

# NewsLETTER/ NouvELLES

Publication Agreement # 40688591

**Volume 29, # 3**  
**April 2006**

*NewsLETTER/NouvELLES* is published three times per year in Fall, Winter and Spring and is available with membership in the Ontario Association of Library Technicians / Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario. We welcome your feedback as well as your letters, articles and photos, but must reserve the right to edit for style and space.

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ISSN: 0229-2645

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## President's Message

Well it seems that spring is finally here. After such a bizarre winter, the blue skies and warm weather are a welcome sight.

The past year has been a challenging one for me both personally and professionally. I finally left my job as a contractor and have now become a full-time employee with the Federal government. I worked and studied hard for six months to obtain my French levels.

As President, I have been learning so much about our professional association. All the hard work that so many of you do behind the scenes has been very much appreciated. This year we saw the launch and use of the OALT/ABO discussion list and the continuing growing pains due to the new organization. Sadly, we said good-bye to the Lohania chapter. The Book Club chapter is up and running, and the School chapter is getting its feet on the ground. We still have a lot of work to do with our virtual and our more established chapters in the years ahead.

The highlight of my membership is always our annual conference. This year, I am excited to be going to St. Catharines where our host facility is only slightly younger than I am! As a still fairly new Ontario resident, I am always interested in attending a conference in a city or part of my new province that I am unfamiliar with. The history of the St. Catharines area greatly interests me. I like the fact that we will be holding our conference at the university named after Major General Sir Isaac Brock (who lost his life in the War of 1812) and whose last words serve as the university's motto. Coming from a multi-racial family, I am looking forward to seeing the places of St. Catharines that served as the final destination of the Underground Railroad, and the parts of the city with links to Harriet Tubman. So don't be surprised if you see me, map in hand on a walking tour of the city! As well as my love of history, I also have a love of wine! Having a conference in one of Canada's wine regions is by no means a hardship for me! Count me in on the wine tasting evening.

I am looking forward to reconnecting with many of you at conference and meeting new members.

With this issue of the newsletter, we bid adieu to Marina Dranitsaris as newsletter editor. Marina has consistently put out a great product for us over many, many years. She has put up with us going past deadlines, providing her with documents she can't read, and other generally annoying behaviours to provide this association with a newsletter that I look forward to receiving and reading. Marina has also decided to step down as the Book Club chapter coordinator as well. Thank you for all your years of dedication and service to OALT/ABO Marina.

Annette Desrosiers

## **Canoes on the Horizon!**

*by Maggie Weaver, 2006 Conference Committee*

The theme of the upcoming conference is "Voyageurs", which neatly captures Conference Chair Stella's interest in history. Sean Crowe created a great logo, incorporating a stylized canoe, and we have emblazoned this on souvenir mugs and the really special conference bags, as well as the registration package that you have already seen.

"History" turns up in a number of the conference sessions. On Thursday morning, Alun Hughes from Brock University Geography Dept will tell us how the places in the Niagara peninsula got their names, and in the afternoon Lian Goodall, who reviews childrens' books for the St. Catharines Standard and the Guelph Mercury, will talk about getting children interested in history. Thursday evening's event, the Oh Canada Eh! dinner theatre, continues the historical theme. Then on Friday, Ron Dale, from Niagara Historic Sites of Canada, covers 10,000 years of Niagara history. On Saturday, the author participating in the Book Club Chapter's session is Mary Pettit, whose book is about the "home children" who came to work in Canada between 1865 and 1945.

Voyageurs were entrepreneurs and adventurers, and we have some sessions on that theme too. Hamilton Public Library has been doing interesting things with portals and programming, there are sessions on new technologies such as wikis and GIS, and on alternative careers, while the focus of this year's Philosopher's Cafe is the Knowledge Entrepreneur.

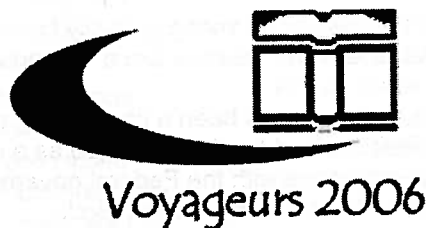
If you like to get up close and personal with history, and the weather is tempting you outside, you might visit General Isaac Brock's monument in Queenston, the four Welland Canals (my favourite tourist attraction), or the many sites relating to the Underground Railroad. In the Farmers Market there's even a cafe in the jail cells under the courthouse. For more about the possibilities, see [http://www.st.catharines.com/tourism/heritage\\_history.asp](http://www.st.catharines.com/tourism/heritage_history.asp).

