

# NewsLETTER NouvELLES

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## Happy New Year from Our President ~ Maria Ripley

Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? Are you sticking with them? 2008 was a great year! I've embraced running (thank you Melissa for your inspiration) and I feel so good. It is such an adrenaline rush to have completed the training kilometers. Moreover, the race adrenaline can't be beat. I have my goals set out for the first half of 2009 –

The Chilly Half-Marathon in Burlington on March 1<sup>st</sup> and the Women's Only Half-Marathon at Sunnybrook Park on May 31<sup>st</sup> that supports the Pediatric Oncology Group in Ontario – I'm looking forward to running these races and knowing I can do it!

Your Executive has had a busy fall and winter. We have met a couple of times already and have set a number of goals for this year.

The Conference Program is shaping up to be a great one. Thank you to Cyndi Smith of Georgian College for your leadership. As well, to the team working so hard behind the scenes – remember to mark **May 6 to 9, 2009** in your calendars.

Our Chapter Coordinator, Maggie Weaver has drafted a survey and will soon be in-touch with all of you to get your feedback about what you would like in terms of programs and events from around the province. I would also like to mention that Maggie has written two articles for the new LT column in OLA's Access magazine. Way to go!

Our External Communications Coordinator, Donna Brown, has been busy connecting with the various Library and Information Technician program coordinators and has made arrangements to once again have a collaborated booth at the OLA Super Conference at the end of January.



*'Newsletter/Nouvelles is published three times per year in the Fall, Winter and Spring and is available with membership in the Ontario Association of Library Technicians / Association des Bibliothécaires de l'Ontario. We welcome your feedback as well as your letters, articles and photos, but must reserve the right to edit for style and space.*

*He conquers who endures. ~Persius*

*From Our President ~ cont'd*

Sadly we have lost our Internal Communications Coordinator Karen Clark who has had to step down for personal reasons; however the team working within this role continues to shine. Our Newsletter Editor, Jenn Clarke does an amazing job producing our newsletter. Angela Carito-Walmsley and Wendy Witczak have signed on to be our OALT/ABO Web Developers. Their focus for the year is to develop the member's only area of the website for launch at our May conference. I am very much looking forward to working with them to advance our website into the new era of web 2.0 as well. Our Treasurer, Claudia Persaud and Membership Coordinator, Melissa Hall continue to keep our organization running efficiently responding to your membership needs, collecting your membership dues and paying our bills.

I am pleased to share that our idea to launch a group membership pilot project has been extremely successful and we look forward to sharing the details at the AGM. Our President-Elect, Kathryn Suffoletta, has kept us all in line making arrangements for our meeting spaces, writing up our minutes and reminding us of our tasks and deadlines. I would like to mention that we are officially recognized at OLA as being part of the planning team and will each year require four sessions to be planned for the conference! The first half of our year has been great and I look forward to the remaining months I have with this team.

*Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.  
~Henry Ford*

December was a month for celebration!

Although a very busy time for most, I am thrilled to say our Holiday Gala at the Old Mill on December 6<sup>th</sup> was well attended with both new and veteran members, husbands, fiancées and friends. Thank you to all of you who made the event a delightful one. Our organization is thirty-five years young and we could have only celebrated it in style!



As we look ahead to the New Year, it is my hope that we will have more social gatherings. Some thoughts include a luncheon and tour at one of the wineries in Niagara-on-the-Lake, especially for those of us in the Halton-Peel area. A dinner and/or tour in the GTA would be a wonderful adventure. I have a couple of interesting ideas up my sleeve – a behind the scenes tour of the Royal Alexandra Theatre or perhaps a tour of the New CityTV building. I welcome all of your ideas and hope to make our 35<sup>th</sup> year one to remember!

As the next few months pass and we get closer to conference I would like to encourage you all to consider a role on the Executive. This is your organization and your chosen profession. You get out of an association what you put into it. Your year will be as successful as you want to make it. The team that you will work with are all amazingly supportive and have the same desire of making this organization successful and important to all Library Technicians in Ontario. Have ideas...join us and make them happen! ♦



## In this Issue...From the Editor

Every so often, via email, a member will send words of encouragement and gratitude as to how valuable and important we each are within our association. In addition, I am reminded of how essential we are to each other regardless of business. Our discussion group has empowered more members with sharing knowledge than I think we realize. As well by those that share in how much they have come to learn, understand and grow within their own libraries because of the email advice, job postings, and collaboration when library needs arise.

With the new member area in the works it is my hope that we can continue to come together and discover more from one another. One year ago I emailed Maria and asked what I could do to contribute to a profession I chose to be a part of. It is a nice feeling to have reached a year and made some wonderful connections along the way. Happy New Year.

Here are the highlights....

- ✓ OALT/ABO Awards Presidential Award
- ✓ Book Review Corner
- ✓ Library Technician Roles
- ✓ A trip to St. Pierre
- ✓ As always – Education Matters!

For now it is adieu until we write again,

Jenn Clarke  
Newsletter Editor ◊



**From the Editor**

Questions often come our way regarding membership and how it works. We would like to take a moment to answer them. Perhaps you can share this with Library Technicians you know of who are thinking of joining the group. *Special thanks to Maggie Weaver for this write up.*



### Why Should I Join the School Chapter of OALT/ABO?

*First, why join OALT/ABO at all?*

OALT/ABO is the professional association of library technicians in Ontario. By joining the association, an LT discloses his/her interest in continuing education in the chosen profession, in networking with peers to learn and grow, and in helping present colleagues and those who come after by sharing expertise, experience, ideas, and motivations.

