



NRB NEWS

Niagara Regional Branch

OALT/ABO

Volume 4, no. 1
March, 1982

SOUND OFF

Well, it's happened again. The annual office shuffle of Niagara Regional Branch, where the same people are shuffled off into different positions. It's rather like rotating the tires on a car - one knows that they are going to wear out eventually, but one tries to get them worn down equally on all sides.

It's an apt analogy, actually. One does feel that one is being driven into the ground. Eventually, it becomes too much for all of the people doing this. They tend to go in two ways, the first being an explosion where tremendous energy is expended for a short time, and the person (or tire) is then left by the roadside. The second way is subtler and is harder to detect. There is a small leak, a faint hissing sound, and slowly one begins to sink under the load until it cannot be carried any further.

I was appalled at the turnout at the February 22nd meeting, the Annual Business Meeting. Usually this is one of the better attended meetings of the year, and after Liz's tongue lashing in the December issue of the NRB News I felt that things were getting better. We did have an encouraging response to the January meeting - approximately 10 people out instead of the three (and the same three every time) that had been out for the last four meetings. At the Annual Business Meeting, however, only seven people were out.

The elections were a farce. Liz Aldrey again was nominated, at which point I broke into a diatribe about the amount of work that she does and has done at both the Regional and Provincial levels. She has attended Board of Directors meetings one Saturday a month, she was the treasurer of, and did a great deal of work for the convention, she is on the Essay Contest Committee, she is editing the convention issue of the newsletter, all in the last two years. Liz has been with this organization from the start - she was the recording secretary at the OALT/ABO founding meeting in 1973. I urged her not to run for President again, as she is entitled to sit back and rest on her laurels for a while. I also was nominated, which I turned down because I feel that I am doing and have done enough to last me for quite a while. Various others were nominated, all turned it down for various reasons. I urged Liz to let the nomination stand open until the next meeting, to bring home to the membership that we are at a turning point. Against my advice, and, I suspect, her better judgement, she accepted the nomination and became President once again. Janet Dachuk retained the treasurer's position, Frances McCrone, the only new person on the executive, became secretary, Barb Murphy became newsletter editor, a position she held 3 years ago, and I moved from newsletter to publicity. Catherine Porteus got to retire, although she retains the ex-officio status of Member of the Past Executive. It should be noted that although Frances is new to the executive, she worked hard on the convention as the workshop co-ordinator, and is also proof-reading the convention issue of the newsletter. According to the membership lists, there are 39 members of NRB - where are the rest of you?

As well as being members of the Regional Branch, each member of NRB is also a member of the Provincial. Liz, as our Board member, reports in every newsletter about happenings at the Provincial level. From time to time she asks for input on various ideas, and when I was President I too asked for ideas. Besides the times (many) that Liz and I put something together so that at least NRB has a voice in issues, I can recall getting

From the President

Another year has gone past in the history of Niagara Regional Branch. Locally it has been loy keyed, although in January we surfaced to host a very interesting workshop on Book Binding and followed that later in the month with an informative talk given by Mrs. MacKay, the Librarian at the Niagara Regional Detention Centre.

Our focal point in the past year was of course the OALT/ABO Convention, planning it, hosting it, and surviving it. Much of our energy and time was spent in making it a success. When it was all over we took a well-deserved rest and did not do much locally.

Provincially, our Branch has been very active. Three of our members, including the chairman are serving on the Essay Contest Committee. Andrew Porteus has been representing us on the Proposal for Change Committee. We have also been busy editing the Convention issue of the Provincial Newsletter. At the same time I have attended Board of Director's meetings giving input at the meetings and researching and taking information back to the Provincial Executive and Board of Directors to act upon.

Incidentally, the Provincial Newsletter is almost ready for printing. I will be looking for volunteers to help us with mailing soon.

I extend my thanks to last year's executive -- Catherine Porteus, Secretary, Janet Dachuk, Treasurer, abd Barb Murphy, Planning and Publicity Person. Not forgotten, Andrew Porteus, our Past President. Without Andrew's help and enthusiasm, my job would have been much more difficult. His experience and willingness to do things to help out was invaluable.

Unfortunately, our Annual Business Meeting was sparsely attended. We do have a full slate of officers -

President/Director	Liz Aldrey
Secretary	Frances McCrone
Treasurer	Janet Dachuk
Planning and Publicity	Andrew Porteus
Past Member of the Executive	Catherine Porteus
Newsletter Editor	Barb Murphy

We have an enthusiastic group of people. I encourage you to come out and support your executive. Show them that they have your support and that you appreciate their efforts. It is discouraging for the executive not to get feedback from the rest of the members. Again if you have any brilliant suggestions for meetings, guest speakers, etc., contact a member of the executive. We cannot function without you.