Not content with making sure that "history" is well represented in the conference sessions, the

Conference Committee carries the theme to the banquet on Saturday night, where the canoes will turn up as table decorations crafted by Melissa Blazak. Maybe you'll be one of the lucky draw winners who will get to take one home, as a souvenir of the 2006 Banquet.

Not everything at the conference is "historical", though there will be some OALT/ABO members who have been around a long time! There's also some new members, new ideas, new ways to think about our profession, and new friends to be made.

So paddle along to St. Catharines in May!



## **OALT/ABO at OLA**

*by Jill Anderson*

The Ontario Library Association 2006 Super Conference was held Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> to Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup>. OALT/ABO participated in Expo 2006, Canada's largest library trade show, on the Thursday and Friday at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. We shared our space with the three community colleges still offering the LIT program - Algonquin, Mohawk and Seneca Colleges. The coordinators of these programs have told me that this is their once a year chance to meet and discuss issues affecting their respective programs.

Many graduates of these programs stopped by to visit with their instructors and I had a chance to chat with former students of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, UWO where I once worked. Attending conferences is an excellent way to network.

We had a great location in the hall and a number of people stopped by, many taking away a membership form with them. One student insisted on paying her fee on the spot! I talked to some of other vendors and they were pleased with the number of people stopping by their sites to get information on their products.

Thanks to the following people who gave of their time and expertise at this event:

OALT/ABO: Jill Anderson, Maria Ripley, Maggie Weaver

Algonquin College: Jan Jacobson

Mohawk College: Dolores Harms Penner  
Seneca College: Ann Hersch, Deborah Kay, Carlisle  
Kemp-Jackson

We are already planning for 2007!

## **The Great OLA Book Truck Race or Keep on Truckin!!**

by Doug Willford

Something very different but highly entertaining was introduced at the 2006 OLA Super Conference held at the Toronto Convention Centre. The first annual library book truck race proved to be a major highlight at the All Delegates Reception held on Friday evening in Ballrooms A, B & C.

Organized by a committee of past OLA Conference organizers the book truck race was actually the brainchild of Frank Chenet a vice president of Brodart Canada who was made aware of them at the ALA Conference. The wheels were set in motion when Brodart Canada donated the book trucks and the organizing committee sent out the challenge to all libraries.

In total nine teams entered with such interesting names as; Happy Humberjacks, Speed Bumps, Als Harem, Fleet Enemas, Be The Change, OCULA Running, Dragon Tales, No Brainers and The Forest Femmes Fatales.

To lighten up the atmosphere all the racers were required to decorate both themselves and their book trucks with only the items supplied by the organizing committee (plastic table covers, glow sticks, masking tape, pipe cleaners, feather dusters, etc.).

The object of the race was to manoeuvre the book trucks with two people riding them through an obstacle course. There were three heats with the winner of each heat making it to the championship final. All the races were very competitive with close finishes but in the end it was the OCULA Running Team (Cynthia McKeich, Seneca College, Don Kinder, Ryerson University, Robin Bergart, Univ. of Guelph and James Buczynski, Seneca College) who were the big winners being presented with game prizes of **Cranium**.

Because of the success and great interest the Great OLA Book Truck Race will be held again at the 2007 Super Conference so start training early!!

## **CLA-LTIG News**

by Karen Hildebrandt CLA LTIG Convener



CLA LTIG proudly announces the sponsor for the new LTIG Award of Merit.

Libramation is the new sponsor the Library Technician Award of Merit which will be awarded for the first time at CLA Conference in Ottawa 2006. There are several individuals that I'd like to recognize for making this all possible. Thank you to Frank Mussche, Libramation, for his support as well as to Sylvie Deliencourt for coordinating this partnership. A big thank you also goes out to Kim Martin, an active AALT member, who brought the suggestion of an LT Award of Merit to my attention and worked on the proposal and the award criteria.

To nominate a library technician for this award, please visit <http://www.cla.ca/awards/ltig.htm> and click on the link to the nomination form.

As well as helping to get this new award accepted and launched and finding a sponsor, the President's Council on the 8Rs has also been keeping me very busy. I am on two sub-committees: *Developing a Toolkit for Intern and Practicum Students* as well as the *Recruitment Website*. In the past few months I have been trying to contact all the program coordinators at institutions that offer library technician programs in Canada to gather information on whether they offer online courses, what kind of field placements they offer and determine whether they follow the CLA "Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians". The information I gather will be used by the two sub-committees as well as for updating the "Guidelines" document which was published in the early 1990's. I have also submitted proposals to CLA for events, meetings, and a pre-

conference session that I hope will be accepted by the CLA conference committee.

