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Ministry of Culture

Ministère de la Culture

2005 PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE AWARDS SHORT LIST CANDIDATES

The Ontario government created the Public Library Service Awards in 1985 to identify, promote and celebrate public library service ideals. There are two types of awards:

- The *Minister's Award for Innovation*, which recognizes new ideas in public library service.
- The *Angus Mowat Award of Excellence*, which recognizes excellence in public library service.

The shortlist candidates for this year's *Minister's Award for Innovation* are:

- **Bruce Mines & Plummer Additional Public Library** - for developing a database that provides a list of northern historically significant collections relevant to the community and arranged in a user-friendly manner.
- **Fort Erie Public Library** - for *The Kids' Quest*, a multi-faceted after school program for children providing homework help, recreational activities, one-on-one reading, mentoring and introductions to art and culture in a fun environment.
- **Ottawa Public Library** - for *More Than Meets The Eye*, an improved library membership program that provides library users access to recreational, cultural and educational institutions.
- **Peterborough Public Library** - for *The Healthy Families Centre*, an innovative project that provides special collections in parenting, and childcare, and builds new partnerships with Kinark Child and Family Services, Peterborough Family Resource Centre, Peterborough Youth Services, Learning Disabilities Association of Peterborough and Peterborough City Community Health Unit.
- **Stratford Public Library** - for the colourful *Public Library On Wheels*, a unique partnership with Perth East Public Library and West Perth Public Library that brings literacy to the street by reaching out to those who may be unfamiliar with reading as an activity and with their public library.

The shortlist candidates for this year's *Angus Mowat Award of Excellence* are:

- **Chatham-Kent Public Library** - for its *READ* bingo card, designed to promote reading and literacy to junior kindergarten and kindergarten to grade one students.
- **Dorion Public Library** - for its history book, *Dorion's Roots and Branches*, honouring all the pioneers whose hard work and dedication have left the residents of Dorion with a rich legacy. The book covers 100 years, from 1901 to 2001.
- **Elgin County Public Library** - for partnering with the Thames Valley District School to create a blueprint and toolkit for tours of public libraries, with the aim to improve the literacy of students, especially at-risk students, ESL students, poor attendance students, and those with a variety of learning disabilities.
- **New Tecumseth Public Library** - for *Story Dogs*, a unique literacy program for children who have difficulty reading. The program pairs a child, age 5 to 12 years, with a therapy dog and its volunteer handler. Over an eight-week period, the child reads to the dog, with the handler providing input as necessary.
- **Pelham Public Library** - for developing a four-year plan to focus on improvement of children and youth services. The results have been dramatic — a 45 per cent increase in children's circulation and over 5,000 children attending programs annually.
- **Schreiber Public Library** - for its *Little Sprouts Project* for children up to the age of six, which includes a reading program, community garden and nutrition workshops to promote health during pregnancy and influence the lives of families with young children to ensure proper nutrition, stimulation and care through programs at the library.
- **Welland Public Library** - for its *History and Ethnic Diversity* digital project, providing electronic access to the historical records of Welland's industrial history, which is housed in the Local History collection of the Welland Public Library, the archival collection of the Welland Historical Museum and in private industry collections such as those at John Deere, Atlas Steel and Plymouth Cordage. This internet-ready collection is one of the few industrial history sites available to Ontario libraries.

The winners of the 2005 Public Library Service Awards will be announced and presented with a certificate at the Ontario Library Association's annual Super Conference in February 2006.

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