

TECH TALK

Volume 28, No. 3, December 2000



President's Message

Greetings! I hope everyone is prepared for Christmas. I am not prepared of course, but it's nice to imagine that everyone else! We had a good time painting little birdhouses at the Jingle Mingle & General Meeting this week. Caron had everything prepared for us in the Balsam Street School library where she works. We had approximately 13 people present for the meeting and all who were present enjoyed themselves. It was nice to catch up with members from other libraries. Thank you Caron for coordinating this event.

On October 17th approximately twelve members, with their Philips screwdrivers, learned how to take apart a computer and identify the various components inside. Now when the computer fails to work, I can visualize the possible problems inside the CPU. Thank you to Valerie Welsch for coordinating the Computer Hardware workshop. This week at our Jingle Mingle, it was suggested to include a workshop of this nature in our 2002 Conference. What do you think?

Our next executive meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 24, 2001. If you have any suggestions, problems, etc. please contact a member of the executive before this meeting. Our main focus for this meeting will be finalizing details for the February workshops and the Annual General Meeting. As well, we will be discussing the 2002 Conference. We look forward to seeing everyone out at the February workshops!

Helen Heerema
President



Provincial Report



The teleconference started at 10:30 on Saturday, 18 November 2000. The Internet task force chair and the Committee for Change 2001 failed to submit reports so those two projects seem stuck in a quagmire for a while. Sean also failed to submit his revised report on Corporate sponsorship.

Focus 2001 will be held at Sheridan College in Oakville from the evening of Wednesday, 2 May to the morning of Sunday, 6 May 2001. Social evening Wednesday leads into workshops on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning. The Annual Business meeting on Saturday afternoon is followed by the Brainstorming meeting. The banquet wraps up the evening. They figure the full conference package should cost between \$600.00 - \$650.00 when two people share a room. Susan Bordeaux was to email everyone on the executive with further clarification on Ottawa's final report. That email has not yet arrived.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the acquisition of a MasterCard terminal to facilitate accepting government and other payments for Conferences. It was then suggested that the provincial treasurer handle all credit charges and reimburse the Regions to avoid each region and each conference paying the \$35.00 fee. Also, do we go with MasterCard or Visa or both. Pam

Casey, president, and Maxine Corea, treasurer, are to research the topic and email their conclusions.

Pam Casey was going to check to see if we will be charged to set up a booth at OLA. Pam did check and we are going to share space with Frances Davidson-Arnott (Seneca College) at no cost to us since her booth is looked after financially by the college.

Regretfully, the provincial has to look for a new translator. The Internet task force chair feels that there are items on the web page that should be translated. Diana Brown, public relations, would also like to see the promotion packages translated.

Provincial meetings were discussed. It is costly to hold face-to-face meetings. Sean Crowe, vice president, suggested that we hold one face-to-face in September and then two teleconferences - one in January and one in March/April. Pam Casey and Nanci Abbondanza, ex-officio, will check the constitution. I, personally, feel much more is accomplished with a seven-hour meeting than a two-hour teleconference.

Sean Crowe would also like the provincial to run a workshop in Toronto where the provincial can make money. He envisions this as a PR project as well as a money maker. My negative comment that workshops were the responsibility of the regions and the conferences went over like a lead balloon.

Sean Crowe is to prepare a salary survey to go out with the winter newsletter.

Janet Iles, membership, Pam Casey, and Sean Crowe are working on a way to have the membership form on the web site.

Marina Dranitsaris, Director TALTA, asked about someone trying to join the discussion group. Ronn Cheney currently "approves" every applicant and every message. This was mandated when we first set up the discussion group but has to be revisited.

Valerie Welsch

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Treasurer's Report
Statement as of November 21, 2000



Expenses

Provincial Travel	73.03
Public Relations	91.18
Refund for Membership	15.00
Workshop Honorarium	50.00
Memberships	200.00
Donation	25.00
Bank Charges	<u>4.65</u>
Total	458.86

Revenue

Regional Subsidies	488.00
Bank Interest	<u>.21</u>
Total	488.21

Assets

Cash in Bank	1189.33
G.I.C.	<u>2066.40</u>
Total	3255.73

Membership Statistics

Graduates	19
Students	3
Senior	0
Retired/Unemployed	2
Institutional	1
Associate	<u>1</u>
Total	26

**Introduction to
Computer Hardware**



On Tuesday October 17th several library techs armed with screw drivers joined Barrie Hemmings, Lakehead IMC Computer Repair Technician in a room at Gron Morgan School to learn more about the computer.

