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**The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Ontario Public Library Service Awards**

See all previous winners at:
http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/libraries/oplsa_previouswinners.shtml

2016 Ontario Public Library Service Awards
The award recipients were announced and presented at the OLA Super Conference Thursday February 2, 2017 at the Public Library Awards Gala.

Angus Mowat Award for Excellence
Small Library Category: Carleton Public Library for: Carleton Place Writes
Small Library Category: Hastings Highlands Public Library for: Crazy for Community Hubs
Medium Library Category: Caledon Public Library for: Click-Create-Celebrate Initiative
Large Library Category: Burlington Public Library for: Community-Led Youth Service Model

Minister's Award for Innovation
Small Library Category: Brighton Public Library for: Tech Help One on One
Medium Library Category: Halton Hills Public Library for: Sustainable Cards Project
Large Library Category: Vaughan Public Libraries for: Vaughan Poetry Map

2016 Short List Nominations
Brighton Public Library: Tech Help One on One
Brighton Public Library's Tech Help One on One project responds directly to an illustrated need for more focused, cost effective Tech Help for community members. The first iteration of this program was made possible through OLCF, and has continued in a modified format ever since. This program empowers individuals to develop skills necessary for participation in the ever changing digital world through half hour Tech Help One on One sessions in a comfortable and supportive environment. Brighton Public Library provides approximately 200 half hour sessions to community members annually.

Burlington Public Library: BookArts Program
Burlington Public Library's BookArts program offers customers the opportunity to learn the art of bookbinding and creating bound books. The project began as part of our makerspace initiative in 2015. The library's goal was to provide the community with the skills to bind and create their own books, but the project has turned into much more. Along with workshops to promote book making skills for hobbyists and entrepreneurs, the library provides open studio time for individual

creation, the opportunity for community members to share their skills and give back to other community residents and for all participants to socialize in a supportive environment.

Burlington Public Library: Community-Led Youth Service Model
Burlington Public Library's community-led model is transforming how teens interact with the library. Moving from a top down model, the library has embraced a teen-led philosophy which places teens into positions of power, enabling them to co-create programs and initiatives that enrich their lives. Focused on providing empowering leadership and growth opportunities, centred around key community needs of connect, create, innovate, and iterate, the library works with teens to develop initiatives. These include co-planned programs, teen-run Instagram and Tumblr accounts, student art displays in library branches and maker-based high school co-op placements.

Caledon Public Library: Click-Create-Celebrate Initiative
Caledon Public Library recognizes the inherent value of building a culture of creativity and the library's Click-Create-Celebrate Initiative offers the tools to create and cultivate, rather than simply consume the work of others. Click-Create-Celebrate provides a forum to recognize and highlight the talent of local authors, poets, photographers and filmmakers in Caledon's community. It is a four month long annual contest that encourages the submission of short stories, poetry and photography from all age groups. The program culminates in a celebration of creativity, culture and literacy – in all their unique forms.

Carleton Place Public Library: Carleton Place Writes
Carleton Place Writes (CPW) is a series of ongoing workshops, writing challenges and seminars designed to empower and engage aspiring writers in the Town of Carleton Place. It has had overwhelming success creating a supportive community of active writers of all ages in Carleton Place. Participants have published, entered contests, completed novels and have credited much of their success to the support provided by Carleton Place Public Library writer's programs.

Halton Hills Public Library: Naturally Sustainable Cards Project
Halton Hills Public Library became the first library in Canada to create a sustainable library card made from 100% birch. Reaction from the community was tremendous with 58% increase of new patron registrations, a 39.5% increase of in-branch visits and a 20.5% increase in program registrations. The cards generated considerable media attention and public interest. Other libraries have shown great enthusiasm for the project and are considering similar sustainable and cost-effective cards as an alternative to industry standard PVC cards.

