

NewsLETTER NouvELLES

ISSN: 0229-2645 Publication Agreement # 40688591

Volume 36 No. 3 Fall 2013

Message from your President

~ Michael David Reansbury

'Takes Initiative' is a stock comment that is applied to a pupil's performance at school, be that elementary, secondary, or post-secondary. In the working world 'takes initiative' is often qualified in a performance review; an employee either has taken or needs to take initiative. The taking of initiative, is a positive characteristic which one ought to desire to have associated with one's self; for to take the initiative is to demonstrate that one is able to be independent. It is not to necessary, and often counterproductive, to focus on making sure what one is initiating 'right' (here referring not to a moral imperative, but something that is fashionable). In today's world there is the propensity to focus on the 'rightness' of one's action. Yet, where initiative is concerned 'rightness' does not factor in. 'Takes initiative' is most often applied to individuals engaged in normal, mundane, necessary tasks. It is not the 'rightness' of the task that draws the attention of others, it is that independently, the individual got on with the business of doing. Would it be said of you, that you 'take initiative'?

I wish to draw your attention to some of the initiatives of the association and its members:

1. The association thanks outgoing directors and officer: Lisa Elchuk, Amna Hussain, and Carolin Toppan, respectively.

2. The association welcomes the new, and returning, directors and officers: Cyndi Smith, Daisy Collins, Dana Schwarz, Serena McGovern, Rachel Kelly, Shannon Matthews, Kathi Vandenheuvel, and Amrita Maharaj.
3. The association has purchased Directors and Officers Liability Insurance from ENCON Group Inc. at a cost of \$700.00 a year. This policy protects all directors (Board members) and officers (including chapter executive, and any member who sits on a committee of the association) from any personal liability as it relates to the business of the association.
4. The Board wishes to invite members and invited guest to attend the annual Holiday Social being held on Saturday, November 30th, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Ben McNally Bookstore (please see page 7 for full invitation).
5. A reminder to all members that 2014/2015 will see the departure of a number of board members. In order to ensure the continuance of the association members in good standing must nominate themselves or another to fill the vacant board positions. Nominations for board positions will be received until Wednesday, January 1st. Further nominations will be received by

Newsletter/
Nouvelles is
published three
times per year in
the Fall, Winter
and Spring and is
available with
membership in
the Ontario
Association of
Library
Technicians /
Association des
Bibliothécaires
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.

petition of five (5) members until Monday, February 3rd. Please see Bylaw 14 for complete information related to nominations and voting for board positions.

6. The association will be participating, again, this year in the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference, running from Wednesday, January 29 until Saturday, February 3rd. For more details please see the article by External Communication Coordinators Dana Schwartz on page 14.
7. The Board of Directors has approved the theme of the 41st annual conference, which will be held in Kingston, Ontario at Queen's University from the evening of Wednesday, April 30 until the afternoon of Saturday, May 3, 'Initiative & Innovation.'

I shall leave you with one final thought in the form of a quote on the nature of the work we do as library technicians and the initiative each of us takes daily in completing the work of a library technician:

'...,but in general we try not to cant about ourselves. We try not to join the modern rush to ennoble our ordinary, necessary work. We see too much of that in our job...And all this self-praise, all this dense fog of respectability which has been created around ordinary, necessary work, is choking our honesty about ourselves.*'

Michael David Reansbury

*Robertson Davies, Leaven of Malice (Toronto : Clarke, Irwin, 1964) 133.

DISCLAIMER:

The views and opinions expressed in Newsletter/Nouvelles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the OALT/ABO Board of Directors.

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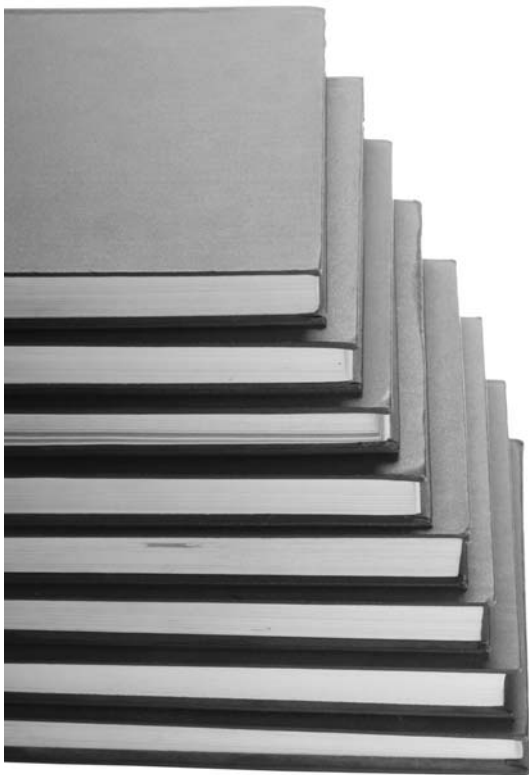
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EDITORS NOTE

Thank you so much to our members, colleagues and supporters for the generous contributions to the Fall newsletter. Your spectacular writing skills have made editing my inaugural issue so much easier. This newsletter is a major incentive for OALT/ABO membership and it is our goal to keep it interesting and informative. We encourage you to contribute, provide feedback and participate whenever possible to ensure that it continues to hold value. I look forward to reading and including as much of your material as possible in the upcoming Winter issue.

Sincerely,
Shannon Matthews
OALT/ABO Newsletter Editor

EDITORS DRAW!



Congratulations to Sharon Doyle, winner of the Editor's Draw. As our winner Sharon will receive a \$100 gift certificate from Ben McNally Books.

The names of contributors to the Fall 2013, Winter 2014 and Spring 2014 issues of NewsLetter/NouvElles will be entered into our draw. Keep those submissions coming in and you could be our next Editor's Draw winner!

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2013/2014 Board of Directors



For **Michael David Reansbury** is celebrating his three year anniversary at both his place of employment, the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine, and as **President** of OALT/ABO. During his tenor with both organizations he has transitioned from simply doing what is expected of him, those tasks outline in position description, to identifying things that need to be done, and ultimately doing them. "I am not altogether sure what the future holds for me, but I know that I will always be engaged in 'ordinary, necessary work*' as I find the greatest pleasure out of doing."

*Davies, Robertson, Leaven of Malice (Toronto: Clarke Irwen, 1964) 133.

Who am I? **Cyndi Smith, President-Elect**

Job: Customer Service Clerk, Reserves, Virtual Reference, Interlibrary Loans

Job History: Circulation Clerk; Reference Library Technician

Education: Information and Library Technician, 2006

Interests: All the activities that a person can do with a minimum amount of physical expenditure: Reading; bird watching; cooking; conversing; sightseeing; walking; hiking; sitting and listening; Day dreaming; imagining; writing; thinking; laying in shade or sun; dog walking; Suduko; Puzzles; movies; dinner outings;



Daisy Collins is returning for a final year in the role of **Treasurer** for 2013-2014.

Currently employed at Conestoga College in Kitchener, her position includes reference service, serials management and all things related to the leisure reading collection. Daisy graduated with honours from Seneca College's LIT program in 2004.

In her spare time Daisy enjoys obsessing over her cat Pebbles, reading YA novels, doing yoga and running.

Dana Schwarz is your **External Communications Coordinator**. Dana graduated in 2012 from the Accelerated Library and Information Technician Program at Seneca College and also has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto majoring in Medieval Studies. She currently works at the Royal Bank of Canada's Law Group as a Legal and Information Services Specialist. Dana loves to exercise, read and has a considerable knowledge of wine from the Niagara region.





Who Am I? **Serena McGovern**

Your **Internal Communications Coordinator**

Job: Library Technician in both the Public and Academic Libraries

Job History: Worked as few jobs as I could

Education: I've had a lot of it

Interests: Working, then sleeping.

Rachel Kelly is returning as your **Membership Coordinator**.

Currently employed at Conestoga College, her position includes a strong emphasis on public services including: reference services, circulation services, overdue items and reserves processing. Rachel's previous library positions have included working as a Children's & Youth Services Library Technician with an emphasis on children's programming for the Halton Hills Public Library. Rachel graduated from Seneca College's LIT program, holds an undergraduate degree in English Literature and a graduate certificate in Creative Writing. Her hobbies include baseball, yoga, fine arts and you may occasionally find her leading a zumba class.



Amrita Maharaj is the **Digital Archivist** for the OALT/ABO.

She graduated with honors from Seneca College's LIT program in 2011 and has a Records Management certificate from Mohawk College. She currently works as a Library Technician at a high school for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Amrita loves reading and has a vast knowledge of manga/anime.

Shannon Matthews is pleased to be involved with the Board of Directors in the role of **Newsletter Editor**. She previously held the position of OALT/ABO Treasurer from 2009-2011. With a Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University and graduated from Seneca's LIT program in 2005, Shannon is looking forward to contributing her skills to the association. She has been working as a Library Technician at the Conestoga College Library Resource Centre for the past 8 years.



You've read their bios, but who are they?

Really??

Who Am I? Cyndi Smith

Truths or Not Interesting Facts about Me:

I'm serious about only the truly serious things in life.
Everything else is fair game.

I TRY to be a good sport – sometimes very hard.

I return my movies on time but timely books returns are an iffy thing ...

I do turn the corners of the pages of my books down and yes, I'm deeply, truly ashamed ...

I'm nice to children.

I'm pretty good with other species of humans, like teenagers.

I'm reasonable, except when I have no other recourse.

I'm 45 and I can still stand on my head, should this ever be required and I'm not in a skirt.

