

Ontario Association of Library Technicians

NEWSLETTER/ NOUVELLES

Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

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Fall 2001

NEWSletter/NOUvelles

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OALT/ABO Conference:
Thunder Bay - May 1-5 2002

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President's Message

As I write this note, Thanksgiving has come and gone, and I hope that everyone is well on the way to healing from the September 11th attacks. As an association, we have sent our sympathies to our American affiliate – COLT. Personally, I have changed my focus in my home life and career since that day, and I now have new meaning & direction in what I do.

We are now returning to our regular activities and in that vein, I would like to welcome all of our members (new and returning) to our association OALT/ABO for 2001/2002. We have a busy year ahead of us, filled with regional activities and a committee working on the next steps in the process of change for our association. I am extremely excited about this; however, for it to truly represent everyone, the committee needs to have your opinion. Please direct any ideas or comments to Nabbondanza@cogeco.ca.

Keep an eye on the Newsletter, discussion list and website, for up to date notifications about what is happening in the regions, the association as a whole, and for more information from the Committee for Change.

Have a great holiday, rest up and get ready for an exciting 2002.

Sincerely,

Pam Casey, President
OALT/ABO

Library Technicians in the News

Once again, there has been an article in the newspaper, this time in the Hamilton Spectator, on October 22, 2001, about the effects of funding cuts on school libraries. Once again, library technicians were represented in a negative way. Our Public Relations Coordinator, Stacy Goddard, immediately responded with a letter to the editor, as shown below. This was printed in the Hamilton Spectator, but the sentence mentioning OALT/ABO was deleted. Letters from Stefanie Brolly of Burlington and Colleen Kelly of Stoney Creek, urging equal representation for library technicians, were also published. The controversy continues.

Response to an article in the *Hamilton Spectator* by Stacy Goddard, PR Coordinator

In response to "Cuts leave Ontario School Libraries ill-equipped", Oct.21/01, the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario would like to point out that many of our members are employed by school boards and play a valuable role in bringing library services to students. The article in question refers to a survey by the Elementary Teachers Federation. I wonder if the data include statistics on Library Technicians working in school libraries. Probably not, since the push for advocacy is coming from Teacher-Librarians, many of whom have lost their positions in libraries. The profession tells only one side of the story, that of decreasing numbers of T-Ls in school resource centres. Seldom are Library Technicians mentioned except in dismissive tones. I would like to set the record straight, since I was hired with a group of over 20 well

qualified individuals, by the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board over 3 years ago. We are all maintaining library services, familiarizing ourselves with the curriculum, so we can purchase the right resources, at the same time as supervising an on-going automation project. I have worked with a Teacher-Librarian in a team situation and I know that it too works. The meshing of talents is what school libraries need. Technicians don't profess to be teachers, and while I am not suggesting that school libraries are in great shape, I am a firm believer that Library Technicians can and do take up the slack in a system that is suffering for lack of resources. It would be nice if the teachers would go to bat for us at the same time as protecting their jobs. We all want the same thing, Resource Centres we can be proud of.

From the Editor

I want to thank OALT/ABO for giving me the opportunity to serve as Newsletter Editor. If you have any news items, pictures or experiences of interest to the Library Technician world, please share them with your colleagues, via the Newsletter. I would like to thank my employer, H.H. Angus & Associates Ltd, Consulting Engineers, for allowing me to use company resources for the purpose of editing the Newsletter. Please send your submissions to warburtonm@hhangus.com or fax 416.443.8290, before January 18, 2002 for inclusion in the next issue. Thank you.

Marion Warburton, Editor

Planning Ahead...2003

Calling all Toronto members!

The Annual conference for 2003 will be held in Toronto. The co-chairs, Penni Chalk and Sue Thomas, require your assistance. We'd like to produce an excellent conference but can do it only with your help.

We'd like to thank the people who have already volunteered, but we need more bodies. We need people to look after Registration, Kits, Facilities, Social Activities and Catering. I know that you're out there! Do you have questions that you'd like to ask us? If so, we can be reached at the following:

Penni Chalk
chalkp@gov.on.ca

Sue Thomas
sthomas@blgcanada.com

Please think about it. We'd love to have you join us.
Sue & Penni

CLA Conference, Winnipeg, June 13 – 16, 2001

We have two excellent accounts of the Canadian Library Association Conference, which were meant to be in the August Newsletter. If anyone has any other submissions that were sent to the editor, but did not appear in print, and are still relevant, please resubmit them, to warburtonm@hhangus.com.

