



NewsLETTER/ NouvELLES

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Abbey Market
P.O. Box 76010
1500 Upper Middle Road West
Oakville, ON L6M 3H5
info@oaltabo.on.ca

Editor: Marina Dranitsaris
mdranitsaris@sympatico.ca

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President's Message

Here we are again at the beginning of a new year. It seems like not that long ago the OALT/ABO 2005 Conference committee was planning for the May 2005 conference in Ottawa. The 2006 Conference committee is hard at work planning for this year's conference in St. Catharines. I am looking forward to attending the 33rd annual conference, as I always find our conferences a super way to recharge my professional batteries and to keep in touch with what is happening in the library scene both technically and personally.

2006 will also see CLA's annual conference in Ottawa. As part of this conference, OALT/ABO will be getting together with library technicians from across the country for dinner one evening. The Ottawa chapter and various other OALT/ABO members will be working with CLA's Library Technician Interest Group in planning this event.

For me, this past year has been both challenging and rewarding. I worked on behalf of OALT/ABO as President-Elect, one of the registration coordinators for the Ottawa conference, and as President. I took some heavy-duty French courses, worked hard on clearing out trees and brush at our lake property, and streamlined processes at work. I updated some skills I hadn't used in a few years like: tree cutting, creating and editing tables in Word, Excel, WordPerfect, minute taking, communicating with the IT department, and conjugating French verbs! As a lifelong learner, I always seem to be adding more and more to my skill set.

One of the ways I have found to improve my knowledge and expertise has been to volunteer. I have found that working first for many years with the Alberta Association of Library Technicians, and now with OALT/ABO, has provided me with so much both professionally and personally.

Tracy Morgan will become President of OALT/ABO at the Annual Business Meeting in May, but many other elected positions will be vacant. Please consider letting your name stand for a position. You can contact any of the executive currently in any position if you would like further information.

Remember always to keep yourself up-to-date by checking the discussion list and the website.

Thank you to all who have worked so hard in all the various committees, programs, and capacities on behalf of OALT/ABO.

Best wishes to you and yours for 2006!

Annette Desrosiers

Voyageur 2006 is about learning

Maggie Weaver

OALT/ABO conferences are noted for the quality of the conference sessions, and their variety, and Voyageur 2006 will be no exception. With 26 conference sessions and two tours, you'll find it difficult to choose what to attend.

For the techies – or those of us who need to get up to speed technically – there'll be a number of great sessions. Dave Hook, librarian at MD Robotics (formerly Spar Aerospace), will talk about “being wired” – and no, that's not after too much caffeine! Maria Phipps will give us an update and hot tips for InMagic. Michael Gemmell will teach us how to catalogue artifacts (I have a bunch of ancient stuff at the back of my fridge, that I plan to bring as practical examples). Brian Bell from Oakville Public Library will tell us about the two great digital initiatives – the Canadian Digital Initiative and the Ontario Digital Library. Darcy Glidden will explain portals, in particular MyHamilton.ca. And Dialog will offer one of its Quantum sessions. A couple more technical sessions are still on the drawing board.

Less technical, but still directly related to our work, we have a series of “professional” sessions planned. These include two speakers from Hamilton Public Library: Michael Penta on serving diverse communities, and Sandy Mughford on serving people with disabilities. Stella Clark will lead a discussion on public library programming, Yasmin Khan (Justice Department) will walk us through sources of legal info and how to read legal citations, and Robyn Stockand (National Bank Financial) will explain how to find business information when you don't have a clue.

For the more laid back among us (or those who don't have to convince a boss that we really are working when we attend an OALT/ABO conference), there are some

general sessions. Stan Skrzyszewski will do a reprise of the popular Philosopher's Café (if the weather's nice, maybe a Philosopher's Walk?). Gordon Jarvis from TD Waterhouse will give advice on financial planning. We'll also have a panel discussing alternative careers, and I'll offer some tips on managing your boss (those are two sessions that your boss should probably not find out about!). The Book Club Chapter is also working to get a local author to speak – both that session and a session for the Schools Chapter will be scheduled on Saturday, so that as many members as possible of those two virtual chapters can attend.

For those who like to see for themselves, two tours are planned for Friday. A visit to Brock University's Educational Curriculum Centre and its Instructional Resource Centre is confirmed, and should appeal to those of us in the educational field. Stella is also planning a visit to the Shaw Festival archives, but we won't be able to confirm that until early in the new year.