I drink coffee only so I can drink the cream.

I have a lot of fillings but surprisingly good teeth.

I can solve almost every difficult customer service interaction in an academic library but I do NOT put this on my resume.

I love watching birds.

I do not love dogs, but I own two.

I will only work in a library. But if I or my children are starving I will seriously rethink this ...

Who Am I? Serena McGovern

Truths or Not Interesting Facts about Me:

I live in my head, its fun.

I'm terrified when people wink, especially at me

I try to think before I speak....this doesn't always work out, especially at work

I've used quotes from literature like "sucks to your asthma" in conversation and only one person has got it and laughed, we are the best of friends.

I can suck my cheeks in to make the fish face really far.

I've given out more office supplies in the past few years, than I've bought in the last ten.

When asked about how I felt about deadlines in a job interview I quoted Mark Twain "I love deadlines, I love to watch them as the woosh past". It was meant to be a joke, no one got it and not surprisingly I didn't get the job.

I love YA fiction and think John Green is an amazing author

I love ideas and coming up with ideas for anything, I've been told I lack follow through, I would agree but I'm too busy thinking up another idea

I'm a foodie

I'm tired a lot of the time, but am so thankful every day for coffee

Have you ever thought about joining the OALT/ABO Board of Directors?

The following positions may become vacant in 2014:

President
President- elect
Treasurer
Membership Coordinator
Internal Communication Coordinator
Conference coordinator
Chapter Coordinator
NewsLETTER/NouvELLES editor

An invitation to members of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/
Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario, and invited guests to attend the:

Annual Holiday Social



Saturday, November 30th, 2013

From 5:00pm to 7:00pm



Ben McNally Bookstore

366 Bay Street

Toronto, ON M5H 4B2

www.benmcnallybooks.com

Snacks and light refreshments will be provided. Staff of Ben McNally will be on hand for those wishing to make purchases.

Please RSVP to info@oaltabo.on.ca, with 2013 Holiday Social in the subject line, by Friday, November 15th.

Library ‘Pop’ Quiz

The universality of the library as setting and occupation pervades popular culture to this day and has constantly served as inspiration to writers, performers, singers, and all other kinds of artists. See if you can pick out these popular and not so popular references to all things library.

1. In the 1957 movie *Desk Set*, Katherine Hepburn played a no-nonsense reference librarian for a national broadcasting network. What was the name of her character?
 - a. Bunny Watson
 - b. Bunny Wendell
 - c. Bunny Warner
 - d. Bunny Wunny
2. This super heroine has a doctorate in Library Sciences and a staggering IQ level; she also became a United States congresswoman.
 - a. Hawkgirl
 - b. Invisible Woman
 - c. Batgirl
 - d. Black Widow
3. What movie finds the protagonists face to face with the ghost of head librarian Dr. Eleanor Twitty?
 - a. The Ghost & Mrs. Muir
 - b. Ghost in the Machine
 - c. Ghostbusters
 - d. Ghost Story
4. Quoted from this 1946 movie, an apparently forlorn future awaits Mary Hatch Bailey as “...she’s an old maid. She never married...she’s just about to close up the library!”
 - a. The Postman Always Rings Twice
 - b. It’s a Wonderful Life
 - c. The Yearling
 - d. Notorious
5. Rupert Giles was the school librarian for Sunnydale High in what popular television series that began running in 1997?
 - a. King of the Hill
 - b. Oz
 - c. Ally McBeal
 - d. Buffy the Vampire Slayer

6. What long-running PBS television show contained this lyric in its theme song, "Take a look, it's in a book"?
- 3-2-1-Contact
 - Reading Rainbow
 - Mister Roger's Neighborhood
 - Sesame Street
7. In 2003, this singer/songwriter released a greatest hits album entitled *Tales of a Librarian*, going so far as to list the tracks on the album in the order as they would be cataloged according to the Dewey Decimal Classification system.
- Tori Amos
 - Fiona Apple
 - Sarah McLachlan
 - Suzanne Vega
8. What pop punk/rock band wrote a song called *At the Library* in 1991?
- Blink 182
 - Green Day
 - The Offspring
 - Weezer
9. Who is the librarian at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry?
- Filius Flitwick
 - Pomona Sprout
 - Gellert Grindelwald
 - Irma Pince
10. What film has a high school library serve as the post for Saturday morning detention for five students who seemingly have nothing in common?
- Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band
 - Buena Vista Social Club
 - The Breakfast Club
 - Fight Club

***Answers of back page**

Created by Philip Wasley

Philip Wasley is a Library Systems Technician with the Toronto District School Board and has been working in libraries since 2009. He enjoys board games, gourmet cooking and keeping his wife and two girls happy.

Update from Mohawk College- Library and Information Technician Program

Faculty, staff and students in the distance education library technician program at Mohawk College are eagerly anticipating the start of another academic year. We hope that you have all enjoyed a rejuvenating summer. Fall courses began on September 6 and will finish on December 13.

Registration for winter term courses will open on Nov. 26, with courses starting on Jan. 14/14. If the winter season prompts you to consider professional development for yourself, you may wish to consider taking one of our courses, which are offered online. The format of our courses works well for people who only wish to take an individual course or two. Library technicians are considered to have met the prerequisite course requirements for any of our courses.

Some courses which might be of interest to OALT/ABO members this winter are

LIBR10042 Resource Description and Access I

COMMLT225 Genre Fiction and Readers' Advisory Services

LIBR10002 Government Information

LIBRLT335 Multimedia

LIBRLT405 Law Libraries and Legal Research

LIBRLT375 School Libraries

LIBR10004 Health Libraries and Resources

LIBR10035 Introduction to Metadata and Metadata Applications

OADM100 Records and Information Management Fundamentals

LIBRRM103 - Archives

All of these courses begin on January 14, 2014 and run until April 22, 2014.

For further information please visit our web site <http://disted.mohawkcollege.ca/library> under the heading "Program of Studies", by mid-November.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Dolores Harms Penner, Program Manager, by phone at 905-575-2309 or by email dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca

ALGONQUIN - OALT Update

Wikipedia comes to Algonquin College

For the first time at Algonquin College in the LIT program, we participated in the Wikipedia Canada Education Program, which taught students how to assess credible information online, comparing Wikipedia with other encyclopedia online, and how to edit within the Wikipedia platform. In addition, students provided peer feedback online and learned to research other scholarly resources. While there were a few technical glitches at the beginning, such as losing access to the Internet in the classroom in the first week (!), it was a great experience to critically evaluate Wikipedia and collaborate online.

Librarians without Borders

First year student, Tim Yale, participated in the service trip to Guatemala, with the group, *Librarians without Borders*. He assisted with developing a library in the community and in providing information literacy. Tim also presented at this past year's OALT/ABO conference in London, as one of the student presenters about RDA.

Curriculum changes

For the LIT curriculum, we are introducing a course on professional writing, which will be tailored to the specific kinds of communication skills required in the workplace. In addition, the course will be connected with their field placement, and students will be writing communication pieces that are related to what they will be doing over their field placement.

Award winner

The 2013 winner of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians Faculty Recognition Award is Esenia Jubea. Esenia is a student with high academic achievement throughout her program at Algonquin College. In addition, Esenia participated in the activities outside of the classroom, serving on the Algonquin Reads committee, assisting with events at Algonquin College and volunteering at the Canadian Library Association Annual Conference.

-Helena Merriam, Coordinator, Library and Information Technician Program

LITs @ Seneca College

Although it is still Summer as this piece is written, we continue to be busy at Seneca. The students who started in the accelerated, 12 month full-time program in May are writing second semester subject exams and next week, orientation for our 70 new first semester students will begin.

At the Convocation in June, we had 67 students graduating from the full-time program and eight students graduating from the part-time program. The full-time program was very honoured to have one of its students, Nicole Clark Morgan receive the Governor General's Academic Award. This award is given annually to a student who achieves the highest academic standing in the final year of a post-secondary diploma program.

The first hiring of this year's grads was by a special library. Two of our grads also have been employed by libraries in Alberta. Other grads have found employment with public libraries, school libraries and library wholesalers in Ontario. Although postings by the college libraries seem to have been fewer than in previous years, we anticipate more grads to be hired by them as the Fall semesters begin.

In terms of our curriculum, we have made a change to our field placements. We now will have two, three week placements rather than the three, two week placements. This change makes the number and length of the field placements the same as those at Algonquin and Mohawk.

Other changes for the Fall semester are that for the first time since the Library and Information Technician program started at Seneca, we only will have courses being offered in the full-time program through the School of Legal and Public Administration and not in the part-time program through the Faculty of Continuing Education and Training (FCET). FCET made the difficult decision in July to phase out the part-time program. Current students who have been enrolled in LIT subjects through FCET should contact Beverly Hartford, Program Coordinator at beverly.hartford@senecacollege.ca to discuss possible options for completion.

On a more positive note, we look forward to welcoming OALT/ABO to Seneca in the Fall semester for the Meet and Greet with the students.

2013 OALT/ABO Student Award

Cindy Vording-Bodini is the recipient of the OALT/ABO Student Award from Seneca's graduating class of 2013. One criterion for this award is a student's academic achievement, which Cindy easily met by achieving a 4.0 GPA in each of the semesters of the 12 month accelerated program and a place on the President's Honour List.

Cindy brought so much to the LIT classes from her life experiences and we anticipate this will continue to her work in libraries. Cindy adds library technician to her previous credentials as a music teacher, project manager with a family of four at-home children, and volunteer. Cindy has extensive experience teaching music both in schools and privately. Her project management skills were put to good use in the various group projects in the LIT program. Cindy helped to get the group started on its work and to keep it on schedule. She also has been an active volunteer in numerous organizations, including libraries. Is OALT/ABO next on her list of volunteer activities?

