

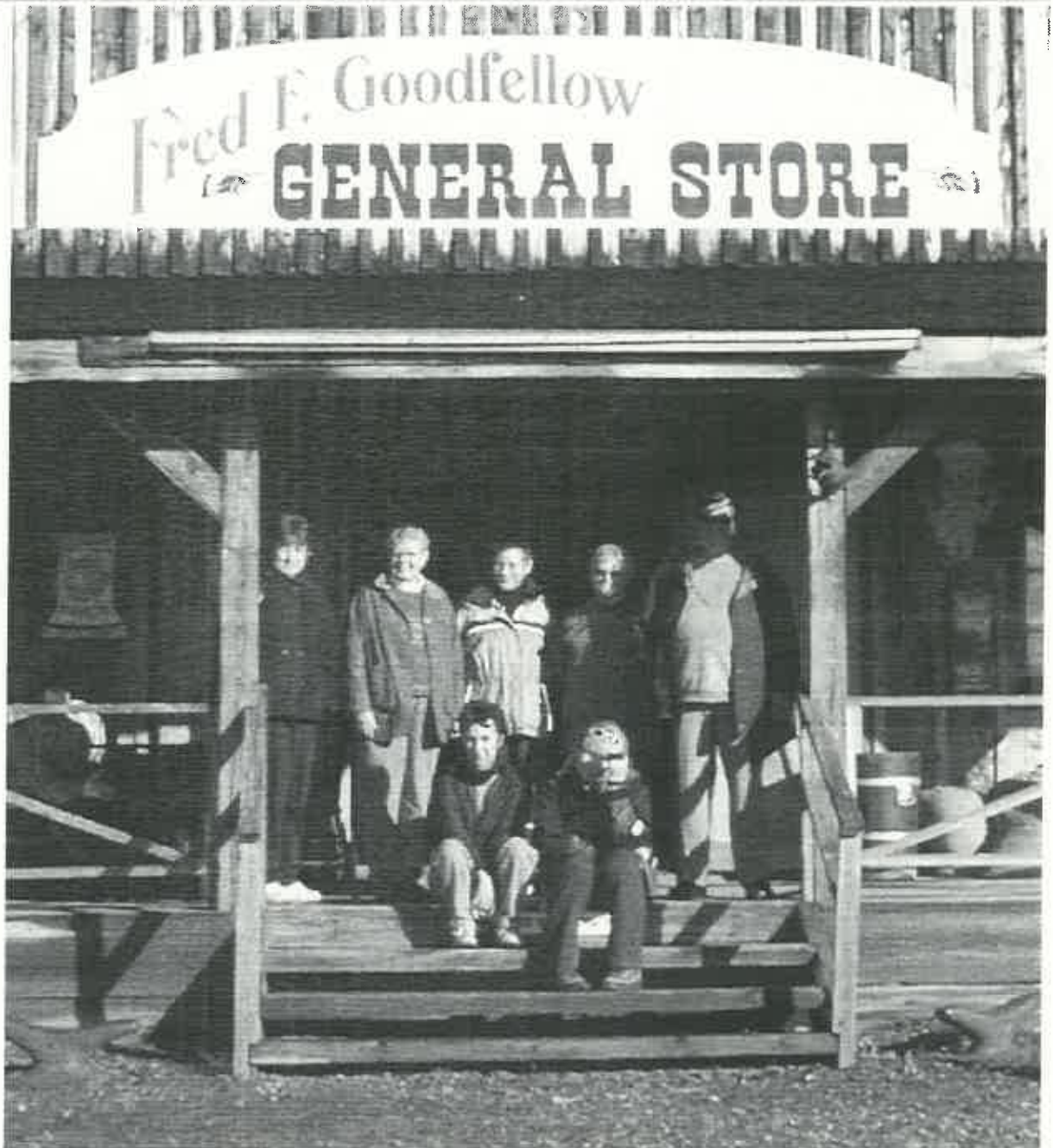
TECH TALK



Newsletter of Thunder Bay Chapter
Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario
Vol. 32 No. 1 Sept. 2004

**OALT/ABO
ATTENDS
A TOUR
AT THE
FOUNDERS
MUSEUM**

**SEE
STORY
ON
PAGE
THREE**



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OALT/ABO
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" Notes a la President "

Hello everyone! It is Donald Henderson reporting in as your President and I guess it is about time. It has been a slow start to this year or rather a slow end to last year because now the new OALT/ABO year runs from the beginning of October. We managed to make it through a period of great change. A new constitution has replaced the old regions with new chapters and now our chapter has finally updated the local constitution so we can begin afresh once we get started.

