

# NewsLETTER NouvELLES

ISSN: 0229-2645 Publication Agreement # 40688591

Volume 37 No. 1 Winter 2014

## Message from your President

~ Michael David Reansbury



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.

Storytelling is something that all library technicians do more frequently than we are aware of. For most, storytelling imparts memories of sitting on a carpet in a half circle around a grownup who holds up a picture book in one hand while throwing their voice in comical representation of the speech of the story's characters and a more subdued tone while in the role of the narrator. The archetypical storyteller for those that have grown up in Canada is that of Robert Munch; hands gesticulating, voice modulating all over the spectrum, and eyes locked for the briefest of seconds with yours so that all other listeners of the story dissolve and for a moment the story is being told to, and for you alone.

While we often would not think of storytelling outside of this singular scenario, every library technician becomes a storyteller when we present a report to our coworkers in a staff meeting, write up a summary of the libraries activities for an annual report, and present a session at a conference.

The Association itself is a storyteller of and for the library technicians within the province. Through the NewsLETTER/NouvELLES, post to Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and emails the Association shares the story of our provincial colleagues with the membership. By having representatives of the Association sit on various committees within the college Library &

Information Technician programs, and other library organizations the story of library technicians is spread far and wide.

In order for the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario to maintain and expand its role of being the epicenter for the telling of the library technician story, members must take the initiative to come forward and take on the more formal responsibilities of ensuring that our story is told. The Association require eleven (11) members to come forward and be, for a time, the storytellers who can impart the library technician story loud and clear.

At this time on behalf of the Board of Directors I wish to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals and organizations for helping OALT/ABO tell its story:

To the members, new and old, who have sent in their membership form, in print with your cheque and also in digital to [info@oaltabo.on.ca](mailto:info@oaltabo.on.ca), for giving the Association the financial backing to continue telling the story.

To members of the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa: Jessica Reeve, Krystal Benn, Vincent Elit, Linda Landreville, and José Gélinas for organizing the Algonquin College Student Meet & Greet.

To the students and staff of the Durham, Mohawk, and Seneca Colleges, respectively, for their participation in the Student Meet & Greets.

To the members of the 2014 Conference Committee: Alexandra Mills, Jessica Reeve, Jill Ann Mathers, Donna Hunt, Lori O'Connor, and Cathy Case.

To the fifteen members and invited guest that attended the Annual Holiday Social at Ben McNally Bookstore.

Finally a thank you to those library technicians that will step forward so that the story of the Association remains in the present tense thus staving off the application of 'Once upon a time...and they lived happily ever after' to OALT/ABO.

Michael David Reansbury,

President, Board of Directors[/Storytellers]

#### **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.*

## **EDITORS** NOTE

As the holidays wind down and Conference season is upon us, the Board and it's appointed officers look forward to meeting with members and hope you take the opportunity to provide us with valuable feedback the Association will need in moving forward to the 2014/2015 term. This is an association built on a solid foundation of strong and supportive membership. We ask you to consider your strengths and where they may be utilized within the Association.

Sincerely,

Shannon Matthews

OALT/ABO Newsletter Editor

### **2013–2014 Board of Directors**

#### **Contact List**

**President: Michael David Reansbury**

michaeldavidreansbury@gmail.com

**President-Elect: Cindy Smith**

Cyndi.Smith@georgiancollege.ca

**Treasurer: Daisy Collins**

daisy.collins@gmail.com

**Membership Coordinator: Rachel Kelly**

kellyrachel12@hotmail.com

**External Communications Coordinator:  
Dana Schwarz**

danamschwarz@gmail.com

**Internal Communications Coordinator:  
Serena McGovern**

serena.mcgovern@georgiancollege.ca

**Newsletter Editor: Shannon Matthews**

oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com

**Conference Coordinator: vacant**

**Chapter Coordinator: vacant**

**Archivists: Amrita Maharaj & Kathi Vanden-  
heuvel**

amritakm@gmail.com

kathi.vandenheuvel@lambton.on.ca

By mail:

Ontario Association of Library Technicians /  
Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario  
Abbey Market, P.O. Box 76010  
1500 Upper Middle Road West,  
Oakville, ON, L6M 3H5

## In this issue...

- ◇ Message from Your President
- ◇ Editor's Note
- ◇ Board of Directors Contact Information
- ◇ Nominations for 2014 Board of Directors
- ◇ 2014 OALT/ABO AGM
- ◇ Seeking president for 2014
- ◇ Student Meet & Greets
- ◇ 41st OALT/ABO Conference
- ◇ Chapter updates
- ◇ OLA Super Conference 2014
- ◇ Member Spotlight
- ◇ OALT/ABO Holiday Social
- ◇ LIT Program updates
- ◇ "Psychological Capital"
- ◇ "10 films that feature libraries"
- ◇ SOLS update
- ◇ "Spreading literacy with little libraries"
- ◇ "In praise of libraries"
- ◇ "Making sense of life through story"
- ◇ Storytellers of Canada
- ◇ Presidential Award Nominations
- ◇ Confessions of a YA junkie
- ◇ Jorie Loves a Story
- ◇ "Is Powerpoint Dead?"
- ◇ "Technologically Trendy"
- ◇ Libraries around the world
- ◇ Unshelved

## Nominations for 2014

### Board of Directors

As of Wednesday, January 1, 2014 the Nomination Committee, comprised of Michael David Reansbury, Rachel Kelly, and Lisa Elchuk, received no nomination nor application for positions on the Board of Directors or as Appointed Officers of the Association. In accordance with the Association's Bylaw, Section 14, the Nominating Committee will accept further nominations, accompanied by written acceptance of the nominee, entered by petition of five (5) members and shall be filed said petitions with the Board of Directors at least three (3) months (Monday, February 3, 2014) prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Those members wishing to submit a Petition for Nomination to Board of Directors Position available for download on our website:  
<http://www.oaltabo.on.ca/>

The following positions may become vacant in 2014:

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

#### **Spotlight on MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**

The Board of Directors is seeking a Membership Coordinator for the 2014-2015 membership year. Position responsibilities include maintaining accurate membership records, assigning and maintaining web access to association members, responsible for membership renewal and the new membership drive for the 2014-2015 membership year, generating accurate lists as required, attending board meetings and assisting with all association activities. This position is a volunteer position as the entire Board of Directors is fueled by the efforts of volunteers. This is a fantastic opportunity for new grads or anyone who has not been active in the association and is interested in getting involved.

***Get involved! It's a great networking opportunity and a fantastic experience. The Ontario Association of Library Technicians/ Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario is your association and is the voice of library technicians in Ontario; add your voice to the mix.***

Email [info@oaltabo.on.ca](mailto:info@oaltabo.on.ca) for more information about other positions on the Board of Directors.

**On Saturday, May 3, 2014** the membership of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario will assemble as an organization to reminisce about the year's accomplishments, and to plan for the future, at the Annual General Meeting. This year will mark my third address to the membership as President. In the past two addresses I have given to the membership I have chosen to highlight only the achievements of the Association, and it has achieved a great deal in its forty-one years. As I begin preparations to write my third, and final address, I reflect on the past three years of my presidency and contemplate that I have failed the Association and its members.

I have taken time to read the archived issues of the *NewsLETTER/NouvELLES*, found on the Association's website, and have noted a common theme in the messages from past presidents: a continued and constant plead for members to step forward and sit on the Board of Directors or become Appointed Officers. During my presidency I have always couched the issue of the Association's failure to inspire members to take these positions as simply that, the Association's failure. If the Association's made board meeting minutes available would members read them, be inspired by the achievements of the board and appointed officers and nominate themselves or others? If the Nominating Committee was struck at the beginning of each year to single out and actively pursue the nomination of members with matching skill sets for positions, would the nominating roster be full? If the Association had a job board, a mentoring committee, online payment of membership dues, would the perceived increase in membership these activities would generate translate into an increase in nominations received?

Or if the Association having done all or some of these initiatives, thus raising the bar of what members expect

of the Association and the amount of work that the volunteers who step forward to sit on the Board and as Appointed officers, would lead to not. A call for nominations would go out, and a handful, if any, nominations would be returned.

I have failed the Association and its members in that I have not called for a special conference of the Association to discuss the matter of nominations, which at its core reflects the future of the Association. I have asked colleagues to step forward and assume a role on the board and as an appointed officer, only to work them to the point of exhaustion and often frustration in the name of the Association; thus failing them. I have gotten on with the business of the Association, having planned two conferences, thinking it is better to continue with business as usual instead of stating the obvious: that things are not 'usual'; thus I failed the Association.

At this year's Annual General Meeting I shall do what I should have done some time ago and call a special conference of the Association. I will not use the conference as a platform for the discussion of nominations, the future of the Association, as I would not be respecting the work of the Conference Committee and the current Board in detracting from the sessions and social events, by having a special conference compete with the conference. On a more personal level I cannot partake in a special meeting of the Association during conference as it would undo me: for I can honestly say that my past three years of being president have left me tired.

It is my hope that the members that do attend the conference will take the time to speak with members who now sit, or have sat on the board and as appointed officers to get a better appreciation of the work and energy that these volunteers put into the Association. I hope that members who have sat on

the provincial association and that of chapters will share their stories honestly and frankly with all members of the Association, so that the true and honest story of the Association, that of the volunteer members who for forty-one years have allowed the Association to achieve such feats, may be told far and wide.

When a special conference of the Association is called, with three (3) prior months' notice, I hope that all members make an effort to attend or to make their opinion known by appointing a proxy, so that an honest and sincere discussion may take place as to whether the members of the Association have and are asking for too much from so few.

There are four possible outcomes from the successful\* convening of a special conference:

1. The membership votes to continue to have the Association function in the same capacity it has. A few members nominated themselves, or coerce their colleagues into nominating their selves to fill or nearly fill the positions on the Board. Another membership year will come and go and a further plead will go out for nominations, and the never ending cycle of pleading continues.
2. Members admitted openly the failure of the Association's membership to meet requirements of providing adequate levels of personage to the positions on the board and that of appointed officers. That a path towards a plan for reorganization and restructuring is begun with a clear caveat that if this process of reorganization and restructuring should fail to affect the changes needed that the Association will pursue option 3 or 4.
3. The Association seeks to amalgamate with another organization that has the administrative ca-

capacity, expressed in terms of paid staff, to lessen the burden of the board and appointed officers and allow the Association, in its new form, to continue the mandate of the mission set out forty one years ago.

