

Some words from our President

Greetings everyone. I trust everyone had a restful holiday, with not too much "cold and flu" to spoil the festivities.

Our next meeting will be the annual business meeting on Saturday, March 22, 1997. We are still hoping to have a meeting and tour of the new Barrie Public Library. Exact time and other details will follow in the meeting notice.

Although we do not have an official "Nomination Committee" we will definitely be looking for a Vice-President, and possibly a director, so for those of you not currently holding an executive position, please consider one of these!

Also, please remember to bring a map of your work location to the next meeting, so Pat Henry can add it to our "map/location file".

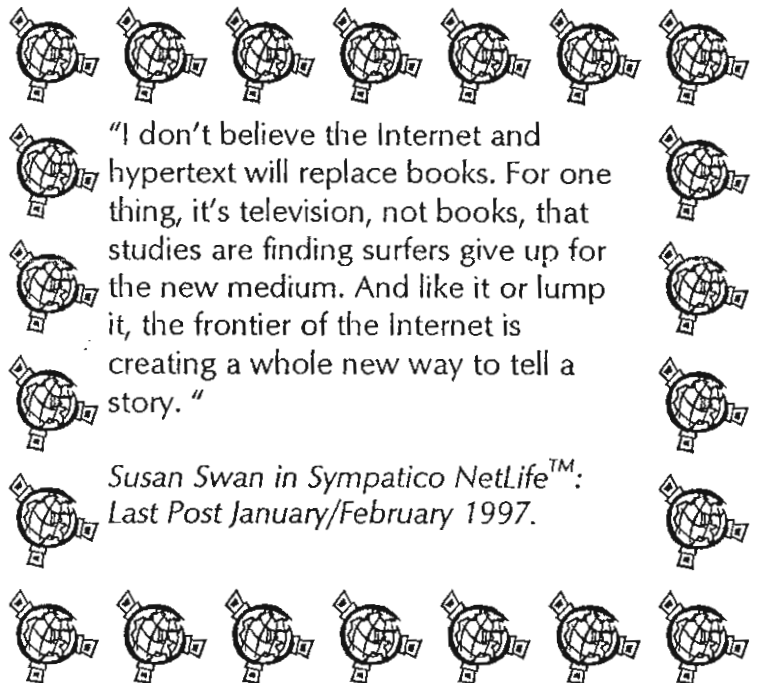
I hope to see everyone at the March meeting, and remember, feel free to bring a co-worker to any meeting.

Gale

How many of you have access to the Internet — at home or at work? Send me your e-mail address and I will put it in the next issue. JI

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"I don't believe the Internet and hypertext will replace books. For one thing, it's television, not books, that studies are finding surfers give up for the new medium. And like it or lump it, the frontier of the Internet is creating a whole new way to tell a story."

*Susan Swan in Sympatico NetLife™:
Last Post January/February 1997.*

Meet William Land

During the recent OALT/ABO - Huronia Regional Branch meeting, Gayle Moreau asked me to provide a profile for inclusion in an upcoming issue of our newsletter.

Following my graduation from the Library Techniques Program at Cambrian College in Sudbury, I returned to my parents' home in Elliot Lake for the summer. At that time, I didn't realize that I'd be staying in my hometown for ten years and, after working in almost every library in the city, would leave for another Northern Ontario community!

In August, 1980, I began my first full-time position with the Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology - Elliot Lake Campus. It was my first chance to use my newly acquired education and to develop work skills.

I enjoyed the opportunity to be part of a progressive library and found the work challenging and rewarding. In 1983, my position was eliminated due to downsizing. In October, I started my second job with the Elliot Lake Secondary School - Learning Resource Centre.

In a different type of academic library, I was exposed to a variety of situations; many of which I hadn't previously encountered during my work experience. This was a ten-month position each year. I found it difficult financially during the summer months, having to rely primarily on unemployment insurance for income.

An opportunity to work at the Elliot Lake Public Library presented itself in 1987. I changed jobs

once more. I enjoyed working with many of the people on staff and developed more skills.

In 1990, Elliot Lake was experiencing economic change due to uranium mine closures in the area. I felt my position may be lost if the library staff were reduced when the population lowered (it's classier

to leave before you're asked!). I found another job. In August, I relocated to North Bay to join the personnel of the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services - Staff Library.

It was both exciting and frightening to leave behind my family and friends for new environs. The first two years in this job were very rewarding. I had the opportunity to learn and develop my computer skills with automated library systems and word processing when the processes of changing from manual to automated records were investigated and implemented.

In life, many good things must come to an end; this was true of the Staff Library. In August,

1992, an announcement was made that the library staff would be reduced. I would be administering library services! This was positive for me, but unfortunately, much of the funding for effective services were cut: the acquisitions and online literature searching budgets were eliminated, and only subscription to core serials were retained.

Without current resources or progressive growth, the library services and collections become quickly dated and less useful. Patrons learned to look



Bill Land at the Annual Meeting
Collingwood, May 1996

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where to meet their research needs. At some point in 1993, I became bored in this position. Still I was lucky to have a job during these tough economic times.

In December, 1994, I was offered a position with the Huronia Regional Centre (HRC) to manage the Library. I would remain employed in the Ontario Public Service, but with a different ministry (Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services). I moved to Orillia and started work at HRC in February, 1995.

This relocation has proven to be a learning experience. It brought much change personally and the job is less positive than I had expected it would be. Due to a change in government and a new acting manager, this job has turned out to be quite different than what I was led to believe.

