

# APROPOS

Ontario Association of Library Technicians  
OALT/ABO Sudbury Regional Branch  
Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

## YOUR 1996/97 EXECUTIVE

### PRESIDENT

Millie Cayen

### SECRETARY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bette Gore & Linda  
Davis

### TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP

Julie Rancourt &  
Monique Fuchs

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR & LIAISON

Lise Désormeaux

### DIRECTOR

Brenda Vaillancourt

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As you read this issue, you'll discover your new Executive for 1996/97 and that I am the incoming President.

It will be difficult to replace Paulette Burton.. Over the years she has devoted much personal time and energy to our organization, and, she will be sorely missed. Thank goodness she's only a phone call away.

I'm not totally new to the game either. I've been a member of the Sudbury Regional Branch of OALT/ABO since moving back to Sudbury in November 1983. I've held various executive positions over the years, including President for one term. I'm also fortunate to have experienced and dedicated members working with me on the Executive.

Your concerns, comments, and questions are always welcome. Call, write or e-mail me (or any of us). We may be geographically distanced but that shouldn't preclude interaction amongst us.

Sincerely,

Millie Cayen  
President.

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## SUMMARY OF SUDBURY REGIONAL BRANCH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

On March 23, 1996, the Sudbury Regional Branch OALT/ABO annual business meeting was held at College Boreal, Centre de ressources. It was with much regret that Paulette Burton resignation as President was accepted. She was President/Director in 1988, then President from 1992/93 to 1995/96. Paulette has demonstrated professionalism in all she has done on behalf of all Library Technicians. We Thank You Paulette, for the dedication, professionalism, time, support and teamwork you have devoted to us. A presentation was made to her as a gesture of appreciation.

Paulette Burton, who has been our President/Director in 1988 to the one position presidency in 1992/93 till this day, has given up her position. Paulette, has proven herself and to all of us Library Technicians the real value of being a professional. In the name of all Library Technicians in Sudbury, I would like to take this opportunity to Thank You Paulette, for your dedication, professionalism, your precious time, support and teamwork, you have devoted to us.

You will be missed



**Clockwise from left: Monique Fuchs, Julie Rancourt, Brenda Vaillancourt, Millie Cayen, Linda Davis, Bette Gore, Paulette Burton (seated)**

A couple offered to continue holding certain positions and a bit of shuffling for your 1996/97 executive was formed as listed on the first page of this newsletter.

Other points of interest:

- formation of an Internet Task force at the provincial level
- winner of one year's free membership is MAIRE LEIGH SHEPPARD from Timmins.

**A DELICATE BALANCE**  
**23rd Annual OALT/ABO conference**

**TIME MANAGEMENT -a fresh perspective**  
by Bette Gore

Time Management seems to be one of the ever-popular topics which has been offered in various forms to all adults in the Western world ad infinitum. So what could Roberta Beecroft possibly have to say that would interest a small group of Library Technicians who have 'heard it all before'? Believe it or not, Roberta was able to demonstrate to us that there are still some aspects of time management we have yet to incorporate into our daily lives.

Rather than approach this topic with the 'tried and true' methodology of time management - lists, schedules, reducing paper clutter, etc - Ms Beecroft gave all in attendance a psychological perspective as to why we are still having difficulty practising known techniques. Seeing how our assumptions and expectations of ourselves and our life roles sabotage the best of efforts certainly assisted in putting us on the right track to regaining control of our lives and our time. By allowing participants to discuss their personal lives and the perceived saboteurs in it, we were better able to see where the responsibility lies in each of us to change our attitudes and behaviours in order to gain more personal satisfaction.

Roberta's goal at the beginning of the session was to help us "cultivate an attitude toward time that energizes and helps mobilize rather than worry & distress us". By the end of the too-short three hours, we all realized we had to deal with the question "How do I change my behaviours to match my attitudes and beliefs, which in turn will result in the establishment of priorities, goals, and management techniques"?

Obviously, the question is too big to answer in a few hours. Some recommended reading to assist us in keeping focused on our goal included *The road less travelled*; David Augsburger's *caring enough to...* series, Dr. Laura Schlessinger's *10 stupid things women do to mess up their lives*; and Steven Covey's *First things first*.

