

TECH TALK

Volume 29, No. 2, September 2001



President's Message

General Meeting, September 13, 2001

Greetings! I hope that everyone had as safe and happy a summer as I did. My five weeks of vacation were soon over and it's back to work after Labour Day. I think I'll have trouble remembering my passwords! In June I was fortunate to be able to attend the CLA conference in Winnipeg through a grant for Library Technicians working in college and university libraries. The workshops were interesting and the exhibits were great, and my husband got a free tee-shirt out of the deal.

We have had three executive meetings since the Annual Dinner Meeting.. April 29 was our turnover meeting with old and new executive members. Again, a big thank you to everyone who served on the executive and to those who are carrying out responsibilities this year! On May 30 and August 29 we held executive meetings to brainstorm and plan for the coming year. We are planning an October workshop, and in November we will be having our annual Jingle/Mingle and General Meeting. In February we hope to hold one or two workshops on a Saturday and our annual dinner meeting will be in March. If you have suggestions for us we would gladly welcome them! And throughout the year, Linda and David will be producing our TechTalk newsletter for the membership.

Tonight we hope to have a lively discussion on the future of OALT/ABO and its structure. As well, we will hear from Valerie Barten and Valerie Welsch on the 2002 Conference, their plans so far, volunteers needed, planned workshops, etc. Let's all get involved and enjoy the challenges of the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted

Helen Hereema
President



Provincial Report

Director's Report
September 13, 2001

Provincial Executive

President - Pam Casey (Halton-Peel)
Vice-President - Chris Carmichael (Huron)
Secretary - Ola White (Halton-Peel)
Treasurer - Maxine Corea (Halton-Peel)
Ex-officio - Nanci Abbondanza (Halton-Peel)
Public Relations - Stacy Goddard (TALTA)
Membership - Diane Baksa (Halton-Peel)
Newsletter Editor - Sue Callaway (TALTA)

The final meeting of the Provincial Executive and Board of Directors was held March 24, 2001 in Toronto. It was a very quick meeting and mainly tied up loose ends before the conference in May.

The new OALT/ABO website is ready. It was suggested that items such as the Newsletter, salary survey results, discussion papers, etc. should be password protected, ensuring that members only have access. It was suggested that renewing members be given the password with their renewal form and new members would get it with their membership card. I did not receive a password with my renewal form.

Sudbury has very few members and will in all likelihood cease to function as a region. On a

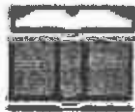
brighter note interest was expressed by a group of library technicians in the Kingston area on becoming a region of OALT/ABO. This will be discussed further at the September meeting.

Focus 2001 was a success. Over 100 delegates attended. Workshops were all informative, interesting and well attended. The presenters did an excellent job. Much interest was shown in 2002 and You/2002 et Tu to be held in Thunder Bay May 1-5, 2002.

Upcoming meetings of OALT/ABO will be:
September 22, 2001 - Oakville
November 17, 2001 - teleconference
January 26, 2002 - teleconference
March 30, 2002 - place to be determined.

A very big disappointment to many is the Committee for Change. Their initial proposal was presented at the ABM in May. They also suggested revamping the constitution. They are seeking input directly from members, not through the regional directors. Changing the constitution is a very serious matter and should not be taken lightly. It requires a lot of thought and cannot be rushed. A meeting of the Committee for Change was to be held at the same time as the Executive and Board of Directors meeting but to date no meeting has been arranged. I don't know how serious this committee is.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Barten, Thunder Bay Regional Director



OALT/ABO Conference 2002

Thunder Bay will be hosting the annual OALT/ABO Conference on May 1-5, 2002 and it will be called Conference 2002 & You/2002 et Tu. If you have ideas for workshops and/or would like to volunteer to help in any way, please contact

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vbarten@lhbe.edu.on.ca
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Treasurer's Report
Statement as of August 29, 2001



Expenses

Newsletter, Letterhead	<u>161.13</u>
Total	161.13

Revenue

Regional Subsidies	<u>40.00</u>
Total	40.00

Assets

Cash in Bank	415.50
G.I.C.	<u>2144.30</u>
Total	\$2559.80

Bank Balance	\$415.50
Cheque Book Balance	<u>412.13</u>
Difference	3.37

Membership Statistics

Graduates	21
Students	2
Senior	0
Retired/Unemployed	1
Institutional	3
Associate	2
Total	29

Submitted by Caron Naysmith

Committee for Change 2001

On Thursday September 13, 2001, members gathered in the Library and Information Studies Lab at Lakehead University to discuss the Committee for Change 2001 proposals. Valerie Welsch chaired the discussion and she gave a statistic that by 2010, 50% of library technicians will be retiring/retired. This is a staggering thought, considering that membership in

OALT/ABO has been decreasing through all regions. Proposals have been put forward to keep and increase our membership.

