

# OLBA 2006

Suzanne Culp, President



## Message from the President

As your president, I raised the issue of the need for increased funding to public libraries with the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, the Minister of Culture, the Manager of the Libraries Branch of the Ministry, and during the Minister's Library Leaders' Dialogue 2005. OLBA members can be assured that we will continue to look for the most effective and collaborative ways to voice our concerns about this key issue.

I would like to welcome OLBA members and guests to the 2006 OLBA Annual General Meeting. What an eventful year it's been! When I stood before you at our last AGM, I referred to the changing landscape in the public library world and the need for OLBA to redefine ourselves as an association in relation to those changes. Little did I know then just how many changes there would be. Here's a brief synopsis of what has happened within and around OLBA during the past 12 months:

**FEBRUARY 2005 OLBA ANNUAL MEETING** - At our last AGM, a motion was passed requesting that OLBA Council draft a resolution about the need to increase the per household grant to public libraries. The motion asked that the resolution be sent to all public libraries, with the intent that it be shared with their municipalities. Subsequently, some concerns were expressed about the motion and after considerable discussion, Council decided to act on the intent rather than the exact wording.

**MAY MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF CULTURE** - I had the opportunity to meet with the Honorable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture, along with OLBA Vice-President Doreen Horbach, Peter Rogers, and Larry Moore. On the agenda were the need to increase funding to public libraries, an update on the Ontario Digital Library and OLBA's proposal for a comprehensive trustee development program, which included a request for financial assistance. More about that later!

**TRUSTEE DEVELOPMENT BY TELECONFERENCE** - The second in OLBA's three-year cyclical series of Trustee Development programs was held in May using a new format. The teleconference on the topic of Strategic Planning enabled trustees from around the province to listen to Jim Morgenstern's presentation from the comfort of their own libraries. This seems to be the most cost-effective

method of delivery and we hope it will allow libraries with limited resources to take advantage of more professional development opportunities in the future.

**ONTARIO LIBRARY SERVICE-NORTH CONFERENCE** - I had the pleasure of attending the OLS-N conference in Sault Ste. Marie, where I gained a much better awareness and understanding of

### ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, February 2, 2006  
5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

- 1.0 Call to Order
- 2.0 Welcome - Suzanne Culp,  
OLBA President
- 3.0 Establish Quorum
- 4.0 Approve Agenda
- 5.0 Approve 2005 OLBA AGM  
Minutes
- 6.0 Business Arising from the 2005  
AGM Minutes
  - 6.1 Motion re provincial  
per household grants.
- 7.0 2005 President's Report
- 8.0 Treasurer's Report
- 9.0 OLBA Councillors' Reports  
(attached)
- 10.0 New Business
  - 10.1 Draft 2006-2009  
Strategic Plan
  - 10.2 OLBA Leadership  
Development Program
- 11.0 Elect/Approve new OLBA  
Councillors
- 12.0 2006 President's Report
- 13.0 Adjournment

the issues, challenges and successes of libraries in the north.

#### **JUNE CUTS TO ONTARIO LIBRARY SERVICES NORTH AND SOUTH**

- The library community was surprised to hear that the Ministry of Culture had cut \$700,000 from the Ontario Library Services' budget. The response was overwhelming as libraries around the province mobilized to express their concerns about the cuts and the threat the cuts posed to key services. OLBA and the Ontario Public Library Association (OPLA) sent a joint letter to the Minister, adding our collective voices to the protest.

#### **SEPTEMBER FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES BECOMES A CORPORATION**

- I have been very fortunate to sit as a member of the Board of Governors of the new Federation during the past year. Having that inside perspective has helped me to keep OLBA Council informed and to clarify the difference in the roles that FOPL and OLBA will play.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN RETREAT**

- The OLBA Council met for a day to plan for the future. The result is the draft 2006-2009 Strategic Plan, which has been posted on our website since early November. We have sought the input from our members to help us chart our course, which we believe clearly positions us to be the primary source of support and educational opportunities for library board members across Ontario.

#### **MINISTER OF CULTURE'S LIBRARY LEADERS' DIALOGUE**

- I was invited to be a part of this first-of-a-kind meeting which brought together leaders from every part of the provincial library community to provide input to the Ministry of Culture's future planning. Once again, the issue of chronic under-funding of public libraries was raised by most participants.

