



Ontario Association of Library Technicians  
**NEWSLETTER/  
NOUVELLES**

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Abbey Market  
P.O. Box 76010  
1500 Upper Middle Rd. W.  
Oakville, Ontario, Canada  
L6M 3H5  
Tel. 905.403.2561  
Fax. 905.403.2453

OALT/ABO Website:  
<http://www.oaltabo.on.ca>  
Questions, concerns,  
suggestions?  
Contact: [info@oaltabo.on.ca](mailto:info@oaltabo.on.ca)

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## President's Message

Happy New Year!! Hard to believe that we are in the year 2003 - time sure does fly when you're having fun, or working hard. The beginning of a new year is a time to reflect upon the past year.

The last few months have been busy: OALT/ABO produced a new brochure which was sent out to all colleges in Ontario, like organizations, and large school boards; OALT/ABO took part in the joint library associations' Holiday Social - held at Hart House in early December, with many library technicians winning fabulous door prizes; OALT/ABO had a display at the OLA SuperConference in Toronto - thanks to all those who volunteered and assisted at the booth.

In my last message I mentioned that there was a region where closure was imminent. I am happy to say that this will not be the case. A full executive has been found and exciting programming is underway. A big thank you to the people who cared enough to come forward and take on these responsibilities.

And now it is that time of year to start thinking of how you can be a part of OALT/ABO. Elections for executive positions will be held at the Annual Business Meeting on May 24, 2003. The following positions are available: Vice-president, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, Secretary, Public Relations Coordinator, Archivist, and Internal Communications Coordinator. Please consider running for one of these positions - the experience is valuable and the friendships made are life-long.

Have a wonderful new year and I look forward to seeing you at the 30th Annual Conference from May 21-25, 2003.

Marina Dranitsaris, President

*"Begin doing what you want to do now. We are not living in eternity. We have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand - and melting like a snowflake." - Marie Beyon Ray*

### **Pat Henry Receives OALT/ABO 2002 Presidential Award**

The OALT/ABO Presidential Award is the highest honour granted by our Association to recognize outstanding contributions or major achievements made by a member in promoting and/or developing the Association. This prestigious form of peer recognition was originally established in 1984 when it was awarded to Danielle Amat, a distinguished member who promoted recognition for our field and the importance of professional development. Her actions, like those of subsequent recipients, continue to serve as an example to those who, like her, demonstrate the importance of Library Technicians and OALT/ABO. Between 1984 and 2001, 16 Library Technicians have received the Presidential Award which is the Association's way of acknowledging and thanking members for the enormous contributions their voluntary efforts make to our vocation.

The 2002 Presidential Awards Committee, consisting of Janet Iles, Doug Wilford, and Marian Doucette unanimously agreed upon a nominee deserving of the 2002 OALT/ABO Presidential Award. The following text is a portion of the presentation speech given by Marian Doucette at OALT/ABO's 29th Annual Conference, "2002 & You" in Thunder Bay.

"Described as "an active, 'show up' member" of her Regional Branch, the 2002 recipient is an active member of the Canadian Association of Law Librarians and the Ontario Courthouse Librarian's Association in addition to having been a member of OALT/ABO for the past twenty years. While she has never held an executive position at the Provincial level, she has represented her region twice as Director for three-year terms. In addition she has held Regional Positions as President, Vice-President, and Secretary plus assisted with the planning of two Annual Conferences over the years; always focusing her efforts on what is best for our Association, profession, and the regional branches.

The high level of commitment, vision, and leadership which Pat Henry, one of the founding members of the Huronia Branch, has demonstrated to both OALT/ABO and more importantly to our profession, deems her a worthy recipient of this year's OALT/ABO Presidential Award. It is my extreme honour to present her with this award of peer recognition and to welcome her, to what I affectionately call the "Hall of Fame for Library Technicians" within this Province.

