

TECH TALK

Volume 26, No 3. December 1998



President's Message!

It is hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner! The Executive has been busy planning and organizing workshops and meetings.

The October meeting was held at Chapters Bookstore. Lorrie Valley, Public Relations, gave an informative talk about the services provided to customers by Chapters. The meeting was very well attended.

At the meeting, Valerie Welsch presented LaRea Moody, a longstanding member, with a 25-year membership pin. Congratulations go out to LaRea who has always been and continues to be a colourful and dedicated member and advocate of OALT/ABO!

November 24th we will be having a cooking workshop at the West Thunder Community Centre. This is a "fun workshop" where you will learn to make hor d'oeuvres the easy way. You will be able to impress family and friends with special treats during the holiday season.

Once again, a reminder to renew your membership. Also, encourage your library technician colleagues to join or renew memberships. This is your professional association.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

Helen Hyvarinen



Provincial Report



Nanci Abbondanza, President, and Pam Casey, Vice President, attended the October 2-4 OLA Think Tank. The focus of this meeting was to discuss upcoming trends and future directions for successful associations. OLA is also facing many of the same issues (i.e., declining membership) as OALT/ABO. OLA is completely changing their infrastructure and trying to develop and implement some creative ideas. OALT/ABO may be able to benefit from many of the ideas presented at this meeting and the executive decided to explore possible changes to our existing governance and policies at our next meeting. Both Nanci and Pam did not see any value in an affiliation with OLA at this time. However they both felt that we should continue to pursue joint programming or other initiatives with them. It was decided that OALT/ABO would have a display table at OLA's Super Conference in January.

The Public Relations committee is redesigning the information package sent to prospective members. The new package will have updated information and the font and type of paper will be consistent throughout.

OALT/ABO REGIONAL EXECUTIVES

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HUMOUR

Remember when....



A computer was something on TV from a science fiction show.
A window was something you hated to clean.
RAM was a kind of goat.
An application was for employment, a program was a TV show.
A cursor used profanity.
A keyboard was a piano.
Memory was something you lost with age.
If you had a 3" floppy, you hoped that no one found out.
Compress was what you did to the garbage, not something you do to a file.
Log on was adding wood to the fire.
Hard drive was a long trip on the road.
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived.
Cut you did with a pocket knife, paste you did with glue.
A web was a spider's home.
A virus could give you the flu.

FROM THE GRAPEVINE



Congratulations to Kelly Maheu on her engagement to Kevin Rankin! The wedding will take place in Midland, Ontario on October 2, 1999.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES COURSES AT LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY WINTER TERM

LIS 1050	Cataloguing & Classification II Tuesday & Thursday, 4:00-6:00
LIS 2010	Records Management Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30-3:30
LIS 2050	Information Resources II Monday & Wednesday, 1:30-3:00
LIS 2070	School Libraries Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30-10:00
LIS 3050	Digitization Friday, 8:30-11:30 Monday & Wednesday, 10:30-12:00
LIS 3070	Current Issues Monday & Wednesday, 10:30-12:00

Jane McRobb, a 1990 graduate of L.U., is now living on Staten Island, one of the five boroughs of New York. Jane completed her MLS at Western in 1997 and is now working as an Adult Librarian at the West New Brighton Branch, New York Public Library. Jane gets back to Thunder Bay a couple of times a year.



Congratulations to Jodie Cataldo and her husband, Danny, who are expecting their first child on March 6, 1999.



CHAPTERS BOOKSTORE

On Wednesday, October 21, the OALT held a workshop at Chapters Bookstore with the store's Community Relations Coordinator, Lorrie Valley. Twenty-three people attended the event, and it was nice to see that this group included a few nonmembers.

Chapters is a three year old, Canadian book company. Their primary role is to sell books but people are permitted to conduct research in the store and there are always a number of activities scheduled. Their goal is to increase awareness of books & encourage reading.

There are a number of specials featured throughout the store. Each month, customers receive 20% off four Canadian titles that the people at Chapters feel should reach more readers. There is always 30% off the Top Ten Bestsellers. As well, staff is encouraged to read a few books a month and submit reviews. If a review/book by a staff member is chosen, that book will be available at a discounted price for a limited time. Individuals may also purchase a membership to join the Chapter 1 Club and receive 10% off regularly priced books every day.

Chapters is located at 737 Memorial Avenue but, if you can't get to the bookstore the bookstore can come to you. Visit Chapters' web site which offers millions of titles as well as the most current and comprehensive book news, reviews and information from The Globe and Mail. The address is:

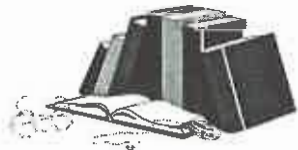
www.chaptersglobe.com

After the talk by Ms. Valley, we enjoyed coffee, ice tea, cakes and cookies from Starbucks, which is located in Chapters.