Hamilton Public Library: Shakespeare Library Visit Program
The program leads students through the creation of a Shakespeare mini movie through freeze-frame style tableau using green screen technology, and overlaid by choral reading. It demonstrates excellence by positioning public libraries as relevant and responsive partners supporting 21st century literacies, Ontario curriculum and student achievement.

Hastings Highlands Public Library: Crazy for Community Hubs! – Building Community Capacity
Crazy for Community Hubs! is Hastings Highlands Public Library's recipe for success. It is all about the "C's"… Communication, Connections, and Collaboration, and about the "P's"… People, Partnerships, and Public Service. These lead to the "A's"… Accreditation, Acknowledgment and Adoration of the few of the "T's"… Trials, Trust, and Triumphs. For flavour, add the "M's"… Municipalities, and Ministries. It is a recipe that anyone can follow and each mixture is as unique as its ingredients. Even better, Crazy for Community Hubs! can be served alone or it makes a great appetizer for economic growth.

Lambton County Public Library: eLibrary eVerywhere
eLibrary eVerywhere is a series of programs and services developed by an eLibrary Team that allows the Lambton Public Library to satisfy robust community demand for eResources and ePlatforms, offer cutting-edge services, engage all residents, ensure equal access to digital technology and information for all ages and income profiles, and attract new users. Each year, the team reviews eLibrary eVerywhere needs and plans new programs, services and strategies for collections, Wi-Fi accessibility and bandwidth, technology and eDevices, training, outreach/awareness initiatives and programming, partnerships and promotions and marketing.

Laurentian Hills Public Library: Chalk River Branch Revitalization
Chalk River Branch Revitalization is an ongoing project that has and continues to revamp the branch's quality of service in every way. From our circulation desk practices to our programming to the layout and services provided the library is striving to become a focal point of the community. Before this project, the branch was hardly used and sadly neglected. A year on it is a lively place, meeting the needs of the area, hopefully with excellence.

Milton Public Library: One Book, One Milton
2016 is the third year that Milton Public Library (MPL) will be hosting its increasingly popular One Book, One Milton community read. Since its inception, MPL has secured the support of high profile authors including Don Gilmor, Gail Vaz Oxlade, Chris Hadfield and Margaret Atwood to get as many Miltonians as

possible connecting with MPL and reading the same book. Our 2016 title 'The Heart Goes Last' by Margaret Atwood was chosen in order to continue this trend by resonating with avid readers and those looking to connect with MPL for the first time.

Thunder Bay Public Library: The World War I Thunder Bay Centennial Project
The World War I Thunder Bay Centennial Project redefines the library's potential for building partnerships, developing legacy and community engagement. The project breaks new ground and sets new standards of research practices that bring together academic, public, and personal perspectives around a shared experience. This project has removed barriers to access and supported the strong relationships that exist within the local history and genealogical community. This is a project that could easily be rebranded and modeled to suit the experience and history of any community across Ontario, Canada or the world.

Toronto Public Library: Pan Am Host City Project
The Toronto Public Library Pan Am Host City Project provided an opportunity for thousands of residents to be part of the Pan Am Games, deepened customer and community engagement, promoted artist and stff-led program development, promoted jobs in the sports and arts sector, and offered vibrant and meaningful programming outside of library walls. TPL staff expertise in programming and producing large scale events has expanded and the initiatives which were part of the Pan Am legacy can be scaled and used for other projects and library systems.

Trent Hills Public Library: Co-Author Short Story Contest
The Trent Hills Co-Author Writing Contest was initiated to encourage young adults to work with older adults in the community, to create mentors, encourage writing, friendships, communication, work and life skills, storytelling and above all share the love of writing. All stories were published on the Trent Hills library website. It was the expectation that both age groups would see themselves as a vital part of the library community with a great deal to contribute.

Vaughan Public Libraries: Vaughan Poetry Map
The Vaughan Poetry Map is a collaborative project for and by library staff, the local literary community, schools, local government, and the community at large. Through offering an innovative e-publishing opportunity for local poets, VPL has created a platform for poets and poetry lovers to express their appreciation of their local culture and surroundings.