The full schedule for the conference will be in the mail to you at the end of January. But meanwhile, block off May 11-13 in your new 2006 calendar, and plan to join your LT colleagues in St. Catharines.

“...And other duties as assigned”

Stella Clark

How is your job description? At the end of your list of responsibilities, is there the phrase “and other duties as assigned”? For that matter, is that what you would add to the description of your roles as spouse, parent, child, workmate, or friend? Come and hear Michael Lewis at the banquet for the 2006 OALT/ABO Conference, May 13, who will offer a humorous presentation on a “complete look at life, family, work, and the road ahead”.

Michael is a popular, passionate, and experienced speaker who truly enjoys his work. He runs his own training and development firm, which he started in 1994. As a researcher in behavioural motivation, Michael brings a wealth of business and interpersonal skills to every presentation. He has developed a reputation for delivering high-energy fun, as his goal is "to WOW my audience ... every time!"

The banquet is also where the Presidential and Innovation Awards are presented. Come and celebrate the accomplishments of our peers. Come and enjoy an evening of great food, great music, and great friends.

Voyageur 2006 is about fun

Maggie Weaver

One of the best parts about working on the conference planning committee is that you get to find out early about all the good sessions that will be offered. But the very, very best part is that you can actually decide what you want to do or learn, and make it happen.

Most of the planning team members are like me – we wanted to start with planning the fun stuff. My preference (as you all probably know) is for wine – so on the Thursday night wine expert Colleen Rivard will be coming into the residence at Brock University, to take us through a guided wine tasting. We'll follow that with a light supper – no one will have to drive anywhere, and there'll be no curfew. Barb and Stella loved a dinner theatre piece called Oh Canada Eh – well, it sounds more like a musical – and since it fits with the historical theme, a visit has been planned for Friday night. The ticket for that will include transportation, dinner and show.

The banquet will be on Saturday night, as usual, and of course we'll have a welcome reception in the residence hospitality suite

on Wednesday evening – just arrive, drop your bags, and come on down and party! In fact, there's one big drawback to a conference in St. Catharines – there's simply way too much to do in the area – it's going to be tempting to skip the sessions and head out. So I'm sure a lot of our retired or semi-retired will be thinking about joining us this year. There are wineries galore to visit, there's Niagara-On-The-Lake with its fabulous shopping (my favourites are the Dansk outlet shop and Greaves, the jam people), plus downtown St. Catharines to explore (a great farmers' market), Niagara Falls for those of you who can't get enough of the wonderful Falls, and of course, as Christopher keeps reminding me, the casino.

Look out for your conference registration kit in the mail at the end of January, and return your registration quickly, because some of the activities have limited capacity. There'll be a brochure for Oh Canada Eh, more information about the wineries (or just ask me!), and more on stuff to do in the area.

2006 OALT/ABO Conference Committee

Stella Clark (Chair)
Barb Allen
Melissa Blazak
Pam Casey
Kate Morrison
Marion Stoneman
Maggie Weaver

Award For Innovation

This award was created to recognize an OALT/ABO member who has done something innovative in the workforce, for the association or for professional development. The recipient will receive a commemorative plaque at the banquet at our annual conference.

The signature of one member, in good standing, is required for the nomination form; if others contribute to the submission, please include ALL contact names and contact information.



2005 Award for Innovation winner, Susan Morley with Maggie Weaver

Outline the reason you think this person is deserving of the award, giving as much information as possible about the time involved, people affected and impact on both the candidate and others. The more information we have, the more we have to judge.

What was the major accomplishment? Was it one-time, ongoing, or multiple day, i.e. workshops versus a program?

Who were the people affected, i.e. colleagues, patrons, the general public, or the community? What was the number of people who were involved, how and where?

How was the project, innovation, etc. funded? This could be an innovation in itself!

Please complete and submit the enclosed form to:

Gale Moreau
234 Duckworth Street
Barrie, ON L4M 3W9
Email: twomoreaus@primus.ca

OALT/ABO Presidential Award

The Presidential Award recognizes outstanding contributions or achievement by an OALT/ABO member in promoting / developing our association.

Any full member in good standing, excluding the President and members of the award committee, is eligible for nomination. Contributions and achievements may consist of:

- innovative approach in promoting and/or developing the association
- Significant participation in the structure and development of the association
- Initiation and implementation in projects or programs to raise the profile of Library Technicians or the association
- Active participation in OALT/ABO through attendance at regional meetings and/or committee work
- A responsible attitude towards the profession and OALT/ABO

The name of a candidate shall be submitted by a nominator and a seconder, both being members of OALT/ABO in good standing. Nominations must be submitted in writing by April 1, 2005.

