

Infotech

Summer 1999

OALT/ABO Gets a New Mission



Jenny Amy (L) and Nanci Abbondanza display the new OALT/ABO mission statement.

On March 27, at the Regional Directors' Meeting, a new mission statement for OALT/ABO was created during a workshop facilitated by Jenny Amy, a former instructor of Sheridan's Library and Information Technician Program. After a lively discussion that lasted for all morning, the directors hammered out a new mission statement for the organization that will carry us through into the new millenium. The new mission of OALT/ABO is to advance our profession through:

- Active membership
- Education and professional development
- Promotion and marketing
- Partnerships and advocacy

Halton-Peel Member a Winner at ABM

At the Annual General Meeting on March 25th the Eva Schnurr Memorial award was presented. This award is in remembrance of Eva Schnurr and is for the Continuing

Education student with high academic achievement and expected by faculty to make a significant contribution to the field. The 1998 recipient of this award is Connie Grant. Connie started the LIT program in 1994 and finished this past December. Her educational background includes a Bachelors of Arts, Honours, in Economics and Political Science, a Masters of Arts in Economics and a Micro Computer Applications Certificate. Connie's work history has varied from being both a Policy Economist and a Research Economist for the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism to working as a tax preparer. She is currently working in St. Elizabeth's school in Cambridge where she also lives with her husband and 5 children. Congratulations Connie!!

After receiving the award Connie asked me to convey her thanks and appreciation to the Association for the award and for the gift which will be a valued memento.

Glenn Berg

Rave Reviews for Perspectives 99

According to all Halton-Peel members who attended Perspectives 99 was a hit! The following remarks were contributed by those members luck enough to have been in Sudbury for the conference.

*Nanci Abbondanza
President, OALT/ABO*

I'd like to thank Linda Davis and the Sudbury region for hosting an excellent conference.

The workshops that I attended were fantastic. The delegates that I spoke to who attended other sessions found them to be just as informative. The weather was wonderful and I managed to enjoy a little bit

of the sunshine in between attending sessions, meetings, eating and the great entertainment. I even learned Irish Dancing at the banquet which was something that was not in my original agenda! The road trip was a lot of fun and I hope that we have time to stop for mini golf on our way to Ottawa next year.

For those members who were unable to attend, presentations from selected workshops will be available on the OALT/ABO website in the next few weeks along with minutes and presentations from the ABM and Focus 2000.

Looking forward to seeing you in Ottawa in 2000!

Marg Bushell:

Congratulations to Janet Scheibler (Huronian) recipient of this year's Presidential Award at Perspectives '99 conference in Sudbury.

Janet was a founding member of her Region and has been very active since its inception in 1979. She worked on steering committees for membership recruitment and regional constitution. Over nine years, she held the offices of secretary, director, treasurer, and president. Janet has been a committee member of the three Conferences hosted by Huronia and managed the responsibilities of treasurer, registration and accommodation. For over ten years she has served as OALT/ABO's archivist and continues to hold this position. Although she has retired from her position in Technical Services at the Orangeville Public Library in 1997, Janet continues to be a dedicated and active member. OALT/ABO presents this award in appreciation of Janet's outstanding contributions!



Gisela Smithson:

I have just come back from Sudbury from the PERSPECTIVES'99 Conference and wish to congratulate the Lohania branch for a terrific job. They only have 19 members! Everything went smoothly, if there were any hitches I for one did not notice. ACCOLADES!!!! So much effort involved for 60? participants. If possible everyone should try,

and save, to come next year. If our association is to survive we must participate and attending a conference is of prime importance. A retired member came up to Sudbury with me and paid her own way entirely.

I received the 25th Anniversary OALT/ABO award. A beautiful pen engraved with '25th Anniversary OALT/ABO'. Nice to be remembered for long service.

Hope to see you all in Merrickville next year!

Now a few words from the President.....

Greetings to all the Members of Halton-Peel. As we start a new executive year we have a few new faces on our team.

Terry Stone and Jennifer Gardner are sharing the Secretaries duties. They are both recent graduates of the Sheridan LIT program.

