

TECH TALK

Volume 29, No. 3, November 2001



President's Message

Greetings! Snow has arrived and Christmas is around the corner. It seems like school just started and soon the semester will be over! Unfortunately, we were unable to present our October workshop on Treepad (information management for your personal computer). The workshop leader had to cancel due to other commitments, and another suitable leader could not be found. Hopefully we can offer this workshop at the Conference. We are hoping to present two workshops in February on electronic resumes and job searches. If you have any suggestions, please let me or another member of the executive know.

Our next general meeting/Jingle Mingle will be held on Thursday, November 29 at the LPH. Come out, mingle, jingle, and enjoy some Christmas treats. We will also be doing a wonderful little Christmas craft! And yes, it's easy to make, Kathy! We look forward to seeing you there and maybe you'll even win a door prize.

Our 2002 Annual Conference is fast approaching. Some of the arrangements have been made. Lakehead University will be the location of the Conference with the Avila Centre as the main accommodation. Thursday evening entertainment will be at the Medieval Feast, and the Saturday banquet will be at Old Fort William. Do you have areas of interest that you would like covered in a workshop? It's time to inform Valerie Barten and Valerie Welsch! Workshops need to be arranged and confirmed by February so that the Conference can be promoted. Do you have talents to share with the Conference team? Let them know what you are willing and able to help with. Let's all pitch in to make this Conference Thunder Bay's best Conference yet!

Respectfully submitted

Helen Hereema
President



Provincial Report

Regional Director's Report November 22, 2001

The first meeting of the provincial director and board of directors was held September 22 at the home of Nanci Abbondanza in Oakville. It was noted that the provincial newsletter sent out to our members in early September was only a draft copy and was not meant to be printed. On behalf of the executive and board of directors of OALT/ABO, I would like to apologize to our regional members for this mistake. We would like to assure our members that the next edition will not be a draft copy.

Janna Colton attended the meeting on behalf of 20-30 library technicians who are interested in forming a new region. The new region would be known as Quinte-Frontenac and further details such as boundaries, executive and budget will follow.

Following the tragedy of September 11, OALT/ABO sent a letter of condolence to our United States library affiliate, COLT.

November's meeting was held at the Glen Abbey Library in Oakville on November 17. Several letters have appeared in southern newspapers regarding the state of school libraries. Unfortunately, library technicians have not always been shown in a favourable light and the OALT/ABO executive and board of directors feel it is extremely important that we respond promptly

to such articles. Stacy Goddard, Public Relations, has been responding on behalf of OALT/ABO, but as this often takes time to compose a new response each time, it was recommended that a generic letter be drafted. When a response is called for, the generic response can be quickly adapted to any situation.

Provincial has a new newsletter editor, Marion Warburton, and the next issue should be out around the end of November or beginning of December.

The Committee for Change is disappointed in the lack of response to their proposals. This is an important issue and could well decide the fate of OALT/ABO. I would encourage all Thunder Bay members to respond to the committee with your questions, comments or concerns. You can e-mail Valerie Welsch at vwelsch@lhbe.edu.on.ca or vwelsch@tbaytel.net with your concerns. This proposal will be discussed and voted on at the annual conference in Thunder Bay next May.

The next meeting of OALT/ABO will be a teleconference on January 19, 2002.

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 Youg. If you have ideas for workshops and/or would like to volunteer to help in any way, please contact:

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Treasurer's Report
Statement as of November 12, 2001



Assets

Cash in Bank	132.23
G.I.C.	<u>2144.30</u>
Total	\$2276.53

Membership Statistics

Graduates	15
Students	0
Senior	0
Retired/Unemployed	2
Institutional	1
Associate	<u>1</u>
Total	19

Submitted by Caron Naysmith

Canadian Library Association
Conference Report
by Cyndy Mackenzie

In June 2001 I attended the CLA's annual conference in Winnipeg as one of seven students chosen from across Canada by the CLA for their annual "Student to CLA" program. I took part in as many sessions as I could and wasn't disappointed by any of them. It was an excellent and inspiring end to my school year and the beginning of what I hope will be continued enjoyment of conferences for years to come. I feel I must add that attending this conference was the first time I had been away without spouse and/or children (and not on a school field trip) in over a decade so even though I was only eight hours away in Winnipeg, I felt as though I had hopped into someone else's life - I even ate an entire pastry at The Forks without sharing!!

The first session I attended was about metadata initiatives that began in Santa Fe, CA. It was very interesting but somewhat overwhelming. Everything else from there on in was a breeze to

grasp. Micromedia sponsored two sessions I went to, one covering fourth generation technologies with innovations expected to arrive within the next ten years. What I remember most from that one is that keyboard skills will someday be obsolete as computers will become voice activated and regularly personalized to the users' needs. Coming soon is a little pocket-sized gadget ("DO CO MO") into which you enter personal information (the example given was a specific item for which you are shopping). Retailers enter merchandise information into their own Docomo, and then, when you are in the vicinity of matching entries (what you want matches what they have), the gadget lets you know. Teens in the Orient are buying these by the thousands every day and using them as dating aids. Information entered covers personal attributes (i.e.: likes pizza, opera music and is over six feet tall), so when the kids pass in the mall and if entries are similar, the Docomos "go off" and a match is made.

