

Two Recipients of the 2022 OLA New Library Building Award Announced

Libraries and partnering architectural firms in Ontario win award through association

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO, ON (July 7, 2022): Commitment to community development, architectural & technological innovation, and creative advancements that emphasize local connections are important aspects that are embodied by the recipients of the 2022 Ontario Library Association (OLA) New Library Building Award. The award presentation will be made at the OLA Annual Institute on the Library as Place event, held from July 7-8, 2022, in Toronto, Ontario. This year's theme is "Libraries that Work."

The OLA New Library Building Award is for projects that were completed and in-use within July 2019 to July 2022. The award aims to encourage and showcase excellence in the design of new libraries located in Ontario.

"Libraries are critical for their communities. They are a space for gathering, learning, and collaboration and great library design is critical to these experiences," said Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director of OLA. "Congratulations to Richmond Hill and Waterloo for supporting these exceptional projects."

The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is pleased to announce two recipients of the 2022 New Library Building Award:



Richmond Hill Public Library - Oak Ridges Branch

Architects: Perkins&Will

From the jury: "The exterior appearance of the Oak Ridges Branch presents the strength of a community facility. The primary materials of the building, timber structure and masonry cladding are used to delineate the major organization of the interior spaces. The transparent timber framework highlights the social spaces, while the stone block contains the quieter area of the

library. The materials, millwork and furniture are used to break down to the scale of the large building to create spaces comfortable for the user. This branch will attract users through its bold design and will welcome them back to its comfortable spaces." - *Eric Riddell, Shoalts and Zaback Architects Ltd.*

**Waterloo Public Library - Eastside Branch**
Architects: ward99 and architechs

From the jury: "The architects delivered on the commitment to a green, nature inspired facility with the new Eastside Branch of Waterloo Public Library. Thoughtful site placement combined with a striking design and the use of appropriate materials results in a facility that fulfills the community desire for an 'eco location'. Designing and constructing a building that is awash in natural light enlivens a previously utilitarian recreation complex. I cannot wait to

see the range of eco-literacy programming that leverages the Naturespace - the interaction between toddler and teaching beehive is of particular interest." - *Darcy Glidden, Manager of Community Libraries, Barrie Public Library*

The OLA congratulates this year's award recipients and architects for their creative builds and demonstrated skills in original space-making for their communities.

The OLA Library Building Awards encourages and showcases excellence in the architectural design and planning of libraries in Ontario. The award is divided into two alternating categories; Library Architectural and Design Transformation, and New Library Buildings. Each runs every three years.

The next call for applications will be the Library Architectural and Design Transformation Award, announced in Spring 2024. More information will be shared on the OLA website closer to the date.

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About the Ontario Library Association: The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is a centre of excellence for the library and information sector, with more than 4,000 members who work in public, school, academic, health and special libraries. OLA enables members to advocate for the right of individuals to have free and equitable access to information. Our members research, develop and participate in educational programs designed to provide exemplary library services. Signature OLA events include the annual Super Conference and the Forest of Reading[®] program.

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