Waterloo Public Library: The Summer Reading Club Community Roll Out Initiative
The WPL Summer Reading Club Community Roll Out Initiative works with the Ontario Early Years Centre in an innovative partnership arrangement to ensure as many children as possible learn about and participate in the Summer Reading Club each year. Participants are able to register for the club and check in at an WPL or OEYC location through a simple multi-location check in program created in house and a collaboratively rolled out SRC program.

Wellington County Public Library: Move the Needle
The project demonstrates best practices with regard to partnerships, readers' advisory and encouraging library use through effective promotion of library materials. The partnership between Wellington County and Whitehots Inc. shows how libraries and library vendors can work together effectively and at low cost to have positive impacts on library services. Move the Needle allows patrons to directly reap the benefits of the library and the library vendors' industry insights to find books they want to read.

2015 Ontario Public Library Service Awards
The award recipients were announced and presented at the OLA Super Conference Thursday January 28th, 2016

Angus Mowat Award for Excellence
Small Library Category: Whitestone Hagerman Memorial Public Library for: iLearn
Medium Library Category: Hunstville Public Library for: Sustainability @HPL
Large Library Category: Kingston Frontenac Public Library for: King Con
Large Library Category: Brampton Public Library for: Welcoming Newcomers for Settlement Success

Minister's Award for Innovation
Small Library Category: Cochrane Public Library for: The Next Chapter
Medium Library Category: Innisfil Public Library for: Ready, Set, Action! Green Screening with Do Ink
Large Library Category: Markham Public Library for: Markham Public Library Customer Service Revolution

2015 Short List Nominations
Brampton Public Library for: Welcoming Newcomers for Settlement Success
Brampton Public Library developed this project to attract the public outside its branches to the library's specially-designed programs for newcomers of all ages. The public's point of entry is through the award-winning Newcomer Bus Tours

and supports the library's goal of being inclusive – reaching out to customers in life-changing ways that lead to settlement success.

Cambridge Public Library / The Idea Exchange for: Clemens Mill Music Club
The introduction of the Music Club at Cambridge public library's Clemens Mill location has given the community the ongoing opportunity to try out musical instruments and connect with music in a creative way. It has also served as a cultural hub for the community with music programs designed to engage teens in the creative economy.

Cochrane Public Library for: **The Next Chapter**
The Next Chapter is an after school program developed to encourage the development of creative and literary skills in children aged 7 to 13. Its innovative approach to improving literacy and skills development is a fresh take on what a library stands for: Life-Long Learning.
This program is hosted by the Cochrane Public Library with Program Coordinator Ardis Proulx-Chedore and local artist Lynn Mitchell.

Haliburton County Public Library for: **Library Moments**
In collaboration with a local radio station, HCPL has found success in providing Readers' Advisory outreach to the community through a weekly radio show. Beginning in 2011, "Library Moments" is 3-5 minutes long airing many times per week featuring books, events, or an aspect of library service including community partnerships. The library has seen a marked increase in book circulation, program attendance, and community partners since its inception.

Hanover Public Library for: **Homeschooling Group**
This regular weekly programme provides multiple benefits: homeschooled children meet for curriculum themed learning in a safe group environment, the children make new friends, parents can relax and connect socially, and it encourages an appreciation for and increased use of library resources and the other children's programmes.

Huntsville Public Library for: **Sustainability @HPL**
The foundation for the sustainability project at Huntsville Public Library is built into the sustainability framework for the Town of Huntsville. This project shows continued support of sustainability (the quality of not being harmful to the environment and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance) through collections, services, and innovative programs held at the library.

Innisfil Public Library for: Ready, Set, Action! Green Screening with Do Ink
Blending innovation, technology and learning within one engaging program,
Ready, Set, Action! was a unique and successful approach to introducing
creative tools and diverse ways of learning to the community. IPL played an
integral role in developing the Green Screening program, illustrating that
Libraries are necessary community resources leading the way with innovative
technologies, media-based literacies and many opportunities for creation.
This was a joint project coordinated by the Innisfil Public Library & ideaLAB, in
partnership with the Simcoe County District School Board, and Innisfil's
Elementary Schools.