#### **NOVEMBER OLBA CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FINALIZED**

- Thanks to the hard work and dedication of OLBA's two representatives on the Super Conference planning team, trustees who attend the 2006 OLA Super Conference in Toronto will have almost double the number of board-related sessions from which to choose.

#### **MEETING WITH REPS FROM SOLS, OLS-N, OPLA, OBLA**

- In an effort to collaborate more fully with colleagues in other organizations, we will continue to communicate regularly with the Ontario Library Services and other associations that have an interest in our mandate to provide professional development opportunities for library trustees in Ontario. We have already identified several areas where we can work together - areas such as providing a database of trustee resources and encouraging boards to work toward becoming accredited under the Ontario Public Library Guidelines process.

#### **DECEMBER REQUEST FOR GRANT FROM MINISTRY APPROVED**

- We received some very good news in December when we learned that the Minister of Culture has endorsed our request for \$20,000 to assist in the development of a more comprehensive Trustee Development Program. To accomplish this, we have enlisted the services of some of the most renowned members of the library community. We are excited about the potential of this new program and very grateful for the Ministry's support. You can expect to hear more detailed information at our AGM.

Finally, I would like to thank two important groups of people. First, I owe a great deal to OLA staff members, for the meetings they helped organize, the questions they answered, and especially, to Executive Director Larry Moore, whose advice and encouragement has helped guide me throughout the year. Second, I extend my deepest gratitude

to all the members of OLBA Council who have devoted their time and efforts on your behalf over the past year. Their support and hard work have led OLBA to a renewed sense of purpose and direction which will serve public library boards across the province well over the next few years. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your president.

### **ONTARIO LIBRARY BOARDS ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE 2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

OLBA Annual General Meeting  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
Thursday, 3 February, 2005  
5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.

#### **MINUTES**

- 1.0 Call to order at 5:20 p.m.
- 2.0 President Ian Hunter welcomed those present, recognizing that there were 39 people in attendance, and mentioning that this included several past presidents of OLBA.
- 3.0 It was established that there was a quorum for the voting that would be taking place.
- 4.0 Moved by Sheila Clarke, seconded by Margaret MacLean, that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.
- 5.0 Moved by Patrick Morash, seconded by Catherine Dowd, that the minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.
- 6.0 There was no business arising from the minutes.
- 7.0 Ian Hunter began his President's Report by introducing OLBA council members for the coming year, and in particular recognizing new members Okeima

Lawrence representing Toronto, Catherine Dowd representing Mid-Central Region, and Doreen Horbach from Hamilton who is Vice-President and President Elect for 2006. Ian explained that OLBA has discussed our ongoing role with respect to the newly created Federation of Ontario Public Libraries. OLBA's focus will remain trustee training through workshops and teleconferences, and attracting as many trustees as possible to Super Conference. We will continue to cooperate with FOPL, sharing resources, and being mindful not to overlap services. Of particular interest to trustees are policy development, strategic planning, and fundraising. Last year at the Public Awards Dinner, Ian met the new Minister of Culture, Madeleine Meilleur, and the deputy minister, both of whom are very supportive of public libraries. We were reminded of the reception for trustees, sponsored by Ken Haycock Associates, in the Kingsway Room of the Intercontinental Hotel on Friday, February 4th, at 6 p.m. In conclusion, Ian expressed a warm welcome to Suzanne Culp, incoming President of OLBA, and asked that trustees continue to give her the same support he had received during his presidency.

8.0 Leanne Sedgwick gave her Treasurer's Report. The 2003 audited report which was not available in time for last year's AGM is now posted on the OLA website. We remained within our 2003 budget of \$22,100. The 2004 budget audit has not been completed yet, but as of November we had spent \$17,835 of a budgeted total of

\$20,500, and we anticipate no adverse reports. Moved by Catherine Dowd, seconded by Margaret MacLean, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as circulated.

9.0 The reports from various OLBA council members were printed in the AGM Report package that was circulated at the meeting.

