

TECH TALK

Volume 26, No 1. June 1998



President's Message!

Once again, we have a very enthusiastic and dedicated executive for the Thunder Bay Region. We will do our best to provide members with interesting workshops and presentations throughout the year ahead.

The annual dinner meeting celebrating our 25th year as an association was a resounding success! Many thanks to the 25th Anniversary Committee: Karen Cocks, Helen Heerema, Kathy Crewdson, Kathy Walkinshaw and Ella Uremovich. Their hard work resulted in a most enjoyable evening of reminiscing and conversation with former library technician students and faculty.

Now that the lazy, hazy days of summer are just around the corner, the executive will take a break to enjoy the summer and meet in late August to plan a new season of interesting workshops and meetings.

Have a safe and happy summer!



Helen Hyvarinen

Provincial Report



Fulcrum 98 took place at Spencer Hall in London from May 21-24. This year marks the 25th anniversary of OALT/ABO and the members of Lohania Region did a superb job of Organizing and hosting this conference.

The workshops were varied and enjoyed by all. Searching the Web, Windows 95, Moving a Library, Ergonomics and The Entrepreneurial Library Technician were just a few of the more popular workshops. The presenters of the workshops were certainly experts in their fields and were well received.

Two hi-lites of this year's conference were the Past Presidents' Luncheon and the 25 Year Members presentation. The Past Presidents Luncheon was held on Saturday afternoon and it was nice to see so many past presidents able to attend. The banquet Saturday evening was well attended. Five 25 year members were honored and presented with engraved silver pens. Thunder Bay's LaRae Moody was one of the honorees.

Unfortunately LaRae was unable to attend and she was sorely missed by all those in attendance. The round table discussion and the subsequent brainstorming session were both quite lively and interesting. This years focus by the association will continue to be our PR campaign. It was decided that we would focus our efforts on increasing and maintaining our membership and encouraging employers to hire library technicians.

Faxon Canada has agreed to sponsor a Listserv for OALT/ABO members. This is very exciting for OALT/ABO. Details and registration information will be available on our website hopefully by fall.

OALT/ABO is in need of a newsletter editor or editors. If any Thunder Bay member(s) would like to take on this responsibility please let me know and I will pass your name(s) along.

Thunder Bay was represented at the conference by Helen Hyvarinen, Judy Sennett, Valerie Welsch and myself. I know I speak for all of us when I say that Lohania did an amazing job in hosting this year's conference. The choice of Spencer Hall was an excellent one. The food alone was a major topic of conversation. Unfortunately the 10k walk Valerie and I took Sunday morning did not undo the damage caused by three days of over indulging. However we were able to hone our research and interview skills (we got lost).

Sudbury will be hosting next year's conference. I hope Thunder Bay will again be represented. Start making plans now!

Valerie Barten
Regional Director

\$

Treasurer's Report

Statement as of May 31, 1998

Revenue

Memberships	300.00
Dinner Tickets	1425.00
G.I.C.	<u>1027.50</u>
	2752.50

Expenses

Provincial Reconciliation	438.00
Provincial Travel	108.19
Advertising, 25th Anniversary	
Dinner	52.00
Printing-Tickets	157.28
Engraving	17.15
Photocopy, Stamps	91.88
Newsletter	94.56
Catering	1554.50
Misc. - 25th Anniversary	
Dinner	<u>377.71</u>
	2891.27

Surplus as of May 31, 1998 **420.14**

Assets

Cash in Bank	420.14
G.I.C.	<u>3206.48</u>
Total:	3626.62

\$

Membership Statistics

Graduates.....	33
Students.....	15
Associate.....	1
Institutional.....	4
Total.....	53

Membership Fees

Graduate	\$60.00
Student	\$15.00
Senior	\$15.00
Associate	\$40.00
Institutional	\$82.00
Unemployed	\$30.00

OALT/ABO EXECUTIVE:	
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OALT 25TH ANNIVERSARY