The cutbacks affecting the HRC Library of 1995 and 1996 are mirroring what had happened at Correctional Services. Ontario government libraries are either drastically downsizing or closing. Currently, I am seeking other employment opportunities.

In 1983, I joined OALT/ABO as a member of the Sudbury Regional Branch. In 1990, at the urging of Linda Davis, I agreed to become the Newsletter Editor, a position I filled for two terms. I enjoyed it very much as I learned new skills.

Bette Gore Choquette had requested that I run for the Provincial Executive as Secretary for 1992-1993. To my unexpected surprise, I gave in and won the election!

I enjoyed this role very much. Unfortunately, it was the right challenge in the wrong year as I experienced much distress, change, and growth in my personal life during 1992 and 1993. At the end of my term, I needed a break from OALT/ABO.

Bette had predicted I would be "back when the time was right" for me. I rejoined the Provincial Executive this year as Public Relations Co-ordinator; a chance that has been welcome as my job at HRC has drastically changed.

Do my readers want personal information? I'm single, late thirties, incredibly good-looking, personable, possess a keen sense of humour and am very modest! What else do you need to know?

Seriously, I'd like to talk about my stress relieving hobby. When life gets tough, the tough immerses himself in his large collection of children's series books.

As a child, I avidly devoured the adventures of young detectives, including Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys. As an adult, I have developed a collection of original and modern Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys,

the Bobbsey Twins, and lesser known series, most of which were in print from the 1930s to the 1960s. These series include the Dana Girls, Judy Bolton, Rick Brant, Ken Holt, Kay Tracey, and Penny Parker, among others.

During the 1980s, I began subscriptions to two series book collecting fanzines and joined a collectors' club, the Phantom

Friends.

During my association with the Phantom Friends, I've developed a writing interest. In addition to writing for their newsletter and regional OALT/ABO ones, I've written several parodies in a series created by Kate Emburg, the Phantom Friends president. These stories chronicle the adventures of the world's first r-rated girl sleuth!

As I contemplate the conclusion to this article, I'd like to share some thoughts about what I'm learning as I grow older: one must explore and live life to the fullest, be adaptable to change, be strong, be honest and caring, and to be true to oneself. Fate is powerful; everything happens for a reason, although we may not know or understand the reason.

I've learned when life hands me lemons to make lemonade; when I'm given potatoes, to make vodka!

Thanks Bill for your biography. This is a challenge to other Huronia members. This is Bill's second article to appear in Networks. Don't be modest. Don't be shy. Write up your bio today and send to Janet Iles.

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Internet connections

Welcome to a new column in *Networks*. Please feel free to contribute your favourite sites — whether they are work related, home related or purely fun. If you have hints for making the NET easier to use please send them along.

Information for this column or any other column can be sent to jiles@bmts.com or to Janet Iles 120 7th Street South West, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5S9 or fax me at work 519-376-7170.

The following are some of the sites that I have bookmarked (Netscape term) or marked as a favorite (Internet explorer term). Please note that I will try to be accurate in my citing of addresses but addresses do change.

To keep up with what is going on in the Public Library world and get good links to many reference sources, search engines, etc. check out the solscape site at: <http://www/sols.on.ca/index.html>. To go directly to the global information centre access www.library.on.ca/information.html.

To get the latest official weather report the address is www.on.doe.ca/text/fpcn13.wto.

There are lots of good sites for genealogy buffs. One that provides links to many is Cyndi Howell's site that currently has 12,950 links. She updates it frequently with the last changes made January 16, 1997. The address is www.oz.net/~cyndihow/sites.htm#NWYukon. *Family Chronicles* is a new genealogy publication published in Canada. Its web site provides links to material appearing in issues and links to other sites. Currently the total is 174. The URL for this site is www.inforamp.net/~magazine/index.html.

Do you have trouble verifying information on new or sometimes obscure titles? Do you want to read reviews of some of the latest releases? Bookmark the Amazon book store. It is reputed to be the

largest Internet bookstore with over 1 million titles. Because it is easy to search you will likely visit this site often. It is like a free *Books in Print*. — www.amazon.com is the place to go.

Some of the Internet service providers have home pages that lead to interesting articles. Sympatico™, the Bell Canada service provider maintains a site. Sympatico also has a publication *Sympatico NetLife™* which goes to subscribers of the service but it is now available by subscription. At Sympatico's site there are excerpts from back issues and links to sites mentioned in the current issue. If you find this site useful you may wish to bookmark the URL www1.sympatico.ca. (See quote on page one of this issue from an article that appeared in LastPost from the January/February issue of *Sympatico NetLife™*. It is also on their site.) Their Canada411 site gives you access to phone directories for across Canada. I don't know how up to date the information is. I found old information for people who moved 4 or 5 months ago. Perhaps it is only as up to date as the print directories.

Are you doing some desk top publishing and you need advice on what font to use? Check out Will Harris's site. Will writes regularly for WordPerfect Magazine (they have their own site too). His site can be found at www.will-harris.com.

The last web site I am going to mention in this issue is one I discovered at Christmas but can be used year round and it is fun. Send greeting cards to all your e-mail friends. The receiver receives an e-mail message to link to a particular site to get their personalised greeting from you. This site has cards for a variety of different occasions.

www.gogreet.com Our local newspaper frequently lists interesting web sites and if time permits I check them out. Watch for more sites in the next issue.