

NewsLETTER/ NouvELLES

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IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	...1
Executive Biographies	..2-4
Conference Wrap up	..5-6
Awards	...7
Chapter Activities	...8
School Libraries	9-10
College LIT Program Updates	..10
People News	..11

President's Message

"Neither rain, nor sleet, nor provincial ice storm nor international power failure shall keep the OALT/ABO executive from their scheduled meetings."

Our April 5th meeting turned into a quickly arranged teleconference due the major ice storm that coated southwestern Ontario. Our recent executive meeting on August 16th, was almost cancelled due to North America's worst power outage in history. But we were able to proceed as planned.

Welcome to the 31st year of OALT/ABO. I want to congratulate TALTA for making our 30th annual conference NETWORK/RÉSEAUTAGE a success. It was good to meet first time attendees and reunite with old friends.

Many thanks to Nanci Abbondanza and Tracy Morgan for their hard work on revising and presenting various information sessions on our new constitution. It was an exciting moment when these changes were unanimously passed at the Annual Business Meeting.

We have a busy year ahead of us full of changes, challenges and continued growth.

Jill Anderson
President

Wanted by the Provincial Executive

It is already time for us to consider candidates to fill positions for the 2004/05 year.

The positions are: President-Elect, External Communications Coordinator, Conference Coordinator and Newsletter Editor (the Newsletter Editor is an appointed position, but we would be happy to hear from anyone interested in it).

Being a member of the provincial executive is a great way of meeting new people and assisting growth of our association. If you are interested in any of the positions, or would like more information on them please contact me.

Jill Anderson, Nominating Committee,
Email: jilldunc@execulink.com

2003 Executive Biographies

Jill Anderson – President

jilldunc@execulink.com

After graduating from the Library Technician Program at Fanshawe College in September of 1974, I spent the next six months on a contract at Bro-Dart in Brantford. The Library Technician Association was forming. I attended the first conference, *Impact '74*, October 8-20, at the Seneca College School of Nursing. It was an exciting experience to be part of this new venture.

I worked at the Fanshawe College Library from December 1974 to August 1977, where I ordered materials for the various technical departments across the college and assisted at the circulation desk as needed. During the summer of 1975 I helped to move the library into larger quarters.

While I was a full-time student at The University of Western Ontario from September 1977 to April 1980 I also worked part-time as a student assistant on the circulation desk at the main campus library, during the school year, and as a clerk at the Registrar's Office during the summers.

In June of 1980, my dream came true, when I was hired as the circulation assistant at the School of Library and Information Science! To be working at the library of the library school! While there, I handled circulation, in-house cataloguing, periodicals, acquisitions, reference, and guest lectured in various graduate library school classes about the role of library technicians. I was a general "jill-of-all-trades". I also was part of that library's move into another building across campus. I enjoy reading about the many SLIS grads in various library publications.

Due to budget cuts, I was "downsized" in June of 1998 and lost the job that I loved. I have worked at the 3M Technical Information Centre, the Education Library at the University of Western Ontario and as a Publisher Services Representative with Faxon Canada, a RoweCom Company, a subscription agency in London, Ontario. This company was lastly known as Divine Information Solutions before it went bankrupt.

The London Regional Branch was formed but unfortunately folded due to lack of support from the membership in March of 1981. I was at that annual meeting and it was a difficult decision. We were resurrected in 1983 as Lohania (London, Hamilton, Niagara) and are still fighting to support the interests of library technicians in this area.

I value the friendships I have made through the association and look forward to the changing future for all library and information technicians.

Maggie Weaver – President Elect

kweaver5478@rogers.com

I was an associate member of OALT/ABO for several years before becoming a full member of OALT/ABO. I'm a strong believer in associations - my first full-time job was at Aslib, the UK association for special libraries, and I'm still a member of that and other UK associations. My first LT association was AALT (our Alberta colleagues), which I joined when I worked for Dialog, and I am also the convenor of CLA's Library Technician Interest Group.

I am UK-educated, having a BA from Exeter University and a Diploma in Information Science from City University, but almost all of my 32 years experience in libraries has been in Canada. Most recently I started an export information service, Tradelink, for the City of Toronto's Economic Development Division, and right now I am part-time "secretariat" for the Canada-Ontario Export Forum, an alliance of government agencies who promote exports, and teaching the International Trade Research course for the Forum for International Trade Training. I currently work from home, which is why I have enough "spare" time to be on the executive of OALT/ABO, on the CLA committee that steers Feliciter and the website, and a columnist for the Business Research & Marketing Association.