So if you too, are frustrated by your efforts to effectively use time management techniques in your personal/home life, give these recommendations a try. There is hope for us yet!

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**CENTRAL 2000**

If your library is hooked up to the Internet using Netscape, the service delivered by Information Access Company may be one you might want to consider. During the workshop, a representative, Michele E. Dotterer, of this growing American company demonstrated on-line the contents of 17 databases from the academic to the popular which users can search using key words, journal or newspaper name, date, etc... in various combinations to locate current journal articles with full text. The Information Access Company also indexes various publications, pamphlets, books and research reports with abstracts. The service appears to offer great support and an excellent product but it is expensive and the Canadian content is limited. Ebscohost, competitor of Information Access, seem to have a larger share of the Canadian market to date.

Public libraries who purchase this service can offer their users access to it from their own homes by dialling up the library and using their library card number. Subscribers to the Information Access Company can search from the most current up to three years back and for an additional fee buy older records. Some of the databases include the general Business File, the National Newspaper Index, Books in Print, Pro CD phone, PsychINFO, Health reference Center and the Expanded Academic Index. To receive information write or phone:

Information Access Company  
362 Lakeside Drive  
Foster City, California 94404  
1-800-227-8431 ext. 3220  
FAX: 810 254-7673  
Internet: michele\_dottercr@iacnet.com

Submitted by  
Monique Fuchs

## **23rd Annual Business Meeting May 11, 1996**

A 12-item, 2 page agenda would seemingly take a long time to complete, but not the way President Suzanne Boudreau efficiently ran the 23rd Annual Business Meeting. Parliamentarian, Provincial Executive, and regional speakers were all quickly introduced, followed by an uncontested adoption of the current agenda and minutes of the 22nd Annual Business Meeting.

Executive, Directors', and Committee reports were summarily passed in blocks with few explanations required from the floor. The only business item on the agenda which took some time was passing the changes to the constitution, and even were done neatly, without heated discussion (how boring), in a cooperative effort to clean up the wording and intent of our now officially bilingual Constitution/Status. Copies will be made available to the membership when all changes have been incorporated.

The presentation of gifts and honoraria to out-going executive and committee members is always a sweet-sad part of the ABM, with little time allowed for true reflection which may result in a few tears - or at best, lumps in throats.

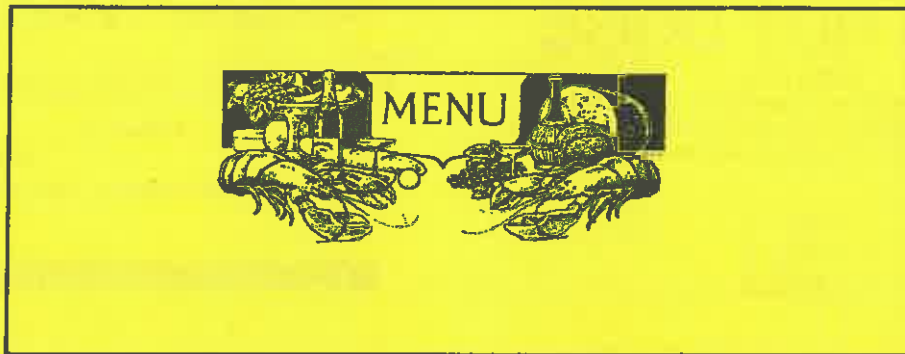
As always, the most difficult part of the entire meeting was the establishment of a new Executive. After much arm-twisting and realizations that 'new blood' is a must, the Provincial Executive for 1996/97 is as follows:

President - Penni Lee (TALTA)  
Vice-President - Theresa Kennedy (TALTA)  
Secretary - Valerie Welsch (Thunder Bay)  
Treasurer - Siobhain Doyle (TALTA)  
Public Relations - Bill Land (Huronian)

As thanks were extended to Huronia for a terrific conference in a beautiful setting, participants were invited to attend the 1997 conference to be hosted by TALTA, and the 1998 conference to be hosted by LOHANIA in London.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Bette Gore  
Acting Director

## BANQUET FINALE



Imagine - open bar sponsored by Carr McLean, Marshall Cavendish, and Saunders Book Co., followed by a fabulous steak dinner with all the trimmings. Good food, terrific company at tables large enough for elbow room, yet small enough so all could easily participate in discussions. Laughter, networking, old friends and new , always are a part of this memorable event at every conference.