At our annual 'Jingle Mingle', it was decided that our region should recognize OALT's 25th anniversary and have this celebration in conjunction with our annual business meeting in the spring. An adhoc committee was formed at this time. The committee consisted of Karen Cocks, Helen Heerema, Kathleen Crewdson, Ella Uremovich, and Kathleen Walkinshaw. During the next few months, this committee met on a regular basis. At each meeting, ideas started to flow quite readily, and we were confident that our anniversary celebration would be a

success. At times, we actually felt like we were planning a wedding. It was fun and hectic at the same time! Once major decisions were made, everything else fell into place. Ella looked after the location, seating arrangements and door prizes, Karen was responsible for decorations and name tags, Kathy produced 100 delicious homemade chocolates, Helen distributed tickets, decided upon menu items and offered her experience gained from past conferences, and I (Kathleen) took care of producing the OALT brochures, banner and the designing and printing of tickets. A membership drive was active in conjunction with the 25th celebration. One hundred letters were sent out to past members with news on this upcoming event.

Approximately 55 people were in attendance at the celebration. It was held in the Lakehead University Faculty Lounge on Thursday, March 26, including technicians from Thunder Bay Public Library, Lakehead District School Board, Confederation College, Lakehead University and other local libraries. Everyone enjoyed the fabulous dinner buffet. Door prizes were drawn and speakers reminisced about our association's beginnings and discussed where our association is heading. Afterwards, everyone was free to browse through our displays and renew old acquaintances. After dinner (and a few drinks), I recall sitting at the head table and thinking how proud I was of what our 25th Anniversary Committee had accomplished.

Submitted by Kathleen Crewdson, Karen Cocks & Ella Uremovich



OALT/ABO Annual Conference-- Workshop Summary

Moving a Library

Martie Grof-Lannelli discussed her experiences in moving the School of Library and Information Sciences 125, 000 volume library at the University of Western Ontario.

There are many things to consider when moving a library such as downsizing to a smaller environment, planning to increase the collection, will collections be relocated in the same configuration, and calculation of workflow patterns regarding the arrangement of staff and furnishings.

She stressed the importance of having a floor plan and marking the collections, each piece, each piece of furniture and equipment on the floor plan. Do not forget offices and workrooms when laying out the plan.

If possible, inventory the collection prior to moving. It will give you a better understanding of your collection. Also, weeding will provide you with the opportunity to discard outdated resources as well as ones that are in poor condition. Make sure you leave a marker for replacement of discarded resources.

Communication with staff, patrons and administration is necessary to make the move successful and smooth as possible. Monthly formal communications, update sheets for patrons, and weekly staff meetings to encourage input from staff re-evaluate the progress made in the planning stages.

Rare book materials require special treatment in a move. Bubble wrap should be used to wrap them up and are to be laid flat in boxes. They are not to be packed with the spines up. Other resources can be packed with the spines up temporarily. Martie suggested not to store

materials with the spine up for more than 3-5 days. Label all boxes and number bays and shelves.

For the physical move, you may want to hire a moving company. Movers are responsible for the actual move and leveling the book stacks. There are companies that specialize in moving libraries. They "shrink wrap" units of book stacks with the books on it and put them in the van with forklifts!

Martie stressed the importance of planning so that you will have the least amount of downtime during the actual physical move and setting up in the new location. When she moved the 125,000 volume library at the School of Library and Information Studies, it took only three days of downtime!

Submitted by Helen Hyvarinen

Reader's Advisory for Young Adults

Dr. Lynne McKechnie, Assistant Professor of the Program of Library and Information Science at the University of Western Ontario, gave a very interesting workshop on reading and young adults. Dr. McKechnie discussed such topics as Myths About Young Adult Reading and How Young Adults Pick Books. She took us through the steps of the reader's advisory interview and gave a critique of useful reader's advisory tools for young adult library users. Dr. McKechnie then closed the workshop with a few suggestions on ways to encourage young adults to read.

Submitted by Valerie Barten

Windows 95

Geraldine Hughes of the London Psychiatric Hospital Research Department gave a very impressive workshop on Windows 95. Ms. Hughes was extremely knowledgeable on this topic and covered such topics as What is Windows 95?, Getting Started Using

Windows 95, Finding Files and Folders, Working With Files and Creating Shortcuts. She covered her topics in such a way that all those who attended this workshop, regardless of their level of expertise, understood the material and enjoyed the presentation.