Points discussed included the high cost of governance (part of the money goes toward travel and accommodation for representatives) and a plan to cut the number of people currently involved through a "piggyback" procedure - one person doing two jobs. This may sound ideal on paper, but there may be problems through overwork and also getting members to take on two positions.

Proposed is also a governance structure with five members out of the seven of the central executive having voting rights. This will outweigh the votes of the proposed four district representatives. OALT/ABO may become a centrally controlled organization rather than one with regional representation. This changes the entire structure that has been in existence for twenty-seven years.

Communication among the membership is a must. Proposed is one newsletter, put out by provincial four times a year with regional news in regional sections. This would enable members from different regions to go to meetings/workshops put on by other regions. That would mean regional newsletter editors sending information to Toronto, and then getting the information back, either through a hard copy or through LISTSERVE. However, there have been cases where the provincial newsletter has arrived too late - many of the regional workshops have already taken place. Another thought to consider: how much regional news would be kept for the members if sent to a central publishing location? Thunder Bay is the only region that produces five newsletters annually.

Increased networking and professional development are being considered, along with the mentoring program. More advocacy is desired to promote library technology; OALT/ABO has been invited to CLA and OLA conferences. Marketing and promotion is important, especially marketing library technicians and their skills to prospective employees.

What makes this proposal from the Committee for Change 2001 so challenging is that the greatest factors are the attraction of new members and the ability to keep them involved in the organization.

The very job of Library Technology is so varied : members work in public, education, research, technology, medical, and law libraries (to name a few) and this diversity makes it challenging to find a common ground that will serve all of them.

OALT/ABO finds itself at the edge of making major decisions. The committee would greatly appreciate members to contact them with their feedback and questions on this very important issue. They can be reached by email Nanci_Abbondanza@otpp.com (Nanci is Chair of the committee) or phone (905) 815-0023. Please contact them before December 31, 2001.

Submitted by Linda Bukovy

Conference Report September 13, 2001

The name for our conference is **2002 & you / 2002 & tu.**

Karen Calijouw of the Conference Services of Lakehead University has been contacted and the Avila Centre residence has been reserved for our conference May 1-5 2002.

Susan Geschwender, Ontario Library Services, has been in contact with trying to hold a joint workshop as they will be conducting a conference at the same time.

Heather Houston is designing the letterhead and this should be ready by this weekend.

We need committees - workshop committee, registration committee, exhibits committee, conference kit committee, social activities committee, and a sales committee.

Valerie Welsch
Conference convenor

Waiting? Wondering?

Membership renewal forms are being sent out by the Provincial Treasurer in September and should be arriving any day now. Completed forms are to be sent back directly to the Provincial Treasurer.

Maxine Corea, Treasurer
OALT/ABO
95 Napier St. W., R.R. #1
Thornbury, ON
N0H 2P0

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE LIBRARY TECHNICIAN OF THE CENTRAL RESOURCE LIBRARY RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

I run the teacher media centre of the Rainy River District School Board. The centre is staffed by myself with one of the principals as my token supervisor. Our elementary schools are staffed only by library assistants (grade 12 plus on-the-job training although we do have one technician working as an assistant), most of whom are part time. About every three years they seem to move my office, and last year was one of those years. This took all summer to get organized. For the past 24 years I have worked 35 hours per week first for 10 months and lately for 12 months. Our school board has seen fit to unilaterally reduce hours for all library technicians this year to 30 hours per week. This means some extra work that has previously been done will not be done due to time constraints.