And this year, finish off the dinner and dessert with Collingwood's own Elvis impersonator! The costumes, the looks, the voice, and the MOVES had everyone in the room clapping, laughing, and singing along while Anthony Giovan strutted, flirted, sang, dipped, danced, and generally entertained us all. For those hearty souls who like to party, the evening ended with Anthony playing D.J. As my host for the weekend (Bill Land - he says Hi to Sudbury Regional Branch) and I had to leave, we cannot be held responsible for whatever followed Anthony's performance. But we are confident those who stayed had a marvellous time.

Thanks for the entertainment again goes to Carr McLean, Marshall Cavendish, and Saunders Book Co.

by  
Bette Gore.

## FOR POEM LOVERS I DEDICATE THIS PAGE TO YOU

### THE MAN WHO SOLD HOT DOGS

Editor's Note:

The following poem stresses the importance of continued advertising and promotion in business no matter how terrible they tell us the economic climate is.



There was a man who lived by the  
side of the road and sold hot dogs.  
He was hard of hearing so he had no radio.  
He had trouble with his eyes so he  
read no newspapers.  
But he sold good hot dogs.  
He put up signs on the highway  
telling how good they were.  
He stood on the side of the road and  
cried: "Buy a hot dog, Mister?"  
And the people bought.  
He increased his meat and bun orders.  
He bought a bigger stove to take  
care of his trade.  
He finally got his son home from college  
to help him out  
But then something happened.  
His son said, "Father, haven't you  
been listening to the radio?  
Haven't you been reading the newspapers?  
There's a big recession.  
The Near East situation is bad.  
The domestic situation is worse."  
Whereupon the father thought,  
"Well, my son's been to college  
he reads the papers and listens  
to the radio, and he ought to know."  
So the father cut down on his meat  
and bun orders, took down his  
advertising signs, no longer bothered  
to stand out on the highway

to sell his hot dogs.  
And his hot dog sales fell almost overnight.  
"You're right, son," the father said to the  
boy.

"We certainly are in the middle of a great  
recession.

-ANONYMOUS

Courtesy O'bits & Pieces, December 1995

### LES VERBES DU BONHEUR

"Aimer ce n'est pas se regarder dans les yeux  
mais plutot regarder ensemble  
dans la meme direction"  
comme le dit St-Exupery.  
Tends la main a une personne triste:  
tu recevras le plus beau sourire  
en remerciement.  
Aide un jeune enfant en difficulté:  
Tu apercevras son petit regard illuminé.  
Donne un cadeau a celui qui n'a rien:  
tu rempliras ainsi ton coeur  
d'une grande chaleur.  
Ecoute celui qui a besoin de parler:  
on t'écouterà quand tu auras besoin d'un  
ami.  
Dis bonjour a une vieille dame  
seule sur un banc:  
tu t'attireras ainsi mille bonheurs et sourires.  
Donne et tu recevras.  
Ecoute et l'on t'écouterà.  
Garde un secret et l'on te fera confiance  
Dis merci et l'on te remerciera.  
Aide et l'on t'aidera.  
Aime et l'on t'aimera.  
*Natasha (12 ans)*

## WALKING THE LINE

Bundled to the bone-chilling cold with parkas, toques, mitts and Sorel boots, every OPSEU picketer must have asked at some point, "What are we doing out here?" Good question!

For five weeks, beginning in late February. I was one of the tens of thousands of Ontario public servants who walked a picket line. Faced with layoffs we knew were coming and an insulting final contract offer that decimated our collective agreement, OPSEU members gave their bargaining team a strike mandate.

I think most members prayed that a strike would not materialize but realized that the only alternative (accepting the grave losses to our contract without a fight) was just not tenable. The days of submitting unresolved issues to an arbitrator were gone; we simply had to stand up to the bully or be completely crushed.