4. The Association seeks to dissolve itself and its chapters.

\*Note: A special conference will be deemed to be successful if the requirement in numbers of members attending or appointing proxy allows the Association to achieve quorum.

Throughout my presidency I have attempted to keep my personal opinions on a number of issues to myself so as not to sway any member. I shall now break that policy and openly state that if the membership elects for the Association to continue to function as it currently is, that that is not an Association I can continue to support and I shall revoke my membership.

I have much respect for the mental facilities of the membership of the Association to seek out the information they require to come to their own informed decision regarding the Association. During its history the Association has, at least twice, reevaluate and restructured itself to meet declining membership and vacancy on the board. The path forward will not be easy, but it is nonetheless a path that the membership must undertake.

The nature of an individual story is this: it has a beginning, middle, and ultimately an end. And while there is a continuing fluctuation in individual stories the great story, The Story if you like, continues on. So while the future of the OALT/ABO story may be uncertain, take some comfort, and I hope joy and enthusiasm, in knowing that each member now has the opportunity to be an author, for a time, in the Association's story and that whatever may come that the story of Ontario's library technicians has only just begun.

# OALT/ABO AGM—May 3, 2014

## Annual General Meeting / Assemblée générale annuelle

The 41st Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/  
Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario will be held on on **Saturday, May 3, 2014** :

Bioscience Building Room 1120,  
116 Barrie Street, Queen's University,  
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3J9

Members in good standing, who are unable to attend the meeting in person may by means of proxy appoint a proxyholder, or one or more alternative proxyholders, who need not be members, as the member's nominee to attend and act at the meeting in the manner, to the extent and with the authority conferred by the proxy . A member wishing to appoint by proxy, a proxyholder(s) are required to complete the following form, signing and dating it, and giving it to the proxyholder to return to the chair of the annual general meeting, the president of the association, prior to the call for order on Saturday, May 3th.

Proxy form can be found as an insert in this newsletter.

## **Cyndi Smith, regretfully, will not be your OALT/ABO President for 2014.**

In this situation, it is a requirement that someone step forward to take up the position. The association is not able to run without a president. In today's climate, and it has been mentioned here before, other library associations have faltered and had to fold without enough volunteers to run the business of an association.

This association is unique, not only in Ontario, but in Canada, and North America. I have sat at the tables of other provincial library associations and not found one that is dedicated solely to the needs of the technician. Many library associations do not even use the term library technician in the description of their populace, but use the very broad brush term of library staff.

### **What the OALT/ABO already has:**

Your association, the OALT/ABO, has a charter, a good support base, new and innovative ideas already implemented to draw new members, a solid legal basis, healthy finances, and the specificity of mission to serve the needs of library technicians.

Are you aware of the value of those things? They are rather rare right now in the library world.

### **What the OALT/ABO needs:**

It needs a leader someone with good organizational skills and a good grasp of the political situation for libraries in Ontario, to step forward and take on the following tasks:

- to model the professionalism of library technician to libraries, librarians, governments, collegial library associations and the general public
- to effectively communicate between fellow organizations, our own members, and relevant associations the needs and changes for library technicians
- to observe fiscal responsibility for the money of the association
- to delegate the tasks that run the association
- to provide supervision or backup for said delegation
- oversight of the conference organization and execution
- adherence and/or creation of policies and procedures

While the job sounds onerous, it is not. It simply calls for a desire to advance the associations aspirations, managerial or administrative abilities and the ability to form a good rapport with people. The time commitment is not as great as you may fear and it will provide you with worthy library connections, a sense of satisfaction, additional skills, and entries to put on your resume.

The fact is, if you want to keep the OALT/ABO, you may need to volunteer. Nominations were opened last month, however, anyone can step forward right up until the AGM at the Conference as volunteer for any position. The reality is, it is very important that someone does just this.



## **OALT/ABO Student**

### **Meet & Greet**

In November, Michael David and I had the privilege to meet and speak with LIT students of Mohawk, Seneca and Durham College. A virtual Meet & Greet was held with the students of Mohawk on Tweet Chat where they could ask any questions about the Association or questions to Michael David and I about being LIT graduates in the working field. They were able to send us a message by using the hashtag #oaltabo.

Seneca and Durham Colleges welcomed us into their classrooms to meet their students to discuss our Association and also answer any questions about being an LIT. It was my first experience visiting the students and speaking to them on Twitter and I had a really great time. The variety of questions and the friendly faces made the experience all the more fun. I cannot wait to do it again next year!

Michael David and I want to thank everyone who came out to meet us. We really enjoyed meeting all the soon-to-be Library and Information Technicians. We also want to thank Dolores Harms Penner, Susan Pratt, and Deborah Kay for giving us the opportunity to speak with the students.

-Michael David Reansbury & Dana Schwarz

*Location  
Innspired!*



**Holiday Inn®**  
Kingston - Waterfront

*Welcome OALT/ABO to Kingston!*

*You are here*



2 Princess Street t. 613-549-8400  
[www.hikingstonwaterfront.com](http://www.hikingstonwaterfront.com)



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>

TO

SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2014

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

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

# Initiative & Innovation: a sneak peek

The 41<sup>st</sup> annual conference of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario will be held from the evening of Wednesday, April 30 to the afternoon of Saturday, May 3, 2014 at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

Registration for the conference will begin on Monday, March 3, 2014, with payment by VISA and Mastercard ONLY. Cancellation of registration with full refund will be allowed until Friday, April 11, 2014, after which time cancellation of registration will receive no refund.

During the conference onsite registration will be allowed, again payment by VISA and Mastercard ONLY. Onsite registration will NOT include lunches and social events as numbers required for ordering of provisions for these events will have been submitted in advance of the events.

Information related to the conference, as it becomes available, will be posted to the Association's website at:

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

Here are, but a few, highlights:

## Wednesday, April 30

The opening reception will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This event is being sponsored by Carr Mclean.

## Thursday, May 1

Session will begin at 9:30 a.m. and finish at 4:15 p.m. Conference attendees and those wishing to register will be able to do so beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Session 1: Nancy McCormack, an Associate Professor and a Law Librarian at Queen's University and author of *Managing Burnout in the Workplace: A guide for information professionals*, will examine what burnout is, how it develops and how to avoid, manage, cope with and overcome burnout in the workplace, specifically that of the information professional.

Session 9: Stéphane Lévesque, an Associate Professor and director of the Virtual History Lab at the University of Ottawa, will offer a bilingual session on how to design and deliver history activities through online inquiry-based

learning strategies using the VirtualHistorian.ca.

Tour: A self-guide tour of **Canada's Penitentiary Museum**, the award-winning museum dedicated solely to the preservation and interpretation of the history of our federal penitentiaries.

## Friday, May 2

Sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and finish at 4:15 p.m. Conference attendees and those wishing to register will be able to do so beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Session 17: Heather Stuart will review the nature of mental illness related stigma and its consequences for people with a mental illness, in addition to examining the role of mental health literacy (information and misinformation) in perpetuating social stereotypes and social intolerance.

Session 20: Karin Davidson Taylor, with 17 years' experience with the Upper Grand DSB before joining Royal Botanical Gardens, will demonstrate how RGB uses videoconferencing technology to interact in real-time with cultural organizations as well as other libraries throughout North America.

Tour: Conference attendees will have the opportunity for an up-close tour of Kingston's UNESCO site with a **1000 Islands Cruises – Discovery Cruise**.

## 41 Years of Initiative & Innovation: a celebration

The celebration will begin, at 6:00 p.m., with a free reception in the Fireside Room where the Association will recognize years of membership as well as bestowing awards. A dinner will follow the reception for those who elect, and pay, with attendees proceeding to the Lower Dining Room for dinner which will conclude at 9:00 p.m.

## Saturday, May 3

Session 20: Alexandra Mills will walk attendees through which social media sites are popular among libraries, in addition to discussing how to identify your audience, setting goals, staff commitment, and measuring success.

The Conference will close with the Annual General Meeting from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Association's President, Treasurer, and Conference Coordinator will deliver reports, in addition to hearing from members.

# OALT/ABO WANTS TO HONOUR YOU!

Each of us are a member of OALT/ABO for a reason. Many of you are active members or have been active members of the Association and we want to honour you. The 2014 Nominations committee consisting of myself, Maria Ripley, Pam Casey and Susan Morley are seeking nominations for those who are deserving of the OALT/ABO Presidential Award 2014. Let's not let another year pass without a recipient! As the recipient of the 2012 award, I am honoured to be part of the growing list of honourees since 1985 - Liz Aldrey ('85), Pat Graham ('89), Susan Morley ('96), Doug Willford ('11) to name a few - who have volunteered numerous hours to keep our Association viable and alive. We know there are others out there - please consider pulling together a nomination today!

## **PRESIDENTIAL AWARD**

The Ontario Association of Library Technicians/ Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario Presidential Award is presented annually to any full member, in good standing, of OALT/ABO (excluding the current Provincial President, members of the Award Committee and past recipients). This award recognizes the contributions of Library Technicians from communities across Ontario, whose leadership, com-

mitment and persistent endeavours have contributed significantly to advancing the Association and our profession. The OALT/ABO Presidential Award Selection Committee consists of the previous award recipient and two additional members, in good standing, of OALT/ABO. The Selection Committee will seek candidates who generally meet the following criteria :

1. Member of OALT/ABO.
2. Evidence that the Association has played a significant role during the individual's professional career.
3. Demonstrated leadership in helping others achieve full participation in the library profession within the Association and / or within the work place.
4. Outstanding contribution in building the Association either regionally or provincially.
5. Advanced recognition of the Library and Information Technician profession through publications, seminars, or workshops.

Two members in good standing, who are not related to the candidate, may sponsor candidates for the OALT/ABO Presidential Award.

