



President's Message

I hope this beautiful mild Christmas break found everyone relaxing and enjoying the season. Was one of your New Year's Resolutions to attend the next three OALT/ABO meetings? Great! See you then at the Challis Resource Centre (Confederation College Library) in January, the Oliver Township Public Library (Murillo) in February, and the Annual Dinner Meeting in March.

The November meeting found twelve hearty techs entertained by local author Charles Wilkins, as he explained his arrival in Thunder Bay as TBPL's "Writer-in-Residence", and then, as that position expired, he chose to remain here by Lake Superior. He talked of the emotions of being in a room by himself, listening to his own heartbeat, while the computer keys clicked and the ideas flew. He read sections about Eric Nesterenko from his latest book, "Breakaway: Hockey and the Years Beyond." The evening concluded with several of us purchasing autographed copies of this novel and the further chance to just chat with Charles and each other.

The December meeting was once again a house party. We were hoping to see more students - but unfortunately it was the night before an exam! We will try to plan a better date for next year. Each executive member provided food for the soiree and my dining room table looked bountiful. The "house" seemed to provide the right atmosphere for mingling, as mingle we did, after a short general meeting.

During this meeting, the business of a deadline for membership dues was discussed. The collection of dues for the last three years has been chaotic - ever since moving our calendar year from September to September. Our Constitution states the membership year runs from September to September with each region making their own decision when to collect these dues. We, the executive, are suggesting collecting dues at the Annual dinner meeting (in March) or at the first

General Meeting (in September) and then close the books by the end of October. This gives current members three meetings to renew (and why wouldn't you) and the students two months to decide if they wish to join. After that the executive knows how many members there are, how many meeting notices have to be produced, and how many newsletters have to be printed, leaving our limited monies to be spent wisely.

We look forward to seeing everyone out for the tour of the Challis Resource Centre on Wednesday, January 17 at 7:30. Laraine Tapak, Chief Librarian, will be taking us on a tour and showing us their new GEAC system. I have not often been back since I was on a weekend supply contract in 1986-87, so I am looking forward to seeing the great changes that have been made. I see that Karen has asked us to be environmentally friendly and bring our own coffee mugs.

The last library tour of the year is at the Oliver Township Public Library in Murillo on Saturday, February 10 at 1:30 PM. Valerie Barton, OALT/ABO treasurer is going to take us on the tour. This has been our only Saturday meeting and hopefully the day will be advantageous to all and I invite you to join me in Murillo. A car pool is available so please let Margot Ponder know if you need a ride.

In closing, I would like you to start thinking about the four executive positions that will be available in March. As each executive member only hosts one meeting a year, the responsibility is not heavy, and the fellowship certainly outweighs that task. Give some thought to becoming the new President, Secretary, Public Relations or Newsletter Editor(s).

We look forward to seeing you at the next three meetings.

Valerie Welsch

Provincial Report



As the date of the November meeting was changed, Jill Otto was unable to attend the last Provincial Meeting. She has not received the minutes of that meeting, therefore we are unable to inform our members of the latest provincial news.

Treasurer's Report

as of November 30, 1995

Revenue		
Memberships	\$	1183.00
Interest		.73

Total	\$	1183.73
Expenses		
Provincial Reconciliation	\$	932.00
Postage & Ledger Sheets		27.00
Workshop Door Prize		15.00
Public Relations		59.88
Honorarium (F. Beimers, C. Wilkins)		100.00

Total	\$	1134.17
Surplus as of September 30, 1995:		
	\$	1938.52
Excess of Revenue over expenses:		49.56

Surplus as of this date:	\$	1988.08
Assets:		
Cash in Bank	\$	1988.08
G.I.C.		1000.00

Total:	\$	2988.08

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Graduate	28
Student	18
Senior	1
Associate	0
Institutional	4

	51



January 17, 7:30 P.M. : A Tour of the Challis Resource Centre at Confederation College.

For those of you who have wanted to visit the library at Confederation College, now is your chance! Laraine Tapak has kindly consented to take us on a tour and show us the latest developments in the Centre. Read more about these changes in Laraine's article entitled "What's Been Happening."

February 10, 1:30 P.M. : A Tour of the Oliver Township Public Library in Murillo.

Valerie Barton, the Library Tech in charge of this cosy community library, will be the hostess for this event. You may remember the Roving Reporters visited her library in November 1994, and wrote an article about it. The Library is situated in the Town Hall right beside the Murillo Hotel.

? March : Annual Banquet

Our Annual Banquet will be held during the last week of March. Date, time, and place will be announced in the next newsletter.

