**OPLA Vice President / President Elect**

| **Douglas Davey** | My name is Douglas Davey and I hope to be your next OPLA Vice President. I have spent over 25 years working in public libraries, and am currently the Manager of Children’s and Youth Services at the Halton Hills Public Library. While my professional focus has been on children’s and youth, I assure all OPLA members that I am committed to representing you equally. I am running for this position so that I can advocate on your behalf, as well as on behalf of your library systems, be they large, medium, or small; urban or rural; north or south. I want to help all librarians and libraries be the best they can be.
I’ve been involved with the Ontario Library Association for many years, and over time I have developed a strong familiarity with the organization and its many operations. I am dedicated to professional development, and am a frequent presenter at OLA’s Super Conference. I’ve spoken on topics as varied as marketing, community engagement, and cultural variations in comic book symbology. (Look for me in 2020 speaking about best practices in patron registration, as well as public advisory councils.) I spent five years on the OPLA’s Child and Youth Committee, and also served as its Chair. I’ve been an OPLA Council Member since 2018, am a leader on the OLA’s LGBTQ+ Community of Practice, and am currently OPLA Council representative on the Community Led Libraries Committee.
My BA and B.Ed were focused on arts and culture, and it was that background which gave me my first ‘in’ to public library service. It’s fair to say I’ve been hooked ever since. I went on to get my MLIS in 2000 and later on my Certificate in Public Library Administration. I continue to be involved in arts and culture, and have published two novels for teens. When I’m not working, you’ll find me trying out the latest board game, reading comics and classics, watching the worst cinema the world has to offer, baking sourdough bread, or trying to get 100% completion on an RPG. |

| **Ben Shaw** | Librarianship was not a career that was on my radar. When someone sent me the link to a posting at Markham Public Library (MPL), I knew I had found my place.
In libraries I found a space where I was a detective, a coach, a teacher and a friend. I also found a space that not only reflects the community, but actively challenges it to be better. The everyday amazement in our customers voices as they discovered something new about the library is incredibly rewarding. We are so much more than our public perception. This is what I love most about the library.
I want OPLA to be an organization that is used by Library staff at all levels, a voice for the issues that are important to our communities and work with them to address their needs. Libraries have a unique position as boundary spanning organizations. We can leverage this, bring stakeholders together and work towards common goals.
As a Branch Librarian I enjoy nerding out about all aspects of Library life. Feel free to reach out on Twitter @benPshaw or via email: bshaw@markham.library.on.ca |
# OPLA Central West Region

| Zile Ozols | As Central West Region Councillor, I would bring my variety of experiences and passion for listening to community to the OPLA council. Always thinking about the community first, I enjoy exploring the relationships a public library can have within their community, whether through one-to-one interactions, or partnering with other non-profit organizations. As lifelong learning institutions, I believe public libraries have a unique role to play in building community resilience and empowering individuals.

I began my career at the Atwater Library, an independent library in Westmount, QC that relies on grants, revenue generating services, and donations. There I increased program attendance through evaluations, improving existing programs, and developing new on-trend programs. In Quebec, I served as Vice President and President of the Public Library Sector of the Quebec Library Association. As Brantford Public Library’s Manager of Programming and Outreach, I have worked on several larger projects including a renovation project. I work with a team of programmers and partner organizations to meet the needs of the community through programs.

I seek out opportunities and activities that allow me to learn from others and my own mistakes. Outside of work, I am a house builder, master-of-none crafter, Girl Guide volunteer, and podcast lover. |