Nomination forms can be found on the OALT/ABO website: <http://oaltabo.on.ca/node/43> and should be submitted no later than April 1st, 2014.

***Don't delay - nominate today!***

# HALTON-PEEL HAPPENINGS

A fall social event was the highlight of the year for Halton-Peel Chapter. On Sunday September 29 we met for brunch at Cora's in Ancaster. Over a leisurely brunch we were able to catch on news in both our professional and personal lives. We certainly are a busy group.

After enjoying a leisurely meal and lots of conversation we headed for Dundas to participate in Culture Days, held this year at the Carnegie Gallery (<http://www.carnegiegallery.org>). The Carnegie Gallery, a not-for-profit, artist-run gallery and gift shop, is operated by the Dundas Art and Craft Association. They have nicely renovated and updated the old Dundas Carnegie Library (built in 1910) to provide a pleasant setting for the Gallery.

At the Gallery we met a new Halton-Peel member, Wesleyann, from Michigan. She had traveled by bus to join our outing. Kudos to Wesleyann for making an effort to attend the event. In comparison the rest of us had a short trip.

The group enjoyed strolling around the gallery looking at the exhibits of art and craft by local artists members. On this day the demonstration was making collages. Some of us used our artistic talents to create a collage. It's interesting to see the artistic talent in our group (or in my case lack of talent).

It's always good to get together with friends and colleagues from the association. I know its difficult in our busy life's to find time to attend an event such as this. Whenever I'm able to fit meeting with OALT-ABO members I am reminded of the great associations that I have had over the years and know that it is well worth extra effort to attend these events. We can't forget the hard work that goes into organizing. Thanks to Vicky Lynham for all her efforts.

Liz Aldrey



# Updates from the Ottawa Chapter/ Section d'Ottawa

On Monday October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 OALT/ABO's Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa held its Student "Meet and Greet" at Algonquin College. This event is organized each Fall to bring together Chapter members with Library and Information Technician Students.

Our Students are our future. Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa is committed to our local LIT population. We want them to be aware of the value of belonging to OALT/ABO. With an attendance of 35 students and members, the agenda for our evening included social interaction with Students and a couple of Presentations.

The ceremonial portion of our program was brief. It was such a pleasure to see honours bestowed upon two people at both ends of our Career spectrum. Firstly, our Chapter President Jessica Reeve formally presented **Esenia Jubea** with the OALT/ABO Algonquin Outstanding Student Award. Throughout her LIT Program, Esenia excelled in her studies as well as distinguishing herself in a leadership role.



A second tribute was given to a member who has achieved a rare distinction in our Organization. **Pat Graham** received a Lifetime Membership in OALT/ABO at our Annual Conference in May and her Chapter wanted to recognize her achievement in front of the LIT Students, one of which being her Grand-

daughter! As one of the founding members of our Association in 1973, Pat has never wavered in her support of Library and Information Technicians. Although she often jokes that she is "...older than dirt", this woman is still young at heart and enthusiastic.

Below is a photo of a long time member, Linda Landreville presenting Pat with a Bouquet.



In spite of some challenges, our Chapter remains active. To finish off 2013, we held our annual Holiday Social that was held on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Our group was small; nevertheless, we had a very nice time. The New Year holds a lot of promise; however, we cannot be successful without new and existing members coming forward to volunteer. 2014 officially marks 40, continuous years that the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa has been a part of OALT/ABO. Let's not see this streak end!

Stay tuned for more events and updates from the Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa when our website is relaunched this winter. The Ottawa Executive and Committees can be contacted at [ottawa.oaltabo@gmail.com](mailto:ottawa.oaltabo@gmail.com)

Linda Landreville  
Communications Committee  
Ottawa Chapter/Section d'Ottawa

# Meeting the OALT/ABO Community

## One Member at a Time

Jeanette Charlebois

*2013 OALT/ABO Student Award Winner from Mohawk College*



I am honoured to receive the Mohawk College **OALT/ABO Outstanding Student Award**. I am currently, and happily, employed at Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library as a Library Service Associate/Cataloguer. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading (I lean towards historical fiction, and any non-fiction related to cooking or fitness,) visiting museums and art galleries, coaching soccer, and being physically active.

### ***How I became a library technician and why I love my job***

One day on the grounds of my boys' elementary school, a fellow mom approached me to go for a jog. I had seen her jogging the old rail trail and she must have noticed my morning walk/jog routine. She also knew of my passion for books and reading having seen each other at our local library – Welland Public Library. Thinking this was her way of starting a mom's run club – and I do take fitness seriously – I was amazed when I found out her real motivation. She told me I should be in the Library and Information Technician program at Mohawk College, which she was currently studying. She told me how convenient the program would be for me – I am a single mom raising two boys - with all courses online and the option to take as many or as few courses as I could manage. She even went so far as to give me her Ontario Learn contact and urged me to contact Dolores Harms Penner, the Program Manager. Dolores made the process easy and I was on my way to earning my Library Technician Diploma! Kudos to Mrs. Louanne Penny – winner of Mohawk College's Geraldine Hughes Award, fellow graduate, and friend – thanks for that jog.

For anyone who feels libraries are a magical place, working in a library is a dream job. I am now a Library Service Associate/Cataloguer at Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library. My fellow staff is fantastic to work with. Everybody has their area – my love of technical stuff has me cataloguing – but we all help in serving library

patrons, promoting the library and its programs (Wine & Words anyone!), and making sure things run smoothly. We are currently switching our non-fiction from Dewey to C3, which makes me feel cutting-edge – and although creating Dewey numbers was one of my favourite courses to take, I support our use of C3 simply because it makes it easier for our patrons.



Tell us about yourself! Send us a glimpse of what it's like in your library, what prompted you to work in the library and information field, what is it you find most rewarding about your line of work. We're all library technicians but we each play very different roles in the every day operations of our workplaces. Let's use this platform to learn from and inspire one another.

Send your submissions (1500 words or less) to [oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com)

# 2013 OALT/ABO Holiday Social

Ben McNally Books, Toronto



**Michael David Reansbury, Dana Schwarz, Barbara Fanchetto, Rosanne Renzetti, Kelly Sobie, Anna Botelho, and Liesl Joson and husband**

**Daisy Collins, Alexandra Skiljevic, Gifty Aful, Cathy Rivard, Maria Ripley, and Erica Mayhew**



**Daisy Collins, Dana Schwarz, Michael David Reansbury, and Kelly Sobie**

## Update from Mohawk College- Library and Information Technician Program

Happy New Year to OALT/ABO members from the faculty and staff of the Library and Information Technician Program at Mohawk College. We hope that you have had an enjoyable holiday season and that you're greeting the new year feeling refreshed and energetic.

At Mohawk's annual Continuing Education convocation in October we were very pleased to recognize 56 graduates from the library technician diploma program and 16 graduates from the records management certificate program. The evening was a great opportunity to meet each other and to celebrate everyone's accomplishments. This fall we honoured three of our graduates in particular with awards based on their academic achievement: Valerie Blyth with our Library Technician Award, Louanne Penny with the Geraldine Hughes Cataloguing Award and Jeanette Charlebois with the OALT/ABO Award. All of our graduates can be proud of their hard work in achieving their goal by completing the program.

We want to thank the OALT/ABO Executive for hosting the second annual virtual meet and greet for our students, on Friday November 8. A number of our students participated, and enjoyed the opportunity to interact with representatives of the association via TweetChat and email. One of our students has written a separate piece for this newsletter expressing her appreciation.

Winter term courses in our program will begin on Tuesday January 14. We will accept registrations for winter term courses until Monday January 20. We had a successful fall term and expect that the same will be true for winter.

OALT/ABO members may be interested in these or other courses in our program for professional development. Our courses are all taught online. Courses that you may want to consider this winter are:

COMMLT225 Genre Fiction and Readers' Advisory Service

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

Our course offerings for upcoming terms are listed at <http://ce.mohawkcollege.ca/library> under "Program of Studies".

Winter will again bring the annual OLA SuperConference in Toronto. Our program from Mohawk will again be joining with the library technician programs from Seneca, Algonquin and Durham colleges, as well as the OALT/ABO, to share a booth in the exhibits area. Students, instructors and grads from our program at Mohawk will go out for lunch together on Friday January 31. If you are at the conference, please stop by our booth to say hello.

If you have any questions about our courses, please contact me at 905-575-2309 or email [dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:dolores.harmspenner@mohawkcollege.ca)

Dolores Harms Penner, Program Manager

Library and Information Technician Diploma Program  
Records and Information Management Certificate Program

Mohawk College

## ***More about the student meet & greet...***

By Vicki Miller, Library and Information Technician student, Mohawk College

Many thanks to the board of OALT/ABO for their on-line meet and greet on November 8, 2013. This was the first virtual meet and greet I had attended, made easy by accessing Twitter and my gmail account.

The board members were welcoming and encouraging with all who asked questions. They provided responses about their personal situations, such as how to demonstrate multi-tasking, when going to an interview. It was also interesting to see the variety of positions that board members held. Some were in the public sector, as public library technicians, and some were in the private sector, for example, at banks and law offices. This spectrum gives students a broad vision of where library technicians are employed. It was a very casual format enabling members of the profession to gather together and share a voice. I look forward to meeting some of them in person at the upcoming Superconference in Toronto at the end of January.

## **LITs @ Seneca College**

This Fall 2013, we welcomed 71 new first semester students. These students joined our 77 returning third semester students. We also welcomed Cynthea Penman to our full-time faculty. Cynthea has been teaching at Seneca in the full-time program for the past four years on a part-time basis.

For the first time, the third semester students participated in three-week length field placements rather than the former two-week length field placements. The change was met with positive reviews by both students and field placement supervisors. In order to maintain the same number of classroom hours as with the former two-week field placements, students attended one extra period in each of their subjects for the six weeks of classes prior to the field placements.

Closely following the third semester students' field placements was the visit by Michael David Reansbury and Dana Schwartz for the annual OALT/ABO Meet and Greet. As always, students were invigorated by the event. Below is the announcement viewed by all Senecans about it.