EXECUTIVE - 1995/96	
PRESIDENT	Valerie Welsch H: 767-2177 W: 625-5240
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NEWSLETTER EDITORS	Margot Ponder H: 767-6835 W: 343-8420 Kathy Crewdson H: 345-6414
REGIONAL DIRECTOR	Jill Otto H: 622-1781

open-booking computer lab in the Resource Centre - a plum we were not about to refuse (and something for which I'd been pushing for a long time). However, that meant finding space, taking apart shelving, shifting the entire ground floor, and reorganizing existing space so as not to lose any quiet or group study areas - all in two months while everyone was frantically learning the OPAC, Circ module, Reserve Book Room and Materials Booking modules, and trying to vacation - no tiny task! Over the summer we arranged for one-on-one training for all staff in DOS, Windows, WordPerfect, and Lotus to prepare us for the onslaught of questions we anticipated from the new lab, along with a short training session on the Internet.

At the same time, staff were working on organizing a new Music CD collection along with a new circulating CD-ROM collection. (These two had to be pushed back to December for obvious reasons.)

As I sit at my desk this early Saturday morning and look back on what has been accomplished in so short a timespan, I am truly amazed and wanted to recognize the efforts of some very talented clerical, technical, and library technical staff in our Resource Centre.

Susan Bithrey
Tara Botelho
Sharon Forshaw
Maureen Frost
Ruth Hamilton
Helen Heerema
Lisa Jack
Denyse Krystalovich
Lorraine Prontack
Norma Pyhtila
Marge Roberts
Janice Wing

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Submission to OALT Tech Talk by Laraine Tapak, Director, Challis Resource Centre, Confederation College

I read with interest every issue of **Tech Talk** as it crosses my desk and it usually leaves me feeling so good about libraries and library technicians in this area that I thought I might share some of what's happening at our college.

After almost two years of "blood, sweat and tears," the Resource Centre launched its new Geac Advance Library Automation System. Anyone who has ever automated knows this is no small feat, and the staff in the Resource Centre are to be commended for all their hard work in making the project a reality.

At the same time that we began planning for this launch, we got news that the College decided to put an

Also a special thank you to Gina Rawson for sharing her Geac expertise with the staff and to Thunder Bay Public Library for releasing her to do that for us! It has been one heck of a year, but we all know it's only the beginning!

Thank you Laraine for the article! We really appreciate receiving articles for the newsletter!

"A good library is a place, a palace where the lofty spirits of all nations and generations meet."
Samuel Niger (1883-1956)

Dumb, Dumber, and Dumbest

Will Manley, a frequent contributor to "American Libraries," requested readers to write in about the vexations of reference librarianship. In the November and December 1995 issues he provides some of the responses from his readers.

* A few weeks after the installation of a new computer catalog, a confused patron approached the reference desk of his public library and said, "The computer says to press any key, but I can't find the "any" key. Can you show me where it is?"

* An elderly woman explained to her reference librarian that she had sent her deceased pet poodle to a company in Florida to have it freeze-dried. The company never sent the dog back. The woman wanted to know where she should send her complaint.

* A frantic secretary rushed up to the reference librarian and demanded to see a copy of the "riot act." After the librarian responded with confusion, the patron exclaimed, "My boss wants me to read the riot act to a bill collector who has been bothering him and I need a copy of it!"

* A man called up his county library reference department and wanted to know if the library was a government "suppository."

* A man called the reference desk of a southern public library and wanted to know the blue book value of a Chevy pickup truck. "What model?" asked the librarian. The patron didn't know. "What size engine?" The patron didn't know. "Long-bed or short-bed?" The patron didn't know. "Well, said the librarian in exasperation, "what can you tell me about it?" "Oh," said the caller, "it has a gun rack, a hound dog, and a sticker of the Confederate flag on the back window."

* Ordinarily that most frequently asked question of all time - "Where is the bathroom?" - is not too difficult to answer. In this particular academic library, however, the men's room and the women's room were in two different directions. This is an important detail, because the gender of the patron was not easily recognizable. What did the librarian do? She briefly considered conducting a reference interview to determine the patron's sex (Do you prefer sitting or standing?) But chickened out. So she responded, "I have absolutely no idea where the bathrooms are in this building - I just started here this morning!"



From the Halls of Learning

The halls of L.U. are once again milling with students after the Christmas break.

The Department of Library and Information Studies is now offering courses in Marathon. The introductory course LIS 1010 is being taught this term by Margaret MacLean, who will be travelling there once or twice a month for the next few months.

The second year students are looking forward to their field trip to Toronto in February. They will be visiting the Royal Ontario Museum Library, the Legislative Library, the Lillian H. Smith Public Library (Toronto Public Library's newest branch), the University of Toronto's John P. Robarts Library, and the Metro Toronto Reference Library. Have a good time!