10.1 Shelagh Harris gave her Super Conference Report, outlining her progress from spectator to workshop convenor to planner over a four-year period, and encouraging trustees to become involved and participatory. There were 9 sessions for trustees at this year's conference. Planning for 2006 begins the week following the 2005 conference with a review of the presentations. Sheila stressed the importance of comments on the review sheets all participants are asked to fill out. Catherine Dowd, her co-planner, asked for a trustee to volunteer to assist her in planning for next year's conference; Linda Sonley, of the Ottawa Public Library, volunteered.

10.2 Moved by Marlene Davidson, seconded by Sheila Clarke, that OLBA draft a resolution to be circulated to libraries. This resolution would be presented by libraries to their municipal councils, reminding councils of the importance of provincial per household grant money, and supporting an increase in the amounts of grants, which have not increased for nearly 10 years. The resolution should link literacy to both health and education, which are the stated focus of the current provincial government, and which link is supported by recent research. Carried.

10.3 Bob Ernest requested news

articles for the next edition of Inside OLBA.

11.0 Moved by Bob Ernest, seconded by Margaret Wicklum, that the election of new members of OLBA, Okeima Lawrence, representing Toronto, Paul Elgie, representing Southwestern Ontario, Doreen Horbach, Vice-President and President Elect, and Catherine Dowd, representing Mid-Central Region, be confirmed. Carried.

12.0 Incoming President Suzanne Culp addressed the meeting, stating that she was happy and looking forward to beginning what promises to be an exciting year. The existence of FOPL has altered the landscape, and she is pleased with her linkage to both groups, having recently been elected to the Board of FOPL. She stressed that OLBA has a continuing role to play in the development of trustees, and thanked OLBA for supporting FOPL. Suzanne expects to meet with the Minister soon. She thanked Ian for his service as President and his ongoing confidence and support in her presidency.

OLBA, beginning with brainstorming within the framework of Mission and Goals, the budget.

13.0 6 p.m. Moved by Margaret MacLean, that the meeting be adjourned.

## 9.0 2005 OLBA COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

### 9.01 VICE PRESIDENT

#### AND PRESIDENT ELECT –

DOREEN HORBACH, HAMILTON PLB

What an exciting year this has been for me and the OLBA Council. The learning curve has been extraordinary: the launch of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, meetings with the Minister of Culture, the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, a new draft strategic plan, the first Ministry of Culture's Library Leaders' Dialogue, as well as devastating cuts to Ontario Library Services North & South. As your vice-president and president elect, I have worked with talented informed people on your council, addressing your needs as voiced at the AGM.

In large part due to Sue Culp's vision and leadership, the strategic plan 2006 – 2009 is ready for consideration at this year's AGM as well as on the OLBA web site.

The resolution from last year's AGM 2005 to increase the per household grant to public libraries has been brought to the attention of Minister of Culture Madeleine Meilleur as well as firmly being a part of the strategic directions.

Our biggest challenge was to provide relevant on-going trustee development that coincided with the three-year terms of appointment and meshed with the needs encountered in each year. A grant proposal was developed and submitted to the Minister in May of 2005. The ministry agreed with the OLBA Council and the grant proposal has passed the first stages and has been approved. The work to develop sustainable professional development continues. What wonderful work for 2006!

The Strategic Plan 2006 – 2009 will set

our council's work for 2006. With your direction at AGM 2006, we will continue to respond to the needs of the OLBA membership. One key way will be improved communication with our members. As your president in 2006, I look forward to beginning work with the council and membership on the Strategic Plan 2006 – 2009.

Sue Culp has provided leadership and expertise to the OLBA Council. Her insights and knowledge of the issues has made this an exceptional year and I would like to thank her for her mentorship. The support of OLA, the council and Sue Culp has been stellar. Thank You.

### 9.02 TORONTO COUNCILLOR -

OKEIMA R. LAWRENCE, TORONTO  
PLB

This was my first year as a member of the OLBA, and I must say it has been a pleasure representing the Toronto Public Library Board as a member of the OLBA. This year was filled with a number of exciting events and great developmental opportunities.