Although Cindy initially didn't realize that she wanted a career in libraries, they always have played a role in her life. Cindy has lived in various locations throughout Canada with her husband and four children, and one of the first things that she does when she moves to a new place is to make sure that her family gets their library cards

-Deborah Kay, Professor and Coordinator (Full-time program), Library and Information Technician Program



Halton-Peel Update

by Tracy Morgan

It doesn't seem that long ago that Vicky Lynham shouted out to all Halton-Peel members in the Fall NewsLETTER/NouvELLES. What we were struggling with then, is what we're struggling with now. Communication amongst the members of Halton-Peel! In 2012 we were 35+ members strong with a handful of members passionate to keep the Chapter alive and kicking. Those "active" members really want to get the pulse of ALL Halton-Peel members. We want to find out if everyone's happy with the way things have been going. There-in lies the heart of our challenge.

Vicky talked last time about Halton-Peel establishing a Yahoo! Group for our Chapter. We did!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hpoaltabo/> was created and members were invited to join. This wasn't easy. There were multiple emails to member email addresses, phone calls, pleas to the Yahoo! Group to spread the word; Vicky even provided my personal email in her NewsLETTER/NouvELLES item! As I write this our Halton-Peel Yahoo! Group has only 14 members. All this effort at inviting members to join was necessary because Yahoo! discontinued the "Add Members" feature as of April 11, 2012. (Let this be a warning to anyone else thinking Yahoo! is an answer to their communication woes.) Isn't it ironic that when we have SO MANY ways to communicate (social media, email, text, phone, etc.) we can't seem to do so?

Kudos to Vicky, the Chapter's Treasurer (and only "official" officer) as she continues to fight for this Chapter. In October she contacted all Halton-Peel members about their preference for a future event (more emails and phone calls) and it was decided to hold a holiday brunch in December. Brunch at The Mohawk Inn in Campbellville had become a popular (annual) tradition in Halton-Peel. We all like to eat! Vicky discovered The Mohawk was under new management and decided to visit them to see what changes had been made. Sadly she discovered the new owners no longer did brunch! (As a Miltonian, this was devastating news to me.) Because Vicky took the initiative of that investigative visit she managed to wrangle us seats when another group requested an

ad hoc brunch for December 9. Halton-Peel had a place at the table for what might have been The Mohawk Inn's final brunch.

Our Mohawk "meeting" wasn't just an opportunity to socialize with long-time friends and colleagues. We had an agenda. We wanted to discuss the future of our Chapter! To that end invitations went out in November to current members and non-renewing 2011 Halton-Peel members. With only 11 current members in attendance (1 spouse) and 1 lapsed member, again, those involved didn't feel representative of our entire membership but we talked about our future nonetheless. More about that later.

Brunch was great! People came from as far as Niagara Falls. We talked and we ate and we talked and we ate... Vicky had prepared names tags for everyone. That was an unexpected nice touch and turned out to be helpful to an adventurous new Halton-Peel member joining us for the first time. She assured us we didn't scare her away even though she got the initiation of a life-time sitting near our Association's only life-time member, Douglas (as he's formally known) Willford! We also had party-favours courtesy of the kitchen of cookie maker extraordinaire Maria Ripley. A personal note of thanks from me for those as Maria knows I'm a BIG fan of her Christmas trees! Brunch started at 11:00 and most of us stayed for HOURS (o.k. about 3 hours but that's pretty impressive for a busy holiday season Sunday!)

Re Halton-Peel's future. We didn't feel the need to appoint/elect additional officers. Vicky's watching our money and as a Presidential Award winner and former Association Treasurer, we're lucky to have her! At this time Halton-Peel seems to prefer an informal approach to organizing Chapter events. Volunteering to help (in semi alpha-order) were: Vicky, Sharon MacMillan, Kate Morrison, Maria, Doug, (and me)! As discussed above communication with all Halton-Peel members was agreed to be a priority. I left Brunch with an action to find a listserv that will allow us to subscribe members directly.

I'll close this update by thanking our Association for continuing to provide NewsLETTER/NouvELLES in hard-copy, mailing it the old-fashioned way, as it continues to be the most effective way we Chapters can communicate with all our members! With a healthy membership and an "Executive" of 1, Halton-Peel looks forward to involving more members in organizing future events and

Halton-Peel Happenings

By Vicky Lynham, Halton-Peel Treasurer

Halton-Peel Chapter members live and work in several counties of Ontario, an area that includes part of the GTA and areas to the north, south, and west. Because of the long distances involved it has become difficult to arrange events convenient to all 31 members. At our last Halton-Peel meeting in 2012 at the Mohawk Inn in Campbellville, members discussed a possible June social event but there was a lack of interest in organizing or attending such an event.

We are now planning a September event; a social event that we hope will attract interest among all members. The event will take place in Dundas, Ontario on September 28th or 29th and will include participation in Culture Days, a countrywide event running from Sept 27-29, 2013. The Culture Days event in Dundas this year will be held at the Carnegie Gallery Building as they celebrate the completion of a seven year project to buy, renovate and expand their premises. An open house will be held Saturday and Sunday with demonstrations by artist members. The Carnegie Gallery is a heritage building and was the former Carnegie Library. Lunch at a local restaurant will be arranged to complement the tour.

From the Culture Days website—

“Founded in 2009, Culture Days is a non-profit organization dedicated to building a national network of cultural connections devoted to providing Canadians with opportunities to participate in, and appreciate, all forms of arts and culture. Through an annual three-day national celebration each September, hundreds of thousands of artists and cultural organizations in hundreds of cities and towns come together and invite Canadians to participate in free interactive and “behind the scenes” activities to discover their cultural spirit and passion.”

- See more at: <http://culturedays.ca/en/about-culture-days#sthash.Z0wIVxlw.dpuf> and <http://www.carnegiegallery.marklandhouse.com>

The event is at the early planning stage and details are not available at the time of the newsletter submission date. We hope to update members over the next few weeks.

Once again I would like to remind Halton-Peel members to keep in touch and share ideas by joining the Halton-Peel email list. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hpoaltabo/>



workshops.

Out of Office

My “professional” I’m on vacation autoreply for outlook I am currently out of the office on vacation:

I know I'm supposed to say that I'll have limited access to email and won't be able to respond until I return and believe me I hope this is the case but I can't live without my iphone so if it desperately urgent, I will answer.

If your email is not urgent but you need a response while I'm on vacation, please resend it to tolibrary@georgianc.on.ca or call the customer service desk of the library I can honestly say those ladies can handle anything. Otherwise, I'll respond when I return, I hope you all stay well until then.

Regards,

Serena

The one I really wanted to post and spent twice as long writing:

I am currently out of the office on vacation.

I know I'm supposed to say that I'll have limited access to email and won't be able to respond until I return and believe me I hope this is the case but I can't live without my iphone so if it desperately urgent, I will reply to this list of emails:

If there is a truly terrible emergency including but not limited to, someone needs me, it's life or death and I am the only one who can save us all. ie. zombie apocalypse (even then I am already heading for the hills folks and I see weaning off technology as forward thinking & preparation)

I am doing my best to step away from my technological addiction and I hope you will all support me in this.

If your email truly is urgent and you need a response while I'm on vacation, please resend it to tolibrary@georgianc.on.ca or call the customer service desk of the library I can honestly say those ladies can pretty much handle anything, even the apocalypse (zombie or regular).

Otherwise, I'll respond when I return, I hope you all stay well until then.

The following sessions will be presented at the **2014 OLA Super Conference** on behalf of **OALT/ABO**:

Tool Libraries - Borrowing Beyond Books

This presentation will describe the concept of Tool Libraries, their history, and the model that has been implemented in Toronto. Besides facilitating the borrowing of tools, the project also represents a glimpse into a future economy with reduced consumption, ownership and environmental impact coupled with greater access and stronger communities. Participants will leave with the knowledge to implement their own shared resource projects successfully and a vision of what a more sustainable future could look like.

Computer Workstation Ergonomics

Whether you sit or stand in front of them, type on their keyboard, or simply look at their screen, computer workstations are all around us. This session will show participants how to ergonomically set-up a computer work station and reduce the likelihood of developing a musculoskeletal disorder. Participants will learn how to assess their own station, how to make changes based on provincial guidelines on office Ergonomics and also learn about the risks associated with a poor set-up.

Hidden Worlds of Law Libraries

The world of law libraries is a unique corporate environment that is becoming increasingly digital. There is much more than research happening at the law library. Library technicians may be involved in building databases, current awareness and training. Ongoing communication and marketing are important factors in a successful law library. Communicating effectively with staff, promoting the value of the library service to upper management, and networking with other law libraries are important tools to develop the library service. Presentation will also cover sharpening skills for your current job or career through volunteering, blogging, and contract work.

Get Your Story Told: Mainstream and Social Media Skills

Communications consultant Gail Hulnick offers tips and best practices for approaching the print, broadcast and online news media to raise the library's profile and assist in meeting its fundraising and program attendance goals. Participants will leave with the outline of a plan to improve their strategy and activities undertaken to promote the role and relevance of the library in their community. Participants will leave with methods of improving their press releases and announcements about program and new acquisitions for the library.

Call for volunteers!

A call for volunteers will take place in November for those interested in working the library technician booth at the OLA Super Conference in January.



