available at Rosemount and it will result in the closure of the branch for a significant amount of time in 2019.

Communication and Advocacy

- READ received [media attention](#), particularly when it presented at the Library Board's meetings (CBC, the Ottawa Citizen, Metro, Kitchissippi Times, and NewsWest). READ was also featured on [CBC's All in a Day](#).
- 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 by providing written briefs and meeting where possible.
- READ engaged the community by attending events such as the Elmdale BookFest, ArtsPark, and the Hintonburg Craft Sale.

READ's Goals for 2018

- Continue to engage with community members and other stakeholders. We will encourage as much participation as possible at the OPL's Rosemount renovation consultations.
- Be an active partner in the decision-making about the future of Rosemount. Our volunteers are ready and willing to assist the OPL as it consults and plans the future of Rosemount.
- Continue to advocate more broadly for predictable funding for libraries and other soft-infrastructure in Ottawa. We hope to pursue this objective in the lead-up to 2018 municipal election.
- Work with the community to celebrate Rosemount's 100th anniversary in November 2018.

READ Rosemount

www.readrosemount.ca
facebook.com/READrosemount
twitter.com/READRosemount