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# TECH TALK

Volume 31, No. 1 June 2003



## *President's Message*

Hello everyone! It is Donald Henderson reporting in as your new President. I have been around for years (mostly as a student) in a subdued manner and now find myself leading you into a period of great change. By the time this newsletter is mailed OALT/ABO will have a new constitution that replaces the old regions with new chapters. Only time will tell how the shift in the power structures will affect our prime mandate to be a service to you the members.

We are not waiting. The transition meeting was held on May 21 and there is a plethora of talent prepared to do what they can to present programs and support services so that you, the members, feel valued. Then we can all work together to help the chapter grow. It is sad to say goodbye to Cyndy MacKenzie who served us well as president for a year and to David Taylor who helped put this premium newsletter together. Thank you for everything. Two new members to the executive, who are already making their presence felt, are Valerie Welsch (Secretary) and Trudy Mauracher (Treasurer). Still with us are Caron Naysmith (Public Relations Co-ordinator), Kathy Crewdson (Regional Director a.k.a. Chapter Liaison), Valerie Barten and Linda Bukovy (Newsletter Editor), and Helen Heerema our archivist.

While we were discussing some of the services we should supply in order to fulfill our mandate we realized that a lot of core information that the region had access to was not handled by our group but by the Library and Information Studies Department at Lakehead University. This could not have happened without the initiative and hard work of Margaret MacLean. Our region wishes to extend a heartfelt thanks to her for all she has done. I just hope that we can carry on disseminating all of the different kinds of needed information. If there is anything that you need to know about how to work easier and better please let us know.

Confederation College is in the process of establishing a program for Library Technicians that meets both the Provincial Government and CLA standards while addressing the special needs of students in Northwestern Ontario. As your president I attended an Ad Hock committee meeting in April. The committee, which is made up of the heads of most institutions that employ Library Technicians, met to determine what the employment possibilities will be in the near future, and what training is needed to meet the needs of Northwestern Ontario. Meetings will continue during the year and if you have any suggestions or concerns please let me know. I work nights and sleep days so leave a message on the machine or e-mail me at [dmhender@mac.com](mailto:dmhender@mac.com).

The children surprised us with a combined anniversary and birthday party over the long weekend. As we are wont to do when all together, long hours were spent discussing why we exist and attempting to define the correspondent responsibilities. When they all left I remembered a wise saying; "one should not die with their music still in them." It came to me that maybe that is all we really have to do. We sing our own song with as much integrity as we can muster and the other responsibilities will look after themselves. You can not sing your own song however, unless all aspects of your body, mind, soul, and spirit are all focused on the same goal. This is difficult to do without people around that keep all of these aspects in their proper comfort zone. All Library Technicians do not sing the same song but they all understand the genre. This means that they can make great music together. So when we ask you to pay your Chapter dues this fall, come out to help, or participate in the group functions know that it is not a demand but an invitation to a songfest. The fact that sometimes it can be hard work just adds to the beat. So practice your chords over the summer and we will see you all in September.

Donald Henderson  
President

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**Conference 2003 - OALT/ABO's 30<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Conference  
submitted by Valerie Welsch**

It was a perfect week-end for a conference as it was pouring rain so everyone stayed inside and attended workshops and the Annual Business Meeting. I missed the first two days because of a long awaited root canal appointment and arrived Friday evening. Also in attendance from Thunder Bay was Wanda Ewachow.

Saturday morning I attended Vicki Whitmell's presentation on *Changes in Libraries, Associations and Careers*. Vicki discussed the continued role of library associations and how they, like libraries, must change and adapt to meet the needs of the future. Her PowerPoint presentation is a PDF on our website ([www.oaltabo.on.ca](http://www.oaltabo.on.ca)) as are most of the workshops. This was a good lead-in to my next workshop *OALT/ABO's Constitutional Reform - the Time for Change is Now!* Nanci and Tracy stated that there were three big changes in the proposed OALT/ABO constitution. One is the voting - power to the members, two is the chapters which can be geographic, interest groups, or otherwise, and thirdly the Directors are replaced with an executive with the power to vote. They foresee the benefits as long term stability and equitable governance. There were lots of questions during this session and the Friday session. Many of these questions were out of their constitutional reform mandate as they related to the Board of Director's Policies and Duties of OALT/ABO Administrators.