The fall Education Institute Calendar, a program of The Partnership, is now available at: <http://www.accessola2.com/ei/ei-calendar-fall2013.pdf>

Please share with your colleagues. Courses are open to anyone interested in the vast array of topics. If you are a member of a provincial/territorial association affiliated with The Partnership, reduced registration rates are available (\$45 members/\$55 non members).

Group learning is encouraged! Register a site as a single registration, gather colleagues, and project the webinar. Webinars feature a live presentation often with slides and chat features. Webinars use adobe connect and do not require any special software beyond an Internet connection. The link is sent out in advance to registrants with instructions to ensure you can seamlessly connect. Most sessions are captured and are available for review for up to a year.

The fall sessions include topics such as community led library initiatives, ergonomics, RDA, video construction, mobile technologies, advocacy, gamification, and the list goes on....

Registration is account based - if you are new to the EI, create a free account for future easy access. You can register colleagues as well once they have created an account.

Contact: education@accessola.com

**The Partnership is Canada's national network of provincial and territorial library associations. The Partnership meets twice a year to collaboratively develop services and programs for members of their respective associations. Other programs include:

[The Partnership Journal](#)

[The Partnership Job Board](#)

[The Continuing Education Certificate Program](#)

www.twitter.com/onlibraryassoc

80 members...74 likes on Facebook

I'm still not on Facebook...yet. Still coping with paper piles and e-piles!! And June was soooooo crazy busy...hence the delay in the post-conference e-blurb. I must say, we had a well-attended network meeting for such an early hour (7:30 AM May 31st in Winnipeg)! Eighteen people, some of whom had to take an earlier bus (my heart goes out to you!) contributed to a varied discussion.

After going around the table doing introductions, we got right into talking about the LIT accreditation proposal. Unfortunately Christina Neigel couldn't be with us, but Karen Hildebrandt filled us in with some background. The CLA executive had approved the formation of a task force and Donna Campbell of SAIT has offered to start that process. (Donna was affected by the flooding so I expect she'll have other priorities at the moment.) Michael David Reansbury, president of OALT/ABO had e-mailed me with the suggestion that the LT community needs to look at financial assistance for library techs to attend CLA's conference. We pondered a conference grant that might even stretch across other networks. Being such a far-flung network, any other fundraising would have to be localized. Twoonies for techs...maybe?

Staci Stryde of NSCC is one of this year's students @ CLA. Her school has the first student network. We wondered whether other schools could join that network? Karen also spoke about The Partnership: "a formal program to plan, document and report your professional development and learning activities." More information is available at <http://cec.laa.ca/>

Donna raised the issue of key skills for LIT grads, particularly social networking and new technology. Discussions included: an employers & techs advisory committee, social consciousness, soft skills (instruction, relationship & team building, leadership, communication), project management and dealing with vendors. (Re leadership, I just read Lean In by Sheryl Sandberg. It's a quick, powerful read!)

Maggie Weaver suggested that even just getting a library technician session onto the CLA programme could be a learning opportunity in project management! Speaking of which, we may attempt to do that for the Victoria conference, 28-31 May 2014.

Later on in the day many of us attended a very interesting session on "Library Technician Perceptions on Preparedness in Alberta". The presenters also showed a very inspirational video of working techs talking about various aspects of their jobs.

And, of course, the best part of the whole conference... the pub night! Thanks to Brian Rountree and Tabitha Nordby, about 15 gathered at Shannon's Irish Pub next door to the hotel and conference centre. We had a few brand new grads and others happily working in school libraries and one who's at OCLC. We also had MALT's new president Mikaela Oldenkamp with us. I'm sorry I didn't get to chat with everyone there, but was delighted to see such a great turnout of Winnipeg techs joining those of us attending the CLA conference.

Kathy Davidson-Heney

Rolling my twoonies...



Please consider making a small, personal donation to the Lac-Mégantic Public Library towards their rebuild. The fatal train disaster also completely leveled the local library.

It would be a beautiful show of support from their Ontario library neighbours, that would benefit the whole community.



Meeting the OALT/ABO Community One Technician at a Time

Leanne (Richardson) Good



Where is Wainfleet? That is the refrain I get most often when people ask me which library I work at. I asked myself that same question 8 years ago while looking at job postings at Seneca College.

After getting my B.A. at the University of Western Ontario, I still didn't know what I wanted to be when I "grew up". I decided to put my love of books (thanks to growing up five houses down from the Lorne Park Branch of the Mississauga Library System) to good use and enrolled in the Library and Information Technician Accelerated Program at Seneca College. It was the best decision I could have made. I had found my calling, thanks to Deborah Kay and the other wonderful teachers, and had a lot of fun with my fellow classmates (shout out to the class of '05!). With diploma in hand, I looked for a position at a library in the Niagara Region, where my now husband lived. After checking Google Maps that indeed Wainfleet was in Niagara, this city girl from Mississauga got a maternity leave position as secretary/library clerk at this small, rural public library.

Working at a small library gave me great experience in every aspect of library work. On any given day I was doing circulation, reference, computer instruction, collection development, cataloguing, promotion, and marketing. After one year, I was lucky to stay on at the library as their first full-time Library Programmer. In addition to the above tasks, I was responsible for providing programs for all ages - babies to seniors. My day might start with a Preschool Story Time (singing and dancing with 2 to 4 year olds) and end with an adult Classic Book Club (serving afternoon tea and discussing Charles Dickens). I have run a Farmers Market, teen book club, and have an annual Teddy Bears' Picnic, Seniors Euchre Tournament and Quidditch Match (flying brooms and all).

My eight years have been filled with great experiences – dressing up as Clifford the Big Red Dog for our Family Literacy Event, holding a 6-foot boa constrictor at a March Break event (and cleaning up after him), checking out the kids' cows when they have their Black & White show right behind the Library every August, and winning three Honourable Mentions in the national TD Summer Reading Club Library Awards. The most rewarding has been getting to know the families and residents of Wainfleet. How can anyone not know where this great town is! It has been wonderful watching the children grow up and learn to love the library, getting to know everyone by name, and being able to find the perfect book just for them.

This is my story as a Library Technician so far, a career I love. I recommend anyone new to the profession to consider a position at a small library. You will learn and experience many different aspects of library service. Thank you to the Wainfleet Township Public Library for eight great years. This September, I will be starting a new position as Children's Services Coordinator at Lincoln Public Library.



To Be or Not to Be...Where They Are

By Gail Hussey, Library Technician at Georgian College

Increasingly, it no longer matters where you are when it comes to service. I can't remember the last time I actually went into a bank or bought tickets at a counter, enjoying the convenience of online services.

Making direct contact with a real person, however, creates an initial relationship and a greater likelihood of future contact. For example, once I met someone from the Alumni office, I have contacted them much more frequently and for a variety of things.

Georgian College disability services are provided through our Centre for Access. One of the features of this centre is a quiet computer lab where students may use specialized technology.

In conversation with Centre for Access staff in 2008, we noted that the noisy, busy nature of our library was a deterrent to these individuals. Students opted to stay in the Centre for Access lab rather than accessing research help available in the library, despite having a specialized orientation to library services. Library staff also noted interactions were longer and more frequent for students who did seek help.

Centre staff shared that supported students typically take longer to complete tasks, have greater demands on their time so preferred to be 'shown'. Many can be characterized as having high anxiety in addition to a history of feeling like an outsider with a strong need to feel safe. Students give up easily and like having less choice.

Our proposal of providing research support, 2 hours per week directly in the lab, was well received by centre staff.

Our goals:

- decrease library intimidation and academic anxiety
- provide continuity in one-on-one service
- allow for lengthy interaction
- offer a service point where students have access to assistive technology

Signage with a photo of the staff member and hours available were posted and centre staff promoted the service to students, often introducing students to the LibraryLady. We built a relationship with students and

staff, which ultimately addressed our goals.

This has now become a standard service at two of our campuses. Usage is typical to that of the library information desk. Library staff tweak the schedule for peak usage times and will often work around a students' particular schedule or receive direct emails from students. Staff have commented that once a connection is made with a student, they are occasionally later seen using the library. The relationship and the connection extended beyond the centre to make the library a safe place.

When the college launched the Community Integration through Co-operative Education (CICE) program for students with intellectual disabilities, this same approach was used. The program also has its own centre where students are supported by Learning Facilitators, who adapt coursework and work closely with students.

This time the key relationship evolved to be with the Learning Facilitators. As the primary supporter of the student, they have the strongest need to connect with the library and its services. The scheduled support was discontinued due to lack of student need. However, the relationship built with CICE early in its inception, has been instrumental in inclusion for the program. A successful association with the program continues.

Opportunities exist everywhere for alternative support and service delivery. Last fall, during Orientation, we created a mobile version of our library wares table and took advantage of students in line ups. We would cruise the lineup, asking individuals if they wanted the LibraryLady.

A student in a line up is looking for some kind of engagement to pass the time and you can be just that. We passed out our info, tissues and library swag during friendly conversation with new students. This year we will add in a laptop for on the spot library accounts and cold water for our campus cruise.

When you look at your library, what is your richest resource, the products or the people? Which builds the essential relationship, the products or the people? Relationships are important and there are opportunities to move outside our walls everywhere. Be convenient, go to them and they will come to you.

