



Ex Libris Association



**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**Ajax Public Library named recipient of the W. K. Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors 2015**

(Ottawa April 21, 2015) The Committee, for the W. K. Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors 2015, was very pleased to receive ten excellent submissions from libraries from across Canada. The submissions were of a very high calibre and, as is often the case in such situations, the final selection was very difficult. It was very gratifying to see that libraries are making great efforts to serve seniors and as one of the committee members, Elizabeth Ridler, expressed it: *"I am feeling optimistic about senior services in Canadian libraries."*

The 10 excellent submissions were from the following libraries:

1. Ajax Public Library, Ajax, Ontario – Services for Seniors
2. Bonnechere Union Public Library, Eganville, Ontario – Senior Outreach Program
3. Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Nova Scotia – Services for Seniors
4. Fraser Valley Regional Library, Abbotsford, British Columbia - Library For You™: Printed Book Service, and Audiobook Service
5. Gibson's and District Public Library, Gibson, British Columbia - Knitting a Community
6. Lethbridge Public Library, Lethbridge, Alberta - Bhutanese Seniors Conversation Program
7. Maple Ridge Public Library, Maple Ridge, British Columbia - It Won't Byte & The Senior Centre & Technology Services to Seniors and Older Adults
8. New Westminster Public Library, New Westminster, British Columbia – Home Library Service & Sunday Morning Tutorials
9. North Vancouver City Library, North Vancouver, British Columbia - Seniors Gathering: Get together for Coffee, Cookies and a Chat.
10. Winnipeg Public Library, Winnipeg, Manitoba - Rebuilt Libraries on the Books

From this group of progressive libraries the committee selected one overall winner and two runners-up.

The winner of the W. K. Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors for 2015 is the **Ajax Public Library** for its wide-ranging and integrated approach to service for seniors outlined in "Service for Seniors". The depth and variety of library services to seniors at the Ajax Public Library is impressive. Of particular note was the Older Adult Advisory Committee (OAAC) which is composed of seniors who offer advice on services and programs for seniors. They assist library staff to organize monthly programs and special events.

The Ajax Public Library also has a "Service to Older Adult" policy adopted from the Canadian Guidelines on Library and information Services for Older Adults, guidelines endorsed by the Canadian Library Association's former Interest Group on Services for Older People. The Award Committee felt that this policy led approach to service was very important.

It should also be noted that the services to Seniors at the Ajax Public Library cover a wide range of offerings including visiting library services, technology training and assistance, workshops on very relevant topics, a focus

on accessibility and excellent promotional materials. The award will be presented at the opening ceremonies on Thursday, June 4, 2015 at the CLA Conference and Trade Show in Ottawa Ontario.

The two runners-up were the Lethbridge Public Library for its unique “Bhutanese Seniors Conversation Program and the Bonnechere Union Public Library in recognition of the hard work of their volunteer, Judy Sauve.

The Lethbridge program is volunteer-based and provides literacy services to adults, including the largest Bhutanese population in Canada. Eight volunteer tutors provide training to between thirty and fifty students and help the Bhutanese to learn English and to integrate into the community.

The Bonnechere Union Public Library is a small public library which delivers books to local senior’s homes. This in itself was not remarkable, but what was remarkable is that one volunteer runs the whole program. Judy Sauve selects and delivers the books, keeps list of who has ordered what, and researches new books and provides personal and tailored service. Several very strong letters of support which were attached to the submission moved the awards committee to recognize the contribution to library services to seniors of volunteer-extraordinaire Judy Sauve.

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