Please complete and submit the enclosed form to:

Jill Anderson
122 Scotchpine Crescent
London, ON N6G 2E3

It's Time to Renew Your Membership

Our membership year runs from October 1st to September 30th. You will have received your personalized membership form by now. Please read the form carefully, update where needed and return as soon as possible. If we do not have your completed form and cheque by mid-January, this will be the last newsletter you will receive and

you will not be able to receive the discounted rate for the upcoming conference.

Chapter News

Book Club Chapter

Disaster struck the Book Club chapter's blog – a hacker broke in and deleted 18 months worth of discussion. After much debate, we decided not to load everything back onto the blog, but to start afresh with additional passwords to protect us.

We have contacted a local author to speak at the conference in St. Catharines.

Books read and discussed:

Displaced Persons / Margie Taylor

Life of Pi / Yann Martel

Gallows View / Peter Robinson

Upcoming books:

Resurrection of Joseph Bourne / Jack Hodgins

Blessed are the Cheesemakers / Sarah-Kate Lynch

Halton-Peel Chapter

It's been a busy year so far. The chapter has been busy this fall preparing for our fall events as well as anticipating the Voyageurs conference in the spring. A huge thanks goes out to all that are participating in organizing this event. HP executive is in the midst of preparing for "Super Saturday" coming up January 14, 2006.

September Shop Talk was held at the Mandarin restaurant in Mississauga. It was raining very heavy that evening but a small group of us showed up, the food was good and the conversation was excellent. It was nice to see old friends and chat about the recently past summer holidays.

Town Hall in October took place at the "renewed" Burlington Central Library and

we had a guided look at this magnificent new facility. A tour started the evening and provided an excellent overview of the flagship library. The staff at Burlington really have a great library on their hands. I can't wait to see the rose gardens and outdoor cafe in the summer! Shop Talk consisted of brief discussions about the HP constitution, Voyageurs, and mentoring. Maggie Weaver presented Susan Morley the award for Innovation in the Library Technician profession. Susan is recognized for her leadership and vision in the design of a custom library database project to streamline the CSA document management process. Thank you and bravo Susan!

In December Halton-Peel was treated as guests in the home of Janet Tieman. Janet hosted this year's Christmas Gala and welcomed all. As always the food, drink and company was excellent. Christmas cheer was had by all and it was a great way to start the holiday celebration season. Stella Clark presented Gisela Smithson with the Eva Schnurr Award with a wonderful speech detailing all the contributions Gisela has contributed to Halton-Peel OALT/ABO, especially the last two years as Treasurer. Thank you Gisela.

Even though we are all taking a break for the holidays, plans are well underway for Super Saturday 2006. This year we will explore life long learning - E-Learning style! Then we will finish then morning by look ahead. Valentine's Day is only a month away and we'll show you some crafty treats and gift ideas. This session is hands-on and should give you some ideas for creating crafty gifts for the ones you love. Look for our open invitation on the web or in the mail just after the holidays.

Also look forward to the HP annual general meeting in the spring and send us your ideas for what you'd like to do for the June Event. Not a member of Halton-Peel chapter? Check out our events on the association web site, and if you want, we'll even put you on our mailing list. We hope

you will join us! Check out the HP contact information on www.oaltabo.on.ca then send us an e-mail for more information.

Ottawa Chapter

We launched our new year with a Wine and Cheese at Algonquin College. This was a great opportunity for the more seasoned members to meet with the Library Technology students. It was a tremendous success! The event was well attended with a good mix of graduates and students and all participants had a great time. We hope to make this an annual event, as it is a great way to meet the students, the next generation of the association.

On September 22nd, the Ottawa Chapter / Section d'Ottawa of OALT/ABO had a few members participating in the Take Back the Night rally. This is the second year that we are involved and we hope to have a larger delegation next year.

On November 3rd, as an encore presentation, "Writing a Procedures Manual" was offered as an evening workshop with our guest speaker, Claire Cameron; twenty-two participants were in attendance. And then, time to have some fun! Our Christmas social was on December 6th.