The Annual Business meeting was scheduled with anticipation, a constitutional reform confrontation. The ABM progressed smoothly through the usual reports and then into unfinished business. The recommendations from the constitutional reform committee passed without comment. The lesson I learned from this was, the two constitutional reform workshops before hand so everyone had the

opportunity to air their views and receive explanations, allowed the ABM to proceed efficiently. The new executive attended their first brainstorming meeting which followed the ABM. The new executive is listed on the website.

The banquet was followed by a very entertaining DJ complete with props.

Next year's conference will be hosted by Lohania.

**Treasurer's Report  
(May 29, 2003)**

|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Expenses:</b>                  |                 |
| Public Relations (gift)           | 16.23           |
| Newsletter (postage etc)          | 15.41           |
| Newsletter (printing etc)         | 19.41           |
| OALT Dinner door prizes           | 120.56          |
| OALT Annual Dinner (Legion)       | 504.41          |
| Public Relations (photo copy etc) | 40.99           |
| Newsletter (stamps etc)           | 15.41           |
| Newsletter (printing etc)         | 19.65           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>\$752.07</b> |

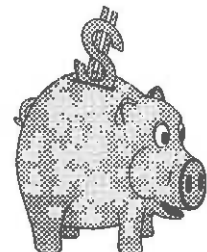
|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Revenue:</b>    |                 |
| Regional Subsidies | 455.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>\$455.00</b> |

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Assets:</b> |                  |
| Cash in Bank   | 2302.20          |
| G.I.C.         | 2144.30          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$4446.50</b> |

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Bank Book Balance</b>   | <b>\$2302.20</b> |
| <b>Cheque Book Balance</b> | <b>\$2302.20</b> |

**Membership Statistics:**

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Graduates    | 23        |
| Associate    | 2         |
| Retired      | 2         |
| Unemployed   | 2         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>29</b> |



**OALT/ABO REGIONAL EXECUTIVE****PRESIDENT**

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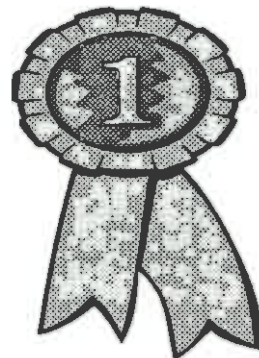
[heerema@confederationc.on.ca](mailto:heerema@confederationc.on.ca)**Hurray For "Kid Lit"**

by Linda Bukovy

In her article "It's official : CanLit for kids comes of age" (The Globe and Mail, Saturday, April 26, 2003, p. D13), Susan Perren announces that **A Guide to Canadian Children's Books** by Deirdre Baker and Ken Setterington (McClelland and Stewart, 296 p., \$34.99) has come out at a wonderful time, since Canadian children's literature authors are becoming well-known (think Marie-Louise Gay and Tim-Wynne-Jones, Martha Brooks and Robert Munsch). Baker teaches children's literature at the University of Toronto and is the Toronto Star's children's book columnist, and Setterington, who has worked as a librarian, was the Toronto Public Library's first Children and Youth Advocate, and a CBC children's book panel member. Both are authors of children's books.

According to this article, the book has over 500 recommended books that are divided into age and genre brackets. They cover the gamut from "board books ... concept books, picture books, traditional tales, poetry and rhyming stories, books for beginning readers, novels for the 7 to 12 age group, short-story collections and anthologies for the same age group, series books, novels for 12 and up, short-story collections for 12 and up and non-fiction".

Following are appendices that "include a list of highly recommended books for all age groups and from all genres; a title index; an author/illustrator/editor index; a subject index; settings in Canada; and last of all, the home base of each author/illustrator/editor."



**And the Winners  
Are...**

*The Blue Spruce Award*  
is an Ontario reading

program for kindergarten to Grade 3 students which focuses on the best picture book. The Ontario School Library Association sponsors this award. In this program, students read ten nominated Canadian picture books and then vote for their favourite book. After voting, results come from throughout the entire province and are tabulated, the best picture book is then selected and its author/illustrator is/are honoured with the Blue Spruce Award.

The Official Selections have been compiled from a list of about 20 Canadian picture books that were published in the year 2002, then narrowed down to ten for the 2003 Blue Spruce reading program.