My main professional interests are "alternative careers" for library-trained individuals, and business information sources for small business, and this year I'm hoping to do a second edition of my directory of Canadian business sources, "The Canadian B2B Research Sourcebook". In between times, I enjoy cooking (well, reading cookery books actually!), an excuse to enjoy a regular glass of Canadian wine.

Vicky Lynham - Treasurer

Vicky.lynham@sympatico.ca

I have been a member of OALT/ABO since 1995, my final year in Library and Information Technology at Sheridan College, Oakville. In 1997, I was elected Treasurer for the Halton-Peel Branch. After some back room negotiations at the Ottawa Conference in 2000, I accepted the position of Director and held both positions until a new Treasurer was elected the following year. I was elected Provincial Treasurer in 2002.

2003 Executive Biographies

I began my working career as a part-time page at the Main Branch of the North York Public Library, working after school and summers for five years. After a year at the University of Toronto and several years working in Quality Control labs, I eventually found myself moving up the ladder in branch administration during eighteen years with the CIBC. Which explains my interest in financial matters.

Since graduation from Sheridan College I have worked at Humber College and Petro Canada, but my current home is in the Health Sciences Library at the Brampton Campus of the William Osler Health Centre. For now I combine this position with a part-time job at the Ontario Genealogical Society where I am the resident Inmagic specialist for the their library and genealogy resource collection. Since their collection is housed at the North York Central Branch of the TPL, I find myself back where my working life began.

I reside in Milton with my teen daughter Tessa and her two cats and sometimes find time to indulge in sewing and exchanging genealogy notes with newly discovered relatives in England.

Stacy Goddard – External Communications Coordinator

stacy.goddard@sympatico.ca

I graduated from Algonquin College, Ottawa, in 1984. My first job was a contract position with a public library where I had done a field placement. I was responsible for catching up with a backlog in cataloguing there in Navan, Ontario. My second job was a maternity leave replacement, which became a permanent position. This was in a secondary school in Vankleek Hill, Ontario. (I had also done a field placement there). When I left that post, it was because we were moving to Chicago. I had no working status in the US, so I decided to act on an idea I had had for years of furthering my education. I was able to capitalize on some of my credits from the Library Technology programme to graduate with a BA from DePaul University in 2 years (1990). Since I still did not have the Green Card, I did volunteer work, some of which was with the library at the Jewish Vocational Service. The librarian there put me in touch with the librarian at the Appraisal Institute when I was able to seek paid employment and I was hired as an Information Specialist. That position consisted mainly of fulfilling reference requests for Real Estate Appraisers worldwide. After returning to Canada, I again did volunteer work, this time with the CNIB in Belleville, Ontario, until positions came up in the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board. I have been employed there, at Bayside Public School, since 1998.

This past school year I was the Support Staff representative on the School Council and this year will be my third term as Public Relations/External Communications Coordinator for OALT/ABO.

I love to travel, though I will confess to taking pictures of libraries wherever I go. Some of my travels take place on a bicycle, a habit I picked up about seven years ago. Since then, my husband and I have seen a lot of Ontario, the Rhine in Germany, a bit of Suffolk in England and this year, some of Lower Michigan, from the seat of a bike. We have also seen some of this planet from various sailboats and now have our own so we can get acquainted with the Bay of Quinte (on our doorstep). The down side of owning your own boat is that, instead of reading on the bow and crewing when you feel like it, you have to forego reading until you are in the harbour. Our bookshelf (and I use this term loosely) on board contains such scintillating titles as, "The Safe Boating Guide, 2003 edition" and "The Klutz Book of Knots", so I make sure to bring my current, more interesting novel from home. I'd love to stay and tell you more about myself, but a million weeds are calling from my garden.