It's definitely been a busy time between my involvement with CLA, helping out with AALT Programs North and Conference Committee as well as Chairing the Support Staff committee at Concordia as well as Chair our workplace United Way Committee this past fall. Somehow I have still managed to find time to go for long walks with my husband every night, attend my son's hockey games and recently allow myself to be talked into being the team manager for his midget hockey team. Although it may sound incredibly busy, most of the time the work doesn't all hit at the same time and I can honestly say I've been enjoying every minute of it.

## **Moving Forward: The Development of a New OALT/ABO Website**

*by Maria Ripley*

The plan of a new web site is finally moving forward. A committee has been struck (for about a year now) and although we got off to a slow start this project has four keen member volunteers - Pat Buczkowski, Angela Carito-Walmsley, Sean Crowe and myself, Maria Ripley. Our hope is to have a new web site plan and a design template pulled together by Fall. Now is your chance to share your thoughts with us. What would you like to see included in the information found on your web site? Please send us your thoughts by May 31st so that we can put them into our plan of action. We eagerly look forward to your comments. If you wish to join the web committee we would be happy to have you - particularly if you have web design experience! Please send comments and committee interests to Maria Ripley [mripley@myvirtualnetwork.com](mailto:mripley@myvirtualnetwork.com)

## **Chapter News**

### **Book Club Chapter**

Marina Dranitsaris will be stepping down as convenor / treasurer of the Book Club chapter. A new convenor / treasurer will be selected at the annual conference.

Local author, Mary Pettit is scheduled to speak Saturday morning at 10:30 at the annual conference in St. Catharines.

Books read and discussed:

*Resurrection of Joseph Bourne* / Jack Hodgins  
*Blessed are the Cheesemakers* / Sarah-Kate Lynch  
*Winner of the National Book Award* / Jincy Willett

Upcoming book

*Mary Janeway: the Legacy of a Home Child* / Mary Pettit

## **Halton-Peel Chapter**

2005/06 Executive

President: Kate Morrison

Vice President: Dena Monachino

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Barb Allen

Publicist: Sean Crowe

It was a lovely holiday season and we started the New Year with our annual Super Saturday. This year we enjoyed a session on E-Learning by Rob Wiggins at the Admiral Inn Burlington on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Valentine's Day was only one month away and we celebrated it a little early by making Valentine Day gift baskets. Five beautiful baskets were delivered to Martha House

(<http://www.goodshepherdcentres.ca/centres/martha.html>) just before Valentine's Day. The director was very appreciative and assured me that they would go to families living at the shelter for battered and abused families. Thank you all for coming out and making it such a fun day.

The executive was busy meeting in February and March, making proposed modifications to the Halton-Peel constitution and organizing the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Attendance is expected to be up and we are looking forward to seeing everyone at the very comfortable Burlington Central Library. Our current executive is standing and we only have one vacant position - Secretary. We would gladly take any late self-nominations for this position if interested. This years AGM speaker will be Wendy Hearder-Moan talking about her experiences as a traveling law librarian. Wendy sounds like an energetic speaker with a great sense of humour.

With the conference soon approaching and the HP June Event right after we expect it will be a busy spring. As always, we are open to suggestions for

our June event. Traditionally this is a planned event and we try to offer something special that is on a social note to kick off the summer. Boat cruises, racetrack, theatre, mini golf, are examples of what we've enjoyed before. Drop us an email and give us your great ideas!

We are looking forward to seeing all association members at our events and encourage you to check out our Chapter events on [oaltabo.on.ca](http://oaltabo.on.ca). Our contact information is on that page too. If you don't make it to our AGM, come see us at the conference in May and have a coffee with Halton-Peel during the Conference! Hope to see you then.

## Ottawa Chapter

### 2005/06 Executive

President: Irène Kumar

Vice-President: Nicole Watier

Treasurer: Theresa Ziebell

Secretary: José Gélinas

Committees/comités:

"tête-à-tête" Committee: Linda Landreville

Event Coordinator: Barbara Cope

Membership/: Ann Censner

Ex Officio: Kathy Heney

December 6th, 2005 - Holiday Dinner and Social, Mayflower Pub, Ottawa

March 7th, 2006 - Joint Event organized by the Library Association of the National Capital Region (LANCR/ABRCN): Perspectives on privacy: library and privacy in the 21st century (Panel with 2 speakers) Held at Library and Archives Canada (LAC/BAC)

April 6th - Annual General Meeting at Mamma Teresa Restaurant. Elections will take place, free membership draw and a couple of door prizes

June 15th - Library Technician Interest Group (LTIG) of the CLA will join OALT/ABO - Ottawa Chapter / Section d'Ottawa members for a networking dinner social at a restaurant near the location of the CLA Conference.