Mohawk College has indicated that it will cut back the Library Techniques Programme Co-Ordinator's position from a full time to a part time position. We feel that a cut back of the co-ordinator's position will result in the lowering of the quality of the Library Techniques Programme at Mohawk. As a professional association of library technicians we are concerned with the quality of Library Techniques Programmes throughout the province. Therefore, we have formed a committee to investigate the situation and to voice our concerns to the college. A letter has been composed and sent to the members of the Board of Governors of Mohawk College, Keith McIntyre, President, Mohawk College, William FitzGerald, Dean of Applied Arts and Technology, Alan Gregson, Dean of Continuing Education, and Dr. Betty Stephenson, Minister of Colleges and Universities and of Education. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Our next meeting will be April 5, 1982, at the home of Paddy Clayton. We will be discussing the topic of censorship. The pros and cons of censorship should provide for both a timely and lively focal point for discussion.

Finally, a reminder for those of you who have not renewed your membership to Niagara Regional Branch, OALT/ABO, it is a new fiscal year. To remain as members in good standing your memberships must be renewed.

MUSEUM, GALLERY AND ARCHIVE SKILLS FOR LIBRARY TECHNICIANS

1982 05 10 - 06 11

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code

Telephone Numbers: Res: _____ Bus: _____

Library Technician Diploma from: _____
(Name of Community College)

Year of Graduation: _____

Enclosed is my cheque made payable to Fanshawe College for the full tuition fee of \$130.00 for the above named course. I understand that accommodation, meals and travel expenses are not covered by the tuition fee.

Signature

RETURN TO: Dan R. Link, Fanshawe College Continuing Education P.O. Box 4005
London, Ontario N5W 5H1

MUSEUM, GALLERY AND ARCHIVE SKILLS FOR LIBRARY TECHNICIANS

Many jobs within libraries require more knowledge of differing techniques - such as, conservation, display and design, specialist cataloguing and research skills - than can be taught during the regular library technician course. Local history collections, specialized reference into materials and buildings and community relations programmes use the techniques more closely aligned to the world of museums, galleries and archives work.

In order to help the graduate library technician acquire these skills, Fanshawe College's Library Technician Programme and the Continuing Education Division are offering a five (5) week adjunct course in this area, leading to a Letter of Recognition to be used in conjunction with the regular diploma. Graduates of any library technician programme will be preferred but non-graduates will be considered if space allows. The course is limited to 25 persons.

The following topics will be presented in a five (5) week course, Monday - Friday, from 0900 - 1700 hours commencing 1982 05 10 ending 1982 06 11: Museums, Archives, Galleries, Design, Conservation. Classes will be held at Fanshawe College Main Campus, 1460 Oxford Street East, London in Room A1040.

Lectures will be given by experts in the field from local museums and archives, provincial ministries and organizations, and from Fanshawe College faculty. Afternoons will involve class field trips or practical lab work.

The College reserves the right to cancel this course if insufficient registrants, in which case full refunds will be sent.

If further information is required please contact Fanshawe College Continuing Education (519) 452-4425



Spectator
Wed. Mar. 10/82

Controls on adult books may be lifted

CONTROLS OVER adult library books may be lifted following the controversy surrounding a book describing a young girl's first sexual encounter.

A Hamilton public library committee is recommending that parents, instead of librarians, should make the decision on what their children read.

The library's policy now is that teenagers must be at least at the Grade 9 level to borrow from the adult fiction collection. The committee recommends changing this and permitting children to sign out any books they want.

The committee of library staff was formed last fall to take a look at the library's policy of access to books, after a teacher complained about the book Judy Blume's *Forever*.

The book, brought to school by a Grade 6 student for reading period, offers a fairly explicit account of a 17-year-old girl's first sexual encounter.

The committee's recommendation for open access is being circulated among senior library staff for comments and will be returned to the committee to be put in final form before being submitted to the library board likely in April.

Karen Peters of Terryberry Library, a member of the committee, said she and many library staff members object to the current policy and said the committee unanimously recommended open access to all groups.

"To restrict, I think that's really regressive," she said.

"I would hope most people would be against any type of restriction. There's no ending when you start to make judgments about what people are reading."