Why I may not be your President for 2014

--Cyndi Smith, President-Elect, 2012-2013

Any association of professionals today needs to have a leader to advocate on their behalf. Someone to promote or give influence before peer associations, to make known the people or group they represent and to ensure the association is invited or at the relevant tables of influence. There must be a vision of where to go, and in addition, the knowledge of how to attain the vision. With libraries and librarians in a crisis to justify themselves and promote their significance in today's rapidly changing political and social environments, library technicians also need representation that clearly understands what their actual issues are, which tasks or goals are of the greatest import and how best to represent and resolve. This is not a job for someone who is unable to lead, advocate or represent with skill.

There are certain characteristics of good leadership that one must possess in order to successfully lead an association of professionals. These qualities may determine if the association will prosper or flail about. At a time when some issues are reaching an apex, it will matter more than ever. Some of the strengths one may require are excellent management skills and political acumen as well as the ability to represent others adroitly. A calm head and the ability to network successfully is useful.

This past year has seen a few professional associations in the United States and Canada face closure, one them, directly relating to library associations, the Council On Library/Media Technicians (COLT). Our association of OALT/ABO is the only one that specifically represents the Library and Information Technician professional within Ontario – there is no alternative representation. There is a distinction to this that should not be lightly regarded. For those of us who also belong to the CLA or the OLA, we can see the difference between associations who represent all library workers but focus most attention and advocacy on the most visible members who make up the body, such as, librarians. While this ultimately is better than no library advocacy and the fact that support to librarians often reverberates through time to benefit library technicians, this kind of representation is not task-oriented, nor particularly timely, nor career-specific, nor profession-oriented enough for our vocation. Where library technicians may be faceless or nameless and underrepresented in larger associations, library technicians' jobs, salaries, training, education, voice and issues are the sole focus within our association. Our needs. Our concerns. Our jobs. Our representation. Our advocacy.

As an example, this summer, the OLA produced a fine public service announcement as a spearhead to an advocacy campaign on the importance of trained librarians across Ontario but this campaign failed to even mention by job title the other half of the trained library workforce, except in a disclaimer, which read as of this August 2013: "Please note: *although the psa mentions 'trained librarians', we do recognize our Ontario libraries have immense strength due to all trained, dedicated and capable library staff and boards*" There was no mention of who the other trained staff were.

Now, for our provincial association, our mandate of the OALT/ABO specifically directs the board of directors and all who volunteer within to continuously and exclusively:

- *Define clearly the role of the Library Information Technician and to make this definition widely known.
- *Publicize the value of Library Information Technicians and promote wider understanding and acceptance of their status.
- *Institute recognized standards operating on the Provincial level.
- *Work in liaison with related professions and institutions and to promote effective communication among Library Information Technicians and others in closely related fields.
- *Be receptive and aware of the constant changes and needs in the field of Library and Information Technology, and the community.
- *Disseminate information relating to Library Information Technicians

Working in *liaison* with librarians and library boards, *effective* communication, *publicizing* and *promoting* are required tasks but to execute properly requires confidence leadership. If this organization is to flourish and not flounder, there must be someone to assume this role.

I am not convinced that it is me. BUT it may be you.

Please, give serious thought to your own skills and talents. This association, at this time in history with the setting that we are in politically and socially, truly needs a board of directors that can accomplish the mandate that has been set out for it.

THE FOREST OF READING® PROGRAM

What is the Forest of Reading®?

It's Canada's largest recreational reading program! The Ontario Library Association (OLA) offers eight reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. Help celebrate Canadian books, authors and illustrators by registering for a Forest of Reading® program. Schools, public libraries, parents and individual can participate in these programs.

How do the programs work?

Participants must read a minimum of five out of the 10 nominated titles and then vote for their favorite book (Golden Oak™ and Evergreen™ only 1 book must be read. Committees of public and school library practitioners carefully select the nominated titles each year. The school aged programs and Golden Oak™ run from the fall to the spring and Evergreen™ runs from the winter to the fall.

When do the programs begin?

In October, the programs are launched when the lists of nominated titles are announced by the OLA. Most schools and libraries start to run the programs in the New Year.

How do I register my school or library?

You simply need to register online at www.accessola.com/reading. There is a nominal fee for each program as well as the cost of books. For additional information, please feel free to contact olaprograms@accessola.com or phone Meredith Tutching, OLA Program Coordinator, at (416) 363- 3388 or 1-866-873-9867.

Where do I purchase the books for the programs?

Books are sold by S&B Books, the official vendor of the Forest of Reading®. They offer a substantial discount and an order form can be downloaded at www.sbbooks.com. As an incentive when a school or library registers for a program an official Forest of Reading® poster and spinelabels will be sent by S&B Books. Please note: additional promotional materials may be purchased from the <http://www.accessola.com/olastore>.

Encourage your young people to read, read, read!

Everyone is invited to participate via their local public library, school library, or at home. Approximately 250,000 readers across Canada participate each year.

Attend the Festival of Trees™

The school-aged programs culminate in a two-day event, the Festival of Trees™, held in May at Toronto's Harbourfront. More than 8,000 young readers attend this event where they meet authors/ illustrators, participate in workshops and award ceremonies, as well as many other fun activities. Additional satellite festivals and celebrations happen yearly. For more information, check out the Website at <http://www.accessola.com/forest>.

JOIN 250,000 OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARN TO LOVE TO READ!



Why I love social media

By Serena McGovern

I love social media for so many reasons, its ability to build a community and bring people together from near and far, and one of the most important reasons the ability it gives me the chance to be "social" while at times, being anti-social.

Yeah I'm that person, that person who will probably not say too much to you, but then I will be sure to blog, facebook, tweet about what a great time I had with you, maybe I will have taken a photo of it which I will instagram. For someone like me, social media allows me to be social while still being my introverted self.

Using social media for businesses and associations (like ours) is important for so many reasons. The first reason of many is it allows us to bridge whatever physical distance there is between us and allow Library Technicians from all over, to share experiences, chat, get to know one another beyond our schooling or job titles it allows us to band together and get to know one another.

Social media can bring us together and put a human face on business and associations, we no longer have to be defined by what society thinks we should be, we can be defined by all our individual thoughts or ideas. We can be flawed, quirky, funny, whatever we need to be. With social media, there is a great sense of freedom, excitement and opportunity and having a strong social media presence helps build a sense of community, in every library. I would say that it is vital for libraries to reach out to those people who may not be able to make it into the library themselves. Libraries have/should be moving beyond a physical space there are a great many of social media tools that can help libraries and library organizations do just that.

Facebook is a great way to build a community, with over 5 million facebook users the community is already built in for you. In fact if you post what you're reading online you friends can comment and poof instant book club, in fact it's like having a book club that doesn't judge what you bring, how much wine you drink and the best part you get to choose all the books. Once you post what you're reading online you have control over what you share with others, and what you see from others as well.

Need a job? Want to get hired in your underwear, without having to leave the comfort of your own home, or computer

for that matter? The association and its ever diligent team of social media mavens are scouring the web looking for any all jobs that relate to Library Technicians. On linkedIn you can also look at articles about tips for finding a job what you can expect when you get that job, lots and lots of articles dealing with professionalism because LinkedIn is that site for you. LinkedIn is the most professional side of social media, here friends can endorse you for specific skills and even write you a recommendation. This is a great site for when you are looking for that job, because it also allows business to search you out, where you can get an interview without even really looking for one.

Twitter I would say is the trendiest of them and I'm not just talking about the hashtag. It allows you to connect with people in 140 characters or less. Yup that's right, twitter is like Russian Roulette for those of us that are wordy. You have to try and fit everything you want to say into such a small space that abbreviations are born, live and die in the twitter-sphere. Companies can sometimes use twitter so follow companies or associations that you like, I have found a couple of jobs on there. Also it's an immediate way of communicating about a specific topic. This year at the conference, my first conference, I used twitter to tweet about interesting facts I learned during the sessions by using the hashtag #action40. I thought it was great that some other people did the same thing and I was able to get a sense of what the other sessions were like that I didn't go to, it's a great way to see what others are up to and even if I hadn't been able to attend, having that hashtag and my twitter account would have made me feel like I was a part of the fray.

The OALT/ABO keeps up with three social media accounts (facebook/twitter/linkedin) and we will post on all three accounts and each of them have their own benefits, please feel free as valued members to take a look at what we've been up to, what we've been posting because it all relates back to library technicians, the OALT/ABO is an association that is ours and we do our best to reach you in whatever format you feel most comfortable but we encourage you to be brave and check out our online and social media presence, after all we are a pretty engaging bunch.

We are technicians, not just technicians but Library technicians, our jobs are varied and quite different depending on where we are but I believe that as technicians it is our job to stay on top of technological advances, we must remain as current as possible. Social media is not just a fad, its evolving and changing. Social media can give us the opportunity to grow our communities and shape them in entirely different ways then we have before we can reach a greater audience, we can help our communities become more technologically savvy. We all know how much fun we have working at the library we can share that fun, OUR fun with the online communities, we can remind people that yes, we do have a great many books, but we also have lots of other options available come see us sometime, you won't be disappointed. I know I wasn't, and I know social media can be scary and you may not see the point in it, or you may decide it's just not something you're in too, but try it out, talk about what's going on in your day, or whatever random thoughts pop in your head, be witty and charming, be yourselves. You might be surprised that you enjoy it, I know I was.

A few tips on getting started with social media:

Find a social media that works best for your patrons, try them all out as I said but a key to utilizing social media is understanding where your patrons spend their time and finding one that fits you and your company. I love twitter because I use my personal one just for random silly thoughts or pictures but I've also seen a couple of jobs come up on there as well, so those companies are reaching me, where I spend my time online. I didn't have to check workopolis or a job site, I just had to use the tools that I use every day.