Kingston Frontenac Public Library for: King Con
King Con, a project of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, has been
nominated for best practices in community partnership, strategic development of
library programming, support of local municipal and economic objectives, and its
contribution to positive changes in public perception of libraries in Ontario. The
program was developed by Liz Coates and Kimberly Sutherland Mills, with the
King Con 2015 planning committee which includes Kingston Gaming Nexus,
Minotaur Games, 4 Colours and Bit Comics, and the Queen's University Comic
Book Legion.

Leeds and the Thousand Islands for: The Rec Library
This project changed the face of Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library
to the community. The library became relevant to a new user group and removed
the perception of "readers only" barrier to service. By developing the current
lending model members can borrow snow shoes for a weekend or play the PS4
with friends.

**Markham Public Library for: Markham Public Library Customer Service
Revolution**
The Customer Service Revolution is a staff-led culture change initiative to re-
image customer service at MPL. This project engaged staff in developing a new
vision for the library customers' service experience. The project resulted in
increased staff engagement, improved customer outcomes, and a customer-
centric organizational culture.

Pickering Public Library for: How-to in 10 Festival
The How-to in 10 Festival had a unique approach in bringing people from the
community together to engage in learning. Small and large businesses,
organizations, cultural associations and Pickering residents met in library space
to learn new skills in fresh ways. These skills were provided by community
experts and curated by the library, showcasing a new service model that the
Pickering Public Library has adopted and excelled at.

Springwater Public Library for: Think you know Springwater Library? Think again!
In 2015, the Springwater Public Library produced a YouTube video to illustrate its programs, services and value to members of Council and municipal staff. Patrons and community partners shared their stories about how Springwater Library enhances the life of its communities and their residents. This project markets and explains library services from the perspective of the user. While originally designed to educate a select group, it is now used to provide information to new staff, volunteers, community partners/funders and new/existing patrons.

Stratford Public Library for: Code-A-Character
The University of Waterloo Stratford Campus and the Stratford Public Library have created Code-A-Character to bridge the physical and digital worlds and provide a unique learning experience that enhances print literacy and digital skills. Youths ages 11-18 turned literary characters into digital works of art using the coding software "Processing", and saw their designs displayed on the world's tallest Christie Micro Tiles wall as a public art installation.

Vaughan Public Libraries for: Maker Kits
Maker Kits are an innovative and space saving way to introduce the maker culture to VPL without modifying existing facilities. A Maker Kit contains different elements that would be found in a maker space such as 3D printing, robotics and circuitry. These kits support various forms of digital literacy development for customers of all ages.

Whitestone Public Library for: iLearn
iLearn was a successful technology program targeting seniors in the community. The library purchased 9 iPads to loan, created a 4 week introductory workshop and trained 2 senior mentors who guided the groups through each session. This program effectively empowered and engaged seniors in a technology that was new to them. The program resulted in new library members and many participants purchased their own devices after gaining confidence in the program.

<u>2014 Ontario Public Library Service Awards</u>
The award recipients were announced and presented at the OLA Super Conference Thursday January 29th, 2015 at the Public Library Awards Gala.

Angus Mowat Award for Excellence
Small Library Category: Perth and District Union Public Library for: Perth Union Library Summer Literacy Program
Large Library Category: Vaughan Public Libraries for: Digital Outreach Strategy

Minister's Award for Innovation
Small Library Category: Township of Ramara Public Library for: Simcoe County
Libraries for Accessibility
Medium Library Category: Sault Ste. Marie Public Library for: Searchmont Polar
Express
Large Library Category: Toronto Public Library for: Toronto in Literature: Map of
Book Lists by Neighborhood

2014 Short List Nominations
Hastings Highlands Public Library for: A Great Way of Life!
What is better than living "A Great Way of Life"? This is the title of Hastings
Highlands Public Library's new website and also the premise for building
community capacity through community-led, public library service. By embracing
the secondary definition of literacy – *competence or knowledge in a specified
area* – the library capitalizes on the diversity of the area to share, learn, and
teach a broad range of programs. Other communities are asking about the
award-winning, service delivery model of Hastings Highlands Public Library.