In the days leading up to the walkout, picket teams were organized and committees (communications, hardship, accounting, etc.) were struck. Day 1 was chaotic; most of us had never been on a picket line before and had no idea of protocol or what to expect. We were chagrined by the fact that a few of our bargaining unit colleagues decided to cross our line and report for work. We proved a quick study, however, and soon devised all sorts of methods and mechanisms for coping with our newly-imposed "jobs" outside the workplace.

The high point of each morning shift was the arrival of the scabs who varied their reporting time to catch picketers unaware. We watched like posted sentries to spot their approach. With agreed-upon open access for management and essential workers, the scabs forced the only confrontations at our location. They were as dedicated to their goal (crossing the line) as we were to at least making it difficult for them. Most days, they gave up quickly and ran to fetch the police who returned too promptly to provide an escort. It became apparent that the police seemed to have an abundance of free time to devote to such picayune tasks (escorting scabs and lecturing picket captains)

As the days stretched into weeks and the bitter cold remained entrenched over northern Ontario, we gathered our resolve for a long haul. Even those who had voted against a strike, were committed to proving that public services in Ontario are important and that we, as workers, deserve to be treated fairly by our employer. We were encouraged when negotiations resumed and even though there were several setbacks along the way, the picket lines remained strong and united.

To keep our spirits up, we engaged in traditional picket line "games" such as "Playing with Fire" (in the burning barrel), "Block the Scabs" and "Who Can eat the Most Doughnuts?". Chants and songs contributed to the camaraderie. It was also great exercise (if you kept walking). I estimate a three-hour picket shift was a good 6 mile walk. Three shifts a week (18 miles) resulted in considerably strengthened leg and butt muscles for a lot of us.

Being on the street daily also exposed us to a life we scarcely think about when we work in an office environment. We frequently shared our coffee and conversation with a variety of street folk who, for the most part, just wondered what was going on. Others kept us amused with their political insights (we did all agree that Harris is a madman). Donations of food, coffee, and moral support from local businesses and passers-by were reminders that we weren't alone in our cause.

When a settlement was finally reached at the end of March, there certainly was a collective sign of relief. There was no doubt that people were feeling the strain of five weeks on strike pay (\$100/week + \$10 for each dependent). However, there is no doubt we feel a sense of accomplishment just in standing up to this government with its slash-and-burn mentality. Some of the take-always were restored to our collective agreement and while that is little compensation to those losing jobs, it was a necessary fight.

What did we end up with? Perhaps not a whole lot in the traditional collective bargaining sense, but considering what was in the government's pre-strike offer, we have to feel we achieved something. The severance package was improved; short-term layoff proposals were removed; pension bridging was restored; and gains were made regarding privatization (a huge thrust of this government). A bonus too was the camaraderie, the sense of empowerment, and the enhanced self-respect that came from standing up for what we believe in. This most important benefit can't really be measured.

Submitted by  
Linda Davis

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### **SPRING WORKSHOP**

**Introduction to the Internet:** was held on Saturday April 27th, 1996. Six attended this session. People from out of town were not able to attend because of the bad weather Friday night.

Everything went really well. Like always there wasn't enough time to surf the net for hours, but the group did manage to go and explore into subjects of their choice.

**Here are a few more addresses for the net lovers:**

<http://mmink.com/dossiers/choco.html>

(chocolate lovers)

<http://www.autodirectory.com/autodir>

(auto directory)

<http://www.icondata.com/health/pedbase>

(pediatric guide)

<http://legowww.homepages.com/>

(lego information)

<http://www.golfweb.com/>

(golfweb home page)

<http://canadiana.com/vnorth/>

(Georgian Bay)

<http://www.carrefour.net>

(6000 addresses francophones)

Submitted by  
Julie Rancourt  
Public Relations 1995/96



# FINALLY

the summer is H E R E. I hope you can take this opportunity to relax, kick back and enjoy the summer festivities that will open up its doors to you.

I will be back in action in September.

Until then, have a g r e a t summer , and don't forget to gather all your summer anecdotes for the next issue of Apropos.

Your newsletter editor

Lise