### **Seneca grads return to share career advice**

Seneca graduates Michael David Reansbury and Dana Schwartz recently returned to the College to provide third semester students from the Library and Information Technician program with insights into their future careers as part of the annual Ontario Association of Library Technicians (OALT) meet and greet event held at Newnham Campus. Michael David is the President of OALT and is employed as the Circulation Desk Administrator at the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine, while Dana is OALT's External Communications Co-ordinator and also works as a Legal Information Services Specialist at RBC.

***For more information on the 2013 OALT/ABO Student Award Winner from Mohawk College, see the feature on Page 10!***



We now are preparing for the Winter 2014 semester. We expect it to be a busy time. One important activity is our program review. This is an internal review conducted by Seneca College which all of its programs undergo every number of years. Areas such as student retention and employment rates are some of the areas for review.

We also look forward to seeing some of you at OLA's Super Conference. We will be in the Exhibitor's area with the other LIT programs and OALT/ABO.

Deborah Kay

Professor and Coordinator Library and Information Technician Program

Seneca College

# Psychological Capital

By Maggie Weaver

Miles has grown, physically and mentally, since I last wrote about his risk-taking capacities. Once a tumble-down toddler, he has become the cat equivalent of a black-run skier. And he's developed some "traits and attitudes – known as psychological capital – [which] are key to employee performance, and help foster a healthy and happy workplace."

In fact, he is all the things a desirable employee should be, according to Jamie Gruman, who was interviewed for Globe Careers (The Globe & Mail, December 13, p.B12). Miles has the "four personal resources" that make up his character as an individual: **hope, optimism, confidence and resilience.**

**Hope and optimism** are innate in Miles, as in many people. They lead to his risk-taking, and sometimes a failure to take account of details that impede progress [*must mend that window screen, again*]. On the other hand, pessimists make good planners, because they work out all the angles before handling a situation that might turn out badly. Dusty, for instance, has two spots and a third as yet unidentified hidey-hole for evading the cleaning lady's vacuum. If you tend to pessimism, play up such defensive strategies as a useful trait in certain careers and situations.

Missing the stairs, Miles and Dusty invented a condo race course. It's a mix of cross-country running and hurdles, involving the tops of every easy chair and sofa, two coffee tables, a U-turn in the solarium, and a wonderfully slippery rug for the grand finale [*be careful using that end-table – it wobbles badly now*]. So we bought a cat tower with platforms.

With new employees or new situations, Mr. Gruman advises employers to help **build confidence progressively**. He would probably applaud the "cat tower exercise" for building confidence: Ignore the bottom layer, that's for wussies not pussies. The first nest is lower than a chair, the second layer is an easy leap – chubby Dusty has claimed that one. The third layer needs chair assistance, and the fourth layer involves a forceful mid-way bounce off the bedside table [*oops, put "light bulb" on the shopping list*].

It took about six months for Miles to reach the top nest. It turns out there are several ways to do it, depending on his mood and the whereabouts of Dusty. If she is

asleep on a layer, the best way is to climb the carpeted pole like a bear, spreading dismay and consternation on the way up. If she is coming fast behind, then race along the hallway, long-jump onto the bed and vault onto the top, leaving Dusty puffing at the bottom [*torn duvet covers make good dusters, I've found*].

Once Miles achieved the top nest, his confidence knows no bounds. He's regularly seen among the over-size china atop the dresser [*too bad about Grandma's antique soup tureen – it was really quite ugly, anyway*]. From there he can reach the ceiling – and the money spiders on the window-frame.

**Resilience** is the one trait that we all need throughout our careers. Employers, the economy, our families, and fate will all contrive to deliver the unexpected, and we will need to recover to normal. Mr. Gruman notes that resilience "is the one element of social capital that develops out of the other three." Perhaps that's why Miles never has a problem bouncing back, and bouncing on.

So Miles is ace with psychological capital. He's pretty good, too, with intellectual and social capital, the other attributes of good employees.

**Intellectual capital** is what you know – and Miles knows a lot. When standing on your head to show off to visitors, do it on a chair with arms so falling over is dignified. Narrow surfaces must be flat (bookshelf) not round (balustrade) when taking a stroll. Liquids should be sniffed carefully, in case they contain bubbles – but pop-can holes make a noise when snuffled into. String needs to be pulled, not pushed. Surprises are fun. Lemon curd is edible. Being supervised makes the cleaning lady happy. Don't sit on the stapler. 0% milk is not worth begging for [*this proves that cats can distinguish green and red, at least on milk cartons*]. Electronics are warm. Avoid the enlarging side of the make-up mirror. Toffee papers fall down air vents [*entropy*]. You can't bite water. Humans like tummy rubs. ...

**Social capital** is who you know. Miles knows everyone who has ever visited – but perhaps I should help out and get him a Facebook page so he can know people who haven't visited?

Miles would be an ideal employee, and should have no trouble supporting me in my old age. Please mention him to anyone who may be hiring.

## 10 films that feature libraries

By Serena McGovern

### 1. Ghostbusters

This one will always be my favorite number one library scene and I may or may not be alone here. I was too young when I saw this movie, and certain aspects scared me, in fact the opening scene with the ghost library worker scared me, and til this day the music and the cards from the card catalogue flying all over the place creeps me out. Now that I'm older I wonder who is going to have clean that up and put all those cards back in order.

### 2. Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade

Who doesn't flip out when Indiana Jones finds the X in the floor at the library of Alexandretta? I know, I also tend to feel bad when they have to break the beautiful floor to get to where they need to go, but it's all part of the adventure.

### 3. The Breakfast Club

Sure, they had detention on a Saturday and were forced to sit in the library, but they still managed to get into some scrapes and more importantly they learned to look beyond the physical, the labels and see the people within. We always knew the library could change lives and I guess the breakfast club did too.

### 4. Beauty and the Beast

Ignoring the fact that Belle was a prisoner I would say that every one who has seen beauty and the beast knows that one of the main settings is the library. A library so beautiful and filled with so many books, it's every library worker's dream right? I wonder if Belle ever did finish reading all the books in that library? and if they ever opened that library to the public?

### 5. All The Presidents Men

I originally watched all the president's men, well for Robert Redford, the man has the most perfect hair. Follicles aside, I was struck by how well utilized the library was in this film as it played an integral part into the story as also gave us one of the coolest looking shots of a library ever put to film.

### 6. Monsters University

Okay I know another kid's movie, however I thought it was ingenious and hilarious how they had to creep around the library to get the flag without disturbing the monster library worker, I know it plays directly into the stereotypes that we try to break away from, but it's so well done, I couldn't resist adding it in here.

### 7. Atonement

Who knew a library could be so steamy? The tryst between Kiera Knightly and James McAvoy takes place in a personal library, to which my thought is, thank goodness!. It would be completely awkward to have to break up something so ummm well shall we say personal?

### 8. J. Edgar

The first date that J Edgar goes on in the movie he takes his date to the library of congress and tells her about the new card cataloguing system and asks her to pick any topic and time him as he tries to find it. The card cataloguing system was revolutionary and the library was nice, but this has to be one of the more awkward first dates ever put to film, not to mention that J. Edgar proposed as well....awkward.

### 9. Seven

From awkward moments to eerie. Seven is a beautifully crafted creepy movie. There is a scene that takes place in the library where Morgan's Freeman's character learns about what the suspect has been reading, and it's not pretty. The scene is all lit with those infamous green table top lights and it gives the viewer an uneasy feeling, add the fact that Suite No. 3 in D Major, BWV 1068 Air by Bach is playing just completes that feeling.

### 10. Harry Potter (all of them)

It's only fitting that the series that started a reading frenzy should have a very cool library in it as well. I love the Harry Potter libraries which changed with every film, however where were the helpful library staff? Or maybe Hermione was just smart to ask a library worker for help, if she had perhaps they could have found how to breathe under water quicker.



## Barbara Franchetto Appointed As Chief Executive Officer and Secretary/Treasurer For Southern Ontario Library Service

The Southern Ontario Library Service Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Barbara Franchetto as its new Chief Executive Officer and Secretary/Treasurer following a comprehensive search process. Ms. Franchetto has been Director of Services at SOLS since 2005 and prior to that she was Director of Resource Sharing.

George Hodgkinson, SOLS Board Chair remarked: "The Board is extremely pleased with the selection of Barbara Franchetto as the new CEO of SOLS. It is a great compliment to our Staff when an internal candidate is chosen. The Board is looking forward to working with Barbara as she leads the organization into the future."

Barbara brings an exciting vision for SOLS' future to her new position. A central part of this vision is positioning libraries as integral partners in their communities' development, resulting in strong and vibrant communities across the province. It includes ensuring that library staff have access to training that will reinforce the public libraries' role as community hubs.

Barbara brings over 25 years of broad experience with public libraries in Ontario. Her particular strengths are the ability to foster partnerships, gain buy-in from diverse stakeholders, and then lead the implementation process. Her recent experience includes increasing the number of certificate, distance education and online self-directed training programs offered by SOLS; chairing a provincial advisory committee to determine the feasibility of developing a training portal for Ontario; and developing and implementing a provincial shared e-collection. She holds a Master of Library Science (McGill) and a Bachelier ès Arts en histoire (Université de Montréal) and in 2003 was featured as a "Mover & Shaker" in a special issue of *American Library Journal*.

Barbara assumes her new responsibilities on January 1st, 2014.

## Spreading Literacy with Little Libraries

By Tom Nagy

Neighbourhood book exchanges, in the form of little libraries, are taking the world by storm. While many apartment and shared-living buildings have had library shelves for decades, the idea has now spread by way of groups like the Little Free Library (LFL) organization and Little Libraries of Kitchener-Waterloo (LLKW). Essentially, a Little Free Library is a weather-proofed box, much like a bird-feeder with a door, which rests on a pole in one's front yard. Passers-by are invited to take a book or leave a book, without charge or registration.

The owner and maintainer of the library, known as the steward, decides on the content. Most stewards are generalists, though some specialize: there are little libraries that only stock children's books, while others cater to local community history.

Some stewards establish little libraries because they have too many books in their homes, and see stewardship of a little library as a meaningful use for books that are otherwise sitting unread. Other stewards don't have a large private collection, and instead actively solicit donations. Each library and situation is different.