Maria Ripley – Internal Communications Coordinator

mripley@myvirtualnetwork.com

I grew up in a small remote community in Northwestern Ontario, Nakina - pop. 500. I first started thinking about library work when I was in my early twenties. A job was posted locally looking for a CEO for the local public/school library and it caught my attention, so I applied. Not being granted an interview, I decided to do what no one in this community had considered doing before - volunteer! Funnily enough I was welcomed with open arms and after a very short time volunteering I was asked to be the replacement librarian. About a year later, I was asked if I would be interested in becoming the CEO. I was excited and gratefully accepted the position. My role as the librarian of this small community allowed me to explore and develop many interesting and challenging projects for the library. To start with, since I didn't have any formal library education, I enrolled in Ontario Library Service-North's EXCEL certification program. This program provided me with basic knowledge and training to manage a small public library under a 5,000 population.

After four and a half years of my role of CEO at the Nakina Public and School Library I decided it was time to explore new challenges. I applied for the Administrative Assistant position at the Ontario Library Association in Toronto. From the time I was hired by

2003 Executive Biographies

the Ontario Library Association, six years ago, I have done a great number of exciting things: I have been the Administrative Assistant where I answered calls about the association and the services they offer; Reading Program Coordinator where I managed and coordinated the Ontario Silver Birch and Red Maple Reading programs with the support of member committees; CAP (Community Access Program) Central Coordinator office liaison for six regional coordinators and 200 CAP sites around the province; Special Projects Coordinator office liaison with the marketing and advocacy committee's, Libraries Advance Ontario and more currently the @ your library (tm) provincial campaign; Super Conference coordinator where I work and coordinate with a membership committee of 14 people to plan, implement and develop content and structure to the program.

Over the last two years I remained a part-time employee at OLA as I returned to school to obtain my Library and Information Technician Diploma from Seneca College. I have recently graduated with honours and I have returned to the OLA as the Director of the Education Institute. I have come forward to be OALT/ABO's first Internal Communications Coordinator and I look forward to getting to know many of you over the next twelve months – or longer!

Sharon Engel – Conference Coordinator sengel@lib.uwo.ca

I am the first member holding the position of provincial Conference Coordinator. I hold the position of secretary for my local region, LOHANIA, currently and for several years previously. As well, I held the position of Board of Director's representative for LOHANIA to the provincial executive during the past year. In case anyone is wondering, LOHANIA, is the acronym for London, Hamilton, and Niagara region which all had separate branches at one time.

I graduated from Fanshawe College, London, in 1980 after completing the two-year Library Technician program. I held student membership at that time. I have currently held membership for about nine years. During that time, I was heavily involved with the last conference hosted in London for the 25th year at the Spencer Hall conference centre.

During the past 20+ years, I have been employed at the University of Western Ontario. However, there have been a variety of positions and departments I have worked in. From "book finishing", to circulation, to Interlibrary Loans, within the D. B. Weldon Library, to circulation/reference at the Business Library, back to

Interlibrary Loans in the D. B. Weldon Library. This has been an area with many changes due to hardware, software, and restructuring. In an area which went from asking the National Library for locations via telex to the current Interactive "VDX (racer)" Interlibrary Loan software in conjunction with OCLC ILL system it is a constantly changing work environment. As I type, I have gone from a packed office of a month ago, to a temporary desk, to a new work area (still partially in boxes). This, on the Monday after the provincial power outage. At least there was live data and phone lines by the end of the business day.

For approximately 15 years, I have participated in the London Fanshawe Symphonic Chorus. They have 110 - 120 members on average. I'm currently on sabbatical from this. The next year between work and the conference will be very full. I may still be able to squeeze in my other passion of cross stitch.

Carol Bennett – Chapter Coordinator cbennett@innocent.com

I started taking the LIT program as a part-time student at Seneca College in 1996, switching over to their Accelerated program in 1998. After graduation, I had contracts with the Canadian Health Network, GoodEnough.ca, the Ontario Energy Board and the Toronto Reference Library as a Sunday worker. I have been working as an Information Analyst at the Royal Bank of Canada's Technical Resource Centre for the past 2.5 years, where my duties include circulation, serials routing, quick reference, system administration and my beloved cataloguing.

I've been a member of OALT/ABO and TALTA since 1996. I filled the regional positions of Secretary in 1998-1999, Vice President in 2001-2002 and President in 2002-2003. Non-library interests include singing and membership in the Society of Creative Anachronism.