Membership in OALT/ABO also brings tangible benefits -- your own copy of the newsletter, discount at Conference, the salary survey and membership directory, etc.

*"I cannot happen without you"*

*~ Barack Obama*

*Next, why join the School Chapter as well?*

School Chapter membership is a way to bring a group of LTs, with similar employers and working in similar environments, to share in the benefits of OALT/ABO membership. Through membership in the School Chapter, individual voices are heard louder and stronger; individuals in a special work situation participate in, and benefit from, the actions and activities of colleagues.

School Chapter membership is personal membership with a big plus -- it recognizes that the network within the same type of employer organization can make a significant difference to the development of the individual in his/her chosen profession.



*What's the new "group membership"?*

A group of LTs working for the same employer can apply for group membership in OALT/ABO. Basically, the larger the group from a single employer, the lower the OALT/ABO membership rate per person. A single member of the group takes care of submitting to OALT/ABO the membership forms of all the group members. Once the group is established, all members get the same benefits as other individual members of OALT/ABO.

Group membership is win-win-win: the employer wins, through having more LT staff engaged in their professional association; the association wins, by having more individuals contributing to and benefiting from programs; and most importantly, the individual wins by receiving all the benefits of individual membership in OALT/ABO at a reduced price.

From the association's side, through group membership the contribution of the individual to the association is magnified by bringing additional members to the OALT/ABO family -- members who might otherwise remain outside the family, members whose knowledge, experience, opinions and motivations might not otherwise be channeled to help colleagues, peers and friends in the profession of library technician.

This is a pilot project, but some school LTs are thinking about taking up this deal. So if you'd like to join the School Chapter, check with Melissa Hall [mhall@cihi.ca](mailto:mhall@cihi.ca) or Annette Desrosiers [strathaven@rogers.com](mailto:strathaven@rogers.com) to see if your work colleagues are already considering group membership in OALT/ABO.

More members in OALT/ABO means it becomes more representative of the profession; more members' means it can undertake more, and more varied, activities -- and hence benefit more individuals.

OALT/ABO welcomes all LTs, in schools and elsewhere, as members, colleagues and friends. Join us! ♦

Maggie Weaver  
Chapter Coordinator, OALT/ABO

*If you think of vision and mission as an organization's head and heart, the values it holds are its soul.*

*~ Buzotta*

## The Life and Times of Douglas Willford~



*Legacy, History, Life and Affirmation: I am pleased to present Mr. Douglas Willford, one of the founding members of our association for over 35 years. He has contributed so much with such great heart to our profession.*

“Sure, I would be pleased to do it” was my reply to Jenn Clarke when approached about writing an article about myself. However, I soon discovered that the most difficult challenge of writing an autobiography is the writing of an autobiography!!! So with pen in hand along with the encouragement of Jenn I set about to undertake this daunting task.

I entered this world on August 12, 1948 (yes, I did turn the big Six O this year) in a rural community called Beckett’s Bridge located near the city of Welland in the beautiful Niagara Peninsula.

My parents at the time owned a gas bar/convenience store at Beckett’s Bridge and taught me the fine art of meeting and serving the many customers who entered the store. This later proved to be a useful training platform, providing me with invaluable knowledge and expertise in dealing with the general public during my library career.

After completing my elementary education at a small rural two room school, I went on to attend Pelham District High School in the beautiful quaint village of Fenwick. Upon graduation from Pelham I went off to the University of Guelph, followed by Niagara College where I graduated from the Library Technician program in 1972. Sadly this program like many other Library Technician programs across the province was cancelled.

*Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.*

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Like most grads I furiously set about sending out letters of applications for employment, and in my case concentrated on community colleges. In early June of that year I was invited for an interview at Humber College in Toronto. The interview went very well and a week later I was offered full time employment as a branch Library Technician. I began my employment on July 4, 1972 and after 31 years decided to accept the eighty five factor (years worked + your age = 85) and took the full retirement package with no penalty.

My jobs at Humber were varied and many and the position of “Group Leader” in the Reference Dept. played a major role. Other duties included: staff scheduling (including Librarians), policy & procedure writing, conducting library instruction classes on the use of both written and electronic resources and compiling statistical usage reports.

I truly enjoyed my 31 years at Humber College and have been asked on various occasions what if any would have been a major highlight. In retrospect I would have to say that there were two highlights that jump out at me. Without hesitation the major highlight would be my two years 1978-1980, working in Baden, West Germany on a Canadian military base in the senior high school library. At the time Canada had bases in Europe which were part of our NATO commitment in keeping the area secure from the menacing Soviet Union and her Eastern pact allies. This was a wonderful experience and allowed me the opportunity to travel throughout Europe, meet new people and more importantly expanded my professional career.



My second highlight would be serving as Chair of the "Academic Council" for four years. The Academic Council is a major council at Humber which makes recommendations to the Board of Governors (BOG) and has a membership of just over 50 members including the College President and other senior administrators. Of interest is the fact that I was the first non faculty member to hold this position. I strongly believe it was my involvement on many of the OALT/ABO committees that gave me the background training necessary for this high profile position.

Back in 1971 I was invited as a student participant to a two day workshop at Queens Park sponsored by the "Provincial Consultative Committee on the Training of Library Technicians". Mr. Vic Whatton a very dynamic and dedicated individual chaired this workshop.

