Clarington Library
Museums & Archives

Media Advisory

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Clarington Library, Museums & Archives Receives Second Nomination for Provincial Award

November 19, 2026—Clarington Library, Museums & Archives (CLMA) is excited to announce it has been shortlisted for an Ontario Public Library Service Award. CLMA's Curious Communities initiative has been nominated for the Minister's Award for Innovation for a second time.

Offered in partnership with the Clarington Board of Trade, Curious Communities is a discount program that helps community members save money while supporting local businesses. Participating businesses offer discounts or promotions to customers who present their CLMA library card, connecting businesses to an engaged community of patrons. The collaboration supports both organizations' goals to help make Clarington a welcoming destination where people love to explore, learn, and support local.

"Being shortlisted for the Minister's Award for Innovation a second year in a row is a real vote of confidence in Curious Communities," states Monika Machacek, CEO of Clarington Library, Museums & Archives. "Over the past year, the program has grown to 29 community partners, and each one shows what is possible when a library card becomes a key to the whole community. Residents save money, local businesses meet new customers, and more people discover everything their library and museums have to offer. We are grateful to every partner who has made that happen."

"Recognition like this belongs to the whole community," continues Tenzin Shomar, Library Board Chair. "Curious Communities works because local businesses chose to invest in their neighbours, and residents chose to show up for them. The Library Board is proud of what CLMA staff have built, and we thank the Ministry and the selection committee for recognizing it once again among so many outstanding programs across Ontario."

"Partnering with Clarington Library, Museums & Archives on Curious Communities is a win for our local business community," adds Bonnie Wrightman, Executive Director of the Clarington Board of Trade. "Growing to 29 local partners, and still climbing, proves how much value there is in connecting residents with the businesses in their own backyard. We are thrilled to see this collaboration recognized at the provincial level."

The Ontario Public Library Service Awards recognize Ontario's public libraries for their creative library service ideas. 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. An independent committee of public library sector representatives review award submissions, and winners are announced at the annual Ontario Library Association Super Conference in January 2027.

For more information about the Curious Communities initiative and a full list of participating businesses, please see the CLMA website at: cplma.ca/CuriousCommunities.

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