**Kingston Frontenac Public Library for: Austentation: A celebration of the
200th anniversary of Pride and Prejudice**
Austentation was an exemplary and highly successful program series, combining
creative and exciting events with beautifully designed publicity pieces and a
clever social media campaign. Austentation brought a cross-section of the
community together and dramatically increased awareness of the library across
the Kingston Frontenac service area and beyond.

Markham Public Library for: Partners for Healthy Living
The Partners for Healthy Living Partnership is a unique innovation in the public
library sector, bringing together a hospital and a public library to work together to
improve wellness support systems for their community. Starting with co-location,
it has become an active and expanding partnership, providing resources and
programs that are changing the lives of Markham residents and hospital patients
for the better, and supporting the provincial agenda to address the complex
health and wellness needs of citizens. More generally, it is an example of how
public library partnerships with community organizations can expand the capacity
of library programming while also strengthening the library's community-
development role and increasing its relevance and visibility to communities and
funders.

Mississauga Library System for: Rebel14
Rebel14 was the successful result of a partnership between three City of
Mississauga divisions (Library, Culture, Recreation) and included multiple
partnerships with other youth agencies across the city. The joint effort brought

237 free, youth-led events to the city from May 1-7, 2014. Rebel14 combined National Youth Arts Week, National Youth Week, and Music Monday, allowing the three divisions to split costs, combine space, and work together to bring to Mississauga a project that was for youth by youth across the fields of library, culture, and recreation.

Perth and District Union Public Library for: Perth Union Library Summer Literacy Program
The Perth Union Library Summer Literacy Program has demonstrated ongoing excellence in helping children over the last 25 years. Started with a handful of children and volunteer tutors, the program has grown to serve more than 100 area students each year with a paid staff of summer students. This program receives no taxpayer funding, but the larger community's recognition of the program's value allows the library to raise up to $50,000 annually. The program has served as a model in the region and has helped more than 1,400 children develop their reading skills.

Pickering Public Library for: Maker Tech at Pickering Public Library
This project represents the innovative application of discovery-based learning for public library programming as well as innovative methods of engaging staff and the public in "maker" technologies and activities.

Township of Ramara Public Library for: Simcoe County Libraries for Accessibility
The Simcoe County Libraries for Accessibility project is a successful, innovative, cutting-edge solution to meeting the AODA Standards and fulfilling the partner libraries' goal of providing "one place to look". It is a fiscally responsible answer to the provision of equitable access, enhanced online services and excellent customer service through the utilization of a user-friendly platform. The project offers a positive, enriched library user experience for the residents of the small, rural communities involved in the partnership. It will continue to provide value-added library service and evolve with future changes in technology! The library partners included in the project were: Clearview, Collingwood, Essa, New Tecumseth, Penetanguishene, Ramara, Severn (Coldwater), Simcoe County Library Cooperative, Springwater, Tay, and Wasaga Beach.

Sault Ste. Marie Public Library for: Searchmont Polar Express
The Searchmont Polar Express illustrates how organizations with different goals and priorities can join with libraries to create services and events that benefit the community. The Searchmont Polar Express event came from the pages of Chris Van Allsburg's picture book into real life thanks to volunteers and the organizing committee representing the public library, the local passenger train and a nearby ski resort. Together they built an event that incorporated literature, theatre, art

and physical activity which was in high demand. It also helped establish a sense of pride in the community.

Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Library for: The Pop Up Library
The Pop Up Library project brought the Library out of its physical building and to the community. Visitors to the Pop Up Library at community events could sign up for a library card, listen to a StoryTime, play with new technology using our 'Gadget Bar' and eBook display, and learn about the services the Library offers. This innovative project can be used as a template by other libraries in their community outreach, and had a substantial impact on community engagement by speaking with over 500 people and signing up 97 new members.

Temiskaming Shores Public Library for: Technology Training Project
The Technology Training Project made a difference in the Temiskaming Shores community by providing technology training sessions free of charge to residents in the service area. It helped to promote information literacy to everyone regardless of socio-economic status or ability. Provincially funded online resources were highlighted to show users how they can help in research and leisure activities, resulting in an increased use of these resources. The presentations created were shared with area libraries.

Toronto Public Library for: Toronto in Literature: Map of Book Lists by Neighborhood
Toronto in Literature: Map of Book Lists by Neighborhood is an online map of books set in Toronto plotted visually by neighbourhood allowing readers to explore the city through its literature. The literary neighbourhood map, featured on the library's website, identifies hundreds of works of fiction that are set in the city's distinct communities. By clicking on an 'open book' icon on the map, readers retrieve an annotated list of books that relates to that particular neighbourhood.

Vaughan Public Library Board for: Digital Outreach Strategy
A team of librarians have spearheaded a new initiative that is putting outreach into action. Vaughan Public Library has developed an innovative way to bring library services and resources to customers in unexpected places in the community. This digital outreach initiative adds a new layer to the library's existing Outreach Best Practices and is building awareness of what the library has to offer and expanding VPL's presence in the community through the creative use of mobile technology. VPL offers a great selection of digital resources and the library has found an exciting new way to tell people about them.

Windsor Public Library for: Xpress Self-Publishing Centre
While libraries have forever been known to be a warehouse of books and knowledge to be consumed by all, the introduction of the 'XPress Self-Publishing Centre has meant a shift from merely using books, to creating them. Since the initiation of this service, citizens have had an accessible way to satisfy goals of writing their own books, leaving behind legacies for their families and ensuring that our stories are not lost. Literacy in the community is fostered and strengthened as users of all ages and abilities have a tangible, lasting way to express themselves.

2013 Ontario Public Library Service Awards
The award recipients were announced and presented at the OLA Super Conference Thursday January 30th, 2014 at the Public Library Awards Gala, Toronto, ON.

Angus Mowat Award for Excellence
Small Library Category: Marathon Public Library for Summer Literacy
Large Library Category: Essex County Library for Virtual Public Services – Bridging the Digital Divide

Minister's Award for Innovation
Small Library Category: Hanover Public Library for English as a Second Language Café
Large Library Category: Toronto Public Library for Let's Get Ready for Reading – A fun and easy guide to help kids become readers

2013 Short List Nominations
Burlington Public Library for: Read Free
This project serves a demographic which is typically underrepresented in most Canadian communities. 'Read Free' is a discussion group for special needs adults at Burlington Public Library. This unique program partners the library with Community Living Burlington and post-secondary social science co-op students, who engage participants to promote adult literacy, inclusivity, and community partnerships. This program is also unique to Ontario libraries in format: it includes read-aloud time, followed by a discussion and a craft/activity based on the reading. Evaluations are then prepared and submitted to the library for review.

Cramahe Public Library for: the Digital Archive Collection
This growing online collection represents the personal stories of Cramahe, as told through photographs, records, letters, cards and artifacts. The project has opened up access to the heritage and history of the community. It allows 24 hour access to Cramahe's Archives and history, anywhere, anytime. This project is organic and interactive and allows the community to give feedback to enrich the

descriptions of the artifacts, records, scrapbooks, old photos, Women's Institute Histories, maps, historical homes and buildings. Through a re-awakening of appreciation for their history it allows intergenerational dialogue.

Essex County Public Library for: Virtual Public Services – Bridging the Digital Divide
With the avalanche of e-readers in 2011, there was a huge demand for training of staff and public. Essex County Library chose e-resource education as a priority and made a commitment to hire staff to engage young and old, staff and residents in the changing world of digital technology. The Virtual Public Services Librarian was born. Bridging both administration and branches, like the e-readers, this position and the resources it creates, is portable, easy to access, ever-changing, and through technology, is available anywhere and any time.