Erin MacIntyre is handling the Publicity. She had just completed 1st year of the Sheridan LIT program and will be graduating in 2000.

Tracy Morgan has assumed the role of Job Liaison. She has been a long standing member and is a great advisor to me.

Sean Crowe is continuing on as Director.

Vicky Lynham is continuing as Treasurer.

Christy Moye and Susan Salhia are continuing as our Newsletter Editors.

I thank them all for taking on these positions.

I would also like to thank Past President, Nancy Drew for her continuous support as she takes on the role of Vice President

At Halton-Peel's Annual meeting this year changes to Halton-Peel Constitution were presented and voted on. The motion was

passed and the changes accepted. A copy of our amended constitution will be sent out in the near future to all members.

I decided to take on the role as President again because I felt that I hadn't quite finished the job I started back in 1996.

I feel that this association continually needs new ideas and should always be making necessary changes to keep this organization strong and useful to all members.

As we start planning activities for this year we are always interested in what you have to say. If you have something you would like to have us plan for the membership please contact any member of the executive. Or contact me at (905) 842-5820 or diane@ica.net.

I am looking forward this another great year and I am looking forward to seeing you at the next event.

Diane Baksa

Call for 2001 Conference Volunteers

As most of you know, Halton-Peel region will be hosting the 2001 OALT/ABO conference. To run a successful conference, we will need the help of some energetic HP members. We are hoping to form committees that will organize and oversee the planning of our conference. At this time we are only putting out a call to members who have some genuine interest in becoming a part of what will be the first congress of OALT/ABO in the new millennium. Your talents are needed! Here is an example of the committees that we hope to form.

- Accommodations and facilities
- Programs and workshops
- Registration
- Social
- Sponsorship

..etc.

We will also be looking for that special person that will co-ordinate this effort by

helping the committees communicate with each other, the Chair. The outcome of this event will be a directed result of a team effort by the Chair and committees. Though HP members that currently serve as Executive on the Provincial and Regional levels of OALT/ABO are invited to sit on committees and participate, this effort is not to be organized as a direct result of the decisions of the Executive body. It is your conference.

If you are interested, or want more information, on how to become part of this rewarding venture, please e-mail me at info@oaltabo-hp.on.ca by June 28th, 1999. If you would like to speak to me in person, you can reach me at 905-668-6531 x30 during normal business hours.

Best regards,
Sean Crowe, Director
OALT/ABO Halton-Peel Branch

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: PROVINCIAL ABM

Sudbury Perspectives '99 – May 15, 1999
Sean Crowe, Director

Sudbury region put on a fantastic conference and provided a warm welcome to all visiting delegates. I am hoping that in 2001 we will be able to treat our Sudbury friends with an equally excellent reception.

The hot topics this year revolved around the future direction of our association. The following is only a brief summary of the proceedings and is no substitute for actually attending the Annual Business Meeting in person.

JOINING OLA

A couple of regions have made a formal request that the Provincial Executive investigate the possibility of OALT/ABO joining OLA. Our Provincial President, Nanci Abbondanza, and Vice-President, Pam Casey took this project on and presented their report at the ABM. The outcome in brief was that OLA found it confusing of why we would want to join OLA. In their opinion we have too much to give up for what would be

offered in return. They offered the example of the recent addition to OLA, the AFO. Since merging with OLA this group has given up their charter, mission and their executive. The question is, do we want to give that up? As well as letting go of our official bilingual status and annual conference? At the same time, OLA is rethinking their objectives and structure. The question was asked whether it was asked if this should continue to be a priority to the OALT/ABO executive in the coming year. Members present at the ABM indicated that this issues should not remain a priority to our elected executive body.

MONEY MATTERS

The Provincial Treasurer, Chris Carmichael gave her report and the provincial level of OALT/ABO needs to watch our spending. At this point we are still running at a slight surplus. As a member of the Board of Directors, we will be asked to make hard decisions. These decisions will prioritize our provincial spending so that it translates into added value for current members, and strengthens our province-wide membership base.