There are many potential benefits from establishing and maintaining a little library. Most evidently, a little library makes books available to all. There is no barrier of cost nor of having to adhere to regular library protocols. There is no need to sign books out, nor to have a card, though some stewards ask that borrowers leave a note about who they are, just for interest. Nor are there late fees: books may be returned soon, or much later, or never. Indeed, the books may be re-gifted to someone else, or deliberately left in a bus shelter for a stranger to discover. When a curator

places a book into the little library, there is no telling to where that book may travel; some curators use online book-tracking systems like BookCrossing.com to vicariously travel the world with their old books.

Effort of acquisition is another barrier to reading that little libraries reduce. A pedestrian walking past a little library need do no more than to pluck a book out of a little library, no more work than it takes to search and download a work from iBooks or the Kindle Store.

Little libraries encourage community conversations. As neighbours walk past and dip into one's curated collection of novels, conversations arise that may not have otherwise begun. Placing religious or atheist tracts into a little library is a sure way to ignite passions, but even more innocuous books will attract someone's interest.

The promotion of literacy through these libraries has additional factors, one important one being privacy. No record is necessarily made of who borrows the books (except possibly voluntarily), and the libraries are generally accessible at any time of the day. In contexts where interest in certain materials or even reading itself may subject one to peer pressure, little libraries have a role to play in normalizing literacy. While this is less of an issue in a North American context, the love of reading can only arise through exploration of books, and removing social impediments to their access can only help this process.

More generally, Marshall McLuhan's idea that the medium is the message suggests that the mere presence of little libraries in a neighbourhood is beneficial: the library clearly states that, to the steward, literacy is valuable. Not just literacy, in fact, but understanding, discourse, education, opinion, and everything else that comes from books. Their presence states that knowledge, the transference of the human experience through time, is valued over ignorance, so much so that the steward is willing to freely share it with anyone passing by. For people who encounter a little library on a daily commute or walk, this powerful idea hopefully becomes part of their back-

ground sense of what is important to their community, and to society at large. Additionally, while a multitude of little libraries can send a strong message, only a single one is needed along any given patron's path to send this signal. Each solitary little library is therefore a beacon of culture and literacy.

Engagement is yet another facet of the little library's draw. Both LFL and LLKW encourage community building of the libraries, and make kits available for easy assembly of a little library; additionally, the LFL offers an international registry where anyone can find local little libraries. But engagement can take another form: overcoming a fear of engaging with others and with others' property. While suburbs may feature beautifully manicured lawns and gardens, the expectation is that these are for viewing, not for communal use. Indeed, one feels embarrassed if one is walking on a lawn when a car pulls into the driveway. A little library offers a controlled invitation to the public to engage with the steward's property in a way that everyone finds acceptable. In this way, the effective wall around properties is broken down.

Establishing a little library is easy. Those with some woodworking experience can craft unique libraries at minimal cost; others may choose to purchase a kit or a fully assembled little library from a larger organization. Maintenance is left up to the steward's discretion: some have public blogs and catalogues which are regularly updated, while others let their libraries mind themselves.

Little libraries offer a fun way to engage with the community, and to encourage literacy. Interested readers are invited to learn more about this project at [www.LittleFreeLibrary.org](http://www.LittleFreeLibrary.org) and [www.LLKW.ca](http://www.LLKW.ca).

---

*Tom Nagy is an intellectual property manager, musician and social entrepreneur. He is the founder of Little Libraries of Kitchener-Waterloo, and lives in Waterloo with his wife and two cats.*

# In Praise of Libraries

By Diana Walsh

How delightful to look in to the bright eyes of a curious child. Is it any wonder that our first instinct is to make some statement about how beautiful they are? Imagine running in to a little girl or boy and instead of saying, “aren’t you pretty”, asking, “Are you reading any good books right now”, or perhaps, “what kind of adventures have you had lately?” As a loved one we can help find that good book or build that adventure and at the same time set an example for these impressionable young beings that self-worth is determined not by surface beauty, but by our actions and what we give to others.

On a recent trip to the supermarket I observed a mother with a young child doing her shopping. The mother had two bags in her grocery cart, one for her family and one for the food bank. The young child was asked “what else do you think we should pick up for the other family”. The value of this question was priceless. The little girl was now challenged to think of a family who had less than her and by sharing food she could be of help in her own small way. The little hands reached out and chose a can of chili con carne. I applauded her choice of a food that was nutritious, economical and not bad tasting, if you like chili. I silently pondered accompaniments for that meal- perhaps a can of applesauce or a loaf of bread. Inspired, my own hands reached out as I began my own selection for a contribution to the local food bank.

There are many activities we can do with children that will nourish their little minds and souls.

What an experience it would be to take that same youngster to the food bank to deliver her offering in person. Imagine the lessons that could be learned. Imagine the possibilities if we took our own favourite little person to the food bank instead of out for an ice-cream, to an animal rescue unit instead of the pet store, to a homeless shelter with a donation

instead of going to the store to buy more of what we don’t need, and of course, to the library instead of the movie store.

Our very own library system provides many offerings in the community that are worthwhile. I was thrilled to see that this summer, the Hamilton Public Library encouraged youth to “get up and go – go read, go explore, go discover.” What a great idea that registrants received a passport-type badge that helped them track their reading and collect prizes. With the Summer Reading Club being open to children of all ages, even newborns could attend, carrying on the tradition of parents and children enjoying the written word together. The children get an outing with other little people and the parents are able to socialise with other big people. Everyone wins! The activities offered to engage our young people included; a pyjama story time and teddy bear sleep-over, puppet show and sing-a-longs, as well as bookmark, billboard and writing contests. The added incentives for prize baskets also helped to promote the fun of reading. Thanks to the wonderful library system and knowledgeable staff, idleness is not something that we need to worry about during any season.

In the book *Empty Cradle*, I refer to weekly visits to the library that were part of my childhood.

“The highlight of the week was my mom piling all five of us kids in to the car and going to the library to bring home a bag of books. I loved walking into the library and beholding the walls and shelves lined with all those glorious publications. The book titles may have changed over the years but the li-

brary still bears the distinct smell I remember from my childhood, the scent of thousands of works of art stored meticulously by category and author. The stories took us away from our daily lives and immersed us into a colourful world where anything was possible. I would bring as many books as I could carry to the counter and watch closely as the librarian stamped the little card with the return due date before inserting it into a pocket that had been glued to the inside of the book cover. Reading was a constant in our lives. To this day I never leave the house without a book in my possession.”

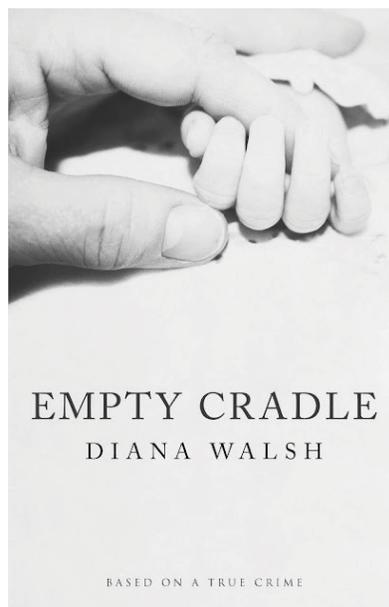
When my mother got me my own library card she bestowed on me a gift of value that I have treasured all my life. As a writer and author I have been honoured to visit various libraries to discuss the book *Empty Cradle* and participate in the local author series. I thank the many librarians that I have met for welcoming me with open hearts. I also would like to thank the many dedicated staff affiliated with the library system for their part in keeping the wheels of this network turning. From bookmobiles to the largest library, there is no pricetag that can capture the value of the service you are providing.



*Diana Walsh is a long-time resident of Stoney Creek/Hamilton. She is the author of Empty Cradle, which was published by Dundurn Press and has been awarded the #5 position on the Globe and Mail's Canadian Non-fiction Bestseller list. It is available in hard copy as well as online as an e-book. Recently it has been translated in to Polish.*

*Empty Cradle, Diana Walsh's true crime memoir, details the abduction of her newborn daughter who became internationally known as "Baby Shelby". In December 1993, Diana Walsh experienced every parent's worst nightmare when her newborn daughter was kidnapped from Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington, ON. The story made national and international headlines. Empty Cradle is that mother's story, her personal recollection of the time leading up to and surrounding the abduction of her baby, just days before Christmas.*

*Diana, a self-professed bibliophile and patron of the Hamilton Public Library System has made presentations at a number of Libraries and gives praise to the Libraries and all they have to offer.*



# Making Sense of Life Through Story

By Lori-Ann Livingston

Storytelling is a catch-all term for what organizations do to explain their work, to appeal to donors, to inform boards of directors. We have learned that it is hard to argue with someone's story. It's hard to diminish someone's experience, or to deny that they had an experience that directly contradicts your viewpoint.

Watch the news. The people who cover events, share information in whatever format or present the news are no longer news reporters; they're storytellers.

The ones who do communications and marketing, as I do for a living, aren't spin doctors anymore; they're organizational storytellers.

I'm a writer. It's something I wanted to do from an early age. I remember stepping off the school bus at my elementary school when I was 11 and thinking I wanted to be two things when I grew up: a jockey (because I was light as a feather and crazy about horses) and a writer. There is an element of skill and natural ability in both, but for me, the desire to be a writer, though forgotten for many years, turned out to be the path forward.

So, that explains in part why I'm drawn to storytelling. I started an arts-based storytelling festival in 2006, but not because I'm a storyteller. In fact, I don't see myself as a storyteller at all. I'm a story writer. There's a difference.

But I do appreciate the story.

That storytelling festival I started, with the help of a lot of volunteers and a core group of supporters, is called Latitudes Storytelling Festival. Held in Victoria Park in Kitchener, Latitudes celebrates stories from around the world, for children and adults alike; a festival of stories told in spoken word, music, image, theatre and poetry. It thrives on bringing together the stories of professional storytellers and the stories of the community, in creative and imaginative ways.

