

# TECH TALK

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Volume 21, No. 8 January 1995



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to extend best wishes to everyone for the New Year. If one of your resolutions was to attend all the remaining OALT/ABO meetings for this "term", there are only three more. They are the Internet presentation on January 16th, the Sexual Harassment Workshop on February 9th, and the Annual Dinner Meeting on March 29th. See you there!

I would like to welcome all the new members to the association. The actual membership count is down, but the number of graduate members is up. The association is for you and through you we advance in our professionalism and fellowship.

Last November Susan MacDonald of the Literacy Coalition of Thunder Bay gave a presentation in the LU Lab explaining what the various groups under the Coalition are doing for literacy in Thunder Bay. We watched the film "The Power and the Freedom of the Written Word" which emotionally proved the freedom of the written word. Susan also suggested that if we have any old periodicals we would like to pass on, the Women's Shelter on Tarbutt would appreciate them.

December brought in the Jingle Mingle where we ate and mingled. The film "The Man who Planted Trees" demonstrated what a person can do to improve the world we all share. The only comment re this meeting - don't order the "Big Foot" pizzas again. If the ones we tried to eat

were an example, they were terrible!! It was a good thing the executive baked and brought in squares so there was still lots to eat while we visited.

We look forward to seeing you all at the three remaining meetings!

Valerie Welsch

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## TREASURERS REPORT

as of December 31, 1994

<b>Revenue</b>	
Memberships	195.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Provincial Reconciliation	132.00
<b>Surplus as of November 30/94</b>	<b>338.24</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>63.00</b>
<b>Surplus as of this date</b>	<b>451.24</b>

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash in bank	451.24
Petty cash	100.00
G.I.C.	<u>1,500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,051.24</b>

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS	
Graduate	26
Student	12
Senior	1
Associate	0
Institutional	<u>5</u>
	44



## REVIEWS

The following are the minutes from the November 19, 1994 OALT/ABO Director's meeting held in Albion Public Library in Toronto.

1. Reminder from Theresa Kennedy that all memberships (new and renewals) should be in by December 1st for inclusion in the directory.
2. Professional library videos are available from the Northern Ontario Library Service/Southern Ontario Library Service. Halton-Peel showed one at a meeting which was called "Controlling the Confrontation."
3. Brady Leyser, Newsletter Editor, will send extras of the provincial newsletter to each of the regions to hand out to students and new members.
4. Regional directors are to compile a list of associations and newsletters for mailing list by December 22. Can be sent by fax or E-Mail to Mary Grace Stewart, Public Relations. Judy Sennett has already sent one for the Thunder Bay region.
5. A brochure will be designed to promote library technicians instead of the fact sheet. The brochure will include all the fact sheet information. A draft will be ready for the next board meeting.
6. The provincial newsletter will profile technicians in each issue. It will be full page with a picture. The first one to be profiled is Doug Wilford.
7. Regional directors are to do an inventory of sale items left from previous conferences (T-shirts, mugs, pens, etc.) and send list to Mary Grace Stewart, Public Relations.
8. OALT/ABO regional and provincial executive lists, job liaison lists and profile of the association will be put on the Toronto FreeNet.
9. Regions are given the autonomy to set guidelines to define unemployed. Regional treasurer is to note on membership renewal that member is an unemployed member at the student rate. The provincial portion of membership fee is \$12 and unemployed members will have full membership status to receive provincial newsletters/attend annual conferences.
10. The idea of a provincial grant to assist a member to attend annual conference was scratched as it is too unwieldy to decide who will attend as well as being too expensive for regions and provincial executive to sponsor. Regional and provincial funds not available.
11. Chairman of the nominating committee is the president of the provincial executive and members for the committee have been appointed by each region.
12. Salary survey is ready and will be included in the next newsletters with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Members are encouraged to take five minutes to fill it out and return by

February, 1995.

13. French translation of the constitution is not correct in some areas. Christine Greffe, Sudbury region and Susan Bourdeau, Vice-President, will see that the company is approached to make the necessary corrections at no additional cost.

14. Provincial executive received a letter from the Alberta Association of Library Technicians re-desire to liaison with other associations. Marion Doucette, President, will contact the association.