WINNIPEG 2001

Report From: Judy Carter

This was my first time attending this conference. There were approximately 800 delegates at the conference from across the entire country. I met people from Newfoundland to Victoria, BC and as far north as Pond Inlet, Nunavut, plus at least 3 delegates from overseas. The whole experience was exciting to say the least.

I arrived in Winnipeg on Wednesday, checked into my hotel, had lunch and registered for the conference. It started with the opening of the exhibits at 4:00

p.m. and continued with the opening ceremonies at 7:00 p.m., in the

Winnipeg Convention Centre. Greetings were brought to the delegates from the mayor of Winnipeg, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba and a representative of the provincial government. The keynote speaker was the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy. They all stressed that libraries had played a large part in their lives, and how important libraries are to children and adults today. An award was given for Librarian of the Year.

Thursday morning started with the Newcomers' Breakfast. We were joined by several of the executive and long-term members. The first workshop I attended was a tour of 3 School Board media centres in Winnipeg. It was interesting to see the difference in staffing, materials, and philosophies of each Board. I found this good, because it relates to my job. The tour was organized by CSLA. Later, I attended a workshop on cataloguing called "Did It Become AACR III", sponsored by the Technical Services Interest Group. As cataloguing is a large part of my job, it was good to hear about some of the upcoming changes. The problem for me is that our Board is not automated and these changes can only be done by systems that can be updated.

Friday, I attended 3 workshops – "How Teacher-Librarians Help Kids Achieve Standards", "School Libraries Supporting Quality Learning" and "www.LittleRedSchoolhouse.com". The first workshop, put on by Keith Curry Lance of the Colorado Department Of Education stressed that all studies show that, other than poverty, proper staffing and funding of school libraries is the greatest influence on how students do on testing. His most recent study (Colorado Study 2) is on his website - <http://www.lrs.org>. According to Mr. Lance, each school, no matter how small or isolated, should have a teacher-librarian and a technician staff member, full time.

Two teacher-librarians from the Calgary Board Of Education put on the second workshop, using the Calgary Board Of Education document "A Vision For School Libraries". The final workshop

was conducted by the librarian at the University Of Winnipeg. Although he believes strongly in computer technology (he has 5 computers at home), he feels that primary children must first learn how to use libraries. To do this there must be good school libraries properly staffed. In addition, he would like to give technology first to teacher/librarians, then to students and then to administrators. He left us with the quote "in the end, it is the poor, who will be chained to the computer: the rich will get teachers"(Forbes Magazine 1987).

On the final day of the CLA Conference, I attended the CSLA Breakfast and Annual General Meeting, and 2 workshops. During the first workshop, entitled "Pan-Canadian School Library Roundtable", we went over a document to be published next year, on School Library Standards in Canada. It should be available for the CLA Conference in 2002. The other workshop dealt with the "IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto", which has been signed by 181 member states, including Canada. A quote from the beginning of this document states "[t]he School Library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's society, which is increasingly information and knowledge-based. The school library equips students with lifelong skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens".

There were many social events available to participants. I attended the annual Book Awards Banquet on Thursday night and took a trip to McPhillips Street Station Casino on Friday night. I had a chance to speak to the National

Librarian, Roch Carrier, at the Book Awards Banquet. All in all, it was a

great conference and one I would recommend to everyone.

World@Winnipeg

Submitted by Kathy Heney, Ottawa Region

When I got off the plane in Winnipeg on Tuesday, June 12th, there were three things I needed to find: Second Cup, Canada Trust and the Taoist Tai Chi Society. I found all three in that order. Then I was ready to hang out with 800 librarians, suppliers, teacher-librarians, trustees and a few library technicians! I've been attending the Canadian Library Association Conference for over 10 years now. I'm hooked! I thrive on the networking...returning home pumped...for at least a day or two. This year it was in Winnipeg, June 13th to 17th...with an international theme: Bringing the World Home.

