



Ontario Association of Library Technicians

# NEWSLETTER/ NOUVELLES

Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

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Special Edition**

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## **President's Message**

Welcome to this special edition of Newsletter / Nouvelles. It was decided to publish this edition to highlight the 29th Annual OALT/ABO Conference held in Thunder Bay. I would like to send a big thank you to the organizers and members of the Thunder Bay Region of OALT/ABO for their hospitality during the conference. It was a Superior Splash!

I am writing to you as your new President. It will be an exciting and special year for me for a number of reasons: one, I am new to this position and, not having served as Vice-president, or President-elect, I have a lot to learn in a very short time; two, I now have the time to learn these skills, and others, as I have officially retired from the 9 to 5 working world.

Well, let me rephrase that. I have left a position with a steady pay cheque in order to restart my own business, assist my husband with his business and spend more time doing the things I love, namely gardening, glass and golf. I will probably be putting in more hours now than I was before!

I have been busy over the last few weeks with association business: making decisions about changes to the web site, assisting our Webmaster with the set up of the Discussion List, and obtaining a Publications Mail Agreement number from Canada Post to name a few matters.

I look forward to an eventful year. If there is anything that I can do for you, in my role as President, please let me know.

Marina Dranitsaris, President  
Ontario Association of Library Technicians  
Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario  
[mbranitsaris@sympatico.ca](mailto:mbranitsaris@sympatico.ca)  
416.264.3173

## Outgoing President's message

Well, it is time to say goodbye as President. The past two years serving as President have been the most rewarding, yet the most challenging, of my OALT/ABO life.

At the ABM at the Thunder Bay conference this year, I was extremely proud of the recommendations that the Committee for Change made. It was time for change and a big change it shall be. The Committee for Change was dissolved and the Constitutional committee was created. Nanci Abbondanza and Tracy Morgan are going to rewrite the constitution in 1 short year. We must all stand behind them in this huge undertaking.

I look forward to next year in my Ex-Officio role. I now can take a step back and relax somewhat but I intend to carry on the work that I had started as President. We will continue growing our relationship with OSLA of OLA. We will take part in the planning process of Super Conference 2003 and sponsorships shall continue to grow.

Good luck to the new executive. Enjoy and learn as I have.

Respectfully Yours,

Pam Casey, Ex-Officio

Ontario Association of Library Technicians /Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

OALT/ABO has a new sponsor for our website and our discussion list. **Canadian General Technologies** has taken on this role and we thank them for their generosity.

As a result of this change, you will need to re-subscribe to the discussion list if you wish to receive messages. The following information is from our web site [www.oaltabo.on.ca](http://www.oaltabo.on.ca).

The OALT/ABO Discussion List is an unmoderated discussion group of our provincial association, OALT/ABO. The purpose of this list is to provide online information regarding OALT/ABO and other library organizations' events and activities, to our members. Members can also post job opportunities, meeting notices, professional development activities, and discuss issues that are relevant to Library Technicians and libraries. The list is sponsored by Canadian General Technologies and is run on their server using Majordomo software.

To subscribe to the list, send a message to:

**[oaltabo-request@majordomo.cangen.net](mailto:oaltabo-request@majordomo.cangen.net)**

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Shortly after you subscribe, you will receive an automated confirmation and a welcome message.

To send a message to the list, send an email to:

**[oaltabo@majordomo.cangen.net](mailto:oaltabo@majordomo.cangen.net)**

If you have questions or comments regarding the Discussion List, please contact the list manager, Mary Grace Morgan at: [mk.morgan@pathcom.com](mailto:mk.morgan@pathcom.com).

## *And the new Executive is...*

Elections were held for the new executive at the ABM, which took place in Thunder Bay at the close of this year's Conference. The new slate of officers is as follows –



President:	<b>Marina Dranitsaris</b>
Vice-president:	<b>Jill Anderson</b>
Secretary:	<b>Nancy Drew</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Vicky Lynham</b>
Public Relations:	<b>Stacy Goddard</b>
Ex-officio:	<b>Pam Casey</b>
Newsletter:	<b>Marion Warburton</b>
Membership:	<b>Diane Baksa</b>
Archives:	<b>Mary Grace Morgan</b>
Webmaster:	<b>Mary Grace Morgan</b>

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## A Note from the Editor...