Barrie Hemmings gave an interesting practical workshop on the CPU's insides. With his guidance we disassembled 486 computers. He led us through a step by step dismantling of the computer from opening the case to the 486 black chip which is it's beginning. He discussed in detail all the parts of the computer as we pulled them from the box. He discussed and demonstrated how the motherboard and CPU work together as a team to operate the computer. We learned that the "bus" is not a mode of transportation but the board which holds the slots for all the cards so that they will work in your computer.

It was an excellent practical hands on workshop and Barrie made us all feel at ease with his friendly easy going manner. Everyone enjoyed themselves and learned something about the "insides" of the basic computer we use everyday in our lives.

Submitted by
Ms. Penny Bower
Information Services Technician
Lakehead Public Board District #6



Christmas Stories for Sharing

1) *Rosemary Wells, Morris's Disappearing Bag* - Then Morris, a somewhat more retiring little bunny than his more famous counterpart Max (of *Max's Christmas*), discovers a most unusual Christmas present... This little book is important to me for a lot of personal reasons, not the least of which is that it was the first Rosemary Wells book I ever encountered, and as a result it still shines the brightest.

2) *Shirley Hughes, Angel Mae* - Any of Shirley Hughes' stories of loving, ruffled families would make a good Christmas read, even the ones set in the English springtime. In this story, Mae worries about the new baby her Mum is expecting, and plays her part in the Nativity pageant.

3) *David McPhail, Santa's Book of Names* - A young boy finds Santa's Christmas gift list, accompanies him on his sleigh, and in the process, learns to read. Its message for children is twofold: first, that reading is important, and second, that with practice, they can learn. But all this talk about messages obscures the fact that it's a touching story, warmly illustrated.

4) - *Dr. Seuss - How the Grinch Stole Christmas* - Probably a more familiar Christmas text than those obscure verses from the Book of Luke. Just try and read it without doing a Boris Karloff impression. And be prepared for someone to say "I didn't know it was a book too!"

5) - *Gloria Houston, The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree - An Appalachian Story*, pictures by Barbara Cooney. With Papa away at war, it is up to Ruthie and her mother to provide the tree. This is a touching story of a courageous and loving family in difficult times. Barbara Cooney's illustrations are as always, luminous.

6) *Diana Hendry, Christmas in Exeter Street*, pictures by John Lawrence (US Title: *Christmas on Exeter Street*) - The unexpected guests just keep coming, and the Mistletoe family welcomes them all, until the house is so full that Father Christmas "had to take off his boots and count on his toes to make sure he had remembered all eighteen children."

7) - *Chris Van Allsburg, Polar Express* - Van Allsburg's vision of the North Pole as a 19th century industrial company-town has become such a Christmas standard that it's hard to remember how startling and unusual it seemed a few years ago-- until you read it again, and the magic all comes back. Just one question: Are the elves really happy working in those big old brick factories in the middle of nowhere?

8) - *William Joyce, Santa Calls* - Holy mackerel! Thrills, adventure, and style! This time, the North Pole is an Art Deco vision of the future, complete with spectacles and dance floors big enough for a Busby Berkeley extravaganza. Now these elves ought to be happy!

9) *Susan Wojciechowski, The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*, pictures by P.J. Lynch - A young widow and her son ask a gruff and solitary woodcarver to carve the figures for a Christmas creche. You can pretty much guess what happens after that, but this beautifully written and illustrated story makes it all fresh and touching.

10) - *Cynthia Rylant, Children of Christmas: Stories for the Season*, drawings by S.D. Schindler - I would love to share the amazing stories in this collection with my family, but it's impossible for me to read them without crying. In fact, I am typing this in my office, with the tears streaming down my face, having just re-read "For Being Good."