The nominees are:

Alphabeasts - written and illustrated by Wallace Edwards

Badger's New House -written and illustrated by Robin Muller

Courage to Fly - written by Troon Harrison and illustrated by Zhong-Yang Huang

Full Moon Rising -written by Joanne Taylor and illustrated by Susan Tooke

Give Maggie a Chance - written by Frieda Wishinsky and illustrated by Dean Griffiths

The Name of the Child -written by Marilyn Reynolds and illustrated by Don Kilby

The Rumor: A Jataka Tale from India - written and illustrated by Jan Thornhill

Stella: Fairy of the Forest - written and illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay

When the Giant Stirred: Legend of a Volcanic Island -written and illustrated by Celia Godkin

Z is for Zamboni: A Hockey Alphabet -written by Matt Napier and illustrated by Melanie Rose

The winner, announced on May 30, 2003 is Z is for Zamboni: A Hockey Alphabet -written by Matt Napier and illustrated by Melanie Rose

*Ontario Library Association Silver Birch Award 2003* read and judged by Grades 4-6 Ontario students:

The nominees are:

#### FICTION

Camp X - written by Eric Walters

Chance and the butterfly - written by Maggie De Vries

Flying geese - written by Barbara Haworth-Attard

Footsteps in the snow - written by Carol Matas

I have been in danger - written by Cheryl Foggo

Jo's triumph - written by Nikki Tate

The light-bearer's daughter - written by O.R.

Melling

Summer of changes - written by Ann Alma

TJ and the cats - written by Hazel Hutchins

White horse talisman - written by Andrea Spalding

The winner is Camp X written by Eric Walters.

#### NON-FICTION

Adventures with the Vikings - written by Linda Bailey

Earthquakes! - written by Cynthia Pratt Nicholson

Gold rush fever: a story about the Klondike - written by Barbara Greenwood

Hana's suitcase - written by Karen Levine

How hockey works - written by Keltie Thomas

Secrets in stone: all about Maya hieroglyphs - written by Laurie Coulter

To the top of Everest - written by Laurie Skreslet and Elizabeth MacLeod

What's that bug? - written by Nan Froman

Where poppies grow - written by Linda Granfield

ZZZ... the most interesting book you'll ever read about sleep - written by Trudee Romanek

The winner for this category is Hana's suitcase written by Karen Levine.

*Ontario Library Association Red Maple Award 2003* read and judged by Grades 7 to 9 Ontario students:

The nominated books for 2003 are

The carved box - written by Gillian Chan

City of the dead - written by Sharon Stewart

Firewing - written by Kenneth Oppel

Flood - written by James Heneghan

Fractures - written by Budge Wilson

The Goodfellow chronicles: the sacred seal - written by J.C. Mills

Irish chain - written by Barbara Haworth-Attard

Losing forever - written by Gayle Friesen

Out of the ashes: a Shelby Belgarden mystery - written by Valerie Sherrard  
Saving Josey - written by Diane Tullson

The winner is Losing forever by Gayle Friesen.

**Ontario Library Association White Pine Award 2003** read and judged by Grades 9 to 12 Ontario students.

The books nominated for 2003 are:

A foreign field - written by Gillian Chan  
The loser's club - written by John Lekich  
The maze - written by Monica Hughes  
Parvana's journey - written by Deborah Ellis  
The road to Chlifa - written by Michele Marineau  
Sticks and stones - written by Beth Goobie  
Surviving Sam - written by Karen Rivers  
Tribes - written by Arthur Slade  
True confessions of a heartless girl - written by Martha Brooks  
Truth and lies - written by Tamara L. Williams

The winner is A foreign Field written by Gillian Chan.

writing in 1971, and her first children's book Crisis on Conshelf Ten was published in 1975. Since that first book, she had written more than 35 books in genres such as adventure, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy and short stories. Children are drawn to her books since her writing involved issues that they could relate to and find important. Some titles are Log Jam, Castle Tourmandyne, The Crystal Drop, Devil on My Back, the Isis trilogy (The Isis Pedlar, The Guardian of Isis, and The Keeper of the Isis Light) and The Maze (which has been shortlisted for the 2003 OLA White Pine Award) Monica Hughes was the recipient of the Phoenix Award, Canada Council's Children Literature Prize (now known as the Governor General's Award) - twice, Certificate of Honour from the International Board on Books for Young People, the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal, and the Order of Canada (awarded in 2002).