I must apologize for the delay and a missed newsletter. Family friends, my wife, my mother, and now I find out, myself, all required hospital care this spring and summer so time resources were spent very close to home. However we did manage to have the transition meeting 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 good-bye to Trudy Mauracher who served us well as Treasurer for a year and to Valerie Barten and Linda Bukovy who were our Newsletter Editors. Thank you for everything. Still with us: Valerie Welsch (Secretary);



Caron Naysmith
 (Public Relations Coordinator);
 Kathy Crewdson (Treasurer);
 and Helen Heerema our always
 esteemed archivist.

The past few years have seen a lot of change and a drop in interest in OALT/ABO group activities. The whole OALT/ABO experience started in Thunder Bay and I would hate to see this hotbed of innovation disappear quietly under the waves of Lake Superior. Aside from the advent of the WWW and the demographics which changed activity patterns for very many social organizations, there were several growing pain problems associated with internal OALT/ABO changes, that lost us member interest.

When the membership process was centralized there were some glitches between the money keeper and the record keepers resulting in the loss of some records which then led to the loss of those members. I spoke with Vicky Lynham at an OGS conference and she said that if it was more efficient and the members were more comfortable that we could collect memberships locally and then forward them -en masse- to head office.

[See Page Five]

[President notes cont]

Then the constitutional change left more in limbo than not and we are still feeling our way through the transition to Chapters. We were not able to have any representation at conference this year because the regional directorship is gone without any substitute position or assistance available. The upside is that our chapter is no longer limited to the region and as far as I know unlimited in its appeal to all library staff as associates. We have a chance to grow. Let us make it big, people.

Getting our own legal house in order also took time/effort but we managed to complete the process by the Annual dinner meeting and members will get a copy included with this mailing.

At all levels the transitions are over for a while and although change is often a good thing what we need now is to regain our strength which means bringing into the fold more of the dynamic talent that is out there looking for a familiar place to shine.

With that in mind we intend to reach out and send the newsletter and membership forms to as many people as possible in order to rekindle a glimmer of interest. I encourage, no beseech, all members to talk to friends with the same end in mind. See you all at the meetings -eh!!!

WHERE HAVE ALL THE LIBRARY TECHNICIANS GONE?

By Diana Brown
Copied from
"tête -à- tête" V. 22 N. 3

Actually, the question should be: Where have all the library and Information Technician programs gone?

Have you noticed lately, that most of the Ontario LIT programs are no longer around? Yes, it is true; the Library Technician of yesteryear is on the verge of becoming extinct. We said goodbye to Georgian (Barrie), Cite Collegiale (Ottawa), Sheridan (Oakville), and watched Mohawk (Hamilton) turn into a Part time/ Long distance program. This year Fanshawe (London) and Lakehead University (Thunder Bay) closed their doors to LIT's. Which leave Seneca (North York) and Algonquin (Ottawa) providing Ontario with the last remaining Library and Information Technician graduates (keep your fingers crossed!)



So where does that leave the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario (OALT?ABO)? Not really membership healthy that is for sure.

As more and more of our illustrious graduates enter their golden years, and retire, there will be few recent graduates to take up the torch and carry us into the 21st century.

So what is the solution? This Association was founded by Library Technicians, for Library Technicians. Something to call our own, where we could get the ongoing training and networking we require. (Okay, okay, to get the respect we deserve!) And of course to party!!! Did you hear the one about the 2 library technicians who....?

This association also allows non-graduates to join. Colleagues in the field, who perhaps were not able to get the required educational training (and now never will), but who are interested in improving their work skills, networking with others across the province, and socializing with people who have the same interests. In the Ottawa Regional Branch/Section d'Ottawa (ORB/SRO) an Associate cannot vote, or hold an elected position of the executive.

(However, as a member in good standing, they can be appointed to a vacant position by the Executive.)

As graduates become fewer, we must open our eyes to the other potential members out there: Media Technicians, Museum Technicians, Web-masters and Virtual Librarians to name a few.

The associate membership is defined as: someone interested in the field of library science, but not a graduate or student of a recognized library and information technician programme.

The OALT/ABO Provincial constitution states: After 5 years as Associate may elect to pay the graduate fee and become a full member.

At this time ORB/SRO's constitution does not reflect the 5-year rule. I would like to see this rule added to ORB/SRO's by-laws. It would simplify procedures, allow interested and eager associates the chance to stand as elected Executive members, and would also allow us to continue on as an Association.

In 1998 OALT/ABO celebrated its 25th anniversary. I would like to see it turn 50. if you have any questions regarding this article or constitutional matters, suggestions for workshops or fund-raising, or would like to volunteer your time, please contact the Regional Executive. our existence depends on you!

[Editor Note: I know the Founders article is a repeat and this article from Ottawa is dated but I had to use the picture and I want to offer our sociality and newsletter to other types of librarians.]

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

LIBRARIANS INDEX TO THE INTERNET : " INFORMATION YOU CAN TRUST ."