The Treasurer also presented the final aspects of her centralized membership initiative. This inspired a lively discussion between the regions. A summary of this issue is that incoming membership needs to be uniformed and streamlined. All membership forms being sent to the Provincial Treasurer would accomplish this. It would cut down on the turn around time as well as give our association a professional and uniformed pubic presence. Once the Provincial Treasurer has the cash in hand, the new member information is passed onto the regions in monthly reports. It was suggested that during non-renewal time, an e-mail could be passed on immediately for inform the regional executive of the new member addition. Cash would be reconciled on a bi-monthly basis. It was carefully noted that this is a work in progress and we will be working out the bugs in the system, and procedures over the next year.

A key part of this effort is a standard fee structure for the entire province. We are most fortunate that these fees reflect our current fee structure with the exception of the institutional membership fees being lowered to \$80.00 per year for two members (more details to follow).

This motion was passed after much debate. It was agreed that this is the direction we will follow for the time being, and this format will be review on a annual basis. We also changed the Provincial constitution as indicated below.

(Article 1b add "including membership" to the end of the paragraph; By-laws 1b to read, "Of the annual membership fees levied by OALT/ABO, the following amounts will be retained by the Provincial treasurer with the balance being remitted to the appropriate region"; By-law 8 to read: "Membership year is October to September"; Previous By-law 8 to be numbered 9; Previous 9 to be numbered 10; Previous 10 to be numbered 11)

RATIFICATION

Ratification of Board motions was passed.

WEB WATCH

The new shape of the Internet committee was unveiled. Pam Casey announced the dissolving of the Internet committee as it has stood previously. Regional representation will not be present to guide the direction of this medial presence. Instead, all members of OALT/ABO are invited to forward additions, comments and queries on the web site to the new committee. This committee is comprised of Pam Casey, Nanci Abbondanza, Ronn Cheney, Angela Carito-Walmsley. (www.interlog.com/~oaltabo)

Pam Casey also shared with us a sneak peek of the revised OALT/ABO web site. This

revision boasts a streamlined presentation that uses frames.

It was also noted that key sections of the web site will be officially translated into French.

REGIONAL OPINIONS

Huronian region conducted a survey that was distributed to current as well as expired members. The return was in excess of 50%. The finding concluded that people want workshops and professional networking opportunities first. Next they wanted felt that meetings, newsletters and fair warning of times and locations of meeting. Social activities were seen as not important.

The response to that survey represents some very good ideas and suggestions. As a director I have read between the lines. Many of the responses address issues that are taken from a misinformed vantagepoint. This is where we have failed to get the word out and pass on professionally related information to all members effectively. We are addressing this problem with our PR campaign. I just hope that we are not too late. If you would like to read this survey, drop me an e-mail (harcrowe@globalserve.net) and provide me with your fax number.

TELEPHONE PROPOSAL

I presented the OALT/ABO Telephone Proposal to the attendees at the ABM. This is an initiative that would see our association having a telephone and voice-mail system where members and potential members could contact the provincial and regional executive, request information and membership forms. (once again, e-mail me and I will fax you a copy of this proposal) This idea was widely accepted and generated quite a bit of interest and feedback. We were reminded of the delicate nature of our financial situation and several alternatives were discussed. We settled on looking into this matter over the Summer. Corporate sponsorship, regional and personal donations are all possible sources of capital to support this project.

Vice-President Has New Directive

Our President, Nanci Abbondanza announced at the 1999 conference, that the association would be undertaking the project of acquiring corporate sponsorships. I have been given this project.

I have started a list of what items corporations could sponsor. I also have a list of possible sponsors.

I would appreciate any help in adding to this list so if you could send me any names of possible sponsors or any ideas of items to be sponsored. Please send it to pc83480@glaxowellcome.com or pcasey@cgocable.net.

Any idea or name is wanted. So send your thoughts today!!

**The Halton-Peel web site now has
this year's tentative schedule of
upcoming events.
You can view it at**

<http://www.oaltabc.hp.on.ca>

1999-2000 Executive

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If you have any questions or suggestions
please don't hesitate to contact any member of
the Executive.