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. It allows those of us who were unable to attend the Conference, to share in the event.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. Please keep the newsletter in mind, and collect anything that might be of interest to the rest of us. Send it to me before October 4, 2002, at [warburtonm@hhangus.com](mailto:warburtonm@hhangus.com) , or call me at 416.443.8200 (work) or 416.964.9140 (home).

All the contact information for the new Executive will be in the Fall issue of the newsletter.

Marion Warburton  
Newsletter Editor, OALT/ABO

### Selections from **GREAT MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF TECHNICAL SERVICES** - 537 B.C.

The National Library of Babylon, finally switching to papyrus, ceases maintaining its clay tablet shelf list, but is unable to discard it for nostalgic reasons. 2 years later, under siege by the Persians, the city finds a new use for the old tablets and manages to inflict severe losses on the besieging army by pelting them from the ramparts with large quantities of shelf list tablets.

- 427 A.D.

The Library at Alexandria decides to contract out its annual weeding project; Vandal hordes are the lowest bidder.

For more, go to:

<http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~techsvcs/tssb/tshist.htm>

## *Impressions of...*



The conference in Thunder Bay was an experience to remember! Lakehead University campus has a beautiful setting, with peaceful walks along the river, for which I made sure I found time. Our accommodations in a former nunnery were a little unusual, but I think most of us were able to find our way around by the end of the conference, and were able to figure out all the keys that were needed to get from floor to floor.

The food was good, with lots of choice for breakfast and lunch. The workshops were excellent, and I really enjoyed Maggie Weaver's on customer service. It was relevant to any work setting, and we were provided with lots of material to think about. I'm sure all of us who attended the "Knight's feast" on Thursday night had a blast. We were the only group for this Henry VIII-type show and dinner, and sang and drank, and banged our sticks all through the show. A lot of us had no voices by the time we left. The banquet, too, turned out to be a lot of fun. The band was great, and had us up dancing after a great dinner. It was a great time for us to get to know each other a little more, and make new friendships.

I think the annual conference has to be the best time, both for accomplishing the most in association business, and for making the contacts and friendships that we can benefit from, the rest of the year. I hope the fun part will encourage more members to attend. I will look forward to next year's conference, hosted by TALTA at Seneca College.

Stella Clark  
President, OALT/ABO Halton-Peel

### **Stacy's Picks**

I'm sure you would like to know that the executive of this organization is spending time wisely at the annual conference. Your Public Relations Co-ordinator works in an elementary school and is getting some funding from the School Board CUPE professional development fund. Hence, I found it expedient to attend workshops pertaining to schools. My choices were:

1. Partnerships – Business/Industry & Education;
2. Information Services: the strongest link in delivering the "Final Answer";
3. After Harry Potter. I found all 3 workshops to be excellent choices.

The first, although it emphasized relationships within the secondary level, had applications for all school partnerships. The facilitator emphasized that, for partnerships to work, *both* parties must get something, which could be as simple as a Breakfast Club sponsorship - a business provides the food; your school lets them use a room for a regularly scheduled meeting.

In the second workshop, we were reacquainted with old tools, the basics on library shelves, such as dictionaries and encyclopaedias, and given new web sites and search engines. We were also reminded of skills learned in Basic Reference, but which it never hurts to refresh. This workshop might also have been called "Customer Service", exploring just what the "final answer" means in terms of all aspects of reference, from the interview to the follow-up.

Anyone who deals with young people and their literature on a daily basis, as I do, would appreciate the suggestions at my final session, to keep the interest of Harry Potter readers. (We were delivered by private car by one of our conference organizers, Valerie Barten, to another venue where we shared this workshop put on by OLSN. Not only did we take home another cloth bag, but we got to meet professionals in another organization.) This workshop was short, but content rich. I can't wait to promote the suggested literature in my school.

---

Stacy Goddard  
Public Relations Co-ordinator, OALT/ABO

### **Do you know the way to Thunder Bay...+**

When I met Valerie<sup>2</sup> (Valerie Barten and Valerie Welsch) at last year's conference I knew Thunder Bay would be great! These two Valeries did an awesome job!!

Conferences take me to Canadian cities I've never been to before, and this year I was lucky to get the Air Canada seat sale.

For those arriving on Wednesday there was a supper, followed by a wine & cheese at the Avila Centre (where most of the attendees stayed, at the Lakehead University campus).

