
TECH TALK

Volume 31 No. 3 December 2003



President's Message

Already a new season is upon us, fluctuating between winter and summer as if fall was not a legitimate option anymore. It was fall though, and Thunder Bay Chapter of OALT/ABO has been busy. The executive worked very hard and very well all summer to prepare for the three events that have happened so far. The hardest job I have is to hold them back.

It is a bit disheartening though that the attendance as well as the membership seems to be dwindling. It has caused us to wonder if our work is misguided and if there was anything we might do to change things. Whatever effect the program has, it is still not the real problem.

People have things they must do and people have things they want to do and this determines what they end up doing. If they end up not doing (with us) there may not be anything we can do about the doodoo we are in. This phenomena is also happening in several other groups that I belong to. (I am not a leader of any of these other groups, so I am not the common denominator that is at fault).

I notice when I go through the archives of all these groups that they began as a very special interest group which grew because of their enthusiasm to the point that it needed extensive organization. Somewhere along the line, the organization became more important than the interest. Add to that mix some demographics and a sudden shift in

education and workplace opportunities, and suddenly there is too much strain to maintain the organized structure.

This is not all bad. Some small groups cost less and create much more social capital. However if we get to the point where we can not field an executive we lose support and funding from the parent body. OALT/ABO has its roots in Thunder Bay and I hope that in the end it will be the last branch reaching skyward.

The executive will continue to work to provide interesting presentations and workshops. During our discussions, we discovered that the newsletter, banquets, and conferences attracted more participation. As a result we are having two dining experiences this year, a brunch and a banquet with fun (no frolic) and I hope you like it.

Our idea of a collective effort in creating a comprehensive local data base of library related employers and educators has been well received as an idea, but the numbers of people involved so far this year indicate that we must scale back our original vision and do it in smaller chunks. I will be phoning for help during the boring cold winter months.

One initiative has been very successful. At the September meeting, we made LaRea Moody a lifetime Chapter member. We created a letter and a certificate which, after a couple of false starts in the post office, arrived at her residence. I read her the letter officially while she was in town for the arts

awards nomination. She was very happy and sent us a wonderful reply which appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are planning more workshops and presentations after the New Year and I wish you a very happy holiday and hope to see you then.

Donald M Henderson
President



**Treasurer's Report
November 20, 2003**

Previous Balance	\$2,102.47
Expenses:	
Sept. Meeting	\$18.48
Honorary Memb.	\$32.00
Founders Museum	\$50.00
Total	\$100.48
Balance	\$2,001.99
Revenue	
Membership renewals	\$204.00
Balance	\$2,205.99
Bank Balance	\$2,205.99
GIC	\$2,144.30
Interest on GIC	\$32.16
Total Net Balance	\$4,382.45
Membership - 2003/2004	
Institutional	1
Graduates	9
Retired	3
TOTAL	13



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Thunder Bay Chapter Life Member

At the September General Meeting a motion was passed to honour LaRea Moody by presenting her with Thunder Bay's First Life Membership. Following is the presentation made by Donald Henderson.

On behalf of OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Chapter I would like to:

Thank you for being a pioneer Library Technician student. You studied in the first such program in Ontario right here in Thunder Bay at what has become Lakehead University. It takes courage and tenacity to pursue an unknown goal and set the example.

Thank you for being one of the first of many excellent Library Technicians that worked for the program and helped the students of those early years to bond into professional and social support groups. Your influence shows in the newsletters and photo albums of the time.

Thank you for creating momentum and incorporating the strong viable Lakehead Library Technicians into the provincial association. Seeds germinated by the CLTA members grew into our present OALT/ABO. The process began at a seminar in Sudbury focusing on Library Technicians in 1973.

Thank you for your years of service to OALT/ABO as a member of the executive several times regionally and as Secretary to the provincial body in 1980. This is only what we know about. Even while not on the executive

you continued to contribute greatly.

Thank you for spearheading the Annual Award for students in the Lakehead University Library Technician program. In the early days the association and the classes were tightly bound and this award was another way to encourage and help those who aspired to enter our profession.

Thank you for the many short (??) speeches at the conferences. Especially the one you gave when you were honored for ten years of continuous membership in 1983. Twenty years later and you are still coming out. Your words were always a delight and inspiration to those that were just beginning the long journey that you have so far accomplished.

Thank you for winning the President's Award in 1988. Thunder Bay need not feel left out. So much history of OALT/ABO took place in Thunder Bay because of people like you. One could almost say that the province joined us and you were a huge part of all that.