Experience

Miss Peters said, however, a librarian should guide young people away from unsuitable reading material. She said she would tell a child if she felt a book was too mature but would not make the decision for the child.

Judy Blume's *Forever* is in the adult section of the library, although Miss Peters said she feels it should be in the young adult section.

Although it describes the experience in some detail, nothing bad happens to her unlike other books on the subject, she said.

"It isn't a dreadful experience, it's very realistic."

Judith McAnanama, chief librarian, has received about 20 comments from people, most urging the policy be changed, she said. About half have been from young adults.

The librarian said she had ordered the policy to be enforced consistently because she wanted to see if there would be a reaction. The policy had been applied differently across the system.

"Kids are really upset," said Joanne Shwedyk, young adult librarian and chairman of the committee studying the policy.

Complaints

She added that the present policy is difficult to enforce. Some children look high school age, and people who work at the check-out counter, particularly at night, are often only students themselves, she said.

Libraries had received complaints about other books as well, Miss Shwedyk said, including the works of Rosemary Rodgers, Harold Robbins and the book *Wildfire*.

The committee studied policies of the Toronto, Scarborough and North York libraries, the Canadian Library Association and American Library Association, and they all had or promoted open access, Miss Shwedyk said.

"It is the parents' responsibility to monitor their (children's) reading. It is not the library's responsibility."

Mrs. McAnanama also said it is the parents' responsibility to censor their children's reading materials and said the library has never removed books from the shelves because of complaints.

Bah, humbug!

Hamilton
Spectator
Mar 9/82

School pulls book on grumbly Santa after parent complains

By PAUL WILSON
Spectator Staff

ST. CATHARINES — There'll be no tampering with the image of Santa Claus in this city.

Any indication that old Saint Nick isn't the jolly fat man known for his ho-ho-ho personality won't be tolerated.

At least not at a Catholic elementary school where a book depicting Santa as grumpy and complaining has been removed the bookshelves of the library.

The book called Father Christmas was removed from Assumption school recently after a complaint by a parent about its depiction of Santa.

Complaint

The Lincoln County Roman Catholic School Board voted to remove the book, by British children's book author Ronald Briggs on the basis of the complaint, Susan Sydor, a trustee with the board, said yesterday.

"None of us thought it was a great book," Mrs. Sydor said. "We're not saying it's a bad book, it just didn't merit a big fight over it.

"Maybe we were wrong. But it was only a library book. It was not essential to the curriculum, so if someone didn't like it there was no harm in removing it. No one seems to have taken the matter too seriously other than the press."

A check with area booksellers revealed they found the book removal to be humorous.

Allan Tye, owner of Paddington Station, which specializes in children's books, said he had never heard any complaints about the book.

"We sell copies of it every Christmas," he said.

Catharine Bell, owner of The Bookworks, said her store also sells about six copies each year and she had never had one returned.

Both store owners agreed, however, that the book's humor was too sophisticated for young children.

"The humor would be beyond young children. A lot of it is aimed at adults and older kids," said Mr. Tye.

Assumption school handles children from junior kindergarten to Grade 6. It is not known if Father Christmas is in other school libraries.

Mrs. Sydor said none of the board members considered the book a masterpiece of literature and "Canadian children would find it difficult to relate to the British humor."

Father Christmas consists of 28 pages of cartoons telling the story of a tired Santa, grumbling as he goes about the "blooming chimneys, blooming snow and blooming other things."

After he completes his rounds, he is depicted at home with a cigar and happily sipping what appears to be an alcoholic drink.

Mrs. Sydor also said one panel in the book depicted a grumbling Santa Claus using some rather unbecoming language.

"I could see someone maybe not wanting that book in their children's hands. Obviously there was someone somewhere who felt that way," Mrs. Sydor said.

"Perhaps there's only one person who bothered to look at what their kids bring home from school."

Mrs. Sydor said she preferred the Canadian version of a jolly old man making his rounds, then going home and having hot chocolate and cookies with Mrs. Claus.

Joe Montague, principal of Assumption School, said the book was now being kept in his office. He said that while it was on the shelves it was a popular book judging by the number of times it had been taken out of the library.

Mr. Montague said he would not disclose the name of the parent who complained about the book and he declined comment on the decision of the board.

Opinions

"Everyone has the right to their own opinions," he said.

The book was published in 1973 by Coward, McCann and Geoghegan Inc. of New York. The matter was subsequently approved by the full board.