



∴ ontario library association

## Our History

Founded in 1900, the Ontario Library Association (OLA) is the oldest continually operating library association in Canada. With 5,000 members, OLA is the largest library association in Canada. OLA has six divisions covering various kinds of libraries (college and university, library and information technology, library boards, public libraries, school libraries, and French libraries).

Name	Significant Date
OLA Founded	1900
James Bain, First President of OLA. Award named after him	1901-1902
Presidential address delivered at the third annual meeting of the Ontario Library Association, 1903.	1903
Books recommended to Public libraries of Ontario	1908-1916
Souvenir programme, twenty-first annual meeting of the Ontario Library Association	1921
Publications of the Government of Ontario 1901-1955 : a checklist / compiled for the Ontario Library Association by Hazel I. MacTaggart.	1964
OLBA W.J. Robertson Medallion Award introduced	1968
Margaret Scott Research Scholarship	1978
Janette baker scholarship	2002
Marjorie Fleming	2006
Larry Moore started his tenure as Executive director of OLA	
Public libraries act introduced	1984
OPLA James Bain Award introduced	
Libraries 2000 Symposium	1985
Regional library systems become agencies of the province	
First Library automation projects funded	
OCULA Winter Break is born	1986
Trustee block membership introduced	
OLA launched first strategic plan	
OLA played leadership role in Pay Equity legislation	1987
OLA major player in fight against BILL C54	
OCULA Lifetime Achievement Award introduced	1988
First apple computer introduced at OLA	
Lobby against GST on books	1989
First amendment to copyright	
Provincial hearings on the Public library strategic plan	

Premier Bob Rae speaks at OLA conference	1990
The Teaching Librarian publication launched	
Intellectual freedom manual published	
One place to look is presented to the government with fanfare	
OLA President's Award for Exceptional Achievement created	
Hometown library conference held	1991
OLITA is born as a division	
OLA gets first e-mail account	
Attempted to change OLA name	
OLA has a staff of 4	
Information policy promoted with Management Board	1992
Last time membership for OLA was increased	
Travel grants awarded to conferences provided by Culture ministry	
10 days to 2000 with LITA	
Professional literature makes a debut at OLA's three conferences	
OLTA wages campaign to preserve citizen-based library boards	1993
OLITA Project Award introduced	
OPLA Children's or Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award	
Social Contract imposed by Ontario Government	
Libraries Advance Ontario launched	
OLA sponsors Carver workshops around the province	1994
OLA begins representing Neal-Schuman Publishers in Canada	
Media and Communications Award introduced	
Toni Porter ends tenure at OLA after 20 years	
Coalition for Public Information leaves OLA umbrella	
Silver Birch Reading program launched	1995
OSLA Teacher-Librarian of the Year Award introduced	
First Super Conference conceived	
Launch of Access publication	
OLA's first website launched	
ABO-Franco division created	1996
Expo and Super Conference registration outsourced for the first time	
Super Conference moves to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre	
Policy Forum born; OLA AGM relocated	
Library Building Award created	
OLA administers CAP YI for Ontario Bill 109, opposed by OLA, becomes only legislation withdrawn from Harris Government	1997

Education Improvement Commission backs off from replacing Teacher Librarians	
OLA's first on-line workshops with Southern Ontario Library Service as a partner	
Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award introduced	
Geneva Park Conference to reorganize OLA	
Red Maple Reading award launched	
Consortium of Ontario Libraries formed	1998
Listservs introduced	
OSLA Award for Special Achievement introduced	
OLA repatriates Expo from third party	1999
OSLA Administrator of the Year Award introduced	
OLA's 100th Anniversary	
Govenor General Adirenne Clarkson speaks at Super Conference	2000
OLA establihses \$300,000 First Nation Scholarship at Faculty of Information Studies	
OLA Board re-focuses on issues, not operations	
The OLASore opens	
Ontario Digital Library (ODL) launched	2001
OLA office space doubles, includes store showroom; staff of 11	
Invitational leadership forum makes school libraries a major OLA priority	2002
Policy Forum ends; AGM reverts to Super Conference	
Education Institute launched	2003
\$50 000 donation made to OLA and Jeanette May Baker Fund established	
Final payment on First Nation Scholarship made to the University of Toronto	
OLA, BCLA, LAA, and SLA form the Partnership to develop programs and services	2004
Significant research agenda on school libraries approved	
People for Education and OLA partner to improve school libraries	
ODL received \$700 000 funding	
The Partnership goes national	2005
Africa Project launches; more then \$40 000 raised	
Festival Fund launched	
Larry Moore Fund	
Knowledge Ontario (formerly ODL) received \$8 000 000	2006
Bibliocommons support begun and transferred to Knowledge Ontario	
Silver Birch nominee, Three Wishes by Deborah Ellis, sparks national controversy	
Provincial Government provides first of two multi-million dollar allocations for school library resources	
OLA holds first virtual Webcast AGM	

OLA office moved to Wellington Street with a staff of 10 plus 4 from Knowledge Ontario	
Archival and Preservation Achievement Award introduced	
Funding arrives for new Partners style document on 21st Century Learning	2007
US partner announced for the Education Institute	
Content Management System launched	
Festival of Trees launched	
Larry Moore retires	
OPLA Lifetime Achievement Award introduced	
Shelagh Paterson becomes Executive Director of OLA	
OPLA Leadership in Adult Reader's Advisory Award introduced	
OCULA New Librarian Residency Award introduced	2009
• Forest of Reading launches first French reading program (Tamarac)	
OCULA Lightning Strikes Student Award introduced	2010
Twitter	
Mentoring Committee	
OLA Discovery Fund	
Advocacy Committee	2011
Facebook	
OPLA Advocacy in Action Award first awarded	2013
OLA office moves to Toronto Street; staff of 11	2014
Le Prix Tamarac, Tamarac Express, and Peuplier awards ceremonies introduced at the Toronto Festival of Trees	
Silver Birch Program 20 year anniversary	
OLA Champion Award introduced	
OLA and Impact Affairs organize the first Library Day at Queen's Park	
Superconference 20 year anniversary	
Technical Service Award introduced	2015
ABO-Franco Prix Micheline-Persaud introduced	
Diversity Committee created	2016
The Toronto Festival of Trees becomes a 3 day event with one day devoted to French programs	
The OLASore is rebranded as the Library Marketplace; merchandise line Library Lust launched	
OCULA Award for Special Achievement introduced	
OLBA Joyce Cunningham Public Library Board Award introduced	