A happy life is made up of little things: a gift sent, a letter written, a call made, a recommendation given, transportation provided, a cake made, a book lent, a cheque sent.

- Carol Holmes

## School Chapter

### 2005/06 Executive

Treasurer: Liz Aldrey

Champions:

Tricia Everaert

Stacy Goddard

Colleen Kelly

Douglas Willford

Information was not received by printing deadline.

## Toronto Chapter

### 2005/06 Executive

President: Marianna Cseto

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Martina Keller

Treasurer: Aileen Fisher

Membership and Publicity Coordinator:

Sue Meggs-Becker

Welcome to Kerry McCauley, who has joined the Toronto Chapter executive as newsletter editor.

The Toronto Chapter newsletter distribution by email has received very positive feedback and will continue to be the distribution method for keeping the Toronto Chapter members in touch.

On Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, the Toronto Chapter held their third membership meeting at the Toronto Reference Library and hosted York University senior librarian Vivienne Monty who spoke about "The Reference Interview and Electronic Resources". Vivienne engaged the attending audience by discussing the aspects of the reference interview and the impact of electronic resources. This resulted in many questions from the audience.

The final meeting and ABM will be held on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Northern District Library in Toronto. The scheduled speaker is Jean Weihs, who will speak about Cataloguing. This meeting also includes the Annual Business Meeting for the Toronto Chapter. At the moment, the Toronto Chapter is in dire need of a President and Vice-President for the upcoming membership year. Please try to attend the ABM if you are interested in either role on the executive.

## Thunder Bay Chapter

2005/06 Executive

President: Valerie Welsch

Secretary: Linda Bukovy

Treasurer: Don Henderson

Newsletter: (appointed) Wanda Ewachow

Public Relations: (appointed) Kathy Crewdson and Margot Ponder

Archivist: (appointed) Helen Heerema

Wed. Jan 25, 2006 - A tour of the Health Resources Information Centre at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine building located on the Lakehead University Campus. A new library (created in 2005), its mandate is to advance the education, research, clinical practices and community service of the medical school. Jennifer Dumond, Instruction and Public Services Librarian, conducted the tour.

Thur. Feb 23, 2006 - Handwriting Analysis workshop, led by Erika Maki, certified handwriting analyst. Erika examined samples of participants' handwriting and identified certain characteristics in handwriting that point to peoples' personalities.

The Thunder Bay Chapter will hold its Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday, March 30, 2006, at 6 p.m. in the Scaleros Room at East Side Mario's Restaurant, Memorial Avenue, Thunder Bay.

## College LIT Program Updates

### Mohawk College

At the time of writing, students and faculty in Mohawk's Library and Information Technician program are pleased to be returning to their winter term courses, which had been suspended for three weeks during the strike of full-time faculty at Ontario's community colleges. The winter term has been extended by several weeks to permit students to complete assignments and write final exams.

Spring term courses begin on April 10, 2006 and May 29, 2006. This spring we are offering a new course, INFOLT340 Database Design for Information Workers. The course will teach database design skills using MS Access as the application software. For OALT/ABO members who may be interested in taking this course for professional development, it will be

offered again in the Fall 2006 term. Registration for all Fall term courses will begin on August 14, 2006. Information about fall courses will be on our web site <http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/cecat/library.html> a few weeks in advance of this date.

Our program is intended for people who are working in libraries but who don't have formal library education. The online format of our courses works well for them to be able to study on a part-time basis. Our courses are also well suited to library technicians who have graduated but are interested in taking a course for professional development.

Spring term is one where a number of our library technician students undertake the field placement portion of our program. We extend our appreciation to staff at libraries who are currently or have previously hosted a placement for one of our students. Your support of our program in this way is much appreciated.

A further professional development opportunity that library technicians may want to consider is Mohawk's six-course Records and Information Management certificate. This is an opportunity to branch into a field related to library work, or to solidify some skills that you may be using in your current position. Details of this certificate program are at <http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/cecat/recmgmt.html>

## Book Review

### The Knowledge Entrepreneur

Stan Skrzyszewski

Scarecrow Press, 2006. 151pp ISBN 0-8108-5291-8

Reviewed by Jill Anderson

Stan Skrzyszewski, who has presented a number of Philosopher's Café sessions at OALT/ABO conferences, has written the book, *The Knowledge Entrepreneur*.

