



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vaughan Public Libraries Receives Four Awards at the Ontario Library Association Awards

VAUGHAN, ONTARIO – On February 2, 2023, Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) received significant recognition at the Ontario Library Association Awards. In total, VPL was the proud recipient of four awards.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport presented two of these awards, with VPL winning in the Large Library category. The Angus Mowat Award of Excellence recognizes a commitment to excellence in delivering public library service. Vaughan Public Libraries is the recipient of our Belonging Initiative for its commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In addition to creating welcoming spaces for all, VPL runs programs and services to reach the entire community and foster understanding and discussion. VPL is committed to engaging all customers and has initiated valuable outreach programs, including the Welcome Baby Kits, which provide early literacy resources to new families in Vaughan. The Minister's Award for Innovation recognizes successful new approaches that demonstrate a positive impact in a community and are of continued value to public libraries. VPL is the recipient of its COVID – 19 Research Group supporting the City's Emergency Management Team, Mayor and Members of Council through the pandemic and positively influencing provincial legislation regarding the elimination of returned materials isolation periods.

In addition, the Ontario Public Library Association awarded the prestigious James Bain Medallion to Rose Savage, Chair of the Vaughan Public Library Board. This award recognizes the Library Board Member of the year and celebrates the well-deserved work that Rose Savage has performed both this year and throughout her tenure. During the past Board term, VPL has weathered the pandemic, abolished fines, and opened new libraries at the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital and VMC. Refurbished Maple Library and Woodbridge Library, broken ground on Carville Library and moved into planning stages for a new library in West Woodbridge. Rose's continued commitment to excellence has been a significant driver in ensuring that people who live, work and study in Vaughan have access to a world class library system. She is a visionary who inspires fellow trustees to high levels of engagement and success. Rose is a champion of innovation, who brought her business acumen to her leadership role as board Chair for the past four years. She is dedicated to the promotion of staff empowerment and is a shining example of a citizen giving back to their community.

Finally, the Ontario Library Boards Association awarded the W.J. Robertson Medallion to Margie Singleton, CEO of Vaughan Public Libraries. This award celebrates the Librarian of the Year. It comes in recognition for all of the innovations that VPL has introduced to its service while responding to the community's growing needs by introducing new locations across the city. Margie has overseen a dramatic expansion of the library system and a doubling of the staffing complement during her tenure, yet still makes the time to foster connections with her staff and develop the ethos that places VPL at the leading edge of North American library systems. A former Chair of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, Margie has devoted her career to developing staff, supporting her peers across Ontario and creating the next generation of leaders. Her impact within her own library, municipality and profession will be felt for years to come.

The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is Canada's most extensive library organization, and OLA Awards are a highlight of the Super Conference is Canada's largest continuing education event in librarianship.



Connect with VPL!



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