A typical day consists of doing a great variety of tasks. I circulate material to teachers and put it away on return. Our board has delivery to schools Tuesday through Friday (2 days to town school and 2 to rural) plus material goes to Atikokan with whomever is going there rather than on a regular basis. I take booking requests and organize them. Circulation runs at over 2000 items per year. This may not seem a lot, but it must be remembered that we are a very small school board and I only deal with elementary schools. We have videos, novel kits, science kits, social studies kits, French materials, etc.. I also catalogue all materials for the Central Library as well as any material not ordered pre-processed for the elementary schools

(except Atikokan). We are not automated although I do use a program for generating catalogue cards and labels. We have one newer school that is automated with Follett, and when I do books for this school, I must travel to it. Atikokan is automated with Winnebago and any cataloguing for this area is handled by the technician in Atikokan. This is a large part of my job. Other things that I do are board wide laminating, statistics, ordering of new materials, keeping of records, managing of the budget, etc. . Laminating is done once per week as are the compiling of circulation statistics. One of my big jobs in the summer is to do weeding. My current budget is \$21,000.00 which includes purchasing of new materials, phone, purchasing of supplies, etc.. I also have a small Professional Development budget. This all keeps me very busy.

All in all, I do enjoy my job very much. I hope to be able to attend the conference in Thunder Bay in May.

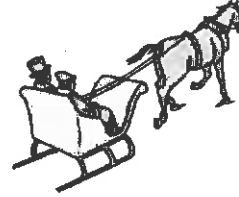
Judy Carter, Library Technician

The Plaque is Back!

The OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Regional Branch Graduate Award has been refurbished. The plaque is in the shape of a wooden scroll with names of the winners from 1983 to 2001 lasered through a black overlay so that a gold plate underneath shows through. The award is now closed - no final entries to it will be made. It can be seen at the Lakehead University LIS Lab.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Look for an upcoming flyer detailing the October workshop - it promises to be exciting!



The annual Jingle Mingle will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 29, 2001 at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, Room CA309, 580 North Algoma Street.

General Meeting, socializing and a chance to bring out the creative side of you before Christmas arrives!

Call Christina Snow for details
home # 683-5256,
work # 343-43000 ext 4266

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

The Eighth Annual Silver Birch Awards 2001 results were announced on May 24, 2001 at the Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, Ontario. The program is administered by the Ontario Library Association and the books are voted on by Grade 4 to 6 students in the province of Ontario.

The 2001 Fiction finalists and regional winners are Looking for X by Deborah Ellis. The Ghost of Avalanche Mountain by Julie Lawson After Hamelin by Bill Richardson

The 2001 Non-fiction finalists and regional winners are:
Adventures in the Middle Ages by Linda Bailey
The Book of You by Sylvia Funston
Mummies by Sylvia Funston

The 2001 Silver Birch Award for Fiction is After Hamelin by Bill Richardson

The 2001 Silver Birch Award for Non-fiction is Adventures in the Middle Ages by Linda Bailey.

(found at
www.accessola.com/programs/silverbirch)

The 2001 Red Maple Award results have been announced. The program is administered by the Ontario Library Association for Grades 7, 8 and 9 readers in Ontario. Here is the 2001 Official Selection of books up for this award:

- Ellis, Deborah. The Breadwinner. Toronto :
Groundwood, 2000.
- Friesen, Gayle. Men of Stone. Toronto : Kids Can
Press.
- Holeman, Linda. Raspberry House Blues.
Toronto : Tundra, 2000.
- Hughes, Monica. Storm Warning. Toronto :
Harper Collins, 2000.
- Lawrence, Iain. The Wreckers. Delacorte Press,
1999.
- McKay, Sharon. Charlie Wilcox. Toronto :
Stoddart Kids, 2000.
- McClintock, Norah. Over the Edge. Markham :
Scholastic, 2000.
- McNaughton, Janet. The Secret Under My Skin.
Toronto : Harper Collins, 2000.
- Walters, Eric. Rebound. Toronto : Stoddart Kids,
2000.
- Wynne-Jones, Tim. The Boy in the Burning
House. Toronto : Groundwood, 2000.

And the winner of the 2001 Red Maple Award is
Rebound by Eric Walters.

(found at www.accessola.org/programs/redmaple/)

In Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathies go to LaRae Moody and family on the unexpected death of husband and father Willson ("Bill") B. Moody on August 3, 2001. A donation from OALT/ABO (Thunder Bay) has been sent to Friends of the Thunder Bay Public Library in memory of Bill Moody.

Editors' Message

If you have stories or information (library related or other) you'd like to share, please contact us.

Linda Bukovy, David Taylor.