Standing left to right: Sharon Engel, Carol Bennett, Stacy Goddard, Vicky Lynham. Seated left to right: Maggie Weaver, Jill Anderson, Maria Ripley

2003 Conference Wrap Up

The 2003 Conference from an Attendee's Point of View

*Excerpts from an e-mail written by José Gélinas
(Ottawa Regional Branch)*

I enjoyed the conference immensely, from various interesting topics, to dynamic, energetic and inspiring role models, both speaking to us of their life and career experiences at the podium, and exchanging day-to-day anecdotes at our table, whether they were speakers, organizers, or participants.

The Wednesday Wine and Cheese welcome evening, daily shared meals, tours, and special events were a great way to break the ice and practice networking from the start and throughout the conference.

I appreciated the fact that we had the choice between, not only the content of the sessions, but also the different points of view, or approaches to the various subjects, from professional and technical sessions, to sessions exploring the future of both libraries and the profession.

I enjoyed the Friday tour to the Reference (and Children's) Libraries, which was a nice break, right in the middle of the conference, to get a hands-on experience (the "car" was an unexpected bonus and a pleasant surprise; we all felt very special to be picked up in a limousine).

The ease and speed with which the constitutional changes issues were clarified and the changes accepted, seemed to indicate everyone's willingness to ensure survival and growth of the association and the profession in the next thirty years.

Both "entertainment evenings" were not only a change of pace, from the more serious business aspects of the conference, but proved beyond a shadow of a doubt, that library technicians have a very balanced personality, because they can not only take care of business very well, but also know how to have fun and PARTY!!!

I would like to thank the participants, for being such interesting and inspiring women, that it made me both happy and proud to be in their company, and to have a chance to get to know them a little.

I'm really glad I got to attend this year's Conference, and, if I get my Supervisor's O.K. again, next year, I'll be very happy to see you all, in London.

Please pass on my grateful thanks to all the contributors to this great 30th anniversary conference.

Thank You!!

Without the generous donations from our members, friends, sponsors and vendors the 2003 Conference would not have been as great a success. We offer a huge, heartfelt thank you to all those who supported us financially and to those who donated items as door prizes and for our delegates' kits

Debbie Bennett
Canadian Health Network
Carr McLean
Christine Cushing Live
City of Toronto
Marina Dranitsaris
Pat Dyson
Firefly Books
InterPrint Services
Edward Jones Investments
Donna Ladouceur
Norah Ladouceur
Laser Reproduction
Lohania Region of OALT/ABO
Sandy Marr
Pat Maxwell
Patricia McMulkin
Peek Freans
John O'Toole MPP
Seneca College, Library & Information Technician Program
Shaftesbury Associates
Alex Shepherd, MP
Sheridan Park Association, Library and Information Science Committee
Toronto Public Library
Tourism Toronto
Keith Tregunna
University of Toronto Libraries



Colleen Clarke, Keynote Speaker

2003 Conference Wrap Up

Service Awards

Congratulations to our long-standing members. Their names were announced at the 2003 OALT/ABO Conference Banquet. Ten-year members were awarded a certificate and 25-year members were given an OALT/ABO pen. They are what makes our association so special.

25 Year Members

Davis, Linda (Provincial)
Doucette, Marion (Lohania)
Heerema, Helen (Thunder Bay)
Morley, Susan (Halton Peel)
Zalewa, Joanna (Lohania)



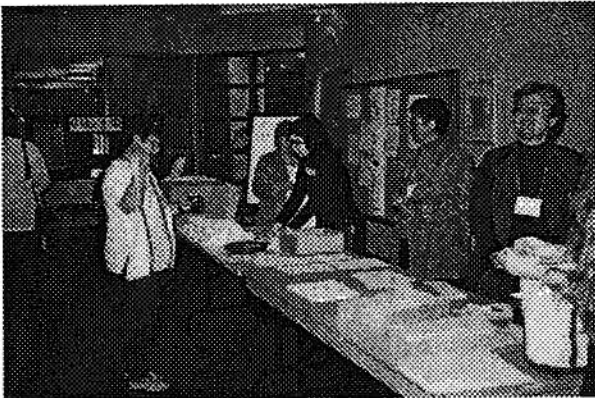
The old order passes as the Regions hold up their signs for the last time.

