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## **Ontario Library Association Recognizes Excellence in Public Library Service**

*Library staff recognized for passion and commitment to serving community*

**NEWS RELEASE**

**TORONTO, ON** (July 14, 2015): The Ontario Library Association (OLA) asks over 1,400 Ontario Public Library Association (OPLA) members to celebrate the achievements of their fellow colleagues through various awards. With unwavering passion, award winners go above and beyond the call of duty to promote library services within the community, to provide exemplary reader's advisory services, and to improve the overall work experience of their fellow colleagues.

The Association is pleased to recognize the winners of three OPLA awards:

### **OPLA Children's or Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award**

**WINNER:** Andrea Wesson, Vaughan Public Libraries

**PRESENTED AT:** The [Child and Youth Services EXPO](#) on Monday, November 16, 2015

Andrea has an immense knowledge of community resources and youth services. She keeps everyone on track, capitalizes on individual skills of staff, and offers assistance and advice when needed. Andrea excels in her role as a level two librarian and youth advocate: she does not hesitate to spend her weekend loading outreach iPads with apps, or volunteering to create an edible book.

### **OPLA'S Advocacy in Action: Excellence in Children's or Teen Services Award**

**WINNER:** Daria Sharanewych, Mississauga Library System

**PRESENTED AT:** The [Child and Youth Services EXPO](#) on Monday, November 16, 2015

Daria excels in making people excited about libraries and aware of their value. She has an unwavering commitment to literacy and has impacted the success of various initiatives within the library. She has made the library a place where children, parents, grandparents and caregivers are welcomed, and she has encouraged and supported library staff to question past practices, reevaluate services, and develop better ways to meet the early literacy needs of children.

### **OPLA's Leadership in Adult Reader's Advisory Award**

**WINNER:** Bessie Sullivan, Haliburton County Public Library

**PRESENTED AT:** [RA in a Day](#) on Friday, October 23, 2015

Bessie's natural love of reading spills over to almost every interaction she has. She is a wonderful mentor seeking every avenue to ensure people have what they need to find the book they want. Bessie also maintains strong connections with local media, increasing media mentions for the library by almost one thousand mentions in the span of five years. As media mentions increase, circulation at the library has more than doubled!



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Look out for opportunities to nominate OPLA colleagues for awards in September. For more information on OLA Award programs, please contact [Beckie MacDonald](#).

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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 5,000 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<sup>®</sup> program.

**Media Contact:**

Annesha Hutchinson  
Marketing and Communications Coordinator  
Ontario Library Association  
416.363.3388 x231  
[ahutchinson@accessola.com](mailto:ahutchinson@accessola.com)