

Words from the President

My fifth term as Huronia President has come to a close and I am happy to say that in 1999-2000 Huronia has welcomed two new members to the fold. Welcome to Beth Hall and Shann Leighton. We hope to see you at as many Huronia functions as your busy schedules will allow!

Gale

President's 1999-2000 Report

Coming off a fairly quiet 1998-99, Huronia caught fire in 1999-2000. Last year's ABM in Owen Sound set our course for the year. Sparked by a letter from a former member, we discussed surveying libraries in our region to find out why we were having difficulty attracting and keeping new members. Pat Henry and I worked on the survey, and after running it past other members of the region, 89 surveys were mailed out and we awaited the results.

The results of the survey were presented at the June meeting in Collingwood (where we celebrated twenty years of HRB). The feedback from the survey revealed a lot of apathy. Many former members considered us too expensive and stated they felt they got more value from an OLA membership. As a result of the 46 surveys returned, we sent out 21 follow-up letters to those respondents who we considered

"possibilities". Of those 21, we had one new member join. That was just the beginning.

By the time membership renewals, and the fall meeting in Grand Valley, rolled around in October, most of us seemed to be feeling a sense of hopelessness over our inability to inject some life into the region. And then it happened . . . Those words, you know the ones, we had all been keeping to ourselves, those words were spoken, OUT LOUD. "I am renewing under protest." That got it started. We discussed how we were all feeling about our stagnation. We decided we need to "feel out" the rest of the organization, and so the *Hurononia Proposal* was born. Well, we've got everyone's attention now. Our "proposal" has a lot of people thinking. Many people agreed with us, some on more points than others. We have accomplished what we really set out to do, and that was to get the whole organization looking at itself as a whole. The feedback we have received that others have similar feelings, and hopefully, at the April 1 meeting in Toronto, we can make some headway in revitalizing this association, and generating some growth.

The Christmas social at Club Koenig was enjoyable as always. We discussed the furor of our "proposal" was causing and decided to have as many members as possible attend the April Provincial Executive Meeting. We also decided to take another stab at enlarging our membership through a provincial

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initiative to attract institutional members, and we have had one inquiry as a result.

This wraps up my fifth year as your President, and I think I have one year left on my warranty. My hat is in the ring unless you choose to toss it out. . . .

Respectfully submitted
Gale Moreau
President

Vice-President's 1999-2000 Report

The role of Vice President carries a number of social and support duties including arranging meeting locations and organizing refreshments, etc. I enjoyed looking after these responsibilities this year and I owe a thank you to Secretary, Judy Koenig for her assistance with planning meetings and meeting notices.

I find it refreshing and thought provoking to work with the members of Huronia. It was exciting to work with Judy Koenig and Pat Henry to prepare "A Proposal for Change" as a result of Huronia's October meeting. This "very unofficial" document was presented to the Provincial Executive and Board of Directors as a seed for further discussions and as a suggestion for a possible change to strengthen the Association. I enjoy that ideas can be presented for consideration and discussion in an open forum. It was gratifying to see that as a result of the proposal, discussion was generated through the list serve. This is a positive sign that we all recognize that it is a challenging time for our organization as it is for many other organizations. This discussion illustrates that there is a concern for the future and the strength of OALT/ABO and an interest in change and progression.

When writing this report, I looked back through many years of Huronia's Annual Reports. My eyes were drawn to a paragraph from last year's report that I believe needs to be restated. Huronia is a small region in terms of membership numbers. Within this small

group, an impressive percentage of the members have served in a number of capacities and have worked on a number of special projects including organizing and maintaining the provincial archives, rewriting the provincial constitution, revamping provincial membership forms and database, refurbishing the treasurer's financial reports and statements, etc." These were large and time consuming tasks and were not undertaken halfheartedly. These tasks were accomplished by people who believe in the benefits of a professional organization and the importance of contributing to the organization. I hope for these individuals and all others across our province who have spent time, effort and spirit that they will be rewarded with a strong, adaptable, and progressive OALT/ABO.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Reid
Vice-President

Secretary's 1999-2000 Report

Minutes and meeting notices were sent to all members by e-mail or Canada Post. The use of e-mail has been very cost-effective and appears to be going well.

The format of the minutes was changed slightly and new minutes were typed to reflect the changes. These all have been approved by the membership and signed by the President.