Another seminar was about the government establishing an online reference desk which would function 24 hours, 7 days a week. It would retrieve answers from reference departments across the nation. Questions that were received would be forwarded to the most relevant participating reference department and then the answer returned ASAP (i.e.: a question about Northwestern Ontario may be forwarded to Thunder Bay). At the time of the conference, everything was still in trial stages.

The Children's CLA Book Awards banquet was wonderful. The three winners each brought such insight into the books and explained how very much of the actual author's or illustrator's personal life goes into creating the book and about the emotion involved. The banquet was held at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, a perfect venue as we were surrounded by excellence in creativity while the same was being recognized. The night following this was the dinner at the Winnipeg Multicultural Centre which pleasantly exposed the true but often hidden "let's-party-and-dance-on-stage" nature of many library folk.

I now understand why conferences are so important and hope everyone has the opportunity to attend one at some point in their career. Everyone involved is so positive, tons of

information is shared and different career paths of which we might not be aware within our rapidly changing field are seen. I left the conference inspired to contribute, excited about upcoming technologies and motivated to continue learning all I could. You can only imagine how happy I am that Thunder Bay is hosting the 2002 OALT/ABO conference. I look forward to seeing familiar and new faces and learning even more. - submitted by **Cyndy MacKenzie**

THUNDER BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS NEW CHIEF LIBRARIAN

On Saturday, September 22, 2001, the public was invited to meet Thunder Bay Public Library's new Chief Librarian, Barry Holmes. Representatives from provincial and city government and professional associations were in attendance at Brodie Street Library.

Barry Holmes accepted this position in the latter part of June of this year, and began the job on August 7, 2001. His past work experience included working as Kirkland Lake Public Library's CEO/Chief Librarian, Niagara Falls Public Library System's Manager of Technical Services, and most recently, Orangeville Public Library's CEO/Chief Librarian. In addition, he has acted as President of the Ontario Public Library Association.

I had a chance to speak to Mr. Holmes, and I asked him what made him decide to pursue a career in the library field. As a young boy, he had always enjoyed going to the public library where he experienced a sense of wonderment at the wealth of information available. He always wanted to find things out and enjoyed researching to satisfy his inquisitiveness. Later on he worked at the University of Guelph's library while taking undergraduate studies with a joint major in history and political studies, then focused on Canadian public administration for his Honours Bachelor of Arts degree. While working in the Library, he saw behind the scenes and became interested in pursuing an M.L.I.S (many of his co-workers had that degree) which he then achieved from the University of Western Ontario.

He believes that libraries must be proactive in their mandates. In order to remain a viable part of the community, libraries must serve the people and thus are always evolving to meet their changing needs (as we can see information changing from book to electronic data form). In an earlier press release, he wrote that there are ongoing plans for the Thunder Bay Public Library: a new strategic plan, Waverley branch renovations, and continuation of the many community partnerships established by the Library in the past. One of these is the Early Years Challenge Fund that involves working with native groups to develop literacy among the children.

We welcome Barry Holmes and his family and wish them a long and enjoyable stay here in Thunder Bay. - submitted by **Linda Bukovy**

Web sites that may be helpful for kids, teachers and parents to use:

Altavista (turn on the Family Filter):
www.altavista.com
Ask Jeeves for Kids: www.aikids.com
Berit's Best Sites for Children: www.berits-best.com
BJ Pinchbeck's Homework Helper:
www.school.discovery.com/home-workhelp/bipinchbeck
Canada's Schoolnet: www.schoolnet.ca
The Canadian Encyclopedia:
www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com
Discovery Channel Canada: www.discovery.ca
Family Friendly Search:
www.familyfriendlysearch.com
Homework Central : www.bigchalk.com
Internet Public Library-Teen Division:
www.ipl.org/teen
KidsClick! : <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!>
The Kids on the Web : www.zen.org/brendan/kids-home-work.html
The National Atlas of Canada On-line :
<http://atlas.gc.ca>
Ontario Science Centre: www.osc.on.ca
SurfSafely.com: www.surfsafely.com
Yahooligans!: www.yahooligans.com

The Booker Prize 2001 Shortlist.

Following is the shortlist of books that are up for the Booker Prize for Fiction 2001.

- True History of the Kelly Gang** by Peter Carey (Faber and Faber)
- Atonement** by Ian McEwan (Jonathan Cape)
- Oxygen** by Andrew Miller (Sceptre)
- number9dream** by David Mitchell (Sceptre)
- The Dark Room** by Rachel Seiffert (William Heinemann)
- Hotel World** by Ali Smith (Hamish Hamilton)

On October 17, 2001, the winner was announced : Australian-born Peter Carey for his book **True History of the Kelly Gang**. He had won the Booker Prize in 1988 for **Oscar and Lucinda**, and in 1985 had been shortlisted for **Illywacker**.

(<http://www.bookerprize.co.uk/asite>)

The Giller Prize 2001

Here is the list of shortlisted books that were up for the 2001 Giller Prize. A total of seventy-eight books were submitted by 32 publishers in 8 provinces and six books were selected.