10 Year Members

Amdt, Mara (TALTA)
Centennial College Resource Centre (TALTA)
Crewdson, Kathy (Thunder Bay)
Leonard, Rexford (TALTA)
McClelland, Janet (Lohania)
Moher, Carol (Ottawa Regional Branch)
Ponder, Margot (Thunder Bay)
Rosenberg, Leena (TALTA)
Strickland, Neil (Ottawa Regional Branch)
Vandenheuvel, Kathi (Lohania)



Marina Dranitsaris accepts a token of appreciation for her year as president from the incoming president, Jill Anderson



Registration

Start planning for 2004!!

Conference dates are confirmed for May 13-16, 2004 and will be held at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario.



Nanci and Marion in a lighter mood at the Banquet

Awards

OALT/ABO Presidential Award Winner

Excerpts from the speech given by Marian Doucette at the 2003 OALT/ABO Conference Banquet

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. Between 1984 and 2003 seventeen library technicians have received the Presidential Award, which is the association's way of acknowledging the enormous contribution their voluntary efforts have made to our vocation. Tonight we add one more member to this group of dynamic and inspirational leaders.

During her nine-year association with OALT/ABO, this year's recipient has captured the spirit and dedication, professionalism and leadership qualities that we have come to associate with recipients of this award.

Both Halton/Peel Region and the Provincial Executives have benefited from the leadership skills and qualities of this woman. On a regional level she has held the positions of Secretary and Newsletter Editor, while at the provincial level she has provided us with five years of leadership and guidance. During her tenure as President she was instrumental in establishing new policies and procedures for the Board and Executive to streamline the operations of our association, in addition to updating the mission statement of the association.

During her term as Ex-Officio, this year's Presidential Award recipient assumed additional duties chairing yet one more committee, one dedicated to moving this association forward and promoting the values of our profession – the Committee for Change. It's most fitting that that she should receive peer recognition for her efforts tonight. If you have not already guessed, this year's recipient of the Presidential Award is truly the woman of the hour - Nanci Abbondanza.



The high level of commitment, vision and leadership which Nanci Abbondanza has demonstrated to both OALT/ABO and more importantly our profession certainly deems her a worthy recipient of this year's OALT/ABO Presidential Award.

Nanci Abbondanza

The 2003 Award for Innovation - In memory of Judy Koenig

Excerpts from the speech written by Gale Moreau and given by Janet Iles and Chris Carmichael at the 2003 OALT/ABO Conference Banquet

The person we honour tonight is one we feel has "Juditude" – someone whose words and actions are always positive. The person we have chosen is someone we feel displays a lot of the qualities that made Judy Koenig such a great OALT/ABO member, and maybe most telling of all, is that the recipient is someone Judy knew and admired.

Our honoree is very active in OALT/ABO and her own library and community. Like Judy, she is a "doer". As much as we always hear that there is no "I" in team, some people spell it with a "silent I", one found right in the middle, which is where these people are when there is work to be done. The person we honour is very like Judy, right there in the middle of things, doing, doing, doing.

Our award winner was nominated based on a single event in which she participated, but the background information showed that her "body of work" in the library world is longstanding. She has long been active in the association at both a regional and provincial level. She is a mentor and "font of information" for her co-workers. She makes the library a special place for staff and patrons. Our recipient is a "workshopper" extraordinaire on the SOLS, CARML and OALT/ABO circuit, always sharing her knowledge and ideas with others across the province.

Our winner has already been awarded the Presidential Award, but as her body of work and dedication continues to grow, she certainly deserves to be recognized as the inaugural winner of this award. She



very much embodies the qualities that made Judy Koenig such a special member of OALT/ABO and we are very pleased to present the first Award For Innovation to Marian Doucette.

Marian Doucette

Chapter Activities

What's New in the Chapters

Carol Bennett, Chapter Coordinator

I have the honour of being the first Chapter Coordinator for OALT/ABO. I am grateful for being elected to this new position, but it poses some interesting challenges. I look forward to meeting them over the coming year.

At this point, OALT/ABO does not have any Chapters. Why not, you ask? Formation of Chapters is covered in Article 6a of the OALT/ABO Constitution: "Chapters may be established relating to geographic proximity or interest(s) actively represented among OALT/ABO members. Chapters are formed on application to the President and on acceptance by a majority vote of the Executive at an Executive meeting or by a majority vote of the membership at the Annual Business Meeting."

