



NewsLETTER/ NouvELLES

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NEWSletter/NOUvelles

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Abbey Market P.O Box 76010
1500 Upper Middle Rd.W.
Oakville, Ontario
L6M 3H5
Tel. (905)403-2561
Fax. (905)403-2453

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President's Message

Welcome to the 2001 winter newsletter of OALTABO. This newsletter is your opportunity to learn about the activities of all the association. The editor, Sue Callaway, has done her best getting information and articles for this edition but this continues to be a very hard job. This newsletter is just one place that you can have the excellent opportunity to show off something that you have written or taken photos of or a good spot to put in some advertising. What I am saying is that Sue needs contributions from everyone in order to make it everybody's newsletter. So the next time that you see something interesting that you think would be of interest to the rest of the association, send it to Sue. Her email is scallaw@sympatico.ca.

In May 2001 we have an excellent conference being planned for us by Halton/Peel. "Focus 2001" plans to be a great opportunity to meet and network with your colleagues as well as attend our Vendor Exhibit and the banquet on Saturday night. So, watch your mailbox for your personal registration package. For further information on the conference have a look at the website www.oaltabo.on.ca and look under conference. The registration form is there and it would be a shame for you to miss our annual event. So mark your calendars for May 2-6th, 2001 Oakville Ontario and register today.

See you in May,
Pam Casey

Have you....?

The Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario has a new website address sponsored by Rowe Com Canada. This can be viewed at the following address: <http://www.oaltabo.on.ca>

Our Webmaster, Gerry Estrada, the creator of some wonderful web pages deserves our congratulations and our thanks for his willingness to share his talents with our community. Have you viewed the website recently?

Please indicate to the Newsletter Editor, Sue Callaway, if you would be interested in receiving the newsletter in an electronic format via email.

Contact her at scallaw@sympatico.ca

We need your help!!!!



Our annual conference is only 6 weeks away. This is a very exciting time for me as I always enjoy going to conference and I look forward to Focus 2001. During the conference, we are holding our elections at our Annual Business Meeting. I am in charge of the nominating committee and would like to let everyone know that all positions are up for election. However we have candidates for some of the roles and need people for others.

Elected Positions :

President - Pam Casey - currently holds the position and wishes to stand for the 2001/2002 term

Vice-President - need a candidate for the 2001/2002 term

Secretary - need a candidate for the 2001/2002 term

Treasurer - Maxine Corea - currently holds the position and wishes to stand for the 2001/2002 term

Public Relations - need a candidate for the 2001/2002 term

Directors - are elected by each region.

Appointed Positions for 2001/2002:

Ex-Officio - Nanci Abbondanza

Newsletter - Sue Callaway

Internet Taskforce Chair - Sean Crowe

Webmaster - Gerry Estrada

Discussion List Co-ordinator - Ronn Cheney

As you can all see, we need people for the executive. Here is your golden opportunity to get involved and make a difference. I did and I am very glad that I did. Out of my involvement, I have learned leadership skills, made long-standing friendships, networked with other library technicians who work in libraries and others who don't, and increased my awareness of the library world as a whole.

If you want to jump on board but want to know more about a particular position, please email me and I will send you more information.

We need your help!!!!

Sincerely

Pam Casey

President

Ontario Association of Library Technicians

Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

pcasey1@home.com

(905) 639-5621

Presidential Award 1999/2000

Marg Bushell, of Lohania Region, took the opportunity to nominate a member and friend of the region. That person won the Presidential Award and has certainly proven her worth in receiving the award.

Our congratulations go to *Marion Doucette*. Marion is presently taking nominations for the 2000/2001 award.

Marion has been a member forever. At least, that was how her membership years have been described to me. Her involvement in the regional and provincial level has been many and varied. President, Newsletter Editor, Secretary and on various committees.

She has presented workshops and it should be noted that her specialty is puppetry, sharing her interest with OALT/ABO as well as libraries in the Huron County Library System.

Outside of work, she has been very active in little theatre, serving as President of that group, helping to direct and produce. Marion has been awarded a Provincial Government medal for her community work.



*Marion Doucette, winner of the
1999/2000 Presidential Award*

My thanks are extended to Marg Bushell and Janet Scheibler for their assistance in reporting on our most recent recipient of the Presidential Award. The next recipient will be awarded at the May 2-6 Halton /Peel Conference.

Sue Callaway
Newsletter Editor

Thunder Bay happenings....