Thank you for being part of the Degree/Diploma program from 1988 until 2001. You taught many of us, you gave us a place to do practice work, and above all so many stories and tours or classes here in this Law Library that you "owned" for so long. So many of us have been touched by your instruction.

In order to truly thank you LaRea, I move, on behalf of OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Chapter, that LaRea Moody be accepted as our first life member.

Dear Don:

I received your xpresspost yesterday, and am completely overwhelmed by the honour bestowed upon me by Thunder Bay Region. Your accompanying letter evoked countless memories of the early years of OALT/ABO and its shaky beginnings.

For me, it was an exciting time to meet many aspiring technicians from diverse backgrounds. I remember my reference class in 1971 had 60 students, including 5 from Hong Kong and one lady from Iran who spoke virtually no English!

The Organization has come a long way from those early years when we were still trying to identify our role in the library milieu. However, whatever my contributions have been, they pale in comparison to those of Charlotte Elwert, the first technician to be hired by the School of Library Technology. No one worked harder than she to develop an association. I am sure that if Helen Heerema checks through the early archives, she will find a wealth of information. Perhaps she has already done so.

My involvement in both the university and Association has been a most enriching experience and I cherish all the friendships made. As an aside, I recently had lunch with Pat Henry, another stalwart from the early years of OALT/ABO (from Sudbury). She is Court House Librarian in Barrie, and we had a good time reminiscing.

Again, I thank you for the honour, and hope that you will keep me posted on all your activities. I hope to return to Thunder Bay periodically to check up on everybody! !

Cordially,
LaRea Moody



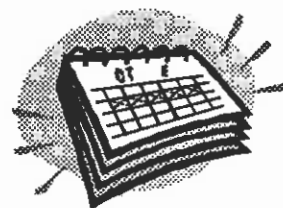
Whatever Happened To?

Sian Brockhouse

Sian Brockhouse graduated from Lakehead University's Library Technology program in 1988, went to teacher's college, graduated, worked in England for a year or so, then became homesick for Canada. Because of lack of work in her chosen field, she found work at a local garden centre/nursery for 8 years. A few years back she was on the supply list for Peel School Board and had several long-term assignments. In 2002 she became a full-time employee and is currently teaching Grade 1 in a Brampton school in an older area of the city. This past July she took a librarianship course and hopes to become a teacher-librarian eventually.

We hope this can be the start of a continuing series. If you graduated with someone or know someone who may have moved away please let us know so your fellow colleagues can catch up on what they have been doing.

Important Dates



DECEMBER

Universal Human Rights month
3rd week of Dec - Tell Someone They're
Doing a Good Job Week

Dec 1 - U.N. - World Aids Day - educate people about AIDS

Dec 1 - Monopoly (game) goes on sale for 1st time, 1935

Dec 3 - International Day of Disabled Persons

Dec 5 - Bathtub Party Day - relax in a long, hot bath

Dec 5 - U.N. - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

Dec 6 - St. Nicholas Day - bishop noted for charity - Santa Claus and gift giving derived from him

Dec 10 - Dewey, Melville - birth anniversary - Dewey Decimal system inventor - Dec 10, 1851 - Dec 26, 1931

Dec 10 - Nobel Prize Awards Ceremonies

Dec 10 - U.N. - Human Rights Day - adopted "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" in 1948

Dec 11 - U.N. - UNICEF anniversary

Dec 16 - Beethoven, Ludwig Van - composer (b Dec 16, 1770, Bonn, Germany - d. March 26, 1827, Vienna)

Dec 17 - First powered flight anniversary by the Wright Brothers (Orville and Wilbur) Dec 17, 1903 near Kitty Hawk, NC

Dec 21 - Phileas Fogg Wins Wager Day - Dec 21, 1872 - from "Around the World in Eighty Days" by Jules Verne

Dec 21 - James Naismith posts rules for new game on a YMCA bulletin board, 1891. Game is basketball.

Dec 25 - Christmas

Dec. 25 - Newton, Isaac - mathematician and scientist (b. Dec 25, 1642, Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, England - d. Mar 20, 1727, London)

Dec 29 - U.N. - International Day for Biological Diversity

Dec 30 - Kipling, Rudyard - author (b Dec 30, 1865, Bombay, India - d. Jan 18, 1936, London, England) - wrote "Kim", and "The Jungle Books"

Dec. 30 - Leacock, Stephen - Canadian humorist (b. Dec 30, 1869 - d. Mar 28, 1944)

Dec 31 - Make Up Your Mind Day - make a decision and follow through with it

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

Brain Teasers



The National Library of Canada in Ottawa is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The following quiz was taken in part from the November 2003 issue of The Reader's Digest. Here is a list of words commonly associated with libraries and books. See if you can link the word with the correct meaning. Good luck!