"In a knowledge economy, it's crucial that creative people with ideas, information skills and experience become engaged in entrepreneurial activities involving the creation and use of new knowledge for community, organizational, and personal development. It's also important for these people to realize that they can work independently, both as an individual and within an organization.

*The Knowledge Entrepreneur* introduces the principles and skills required to be a knowledge entrepreneur or "intrapreneur". It outlines the process of developing and implementing business plans and proposals for knowledge-based initiatives, offering insight into the nature of knowledge, innovation, and entrepreneurship. This book will be a valuable tool for individual entrepreneurs just starting to develop a business concept, those who want to become employers and entrepreneurially minded employees of larger information-related organizations (e.g. libraries and information, technology, and software businesses)." *Reprinted with permission of the author.*

Stan founded Advanced Strategic Management in 1992, where he specializes in bringing people and technology together.

## **A Very Special Thank You to a Very Dedicated Member**

*by Maria Ripley, Internal Communications Coordinator*

Marina Dranitsaris has been an active member of OALT/ABO for many years but most recently she has been my right hand gal in the development and creation of the association newsletter.

Marina and I came together as a team. Together we attended Executive meetings and communicated about newsletter content and deadlines. Her wealth of experience and her guidance was invaluable in helping me to best understand the organization.

Marina's experience and determination is what makes the newsletter what it is. She has worked diligently for the past three years on each and every issue – including this one, her last - to be sure there is substance to our newsletter and that the province is represented as a whole. I can only hope I can keep up with what she had developed for us. Thank you Marina for your dedication and your guidance. I will miss working with you.

## **Thank You and Goodbye**

*Marina Dranitsaris, Newsletter Editor*

This is the last time I will be editing the *Newsletter/Nouvelles* for OALT/ABO. I want to thank all of the terrific members who regularly contributed to the newsletter. Without your submissions, photos and

letters our newsletter would have been a skimpy one indeed.

As many of you know, I retired from the library field number of years ago. Even so, I continued to be a member of OALT/ABO and worked on and with the Executive.

As a volunteer, you get a lot from the organization for which you volunteer. I think that I have given all that I can, and have taken all that has been made available to me. It is now time to move on.

I continue to volunteer, sitting on the executive of my curling club and I plan to get involved with my local arts council. I urge all of you to volunteer your talents to organizations that will value your input and gifts, and give back the recognition that all volunteers deserve.

I leave OALT/ABO knowing that I did my best and gave my all in every role that I took on.

## **New and Returning Members**

Welcome to the following individuals and institutions that have recently joined OALT/ABO, and welcome back to several members who have rejoined after a few years absence. These memberships were received from December 16, 2005 to February 28, 2006.

### **New Members**

Brenda Barclay	Eleanor Boeringa
Victoria Etudaiye	Martine Fabris
Consuelo Goegan	Flora Kit Chu Hon
Jeongsik Jang	Sheri Leeson
Virginia Leiter	Darby Macnab
Cathy McConnell	Sara Niro
Pelham Public Library	Nighat Shafaat
Roxana Snow	Kim Statham
Tat Yuen Tong	Kim Vallée
James Watts	Lesley Worden-Huffman
Fengying Zhang	

### **Returning Members**

Wanda Baburek	Linda Peppiatt
Thunder Bay Law Association	

## People News

### Janet Iles

After more than 30 years at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library, I decided to retire on February 28, 2005. I was eager to start my own business, Janet Iles Consulting & Research Services, specializing in genealogy and local history. How fortunate I was to have as my first client someone who wanted to publish a family history and needed research, consultation and editing work done. The book has been published and I used the skills gained through my work and my training as a library technician and the 40+ genealogy related courses I had taken through the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. I love research and I found I also enjoy working with clients to get a book ready for publication. In September, I traveled to Salt Lake City to attend an academy of learning with a combination of lectures and research time at the Family History

Library. I stayed longer to attend the Association of Professional Genealogists' Management Conference and the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference. Oh yes, I have been back at the library, working on contract, providing reference services on a part-time basis when needed. I will not be at this year's conference but I may see some of you at the Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar also in May.

**Marina Dranitsaris** has again curled her way into the championships at Scarboro Golf & Country Club. She was on the winning team for the Business Women's Casserly trophy and for a second year, her team won the G.E. Young trophy as club champions. She still has her heart set on a golf trophy.

### 2005 / 06 OALT/ABO EXECUTIVE

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Publication Agreement # 40688591