It started in 2006 as a way to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Trinity United Church, a downtown congregation in an historical building, but quickly branched out to become a community event. Since 2006, it has been part of the City of Kitchener's Tapestry: Celebration of Diversity series,

and is held on the same weekend as the Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Festival on the third weekend of June. Now, it's a registered charity with events beyond the two-day festival, including participation in the city's The Word on the Street every September.

From the beginning, the festival was volunteer-driven. Our core board of directors all have full-time paying jobs outside of the hundreds of hours every year that they volunteer and organize the festival. Recruiting for our board has always been a challenge. We're not a large organization, and storytelling is often overlooked by the arts community, plus board members have to be able to pitch in. It is no understatement when I say our board is a "working" board.

That has its benefits, and its drawbacks. Small organizations whose leadership cannot dedicate a full or even part-time position to the running of the organization fall behind. We can't say yes to more partnerships or more events, simply because we don't have the people resources to execute the commitment.

Our volunteers work hard every year to pull off great arts-based storytelling events; there is nothing else quite like it in this region. By saying that, I don't mean there isn't storytelling in the region. Boy, do we have storytelling! A rich culture of storytelling has been nurtured over many years, thanks, in no small way, to the efforts of Mary-Eileen McClear, whose Story Barn in Baden was the site of guild meetings and monthly open storytelling evenings. Now located in the Button Factory in Waterloo, Stories Aloud and those guild meetings still occur, and the dedication these storytellers have had to the art of storytelling is nothing short of a blessing for an organization such as ours.

Creating partnerships in the community is one of our strengths. The fruit of those partnerships is sometimes programming for the festival, but really it's a way to help people in the community learn to tell their

own story.

In particular, one of the most rewarding ways I have experienced to draw out these stories is through a partnership with Dwight Storrington, a local digital media artist whose work with not-for-profit agencies is nothing short of inspiring. He runs workshops under the Latitudes and Longitudes name ([www.latitudeslongitudes.org](http://www.latitudeslongitudes.org)), telling the stories digitally of teens in a gang prevention program, or of food justice in the community, or of women who have experienced abuse.



One project on which we worked together is the *Made in Kitchener: personal stories from our industrial past* digital storytelling tour ([www.madeinkitchener.ca](http://www.madeinkitchener.ca)). *Made in Kitchener* is an interactive documentary about the lives of working people in Kitchener during the last half of the 20th century, a time when the city was an industrial powerhouse. This documentary combines selected interviews from an archive of oral histories collected as part of the City of Kitchener's Industrial Artifacts Project with other archival material and contemporary photos and video. Through the lens of personal stories everyday people describe their working lives. The interactive format of the work encourages viewers to contribute their insights through the project website.

I've learned a lot through the people I've met and the stories I've heard. And through the digital stories I've made through Latitudes and Longitudes.

I've learned that getting to your destination is not always achieved through a straight line; sometimes in crafting a story, you have to wait for the story to find you. And sometimes, in hearing a story, you have to listen over and over again.

I've learned that stories can be transformative, a touch of the sacred in a few words or images, in a conversation. Finding the sacred in the everyday is always hard to do, but when it happens, you know.

*Lori-Ann Livingston is a writer, publications associate in corporate communications for the City of Kitchener, and mother of two spirited children, both of whom love the library and see not reading a story at bedtime as a severe punishment.*



# 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:

Linked 

# Storytellers of Canada / Conteurs du Canada Conference 2013

By Dean Verger

He was but a smallish, blackish bird, his heart pierced by the dart of her words. The clouds formed, the wind swept up, and the story took wing.

Well, what else did you expect? It was, after all, the Storytellers of Canada / Conteurs du Canada (SC-CC) conference. The bilingual conference ran from July 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa at St Paul University. The campus of the tiny university lies against a slow meandering stretch of the Rideau River, the buildings nestled on a large green-space.

People came from all across our country, and some from farther afield. Being a Canadian conference, French and English was expected. But Icelandic? In attendance were authors, story collectors, story performers, balladeers.

What is storytelling? The late Alice Kane was a well-known librarian in Toronto. She wore no costume, used no props, held no book. As an actor upon a stage, but without acting. It is an artform wherein you can close your eyes, open your ears, and see the show.

Storytelling is a celebration of the voice, of our imaginations, of our shared histories, and our unique experiences. The conference placed story at the forefront of all the activities. As storytellers, we play with experiences, fables, true life, legends, history. Our sources include our local libraries, archives, talking to witnesses a la Helen Creighton, reminiscences, and stories we have heard others tell.

Each year's conference begins long in advance. From the selection of the hosting city, the development of the program, to highlighting the unique features of each city's geography and history. No conference ever achieves its goals without effort. There was no clicking of one's heels to smooth the bumps along the way and arrive safely home. Behind our curtain, there was not one little man, but an industrious, conscientious crew who grew the ideas, found the paths, and solved each problem that rose up unexpectedly.

Problems? Say it is not so. For example, what do you do when the contracts are all signed, and the University changes caterers a month before the date? What happens when there is a difference of opinion as to who owns the kitchen equipment? The solutions came about through listening, and sharing the stories (and signing a new contract).

There is always the pressure to create a national level conference at a bargain basement budget. Thanks to the years of work by SC-CC, funding bodies such as the Canada Council for the Arts recognises StoryTelling as an artform. But many people still do not know this. At a recent dinner party where we talked about performing our stories on stage, of telling stories at the National Arts Centre, two guests first asked what storytelling was, then remarked "people do that?"

The storytelling conference captured both business and art, incorporating an Annual General Meeting, professional development workshops, discussion groups centered around growing the art, ongoing projects such as StorySave, social opportunities, outings, performances, and then more performances. We formally took time to recognise our best, as well as the new emerging tellers. Folks shared stories over meals, during a Swap, a Story Slam and late night sessions. Stories were told to start the day, and to end the conference.

There were workshops on Coaching other storytellers, the Value of Presenting, Applying for Canada Council Grants, and on the works of Marius Barbeau. Discussion groups were held on the building of membership and audience, and on maintaining a local storytelling group.

A new storytelling CD was launched at the conference featuring M. Jennie Frost. It was part of the StorySave archival project. The project's mission: to preserve the voices, the memories, the stories of our telling elders. The first CD was released in 2002 featuring the voice, and the stories, of Kate Stevens. Since then elders such as Pennishish (Louis Bird), Renè Fumoleau, and Alice Kane have had their tales preserved on CD for others to hear. During the conference it was also announced that Celia Lottridge and Jan Andrews, both award winning authors, both touring storytellers would be the focus of two new CDs in the forthcoming years.

If you have ever experienced a poetry slam, then you know that a Story Slam is a friendly competition. Lim-

ited to a fast paced five minutes, the tellings are scored by members of the audience. Beauty of language, the clever turn of phrase, the smooth delivery, all play their part in gaining the support of the judges, and the listeners. This year's tales ranged from true personal experience to tall tale. There were stories of hair gone wild, and fishermen finding the perfect fishing spot. The winning vignette was by Kim Kilpatrick, a blind storyteller's perspective on art.

Attendees were carried away by busses to St Andrews church for stories of Ottawa, to Victoria Island to listen to stories of our aboriginal neighbours, and to Billings Estate Museum to experience tellings all set in the Jubilee year of 1927. Stories such as the arrival of Charles Lindbergh on July 1 in Ottawa, and the sad catastrophe for one of his pilots upon the airfield. Held outside under a very large canopy, ten different performers followed the time and the theme, bringing to life the music hall, the newspapers, and the celebrations upon Parliament Hill.

A master class was led by storyteller and author Doug Lipman. His workshop began with an example of the natural development of a story. How we recount an experience to others. How we observe our audience, and embroider or remove from the fabric of the tale according to their reactions, as we tell. Each person we relate our tale to gives us live, immediate feedback, not just at the end of the story, but throughout. When we attend to our audiences we note their smiles, grimaces, yawns, the shifting gazes, the wide eyes, the laughter, and the sadness.

Doug Lipman focused on the awareness and the intentions of the performer. Through many, many repetitions by the teller, and the observation of what elements worked, we witnessed a story grow from stodgy to vibrant. The coach never imposes his or her own personal stamp upon the story, or the performance. In some ways this type of coaching is a slower process, but it transfers artistic decisions to the performer, it helps to develop a personal, unique voice.

The conference also held a public concert called "The History of the Blues". Author and storyteller Danièle Vallée with Jean Cloutier began the evening with a rhythmic tale underscored with saxophone. Cathy Miyata demonstrated the power of the story. Then a blues group provided the many styles of blues inherent in the genre. The lead singer, Maria Hawkins, in the style of Etta James, sang the songs, and told the stories behind those songs, and the people, be they captives being transported over the seas, living under slavery, or escaping to the north. The musical styles shifted, and she invited us to sing, to dance. And we did.

There were also the late night story jams, complete with guitars, mandolins, harmonicas, accordions. Yes, storytellers love to sing. One can see it in the old ceilidhs, and the summer camp fires. After the conference, when many had departed via train, bus, car, bike, and plane, there remained those who were scheduled to depart on the following day. They gathered one more time, with food, song, and many stories.

And so she spoke kind words, her breath entering with his. He lifted upwards, out of her hands, and into the sky above.

*Dean Verger is a storyteller. His latest show is a one-hour storytelling adaptation of Herman Melville's "Moby Dick". For more information about Storytellers of Canada / Conteurs du Canada visit: <http://www.storytellers-conteurs.ca>*

*As well as being a long-time member of Storytellers of Canada - Conteurs du Canada, Dean was the proprietor of Rasputin's, Ottawa's home for music and*

## Presidential Award Nominations - 2014

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, ONL5A 3M4  
Email: [mariaripley5261@hotmail.com](mailto:mariaripley5261@hotmail.com)

Details regarding the award, criteria for selection and the nominating form can be found at: [www.oaltabo.on.ca/node/43](http://www.oaltabo.on.ca/node/43) and on page 11 of this issue

# Confessions of a Young Adult Literature Junkie:

## Top Five Recommendations

By Rachel Kelly

I have a confession to make I am hopelessly addicted to young adult literature. I have a soft spot for a good coming of age story and if it appeals to my love of the fantastical well that's even better. What qualities does young adult literature possess that other forms of literature lack? Perhaps it's the nod to nostalgia, a nod for first love and discovery? Here are my top five recommendations that speak to the YA buried deep within.