Submitted by Valerie Barten.

Searching the Web- Level II

Level II of **Searching the Web** was for the web user who wanted to learn to search the World Wide Web resources strategically. Presenter, Ian Whyte, took us through:

- The anatomy of HTML
- Web Robots & Spiders
- HTML document indexing
- Basic Web searching
- Searching the Web strategically

When I had completed the first level (the morning's session), I explained to Ian that at work I had been trying, unsuccessfully, to find the visual adaptation for the popular children's novel "Hatchet". When I came back for level II, he had found the answer and worked us through all the steps.

Under the anatomy of HTML he had us looking under *view* to see the document source and the structure of the document drawing our attention to the Meta tags which can be used for indexing and key word searching. He explained that there is software that each of the search engine company's use that document and index data.

Ian stressed that we always use advanced searches. For example *Hatchet and video* gave us thousands of hits while *Hatchet near video* gave us our answer. Also fill in the ranking field! Ian recommended that we read the Help information, use boolean, specify terms for ranking, truncate, use proximity operator, and limit your searches. If you want my six pages of hand-outs let me

know and I will copy them for you.

Ian had us doing some searches to practice our skill. Question 6 was, "Can you find the Chinese (Cantonese or Mandarin) word for serenity?" Pam Casey and I didn't do too well on this question...but if you want pornographic sites we know how to find those.

Submitted by Valerie Welsch

MARGARET ATWOOD *Reading & Book Signing*

On May 29, 1998, at 7:30 p.m., the Auditorium at the May J.L. Black Library in Thunder Bay was filled to capacity - a sold-out crowd - and the people all came to see one of Canada's foremost writers - MARGARET ATWOOD : poet, novelist, storyteller and essayist. She was in the city to receive an honorary degree at Lakehead University's convocation ceremonies on May 30, and she made a special appearance at the library.



She read two selections from Alias Grace, a fictionalized account of a double murder that took place in a nineteenth century southern Ontario town, and then recounted the search for facts and research that she had done for this book: scouring newspapers in a thirty mile radius of the town for accounts, pouring through notes in the Law Society of Upper Canada where there were the judge's notes from the trial of Grace Marks, and at Kingston Penitentiary where Grace had been incarcerated. Atwood described her search for facts as an Easter egg hunt or more precisely, as a treasure hunt where one clue can lead you to another, and then to another, and so on. She also suggested that if a person wants to keep a journal, please be specific in descriptions such as what type of shoes were worn and if an egg was microwaved, what is a microwave? It seems to be self-explanatory now, but in a century's time, things change, and details always help in a biography.

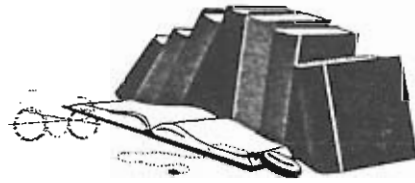
Atwood's talk was very informative, interspersed with witticisms and wry comments. As an example, she described how news of the day had been spread through broadsheet, poetic interpretations of news filled with lurid details that could either be read or sung to tell the listeners the latest news. She then read her interpretation of a broad sheet where she described Grace Marks being found wearing Nancy Montgomery's dress -- Atwood then added "Bad fashion sense."

In the question period that followed, Atwood said that she had begun to write seriously when she was sixteen years old

and that she was encouraged to do so by her Grade 12 and 13 English teacher. She writes approximately two book reviews per year and does a literary lecture. When asked what she likes to read, she responded that she reads for pleasure and is an omnivorous reader, enjoying all sorts of literature such as history, archeology and science (the popular type with colour pictures and diagrams), military history, novels, and poetry. Her favorite book? It depends on what she is currently reading.

After the question period, Margaret Atwood was presented with a bouquet of flowers, and an English Professor from Lakehead University presented her with a shawl made of Thunder Bay's tartan. People then lined up to have their books signed, and Chapters, a local bookstore, was there to sell copies of Atwood's books. Cake, tea and coffee were provided as refreshments.