From her student days in the Library Technician program at Cambrian College, Pat demonstrated her passion for and dedication to our vocation, having served as the program representative on the Student Council until her graduation in 1970. This dedication to post-secondary professional training and professional development was shared with another former recipient of the Presidential Award, Judy Koenig, and together they were instrumental in the establishment of a Library Technician programme at Georgian College in Barrie which provided training opportunities for library personnel in remote locations. Pat sat on the steering committee of the Arts Department Advisory Committee which established this programme and served on their advisory board for the last four years the programme was offered at this college.

It should be noted that there are numerous paraprofessionals within the Huronia geographic area including some current members who would not have Library Technician diplomas if it were not for Pat Henry. This OALT/ABO member has exhibited her dedication to our Association and profession in her work as a founding member of Huronia Regional Branch plus her determination in the identification of the need for, the establishment of, and support of a continuing education library program at Georgian College.

Many former recipients have demonstrated the need for high levels of commitment to our career, education, and our professional community, and in this area Pat has also excelled. It has been noted that Pat has made the Law



Photograph credit to Janet Iles

Library of the Simcoe County Law Association, where she's been employed for the past seventeen years, available to the former Georgian College students as part of their library tours or library placements. She was also a favourite Library Technician and OALT/ABO "booster" when she would visit the college to address the new LT students, or more recently visit local schools on Career Day.

This positive role model has developed an expanded network of professional colleagues in part because she always avails herself to assist those who contact her with library related or Association related questions. Pat continually demonstrates that she is very proud to be a Library Technician and while her job title is LAW LIBRARIAN, she is the first to clarify that she is a Library Technician.

Pat continues to bring enthusiasm and dedication to her career, which has seen her work in a variety of libraries - College, Public, Regional, and Special. Always conscious of her client base, Pat engages in continuous professional upgrading and recently worked with a workplace designer to revamp her existing library space to meet the growing needs of her Lawyers.

Throughout her career and association with OALT/ABO Pat has and continues to go that extra mile - proving to be both an advocate and a mentor. Pat on behalf of your peers and members of OALT/ABO, I thank you for inspiring so many technicians within our career choice and Association involvement. Your valuable contributions to this organization, our profession and the delivery of library service are most appreciated."

### Past Presidential Award Winners

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| No recipient 2001              | 2000 Marian Doucette (Lohania)  |
| Janet Scheibler (Huron) 1999   | 1998 Marg Bushell (Lohania)     |
| Susan Bourdeau (Ottawa) 1997   | 1996 Susan Morley (Halton-Peel) |
| Marsha Hunt (Halton-Peel) 1995 | 1994 Judy Koenig (Huron)        |
| No recipient 1993              | 1992 Linda Davis (Sudbury)      |
| Janet Iles (Huron) 1991        | 1990 Bette Gore (Sudbury)       |
| Pat Graham (Ottawa) 1989       | 1988 LaRae Moody (Thunder Bay)  |
| Paulette Burton (Sudbury) 1987 | 1986 Sue Weaver (Halton-Peel)   |
| Liz Aldrey (Lohania) 1985      | 1984 Danielle Amat (Ottawa)     |

### **OALT/ABO Presidential Award Guidelines**

In 1984 the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario announced the launch of the OALT/ABO Presidential Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding contributions or major achievements of an OALT/ABO member in promoting and/or developing the Association. The first recipient was Danielle Amat, a distinguished member who promoted the importance of professional development and recognition for our field. Her actions continue to serve as an example to those who, like her, demonstrate the importance of Library Technicians and OALT/ABO. Between 1984 and 2002, 17 Library Technicians have received the Presidential Award, which is the Association's way of acknowledging and thanking members for the enormous contributions their voluntary efforts make to our vocation.

The award is presented annually to a full member, in good standing, of OALT/ABO excluding the current Provincial President, members of the Award Committee, and past recipients. This award recognizes the contributions of Library Technicians from communities across Ontario whose leadership, commitment, and persistent endeavors have contributed significantly to advancing the Association and our profession.

The OALT/ABO Presidential Award Committee consists of the previous award recipient and two additional members in good standing of OALT/ABO. The Selection Committee will seek candidates who generally meet the following criteria:

- ★ member of OALT/ABO;
- ★ evidence that the Association has played a significant role during the individual's professional career;
- ★ demonstrated leadership in helping others achieve full participation in the library profession within the Association and/or within the workplace;
- ★ outstanding contribution in building the Association either regionally or provincially;
- ★ recognized for his/her contributions by colleagues or employers;
- ★ advanced recognition of the Library and Information Technician profession through publications, seminars, or workshops.

