OLA Awards & Recognition

Ontario Library Association Awards consist of the following 7 categories:

1. **OLA Awards**
2. **ABO-Franco Awards**
3. **OCULA Awards**
4. **OLBA Awards**
5. **OLITA Awards**
6. **OPLA Awards**
7. **OSLA Awards**

1. **OLA Awards**:

   - **OLA's Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award**: The OLA Board of Directors bestows an honorary life membership on a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the libraries of Ontario through his or her work within the Association. The work done must be seen as significant by members from more than one type of library.

   - **OLA President’s Award for Exceptional Achievement**: The President's Award for Exceptional Achievement acknowledges an outstanding action or contribution that has in a major or unique way enhanced or furthered librarianship in Ontario. The selection is at the full discretion of the President of the OLA. Awards are only given if there is something of true historic significance to recognize.

   - **OLA's Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award**: The Ontario Library Association Board of Directors established the Award for Intellectual Freedom in 1997 to recognize the courage shown by individuals and organizations in defending the rights of library patrons to full access to information. In 2000, the Award was renamed the Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award in memory of the former Chief Librarian of Toronto Public Library whose efforts on behalf of intellectual freedom in Canada are legendary.

   - **OLA's Media and Communications Award**: The OLA Media and Communications Award was established to reward individuals and companies that present libraries and librarians in a constructive light, breaking down stereotypical images often associated with the profession.
OLA Technical Services Award: The Ontario Library Association recognizes the Ontario librarian, teacher-librarian, technician, library worker or department who has made a substantial achievement to their institution and/or the library profession in the area of technical services.

OLA Archival and Preservation Achievement Award: The Ontario Library Association recognizes Ontario-based individuals and institutions that have made significant achievements on a personal or institutional level in the field of preservation and/or conservation for library and/or archival materials.


The Larry Moore Challenge - The Larry Moore Fund: The purpose of the Larry Moore Fund is to operate the Larry Moore Challenge, a tri-annual leadership competition to encourage and foster leadership in innovation in librarianship and libraries in Canada.

OLA Champion Award: This award has been developed to recognize unique partnerships with the Ontario Library Association. This partnership must demonstrate significant contributions and commitment to the association, its programs and services through this venture. This individual, corporation, group or association has provided connections, support and exposure outside the regular OLA audience adding great value to the OLA.

2. ABO-Franco, Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario-Franco Awards:

Le Prix Micheline-Persaud: est un prix destiné à honorer une personne, un groupe ou une institution qui s'est distingué dans le développement et la promotion des services de bibliothèque en français en Ontario.

3. OCULA, Ontario College and University Library Association Awards:
OCULA Award for Special Achievement: The OCULA Award for Special Achievement honours exceptional achievement(s) in at least one of the following areas over the past 2 years: Service to OLA/OCULA and any other library organization, or Research and publication in areas of academic librarianship, or Planning and implementing a library program which serves as a model to others.

OCULA Lifetime Achievement Award: To recognize an individual working in libraries in Ontario who has made an outstanding contribution to academic or research library development.

OCULA Student Award - Lightning Strikes: To promote OCULA to LIS students and provide an opportunity to participate in the OLA Super Conference.

OCULA New Librarian Residency Award: The intention of the residency program is to enhance recruitment of new librarians to academic librarianship and provide entry-level professional work experience in an academic or research library setting.

4. OLBA, Ontario Library Boards’ Association Awards:

W.J. Robertson Medallion: (Public Librarian of the Year). The Ontario Library Boards’ Association presents the W.J. Robertson Medallion to a public librarian who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the advancement of public library service in Ontario.

Joyce Cunningham Award: (Public Library Board of the Year). This award is given to a Public Library Board [or two Public Library Boards that participated in a collaborative effort] that has demonstrated a high level of collaboration and innovation to produce outstanding results.

5. OLITA, Ontario Library and Information Technology Association Awards:

OLITA Project Award: The Ontario Library and Information Technology Association (OLITA) Project Award recognizes a project that demonstrates leadership in the
application of technology to benefit library users, enhance library operations, and extend partnerships.

6. **OPLA, Ontario Public Library Association Awards**:

   - **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.

   - **OPLA Lifetime Achievement Award**: The Ontario Public Library Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a library staff member who has given lifelong service to the profession and has contributed significantly to the growth and innovation of public libraries in Ontario.

   - **OPLA Children's or Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award**: The Children's or Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award is given to honour a children's or youth librarian who has made a positive impact on children's or youth services librarianship.

   - **OPLA's Leadership in Adult Readers' Advisory**: OPLA's Award for Leadership in Adult Readers' Advisory is an initiative of the Readers' Services Sub-Committee of OPLA. The purpose of this award is to honour excellence in readers' advisory service to adults.

   - **OPLA's Advocacy in Action**: Excellence in Children's or Teen Services Award This award is to honour excellent library staff working with children or youth. The award can be given to an individual or group. It can be a service-based project; a unique program, a community partnership, an outreach endeavour or an advocacy effort that you feel should be recognized and celebrated.

   - **OLA Technical Services Award**: The Ontario Library Association recognizes the Ontario librarian, teacher-librarian, technician, library worker or department who has made a substantial achievement to their institution and/or the library profession in the area of technical services.

7. **OSLA, Ontario School Library Association Awards**:
OSLA's Teacher-Librarian of the Year Award: This Award is given to honour a teacher-librarian who has demonstrated leadership in the implementation of school library programs through Collaboration and Inquiry-based learning. Projects, programs and activities cited should exemplify the vision of Together for Learning in their School Library/Learning Commons.

OSLA's Administrator of the Year Award: This award is to honour a school administrator who has brought his or her influence to bear on the development of effective school library information centres and of school library program both in a school board and among his or her peers.

OSLA Award for Special Achievement: To honour individuals or organizations outside individual schools or school boards which have provided significant support to teacher-librarians and school library information centre development in Ontario through exceptional projects and activities.

OLA Technical Services Award: The Ontario Library Association recognizes the Ontario librarian, teacher-librarian, technician, library worker or department who has made a substantial achievement to their institution and/or the library profession in the area of technical services.

For all Divisional Awards, individuals nominating recipients, depending on the criteria and eligibility, must be current OLA members in their divisions in order to be selected for the award. Please see individual award description for more information.

For additional information or questions, please contact:
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