Submitted by Linda Bukovy



BOOK TALK

*Atwood, Margaret. Alias Grace.
Toronto : McClelland & Stewart Inc, 1996.*

In Margaret Atwood's astonishing new novel, she takes the reader into the 19th Century and recounts a true story (with some perks of her own) about a double murder which occurred in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Grace Marks is considered a celebrated murderess because she is considered an accomplice in the murder of a wealthy man, Thomas Kinnear, and of Nancy Montgomery, his housekeeper and mistress.

After enduring a childhood of many hardships, she suddenly found herself serving a life sentence in the Kingston Penitentiary, and she was barely sixteen. She was also institutionalized in a Lunatic Asylum for a short time, until they decided she should reside at the Penitentiary.

Grace Marks was becoming, what seemed like an object of study amongst doctors all over the world. However, there was one doctor, Simon Jordan, who tried to interpret and help Grace understand what happened preceding the death of her employer. Was she a victim of circumstance or was she a jealous woman who was succumbed by her deadly passion?

Not only is Margaret Atwood one of my favorite author's but this is one of the most incredibly fascinating books I have read in a very long time. This novel is full of suspense, mystery, passion, violence and it brilliantly comes together into a 460 page, you can't put it down novel!! I decided not to go into great detail regarding this novel because I know I could never do it justice in just a few short words. I would definitely recommend Margaret Atwood's novel, Alias Grace for those hot, relaxing summer days. I would suggest pulling up a lounge chair, finding some shade and pouring yourself a tall glass of lemonade because you will have a hard time putting this book!

Submitted by Kelly Maheu

OALT/ABO GOLF SHIRTS & FULCRUM '98 BOOK BAGS AVAILABLE!

OALT/ABO 1973-1998 golf shirts and Fulcrum '98 book bags are available for order. The shirts are \$20.00 and they are available in sizes S-XL, while the book bags are \$4.00. If you'd like to place an order, please contact Valerie Welsch at 625-5240 (w) or 767-2177 (h) before June 23rd.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ROUNDTABLE

Children's Literature Roundtables are active across Canada and the United States. Members share an interest in children's literature. The activities of these groups are varied. They may sponsor author visits, they may promote local authors, they may meet to discuss particular aspects of a body of literature, they may host guest speakers, etc. etc.

Our group has met twice. We have established the following mandate:

To promote children's books and link the literary community.

We are still very much a developing group and are working with issues concerning specific goals and objectives and our activities.

If you are interested in children's literature and would like to join our group, or for further information, please contact me.

*Donna Bright
Children's Services Librarian
Thunder Bay Public Library
346-9825 (H) or 624-4204 (W)
(dbright@tbpl.thunder-bay.on.ca)*

FROM THE HALLS OF LEARNING

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

1998 LIBRARY & INFORMATION
STUDIES GRADUATES

Liz Abbott
 Elizabeth Anderson
 Stephanie Bortolot
 Chad Bragnalo
 Lesley Dokuchie
 Kelly Dunne
 Jennifer Graff
 Dianne Heffren
 Ida Paradiso
 Brenda Saindon
 David Taylor
 Shari Vaillant
 Charise Wall
 Jennifer Willianen
 Margaret Yussack



CONGRATULATIONS to Johanna Partnoy who received her Bachelor of Arts Degree (Psychology) from L.U. at the May Convocation.

GETTING TO KNOW...

On May 5, Algonquin Public School had a visit from Canadian author, **Frank O'Keeffe**. Students in grades five and six came out and enjoyed his humorous stories. Frank read sections of his books and described to the students where his thoughts came from. Each of his stories are based on life experiences with his family or friends. The children really enjoyed his visit and they are very interested in reading his books. Some of his books include "Guppy Love, or The Day the Fish Tank Exploded", "School Stinks", "It's Only A Game", and "If It Rains Again Tomorrow, Can We Go Home?". I've come to realize it takes a great deal of time and hard work to write a novel. My visit with Frank was very enjoyable and it was an excellent learning experience to speak first hand with a Canadian author.