Not only were we happy to learn more about the bookstore, I'm sure they were happy to have us there – a few purchases were made that night by OALT members and guests.

Submitted by

Gwen Gamble



CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

What are OALT members' dreams for Christmas? We asked members to complete the following sentence: "I would like" and here are their interesting responses!



LaRae Moody ~ City council to make a decision (any decision) and follow through with some action!

Jennifer Graff ~ a Mercedes Benz & Sean Connery or Antonio Banderas or Mel Gibson to deliver it.

Carolyn Enns ~ to be fluent in German.

Karen Cocks ~ Santa to bring me some decent sized budgets for my two libraries I work at.

Shari Vaillant ~ a perfect world.

Linda Bukovy ~ a computer and printer that don't have minds of their own - arguing with my computer printing labels is NOT fun! Oh, and a boyfriend that looks like Tom Cruise would be a bonus!

Helen Hyvarinen ~ a lamborghini!

Kathleen Crewdson ~ a good book to read.

Gwen Gamble ~ a round trip ticket from Thunder Bay to somewhere in Australia.

Kelly Maheu ~ a wedding consultant! So much planning, so little time!

Valerie Welsch ~ the body she had twenty years ago.

JINGLE MINGLE

Please join us for the annual Jingle Mingle

Wednesday, Dec. 9th, 1998

Library & Info Studies Lab

Lakehead University

7:00 p.m.



GREAT BRITAIN SOUTHERN IRELAND

It was a hot summer day on July 22 when I said "good-bye" to Thunder Bay and July 23 when I said "hello" to an overcast, much cooler London, England.



I stayed in London with a friend for a few days before my sixteen-day Contiki tour of Great Britain and Southern Ireland began on July 27. Contiki is a company that operates tours for 18-35 year olds. This was my second Contiki tour. I had done one of Europe with a friend in 1995. I had always wanted to travel to Ireland & I seized the opportunity - partly as a celebration (I received my first permanent position in February of 1997 at the Lakehead District School Board) and partly to do something exciting with my time off in the summer.

I met my fellow travellers at a pre-tour meeting on the night prior to the tour, many, like me, were travelling alone. The next morning we met at the departure point at 6:30 a.m. By 7:00 a.m., 48 individuals from Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Italy and Taiwan, along with our tour guide and our bus driver began our adventure.

Day 1

We began our trip with a city tour of London with the coach driving past many famous sites - Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. From London we travelled to Windsor to view the famous Windsor Castle, next it was on to Stonehenge, 22 feet high, these geometrically arranged gray slabs defies explanation. Later in the day we enjoyed a city tour of Bath and visited the Roman Baths. Our hotel was in nearby Limpley Stoke where we enjoyed a barbecue dinner and a few drinks with new friends before turning in for the night.

Day 2

We travelled to Stratford-Upon-Avon, the home of William Shakespeare. The Avon River caused serious flood damage to this Elizabethan town last spring

but the town was clean and beautiful and there was no sign of a flood. We enjoyed touring the town and then dined on "take away" fish and chips in the park. Soon we were on our way to Warwick Castle, where we had the opportunity to experience the secret life of England from 1068 to 1901. Madame Tussauds wax figures in various rooms throughout the castle added to the atmosphere. We spent the night in A Coventry where we travelled back in time and experienced a Medieval Banquet including dinner, with no utensils or napkins, and entertainment.

Day 3

We travelled to York, known for its' well-preserved city walls that once foiled many invaders. Here I toured the Jorvik Viking Centre, complete with the cits and sounds of an original Viking village. I also delved into the darkest chapters of York's grim and bloody past with a visit to The York Dungeon. It was here I learned the truth about the children's fun nursery rhyme, Ring Around the Rosie, it isn't a light-hearted rhyme - it's about the plague!

Ring around the rosie
(a red rash was a symptom of the plague)
A pocket full of posie
(herbs used to disguise the smell of death)
A-tishoo! A-tishoo!
(sneezing)
We all fall down.
(death)

That night we were thrilled by a ghost walk, including eerie stories and unexplained gusts of wind that sent chills up my spine!