The former Regions have not sent letters of application to the President as of yet, thus they don't technically exist! We certainly hope and expect these groups to reform as Chapters – indeed, you will still see them listed on your membership renewal form, and I know programs are already being planned by many of the respective Executives – but they still have to go through the application process.

What about new groups? Interest has already been expressed about forming Francophone and School Library Chapters, and I'd love to see a Student Chapter formed. I'm looking forward to hearing any other ideas you may have for Chapters. Any of these groups will need to send a letter of application to the President and be approved in order to form. As can be seen in Article 6a, Chapters can be formed throughout the year; once formed, they will be added to the membership form.

What should be in the letter of application? There are no set guidelines, but some items you might wish to consider are: name, mission/reason(s) for existence, prospective activities (holding programs, publishing newsletters, special projects), prospective membership as of the application date, and Chapter Executive or administrators until an Executive is formed. An Executive need not be large; it all depends on what the group is planning to do.

Funding is covered in Article 6b: "Funds for the operating expenses of a Chapter shall be provided by allotment of Chapter dues paid by its members to the Association. Each Chapter shall submit an annual report on its activities and a financial statement to the Chapter Coordinator. Requests for additional funds or

loans may be submitted to the Executive through the Chapter Coordinator. All funds received by a Chapter shall be used exclusively for purposes that fulfill OALT/ABO's mission."

The Chapters area of the Web site falls under my purview as well. I'd like to see a lot more information online than we've had in the past and will be in touch with the Chapters in order to make sure the most up-to-date information is available for viewing. I am planning to visit as many Chapters as I can over the coming months. I look forward to meeting and working with you! Please don't hesitate to contact me at cbennett@innocent.com should you have any questions, comments or ideas.

Halton Peel

September 26, 2003 *Shop Talk / Welcome Back*

October 23, 2003 *Town Hall / Awards Presentation*

This is an opportunity for all members to join us for an evening set aside to update everyone to important issues affecting the association. This will be an open discussion for all.

November 28, 2003 *Christmas Gala*

Stella Clark is pleased to host an evening of holiday cheer and reflection on the past year.

January 17, 2004 *Super Saturday*

March 25, 2004 *Regional ABM & Elections*

All members are encouraged to participate in the annual business meeting and elections.

LOHANIA

This chapter will be concentrating on preparing for the 2004 Annual Conference in May, 2004.

Ottawa

Meetings were still being scheduled as of this publication date.

Thunder Bay

Meetings were still being scheduled as of this publication date.

TALTA

October 1, 2003 *Members meeting*

November 12, 2003 *Members meeting*

December 12, 2003 *Christmas social*

February 11, 2004 *Members meeting*

March 31, 2004 *Regional ABM & Elections*

All members are encouraged to participate in the annual business meeting and elections.

School Library Problems

Excerpt from a letter written by Tracy Morgan and sent to MPP Ted Chudleigh

As a parent of an elementary school student, I am writing to express concern regarding school library staffing in the Halton (Public) Board.

I have been volunteering and supplying in Halton elementary and secondary libraries since January. I am appalled by the lack of staffing at the elementary level. In many cases Teacher-Librarians are depending on parent and student volunteers to circulate and shelve valuable Board resources, in some cases rendering them inaccessible to students. "Library" time for Teacher-Librarians has been cut. Elementary Library Technicians are only able to visit "their" schools once every two weeks. Sometimes libraries are "closed" when Teacher-Librarians aren't there. Most secondary schools have Teacher-Librarians and full-time Library Technicians. It's wrong to expect elementary schools to function with anything less.

To illustrate, I'm at a high school and a public school in Milton on a regular basis. The difference between the two schools are like night and day. In the high school, a Library Technician works from 8:00-4:00, Monday-Friday, in partnership with a Teacher-Librarian. The Technician is responsible for the database, circulation desk and collection maintenance, freeing the Teacher-Librarian to educate. There is no backlog of books needing to be catalogued, repaired, checked-in, shelved, etc. Books are put back (where they are supposed to go) by trained, information professionals.