Submitted by Jodie Cataldo

JENNIFER GRAFF, 1998 OALT BRANCH AWARD WINNER



Kelly Maheu, 1997 OALT Branch Award Winner, presents Jennifer with her award at the Annual Dinner Meeting / 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Canadian Library Association 1997 Awards

CLA Book of the Year for Children

Established in 1947, a medal is presented annually to the author of the best children's book published in Canada. The author must be a citizen or resident of Canada.

The 1997 award winner was Brian Doyle for *Uncle Ronald* (Groundwood). The 1997 Honour Book was *The Wagner Whacker* by Joseph Romain (Vanwell).

CLA Young Adult Book Award

Presented annually since established in 1980, this award is presented for creative literature written by a Canadian and published in Canada. The 1997 award winner was R.P. MacIntyre, editor of *Takes: Stories for Young Adults* (Thistledown). Honour Books for 1997 were *My Blue Country*, by O.R. Melling (Viking/Penguin) & *To Dance at the Palais Royale*, by Janet McNaughton (Tuckamore).

Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award

Established in 1971, a medal is present annually to the best illustrated book for children published in Canada. The illustrator must be a citizen or resident of Canada. The 1997 winner was Harvey Chan for *Ghost Train* (Paul Yeo, author ; Groundwood)



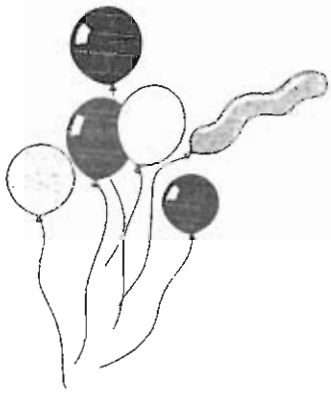
Newbury & Caldecott Award Winners 1998

The **Newbury Medal** was named for eighteenth-century British bookseller John Newbury. It is awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

The **1998 Newbery Medal** winner is *Out of the Dust*, by Karen Hesse (published by Scholastic). Three **Newbury Honor Books** were also chosen: *Lily's crossing* by Patricia Reilly Giff; *Ella enchanted*, by Gail Carson; and *Wringer* by Jerry Spinelli.

The **Caldecott Medal** was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator, Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

The **1998 Caldecott Medal** winner is *Rapunzel*, retold and illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky (published by Dutton). Three **Caldecott Honor Books** were also named: Christopher Myers for *Harlem*, written by Walter Dean Myers; David Small for *The gardener*, written by Sarah Stewart; and Simms Taback for *There was an old lady who swallowed a fly*.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

<i>May 23</i>	<i>Johanna Partnoy</i>
<i>May 31</i>	<i>Valerie Barten</i>
<i>June 11</i>	<i>Karen Cocks</i>
<i>July 8</i>	<i>Gwen Gamble</i>
<i>July 14</i>	<i>Helen Hyvarinen</i>
<i>July 25</i>	<i>Ella Uremovich</i>
<i>August 5</i>	<i>Linda Bukovy</i>
<i>September 4</i>	<i>Kelly Maheu</i>

EDITORS CORNER

WOW!! We actually finished our first newsletter! With the advice of Karen Cocks, we threw ourselves into working on the newsletter in early May. Sometimes it was a little frustrating such as using Gwen's incredibly slow computer or when Kelly saved the newsletter in a format that Gwen could not open on her computer. Between the

two of us we worked out the kinks and had fun! We would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this month's newsletter:

Valerie Barten
Donna Bright
Linda Buckovy
Jodie Cataldo
Karen Cocks
Kathleen Crewdson
Helen Hyvarinen
Ella Uremovich
Valerie Welsh

It is with these contributions that we are able to put together such an informative and fun newsletter!

Gwen would also like to thank her co-worker, Wendy Doran, who gave her some needed help in putting together this newsletter.

If you have any suggestions or articles for future editions of TechTalk please give us a call.

We hope you enjoy this month's edition of Tech Talk as much as we enjoyed putting it together!

Have a safe and exciting summer!

*Gwen
& Kelly*