I usually pay over half the cost of this conference (it takes me all year to save up!), so I attend as many sessions, meetings and social events as I can pack into these 5 days. This year, they included a tour of Lower Fort Garry, the keynote address on global information by Lloyd Axworthy, the Business Information Interest Group meeting, a paddlewheel cruise on the Red River, a breakfast talk by Steve Abram, entitled

"Librarians: is there a light at the end of the tunnel?", CLA's "Writing the Future" Commission (very similar to our Committee for Change), the CASLIS lunch on business etiquette, the CLA AGM (there was much discussion about the high cost of membership fees!) and the Library Technicians Interest Group meeting, among others, ending with a multi-cultural party in St. Boniface at the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain.

We techs are starting to make a very positive presence at the CLA conference. I'm meeting more each year. The LTIG is our national forum! It would be great if every Canadian library technician could be a member of CLA as well as their provincial association. Yea...I know it's expensive. People expressed that concern at the conference. But I'd like to meet even more techs at future conferences, including my co-workers of a national law firm! Next year's conference is in Halifax, June 19th - 23rd. The theme is Inventing the Future. We, as OALT/ABO members, are part of that future

Editor's Note: As Kathy points out, library technicians are an increasingly visible part of CLA. The first prize for the CLA Student Article Contest has been awarded to library technicians for two years running.

Attention*Attention***Attention***Attention***Attention***Attention**

Have you renewed your OALT/ABO membership?

It's not to late!!!

If you have misplaced your form, please contact me and I will send you a replacement.

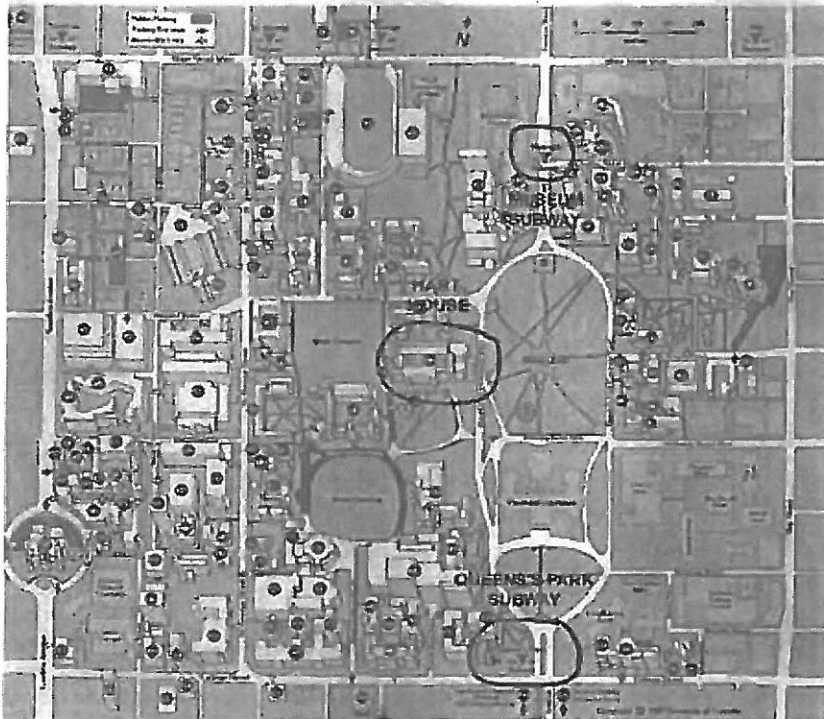
Diane Baksa, Membership Coordinator, OALT/ABO

diane@ica.net 905.842.5820

HOLIDAY SOCIAL 2001

Join SLA - CASLIS - OALT/ABO - THLA for an evening of holiday cheer on December 13th, 2001. Meet and network with your colleagues from local professional associations, while enjoying a selection of fancy canapés, hot hors d'oeuvres, crudités and a complimentary drink.

Directions to Hart House



7 Hart House Circle, on the Uof T Campus

From College St. walk one block south
Accessible from Queen's Park or Museum subway stations

Date:

December 13, 2001

Location:

Music Room,
Hart House,
University of Toronto,
7 Hart House Circle

Time:

Registration: 5:30pm,
Reception: 5:30 - 8:30pm

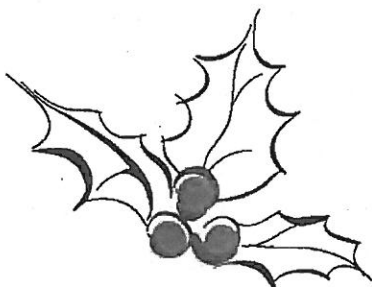
Cost: Members: \$20.00,
Non-Members: \$30.00,
Student/Retired/
Unemployed: \$10.00

Door prizes to be won

Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the Daily Bread Food Bank.