School Chapter Report

Communication among the Champions has been strictly by e-mail. It was a very busy fall (as it always is in the school community) for our members. We now have a list of members in the hands of our treasurer, Liz Aldrey. It may seem like a small thing, but even knowing who members are in such a huge province and with so many School Boards is important. Other than that, one of the first tasks we set ourselves was to do a survey to find out who is working in schools all over Ontario. We are still at the discussion stage with this.

Toronto Chapter

The Toronto Chapter held two events in 2005. On October 6th, the members had an online tour of the Toronto Public Library website which was hosted by Beatriz Hausner. The annual Holiday Social was held at the Mandarin restaurant on November 30th, along with the door prizes giveaway.

The executive has had some changes with Gerie Singh resigning as Vice-President and Martina Keller joining as Secretary.

Upcoming meetings will be held in January & February with the Annual Business meeting in late March. Specific dates and speakers are TBA. For more information about the Toronto Chapter, please contact the President, Marianna Cseto at mcseto@sympatico.ca

Thunder Bay Chapter

OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Chapter has been quite busy. The year was started with Dave Nicholson, local historian, speaking about Genealogy and using the Latter Day Saints Church database. On November 5th, Marian Doucette presented two workshops - *Blogging for your Library* and *Searching Canadian, eh! @ Your Library*. And finally on December 7th, we had our *Jingle Mingle* social.

January 25th, we will be having a tour of the Library at the new Northern Ontario School of Medicine. February's workshop is still in the planning stages.

2005/06 Executive

President: Valerie Welsch

Secretary: Linda Bukovy

Treasurer: Don Henderson

Newsletter: (appointed) Wanda Ewachow

Public Relations: (appointed) Kathy

Crewdson and Margot Ponder

Archivist: (appointed) Helen Heerema

College LIT Program Updates

Mohawk College

*Dolores Harms Penner
Program Manager, Library and Information
Technician Program*

Happy New Year to OALT/ABO members from the Library and Information Technician Program at Mohawk College. May the blank slate of the year ahead provide you with the opportunity to enrich your professional and personal lives.

At Mohawk our convocation is held annually in October. This past October we were very pleased to recognize 15 graduates from the library technician diploma program and three graduates from the records management certificate program. It was a celebratory evening. We honoured three of our graduates in particular with awards based on their academic achievement: Michael Aiello with the Geraldine Hughes Cataloguing Award, Bonita Hindy with our Library Technician Award, and Sandra Robertson with the OALT/ABO Award. All of our graduates can be proud of their hard work in achieving their goal by completing the program.

Our program is intended for people who are working in libraries but don't have formal library education. Our online format works well for them to be able to study part-time. Our courses also work well for library technicians who have graduated but are interested in taking a course for professional development. Our enrollment figures continue to increase.

As a point of interest, in recent years we have had a number of students living overseas take our program. At the present time there are Canadians currently living in Argentina, Bermuda and Wales who are able to participate in our courses from their exotic locations.

A number of new and revised courses have

been added to our program of study. In the winter 2006 term, revised and expanded courses on Government Information and Classifying with Library of Congress Classification are available. In the spring 2006 term, a revised Database Design course will be offered. If you are interested in spring term courses, mark March 6, 2006 on your calendar as the date that spring term registration opens. Check our web site in February for information about courses that will be offered. Library technicians are considered to have met the prerequisites for any course in our program.

In early February, Mohawk will again be joining with the library technician programs from Seneca and Algonquin colleges, as well as the OALT/ABO, to share a booth at the OLA Superconference in Toronto. If you are at the conference, please stop by to say hello.

OALT/ABO Student Award

*Maggie Weaver
External Communications Coordinator
2005-6*

Lohania chapter has for many years given an award to a student in the library techniques program at Mohawk College. This year, the Lohania chapter closed, but the OALT/ABO executive has decided not only to maintain the award, but to extend it to all three programs - at Mohawk, Seneca and Algonquin Colleges.

The award will be presented to the outstanding Library & Information Technician student (as selected by the Programme Coordinator). All students, whether full time or part-time, continuing education, distance education, in any year, are to be considered.

The three winning students, one from each college, will receive a membership in the association, which will entitle them to more than a year subscription to this great

Newsletter, as well as member discount at two conferences – so we hope that many of you will have the chance to meet the winners at a Conference.

There'll be a cumulative plaque residing at each college, and we've asked the colleges if they can provide us an opportunity to present the award in person; this may be at the college, or perhaps at the association's conference awards night, if appropriate. Alumni and alumnae, we'll be coming to you in the spring, as you'll be the ideal people to present the award at "your" college!

