

OPLA James Bain Medallion Public Library Board Member of the Year

The James Bain Medallion is awarded to a library board member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in governing a public library in Ontario. This annual province wide award recognizes and honours the best contributions and efforts of board members who govern public libraries. James Bain was the first President of the Ontario Library Association in 1901 and Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Library. This is not always awarded on an annual basis.

Award Presentation

The award is presented by the President of the Ontario Public Library Association at the Public Library Award Gala held in conjunction with the Ontario Library Association's annual Super Conference in Toronto.

Past Recipients

2024	Paul Ainslie, Toronto Public Library Board
2023	Rose Savage, Vaughan Public Libraries Board
2022	Not awarded
2021	Not awarded
2019	Patricia Symon, Bruce County Public Library
2018	Shelagh Harris, Richmond Hill Public Library
2017	Donald Lynch, Six Nations Public Library Board
2016	Gary Price, Cambridge Public Library Board/Idea Exchange
2015	No recipient
2014	Joyce Cunningham, Fort Frances Public Library Board
2013	Jane Hilton, Whitby Public Library Board
2011	Irene Moore, Terrace Bay Public Library Board; Jan Harder, Ottawa Public Library Board
2010	Claudette Richardson, Kingston Frontenac Public Library Board Dr. John J. Flynn, Seguin Public Library Board
2008	Joyce Smith, Clearview Public Library Board
2007	Suzanne Culp, Lincoln Public Library Board
2006	Jan Perfect, North Bay Public Library Board
2005	Ethan Mings, Lincoln Public Library Board
2004	Sharon Stroud, Haldimand Public Library Board; Rick Goldsmith, Toronto Public Library Board
2003	Carman Dix, Niagara Falls Public Library Board
2002	Marcel Giroux, Kingston Frontenac Public Library Board
2001	Jim MacDonald, Brantford Public Library Board
2000	Gwen MacDougall, North Bay Public Library
1999	Hilary Bates Neary, London Public Library Board; Margaret MacLean, Thunder Bay Public Library Board
1998	Elizabeth Buckingham, Ottawa Public Library Board
1997	Edmundo Vásquez, Toronto Public Library Board

- 1996 Elizabeth (Elsie) Dugard, Geraldton Public Library Board
- 1995 Bruce Walker, St. Catharines Public Library Board
- 1993 Anne Van Wyngaarden, Wainfleet Public Library Board
- 1992 Hervé Casault, Gloucester Public Library Board
- 1991 Armand Landry, Smooth Rock Falls Public Library Board
- 1990 Eileen Hammill, Guelph Public Library Board
- 1989 Leah Mitchell, Grand Valley Public Library Board
- 1988 Sheryl Taylor-Munro, Toronto Public Library Board
- 1987 Jack Kippen, Lennox & Addington County
- 1986 Ernest Côté, Ottawa Public Library Board
- 1985 George Court, Metropolitan Toronto Library Board
- 1984 Margaret Andrewes, Lincoln Public Library Board