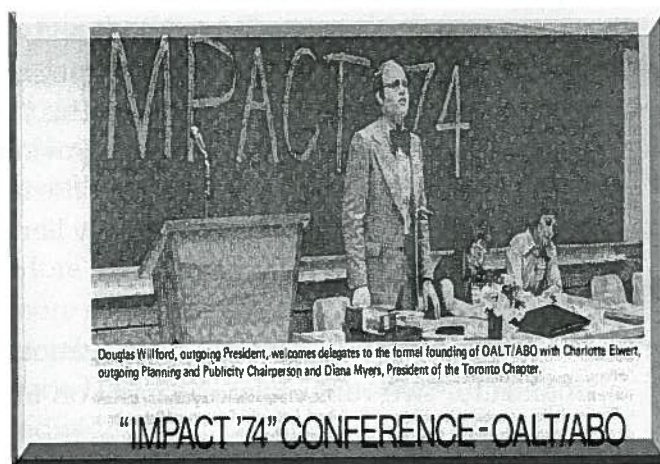
Along with invited Library Technician students, Library Technician Educators, staff from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities were also invited. The objective of the workshop was to discuss and make recommendations on the training and future directions for Library Technicians.



*Provincial Lifetime Membership Award*

At the conclusion of this two day workshop a number of recommendations were drafted; however, one of the major recommendations that evolved stressed that Library Technicians must take matters into their own hands and organize themselves into an Association.

With this thought in mind myself and a lady from Thunder Bay named Charlotte Elwert organized a meeting involving other interested Library Technicians and Library Technician Educators to discuss the possibility of organizing a provincial Library Technician Association. At this meeting an interim executive was elected with myself as President and Charlotte Elwert as Vice President. Our primary task was to draft a constitution which would be presented for acceptance and approval at the first conference to be held at the Leslie Campus of Seneca College. Thus in Oct. of 1974 OALT/ABO was founded!!!!



For a number of following years I was involved in various committees, groups and executives both at the provincial and regional level and have witnessed OALT/ABO grow and prosper to where it is today. At the conference in August of 1975 I was humbled when presented with a life membership at the provincial level. ♦

## Education Matters! ~ *By Dolores Harms Penner*

Happy New Year to the OALT/ABO members from the faculty and staff of the Library and Information Technician Program at Mohawk College! We hope that you've had a meaningful holiday season with family and friends, and that you're looking forward to the New Year. May it bring both personal and professional rewards and accomplishments.

At Mohawk our convocation is held annually in October. This past October we were very pleased to recognize 39 graduates from the library technician diploma program and 15 graduates from the records management certificate program.



We honoured five of our graduates in particular with awards based on their academic achievement: **Darlene Green and Susan Shaver with the Geraldine Hughes Cataloguing Award, Sharon Filiatrault and Sheila Howlett-Soltysiak with our Library Technician Award, and Patricia Marin with the OALT Award.** All of our graduates can be proud of their hard work in achieving their goal by completing the program.

*The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows*

~ *Sydney J. Harris*

Winter term courses in our program begin on Friday January 9. We had a successful fall term and expect that the same will be true for winter.

OALT members may be interested in taking courses in our program for professional development, and as a graduate library technician you can consider yourself as meeting the prerequisites for any course. Our courses are all taught online.

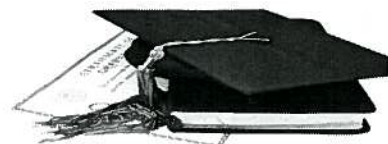
Our course offerings for upcoming terms are listed at <http://disted.mohawkcollege.ca/librec/library.html> under "next semester". Registration for spring term opens on March 9, 2009 and courses run from mid-May until mid-August.

On January 29-30, 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 Super Conference in Toronto. If you are at the conference, please stop by to say hello. ♦

If there are any questions about our courses, please contact me at 905-575-2309 or email [dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca)

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Harms Penner  
Program Manager  
Library and Information Technician Diploma Program  
Records and Information Management Certificate Program  
Mohawk College





Thursday, January 29, 2009 – 10:40 a.m.

Session #402

### **Moving Beyond: Different Directions for Library Technicians**

**Speakers:** Nanci Abbondanza, Program Manager, Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan, Manager, Library Resource Centre (LRC); Pam Casey, President, Information Now and Linda Pauloski, Manager, ArcelorMittal Dofasco Library Resource Centre with Ulla deStricker, President, deStricker Associates as facilitator.

Learn about the untraditional career path choices these three Library and Information Technicians have taken and how their careers have sent each of them in a vastly different direction than they might have envisioned for themselves. Hear their stories, and reflect on your own career choices!

Thursday, January 29, 2009 – 3:45 p.m.

Session #629 (formerly 1205)

### **Putting the School Library on the Map**

**Speakers:** Julie Fisher, Library Support Technician, Tara McLean, Library Support Technician, and Marilyn Willis, OSLA Vice President, Vice Principal Cherrytree Public School, Peel District School Board.

*"It's not having knowledge, but knowing where to get it. What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it feels about education."* ~ Harold Howe. If you are a teacher-librarian or a library technician working in a school library than this is the session for you. Find out how to put your library on the map by using your current team to heighten library exposure and make it the hub of the school. We will look at marketing and promotion strategies as well as increasing your staff circulation, maximizing your library staff, library makeovers, weeding, collection development and helping boost library budget.

Friday, January 30, 2009 Session #1005 – 9:05 a.m.

### **Prison Libraries: Connections to the Community**

**Speakers:** Joanne Lefebvre, Coordinator, Learning Disabilities Initiative, Collins' Bay Institution.

When you are behind bars, the Library becomes an important link to your successful re-entry into the community. How do prison libraries balance the order and quiet of the library with the noise and confusion of a penitentiary, while effectively providing resources to help with an offender's successful reintegration into society? Join Joanne as she shares the many unique challenges she has faced as a prison librarian.