No one knows everything about social media, certainly not me, but that being said social media is evolution (maybe not good evolution) and it terrifies me too, given what we've discovered about the National Security Agency in the States I would say that security is a big concern for those who want to use social media. A big way to help protect yourselves is only use facebook to follow associations (like ours!) that you know or belong to, the same goes for friends, only friend people on facebook that you know, watch your privacy settings.

find the Ontario Association of Library Technicians on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

what the librarian wore

A curated archive of what librarians wear.

Submissions / About /

15.01.12

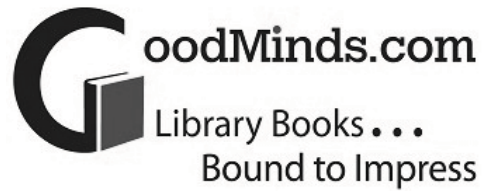


"I don't understand how a woman can leave the house without fixing herself up a little - if only out of politeness. And then, you never know, maybe that's the day she has a date with destiny. And it's best to be as pretty as possible for destiny."
— Coco Chanel

This quote has always struck a chord with me. Since I was little I've loved the art of putting together outfits and maximizing my wardrobe. As an avid follower of street style and high fashion blogs online for the past 10 years, I adore seeing how different people showcase their personality through their fashion choices. I decided to create the "what the librarian wore" blog as a way to document and share not only my love of fashion but that of other librarians. We're all aware of the stereotypes that sometimes accompany this field - whether it's the older woman with a bun (not that I have anything against a good bun!) or the "sexy librarian". I think that there is a lot of people in the profession who do not necessarily subscribe to typical librarian [fashion] stereotypes. I think that librarians are often judged as being "unfashionable" and I felt that this would be a fun way to bring together a curated collection of the sartorial choices of myself and other librarians (and library staff).

If you or someone you know is a snappy dresser - I'd love to see what others are wearing and share it on the blog. Submissions to the blog can be made to whatthelibrarianwore@gmail.com

- Melanie Parlette-Stewart, Blended Learning Librarian at the University of Guelph
www.whatthelibrarianwore.tumblr.com



New Advocacy Initiative for Aboriginal Public Libraries Development

GoodMinds.com has launched SALT (Supporting Aboriginal Libraries Today), a new advocacy initiative to support public library development in Aboriginal communities throughout Canada. The initiative is a collaborative one based on GoodMinds.com and public libraries working together to build an Aboriginal public libraries development fund. The fund will grow with 10% of net sales contributions from orders Canadian public libraries place with GoodMinds.com. All other types of libraries, service clubs, organizations, and individuals may also ask GoodMinds.com to contribute 10% of net sales to the SALT fund. So, spread the word.

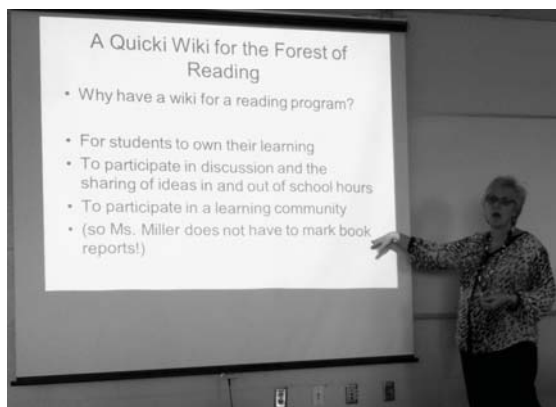
There are approximately 617 (AANDC's website) Reserves in Canada and over 90% do not have a Public Library. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada does not allocate funds for libraries.

SALT's first project is to support Six Nations Public Library's exciting expansion plans. For information about the SALT fund, a SALT video, contributions to date, and a link to Six Nations Public Library's plans, visit GoodMinds.com and select [SALT](#) from the homepage menu.

GoodMinds.com is the official wholesaler for the [First Nation Communities Read program](#).

Together let's make libraries in Canada accessible for everyone!

Conference 2013 — ACTION!



**“A Quicki Wiki for the Forest of Reading”
with Victoria Miller**



**“Actions of Rural Libraries: Becoming the Social
Hub of a Community” with Amy Jennison**



**ILS on a shoestring budget: Open source soft-
ware in a non-profit organization”
with Zachary Osborne and Jolene Bennett.**



2012-13 Board of Directors

**Cyndi Smith, Kathi Vandenheuvel, Carolin Toppan,
Michael David Reansbury, Lisa Elchuk, Daisy
Collins, Jessica Van Keulen**

ABSENT Rachel Kelly, Amna Hussain



Stuffing the 100-plus Conference attendee bags!



**As-tu un bon livre? Selecting French books
for school-aged children” with Dawn Telfer**

An Account of My Time at ACTION! OALT/ABO's 40th Annual Conference

by Lisa Elchuk

Back in September of 2012, our President asked/suggested (pretty much told me!) to convene a session for the OALT/ABO Conference. I struggled to figure out what my point of view was and ultimately decided to focus on Twitter and some in's and out's that new and new-ish Twitter-ers may not think about. I am an avid Twitter user and had been finding some really great things to implement into my day-to-day work at a school library, as well as some really interesting, funny, inspiring, and sometimes heart-breaking things to send to friends.

As OALT/ABO External Communications Coordinator, and like most of the Executive, I travelled down on Wednesday morning to help set up and organize at Fanshawe College. Once there, I dropped my bag and began to work! Stuffing the 100-plus Conference attendee bags was assigned to me and although it seemed like it took forever, it was done in a flash. Lucky for us all, things went smoothly and many hands provided light work! That evening the Opening Reception was held at the Merlin House Atrium, a lovely, open space on the main level of the Fanshawe Residence. While in London for the Conference, I was lucky enough to stay with my cousin Jessica (a City of London police officer), so I forced her to tag along. Jessica wanted everyone to know that the pita crisps were delicious! She and I had dinner plans so we left after about an hour, the Reception continued on with the socializing of old and new friends.

Thursday morning appeared in a flash! I was up and ready to meet up with Michael David first thing, and was then sidelined by texted requests for tape, deodorant, and my iron! (What? You DON'T bring an iron with you for an overnight trip?) After realizing that many stores in London are not open at 8am, I made my way to a twenty-four hour SuperStore, picked up the requested items, and finally arrived at Fanshawe, almost an hour later. Luckily our members were saved from Monster Lisa by a venti Chai latte!

Because my session, "I'm not calling you a tweeter/Just tweet @ me", was scheduled for that Thursday afternoon, I spent the morning panicking about public speaking, telling myself not say "like" a million times (not too sure if I accom-

plished that), and fielding directional and informational questions from our members. The lunch presentation by Carr MacLean provided some respite, although I did have to fumble my way through thanking representative Craig Martin for coming and speaking to us about various book repair techniques (thank you again, Carr McLean!). Those of you who saw me that day may have noticed that I was furiously texting. I was texting friends and family about how nervous I was!

3:15pm came too soon and I made my way to Room 3013 to get myself sorted. Embarrassingly enough, the room was almost full with our engaged, supportive members! **I just want to take this instance to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who came out to my session, asked questions, offered insight, and laughed along with me (not at me!)** Our members are funny, smart, encouraging, and pretty darn awesome. Each and every one who sat in and participated made me feel at ease and before I even noticed, my session had run its course and, in fact, went over its allotted time!

There was some mixing and mingling to be had at the Outback Shack for a BBQ dinner that night. I, again, bowed out. To be honest, although I may appear pretty social and comfortable, I'm pretty shy and not much of a mingle-er. And, after my session and stressing about it the entire day beforehand, I was pooped. I had also neglected my ECC duties and didn't tweet, Facebook, or take any pictures from the day! Bad External Communications Coordinator!

Onto Friday, which again came too fast! I arrived with coffee in hand, early enough to make up for my lateness the day before and ready to Conference! I told myself that I HAD to take time to attend some sessions and I am really glad that I did. I had the opportunity to sit in on "Actions of Rural Libraries: Becoming the Social Hub of a Community" with Amy Jennison, "As-tu un bon livre? Selecting French books for school-aged children" with Dawn Telfer, "A Quicki Wiki for the Forest of Reading" with Victoria Miller (she and I have even emailed since the conference!), and "The Secret Society of the Word Presents..." with my LIT friend, Angela Gillis (one of the most engaged moms and LIT students I have ever met!). Each of these sessions gave me ideas to take away and implement into my work as a school library LT,

as well as inspired thoughts and conversations to network with other members. Lunchtime brought along its own nightmares, namely wrong rooms and not enough food! After maniacal texts and phone calls we got things sorted and were treated to the fantastic Dewey Divas and their book picks. If you haven't yet borrowed or bought a book from their suggested lists, I HIGHLY recommend you do. I'm still finding great reads for my son, my school library, and myself! After lunch I attended Carolin Toppan's session, "Copyright - That Word We Love to Hate", which was the whole reason why I was able to get out from work to go to the Conference. Thanks Carolin! My last session of the day was Maria Ripley's, "You Can Do It!" If you weren't there, you really missed something special. Her session was fantastic and really inspiring. She is the impetus behind me running my first 5K at the Pinery this October!

I also had the chance to get a few pictures and tweets in (out?) that day, if you really wanted to know!

The Friday evening dinner focused on "Our 40 Years of Conferences: A Celebration", and allowed us the lovely opportunity to acknowledge our long-time OALT/ABO member and supporter, Pat Graham.