- Sandra Birdsell. **The Russlander**. McClelland & Stewart
- Michael Crummey. **River Thieves**. Doubleday Canada
- Michael Redhill. **Martin Sloane**. Doubleday Canada
- Timothy Taylor. **Stanley Park**. Alfred A. Knopf Canada
- Jane Urquhart. **The Stone Carvers**. McClelland & Stewart
- Richard B. Wright. **Clara Callan**. Phyllis Bryce Book/HarperFlamingo Canada

On November 6, 2001, the winner was announced with Richard B. Wright winning for **Clara Callan**.

And for those people who have children in mind when buying books, here is the Mr. Christie's List.

2000 Mr. Christie's Book Award Finalists

Following is a list of the books up for selection to win the 12th Annual Mr. Christie's Book Awards for the best Canadian Children's Books. The shortlist books are

Best books for young children (aged 0-7)

Book	Author	Illustrator
<i>The Polar Bear's Gift</i>	Jeanne Bushey	Vladvana Langer Krykorka
<i>Stella, Queen of the Snow</i>	Marie-Louise Gay	Marie-Louise Gay
<i>Two So Small</i>	Hazel Hutchins	Ruth Ohi
<i>My Sister Gracie</i>	Gillian Johnson	Gillian Johnson
<i>The Chicken Cat</i>	Stephanie McLellan	Sean Cassidy

Best books for middle readers (aged 8-11)

Book	Author	Illustrator
<i>Cat's Eye Corner</i>	Terry Griggs	n/a
<i>Willow and Twig</i>	Jean Little	n/a
<i>Eh? To Zed: A Canadian ABCeDarium</i>	Kevin Major	Alan Daniel
<i>Ballerinas Don't Wear Glasses</i>	Ainslie Manson	Dean Griffiths
<i>The Twelve Months</i>	Rafe Martin	Viadyana Langer-Krykorka

Best books for young adults (aged 12-16)

Book	Author	Illustrator
<i>Before Wings</i>	Beth Goobie	n/a
<i>The Grave</i>	James Heneghan	n/a
<i>The Boy in the Burning House</i>	Tim Wynn-Jones	n/a
<i>Charlie Wilcox</i>	Sharon E. McKay	n/a
<i>The Secret Under My Skin</i>	Janet McNaughton	n/a

On June 12, 2001, the winners were announced. Each award comes with a cheque for \$7500 and special gold stickers for the winning books.

The Chicken Cat written by Stephanie McLellan and illustrated by Sean Cassidy won the Best Book for Young Children prize.

Willow and Twig written by Jean Little won the award for Best Book for Middle Readers.

The Secret Under My Skin by Janet McNaughton won Best Book for Young Adults.

<http://www.kraftinternational.com/newsroom/05232001.html>
<http://infoculture.cbc.ca/>

Through the Grapevine



Congratulations to **Gina Rawson** who is now the Chief Librarian of the Creston Public Library, Creston, British Columbia. She was a resident of Thunder Bay and was the first winner of the OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Regional Branch Graduate Award. After graduating, Gina worked for the Thunder Bay Public Library at the Waverley and Victoriaville branches. She then worked at the Challis Resource Centre at Confederation College for five years, taking a year off to study and attain a M.L.I.S. degree in London, Ontario. She received notification of her new job as of June 2001.

We wish **Muriel Davidson** the best as she will be retiring at the end of December 2001. She has been a supply Library Technician for the Lakehead Public School Board since 1989 and recently has been the full-time Library Tech at Hillcrest High School. Muriel is a graduate from the Lakehead University Library Technology diploma program and had been the newsletter editor of Tech Talk in the past.

Our apologies to **LaRea Moody** on the misspelling of her name in the September issue of TechTalk



Long flowing habits, singing nuns... no, not "The Sound of Music". "Nunsense" is a musical dealing with five nuns from Hoboken, Connecticut, who are trying to put on a fund raiser. The reason : to bury the last four nuns of 52 who succumbed to Sister Julia-Child of God's vichyssoise soup. A premise for a musical comedy? Yes, and a successful one too that has been performed in Toronto, throughout the United States, and is now coming to Thunder Bay!

It features **Ardith Irvine, Nikki Girouard, Lynae Grace, Beverley Gravelle-MacLeod,** and our

own OALT/ABO member **LaRea Moody** as **Mother Superior**. Choreographed by **Fay Gleeson**, music performed by **Marcella Smithers**, and produced and directed by **Rob MacLeod**, "Nunsense" will be staged for 2 ½ weeks starting from November 29 and ending December 15, 2001. It will be at the old Capitol Theatre at 111 S. Brodie Street, Thunder Bay, at 8 p.m., and tickets can be purchased through the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium for \$15 or \$10 for seniors and students.

Editor's Message

*Many thanks to **Cyndy Mackenzie, Barry Holmes, Tina Tucker,** and the other contributors to this edition. If you have comments or information (library related or other) you'd like to share, please contact me.*

*Wishing everyone a merry and safe holiday season,
Linda Bukovy*