Candidates for the OALT/ABO Presidential Award may be sponsored by two members in good standing who are not related to the candidate. Nominations must be submitted in writing by April 1st of each year. The application form may be found with this newsletter, or obtained by contacting the current committee chairperson, Patricia Henry; phone 705-728-3480 (please call around dinner time) or email [whenry@interhop.net](mailto:whenry@interhop.net)

**Committee for Change - Final Report and Recommendations  
Presented at the 2002 OALT/ABO Annual Business Meeting**

Since its inception, the Committee for Change has operated under OALT/ABO's principles of advancing our profession through active membership, education & professional development, promotion & marketing, and partnerships and advocacy. Our objective was to develop a flexible model that will enable us to realize this vision in the present and future.

At the 2001 OALT/ABO Annual Business Meeting, the Committee for Change was given the following objectives:

- ★ To obtain individual membership feedback on our proposed restructuring;
- ★ Amend or rewrite OALT/ABO's Constitution.

At our September deadline we received feedback from one member and three regions. The Committee for Change did not feel confident in proceeding with constitutional changes because the feedback that we had did not confirm whether our assumptions were correct about what OALT/ABO's members valued about the association.

We decided to create and distribute an anonymous survey that would enable us to measure what OALT/ABO's members valued most about OALT/ABO. This would ensure that our proposed model met all of the members' needs. We received a 10% response rate, which is considered average for surveys.

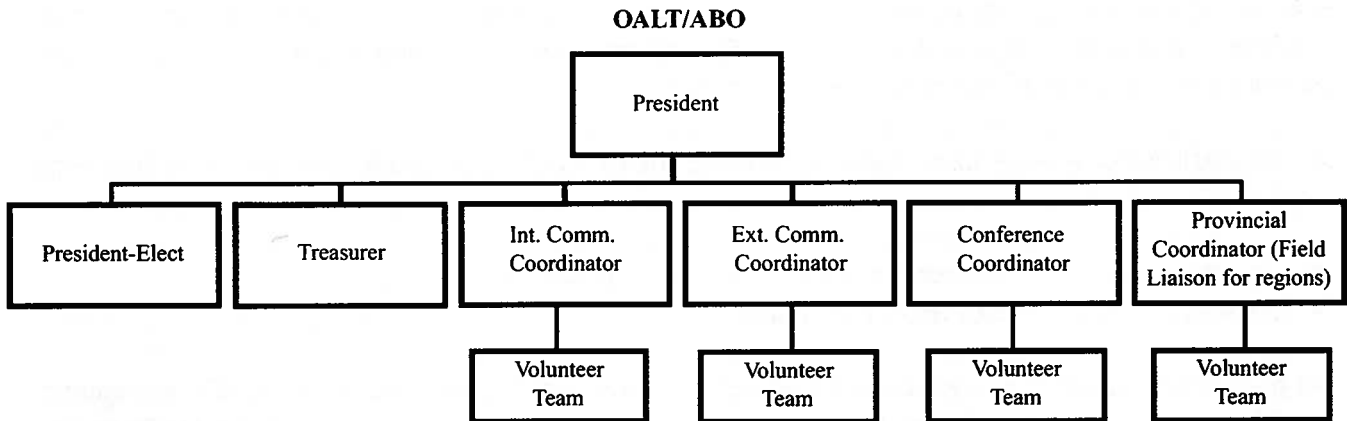
Our survey results confirmed our assumption which was that in order for our association to be viable, it must deliver services that are valued by its membership. Based upon the survey's results, our members value networking, regional workshops, the provincial newsletter, and the annual Conference.

Unfortunately we were unable to implement constitutional changes because the deadline for our membership survey was January and we had to submit our changes at least three months prior to the date of the Annual Business Meeting. As well, we did not have enough time to meet this deadline.