Register for this event online at:

www.sla.org/chapter/ctor/events/20011213/decprogrameventregister.htm



FINANCIAL POST
DATA GROUP

This event is sponsored by
the Financial Post Data Group,
www.fpdata.finpost.com

Committee for Change

Win a \$25.00 Chapters Gift Certificate!

Take a few minutes to visit the **OALT/ABO website** and complete the **Committee for Change's membership survey**. We would like to present all OALT/ABO members with an **opportunity** to provide anonymous feedback on the benefits that the association is currently delivering to you.

If you complete our form before **December 31st 2001**, your name will be entered into a draw to win a \$25.00 Chapters Gift Certificate.

Thanks in advance for your participation and best wishes,

The Committee for Change

Around the Regions

Halton-Peel

- Oct. 23, 2001, Town Hall Meeting
 - Dec. 7, 2001, President's Christmas Gala, hosted by Stella Clark, Stoney Creek
 - Jan. 26, 2002, Super Saturday, loc TBA
- Contact Vicky Lynham,
(H) 905.875.0039 (Wfax) 905.796.4050 email
lynhamv@stn.net

Huronia

- Contact Pat Henry,
(H) 705.728.3480 (W) 705.739.6569 email
whenry@interhop.net

Lohania

- Sept. 15, 2001, Meeting at Beacock Branch of London Public Library
 - Dec. 1, 2001, Christmas Lunch at Grand Harmony Buffet, London
- Contact Jill Anderson, (H) 519.473.3695 email
jilldunc@execulink.com

Ottawa

- Oct. 15, 2001, "Appreciating Differences" with Jack Falt
 - Nov. 26, 2001, General Meeting re CFC
 - Dec. 13, 2001, Christmas Social (joint CASLIS/LAOH event)
- Contact Kathy Heney
(H) 613.224.6888 (W) 613.237.5160

email dk204@freenet.carleton.ca

Sudbury

- Contact Linda Davis,
(H) 705.566.9374 (Fax) 705.670.5770 email
<linda.davis@ndm.gov.on.ca>
Or Jo-Ann Larose,
(H) 705.692.9886 (W) 705.675.9193 x8343 email
jlrose@nemhc.on.ca

TALTA

- Oct. 10, 2001, Susan Zelikovitz, "That Little Extra: An A-Z Catalogue of 'Soft Skills' that can Help you Succeed in your Life"
 - Dec. 5, 2001 Holiday Social
 - Jan. 4, 2002, Andre Paradis, Janice Hayes: "Metadata"
 - Feb. 9, 2002 Speaker TBA
 - March 23, 2002, ABM
- Contact Marina Dranitsaris, (H) 416.267.3226
email mdranit@rogers.com

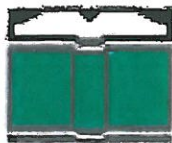
Thunder Bay

- October, 2001, workshop cancelled "Simplify your Life"
 - Nov. 29, 2001, General Meeting and Jingle Mingle at the LPH
- Contact Valerie Barten, (H) 807.475.3668 (Hfax)
807.577.2915 Home email rbarten@tbaytel.net Work
email vbarten@lhbe.edu.on.ca

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OALT / ABO Discussion List

The OALT/ABO discussion list is a moderated discussion list of our provincial association, OALT/ABO. It provides information concerning job opportunities, meeting notices and professional development activities.

The list is sponsored by Rowe Com Canada and is run on their server using Majordomo software.

To subscribe, send the following message to oaltabo-request@faxon.ca

subscribe oaltabo

Be sure to leave the subject line empty and write the message in the body only.

You will receive a confirmation and welcome message from our list manager. Questions or comments can be directed to Ronn Cheney, ronn.cheny@ca.pwcglobal.com

Our thanks are extended to the following sponsors: Rowe Com for our website and discussion list; Lexis-Nexis for our 1999 Membership Directory.