Days 4 & 5

Our first stop was Hadrian's Wall. Built to discourage raids and revolts, it was also used to remind the tribes on both sides of the wall that the Romans were the masters. Originally twenty feet high, the wall now stands approximately five feet in height. Then, it was across the England/Scotland border onto Edinburgh. We spent two days exploring the city, we walked the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle, visited the Writers' Museum, which is dedicated to the lives and work of Scotland's greatest literary figures, in particular *Robert Burns*,

Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson. We had lunch at Deacon Brodie's Tavern. Deacon Brodie was the inspiration behind Stevenson's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Mr. Brodie, a cabinet maker, led a respectful life as a wealthy, substantial citizen during the day but by night his social life included gambling & drinking in the taverns. In 1786, Brodie began to commit robberies to pay for his gambling debts. When working in citizens' homes and businesses, he would make impressions of their keys in wax. At night he would return, causing great alarm as nobody knew how the burglar had gained access. When Brodie was finally apprehended, he was sentenced to hang on the Gallows he had designed and built himself. While in Edinburgh, we also enjoyed a Scottish evening complete with Highland dancing, the bagpipes and haggis, a concoction of sheep's liver, oatmeal, and suet (I didn't try it), concluded our visit to Edinburgh.

Day 6

We enjoyed a spectacular drive through the Scottish Highlands to the home of "Nessie" at Loch Ness (I saw her – honest). It's surprising that such a mystery could evolve from a small lake (although it is deep) - imagine what unknown monsters lurk in the waters of Lake Superior! That night we stayed in Fort William, at the foot of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain. It was here that the craziest guy on the bus (an Aussie) proposed to a wild American from Los Angeles. No – they didn't just meet and fall in love in six short days – they were chosen by our tour manager to be the couple that would be married the following day at Gretna Green. That night we had the engaged couple's Buck and Doe parties. Fun! Fun! Fun!

Day 7

We took the high road through Glencoe to Loch Lomond, where we enjoyed a cruise. Loch Lomond is famous for its Honeymoon Island. Legend has it that if a newlywed couple could survive on this small island for seven days, their marriage would survive. From here we travelled to Gretna Green where in the past, young Englishers came to be married. In Scotland the minimum age to marry was sixteen and marriages could be performed by a tradesman. We

enjoyed the marriage ceremony of our bus couple. After the wedding we left Scotland and headed back to England where we would spend two nights in Bowness on Windermere.

Day 8

I spent most of my free day in the Lake District writing postcards - not exactly by choice, it rained all morning. I ventured out into the rain to do some exploring and later when it cleared up, I did some sightseeing. It would have been fun to go biking, hiking and boating in this beautiful lakeside town - maybe next time?!? That night we socialized with the locals and probably some ghosts as we later found out our hotel was haunted by two spirits!

Day 9

Our first stop was the Roman town of Chester. We walked the city walls, admired the unique Tudor architecture and hear the town crier. We left England and crossed into Wales where we enjoyed a scenic drive through the Cambrian Mountains. We spent the night in Llanelli where at dinner we were entertained by a marvellous Welsh choir.

Day 10

Our last day together as the original group of 48. Twenty-four people would be returning to London and twenty-five new people would join us for the rest of the tour. Before we would have to say our good-byes we travelled to Kidwelly Castle. Kidwelly, located on a steep bluff overlooking the River Gwendraethm presents a vision of medieval times. The castle was founded by the Normans in 1106 and was built with earth and timber. In the 1270s it was rebuilt in stone, as it appears today, and is remarkably well preserved. After exploring the castle, we headed back to our hotel where we said our sad good-byes to our friends who were leaving us. The new tour members joined us and we travelled to Pembroke to board the ferry to cross the Irish Sea onto Waterford. The ferry crossing took four hours, we arrived at our bed and breakfast around 9:30 pm. It was a long day but it was worth it - we were in IRELAND!

Day 11

We visited Blarney Castle but I didn't have the opportunity to lean over backwards and kiss the famous Blarney Stone - there was a forty-five minute wait to get to the top of the castle to kiss it. From Blarney it was onto the ring of Kerry (a major transportation route in Ireland) for a magnificent drive to Killarney. We enjoyed a jaunting cart ride through Killarney National Park and later in the evening listened to the Irish Weavers sing and play traditional Irish music at a local pub.

Day 12

We left Killarney and travelled for about an hour before boarding a ferry to cross the Shannon River. After the short crossing we headed to the majestic Cliffs of Moher, limestone masses that tower 700 feet over the Atlantic. Our next stop was the Burren, with its lunar landscape formed of limestone. In this region, there isn't enough soil to bury a man; not enough water to drown a man; and not enough wood to hang a man. From here it was onto Galway where we had an opportunity to explore the city at our leisure.