### **Graceling by Kristin Cashore**

The first novel in the Seven Kingdoms Trilogy follows the trials of Katsa as she learns to come to terms with the grace bestowed upon her. In a world where people can be born with strange and terrifying skills called graces, Katsa struggles to redeem herself with her own terrifying grace of killing. Katsa rebels against her Uncle King Randa and embarks on a quest with a young foreign prince who also has a grace of his own. Katsa embarks on her rescue mission and finds romance, self-knowledge and justice along the way.

The second book in this trilogy does not follow the story of Katsa and Po but instead introduces Fire. She is graced with an entirely different grace from Katsa and also happens to inhabit an entirely different world. How will these two worlds collide? The third and final addition to the trilogy Bitterblue combines both worlds in a satisfying conclusion that will have your readers asking for more tales of the Seven Kingdoms.

### **Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell**

A delightful homage to 1980's pop culture and first love in which the reader cannot help but fall in love with Eleanor and Park as they discover punk rock and their love for each other. Eleanor and Park bond over their status as outsiders, their love of comic books and a good 1980s alternative band. Eleanor struggles with a difficult home life, bullying at school and also with acceptance from Park's

mother. The narrative points of view alternate between Eleanor and Park. This novel is a great recommendation for readers who enjoy quirky love stories and 1980's pop culture.

### **This Dark Endeavour by Kenneth Oppel**

Drawn to Kenneth Oppel's children's literature I have approached his young adult literature with high expectations *This Dark Endeavour* does not disappoint. Set in 18<sup>th</sup> century Geneva and follows the lives of 16-year old twins Victor and Konrad Frankenstein, and their cousin Elizabeth. They discover a secret library filled with books on alchemy, including one book with the elixir of life. Konrad falls ill while Victor and Elizabeth set out to find the ingredients for the elixir, of course accompanied on their journey by family friend Henry Clerval. Narrated by Victor, the bad twin and in a style of prose reminiscent of Shelley's 19<sup>th</sup> century Frankenstein novel this novel captures the gothic feel of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. *This Dark Endeavour* is highly recommended for a reader who enjoys historical fiction, a good gothic thriller and a clever twist of Frankenstein lore.

### **The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater**

Mythology, romance, adventure with a hint of danger all together mixed with a story of self-discovery and you have *The Scorpio Races*. Stiefvater expertly experiments with the mythology of water horses by entwining kelpie lore with the lives of Puck Connolly and Sean Kendrick, two young riders who will participate in the Scorpio Races. The Scorpio Races take place every November. Riders make their best attempt to keep hold of their water horses and to cross the finish line. For Puck, the first girl to ride in the races winning is a must. For Sean, returning champion, losing is not an option. Some riders survive, while other riders die, this is the reality of the Scorpio Races.

## **Divergent by Veronica Roth**

In a society where you are forced at the age of sixteen to choose a faction, Beatrice (Tris) has a tough choice ahead of her. But the aptitude test which will direct you on which faction to choose holds a dangerous twist for Tris. She is divergent and shows an aptitude for more than one faction. She must make a choice to leave the faction, her family and everything she has known for her entire life, or she can listen to the stirrings deep within her encouraging her to be brave and journey into the unknown. For Tris danger continues to follow as she makes her choice and learns that her divergence will make her an even bigger target. This book is highly recommended for anyone who enjoys standout female narrators and fiction that examines dystopian societies that tackle issues relevant to modern society.

YA Titles currently occupying a Coveted Place on my Night Table:

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman  
The Fault in our Stars by John Green  
The Diviners by Libba Bray  
Clockwork Princess by Cassandra Clare  
Allegiant by Veronica Roth  
How to Love by Katie Cotugno  
The Eye of Minds by James Dashner  
Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell  
These Broken Stars by Amie Kaufman & Meagan Spooner  
The Bone Season by Samantha Shannon  
Panic by Lauren Oliver  
The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater



## **A Bookish Library Girl on a Quest for Literary Enlightenment**

**by Jorie of Jorie Loves A Story**

Blog: [jorielovesastory.com](http://jorielovesastory.com) |

Twitter: [@JLovesAStory](https://twitter.com/JLovesAStory)

A proper age ago, I was lit aflame by the curiosity of the printed page, by the vocality of narratives read to me by my Mum. By the time I barely tall enough to see over the check-out table, I was carrying a library card with a hefty armful of books in tow! Never one to shirk away from a challenge, the Dewey system was my friend, as I loved to wander around the stacks like a mariner in search of his beloved star to guide him home! An absorbent sponge of knowledge, the mirth of the legacies creatives left behind in their tomes only whet my keen interest to write forevermore! I took to my pen like lightning in a bottle, transforming the palette of words into a tangible forest of dialogue, setting, character, and story. A poet infused by a writer's heart, I sought out forging a path which was not yet created. I took my sails towards Nanowrimo, conquering writer's block and setting the foundation for my blog. Five years past, a resurgence of vitality spilt through my fingers into underpinning foundations of Jorie Loves A Story. By August 2013, I launched my niche in the bookish blogosphere, having spent nearly 10 months as a frequent reader & commenter. Gaining keen insight as well as a presence of a reader who was always meant to be a blogger!

Books are the gateways into the imagination, as they allow us to transcend our everyday realities by jettisoning off into new worlds of exploration! The wordsmiths intrigue me the most, as they dare us to soak into their stories through the ancient words more readily known in Old English eras. They challenge our hearts to wrap around the context of their vision, and in so doing, we enlighten ourselves along the journey we forged the first day we picked up a book and believed in: What if? I blog to sustain my curiosity as much as to encourage others to seek out stories I find are worth reading. I read print books which in this modern age of technologic delight puts me in a niche of my own choosing! Authors are ready friends, blog book tours are pure joy, and podcasting is a new hobby – as I live tweet Wednesdays for The Star Chamber Show! I support major trade and Indies as much as mainstream and inspirational releases. I'm a bookish library girl extolling the virtues of libraries whilst selecting her next book to enrapture her soul!

Follow my journey: [jorielovesastory.com](http://jorielovesastory.com)!

# Is PowerPoint Dead?

*Here are three web-based presentation software solutions that may be just what you need when PowerPoint isn't doing it for you.*

It's probably not dead. No doubt, it's alive and well I'm sure, including the library you work in. In fact, Microsoft PowerPoint is still firmly ensconced in the MS Office Suite and does indeed have a new incarnation in the 2013 version of MS Office offering new tricks to integrate the software with an audience that's savvy with external devices such as tablets, smartphones and other touch devices.

Like most users though, you're not constantly upgrading your operating systems, especially when it comes to your workplace, which for libraries can often lag behind. Are any libraries out there still using Windows XP? No need to feel shame.

Here are three free web-based solutions that anyone with online access can use. Each of them have the option to purchase and upgrade to their professional version, but their free versions are still incredibly worth your time.

These are solutions that can work for everyone, from the entry-level presenter to the savviest of lecturers. All of these choices are compatible with Windows or Mac operating systems.

Each of these applications offer a lot of support on their respective sites to get you started, but here is just a snapshot of what they offer.



[Fig. 1—Screenshot of the Prezi canvas in edit mode.]

[www.prezi.com](http://www.prezi.com) As it's the slickest of the bunch, many have probably already heard of Prezi. It's sort of like PowerPoint on steroids. Presentations made here are very non-linear and give you the ability to literally zoom

and pan to your heart's content. In fact, some have grown to already abhor this feature, as when it's haphazardly used the trick can make you sick.

When executed properly though, the application can produce stunning results. This is where practice does indeed make perfect. Though it's easy to get started with Prezi, the learning curve to create works of art on Prezi is a bit steep. This is definitely not something you want to prepare the night before.

Prezi maintains the PowerPoint model of having your slides on the left hand side of your workspace, but that's pretty much where the similarities end. It does take a while to get used to this otherworldly space. It's a very multi-dimensional workspace; what Prezi likes to call your "canvas" and the output is only limited by your imagination.

Other features include:

- The ability to work collaboratively with others (even globally) on one presentation
- Present your work as a team remotely
- Present from any device, from your phone to your tablet to your desktop
- Borrow from other public Prezis that other users have made available, great when you don't want to re-invent the wheel
- Ability to download your Prezi and save externally as opposed to 'in the cloud'

Prezi has a wide following and it shows with the amount of support and diverse modules that are made available. There is a lot to learn here.



[Fig. 2—Screenshot of a PowToon presentation in edit mode.]

[www.powtoon.com](http://www.powtoon.com) This solution is brand new and still exists in its beta form. PowToon is sort of like a mini animation studio. When you first start using PowToon, it's

easy to be still enslaved to the PowerPoint slide mindset. Like Prezi, it too presents your workspace with your 'slides' on the left and you can very easily create what you are already very accustomed to in PowerPoint, but I highly recommend reading their well written user guides and manuals that exist on their website. It's also worth checking out the sample videos they have created as they really give you a sense of what's possible on this site; it's hard to believe it's free too.

Features include:

- The ability to upload up to 30 videos free to YouTube (you are still able to create and present as many videos as you like, just not post them to YouTube)
- Cool and interesting animations that are very fresh and not your standard clip art
- Plenty of valuable direction and suggestions from their online manual and workbook

Because it's just started you will notice some limitations and a finite number of choices when creating, but it's still a fabulous tool for a new user. One of its greatest drawbacks is its lack of ability to add sounds and music where you want them. Currently, you are only able to lay one continuous music track and one narration track over your video. That being said, it's definitely worth a try.

phone, you are also able to record your voice at the same time. This is perfect for showing your audience how to complete a technical task on their computers, or navigate through a website. It's also a great tool to record some online media and record your own live commentary while it plays.