Almanac - A: folklore collection B: book of records C: annual calendar D: prophecies

Annotation - A: postscript B: correction C: note of explanation D: amendment

Anthology - A: catalogue B: list C: non-fiction book D: collection

Bibliophile - A: book lover B: professor C: philosopher D: head librarian

Bibliopole - Seller of A: manuscripts B: rare books C: paper and pens D: authors papers

ANSWERS

Almanac - C: annual calendar, often with weather and astrological information. e.g. The Farmers Almanac is relied upon by many people. Derived from Arabic *al-manakh*.

Annotation - C) Note of explanation i.e. Many books have separate sections for annotation. From Latin *annotatus* (marked, noted).

Anthology - D) Collection of written or musical pieces, usually with a theme. e.g. Sisters in crime is an anthology of stories written by women mystery writers. From Greek *anthologia* (collection of epigrams).

Bibliophile - A) Book lover, e.g. Bibliophiles love garage sales. Source Greek *biblion* (book) and *philos* (fond of).

Bibliopole - B) Seller of rare books. i.e. the bibliopole in Thunder Bay carries first editions of books written by local authors.



Founders Museum

submitted by Donald M. Henderson

I worked the night shift on October 25 and did not believe it when the Police called in a panic for sanders. But a low frost had settled in the area near the river and iced up the roadways. When it finally sunk into my head that winter style conditions existed, and after the ensuing work was set in motion, a panic began to rise within. The OALT/ABO Chapter tour was in the

afflicted area. Would we be able to have our fun time for the day?

The roads were wet and the sun was out on this brisk fall morning when I turned into the Founders Museum on Hwy 61. I had driven past it several times in the past few years but I was not aware of the extent of the recent expansions. The sight of what was now a small village was a sign that there was something to learn here today.

For some, maybe not for others, memories have a funny way of hitting you on both sides of the brain which we all know makes for a very mixed experience. We first stopped at the schoolhouse which was decorated and contained documents that dated to just before the Second World War which has been over for almost sixty years. But guess what? For me and at least one other who had a rural childhood it was just like yesterday. There was very little in the school that we did not use while we were there. The desks, the stove, and the old Dominion of Canada pull-down maps with overdrawn rivers all brought back good memories. But a small part of it also made me feel deep down, that maybe I should be a museum piece as well.

On we went to the teacher's one room residence and then over to the train station. When I was young I spent hours hanging around train stations and it was all still there. So it also was for some others. We talked about how the telegraph would clatter and how the station master would pass on messages to moving trains when there was no reason to stop. I also remembered how trains for some of us were used more than cars. In the winter and in the spring when snow or mud made the roads slow going, we would pack up our chickens, jump onto the train and

go to market to sell our wares. Then we would take the night train home before the cows needed to be milked. The distance was less than 15 km and now takes only a few minutes by car. But there was no time to dream too much.

We went on to the store where more memories were evoked and the idea that everything old was rough was dashed to pieces. There was a lot of very beautiful merchandise in the store which was a real general store selling everything from food to furniture. Some shops in the mall are still in process but soon all the shops that existed in the days of handmade consumer products will be well represented. There is a shoeshop, wood - shop, and a house that would have been occupied by middle European Nobility in the early years. It was a reminder that much of the immigration to Canada was not from the poor, the tired, and the hungry, but included all classes of people. Scotland and Ireland would often send whole villages including the parish priest and the laird of the abandoned manor overseas.

It was all topped off with a fine lunch in the reworked community hall. It is an old hall with old decorations and stage but is up to date where the kitchen and washrooms are concerned. The room was warm and the food was homemade and good. Because most of the buildings are not heated the Museum is only open during the summer season. We did have to bundle up for our later than usual tour. It was fun and we hope to be able to keep offering this kind of experience to our members in the future. We invite you all to join us next time.



Membership renewals are still being accepted! If you haven't renewed your membership please do so ASAP. Forms can be downloaded from the OALT/ABO web site at www.oaltabo.on.ca or contact a member of the executive for a form.



OALT/ABO Thunder Bay Chapter Jingle Mingle

At the Welcome Restaurant
530 Tenth Avenue

Wednesday December 10th at 6 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to Kathy Crewdson at 343-8295, or
Caron Naysmith at 345-8827

\$5.00 for members & \$10.00 for nonmembers

*On behalf of the executive of OALT/ABO
Thunder Bay Chapter have a safe and
Merry Christmas!*

*Seasons
Greetings**