



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MP Congratulates Ramara Public Library in winning Provincial Innovation Award**

February 10, 2015 – Bruce Stanton, Member of Parliament for Simcoe North would like to congratulate the Township of Ramara Public Library on receiving the Minister’s Award for Innovation – Small Libraries Category, from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

The Ramara Public Library led the Simcoe County Libraries for Accessibility project that was supported by \$31,180 in federal funding through the Enabling Accessibility Fund in 2013.

The Simcoe County Libraries for Accessibility project involved twelve Simcoe County libraries collaborating to make their collection more accessible to their users. “We were honoured to receive this award on behalf of all partners involved with this project” said Janet Banfield, CEO, Township of Ramara Public Library. “All libraries worked very hard to provide an innovative, cutting-edge solution to meet the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards. It is a fiscally responsible answer to the provision of equitable access through the utilization of a user-friendly platform.”(Quote from Janet Banfield, Ramara public library).

The project provided enhanced online services and customer service through the user-friendly platform that provides Simcoe County library users in the rural communities of Clearview, Collingwood, Essa, New Tecumseth, Penetanguishene, Ramara, Severn (Coldwater), Simcoe County Library Cooperative, Springwater, Tay and Wasaga Beach with a “one place to look” experience.

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