| Qingyi (Ken) Su | Mr. Qingyi (Ken) Su was born and grew up in China. He moved to Canada in 2002 and received a Bachelor of Engineering Science in Computer Engineering and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Western Ontario, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Victoria. Mr. Su is currently the Chief Executive Officer at the St. Catharines Public Library and worked as the Chief Executive Officer at the Welland Public Library, Head Librarian at the Iqaluit Centennial Library, and Systems Librarian at Nunavut Public Library Services. Under his leadership, Mr. Su developed the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan and introduced Community Support Services to assist people experiencing homelessness, mental health issue and drug addiction at the St. Catharines Public Library. He also developed 2016 – 2020 Strategic Plan, opened a new branch, and expanded the Library’s lending program to include hot spot and educational kits at the Welland Public Library. In addition to his professional work, Mr. Su is also a Board Director for Library Service Centre and a member of Kiwanis Club. He lives in Niagara Falls with his wife and daughter. |
| **Jessica Veldman** | My name is Jessica Veldman and I am running for the position of Central West Region Councillor. I have been working in Wellington County for nearly 10 years holding a variety of positions and am a Certified Municipal Manager (CMM II). As the Information Services Librarian responsible for technology and digital services for the past 6 years, I was the project manager for the ALA Award-Winning Rural Internet Hotspot Lending Program. This pioneering project has provided me with an opportunity to share experiences, provide feedback, build relationships, and support other public libraries across Canada. In addition, I hosted an Education Institute webinar, wrote articles for HoOPLA and Municipal World, and presented OLA sessions. I have also managed a number of large projects in Wellington County designed to improve user experience. These include the addition of Maker Kits to the circulating collection, the introduction of new online catalogues, a complete website redesign, and involvement in 5 library branch renovations. I have managed the library’s digital collections from the boom of eReaders through to #ebooksforall. If elected, I will continue advocating for rural public libraries both within the library community as well as those outside the library world. I am privileged to work in a municipality that sees the value of public libraries and how they can build stronger communities and I would like to take what I have learned in Wellington and use it in a broader context. |
| **Andrew Whitfield** | Hi there! My name is Andrew Whitfield and I am hoping to be your next Central West Region Councillor for OPLA. My love of libraries comes by me naturally as both my grandfather and aunt were librarians and I grew up spending hours and hours perusing the stacks and shelves and exploring the main branch in my hometown of Kitchener. This love of books and library spaces eventually led me to Western to obtain my MLIS. From there I was fortunate enough to get a position as an Assistant Branch Supervisor at the Fergus Branch of the Wellington County Library System. After spending two years growing and learning in that role I became the Branch Supervisor at the newly renovated Hillsburgh Branch (also part of the County of Wellington). I have also spent time as a digitization assistant at the Guelph Public Library and as a Project/Social Media Manager for a large manufacturing company. I am a passionate advocate for public libraries and all they have to offer. Equal access to information and technology, a space where one can just be without the pressure to buy anything, a meeting place where ideas are exchanged and opinions are formed, just to name a few. By joining council I hope to help further these amazing aspects (and more) of public libraries in Ontario, while connecting with my peers and responding to the needs of our members. When I’m not working or thinking about libraries I live in Guelph with my partner and our two young children. I thank you in advance for your consideration. |
## OPLA Southwestern

### Sarah Hart Coatsworth

Sarah Hart Coatsworth is Manager of Marketing, Outreach and Programs at Chatham-Kent Public Library in Chatham-Kent, Ontario, Canada. In this role since 2014, Sarah is responsible for system-wide marketing. This position also explores opportunities to provide outreach to the community including reaching people who don’t visit the library – yet! Children’s Services is included in this portfolio, too; overseeing children’s programming, collections and services at all 11 locations.

Sarah has served as OPLA Councillor representing Southwestern Ontario from 2017 to 2019. As Chatham-Kent Public Library has both urban and rural branches, and is spread over a large geographic area, Sarah is able to share relevant perspectives from the public library world.

Prior to coming ‘home’ to CKPL, Sarah worked at Brampton Library for 7 years where she enjoyed being a Children’s Librarian and, later, Coordinator of Children’s Services. She has an Honours Degree in English and Media Studies from Huron College (University of Western Ontario) and holds a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from McGill University completed in 2004. Sarah was raised in Chatham-Kent and is happy to be back; now living on a working farm, and working for Chatham-Kent Public Library.

### Natalie Marlowe

Natalie is a library services manager who is passionate about creativity and innovation and community access to technologies. Natalie has been part of the book industry for twelve years: editing and marketing books for teaching and learning in the book publishing industry for the first 5 years; and developing collections, designing programs, and connecting with communities in public libraries for the next 7 years.

She is currently Library Coordinator at Elgin County Library, a rural system with 10 branches that stretches along Lake Erie, south of St. Thomas, in southwestern Ontario.

She has practiced community-led librarianship in both rural and urban public library systems- as a Branch Supervisor working alone in a rural branch to an Emerging Technologies Librarian working with many staff in a stand-alone urban library.

Natalie is currently part of ARUPLO and has been involved in OPLA previously by presenting and convening OPLA sessions at OLA’s Super Conference; and liaising for HoOPLA as an OLA staff member.

In her spare time, Natalie enjoys running, succulent gardening, and spending time with her Bulldogs, Blanche and Herbert- who she thinks would make perfect characters for children’s picture books. She has an MLIS from Western University and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Book and Magazine Publishing from Centennial College.