15. TALTA cannot host the annual conference in 1996. Suggestion made that perhaps a conference should not be held every year. Alternative suggestions were as follows:

- Provincial executive host a one day annual business meeting and workshop
- Annual business meeting could be held at the OLA conference
- combine as a super conference with resources pooled with other library associations
- Regions can host a one day business meeting and workshop

Regions are asked for ideas regarding a workable solution.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Hyvarinen, Director,  
Thunder Bay Region,  
November 29, 1994

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**CONFERENCE REPORT UPDATE**

Judy Sennett and Helen Heerema are extremely busy with their plans for the upcoming 22nd annual OALT/ABO provincial conference which will be held May 24-28 at Lakehead University. A preliminary announcement will be mailed out

shortly. They are still hoping to find someone willing to look after the entertainment plans. They have received some excellent suggestions, but need someone to work out the details. Any help would be GREATLY APPRECIATED! Helen and Judy meet most Thursdays at Judy's office and would welcome anyone who would like to join them. Please phone Judy ahead of time to verify the meeting is going ahead. (625-6713)

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**CLA CONFERENCE**

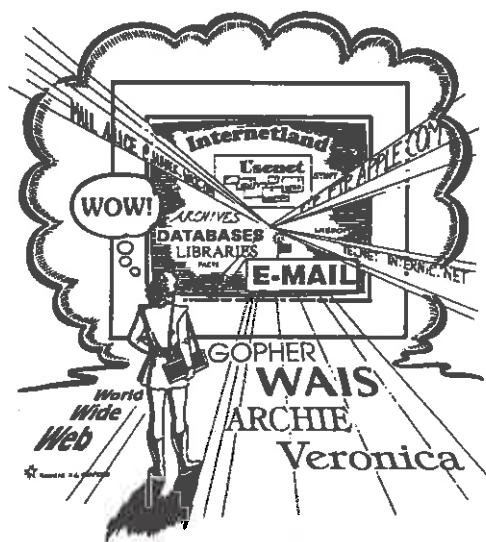
The CLA conferences are held in June of every year.

- 1995 - Calgary (June 15-18)
- 1996 - Halifax
- 1997 - Ottawa
- 1998 - Vancouver
- 1999 - Toronto

<b>EXECUTIVE - 1994/95</b>	
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Valerie Welsch H: 767-2177 W: 625-5240
<b>TREASURER</b>	Jill Otto H: 622-1781
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Carol Young H: 475-9635 W: 625-5246
<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR</b>	Karen Cocks H: 475-0248 W: 345-1461
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITORS</b>	Kathy Crewdson H: 345-6414  Margot Ponder H: 767-6835
<b>REGIONAL DIRECTOR</b>	Helen Hyvarinen H: 767-3679 W: 343-4351
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>	Carolyn Enns H: 344-0768 W: 623-2500
<b>ARCHIVIST</b>	Helen Heerema H: 767-4987 W: 475-6456



**JANUARY 16 - 7:30 P.M. - INTERNET PRESENTATION WITH GISELLA SCALESE.** Gisella is the Orientation/ Continuing Education Librarian in the Reference Department at the Chancellor Paterson Library. Explore the mysteries of Internet with us!



This presentation will be held on the 5th floor of the Chancellor Paterson Library. **EVERYONE PLEASE MEET BY THE CIRCULATION DESK ON THE MAIN FLOOR AT 7:30 SHARP.**

**FEBRUARY 9th - 7:30 P.M. LAKEHEAD BOARD OF EDUCATION. SEXUAL HARASSMENT WORKSHOP WITH LOUISE WRIGHT AND TRISH GLENA.** Louise Wright is the Manager of Staff Relations at the Lakehead Board of Education, and Trish Glenna is the Labour Relations Officer there. This sensitive issue is one that is surfacing frequently in today's

workplace. This should be a most interesting and thought provoking experience! If anyone requires a ride to the workshop, please call any one of the executive members. They would be happy to arrange a ride for you.



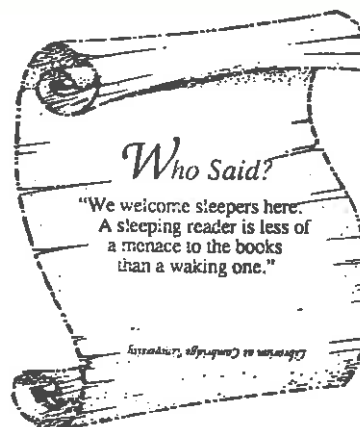
**MARCH 29 - ANNUAL DINNER MEETING. PAGODA GARDENS**

6:30 Symposium  
7:00 Dinner

Cost \$20.00

Tickets for the dinner may be obtained from any executive member or from the Library Tech office. The \$20.00 includes meal, tip and GST. A cash bar is available.