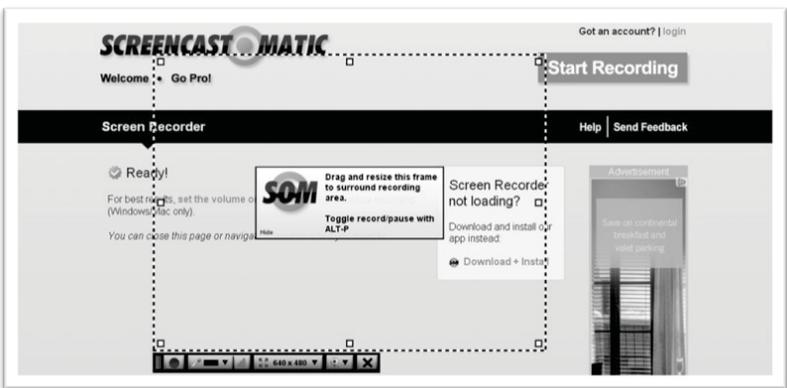
Here are some of its other free features:

- Recording time of up to 15 minutes
- Able to record your screen and webcam simultaneously (picture-in-picture)
- Publish to YouTube HD, MP4, AVI, FLV movie

Unfortunately, with the free version, you are not able to edit your recording, but you are able to start and stop recording and begin where you left off. If you're not adept at extemporaneous delivery, you might want to prepare a script and rehearse, but if you're just using this to show the rest of the staff something quick, e.g. a 30 second clip of cataloging guidelines for graphic novels, the 'ums' and 'uhs' might not be such a big deal. Supervisors might find this useful as a Monday morning pep talk highlighting a new resource in the library, e.g. a 3 minute rundown on how to navigate the latest subscribed database at the college.

PowerPoint may not be dead for a very long time, but that's no reason to not try something new. There seems to be no end to these kinds of resources that keep appearing in the online universe. As the maker model for libraries and all sorts of other users continues to proliferate, there should be some even more cooler, innovative, and no doubt free online tools for a long time yet. Take a weekend to play around with some of these applications and don't be afraid to get your virtual hands dirty.

I've used all three of these tools, but I would love to see what other library technicians can create with these. Feel free to share your ideas and creations with me!



[Fig. 3—Screenshot of Screencast-O-Matic preparing for screen capture.]

[www.screencast-o-matic.com](http://www.screencast-o-matic.com) The third contender here is something entirely different. If a polished and perfected pitch is not what you're after, but rather a quick how-to or commentary is needed, this is it. Screencast-O-Matic offers a free version of its screen capture tool for Windows or Apple computers. It allows you to almost immediately begin recording whatever is displayed on your computer monitor, enabling you to navigate your way through whatever application you need to show. If you have a micro-



**Philip Wasley**

Library Systems Technician, Toronto District School Board  
[philip.wasley@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:philip.wasley@tdsb.on.ca)

*Philip Wasley has been working in libraries since 2009. He enjoys board games, world cinema, gourmet cooking and keeping his wife and two girls happy.*

# Technologically Trendy

By: Serena McGovern

Technology and its various forms is here to stay, that is until the next big technological development. Technology has become disposable for the next latest and greatest thing. In my last article I argued that social media is here to stay and I believe that, I am just not sure what form it will take. If I could well I suppose I would be like Steve Jobs. I am not Steve Jobs and I certainly do not get paid a Steve Jobs salary.

There are certain aspects of Steve Jobs' personality that as library technicians I think we can strive toward. He was known as being a great innovator and idea man who was able to make something as complex as computers, and made them easy to use. He revolutionized the music industry by giving us the ipod and he also gave us the ipad and perhaps the best part about it all is, he made it look so effortless and pretty.

Now I am not advocating that we all should go out and change the world, because let's face it, as library technicians we already do just that, we help those who need it the most, and I know that as technicians we try to be as innovative as possible. There has been so much debate as late about our place in the world and with the new technology where will we fit in? I've always seen this as a chance for us to become the liaison between the new technology and our patrons. By staying on top of and seeing the latest technological trends we can help guide our patrons through the often scary process of getting that tablet for a gift, that you have no idea how to use.

How do we do that? It's a very good question, by evolving our skillset by taking our already valued and awesome library skills and adding computer skills, or social media skills or gaming skills. Non traditional skills are what's going to help us, it's going to make us relatable to the people we serve. After all we wouldn't be much use as library technicians, with technicians in our job description if we didn't stay current and on top of the trends.

Don't be afraid or scared you intrepid technicians, because you can learn it, you can evolve you are strong

and innovative, you can show great initiative if you take leaps into the technological arena and see how and why it would be good for libraries. We cannot cling to the technology of the past we must sprint toward the future. After all we are always evolving our collections and technology is no different.

My very first computer was an Apple IIGS. It was awesome, it has a nice blue screen and I could type on it, play some games but not much else. Now there are smart phones and smart TV's, Siri can tell us where the closest ATM is, it's a different world, a technological world and by clinging to outdated formats we aren't helping our careers and if we show some innovative and innovation we can become leader's in the community, we can ease the digital gap (which is decreasing) we can help people become digital natives. We just have to have to forward thinkers, and willing to take leaps like Steve Jobs. In 1997 Apple released the "think different" campaign, which applauded not only the new apple product but also made note of those famous folks who did change things. The ad goes like this:

"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

Think Different, Innovate, Initiative. These are keywords we can use in our field to help break down barriers both mental and physical. By staying current we can prove that our field is invaluable to those around us and by using the current technology we can bridge the gap for our patrons and let's face it, that's who we're here to serve.

# Havana Public Library



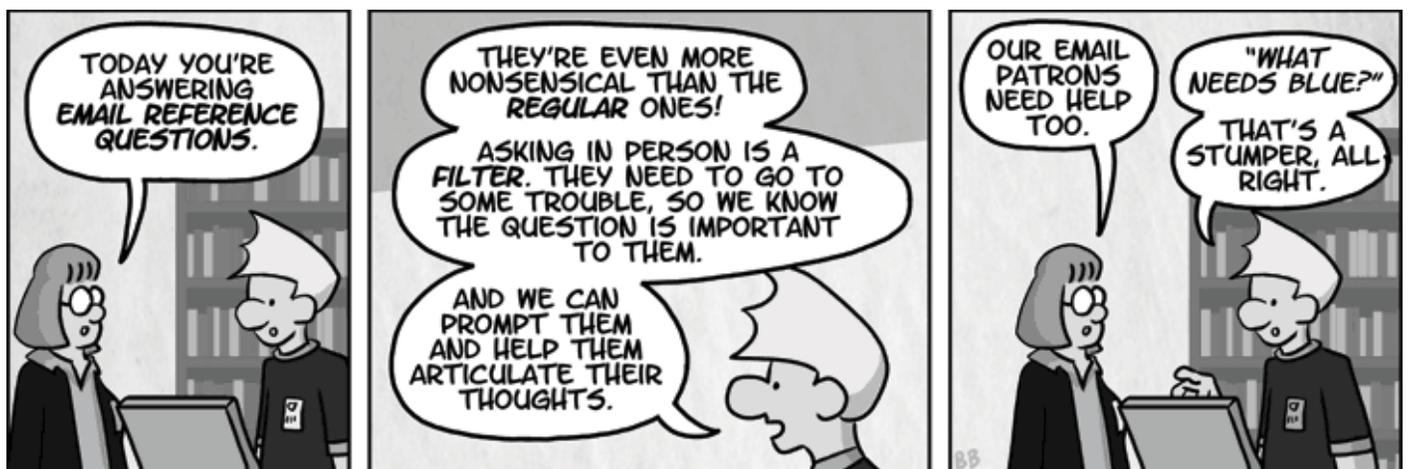
# Lahaina Public Library

Submitted by Barbara Cope



It was an unexpected pleasure to see the Public Library in the square and to notice how many students seemed to be pouring out of the building that day.

- Theresa Ziebell



UNSHELVED by Gene Ambaum & Bill Barnes

www.unshelved.com

© Overdue Media LLC

Unshelved used with permission. <http://www.unshelved.com/about/reuse>

# *Welcome / Bienvenue*

A very special welcome to all our new members:

Carole Lafontaine  
Jubea Esenia  
Paula Hughes  
Cindy Bodini  
Jeanette Charlebois  
Richard Halfyard  
Lucy Kraemer

## *Members Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries*

### **15 years**

Teresa Kennedy  
Elise Brais

### **20 years**

Carol Moher  
Neil Strickland  
Kathleen Crewdson

### **30 years**

Kathi Vandenheuvel  
Sharon Wigney  
Marilena Natale

### **35 years**

Patricia Dyson  
Helen Heerema

## **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
- \* Photographs

**Please submit your articles to:**

**[oaltabonewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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 names of contributors to the Fall 2013, Winter 2014 and Spring 2014 issues of NewsLetter/ NouvElles will be entered into our Editors Draw. Keep those submissions coming in and you could be our next Editor's Draw winner!



## Ontario Association of Library Technicians/ Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario Proxy Form 2014

Every member in good standing of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario may by means of proxy appoint a proxyholder, or one or more alternative proxyholders, who need not be members, as the member's nominee to attend and act at the meeting in the manner, to the extent and with the authority conferred by the proxy<sup>1</sup>.

Proxy votes must be returned prior to the call for order of the annual general meeting to the President, as chair of the meeting.

The following shall be sufficient form of proxy:

I,    
Name of OALT/ABO Member (please print) Membership Number

a member in good standing of the **Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario**, hereby appoint

of   
Name of Proxyholder (please print) City, Province

Or the alternative of:

of   
Name of alternative Proxyholder (please print) City, Province

as my proxy to vote for me and on my behalf at the meeting of members of the association to be held on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 and at any adjournment thereof.

Date at , this  day of , 2014

Signature of Member:

Use by chair of the meeting:

Date at , this  day of , 2014

Signature of Chair:

<sup>1</sup> Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010, SO 2010, c 15

## Renewal Reminder

Included with Winter 2014 NewsLETTER/NouvELLES

The Board of Directors thanks you for renewing for the 2014 Membership Year. If you have yet to renew your membership for the 2014 year please do not delay. Unless your membership is renewed this will be the last issue of NewsLETTER/NouvELLES you will receive.

Information related to membership, including forms can be found at:

<http://www.oaltabo.on.ca/node/10>

Regards,

Rachel Kelly

Membership Coordinator, Board of Directors

Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario