

From: Linda Sabine
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 5:28 PM
To: Ottawa Public Library Board \ C.A. de la bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa;
Bebbington, Sonia
Cc: Brockington, Riley
Subject: "Trouble" right here in River Ward

We've surely got Trouble, right here in River Ward. With a capital "T" and that rhymes with "B" and that stands for - Books!"

I hope I have caught your attention (in a good way) and perhaps even made you smile. I am a resident of the Hunt Club community of River Ward, which, as you know, is **the only ward in all of Ottawa without a library branch**. The planning of River Ward did not include a library branch - or two - when it was being developed decades ago and this oversight has never been adequately addressed.

We have, within our Hunt Club community, a strong appetite for library services and, of course, books. While we have "million dollar plus" homes with multiple cars in the driveway here in Hunt Club, a search on [realtor.ca](https://www.realtor.ca) shows that our community also has some of the most modestly priced dwellings in the city. We also have pockets of people living in subsidized housing, many who rely on walking or public transit. Our neighbourhood is a lovely mix of humanity of vastly different means.

I would like to address the issue of the **lack of library services**. We have a number of young families in the community. Two years ago, we submitted a formal request to OPL for several programs, the likes of which are available to communities with a library branch. We were told that OPL didn't have the resources to provide these services to the Hunt Club community. So, along with my friend Christine Johnson, a retired educator, we undertook to volunteer our time to run a successful Storytime for Toddlers program at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre, sponsored by the Hunt Club Community Association. We love the kids. We love serving our community in this way. But we shouldn't have to do it because OPL fails to do so.

For years, a number of Hunt Club residents have been begging OPL for a satellite library branch, ideally situated in chronically vacant units in the Hunt Club Centre on McCarthy Road. This location would be very walkable for some of our less-advantaged neighbours.

We are not asking for a brand new library building, although it seems that OPL has the funds to do this in certain communities. We are asking, instead of spending money to fix or replace the aging, glitchy, temperamental and inadequate half-measures currently in place, that the OPL Board allocate the funds to rectify this decades-old oversight and give the Hunt Club community the library branch with accompanying library services that it needs, and in my view, deserves.

Respectfully, Linda Sabine