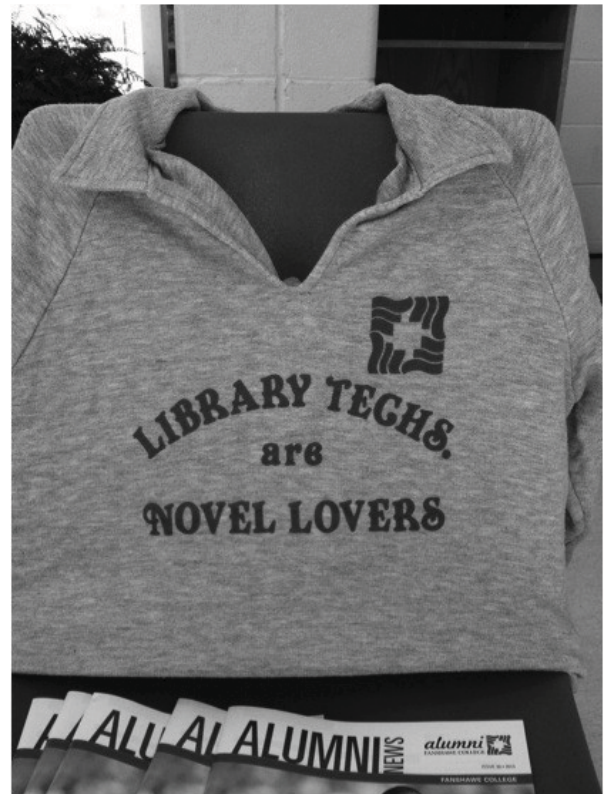
Saturday was the last Conference day and yes, it also came too soon! I flip-flopped between the last two sessions, taking distracting pictures of our presenters, "Beyond The Page: Connecting Authors and Young Readers" with Vikki Vansickle and "ILS on a shoestring budget: Open source software in a non-profit organization" with Zachary Osborne and Jolene Bennett. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was next and we, thankfully, had quorum!

A lot was discussed and voted upon, resolved, and put forward. Members interested in the details of the AGM should visit the 'Annual General Meeting' page on the OALT/ABO website, for more details (<http://www.oaltabo.on.ca/node/26>). Lunch was eaten, and finally our President and I made our way back to Toronto.

The end of the Conference came quickly. I feel that while I didn't have the chance to interact with as many members as I would have liked, I gained a real sense of how hard it is to put on such an event for

our members, and how much our members appreciate that hard work. Our Executive Board deserves a phenomenal **THANK YOU**, as do all the members from near and far who took the time to travel to London to present, attend, and support this Conference. The camaraderie developed and continued, the professional development opportunities had, and the acknowledgment of Library Technicians and all that we do, shown at our 40th Conference, was tremendous. I truly hope to see all our new and existing members at the 41st Annual Conference, next May!

So there you have it. My time spent at the 40th Annual Conference. If you ever see me in real life, ask me about what happened at my cousin's apartment that Friday night!



If you had a chance to take a peek at the Archival materials on display for us over the course of the Conference, you may have had the chance to lay eyes on what has got to be the BEST Library Technician propaganda, ever! I'm planning on making some t-shirts and buttons with this slogan and will definitely take orders! Email me if you want one!!

Lisa Elchuk is OALT/ABO's past External Communications Coordinator, the Library Technician at Crescent School, a lover of gardening, and a blather-er of words. You deserve a medal (or at least a button!) if you have made it this far! Email her for your button/t-shirt! lisa.elchuk@gmail.com

Rural Libraries: Actions to Connect with their Communities

By Amy Jennison

I would like to thank the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario for providing the opportunity for students to speak on a personal special interest topic. It helped my own presentation skills that I have been developing since my Strategies for Instruction for Library technician course (from Mohawk College). Though I was nervous about presenting in front of my peers my nerves were quickly calmed because everyone in attendance was very supportive of each other's ideas. There were so many interesting topics to listen to; RDA cataloguing was even made fascinating! I have taken back and have implemented similar ideas into my own workplace such as a Wikipeage for the teen reading program.

My own session, Rural Libraries: Actions to connect with their Communities, has become a large part of my life now. Since I began researching for this topic, I have decided to focus on rural libraries engagement with their communities and use it as a possible thesis when I go for my Masters of Library Science. As well, this topic and research I have done for it has been a great help at my own workplace. The Lambton County Library has a new initiative; Community led Libraries, in which the Library is to be the focus of the community through engaging programs and partnerships both within and outside of the library. Lambton Libraries enlisted the help of Pillars: Nonprofit Network to help instigate the project within each library branch in the county. My research was able to be used by Pillars to provide examples of other libraries who are community focused, a variety of programs and many different partnerships that libraries could utilize. Without the opportunity to speak at the conference, I would never have done the research for my session that is such a huge part of my life both academically and professionally.

I highly recommend to any student of a Library Technician program to take part in the OALT/ABO conference. Not only for the personal benefit of presenting an idea that you find interesting but to hear from other people about their own passions within the libraries and how what we are learning in our courses are being used in real workplace situations. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity.

The Secret Society of the Word

By Angela Gillis

Being chosen as a student presenter at the OLA/ABO conference 2013 was very exciting honour. The experience of sharing my ideas for professionals in the field of library science was a great opportunity. Everyone I met was incredibly friendly and welcoming, and very supportive of my session *The Secret Society of the Word*.

Being a first year student from a newly offered program at Durham College, I found leading a session at conference was a little intimidating at first. The power point has to be interesting, and informative. The topic needs to be well researched, and let's face it – the citations have to be perfect. I found, that after I began, the session was more like sharing my ideas on programming for adolescents, rather than a formal presentation.

There were many opportunities to socialize, and make connections with professionals in the field of library science. Pub night was relaxed, and through conversations with LibraryTechs working in vastly different settings, was able to appreciate different ideas. Breakfast was very social, and I was surprised at the many different places, and different jobs all the participants had. Lunch with the Dewey Divas was amazing, many people talking about their favourite authors, or making connections between books. As the perspective was uniquely Canadian, I was exposed to alto of literature from many genres I would otherwise not know of. It's true, librarians are friendly.

Although it sounds intimidating, creating and presenting the session at the OLA/ABO conference this spring was so much fun. I was also able to appreciate the diversity of jobs available in this field, and talk with others about what the future of information management might be, and the Information Techs' role.

Having this experience will be part of my College experience that I always remember, and take pride in achieving. Thank you to all those that attended my session: *The Secret Society of the Word*. It was an incredible experience to meet so many new people, and share my ideas with you. I look forward to seeing you all at the next conference.

A First Step

By Tim Yale

When I first read about the possibility of presenting at the OALT/ABO conference in London, Ontario I thought “This is pretty interesting but there must be loads of other people who have better ideas to share than me.” I mulled it over for a while and decided that just creating a proposal would be worth the experience so I put my ideas down and sent them off. Imagine my surprise when I got the message that they wanted me to actually present at the conference. The thought of getting up and speaking in front a room of experienced professionals about something I had only studied was suddenly frightening. After asking some of my colleagues why they were or weren’t interested in this kind of opportunity it became apparent that the library “personality”, introverted and analytical, does not always go well with public speaking.

Putting all shyness aside I started working on the meat of my presentation. In the Algonquin College LIT program during the first year of our studies we spent a lot of time practicing cataloguing techniques and my cohort was the first to study RDA cataloguing standards for an entire semester. We were told outright that we were guinea pigs in an experiment to see how the new standards could be taught and I felt that the conference would be a great place to review the results and get feedback from those in the profession about what we, as students, really should know. I was also confident about speaking on this subject because I had attended several sessions on RDA theory and practice and headed a student study group on RDA. However, all my experience with RDA was purely theoretical and from the perspective of a neophyte so I was looking forward to some more experienced opinions.

I arrived in London fresh and ready to learn. Luckily I wasn’t presenting until the 3rd day so I could relax a bit and enjoy some of the other sessions. There were plenty of presentations on technical topics but also lots of good information about managing your career. More importantly, a team from Ryerson was giving an introduction to RDA cataloguing. I went so I could get a feel for what the audience did or didn’t know about the topic. I discovered that for most of the people there this was still a very new idea and was able to go back and re-direct my presentation for that type of audience. I also realized the Q&A portion was going to be longer and more in-depth than I had anticipated.

The morning of my session I was nervous and drank way too much coffee. I have been in front of audiences enough times to know what not to do, don’t look at your notes too much, don’t talk too fast, make eye contact, but it’s always harder to remember when you are actually up there. Worries and caffeine jitters aside everything went as planned and I was able to navigate the sometimes tricky questions from the audience. I also got fantastic and useful feedback. One of my main questions was whether LIT students should continue to learn both AACR2 and RDA cataloguing standards or just focus on one or the other. Professionals working in the field were emphatic that because the change to RDA was not happening everywhere at the same time it is necessary for new Library Technicians to have a good grasp of both standards.

After my presentation I went from being just another person sitting in the back of the room to someone people knew. The people who had come to my session were very supportive, congratulated me and I even heard from people that had not attended that they had heard good things. OALT/ABO is not a big conference but I felt it was cozy enough that you could actually get to know people a bit more personally than if there were 1000’s of strangers there.

When I sent in my proposal to present at OALT/ABO I didn’t know what to expect. Frankly, I didn’t expect much of anything because I didn’t think I would actually be going. What I got was my first professional experience as a Library Technician. Despite the fact that I was only a student, people treated me with respect and were interested in what I had to say. I left the conference having made a few contacts (go networking!) but more importantly I felt confident that there is a place for me in this profession and that my colleagues not only welcome me but also take my ideas seriously.