Saturday, January 31, 2009 – 10:40 a.m.

Session # 1816

### **Cataloguing e-resources @ your library**

**Speakers:** Trina Grover, Librarian, Ryerson University Library

Gain an overview of the various methods of describing and providing access to online collections in libraries. Learn the current standards for cataloguing online journals and e-books, as well as recent developments for resource description and access of electronic resources.

OALT/ABO will also be on the Exhibit Floor, please look us up, we hope you'll stop by! ♦

*OALT/ABO is officially part of the OLA Conference Planning Team. If you are interested in volunteering for this role, please contact Maria Ripley [mariaripley5261@hotmail.com](mailto:mariaripley5261@hotmail.com)*



## Possibilites ~ Possibilités ~ *By Cyndi Smith*



Dear ladies and gentlemen of the OALT/ABO association:

I wanted to drop a line to each of you to keep you updated on the next Conference, and perhaps whet your appetite for the "menu" we are preparing. We're working away happily planning a varied bill of fare for you to choose from with speakers, tours, and topics, evenings, food and entertainment in the lovely area of Barrie, Ontario.

First, I'd like to introduce you to those who are working to create this for you: Heidi Northover of the Bradford area; Carolin Toppan, Maria Ripley, Maggie Weaver from the Toronto area; Tamara Monster and Kate Morrison from the Hamilton area and Jane Maxwell, Kay Bowen, Sharon Doyle, Lori Hallahan, Wendy Witzak, Lesley Worden-Huffman, Pat Worden and myself from the Barrie area. Additionally, there are two library technician students working with us on the team for their first experience, Cathy Golding-Corcoran and Monica Thorpe.



Topics that we are endeavoring to have for your selection range from:

fundraising for your library

- ▶ making a small library grow
- ▶ how to inculcate numerical literacy in youths through the library
- ▶ First Nations perspectives on libraries,
- ▶ Presenting like a professional
- ▶ Upgrading from library technician to a librarian
- ▶ Ethiopia experience of setting up a medical library
- ▶ Archiving web sites

We are hoping to offer two tours of interesting historic Barrie locales, and provide you with evenings from the local hospitalities.

So mark your calendars, ladies and gentlemen, for May 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of 2009 and prepare yourself for a relaxing trip to the Barrie area . . . We will be ready and waiting for you! ♦

Hope to see you there!

Yours truly,  
Cyndi Smith

2009 Conference Planning Chair

### Local programming survey

OALT/ABO Executive is determined to maintain local programming for members, even in regions where there are no longer chapters. But we're not sure what the most appropriate programming would be -- except to be certain that it will be different for each region!

So we will be surveying all members, whether or not you belong to a chapter, to find out what YOU would need or like to have in a location near you.

Look out for a short survey from Maggie Weaver, Chapter Coordinator, in your e-mail in January, or in your mail if you have asked us not to e-mail you.

And thanks in advance, for helping us to strengthen the association. ♦

## Calls for submissions ~ OALT/ABO Presidential Award



The purpose of the OALT/ABO Presidential Award is to recognize outstanding contributions or major achievements of an OALT/ABO member in promoting and / or developing the Association.

The award is presented annually to any full member, in good standing, of OALT/ABO excluding the current Provincial President, members of the Award Committee and past recipients. This award recognizes the contributions of Library Technicians from communities across Ontario, whose leadership, commitment and persistent endeavours have contributed significantly to advancing the Association and our profession.

The OALT / ABO Presidential Award Selection Committee consists of the previous award recipient and two additional members, in good standing, of OALT/ABO.

The Selection Committee will seek candidates who generally meet the following criteria:

- Member of OALT/ABO.
- Evidence that the Association has played a significant role in the individual's professional career.
- Demonstrated leadership in helping others achieve full participation in the library profession within the Association and/or within the work place.
- Outstanding contribution in building the Association, either regionally or provincially.
- Advanced recognition of the Library and Information Technician profession through publications, seminars, or workshops.

*To read without reflecting is like  
eating without digesting.  
~ Edmund Burke*

Two members in good standing, who are not related to the candidate, may sponsor candidates for the OALT / ABO Presidential Award.

**Confidential nominations must be submitted, in writing, by April 1st of each year.** The application form may be found on the web site, or obtained by contacting the current committee chairperson, Vicky Lynham. ♦

vicky.lynham@sympatico.ca

Confidential submissions should be addressed to:

Vicky Lynham  
OALT/ABO Presidential Award Committee  
Chairperson  
434 Kingsleigh Court  
Milton, ON L9T 1X8

*Come and Join Us in Beautiful*

**"Barrie by the Bay"**

**For the**

**2009 Conference of the OALT/ABO**

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**@**

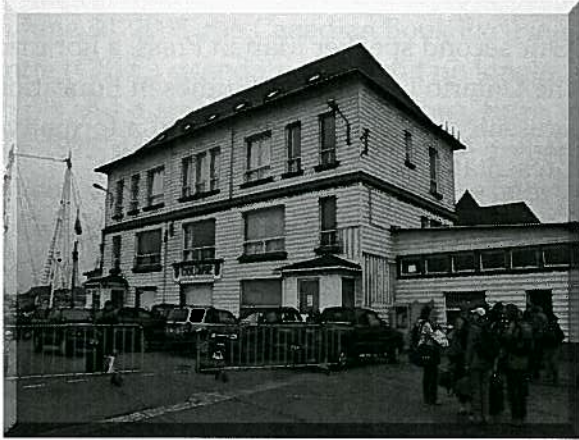
**Georgian College, Barrie Campus**

**1 Georgian Drive**

**Barrie, ON**

**<http://www.georgianc.on.ca/>**

## Visiting St. Pierre ~ *By Brenda Holz*



Last June I visited the municipal library on the island of St. Pierre at 6, rue Albert Briand. St. Pierre and Miquelon is part of France, but located off the coast of Newfoundland.