Internet Addresses

<http://www.cwconnect.ca/netreader/thunbay/thunbay.htm>

This is the address for the Chronicle Journal's new web page. Although they have just started this site, it's certainly worth having a look at.

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

This Yahoo indexing service provides a very complete and active list of Web resources. It has an excellent reputation for finding new documents and cross-referencing links.

<http://www.BrandonU.ca/~ennsnr/Resources/Roadmap/Welcome.html>

This is the address for Partrick Crispin's Internet Roadmap. If you want to learn how to use the Internet, check out this address. You can download the lessons if you wish.

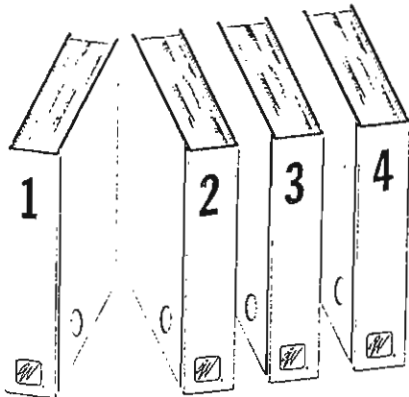
<http://www.msstate.edu/Movies/>

This is supposed to be a good movie database.

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

This is the address for the Encyclopedia Britannica.

LIFE OF A BOOKWORM RIDDLE



Each of the four volumes has the same number of pages and the width from the first to the last page of each volume is two inches. Each volume has two covers and each cover is 1/6th of an inch thick.

Our microscopic bookworm was born on page one of volume one. During his life he ate a straight hole across the bottom of the volumes. He ate all the way to the last page of volume four. The bookworm ate in a straight line, without zigzagging. The volumes are in English and are right-side up on a bookcase shelf.

How many inches did the bookworm travel during his life?

Use the diagram to help you conceptualize this brain teaser. The answer is on the last page.



Congratulations go out to **LaRea Moody** who was awarded the **Silver Achievement Award** from the City of Thunder Bay. The award was given to several volunteers who "helped bring distinction to their community." In fact, according to the Chronicle Journal article, "when it comes to fundraising, one might say LaRea was the bagwoman of Thunder Bay's cultural arts scene."

We would like to take this opportunity to wish **Barb Koppenhaver**, Coordinator, Community Services, from the Thunder Bay Library a very happy retirement. She has certainly done an excellent job promoting the Library and developing programs within the community for the benefit of all library patrons for many years. Knowing Barb, she won't be content to sit around at home, she'll be off trying something new - like teaching aquabics?

Gwen Gamble a former graduate of the program is now working in the Bibliographic Processing Department at L.U.'s Chancellor Paterson Library, in a contract position.

Jill Otto has also been hired for a job sharing contract position in the Children's Department at Waverley. She and Anne McLean will be filling in for Carol Hallinan, who is on maternity leave.

Linda Buchovy will be replacing Evalina Pam from Churchill High School when she's away on union business.

Heather Miller from the Lakehead Board of Education is back from her maternity leave working half time, but from her home instead of the office!

Any other news you'd like to pass along? If you have information about former graduates or members, please let us know !



New Books from Local Authors

Thunder Bay: From Rivalry to Unity edited by Thorold Tronrud and E. Epp

Breaking the Mould by Penny Petrone

Can Car: A History, 1912-1922 by Gordon Burkowski

Naming by Elizabeth Kouhi

Journal of a Country Lawyer by E.C. Burton

Thunder Bay Historical Museum

For those of you who missed the opening... A celebration for the Preview opening of the new Thunder Bay Museum took place Saturday, Dec. 2, 1995, in the museum at 425 Donald Street East (formerly the Thunder Bay Police Station). The festivities included tours of the new building to see the renovations completed so far, and to view the design

plans for the permanent exhibits. Music, food, and drink added to the celebration. The new Thunder Bay Historical Museum is alive and well on the road to new and exciting things in the future.

Old Libraries.....

“What a place to be in is an old library! It seems as though all the souls of all the writers that have bequeathed their labours to these Bodleians were reposing here as in some dormitory, or in middle state. I do not want to handle , to profane the leaves, their winding sheets. I could as soon dislodge a shade. I seem to inhale learning, walking amid their foliage, and the odor of their old moth-scented coverings is fragrant as the first bloom of the scintial apples which grew amid the happy orchard.”

Essays of Elia. Oxford in the Vacation.
Charles Lamb (1775-1834)

ANSWER TO THE BOOKWORM RIDDLE - 5 inches





The Jingle Mingle

Sampling the fabulous Christmas goodies!

L to R: Karen Cocks, Helen Hereema, Ella Uremovich, Charise Wall, and Carol Young