OALT/ABO recognizes the need for our association to have regular contact with our professional programs, and also the value that working members of the association can bring to students planning to enter the profession. This award is a great way to get the OALT/ABO name in front of the next generation of LTs, and to meet them in person.

Final Lohania Award Winner

The winner of the OALT/ABO Award from the Mohawk graduating class of 2005 is Sandra Robertson. Sandy is a married



mother of two, currently working part-time for the Hamilton Public Library, at the Stoney Creek branch.

Sandy received her diploma in October 2005 after attending her course part-time over a 6-year period. She had the highest

average in the courses that cover library technician subjects in the program.

Congratulations Sandy, and welcome to OALT/ABO!

We Care About School Libraries

Jill Turner Goericke (LIT' 89)

Did you know that the York Region District School Board employs 32 library technicians? Many of these workers are graduates of the Seneca College Library and Information Technology program. An YRDSB high school library is staffed by a team of one full-time teacher librarian, a full-time library technician and a part-time teacher librarian. Library technicians employed by the board can expect to be involved in the monitoring of an automated catalogue file of print and non-print material. They maintain, process and circulate print and non-print materials. Library technicians provide reference service to students and staff, including preparation of material for classes and bibliographies. Other tasks that library technicians participate in are to assist with clerical and typing functions of the library including maintenance of budget and petty cash records.

The YRDSB employs two full-time library technicians who work for the Library Automation Team. They are classified as library automation technicians. The Library Automation Team is responsible for the implementation and support of the automated library systems (Horizon) for all schools within the York Region District School Board.

The YRDSB offers a professional library to their staff at the Learning Resources Centre in Newmarket. This library is staffed by two library technicians.

The board does not employ library technicians at the elementary school level. The YRDSB Library Technicians

Networking group is concerned about the lack of technical expertise and staff shortages in the elementary schools. Often, the library in an elementary school is closed. We would like to see library technicians hired for these staff shortages.

If you ask a library technician why they are in their job, they will tell you that, "We care about school libraries."

SPAM – unwanted everywhere

Since the discussion list is open to members and non-members this increases the chance for those on our discussion list to receive less than important messages not to mention much unwanted SPAM. Although we try to eliminate unwanted SPAM as quickly as possible - with a ban to those users, we ask for your patience and understanding. A simple click of the 'delete' button will rid you of the unwanted messages and make them go away.

Ex Libris Associaton

Are you aware that there is an Association exclusively for retired persons whose careers have been in libraries and information centres, archives, publishing, and related areas? Ex Libris, which was formed in 1986 is the name of this Associaton and its activities include:

- ELAN, the newsletter: information, issues, history
- Preserving library history for the future
- Advocacy: a voice for our members
- Annual meeting with topical speakers
- W. Kay Lamb Award for Service to Seniors

Check it all out at:
<http://exlibris.fis.utoronto.ca> or snail mail at:
Ex Libris Association, c/o Faculty of

Information Studies, University of Toronto,
140 St. George St., Toronto, Ont. M5S 3G6

You may also contact Doug Willford for a copy of the membership brochure at:
dwillford@cogeco.ca or 128 St. Lawrence Dr., Welland, Ont. L3C 7H6.

I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do.

- *Everett Edward Hale, 1822 - 1909*

Nominations for Executive Positions of OALT/ABO, 2006-2007

The Nominating Committee presents the following members of OALT/ABO as candidates for Executive office for 2006-2007:

President: Tracy Morgan

President Elect: vacant

Treasurer: vacant

Internal Communications Coordinator: Maria Ripley

External Communications Coordinator: Maggie Weaver

Conference Coordinator: vacant

Chapter Coordinator: Jenna Winkler

At time of writing (December 21) we do not yet have candidates for three positions, but hope to have a full slate of candidates by January 1, 2006, which is the date stipulated in our bylaws.

Further nominations, accompanied by written acceptance of the nominee, may be entered by petition of five members of OALT/ABO, no later than February 15, 2006. This means that you, the members of OALT/ABO, may suggest candidates for any of the positions. If you like, you

could nominate yourself -- five Executive members will be pleased to sign your nomination!

It would be particularly helpful if you could think about people who would be good for the positions where we do not have candidates.

New & Returning Members

Welcome to the following individuals and institutions that have recently joined OALT/ABO, and welcome back to several members who have rejoined after a few years absence. These memberships were received from August 15 to December 15, 2005.

New Members

Velina Antonova	Debbie Arsenault
Christine Borsuk	Kim Brittain
Andrea Burrows	Sarah Campbell
Sean Canniff	Sabrina Cheng
Kathy Connell	Roberta Ellington
Christopher Elliott	Michelle Gravelle
Adele Griesbach	Mellisa Hall
Nicole Hanson	Carrie Hardman
Jamila Hastick	Bonnie Hindy
Albena Kalkovska	Martina Keller
Frank Krascek	Ruta Kulnys-Douglas
Alma Lambio	Olga Mkhitarova
Mohawk College Library	Nicole Moreau
Linda Morrow	Northern College
Adriana Ribble	Leanne Richardson
Janice Robertson Taylor	
Denise Rooney	Gerie Singh
Joni Stossel	John Watson
York Region District School Board	

Returning Members

Sean Crowe	Sandy King
Christina Snow	James Wagner
Lindsay Winfield	Christine Wysmyk

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by.
- Douglas Noel Adams, 1952 -
2001

Web Sites to Educate and Amuse You

Reading Group Guides

Need a list of titles for your book club? A discussion guide? Information on how to start a book club? This site has it all. It is well designed and most information is only a couple of clicks away.

<http://www.readinggroupguides.com/>

Book Spot

Another great site for book clubs is Book Spot. There are lists of bestsellers, book awards (broken down by award name and genre), book reviews by major US newspapers and magazines, and then an entire section entitled "Behind the Books" which includes information on authors, publishers, literary criticism, discussion questions and more.

www.bookspot.com

Canadian Book Clubs

A Canadian site about book clubs. Includes pages on how to start a book club, how to find and join an existing book club, sample discussion questions, recommended lists. There is a discussion forum on the site.

www.canadianbookclubs.com

People News

Penni Chalk Information Coordinator, Modernizing Ontario's Systems of Tax Administration, Ontario Ministry of Finance. I have worked for the Ontario Ministry of Finance in the Library for over 22 years. For the past eleven months I have been on a temporary assignment with the "Modernizing Ontario's Systems of Tax Administration" Project as their Information Coordinator. In September, I won the competition to continue on the project for at least another two years. Working for the government, I have this wonderful opportunity to work on a special project, with the knowledge that my job in the library

will still be there for me at the end of my assignment, should I want to go back to it.

Working on this project has been a wonderful experience for me, and it allows me to use all of my library technician skills outside a library environment. I still do research on a regular basis, but I am also responsible for maintaining all files and documents created by the project team, both electronic and hard copy. In the near future I hope to be implementing a Document Management System, which once the project is completed, they hope to use division wide within the Tax Revenue Division of the Ministry.

I participate fully as a team member, and take part in weekly meetings to keep current with what all the team members are working on.

The Modernizing Ontario's Systems of Tax Administration is the largest Information Technology Project done by the Ontario Government, and we were very fortunate that we received Management Board Approval to proceed with it in August.

I consider my experience working with OALT/ABO to be a definite asset in helping me in this position. The experience I gained working on the Executive and Chairing a Conference Committee have given me the skills I needed to participate on this project and to be a useful and productive team player.

Chris Whittaker of Toronto has been promoted to a permanent position as Information Assistant at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in the McLaughlin Information Centre.

*Happy New Year
Wishing you all a happy, healthy
and prosperous 2006
from
Annette, Tracy, Vicky, Maria,
Maggie, Stella, Jenna, Christopher,
Penni & Marina*

2005 / 06 OALT/ABO EXECUTIVE

President

Annette Desrosiers
strathaven@rogers.com

President-Elect

Tracy Morgan
morvay@globalserve.net

Treasurer

Vicky Lynham
Vicky.lynham@sympatico.ca

Membership Coordinator

Christopher Evans
christopher_evans@ontla.ola.org

Conference Coordinator

Stella Clark
pclark8@coqeco.ca

External Communications Coordinator

Maggie Weaver
kweaver5478@rogers.com

Internal Communications Coordinator

Maria Ripley
mripley@myvirtualnetwork.com

Newsletter Editor

Marina Dranitsaris
mdranitsaris@sympatico.ca

Chapter Coordinator

Jenna Winkler
jwinkler@tpl.toronto.on.ca

Archivist

Penni Chalk
Penni.chalk@fin.gov.on.ca

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY TECHNICIANS / ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTECHNICIENS DE L'ONTARIO

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1500 Upper Middle Road West
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