

The Ontario Library Association Announces 2026 Award Recipients

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO, ON (January 29, 2026): The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is thrilled to recognize individuals, organizations, and initiatives that have greatly contributed to Ontario's libraries. From library advocacy to program development, the recipients of OLA's 2026 awards have supported school, academic and public libraries with outstanding service to their institutions and communities.

Awards will be presented to recipients during the annual OLA Super Conference, held from Jan. 28 - 31, 2026, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The OLA Super Conference will also feature an introduction to the 2026 OLA Board of Directors.

The Association is pleased to announce the recipients of the following awards:

OLA Presidents Award for Exceptional Achievement:

The ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives

OLA Archival and Preservation Achievement Award:

Alessia Farris, The Blue Mountains Public Library

OLA Media and Communications Award:

Bracebridge Library

OLA Champion Award:

Margie Singleton, Vaughan Public Libraries

Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award:

Caroline Goulding, Dryden Public Library

OLITA Technology Advancing Libraries Award:

Makerspace Discord Team

OSLA Teacher Librarian of the Year Award:

Marena Gillen, Durham District School Board

OPLA Lifetime Achievement Award:

Steven Kraft, Guelph Public Library

OCULA Lifetime Achievement Award:

Larry Alford, University of Toronto

Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship:

Vickery Bowles, Toronto Public Library

OLA Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award:

Amanda Jones

OLBA W.J. Robertson Medallion:

Kathleen Copegog, Beausoleil First Nation Public Library

OHLIA Collaborative Spirit Award:

Health Science Information Consortium (HSIC) Social Committee

OPLA James Bain Medallion:

Gary Sangha, Vaughan Public Library Board

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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 nearly 4,000 members who work in public, school, academic 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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