Thursday morning, I attended the session on full-text electronic databases. The speaker was Leslie Piekarz, Reference Librarian at the Thunder Bay Public Library. We looked at EBSCOHost (mostly periodicals) and Canadian Business and Current Affairs Fulltext (a Micromedia articles database). We poked around for stuff, getting a good hands-on opportunity to see what these services provide.

In the afternoon, I attended "Partnerships - Business/Industry and Education". This session wasn't quite what I was expecting but interesting nonetheless, to hear a school principal's view of today's business world. (I work in a law firm, so it's refreshing to get another perspective on things!) Brian McKinnon emphasized that trucking is one of the

biggest employers and that there is much more to the industry than the big, hunky stereotype of an 18-wheeler trucker! He also mentioned that big companies like Cisco are going into high schools (not universities) recruiting for the “freshest minds”! Mr. McKinnon also seemed to be in favour of the apprenticeship “pillar of education” (the other two pillars being university and college). Apparently more students are now taking this route into the world of work.

On Friday, I attended both “Information Services” sessions given by Marian Doucette. Even though I’ve heard much of this before, at previous conferences, it’s always useful to hear it again...especially with a new twist on things. I now look for the stories that illustrate the talk. Sometimes these are the most memorable parts! I loved it when Marian was talking about helping people who don’t immediately ask for assistance. She used to bring in an emu puppet, plunk it on the front desk, and just at the right moment would emit a big AWK! Certainly caught the library user’s attention!! Later on, we got into improved internet searching. A great finale to the session was when Marian typed in “goggle” instead of google and got a funny picture of a stuffed clown .

Couldn’t do this conference without attending one of Maggie Weaver’s sessions on customer service. I know Maggie from CLA, so again, I’ve heard much of this stuff before, but sometimes it’s stuff I need to hear again! Maggie always has great cartoons to illustrate her points.

The AGM went fairly smoothly...the biggest issue, of course, being the re-vamped CFC proposal...still to be done in a few phases over the next couple of years. The new item we voted on was to appoint an internal communications co-ordinator. I rather proudly got up to announce that Ottawa already has one! I also raised a question about block voting. (I did this last year and got the same response from the same long-time member.) However, I’m of the opinion that each paying member ought to have a vote, especially if they are putting out the big bucks to travel to a conference. I’m also concerned that I may not be accurately representing my region (Ottawa) as director. This may be looked at in Phase III (2004).

And now for the social events! Thunder Bay really knows how to party!! Thursday night we had a “Medieval dinner”. Not quite the same ambience as the Festin du Gouverneur in Montreal, but the troupe was really good: Innkeeper Master Bates, King Henry VIII, six charming wenches and a delightful jester who took a liking to me! We proved to be a rowdy lot. No clapping allowed...only banging the tables with wooden sticks. Drink ale...Wassail!!!

At the Saturday night banquet in the faculty lounge of Lakehead University, we were entertained by a Celtic/bluegrass trio. They dared challenge a library tech to dance on the table! There must be a photo here somewhere...???

But I think one of the finest times I had in Thunder Bay was when both Valeries very kindly offered to give tours to those of us who were first-time visitors to the city. I had the pleasure of joining Valerie Welsch’s tour, which included a park with a view of the

Sleeping Giant, the Terry Fox monument, Kakabeka Falls, the lookout on Mt. McKay and the sculpted bird wings down by the river. This was followed by dinner at Boston Pizza where most of us used our coupons.

Thunder Bay...2002 & you...truly a Superior experience!

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Kathy Heney  
Director, OALT/ABO Ottawa

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 Old Dutch  
 Rocksville Amethyst & Gift Shoppe  
 Thunder Bay Public Library  
 Valerie Welsch  
 Valhalla Inn

## Special Thanks!

We extend special thanks to our employer – the Lakehead District School Board and extra special thanks to our direct superiors for their understanding. We could not have done it without their support.

Valerie Barten and Valerie Welsch  
*the Valeries<sup>2</sup>*  
 conference conveners

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## OALT / ABO Discussion List

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The list is sponsored by Canadian General Technologies.

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If you have questions or comments regarding the Discussion List, please contact the list manager, Mary Grace Morgan at: [mk.morgan@pathcom.com](mailto:mk.morgan@pathcom.com).

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