



## From the President —

Well, here we are at the end of the summer. I hope everyone has had a great one, whether you were vegging at home in the garden, or travelling far and wide.

The results of our spring survey were presented at the June meeting, and those of you in attendance learned a little bit about how OALT/ABO is perceived and why we aren't attracting new members. I had the unique experience of working on the tabulation of these results and it was an eye-opener, even though I shouldn't have been surprised.

What wasn't said, was in some cases, as revealing as what was. Some respondents would answer some questions, being VERY negative; while ignoring the "why?" questions where they could have given us creative feedback. Many answers seem to indicate that people are looking for a "service" rather than a "professional association" to be part of. Many answers were very simply "lame excuses" for copping out, and many of these came from former members who should have known better. Other excuses came from "never members" who seemed to be making some assumptions.

The cost of a membership seemed to be a BIG issue \$50/52 = 96 cents a week\*. What a deal and it's tax deductible!! And we're a very nice group of people... BONUS!!

The upside of all this is that we know we need to work on our image and do some work on publicizing the pluses of belonging to OALT/ABO. We now have a list of names and workplaces where there are technicians, and hopefully with a membership blitz to the survey respondents, and even some workplaces that didn't reply, we can pique the curiosity of a few brave souls who may come out to a meeting, or actually JOIN!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting in Grand Valley on October 23rd. Keep in touch and, if you get a chance, talk us up every chance you get!!

Cheers,

Gale

\* The 1999-2000 rate for grads is \$60.

*The mission of OALT/ABO is to advance our profession through active membership, education and professional development, promotion and marketing, partnership and advocacy.*

## Words from your Editor/Archivist/ Provincial Membership Co-ordinator:

My apologies for the delay in getting this newsletter done. For a short time due to "technical difficulties" I couldn't even access Microsoft Publisher, the program I use for creating the newsletter. The hard drives have been reformatted, material moved around and I hope that I can keep going on all the projects that are before me. I've lost some of my fonts, my scanner doesn't work, etc.

Yes, the kitchen is completed except for the accessorizing. My mind is already thinking about the next project. Nothing else I do will be as major as the one just completed. I still don't have my family room back in order after using it as my kitchen/dining

room for over a month. The invitation still stands for next June.

Memberships were delayed in getting to Chris and I for processing due to re-routing problems but hopefully that is all sorted out now. Chris and I have a routine in place now for handling the memberships and I hope that people will be pleased with the centralized memberships.

Gale Moreau has heard from Carol MacDonald and she seems very happy in her new work. Unfortunately, I can't access my Outlook Express messages and I don't have a copy, so I can't pass on her news. Do any of you remember Mary Davie? She is living in Victoria BC and she found my e-mail address through the library's website. She found some old slides pertaining to OALT/ABO and will forward them to me. JI

## Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 23, 1999

Grand Valley Public Library

10:30 Tour of Library & Disaster Management Presentation [Hear about how they rebuilt the library after the tornado in 1985.]

12:00 Lunch at a local restaurant

2:00 Business meeting.

Hope to see you all there. Bring a friend or two.



## Internet connections

I haven't done a lot of Internet surfing lately but occasionally find one when I should be working on housework, going to bed or going to work. Often one site leads to another and the time is gone. Has anybody made any new discoveries?

The Learn2 site provides 2torials on how to perform many day to day tasks — [www.learn2.com](http://www.learn2.com). I just discovered that our library has a book published by the same group. Topics or channels are: Arts & crafts, Automotive, Business & Money, Family & Pets, Food & Drink, Health & Fitness, Home & Garden, Sports & Recreation, Style & Grace, Technology, Travel and Writing & Speech. Also included are learnlines (discussion groups) and learnlets (helpful hints). During one of my 4 o'clock supper hours I watched an Oprah Winfrey show where she had Julie Morgenstern on as a guest. Her organization strategy is: Transform Your SPACE, Sort - See what you have. Purge - Keep only what you use and love. Assign - A home for everything. Containerize - Separate and Beautify. Equalize - Refine and Maintain. Her website is at [www.juliemorgenstern.com/index.html](http://www.juliemorgenstern.com/index.html). All very good ideas but the job is to put it into practice. She includes some helpful hints on her site as well. She is the author of *Organizing from the Inside Out*. Organization systems only work if they suit your personal style. Now what is my style? The year is going quickly. Have you checked out [www.microsoft.com/technet/year2k/](http://www.microsoft.com/technet/year2k/)? Have you found an interesting Y2K sites that you want to share?