We had our Super Saturday workshops on 3 February from 9:00am until 3:30pm. Phyllis Dalgleish, Chair of Business Department Hillcrest High School, presented both workshops - Desktop Publishing using PrintArtist, Microsoft Publisher, WordPerfect and the Internet and Web Page Design. The library technicians who are employed by the Lakehead District School Board each received their own copy of Claris Home Page/ Filemaker Pro as this program is licensed by the Ministry for use in the schools in Ontario. Now some of us may even be able to create Web pages for our schools! The other library technicians attending the workshop learned how to create a Web page using Netscape. Although free, it is not as easy to use as Claris Home Page where the templates are already set up for you.

On Wednesday 21 March 2001, Thunder Bay region will have had their Annual Business Meeting in the Solarium at the Slovak Legion (801 Atlantic Avenue). Symposium at 6:30 followed by Dinner at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$20.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members.

OALT/ABO's response to a Toronto Star article

Refer to Toronto Star, Sunday Special, *School libraries cut hours as staff shelved*. Kristin Rushowy, Education Reporter

In response to your March 4 article "*School libraries cut hours as staff shelved*", most Library Technicians have been taken aback at how misleading and one-sided the article was. Time after time Library Technicians must justify their existence in the library world, not as clerks, secretaries or shelvers, but as professionals, who deserve the respect that our professional peers receive automatically.

Library Technicians have been in the workforce for over 30 years. We receive education and training in all aspects of the library field: reference, cataloguing, classification, inter-library loans, and information technology & library management. With the classes come several practical "field placements" and other specialized courses such as Children's Literature. Library Technicians are capable of working in both traditional and non-traditional library jobs. We have been trained to compliment Librarians and Teacher-Librarians, enhancing library services, making it cost effective and efficient.

In the article it was mentioned that Teacher-Librarians are a dying breed. So are Library Technicians. Where there were once at least seven Library and Information Technology programs flourishing in Ontario, today only three remain open full time. In this "world-wide-web" world, the Library Technician must compete with the misnomer that most employers assume anyone with a basic knowledge of computers is qualified to do their job. Employers, who adopt this attitude, do so at their own peril.

Yes, Library Technicians CAN teach – they teach library orientation to both students and faculty, train students and teachers to use audio visual equipment and computers, as well as provide guidance in reading material for school projects, and personal enjoyment, maintain library collections, and yes, some *do* catalogue and shelve books.



trained to compliment Librarians
and Teacher-Librarians.

The Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario (OALT/ABO) is an organization established in 1973. Its role is to promote a wider understanding, acceptance and advancement of Library Technician graduates and students, and to further the cause of Library Technicians in the workforce. We feel the article should have focused more on the failure of school administrators and the provincial government to recognize the importance of libraries for students and faculty and the importance of hiring qualified teacher-librarians and library technicians, rather than just concentrating on the plight of teacher-librarians alone.

When all is said and done, the losers in this matter are the students who many never learn valuable research and study skills, let alone an appreciation of reading. What does that say about the future of Canada and our ability to compete globally?

Diana Brown
Public Relations Coordinator
Pam Casey
President

*Ontario Association of Library Technicians/
Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario*

UNESCO Library Portal

This may be useful to some:

UNESCO Library Portal

http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_bib/

This new site from UNESCO is offered as a resource for information on both worldwide libraries and issues and news related to librarianship, with an emphasis on "activities in the Organization's fields of competence such as education, sciences, culture and information." As with most portals, this metasite features annotated links organized by category and topic. In this case, they include library Websites (organized by type), library associations and networks, preservation and access initiatives, librarianship, education and training, and conferences and meetings (this section helpfully lists specific events). Other features include library news and a featured site on the main page, an internal search engine, and a free newsletter. [MD]

From The Scout Report, Copyright Internet Scout Project 1994-2000.

<http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/>

Electronically yours!

Are you interested in receiving your newsletter in a timely manner? No dependence upon the mail system! You'll be one of the first to receive your copy.

The file can be sent in Adobe (.pdf) format or as a file to read in your browser (.html)

Please state your preference and email me if you're interested.

Sue Callaway

scallaw@sympatico.ca

Looking for articles....

Attention! Your input is greatly needed.

Have you written an article? Or done something of interest that would appeal to all of us?