**NOTE:** All library technicians are welcome to attend the dinner. It is not necessary to be a member! We look forward to seeing a large turnout for some good food, fun, and fellowship!



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF....

DEBORAH KRUPA



Although I have not worked in the library field for many years I was surprised and flattered to be asked to write about my "non-traditional" career for the OALT chapter newsletter. Being acutely aware that Canadians have made a quantum leap away from traditional career expectations in recent years, *I will be surprised* if more and more graduates don't change career paths several times during the decade.

Fifteen years ago, however, it was not common practice to leave the security of a full-time job to explore new horizons. As a marketing consultant, I hate to admit to anyone, especially Library Technology grads, that a lot of what happened to change my focus came about more from accident than from strategic planning, but it's true to a certain extent. In today's rapidly changing world, however, we are continually white water rafting and as such must precede every action with carefully executed research and analysis in order to ensure success.

For those of you contemplating a career change or the possibility of opening a business, I pass along a brief outline of my background with the hope that it may provide some information that will be useful to you.

After graduation from the Library Technology course, I went to work with the Thunder Bay Public Library, first in the Children's Department of Brodie Street, and then with Children's Services at the Mary J.L. Black Branch. Through this time and the years that followed I completed my Bachelor of Arts Degree (English/Fine Arts) and in 1990 went back to school in London, England and graduated from the Jefkins School (University of London) of International Public

## Relations Management.

Upon leaving Thunder Bay Public, I worked for a time in theatre in Thunder Bay and Toronto, but found the most rewarding part of the work for me was in the promotions and public relations side of the performances. At this time I realized that the field of public relations and marketing was my true calling.

Through the years, I worked in the field in both the public and private sector- for Abitibi Price, the City of Thunder Bay, Employment Canada, as Public Relations Director of the 1981 Canada Summer Games and the Community Auditorium and as Director of Marketing for the Airline Hotel. As well, I have been a sessional professor of marketing and public relations courses at Confederation College on and off for ten years and this year returned to Lakehead University's Library and Information Studies department to teach a sessional course in public relations.

For most of this part of my career, I became an executive member of a number of regional, national, and international professional and business associations and have been honoured with several achievement and recognition awards from these groups, of which I am very proud.

Now that I have opened my own business I do not have the time any more to devote to committee work, but I recommend to anyone considering opening a business to get involved first in professional associations. It is the only way to "grow" in your field and establish valuable contacts and networks. My business has benefited many times as a result of the contacts I made while working on committees.

In 1990 I opened my business, DKA Marketing, a company that specializes in developing market feasibility studies, market strategies and business plans for a variety of public and private sector clients. We are also heavily involved in providing marketing and public relations counselling and training services. Many of our native and non-native client groups are active in tourism development, small business start-up and exporting.

We have been lucky. The business has had steady

growth over the years, and now has a branch office in Toronto in addition to the head office here in Thunder Bay. At present, there are approximately twelve people working for the company on a full or part-time basis. Our staff complement varies depending on the specific projects that we are working on at any given time. Our work takes us all over the province on a regular basis, but we also do work nationally and internationally. In 1995, we will be involved in a number of international projects; in fact we are presently developing our own feasibility study to determine the degree of success we could expect from opening an overseas branch office.

A typical day for this ex-library technician begins around 5:30 or 6:00 a.m., six or seven days a week. I like to get a jump on the day before the phones start ringing, generally around 8:00 a.m.. As many of the clients and contacts live outside of Thunder Bay, I spend a lot of time on the telephone (you should see my telephone bills!). I spend a lot of time travelling and in meetings, (you should see my travel bills!) but I find I have to devote at least two days a week to quiet writing and research in order to stay on top of the work load. My work day generally ends about 11:00 p.m., although quite regularly I will work until two in the morning. My son Chris, a student at U. of T., quit his part-time job to work for the business in Toronto, and my daughter Hilary, a high school student here, also quit her part-time job to work for the company. Even my husband, a high school English teacher, is involved, as a part-time proof reader. (It's the only way we can see each other).