Tim Yale is a 2nd year student in Algonquin College’s LIT program. He is also a member of Librarian without Borders and recently went with LWB on a service trip to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Kerry's Konference Kudos

To: the conference organizers.

It was truly amazing and well done. From what I heard and saw the speakers were truly awesome and inspiring. The tours were terrific and well thought out. Some glitches occurred but hey, if any conference went smoothly 100% I have some land in Florida.

To: the residence staff.

The continental breakfast staff was awesome. They were bright and cheery and willing to share some of their background. Some were even doing this for their first experience. My favourite crew was the "wafflers" (they actually made the waffles for you.)

To: the wakeup call

Instead of the usual ring tone of the phone, "Are you there" greeted you. The first time this happened, I sleepily answered "Yes" but then realized I had to lift the phone.

To: The front desk.

They were very professional and helpful during the "Curse of the recurring card reader hiccup". The card reader would work for a time then it would not work and lock you out. After they would come and look at it, just like the time you take your car to the garage for the problem and it disappears, the reader would work.

There are others deserving kudos but I could be like the energizer bunny and keep "going and going....."

In conclusion, the conference was a success == we had a quorum thus all is well with the world.

-Kerry McCauley

This is how **Kathryn Suffoletta** experienced the theme while attending Conference 2013.

Authors – Dewey Divas introduced recent works by dozens of them

Convener – I introduced my colleague Vanessa Jenner to her workshop participants

Tour – one rarely tours local landmarks so I took advantage of the opportunity and enjoyed the informative (and tasty) tour of Labatt's Brewery

In A Bag was Vanessa's workshop and Ignite Your Career was another that I attended

On line – wiki's, e-readers, blogs, websites, twitter, Printerest, Instagram, Facebook

Networking – an important benefit of attending the conference

Pat Graham Receives Lifetime Membership

My sincerest
THANK YOU to
you all – believe
me, I was thoroughly
taken aback and surprised
at this honour. So many
years, so many conferences
and so very many friends.



You have made a wise choice by becoming a member of the organization for it opens many doors in the work world and what it gives to its members. Library Techs can do anything and adapt to anything.

Keep on reaching out, facing whatever greets you, just as I did when the Library Technician program appeared at Algonquin College in Ottawa. Exactly what I wanted – and I am a graduate of Algonquin's first graduating class, way back in... '70-'72? Hey, I'm old, I forget...

Again, my most heartfelt thanks to my Ottawa Chapter and the OALT/ABO. NEVER let it die...

Pat Graham

My thanks to our President, Michael David Reansbury for being (in the absence of a Conference Coordinator) the driving force behind a successful 40th OALT/ABO Conference. My words, not his, as I'm sure he'd be the first to say he had help. As President though, he already had enough on his plate so deserves all the thanks (and support) we can give him for putting forth the extra effort it must have taken to keep moving forward through a challenging Association year.

How proud I always am to be a Technician. As Maria Ripley (in her "You Can Do It!" Conference session) and Pat Graham (in her acceptance of a lifetime OALT/ABO membership) reminded us, we can do anything. It is true. I was at the Halton-Peel Annual Meeting when Stella Clark, a first time meeting attendee, was nominated for President and said yes! I was at Conference when Michael David (a member with no Association experience at what might have been his first Conference) volunteered to be our President Elect. WOW! We really are amazing.

Change is afoot but that's OK. We are technicians. We are flexible. We will adapt. Pat made a quiet plea at Conference not to let this Association die. We heard you Pat!

-Tracy Morgan



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH
TO
SATURDAY, MAY 3RD, 2014

Queen's University – Kingston, ON
77 Bader Lane, K7L 3N8

<http://oaltabo.on.ca/node/473>

My Library Story . . .

Christine Halbert

Reading Buddy Volunteer

One of my proudest childhood moments was reading *The Boy in the Sock Drawer* by Robert Munsch – all on my own – to my classmates in Junior Kindergarten. I was an early reader, for which I thank my family. My parents and grandparents were always reading with me, which created some of my fondest childhood memories. It was a rare occasion that a bedtime story was refused! I was free to escape into a world of paper bag princesses and dragons, mice who eat cookies, and “yinks” that drink pink ink.

I loved the beautiful illustrations, and the hidden details some artists would add for those who were paying close attention. It was so easy to get lost in the world of fairy tales and fiction. That’s where I learned to be creative, to dream, and to continue to read and write.

One of the most important things a child can learn is to dream and embrace the world of make-believe. Our job as adults is to allow children to believe. To believe in themselves, each other, and in the future. To believe that dreams DO come true, and that fairy tales are as real as you want them to be.

Volunteering at KPL is a way for me to give back to my community and to inspire someone. Whether it is my Reading Buddy or another volunteer, my hope is that someone will take a line from a book I share with them and hold on to it. That simple line might just be something that changes their perspective – even their life.

“A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly... if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.”

~ Roald Dahl

This line has stayed with me since I was a child. It reminds me that positivity and a smile can change the way you see the world and how the world sees you.

Can you think of a line that changed you? Why not volunteer and share it with someone else?

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Are you inspired to volunteer?

Check out these opportunities:

Volunteer, Patient and Family Learning Centre at St. Michael's Hospital (Toronto)

Purpose: To provide assistance to Patient and Family Learning Centre users and to maintain the centre in good order.

1. Open/close the Centre to patients and visitors at the designated time
2. Respond to specific requests from patients and visitors
3. Educate users on the use of the Internet and the patient education database
4. Maintain the appearance of the collection
5. Maintain usage statistics
6. Ensure that resources are available and working (computers, printers, television)
7. Restock satellite locations (as needed)

Please send your resume/cover letter to:

patienteducation@smh.ca

Web Site assistant at TorontotheBetter (Toronto)

Description and duties:

Politically progressive multi-ethnic non-profit developing working on a 2015 Toronto Pan-Am Games related project needs help maintaining its websites. Primarily site maintenance on an irregular as-needed basis but creative ideas welcomed and research tasks also available. Ideal for an activist. Our field is social economics.

Qualifications:

Commitment to a better world for all along with web-site design, maintenance and research skills. Lively curiosity and sociability are musts. We are a worker co-operative.

This is volunteer but with the possibility of paid employment as projects emerge.

Apply by email:

tim@torontothebetter.net

NEED A JOB?

Do you want people to endorse you for a specific

SKILLSET?

Do you want to

CONNECT WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS?

then...

LINKEDIN IS FOR YOU!

The place for professionals, to find jobs and talk about their professions, where the only suit you may need is your birthday suit, the Association uses LinkedIn (fully clothed) so find us on:

LinkedIn

Why I joined the ListServ...

- I am a recent graduate of the LIT program at Seneca College, and am currently trying to find a job in the library field
- Georgian College & Barrie Public Library Technician
- I am a member of OALT
- Recent graduate of the LIT program at Seneca College, working part time (summer contract) at the St. Michael's Hospital Health Sciences Library
- Graduating from Library and Information Technician program in Oct. 2013 Mohawk College. To keep up-to-date with issues, events effecting LTs and job opportunities
- I am a new graduate from the LIT program and interested in the library work
- Applying to Library Technician program and would like to start learning about the issues
- I just graduated from Conestoga College and wish to keep up to date on what is happening in the Library Tech world. I went back to school after 30 years as a mature student and loved it
- I am entering my first year of the Library and Information Tech program at Durham College
- I'm a new member of OALT

2014 Presidential Award Nominations

Unfortunately we did not have a recipient for the 2013 Presidential Award. **We need you to get involved!**

If you are interested in nominating a member of OALT/ABO for the 2014 Presidential Award you may submit their nomination by Tuesday April 1, 2014 to:

OALT/ABO Nominations Committee
Attn: Maria Ripley
#68-3175 Kirwin Avenue
Mississauga, ON L5A 3M4
Email: mariaripley5261@hotmail.com

Details regarding the award, criteria for selection and the nominating form can be found at:
www.oaltabo.on.ca/node/43



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Welcome / Bienvenue

A very special welcome to all our new members:

Ayr Gaboury

Huijuan (Lucy) Dai

Wesleyann Johnson

David Smith

Members Celebrating 10 years of Membership

Corinna Law

Erica Mayhew

Lorraine Gordon

Dianne Nowoselski

Luisa Moniz-Fitzner

Brenda Carbone

Heather Lundberg

Maria Ripley

Members Celebrating 25 years of Membership

Brenda Morrisette

Did you know the librarian from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry?

Answers to the **Library Pop Quiz** below:



1)a 2)c 3)c 4)b 5)d

6)b 7)a 8)b 9)d 10)c

Call for Submissions

We would love to hear from you, all contributions are appreciated. This newsletter is your window of opportunity, to which YOU can send :

- * Professional development and education matter to us, so please send us your experiences
- * Upcoming events/workshops/training etc...
- * Updates about yourself, your work, job developments etc... How about telling us about a day in the life of your workplace?
- * New technologies/tools/database
- * Book reviews are a fantastic ice breaker if you are nervous about writing
- * Library related anecdotes, humour, interesting facts and quotes
- * Your blogs or blogs you enjoy, websites, your social cataloguing profiles; GoodReads, Shelfari, LibraryThing
- * Photographs

Please submit your articles to:

oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com

Submission guidelines:

- * 1500 words or less. We will accept longer submissions if room permits.
- * Microsoft Word Documents
- * Photos can be submitted in black and white or colour. Please send as a ".jpg" file.
- * Indicate the names of the people in photos you submit
- * With your submission please include your name and a line or two about yourself
- * We welcome articles in French

The deadline is December 15th

Thank you!