Furthermore, we also made a radical revision to our model at our November meeting. We proposed that OALT/ABO eliminate the positions of the regional directors and replace them with one Provincial Co-ordinator. This position would be appointed by the "regions" and would be the liaison to all of OALT/ABO's "regions" by addressing local issues as well as ensuring the delivery of local services. This would preserve "regional autonomy" while still allowing for growth.

We also recommended expanding the current regional structure to incorporate chapters. This will allow members who wish to form a chapter based on common interests (e.g. Library & Information Technicians working in school libraries) to do so regardless of their geographical location.

The revised model, shown below, is a more effective approach of ensuring the delivery of critical services to our members as well as reducing administrative costs. Each of these executive positions would have a vote under this new structure...



In 2001, OALT/ABO had a region fold and a new one unable to form because there were not enough volunteers. Members in the proposed new region of Quinte/Frontenac simply wanted workshops and professional development, but were required to form a region in order to do this. Under this new model, members from the Quinte/Frontenac area can submit a proposal.

With negative growth in our membership for the past decade, the same will happen to the larger regions in the future unless we do something about it now. That something will be incorporated in the Constitutional Changes that will be presented at the 2004 OALT/ABO Annual Business Meeting.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGIONS**

#### **Halton-Peel Region ABM**

Thursday, March 27th, 2003 - Location TBA

#### **Lohania Region ABM**

Saturday, March 15th, 2003 at the Westmount Branch of London Public Library

#### **Ottawa Region ABM**

April 2003 at the Courtyard Restaurant in Ottawa

#### **TALTA ABM**

Thursday, March 20th, 2003 - Location TBA

#### **Thunder Bay Region ABM**

Thursday, March 27th, 2003 at 6:30 at the Slovak Legion in Thunder Bay

#### **OALT/ABO Provincial Executive Meeting**

Saturday, April 5th, 2003

**OALT/ABO 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
NETWORK / RÉSEAUTAGE**

Seneca College Residence and Conference Centre  
Toronto, Ontario  
May 21 - 25, 2003

Please plan to attend our 30th Annual Conference, being held at the Seneca College Residence and Conference Centre, May 21 - 25, 2003. My committee is working hard to put together a wonderful program with workshops of interest to everyone. *And* we haven't left off the social events either. Plans are under way for us to go to Tony 'n Tina's Wedding on Thursday evening and our banquet on the Saturday night is going to be a party to celebrate our 30th anniversary. Please watch the web site for our preliminary program which I hope to have posted by the end of January, or early February, and watch the mail for your registration package by early March. Hope to see all of you in Toronto in May.

Penni Chalk  
Chair  
NETWORK / RÉSEAUTAGE  
OALT/ABO 30th Annual Conference Committee

**SOMETHING ELSE TO LOOK FORWARD TO...**

February 23rd to March 1st, 2003 is

**FREEDOM TO READ WEEK**

For more information, see [www.freedomtoread.ca](http://www.freedomtoread.ca) on the web.

***LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE?***

Try these sites for more info on day / week / month / year events and celebrations :

**Official Canadian Events**

[www.communication.gc.ca/events\\_evenements/nel\\_fg\\_e.html](http://www.communication.gc.ca/events_evenements/nel_fg_e.html)

**Non-Governmental Organizational Events**

[www.communication.gc.ca/events\\_evenements/nel\\_ng\\_e.html](http://www.communication.gc.ca/events_evenements/nel_ng_e.html)

**United Nations Events**

[www.unac.org/en/news\\_events/un\\_days/index.asp](http://www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/index.asp)

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

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

Phone: 905-403-2561  
Fax: 905-403-2453

Website: <http://www.oaltabo.on.ca>  
Email: [webmaster@oaltabo.on.ca](mailto:webmaster@oaltabo.on.ca)



WE'RE  
ON  
THE WEB!

**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 Canadian General Technologies and is run on their server using Majordomo software.

To subscribe, send the following message to  
<[oaltabo-request@majordomo.cangen.net](mailto:oaltabo-request@majordomo.cangen.net)>

subscribe oaltabo user@emailaddress.com

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 :  
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