Despite there being only about 6,500 people on the island, the library is well stocked with the latest DVDs, books, magazines, kits for children, language learning, etc. There is material in both French and English. Their computers have "Cheznoo" Internet access available through SPM Telecom.

They are closed Mondays and Saturdays, but open 9 - 6 Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 - 5 Fridays, and 2 - 6 on Tuesdays. The library has a beautiful "book-staircase" made out of oak wood and wrought iron which leads to the second floor. There are large windows and lots of comfortable, brightly coloured furniture to encourage sitting and reading. The librarians were very friendly and gave me a large plastic book bag that had a map of St. Pierre and Miquelon with all of the attractions highlighted.



The French government makes sure that everything on St. Pierre and Miquelon is modern and up to French standards, especially since 60% of the population works for the French government! The other 40% are seniors, students or children. Now that there is a moratorium on cod fishing, the main industry is tourism with a little snow crab and other seafood fishing on the side.



I wonder if it is really true, that there is no poverty or homelessness there? But they have other common problems. During my visit I noticed a poster in the library window advertising a program for coping with teen drug addiction. At the waterfront, there was also a poster of a missing teen who had vanished almost a year earlier.



I spent two nights in St. Pierre (one sunny day and one foggy and wet) but it was a lovely seaside town when the sun shines and it is certainly off the beaten track. ♦

**Editor's note:** Brenda graciously sent me over a dozen photos of her journey. It was hard to pick and chose. Her son, Kirk, photographed this little piece of paradise. Please feel free to email Brenda if you wish to see more of the photography. It is worth while.

## EX LIBRIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Many thanks to Douglas Willford for this article ~

The past years since retiring have allowed me additional time to explore my family roots and in so doing I have discovered that genealogy is more than just trying to find that ever elusive relative or why and how I acquired the middle name of VanNorman. Yes, today genealogy has taken on a whole new meaning not only to myself but to the many other individuals who have undertaken the daunting task of chasing down their ancestry.



When Ex Libris announced that its AGM held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the North York Central Public Library was themed on genealogy, I did not hesitate to send in my registration. Scotland. Sadly, one of the invited speakers Mr. Paul McGrath a leading genealogist died while in Scotland.

His replacement Sharon Murphy, who runs a professional genealogy company called "Timelines" in Cobourg, Ontario, gave an excellent presentation on the positive aspects of hiring a professional genealogist to conduct the research. ([www.timelinesresearch.com](http://www.timelinesresearch.com))

Ms Murphy stressed that it is up to the individual to decide when to hire a genealogist. Some things to keep in mind are: time, depth of research you wish completed, budget, experience of the researcher, consultation process and good follow-up. She also pointed out that there should be a process put in place if you are not pleased with the results such as discussing the situation and coming up with a resolution.

Our second speaker Marian Press, a librarian at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education presented a most interesting and informative presentation on "wired genealogy".



Ms. Press demonstrated how the internet has completely changed the way genealogy is done. The old tried and true methods of research: writing of letters to relatives, traveling to far away cemeteries and libraries has all but disappeared and been replaced with online databases, indexes and other genealogically-relevant sites.

In her presentation Ms. Press gave us an overview of what is available on the internet for family historians from the most basic birth, marriage and death indexes to the more experimental Web 2.0 sites that are being developed. Anyone wishing to receive a listing of these sites, please, send me an email and I will forward them to you.

[dwillford@cogeco.ca](mailto:dwillford@cogeco.ca)

Following these presentations there was a very interesting tour of the Canadiana Room at of the North York Central Library which houses the Ontario Genealogical Society collection. All in all it was a most enjoyable day. Anyone interested in joining Ex Libris can contact me at the email given above or check out the website at: <http://exlibris.ischool.utoronto.ca/> ◇

## CBEC RIP ~ By Nicole Watier



On June 30, 2008, the Canadian Book Exchange Centre (CBEC) closed its doors and no longer accepts and distributes material. The Centre, open since 1973, acted as intermediary in the exchange of thousands of books between libraries and increased the collections of many small libraries.

Over the years clients have said:

*"Very useful for filling gaps in our periodical collection." Belleville Public Library (Belleville, Ontario)*

*"As a new university college, we have found the CBEC useful for filling in gaps in periodicals holdings and for monographs collection development." University College of the Cariboo (Kamloops, B.C.)*

*"I visited the CBEC in May 1991 and in May 1997 and found the staff exceptional to work with!" Peel District School Board (Mississauga, Ontario)*

Unfortunately, the Centre had to close for various reasons. Those cited in the official press release were: "Over the past 10 years, the number of incoming publications to the Centre has declined by more than 60 percent. In addition, nearly 70 percent of the material received must be destroyed and recycled. Library and Archives Canada (LAC) maintains that there are more efficient and economical ways to support libraries in their resource sharing activities."