Vice President Lynda Reid and I prepared "A Proposal for Change" based on the group discussion at the October meeting. This was presented to the Provincial Executive and Board of Directors by Huronia's Director, Pat Henry.

It is my hope that our organization will continue to adapt to our ever changing role(s) in the library community by listening to member concerns and taking appropriate, responsible action.

Respectfully submitted
Judith Koenig

Treasurer's 1999-2000 Report

Final Statement March 2000

I respectfully submit my annual report for the year March 1999-March 2000.

Our membership presently stands at 13 members. This is comprised of 11 graduate members and 2 associate members.

Our term deposit certificate totaling \$2,647.32 was re-invested for a period of 18 months. This certificate is redeemable prior to maturity, with the interest added to the principal upon redemption. The following rates are applicable when redeemed prior to maturity. Issue date of certificate is March 03, 2000 and maturity date is September 03, 2001.

From	0-90 days	0%
	91-365 days	4.10%
	366-544 days	4.60%
	545-555 days	5.10%

Please find attached OALT/ABO Huronia Branch final financial statement for March 2000. Final balance in account 923-4 OALT Huronia Branch is \$1,429.11 as of 03/13/00.

There were two mailings this year. The first, in September, was directed to the respondents of a membership survey sent out in the spring of 1999. The most recent was to libraries in the Huronia region, and focused on encouraging the use of institutional memberships.

I would be happy to serve another term as treasurer if acceptable to all members.

Respectfully,
Cindy Watson

Income

Starting Balance		+1546.14
Membership Fees	302.00	
Food Bank	65.00	
Interest from GIC	82.95	
Christmas Dinner	121.00	
Total Income		+2117.09

Expenses

Provincial Fees	40.00	
Caterer (Xmas Dinner)	223.20	
L. Reid (June meeting)	10.00	
Postage/Fax charges	102.54	
Orangeville Food Bank	65.00	
Bank Charges	28.00	
P. Henry (1999 Conference fees)	219.24	
Total Expenses		-687.98

Balance on hand +1429.11

At the Annual meeting on March 18, 2000 two motions were made that will alter the above balance. It was moved to give \$300 to the Provincial to assist with postage costs for the directory and to give \$800 to Pat Henry to pay conference fees.

Welcome to Wasaga Beach Public Library as a member of Huronia. Jackie Beaudin is the contact. The email address is wblibrary@georgian.net. Our membership number now stands at 14.

Director's Report 1999-2000

The last couple of months at the board level have been quite interesting. Just prior to Christmas the listserv came alive with discussion regarding the "Huronian Proposal". Some of the discussion was quite lively but it was also disappointing to find that some regions had chosen not to distribute and/or discuss the issue at their meetings. It was pointed out to them that as stated in the November Board minutes, they had been specifically asked "not to dismiss this out of hand but to take it back to their members for discussion". It was also strongly stressed that this proposal would not be voted on at the upcoming Annual Business Meeting but was designed only as a starting point for members to examine the current and future direction of the association. Some regions participated in the listserv discussion only marginally and some put forth no comments at all.

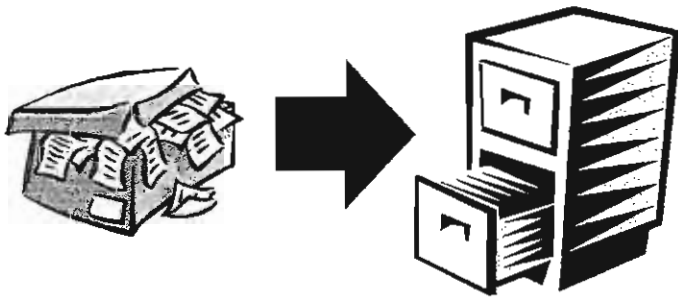
The February 19 Board meeting was scheduled to be a teleconference. This was cancelled as there was only \$2,921.91 in the Provincial accounts and we could not afford the conference call costs. This is a very troubling matter. A number of regions, in fact almost all of them, including Huronia, are wealthier than the Provincial. There are expenses coming up in conjunction with the Annual Business Meeting and

regular Provincial initiatives that have to be paid for. Time will tell how this issue plays out. As a result of the cancelled teleconference, the board meeting was conducted via email. It was an interesting exercise to say the least. It at times became very confusing and at times repetitive and went on for days. Eventually it concluded and the minutes were compiled and distributed.