Sources:

[www.cbc.ca/artsCanada/stories/hughes100303](http://www.cbc.ca/artsCanada/stories/hughes100303) ;  
<http://womenwriters.about.com/library/bhughes.htm>  
; [www.sfga.org/News/mhughes.htm](http://www.sfga.org/News/mhughes.htm)



**Monica Hughes - dead at 77**  
written by Linda Bukovy

On March 7, 2003, Canada lost one of its foremost children's literature writers in the form of Monica Hughes who died of a stroke in Edmonton, Alberta. She was 77. She is survived by her husband Glenn Hughes and four children.

She was born on November 3, 1925, in Liverpool, England, and served as a Wren (Women's Royal Naval Service) during WWII. She immigrated to Canada in 1952, met and married Glen Hughes, and in 1964 they moved to Edmonton. She began



**Summer Reading -  
Mystery**

Summer is coming. Time to kick back, sit on the porch and read for a while, but you don't have to read just statistical information or web search patterns, or the newest Dewey edition. Let me introduce you to a woman of our ilk. She's methodical, she's precise, she's observant, and she's able to locate information at the drop of her Dewey. She's Miss Wilhelmina Zukas, a librarian/sleuth who lives in the picturesque fictional town of Bellehaven, Washington. Helma (any other nickname is not acceptable to her) works at the Bellehaven Public Library where she copes with staff's foibles and patrons' concerns, often finding herself dragged into situations where things just don't look right... like murder scenes. She's the creation of Jo Dereske, a mystery writer, who,

according to a website, "pokes fun at the stereotype of repressed, methodical librarians". Follow the adventures of Miss Zukas in the following books:  
[Miss Zukas and the Library Murders](#) (1994)  
[Miss Zukas and the Island Murders](#) (1995)  
[Miss Zukas and the Stroke of Death](#) (1995)  
[Miss Zukas and the Raven's Dance](#) (1996)  
[Out of Circulation](#) (1997)  
[Final Notice](#) (1998)  
[Miss Zukas in Death's Shadow](#) (1999)  
[Miss Zukas Shelves the Evidence](#) (2000)

**Sources:**

[www.booksbytes.com/authors/dereske-jo.html](http://www.booksbytes.com/authors/dereske-jo.html)  
[www.geocities.com/danvbyrne/derekse.htm](http://www.geocities.com/danvbyrne/derekse.htm)

**Watch for the OALT/ABO membership renewal form that will be sent to you in August/September. Make sure to fill it out and send it with payment promptly on its way. That way, you won't miss any of the workshop notices and upcoming newsletters. Be a member of good standing.**

**OALT/ABO Discussion List**

The OALT/ABO Discussion List is an unmoderated discussion group of our provincial association, OALT/ABO. The purpose of this list is to provide information online regarding OALT/ABO and other library organizations, events, and activities to our members. Members can also post job opportunities, meeting notices, professional development activities, and discuss issues which are relevant to Library Technicians and libraries. The list is sponsored by Canadian General Technologies and is run on their server using Majordomo software.

To subscribe to the list, send the following message to:  
[oaltabo-request@majordomo.cangen.net](mailto:oaltabo-request@majordomo.cangen.net) and then put [subscribe\\_oaltabouser@emailaddress.com](mailto:subscribe_oaltabouser@emailaddress.com) in the body of the email. Shortly after you subscribe, you will receive an automated confirmation and a

welcome message.

To send a message to the list, send an email to :  
[oaltabo-list@majordomo.cangen.net](mailto:oaltabo-list@majordomo.cangen.net)

If you have questions or comments regarding the Discussion List, please contact the list manager Farah Shaygan at: [f.shaygan@rogers.com](mailto:f.shaygan@rogers.com)

**Editor's Message**

If you have stories, information (library related or other) or ideas for workshops you'd like to participate in, please contact us. As your newsletter editors, we want to inform you of issues that are of importance, and input from our members is greatly appreciated. Please contact Valerie Barten at [rbarten@tbaytel.net](mailto:rbarten@tbaytel.net) , telephone (807) 475-3668 or Linda Bukovy at [lbukovy@hotmail.com](mailto:lbukovy@hotmail.com) , telephone at (807) 577-5430.

**Job Contact**

If you have any leads regarding upcoming jobs in the library field, please let me know, and I will inform members through e-mail. Important: if any e-mail address changes occur, please let me know promptly at e-mail address [lbukovy@hotmail.com](mailto:lbukovy@hotmail.com) or by phone (807) 577-5430.

**Have a safe and fun summer!**