One of the most critical decision factors in assessing a new business start-up has to be the time commitment. For the first five years, most business people find they must devote on average seventy to eighty hours a week to the business. I suppose this also means that you must have a certain level of energy. There are other requirements to business success, including the following:

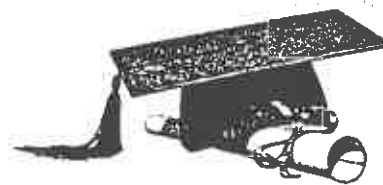
1) **Mind Set.** Devotion to clients and a fierce commitment to provide superior service is key. (We have been fortunate to have kept 99% of our clients and most of our present work is through referrals).

2) **Adequate research** prior to entering into the venture. (This is where your library training is invaluable). Research will identify whether or not your business concept has opportunity to be successful and if so to what degree.

3) **Enough capital** to finance business start-up and acceptance of the fact that profits must be re-invested into the company, particularly through the first five years.

4) **Love and excitement** for your work (although the hours are long, developing whale and polar bear watching tours on the Hudson Bay coast and participating in trade missions to South East Asia has not become boring work to me - *Yet*).

To me, having research skills is one of the most valuable tools anyone can possess at this time. Research is available to guide you towards finding a working future that's right for you. Research will also help you head off a lot of problems at the pass. In my initial years in the marketing and public relations field, many people were surprised that I had started my career in library service, but today, many of my colleagues are envious that I have an understanding of the information retrieval process and am comfortable using it. Because the corporate world now recognizes the importance of research in strategic planning, I expect many of you will work in information retrieval industries - for public and private sector consumers. I feel that my library background made me aware of this fact at a very early stage in my career which helped me tremendously in my endeavours. I hope you use your research skills to help you find success in your future endeavours too.



#### **FROM THE HALLS OF LEARNING**

Library Tech students will be off on their annual field trip March 9-12. Their destination this year

is Toronto. Some major sites they will be visiting are the Metropolitan Reference Library, the John Robarts Library (U. of T.), and the Boys and Girls House, which houses the special Canadiana collection. Anyone interested in making the trip to Toronto with them should contact Nancy in the Library Tech office at 343-8420 as soon as possible.

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Our library investigation team was hot on the trail of another library for this issue. This time our search led us to the new **HARGAN LIBRARY**, named after Dr. W.A. Hargan, the first Director of the Thunder Bay Regional Cancer Centre. The library, which is a joint library for the physicians and staff of the Port Arthur General Hospital and the Regional Cancer Centre, opened on November 25, 1994. An official ceremony was held, attended by Mrs. Hargan and her two



## THE ROVING REPORTERS





daughters. Representatives of the Port Arthur General Hospital, the Thunder Bay Regional Cancer Centre, The General Hospital of Port Arthur Foundation, the federal, provincial, and municipal governments were present, as well as other invited guests. The festivities were held in the Cancer Centre, where the library is located.

The library is divided into two levels. Stairs which join the two floors have been positioned under a large skylight which effectively brightens up the whole area. Sunlight also streams in through huge windows, providing a most enjoyable setting in which to work!

Cathy Walsh, the Thunder Bay Regional Cancer Centre Librarian, and Elizabeth Browne, the Librarian for the PAGH have a modern office area, with a pleasant view on the second level. Some library material is located on this floor, however most of the material is housed on the main floor.

The main focus of the collection is on general medicine and cancer, and the holdings include books, journals, videos, and audiocassettes. On-line and CD-ROM searches, as well as reference and inter-library loan services are available.

Cathy told me the collection is kept up to date on INMAGIC *Plus* software and the holdings can be searched by users at the first floor desk using SEARCHMAGIC.

As the Hargan Library belongs to the Northwestern Ontario Health Libraries Association, which is a cooperative network of health care information, they have access to a large number of journals and other sources of valuable information. They also have access to the Northern Outreach Library Service of the University of Western Ontario.

Any physician or staff member desiring instruction on how to search the various health databases, eg. MEDLINE, CANCERLIT, CINAHL, is able to do so by booking appointments with either library technician.