If so, and you would like to contribute towards the newsletter, please consider doing so. The newsletter editor can be contacted via email: scallaw@sympatico.ca

Pictures can also be included with the newsletter.

News from Lohania

Lohania Region is proud to recognize students from the Library and Information Technician Programmes at Mohawk and Fanshawe Colleges for their outstanding academic performance. The students recognized have demonstrated an admirable performance record throughout their term in their respective Library and Information Technician Programme. This is an annual activity for Lohania Regional Branch and every year at least one graduating student from each College is presented with an award.

The year 2000 Outstanding Academic Achievement Award was presented to Lenore Poppa, Mohawk College and Sarah Keating, Fanshawe College. Congratulations!

Sarah Keating received her award from Esther Spicer, President, Lohania Region at the Fanshawe College Technology Awards Ceremony, November 8, 2000. This was a special honour. With the suspension of the Library and Information Technician Programme at Fanshawe College this marks the final student from the program to receive this award. Sarah is currently working at the Westminster Campus of the London Health Sciences Centre, London, Ontario.



2001 OALT/ABO Conference

Hosted by Halton-Peel Region

**Join friends old and new for a conference to kick start the
New Century.**

When: May 2-6, 2001
Where: Sheridan College
Oakville, On

Scheduling, workshops and pricing details to follow.

If you have any questions contact:
Diane Baksa, diane@ica.net or 905 842-5820

OALT/ABO AT OLA 2001

OALT/ABO had the opportunity to be part of the Ontario Library Association's 100th Anniversary at Super Conference 2001, February 1 - 3, 2001, Toronto. We shared a booth at the Trade Show, held in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, with Seneca College's LIT program. They generously sponsored the booth.

We had an excellent location in the hall and learned that we can request the same site for next year. Frances Davidson-Arnott, coordinator of the Seneca Program, has suggested that the other two LIT programs at Algonquin and Mohawk Colleges also be part of this exhibit. Pam Casey and I discussed improvements for next year's display, such as using a laptop to demonstrate the OALT/ABO web page.

Frances requested that all of the Seneca second year students attend the Trade Show. They learned that conferences will be a good way to see former classmates, make new acquaintances and network with people involved in all aspects of the library and information world. A number of students took out memberships on the spot.

Almost all of the Conference brochures for FOCUS 2001 were taken and there was interest from a few employers who offered to pass this information along to their staff. Pam was able to meet with some of our sponsors and exhibitors for the upcoming conference in May. I met with a former student assistant from the UWO Library School who is now the Director of Ontario Library Service - North and we discussed potential workshops and sponsors for the 2002 conference in Thunder Bay.

Approximately 120 people dropped off business cards or filled in ballots for our draw of a lovely gift basket. Congratulations to the winner, Marlene Davidson, of Aitkokan, ON.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers:

From Seneca College: Frances Davidson-Arnott; Susan Marshall, Karen Olsen and Barbara Silver

From OALT/ABO : Cheryl Victor, Erin McIntyre, Nanci Abbondanza, Donna Ladoucer, Susan Salhia

Plus to all of the people behind the scenes - we REALLY appreciated your advice and assistance. Sorry if anyone has not been acknowledged.

I am already looking forward to next year's conference!

Jill Anderson

Director - Lohania



Jill Anderson, Director - Lohania



Pam Casey, President - OALT/ABO

**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY TECHNICIANS/
ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHECINIENS DE L'ONTARIO**

Abbey Market Post Office, Box 76010
1500 Upper Middle Road West
Oakville, ON
L6M 3H5

Phone: 905-403-2561
Fax: 905-403-2453
Website: <http://www.oaltabo.on.ca>



We're on the Web!
www.oaltabo.on.ca

See you at the conference!

See inside this newsletter for details.

Our thanks are extended to the following sponsors: Rowe Com for our website and discussion list; Lexis-Nexis for our 1999 Membership Directory.



OALT / ABO Discussion List

The OALT/ABO discussion list is a moderated discussion list of our provincial association, OALT/ABO. It provides information concerning job opportunities, meeting notices and professional development activities.

The list is sponsored by Rowe Com Canada and is run on their server using Majordomo software.

To subscribe, send the following message to oaltabo-request@faxon.ca

subscribe oaltabo

Be sure to leave the subject line empty and write the message in the body only.

You will receive a confirmation and welcome message from our list manager. Questions or comments can be directed to Ronn Cheney, ronn.cheney@ca.pwcglobal.com