Evan Solomon and Libraries in a Electronic World

On October 16, 2000, in the lower lecture theatre of Lakehead University, the Ontario Library Association and the Elizabeth Ann Cummings Memorial Lecture Series presented Evan Solomon, cofounder of Shift magazine, a national magazine of cutting-edge technology and media, host of CBC Newsworld's "Hot Type" and award winning journalist, to speak on "Reading and Libraries in an Electronic World".

Before beginning his talk, Solomon began to fiddle with his lapel microphone to get a clearer sound and then gave it up to use just voice and a chalk board. He kept his audience on the edges of their seats, engaging in witty, engaging observations about how technology has affected our lives, and how we can turn a fear of technology into an aid to promote imagination.

When we're faced with radical change, we should stick this into what we already know, even though technology is speeding fast and knowledge and tools may become passe. We should not make decisions out of fear - pick tools that are adaptable, and be careful in how we pick our technology. First of all, Solomon cited how technology is full of jargon: for example, the word "interactive". This is not new nor wholly in the realm of technology. We have been interacting with one another since we were born: a parent holding a child, people listening to others, etc. Another word is "hypertext" (where text in a document is underlined in blue; when this is clicked, it leads us onto explanations). The human mind has been thinking like that for centuries.

The idea of a 'digital revolution' is not new. It does not "eat" the older technologies - it just makes the older ones find new ways to adapt. An excellent example is radio which started out as the main family entertainment. The radio set was put in an prominent place in the living room and the family gathered

around to listen to news, hockey games and radio shows. Television came onto the scene and the radio was soon relegated to other parts of the house such as the kitchen and the car. The car: now that turned out to be where radio excelled. It is very efficient where only one sense (hearing) is used, whereas a television in a car is not (sight, which should be kept on the road). In change is the discovery of efficiency in the medium, and the crux is to discover and maximize the efficiency. A good design is humane which lets us get on with our day with little or no interference - e.g. the refrigerator - we open the door, put something in, we close the door, and the fridge goes on with little or no interference from us.

Technology will allow us to proceed on to our message. Technology is becoming democratic, and for the first time in human history, we are encountering an information plentitude which is leading to information overload. The people who can go between us and the information out there are librarians who find, analyze and put the information into perspective by determining which information is valuable for what we need it for - sounds a lot like a search engine on the internet which also navigates, provides quality information and organizes it. Now, with the information overload, the Librarian is important as an information manager. However, as Solomon points out, libraries are not marketed properly. Technology can deliver information, but not inspiration or passion. Librarians are perspective givers and information providers, and they apply existing knowledge to the technology out there. They are able to tell what information is important, and what is pure drivel. In closing his presentation, Evan Solomon remarked that libraries are the lobbyists for the people. There is an increasing demand for highly reputable and correct information and librarians can provide this service accurately and efficiently.

Submitted by
Linda Bukovy

OALT/ABO Conference 2002

Thunder Bay will be hosting the annual OALT/ABO Conference in May 2002. We are currently considering *Out of the Blue in 2002* for the conference's name / slogan but, we are also still looking for suggestions. If you have an interesting idea, please email your suggestion to Valerie Welsch: vwelsch@lhbe.edu.on.ca



Jingle Mingle

This year's Jingle Mingle was held at the Balsam Street School Library. It was a good place for it and not so quite as far to drive as my other school library, all the way out at Gorham and Warel. We started off with our General Meeting. After that Gwen and I introduced the Christmas craft, a little wooden birdhouse which we painted, and decorated with little wreaths and flowers. The roofs were covered with either Spanish moss or spruce tree twigs. They all turned out beautifully - and we have some very talented artists in our midst - Margo, Viv and Linda to name a few! Following the craft we had delicious treats, Seattle Coffeehouse coffee, and Valerie's world famous punch. All in all it was a wonderful way to start off the Christmas Season...

Caron Naysmith



Editor's Message

If you have stories or information (library related or other) you'd like to share, please contact me. If possible, please send any articles via Email to:

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Caron Naysmith



**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!
See you in 2007!**