I asked whether anyone could use the library resources, and was told that the collection was for

NOMP, Family Practice Residents and other students on placement with the hospital or clinic. Other users will be considered on an individual basis.

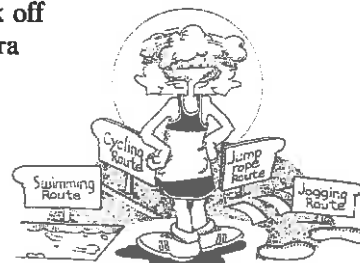
Cathy and Elizabeth seem very pleased with their new surroundings, and certainly their patrons will discover now that the two collections have been joined together, the end result will be a stronger collection resulting in superior, and more convenient library service for all.

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## FROM THE GRAPEVINE



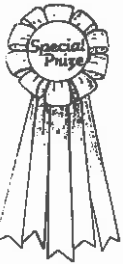
Now that the holidays are over it seems that a recurrent topic of discussion in the staff coffee rooms seems to be how everyone indulged in overeating and how they're going to work off those few extra pounds!



The latest scoop from the TBPL... Anyone hurrying in to Waverley Library out of the cold a couple of weeks ago was treated to the sight of Barb Koppenhaver sailing through the reference department on a raft! Only joking of course, however a water pipe in or near her office did burst and hot water leaked out all over the floor creating quite a mess. The heat set off the fire alarm and the staff had to spend several minutes huddling out in the cold until firemen told them they could re-enter the building! They also had a power blackout over the holidays as well - as did Brodie. Who said life in the library was dull!

We would like to congratulate Cheryl Fenton (Brodie Reference Department) and Bev Fisher





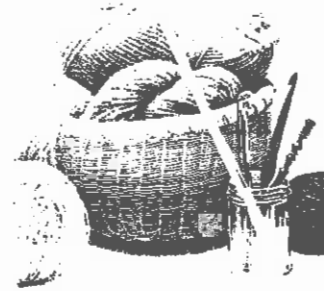
(Mary J.L. Black). They both recently received the TBPL 1994 Award of Merit for their outstanding contribution to the library over the years. They both have provided patrons with excellent library service.

News from L.U... Val Gibbons has returned from maternity leave. She had her second child, a boy, in the spring. Welcome back, Val!

Roberta Casella has just finished her Masters from Western - with superior marks, we're told! Congratulations, Roberta!

"Many modern novels have a beginning, a middle, and an end."  
Philip Larkin

**CRAFT CORNER**



Anyone interested in knitting a dishcloth? These dishcloths are recommended by Valerie Welsch. Her mother-in-law showed her how to make these over the Christmas holidays. You will need:

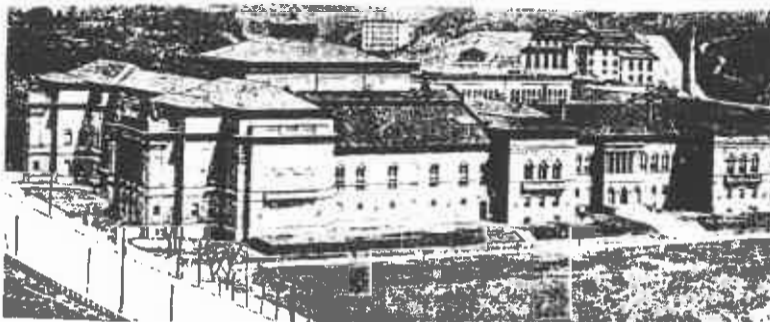
- 1 skein Bernat 4 ply cotton
- 6 mm knitting needles

The pattern is on the back of the Bernat label. You can find the skeins at Zeller's. They sell for about \$1.79.

**EDITORS' NOTE**

We would like to express our appreciation to Debbie Squier-Bernst and Deborah Krupa for their contributions to "A Day in the Life of...". Their articles are extremely interesting and add to the enjoyment of our readers.

*Did You Know That...*



Carnegie Institute and Library of Pittsburgh

The Carnegie Institute and Library, dedicated on November 5, 1881, is physically the largest of the institutions founded by Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie's first offer to provide \$250,000 for a free library if the city would appropriate not less than \$15,000 annually for its support was rejected. A second offer which provided for \$1,000,000 with the proviso that the city appropriate \$40,000 annually for maintenance was accepted. When the building was opened it contained a library, a music hall, an art gallery, and a museum.