So what does a library do when they are in need of material or have material to give? The Canadian Book Exchange Centre still exists but in the virtual form of a listserv. For more information, view their website:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/cbec-ccel>

And of course, don't forget about the OALT/ABO discussion list

<http://www.oaltabo.on.ca> ♦



Le 30 juin 2008, le Centre canadien d'échange du livre (CCEL) a fermé ses portes et par conséquent a cessé d'accepter et de distribuer de la documentation. Le centre, existe depuis 1973, agissait comme intermédiaire dans l'échange de milliers de livres entre les bibliothèques et agrandissait les collections de nombreuses petites bibliothèques.

Au fil des ans les clients ont dit:

*"Merci pour votre excellent service!" Hôpital Louis-H-Lafontaine (Montréal, Québec)*

*"J'apprécie le libellé qui accompagne chaque liste, i.e. Monographies spéciales, Fiction/Roman, etc." Bibliothèque de l'Université Saint-Paul (Ottawa, Ontario)*

*"Vous faites un excellent travail et vous nous aidez à compléter nos collections. Merci." Collège Laval (Laval, Québec)*

Malheureusement, le Centre a dû fermer ses portes pour plusieurs raisons. Celles citées étaient soulignées dans le communiqué de presse officiel: "Au cours des 10 dernières années, le nombre de publications reçues par le Centre a diminué de plus de 60 %. En outre, près de 70 % des documents reçus doivent être détruits et recyclés. Bibliothèque et Archives Canada (BAC) soutient qu'il existe des moyens plus efficaces et économiques d'aider les bibliothèques à mettre en commun leurs ressources documentaires."

Alors, que fait une bibliothèque qui a besoin de documentation ou qui a du matériel à donner ? Le Centre existe maintenant en format virtuel comme liste de diffusion. Pour plus d'informations, consultez leur site Web:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/cbec-ccel>

Et bien sur, n'oubliez pas la liste de discussion d'OALT/ABO

<http://www.oaltabo.on.ca> ♦

## FROM THE REFERENCE COUNTER TO THE CIRCULATION COUNTER ~ Stepping down or stepping across ~ *By Cyndi Smith*

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I recently changed positions in an academic library; I moved from a part time position as a Reference Library Technician to a full time position as a Customer Service Clerk. I began working in a library at what used to be called the Circ desk and I was interested in how much easier the work would be to go back to this area of the library.



I had no other prejudices as I believe very firmly that the front doors and counter of the library are the heart and soul of it. I was correct in my assumption that the work would be easier but I had forgotten how much harder it would be overall in comparison to the Reference desk. I was also unaware that my work could be viewed to be of much less importance than my work in Reference.

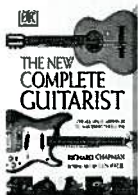
At the Reference desk, I may have spent twenty minutes with one student, used all of my knowledge in one area of research and spent much of my mental energy to demonstrate and inculcate in the student literacy with information and the research process. Here at the customer service desk, in that same twenty minutes, I may serve students, faculty, fellow staff members and community users, from one of four service stations and offer a range of help that includes: directions; login help; password activation for off campus use of databases; phone transactions; room key allocations; video bookings; reserve material processing; book check ins or outs; on the spot item record editing; photocopier aid;

*Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested. ~Sir Francis Bacon*

Scantron troubleshooting; call number reading tutorials; shelf reading lessons; interlibrary loan searches; data processing; clerical record keeping; statistical recording, shelf search for materials, relief for staff lunches, amongst many other things the library.

The sheer speed of the transactions, the high volume of patrons, the mental shifts required to change this many gears in mid stride and the diversity of the kind of tasks may be called upon to perform is mind numbing on certain days. And to do so with a smile and grin to make sure they come back to the library.

Yet, I would definitely state, that I feel challenged by this in a positive and refreshing way. Perhaps not as I once did, in an academic, intellectual sense but with an emotional and mental value that is visceral and palpable. It is a pleasure to be of such importance in such a minute and current manner. The Customer service desk is alive with action and challenge, excitement and stress – it is fulfilling to be challenged to take all these minor daily mysteries and bring them to a successful resolution. It is fulfilling to offer students the reassurance and help in smaller ways that they need in order to cope with the weightier matters of research and examinations further on in the day or their student career. I feel pleasantly powerful to be making such a large difference to faculty and staff, students and community users by providing such small but very important services. It gives such great pleasure to be able to say I make a difference every day with not only the quantity of work but the quality of work I offer on a daily basis. It is seen in the smooth running of the library due to all the efforts of all of us in this department and on the faces of the people we finish serving. It is a joyful and positive place to share talents and work. ♦



*The New Complete Guitarist, by Richard Chapman.*

Dorling Kindersley, 2003. \$25.00

Books about guitar tend to fall into certain categories: instructional, historical, genre-based or technical. *The New Complete Guitarist* covers all of these areas in one concise, relatively compact volume.

Beginning with a short history of the instrument, the author briefly describes the main types of guitars played today before delving into how to play. More than half of the book is devoted to this; beginning with how to hold the guitar, picking techniques and basic chords, the reader can advance at their own pace through scales and rhythms up through jazz progressions and voicing's and many other subjects. Most styles of music are represented, from rock to flamenco. Each chapter is very short, but is only intended as an introduction: this keeps the book compact. The end of the book is devoted to amplification, discussing some of the major types of amplifiers and effects and how they can be best put to use.

Lavishly illustrated in colour (like all DK books), with easy to read diagrams, *The New Complete Guitarist* is an excellent introduction to the subject; yet even though it is an introduction, there is something for all levels of player. *The New Complete Guitarist* would be suitable for intermediate and high school libraries. If you can only have one guitar book for your library, consider it. ♦



Please join us in extending a warm welcome to the following Institutes and Individuals!