Hanover Public Library for: English as a Second Language Café
Many new immigrants, especially women, find it difficult to get employment because their English skills need upgrading, but there are very few resources in rural areas and small towns to assist them. Recognizing the need in the community, the Hanover Public Library has created the ESL Café to assist new Canadians to feel at home, make friends and improve their English skills in a safe, informal environment. This is a project that could be taken on in any small community at low cost.

Kingston Frontenac Public Library for: Library Chronicles
This project serves as a model community partnership between the Kingston Frontenac Public Library and local theatre companies as well as a creative collaboration between five local theatre companies. The plays took place in the library during regular hours of operation so it exposed the theatre-goers to a busy downtown library serving a wide variety of community needs. At the same time, it allowed library patrons to catch a glimpse of live theatre taking place in their very midst. In doing so, it created a very different impression of the library as place.

Kingston Frontenac Public Library for: The Art of Illustration
This project exposed children to the library collection in a brand new way: that is, to see books as artworks and not only as stories, to realize that the picture book collection has relevance to them. It also, connected them to stories and illustrations in a fundamental way and it gave them a chance to practice art, be inspired and explore their own potential.

Marathon Public Library for: Summer Literacy
Marathon Summer Literacy Program is a partnership between the Marathon Public Library and the Superior Greenstone District School Board. The library

hosts and supports this program. The project addresses a gap in the community. The library encourages all children at all literacy and socio-economic levels to engage in reading and be a part of the community. The program has been a huge draw for children in this small community. It is free, and with the support of other community partnerships the children have been involved in a variety of activities that further promote reading.

Penetanguishene Public Library for: Big Toys for Little Boys
Big Toys for Little Boys provided a very successful literacy program geared to young boys. The program joined the curiosity of little boys for trucks of various shapes and sizes with stories about these vehicles. Firemen, Police, Paramedics, Municipal Parks and Public Works employees all sat down with groups of boys between the ages of four and seven to read stories about the kinds of "big toys" boys are so intrigued with. The program also introduced the boys to the service vehicles communities depend on every day in many ways.

Pickering Public Library for: How-to in 10 Festival
This project should be nominated for the Minister's Award for Innovation because it challenges the pervasive notion that libraries are limited research and books. The 'How-to in 10 Festival' at the Pickering Public Library demonstrates the evolving role of libraries as a community hub where people gather to socialize, learn and expand their world. By collaborating with small and large businesses, community and cultural organizations and local residents, the Festival celebrates Pickering's diverse and talented community and connects residents for a fun, interactive and stimulating afternoon. After a successful first year, this event provides countless future partnership opportunities as it is established as an annual event.

Toronto Public Library for: Let's Get Ready for Reading – A fun and easy guide to help kids become readers
The Let's Get Ready for Reading guide is a first-of-its-kind, research-based early literacy guide developed by Toronto Public Library (TPL) to provide Ontario parents, caregivers and educators with a broad understanding of the important pre-literacy skills that help to develop reading readiness. It illustrates that reading success – and later success in school – is achievable through fun and easy everyday activities. This guide has far-reaching impact as it has been distributed to over 850 Ontario public libraries, Toronto child care providers and over 100,000 Toronto families with children birth to five years old will receive a free copy in the coming months.

2012 Public Library Service Awards
These awards were announced and presented at the Public Library Awards Gala at the OLA Super Conference on Jan. 31, 2013, Toronto, ON.

Angus Mowat Award for Excellence
Small Library Category: Hanover Public Library - Computer Buddies
Large Library Category: Haliburton County Public Library - Celebrity Readers of Haliburton County

Minister's Award for Innovation
Small Library Category: Hastings Highlands Public Library - Sense of Place
Large Library Category: Brantford Public Library - The Choices Project