Librarians' Index to the Internet is a searchable, annotated subject directory of more than 10,000 Internet resources selected and evaluated by librarians for their usefulness to users of public libraries. It is used by both librarians and the general public as a reliable and efficient guide to Internet resources.

Libraries in the Information Age: An Introduction and Career Exploration.

IMS stacks Z665.F74 2002. Designed to introduce LIS students to the ever-changing world of modern libraries and information centers, this text provides an important overview of libraries in the era of electronic information. It helps students build necessary core knowledge in such areas as electronic dissemination of information, the impact of the Internet on libraries, the changing responsibilities of library professionals, the new paradigm for evaluating information, and characteristics and functions of today's library personnel. Each chapter revolves around a pertinent topic: the history of libraries, job opportunities, collections, preparing materials for use, circulation, reference service, ethics in the information age, job search basics, and the Internet. References and relevant books, Web sites, and publications at the end of every chapter point to further resources. Presenting a blend of scholarly research, helpful guidance, and real world applications, the authors deliver an exceptionally useful textbook that gives students a well-rounded overview of fundamental concepts, practices, and skills, and it will help them explore career opportunities and master the diverse requirements of libraries in the information age.

OALT/ABO - 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE / LA 32E CONFÉRENCE ANNUELLE DE L'OALT/ABO

**MAY 11 TO 15, 2005
ALGONQUIN COLLEGE - OTTAWA, ONTARIO**

**The Ottawa chapter wishes to welcome everyone to the
OALT/ABO 32nd Annual Conference / La 32e conférence
annuelle de l'OALT/ABO**

Mark your calendars!! Plan to Attend!!

FOUNDERS TOUR

It was cool man. 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?

It was cool man. 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 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.

It was cool man. For some and 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 down deep, that maybe I should be a museum piece as well.

On we went to the teachers 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. There was no time to dream too much so we marched on to see the shops.

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, woodshop, 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 not down 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.

LIBRARY: AN UNQUIET HISTORY

reviewed by

LINDA BUKOVY

While perusing the library shelves during the summer, I found Matthew Battle's *Library: an unquiet history* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2000), and figured, that with a title like that, this book would be chock full of information.

Now the idea of the amassing of information can be mind-boggling. For example, did you know:

The American Library of Congress adds more than 7,000 books per day to its collection of more than 100 million items ; this translates to more than 53 miles of shelves.

The bound book came into being after the Christian era in Rome; prior to this, scrolls were the predominate form.

The Muslim empire's rulers and leaders were extremely committed to the accumulation of knowledge. For example, in 976, the Caliph Hakina of Cordova, Spain, had a library that, when catalogued, was estimated to have over 40,000 volumes. In comparison, the large European libraries could boast only hundreds of volumes.

In 1444 Cosimo de'Medici founded the first public library in Florence, Italy. Housed in the building of San Marco, it was open only to the powerful church, nobility and important mercantile families. Its main purpose: promoting the power of the Medici family.

Melville Dewey, an American cataloguer, believed in efficiency, not only developing a numerical catalogue system, but also overseeing all library facets, from furniture, stationery and tools.

However, the world of libraries is not all roses and rainbows. Throughout history, information was/is considered dangerous. Battles covers periods where libraries were threatened and/or destroyed: Alexandria's Library burned; Savonarola urging the populace to throw books into bonfires to purge their souls of vanities ("Bonfire of the Vanities"); German troops and followers throwing books that didn't promote German idealism into huge bonfires (this happened in 1914, 1933 and 1940) and the National library of Sarajevo being destroyed in the 1980's.

NEW REGIONAL CONSTITUTION

It was decided at our executive meeting on 3 March 2004 that we needed to revise our "Regional" constitution to reflect that we were now a "Chapter" of OALT/ABO.

On 8 March 2004, Donald Henderson, Valerie Barten, and Valerie Welsch met at the School Board office armed with the 1991 version of the Thunder Bay Regional Branch constitution, the newly revised Ontario Association of Library Technicians / Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario constitution, and sharp pencils. Two hours later we left with a constitutional change proposal for the Thunder Bay Chapter.

Valerie Welsch took her notes and typed up the proposal. This was passed on to Valerie Barten to proof-read. Valerie Barten then forwarded the proposal to Trudy Mauracher who sent it to all members via our "hotmail" account on 9 March 2004. At our Annual Business Meeting on 25 March 2004, this constitutional change proposal was unanimously accepted. Your own personal copy of our Chapter constitution was mailed out with this newsletter.

Now to give praise where praise is due... Donald had mentioned at a much earlier executive meeting that Kathy Crewdson and Valerie Welsch could revise this constitution. I thought the task overwhelming and so Kathy and I just let Donald's suggestion slide. Now the end of our "year" was drawing near and so Donald just informed the Valerie's that we would meet on Monday and that was that! Donald was so right — with a bit of concentrated effort, three opinions, past examples to draw on —the task was doable.