At the public school, a dedicated parent has been volunteering twice a week for two years! The Teacher-Librarian admits they can't do without her. Recently, she missed one day. I came in to find the book return overflowing, the shelving cart so full books were falling off it to the floor, the shelves a complete mess.... Although volunteers are an integral part of our society, they should not be THAT integral to the day-to-day operations of a school library.

Does Premier Eves know that we have schools in Ontario without functioning libraries, school libraries without staff, school libraries without budgets? I read on Premier Eves' Web pages that "we're investing more in our colleges and universities...to support lifelong learning." Why? Doesn't he know that school libraries already exist to "facilitate the acquisition of information literacy skills which students need to become independent lifelong learners in an information based society"? (Ontario School Library Association)

The place to foster a love for lifelong learning, reading and research is our elementary schools! Get to the kids early. Pour money into equipping and staffing our libraries! Set policy that makes it clear libraries play a vital role in education. Make the local school boards and administration accountable.

If the Ontario Government truly believes that "every child in Ontario deserves an excellent education" take a close look at what's been happening to our school libraries. I wouldn't call erratic, inconsistent and sometimes non-existent school library programs a way of ensuring this happens. Our children deserve better!

Responses Received to this Letter

Premier Eves wrote:

Thank you for your e-mail about school libraries in the Halton District School Board.

Our government is committed to providing the highest-quality public services to the people of Ontario. We never lose sight of the fact that Ontarians deserve to have these quality services delivered efficiently and cost-effectively. Please be assured that we will continue to work hard every day to ensure that Ontarians receive the services they need, while providing excellent value for their tax dollars.

As school libraries fall under the jurisdiction of my colleague, the Honourable Elizabeth Witmer, Minister of Education, I have forwarded a copy of your e-mail to her. The minister will respond to you on behalf of the government.

I appreciate your views brought to my personal attention.

Deputy Premier Elizabeth Witmer wrote:

Premier Eves has forwarded to me your correspondence about school libraries. I welcome this opportunity to respond.

The Ministry of Education continues to move forward in its commitment to greater accountability and to ensuring that all Ontario students have access to high-quality education.

Funding for librarians and guidance counsellors is increasing to \$329 million for 2003/04, an increase of \$18 million, or 6 percent, over the level for the last school year.

I am pleased that following the report of the Education Equality Task Force, an additional \$1.1 billion are being allocated to school boards for the coming school year. This 8 percent increase over last year's announcement is the largest year-over-year increase under this government, and comes at a time when enrolment is actually declining by 2 percent.

In total for the coming school year, the government is investing a record \$15.3 billion to continue to renew Ontario's publicly funded education system. Of this, \$575 million are flexible funding that boards can use in 2003/04 to address their local priorities.

It is important to note that school boards retain considerable discretion in the allocation of funds. Flexibility in resource allocation remains with boards because they are in the best position to identify local needs when setting priorities.

Thank you for writing. I appreciate your concerns brought to my attention.

Editor's Note: Thank you Tracy for sharing these letters with us. I am interested in how other people affected- parents, library technicians working in this sector - feel on this issue. Responses can be sent to the discussion list or to the Editor and will be published in the Winter issue.

Kick it up a Notch! Let's Network!

Maria Ripley, Internal Communications Coordinator

OALT/ABO needs you to do just that. As a new member of OALT/ABO and your current Internal Communications Coordinator, it is my duty to see that we work together actively to keep each other informed about issues involving Library Technicians.

How do we do that? Through the OALT/ABO discussion list! Take a moment to visit the web site at <http://www.oaltabo.on.ca>, choose the menu item "discussion list" and follow the simple steps to get yourself connected to your organization.

By subscribing to the discussion list you will become instantly networked with 300+ Canadian and international library technicians allowing you to share ideas, events and activities with one another efficiently and effectively.

Through the Internal Communication Coordinator, you will kept informed of current issues discussed by the Executive, continuing education opportunities, professional development activities, meeting notices,

job postings and social gatherings. Alternatively, you are welcome and encouraged to share your success stories, your challenges, and your issues, so we can all learn about the exciting things that are happening in our libraries.

Remember, people are the power of any organization, so subscribe today!

It's Time to Renew Your Membership

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 31. Due to the changes in our constitution, new membership forms are being prepared. Please read the new form carefully.