Day 13

We enjoyed a scenic drive on extremely winding roads (I was sitting in the back of the bus - it felt like I was on a roller coaster) on the way to Killery Harbour. Here we stopped at an adventure lodge and had an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. I chose to go for a bike ride (I got quite a workout in this mountainous region) and after the hour ride donned a rain suit and jumped into a boat (more like a dingy) for a ride out into the Atlantic Ocean. It was cold and wet and I thought for sure we were all going to end up in the ocean but it was worth it. The ride was exhilarating and we had dolphins swimming beside our boat. We also learned that Killery Harbour was used as a safe haven during the war, ships hid from their enemy in the harbour. After our adventure we headed to Sligo, the childhood haunt of William Butler Yeats. We toured the town and then enjoyed a fun and relaxing evening at our hotel, a popular Irish vacation spot overlooking the West Coast Bays.

Day 14 & 15

Onto Dublin! On our free day we walked down O'Connell Street, named for Daniel O'Connell, an Irish statesman, who helped lead the struggle of Roman Catholics to gain political rights in Great Britain, admired the numerous statues throughout the city; strolled the grounds of Trinity College (the home of the Books of Kells), and shopped for Irish souvenirs. We had our final farewell evening "to be sure" at Johnnie Fox's, one of Dublin's most famous pubs. Established in 1798, Daniel O'Connell frequently used Johnnie Fox as one of his safe meeting places. We feasted on Dublin Bay prawns, followed by traditional Irish stew, with Bailey's cheesecake for desert. After dinner we were treated to Irish music and dancing. We had a terrific time!

Day 16

We took the ferry to Holyhead and drove through Wales and England on our way back to London. It was a long day but once we got back to our hotel we didn't really want to say good-bye to our new friends - most of whom we'd never see again, so we went to the Contiki Club to share a little more time together.

After the tour I spent another five days in London and during my time there, both before and after the tour I had an opportunity to explore the city. I went to see the musical production of "Saturday Night Fever," I visited Greenwich, home of the Old Royal Observatory where I stood across the Prime Meridian line and was in both the Eastern and Western hemisphere. I took two scenic cruises down the Thames River (one day, one night), I also walked for miles and travelled Underground to see Piccadilly Circus, Kensington Palace, Hyde Park, Harrod's, St. James Park & Trafalgar Square.

I came home with eight roles of film, lots of souvenirs, and wonderful memories of good times & new friends.

Writing this article not only allowed me to share my experiences but brought back some fond memories that made me appreciate my trip even more!

Gwen Gamble

The Legend of the Christmas Spider

Along time ago in Germany, a mother was busily cleaning for Christmas. The spiders fled upstairs to the attic to escape the broom. When the house became quiet, the spiders slowly crept downstairs for a peek. Oh, what a beautiful tree! In their excitement they scurried up the trunk and out along each branch. They were filled with happiness as they climbed amongst the glittering beauty. But alas! By the time they were through climbing, the tree was completely shrouded in their dusty, gray spider webs. When Santa Claus came with the gifts for the children and saw the tree covered with spider webs, he smiled as he saw how happy the spiders were, but knew how heartbroken the mother would be if she saw the tree covered with dusty webs. So, he turned the webs to silver and gold. The tree sparkled and shimmered and was even more beautiful than before. That's why we have tinsel on our tree and every tree should have a Christmas spider in its branches.



EDITORS' CORNER



We wanted to get this edition of the newsletter out a little early as we will both be very busy in the coming weeks with shopping, socializing and Kelly will be studying for exams (something Gwen doesn't miss at all).

You may notice that there are more graphics than usual. Gwen just loaded Print Artist into her computer and she went a little graphic happy.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Tech Talk and we'll talk to you again in 1999!

SEASONS GREETINGS!

Kelly and Gwen

PRESS RELEASE

Contemporary Canadian Law & Legal Research LIS 3050

The Department of Library & Information Studies at Lakehead University is pleased to offer "Contemporary Canadian Law and Legal Research" beginning May 3, 1999, Monday-Thursday from 6-9 p.m. through May 20.

From murders to medical malpractice to motor vehicle accidents, learn not only how the law touches us all but also how to understand legal materials. Erik Knutsen, H.B.A., LL.B (May 1999), brings a fresh and practical approach to the study of the court system, the law, and legal research. Topics to be studied include Courts, Lawyers, Legislation, Public Law (Criminal Law and Constitutional Law) and Private Law (Contract, Tort, and Property Law.) Students will learn methods of legal research including electronic research, Case Law Reporters, Statutes, Legal Academics, and Government Documents.

For more information, contact the Dept. of Library and Information Studies,
(807)-343-8398..