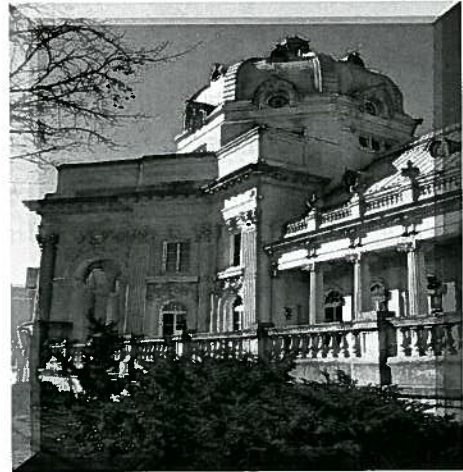
- |   |   |   |                   |
|---|---|---|-------------------|
| ★ | Lambton College Library Resource Centre | ★ | Kathleen Wong     |
| ★ | Cindy Wong                              | ★ | Svetlana Motyleva |
| ★ | Jacklyn Popowich                        | ★ | Karin Trounce     |
| ★ | Volodymyr Hula                          | ★ | Jocelyn Hanna     |
| ★ | Tony Mustillo                           | ★ | Monica Thorpe     |
| ★ | Patricia Marin                          | ★ | Nicolle McKinnon  |
| ★ | Judith Mitchell                         | ★ | Allison Harrison  |
| ★ | Andrew Patrick                          |   |                   |
| ★ | Lindsay Richards                        |   |                   |

*Books, books again, and books once more!  
 These are our theme, which some miscall  
 Mere madness, setting little store  
 By copies either short or tall.  
 But you, O slaves of shelf and stall!  
 We rather write for you that hold  
 Patched folios dear, and prize "the small,  
 Rare volume, black with tarnished gold.  
 ~ Austin Dobin*

## What's architecture got to do with it? ~ By Kathleen Crewdson

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Last summer, my partner and I drove with my daughter and her boyfriend from London, Ontario to Winchester, Virginia. She was returning to Shenandoah University and we were tagging along. We prepared for this ten hour five states later trip by reading Deer Hunting With Jesus: Dispatches from Americas Class War by Joe Bageant, a Winchester native. We also surfed the web and checked out all the "what to do and see" sites when in the city of Winchester and Frederick County.



Winchester is situated in the Shenandoah Valley or commonly known as the Big Valley. The Valley stretches 200 miles across the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains and is immortalized in song, dance, film and television.

Historically Winchester, previously called Frederick Town, was a key strategic position for the Confederate States' Army since it is located at the north end of the upper Shenandoah Valley. It was a base of operations for major Confederate invasions into the northern United States, at times threatening the capital of Washington, D.C. Winchester and the surrounding area was the site of numerous fights during the American Civil War as both contending armies strove to control that portion of the Shenandoah Valley. Seven major battlefields are within the extent of the original Frederick County. During the Civil War, this region was nicknamed "The Breadbasket of the Confederacy" because of its fertile rolling landscape.

*The world is a book, and those who do not  
travel, read only a page  
~ Saint Augustine*

Today, Winchester is a town in the midst of change. It is a city steeped in heritage, from pre-Colonial times to modern-day history makers with a population of under 24,000 according to the 2000 census. It typifies an American rural community complete with an abundance of strip malls, a brick-lined historic district and a younger college crowd. This town is not only expanding in all directions, but an upscale presence has been sneaking in recently.

Driving through Winchester's historic district the next day, our tour guides point out highlights. The smell of gunpowder is in the air! Want to watch a Civil War reenactment? Visit Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters museum? or how about George Washington's Office? You can just mosey on down the street because local heritage is waiting to be discovered by you. The City of Winchester encourages everyone to experience a little piece of Civil War history – tourism is alive and well and the locals are very proud of it.

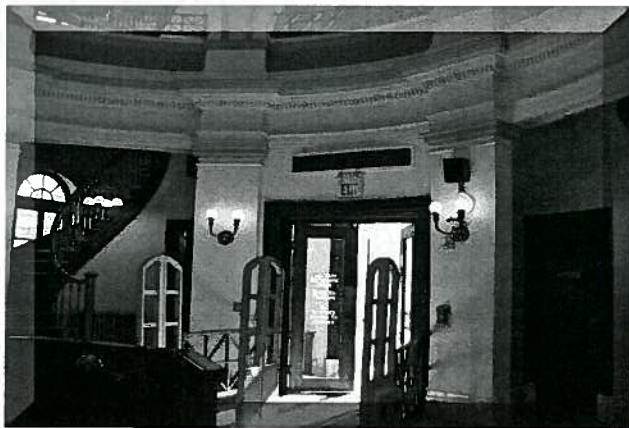
The Handley Regional Library stands right smack in the centre of this historical framework at the well-traveled intersection of Braddock and Piccadilly. It stands out as incredible monument to architecture, especially for a city this size. An awesome sight!



## What's architecture got to do with it? ~ cont'd

This is a vision of the future back from when H.G. Wells wrote *In the Days of the Comet*. In the age of empire builders like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller, this ambitious plan of a local wealthy Irish philanthropist was not just idle or wishful thinking, for he and his local friends acted quickly to put into place this temple of learning and education for all.