The fees are now separated out: there is one fee to belong to OALT/ABO, then additional fees to belong to individual Chapters. You may join as many Chapters as you wish.

The membership forms will be mailed out to each existing OALT/ABO member near the end of September. As always, we ask that you complete and return them, along with your cheque or money order, promptly.

Web Sites to Educate and Amuse You

This site may be of interest to you. It shows the day's front pages for many of the major papers around the world. Amongst other things, it also features a section that reviews coverage of events around the world e.g. 'How the world reacted to the war in Iraq'.

<http://www.newseum.org/>

College LIT Program Updates

Algonquin College

The Algonquin program expanded last year in 2003 to take in 40 students instead of 35. We also expanded our classroom to make 40 computers available so that each student could have his or her own. This year we have 35 returning students. We also run a parallel continuing education program that takes in approximately 120 students per semester and usually offers four courses.

Our two full-time faculty are Jan Jacobson, a graduate of the University of Toronto Library program and Mac Nason, a graduate of the MLS program at Western.

We also have three part-time teachers in the full-time program - two graduates from our Algonquin Program - Roxanne McLaren and Lise Morin - and Michelle Purcelle, another Western graduate. The CE program hires librarians and technicians from the Ottawa area - a large group to choose from. The CE coordinator is Laurie McCarthy - the librarian at the AUCC library.

Seneca College

Frances Davidson Arnott has retired as Program Coordinator of the LIT program at Seneca College. When asked, Frances stressed it was an *early retirement*. As of our last conversation in May 2003, Frances advised that she will be taking some time off to enjoy life, but will soon be back in the library world working as an independent consultant.

Deborah Kay is the new Program Coordinator. Congratulations to both.

Mohawk College

The library and information technician program at Mohawk College is alive and well. Ours is the only library tech. program in Ontario that is taught entirely by distance education, over the Internet, and is aimed primarily at staff who are working in libraries but have no formal library education.

New courses this Fall are LT050 Library of Congress Classification and the revised course LT405 Law Libraries and Legal Research. Another relatively new course that may be of interest to OALT/ABO members is our LT306 Cataloguing Electronic Resources.

While most fall courses are close to full, OALT/ABO members may want to check out our program web site in late October, under the "next semester" heading, for a listing of winter term courses. Winter term registration will open on November 17.

People News

Valerie Barten

In case you were wondering why Valerie was not at the conference, she was busy helping her daughter with her newest granddaughter. Jesyca Ann was born on May 13th, 2003. Here's a picture of Gabryelle and Jesyca.



Stella Clark

Paige Savannah Clark was born May 18, 2003, and is a little sister for 2½ year-old Caleb. According to Stella, being a grandmother is the best!

Doug Willford

I worked at Humber College for 31 years two of which (1978 -1980) were spent working for the Dept of National Defence in a school library in Baden, West Germany. Because I was on a "Loan of Service" from Humber to the DND I retained my complete years of service.

My duties at Humber were many and varied. My title was "Senior Reference Library Technician Lead Hand" and some of my major duties included: the day to day operation of the Reference and Periodicals departments, scheduling of staff at a very busy Reference Desk, doing regular shifts at the Reference Desk, and Library instruction classes. I had many other duties, but they are too numerous to mention here.

Just over two years ago I decided to take an early retirement from Humber with the "85 factor" (years worked + my age = 85) and began planning for it. I spoke with my financial advisor who handles one of my RRSP plans and he strongly urged me to do it. Also, articles I read encouraged people who can retire early to do so, which in itself can add years to your life. I also decided that I wanted to move back to Welland where I was originally from, and also to work part-time there with one of the school boards.

I contacted the Catholic School Board who were very keen on hiring me for "casual work" and I have since been accepted and am on their listing of casual employees. Also, I have bought a beautiful 4-year-old home here in Welland and moved here in May.

I continue to keep myself busy by entertaining the many friends that are coming to visit me, golfing, will be bowling this Fall & Winter and also will be joining my local church choir.

In conclusion I would encourage anyone who can retire to think seriously about it but at the same time put together a plan before they do.

Editor's Note: We want to know what is going on in our member's lives: promotions, retirements, awards, marriages, births, etc. Please send items, including photos, to the Editor.

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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.

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You will receive a confirmation and welcome message from our list manager. Questions or comments can be directed to :
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