I had the pleasure of attending a number of meetings and working with a number of dynamic individuals. Suzanne Culp and I attended a trustee development meeting in Markham, where we toured their new multi-use facility and learned more about strategic planning and the concerns of northern libraries. I also had the pleasure of presenting to the OLBA the TPL's strategic plan, particularly, its renewed focus on youth services, and its commitment to creating a system that is responsive to the needs of the community by engaging youth. This was particularly poignant, as Toronto faces issues with violence and youth.

It is also my pleasure to announce that a motion has been put forward to the TPLB, to have a permanent seat on the board for a youth representative. I encourage all trustees to engage youth in the decision-making process; there is a

great deal to gain and nothing to lose.

Mid-year we began to overhaul our strategic plan. We put our thinking caps on and came up with a more focused and progressive vision for the future. I hope you enjoy our vision. Thank you for a great year.

### 9.03 NORTHWEST REGION –

MARGARET MACLEAN,  
THUNDER BAY PLB

The year 2005 has been exciting for library trustees: a new OLBA strategic plan, plans for the third Trustee Development Workshop, the first Ministry of Culture's Library Leaders' Dialogues, FOPL, the budget cuts to the Northern Ontario Library Services Board, to name just a few issues.

As a council member I have been tasked with a number of portfolios. I convened two sessions at the 2005 Super Conference. I attended the Canadian Library Trustees' Association meetings in Calgary at the June CLA Conference, highlighting what was happening in Ontario as well as offering OLBA help to CLTA if needed in any area of trustee concern. I am the chair of the OLBA Trustee of the Year Award and the OLBA representative on the Libraries Advance Ontario committee. Jan Perfect (Northeastern region) and I hold the OLBA Council's Northern Ontario portfolio. As one of the directors on the Ontario Library Services Board we had to deal with a major Ministry cut to OLS-N funding and unfortunately the Kirkland Lake and Thunder Bay offices had to be closed. Another blow to the North!

As your representative for the Northwestern Ontario region, I continue to raise Northern issues and concerns to Council. Please send me any news of your library. We want to hear from you. Also, in November consider nominating your library or a trustee for next year's OLBA awards.

### 9.04 NORTHEAST REGION –

JAN PERFECT, NORTH BAY PLB



Jan Perfect's report will be distributed at the 2006 AGM.

#### **9.05 SOUTHWEST REGION -**

**PAUL ELGIE, HURON COUNTY PLB**

This past year has been an exciting stimulating educational experience since I was appointed to the OLBA Council at the Super Conference in February 2005. It has been a busy year being on both the SOLS and OLBA Councils, but the pleasure of associating and communicating with erudite council and board members at Trustee meetings, conference calls and online discussions, epitomizes the highest limits in librarianship endeavor.

My one main goal has been to learn about libraries across the province in order to be able to offer the most I can to my own board, - Huron County. Other goals have been and are to improve the library systems across Ontario.

When I phoned three area member boards, I was greeted with honor and respect and found out that they are all sending representatives to the Super Conference- some are sending four board members, - Owen Sound for example. I am proud to say that Huron County makes it possible for all Board members to attend. Since being appointed as Huron County Trustee in October 2001, I have attended four Super Conferences and am looking forward to my 5th conference in February.

During my 10 months as an OLBA councillor, I have attended seven different meetings both SOLS and OLBA where I found lively discussions and shared valuable educational ideas. Roundtable discussions brought forth varied ideas, which if looked at wisely, could be inculcated into the strategies which would ultimately benefit your own board.

#### **9.06 CENTRAL WEST REGION -**

**BOB ERNEST, WATERLOO PLB**

Over the past year I have attended Southern Ontario Library Services (SOLS) trustee council meetings in two regions. Trustee Council One covers the library boards in the southwestern part of the province. Trustee Council Three includes boards in the Huron, Bruce, Grey, Perth and Wellington counties. These library boards vary greatly in size, services and governance. These meetings are wonderful learning opportunity for trustees to be updated on provincial issues, to share ideas, to receive professional growth, and to network with other trustees in the region. As an OLBA representative at these meetings I presented the OLBA portion of the professional development agenda, and promoted participation in OLBA and its activities. Almost all boards represented at these meetings are also members of OLBA and almost every board sends representatives to the OLA Super Conference. Our challenge over the next year is to increase participation in OLBA and in the SOLS trustee council meetings.