The Handley Library was a gift to the city of Winchester from Judge John Handley, who although born in Ireland, was a resident of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Judge Handley greatly admired Virginia and its style of life. With only several brief visits to Winchester he came to identify with the town and its Scottish-Irish heritage. In his will he bequeathed \$250,000 for the erection of a great library "for the free use of the people of Winchester". Although Handley died in 1895, the library was not begun until 1908. The architects for the building were J. Stewart Barney and Henry Otis Chapman of New York. The final cost of the building and furnishings in 1913 was \$233,230.28



*Give thy mind to books and libraries, and the literature and lore of the ages will give thee the wisdom of sage and seer.*

*~ Newell D. Hillis*

The Handley Library opened in 1913 as a public library and is probably the best example of *Beaux-Arts* architecture in Virginia. More than 30 years ago, the Winchester newspaper reported that the building "creates impressive, almost exhilarating spaces" and that "generosity, airiness and a nobility, or rather an ennobling feeling, are the words that come to mind throughout the building's four stories of book stacks." As we walk up the stairs into this heritage building, we can see the "open book" as mentioned in our tourist pamphlet. The spine of the book is where the entrance is, with wings to the left and right, representing the rest of the open pages.

Inside we take many pictures of a bronze statue of a girl seated on a wooden bench reading a book; the three story rotunda which leads to the stained glass dome, and historic light fixtures. The entranceway serves as the reception and check-out area and library offices flank the room on the first and second levels. The book stacks, located directly opposite the entranceway, consist of five levels with glass floors to take advantage of the window light. The two wings are used as reading rooms and feature projecting wooden-paneled chimney walls.

The neighborhood is dominated by the bright green of the verdigris of the copper domed roof. The building was remarkably advanced for its time with its fine facilities and fireproof construction. ♦



## What's architecture got to do with it? ~ cont'd

In the basement of the Handley Regional Library lies another gem - the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives. The archives offer an extensive collection of research materials of benefit to historical and genealogical researchers on the Shenandoah Valley. The archives are operated jointly by the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society and the Handley Regional Library. The archives include manuscripts from the 1730s to the present, maps, more than 15,000 photographs and 500 published books. Special collections include Civil War Collection; Rare local newspapers; and Virginia Collection. Genealogy databases are available to in-house researchers such as Heritage Quest, Ancestry and recently Footnote.

Today the Handley Regional Library is the central facility for the library system that serves Winchester, Frederick and Clarke counties. Current statistics taken from American Library Directory 2008 - 2009 identify the service population as 100,000 and circulation transactions as 599,345. The library offers wireless access to the internet and its current library automation system is Library Solution, previously Dynix.

Handley Regional Library is everything a big, fancy American library wants to be. You walk into Handley library and you immediately feel welcomed into a place you know you can spend hours at if you want. You are encouraged to take pictures and ooh and ahh at the stained glass interior dome in the rotunda or the three-storey lighting fixtures and twin spiral stairs. Customer service is alive and well - we can almost hear echoes of "Y'all come back and see us sometime now, ya heah", as we walk out of the library. ♦

Links of note - Slideshow  
1913 - 2003 90 years of  
Serving the Public :

Handley Regional Library  
website:  
[http://www.hrl.lib.state.  
va.us/handley/default.asp](http://www.hrl.lib.state.va.us/handley/default.asp)



### **WHAT'S NEW & WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MEMBERS!**

As of October I'm back on the Executive of the Milton Tennis Club - this time I'm Secretary. (I've been on/off that Executive most of my life. Most recently on as President, President, Past-President, President, President run.)

As of June I became co-president of the Wellington Waterloo Dufferin Health Library Network. <http://www.wwdhln.ca/> Our Website says we're affiliated with CHLA (Canadian Health Libraries Association) but their site says we're a Chapter! (Took me a while to understand the history is this group!) <http://www.chla-absc.ca/?q=en/node/49> I'm a member of both of them just to be sure (and OHLA and OLA). Gee, what else?

Cheers,

Tracy Morgan (Halton-Peel)



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### Our Web Development Team!

Wendy Witzak has been working at Georgian College's Library Commons for the last 4 years, transitioning from a clerical position in the circulation/customer service department to a Library Technician in the reference department. She has also been working in the circulation department of Barrie Public Library for the past three years.

A recent graduate with Honours from Mohawk College's Library and Information Technician online distance education diploma program, she also has a prior Business diploma and is now taking some 'just for fun' courses. ♦

Angela is currently the Senior Technical Coordinator, Electronic Products, Canadian Research Services at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. In this role, Angela is responsible for portal content management and managing her library's knowledge repositories. Angela is passionate about Web 2.0 technologies and blogs at *mélange* (<http://angelacw.wordpress.com>).

When she's not connected to the interwebs, she enjoys cross-stitch, photography, gardening, and floral arranging. Angela lives in Maple with her son, Brandon and husband, Keith. ♦



As always, thanks for keeping your association alive and running. Please continue to write and tell us about your life in libraries.

The Deadline for the next newsletter will be **April 3rd, 2009**. Saying this, I will accept submissions at any point prior to the date. Thank you to all those members who continue to write and share their articles with us.

- 1000 - 1500 words
- (I will accept longer submissions if room permits.)
- MS WORD Document (NOT VISTA)
- Photos can be submitted in black and white or colour. Please send as a jpg file.

The lives of Library Technicians come in all forms ~ Add yours to the next newsletter!

<http://angelacw.wordpress.com>

<http://www.catalogablog.blogspot.com/>

<http://orweblog.oclc.org/>

<http://librarytechnician.wikispaces.com/>

<http://librarytechnician.wordpress.com/>

<http://librarydude.blogspot.com/>

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