During the email conference it became apparent that the Ottawa director was not having much contact with the Ottawa conference committee. Communications between the conference committee members and the provincial executive was not and probably is still not good. At one point, the conference committee members issued a semi-veiled threat to "cancel the whole thing". It is questionable how many technicians can afford \$800 plus travel for a day of tours, 3 workshops and one half day of ABM and Brainstorming.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of Huronia Regional Branch for their continuing suggestions and support over the past year. I would be honoured to represent you again at the Board as the Director for Huronia Regional Branch.

Respectfully submitted
Pat Henry



Come help sort/weed the Huronia Archives!
Get them ready for the move to Cindy's place.
Look at some old pictures of the gang!
Hear about the conference in Ottawa.

Post Conference Meeting
At the home of Janet Iles
120 7th Street South West
Owen Sound, ON N4K 5S9
— May 27th at 10 a.m.

If time permits, plan to visit Inglis Falls and/or the Painted Garden store (open 10-2). Both are close by. Meeting notice will have details re lunch (barbecue?) See you at 10 a.m. R. S. V. P. Janet Iles jiles@bmts.com

Archivist 1999-2000

One corner of my upstairs hallway holds the archival items of the branch. Honestly I haven't done much this past year and since I began taking courses — nothing. Actually, it is worse because I was looking for something and I haven't re-filed. The holdings need to be weeded due to duplication. The director's binders are stored here as well and I would like to recommend that only the provincial business be kept and not the regional reports. The current director usually has a year or two of all reports.

If there is anyone who is willing to take on this job in 2000-2001, I would gladly hand over the material now, otherwise I would appreciate someone taking on the task in the following year.

Respectfully submitted
Janet Iles
Archivist



Newsletter Editor 1999-2000

During 1999-2000, three issues of Volume 20 of *Networks* were produced. Copies were taken to the Board of Directors' meeting for distribution.

The April issue included the reports of the 1998-1999 executive. The August issue was once again only two pages long. The January issue included a two page article by William (Bill) Land, a former member. We certainly appreciated hearing from Bill and learning about what is happening in his life. This is the second article by Bill that has been included in our newsletter over the past years.

As always, more contributions from members are requested — Internet sites, what is happening in your library, your biography, etc. How about an article about your impression of other libraries you've visited?

If it is the desire of the group. I would be willing to continue as newsletter editor (writer and publisher) for another year.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Iles

Without libraries what have we? We have no past and no future.

Ray Bradbury (1920-____) US science-fiction writer "Mojave Magazine"



Internet connections

Now that spring is officially here, people are seriously thinking about their lawns and gardens. Books about gardening have been going out of the library at a steady pace the last couple of months.

There are a number of web sites that relate to gardening. Some are mainly a company site with their catalogue searchable on the net and the ability to make purchases while logged on. Some are primarily sites with links to other sites; while others provide articles on a number of gardening topics.

So if you are looking for gardening ideas on the web you may want to investigate some of these that follow — www.lawnandlandscape.com; www.agr.ca/agriweb/ho.htm (links to Canadian horticulture and gardening related sites); www.canadiangardening.com; (articles); www.cityfarmer.org (articles); www.icandarden.com/home.htm; www.interlog.com/~ggh/ggh.htm (Gardeners of the Golden Horseshoe); www1.sympatico.ca/mags/cangardening (articles).

If you would prefer just to visit gardens but not get involved with the hard work of doing your own garden or like to visit different gardens to get ideas, check these sites out — www.butchartgardens.com (Butchart Gardens); www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/jardin.htm (Montreal Botanical Gardens); greynet.net/~ruralgardens (Rural gardens to visit in Grey and Bruce Counties) and collections.ic.gc.ca/metis (Les Jardins de Metis portrait of a landscape.) Enjoy!



At the annual meeting it was decided it was time to have a “happening” in Huronia. The time would be a Saturday in the fall (date and location to be determined). We are looking for your ideas on possible seminar topics. This is a chance to have seminars in your area without having to travel too far. We do not have a big budget. If you have any suggestions please get in touch with Lynda Reid, Judy Koenig or Gale Moreau. It will be advertized to other regions (let us know if you want to be on the mailing list) — great time to visit our area when the leaves are beautiful. Bring ideas and suggestions of presenters to the meeting in May. Non-members will be welcome. Fees to be determined.