My responsibility at the OLBA council table includes being on the editorial board of our newsletter InsideOLBA and representing OLBA on the editorial board of the OLA magazine Access.

This year I was elected as a representative of Trustee Council Three to serve on the board of SOLS. Our challenge was immediate. SOLS faced a significant cut in its operating budget and the SOLS board had to decide how to make the budgetary cuts with the least possible impact on the libraries. Unfortunately, some services had to be cut. Through our meetings with the Ministry of Culture, we hope that the government can be convinced that the cuts were not in the best interests of the library community and therefore the residents of Ontario.

At the local level, I continue to serve as vice-chair of the Waterloo Public Library Board, and serve on the

Building Committee for the expansion of library services in the city of Waterloo through the construction of two new district-sized branches over the next four years.

#### **9.07 MID-CENTRAL REGION -**

**CATHERINE DOWD, ORILLIA PLB**

In 2005, I attended the spring Trustee Council One meeting and the autumn Trustee Council Four meeting. At these meetings I reported on the work of OLBA and promoted the value of membership. As funding to the OLS for trustee development has been drastically reduced, membership in OLBA is more important than ever, as OLBA continues to provide avenues for trustee learning.

My areas of responsibility on OLBA Council include striking a Nominations Committee to find candidates for eligible OLBA Council positions. I would like to thank Harold Greaves (Cobourg), Terri Anne Lundgren (Rainy River), and Katherine Belrose (Richmond Hill) for their work on this Committee. I am also responsible for striking an Elections Committee to oversee any elections to OLBA Council. At the time of writing this report, Peter Rogers had agreed to scrutinize the 2005 election. Thank you.

My other portfolio is Super Conference 2006. As a conference co-planner, I planned OLBA topics, based in large part on comments received from OLBA members, and I found appropriate speakers. In June, Claudette Richardson of the Kingston public library board joined me in this endeavour. Together, we worked on the conference program, found convenors (thanks to all who volunteered!), and promoted the value of attending Super Conference. I wrote 2 articles about the Conference, one of which was published in InsideOLBA, and the other on the OLBA listserv. Along with my colleagues on Council, I contacted a selection of OLBA and non-OLBA library Chairs to promote both

the Conference and OLBA membership, and personally invited them to join both. I encourage all boards to plan to attend Super Conference 2007 and to prepare your 2006 library budgets accordingly.

It was a pleasure working with my OLBA Council colleagues to develop a draft strategic plan for OLBA. I look forward to comments and contributions by our members as, together, we create a roadmap for taking us where we want to go.

**9.08 CENTRAL EAST REGION –**

**SELMA BOCHNEK, BELLEVILLE PLB**

I have enjoyed my first few months as the Central East Region OLBA councillor, completing the term for Leanne Sedgwick. My first OLBA Council meeting was in September, just in time to be involved in the beginning of the strategic planning process. Going through this process on arrival to the Council was a wonderful (and busy) opportunity to get great exposure into the role of your OLBA Council. I have attended a number of regional meetings in the past as Chair of the Belleville Public Library and Art Gallery however this last one for 2005 was my first as the Central East Region councillor. Sharing activities, issues and general information with trustee councillors from around the province provides an important link between all libraries and your OLBA Council. I have appreciated the opportunity to provide such a link. My OLBA Portfolio includes serving on the SOLS, OLS-N, AMO, NOMA, Ministry of Culture Committee and OLBA Council Awards Committee. The OLBA Council is a hardworking team group open to hearing from everyone and working for the benefit of Ontario Public Libraries. It's great to be a part of this dynamic and progressive Team.

**9.09 EASTERN REGION –**

**MARGARET WICKLUM  
BROCKVILLE PLB**

The OLBA training of trustees in Eastern Ontario has been very productive this year, with many libraries instituting strategic planning, more advocacy, and overall a general promotion of the importance of libraries to their communities. As well as the regular quarterly OLBA Council meetings in Toronto, I attended two SOLS Trustee Council meetings, in Brockville (April), and Arnprior (November), both of which were well attended and fruitful: ideas were exchanged, news of OLBA and FOPL were passed on, and many good ideas for programmes and policy were shared. Several libraries, notably Kemptville and Prescott, are in the midst of large fundraising campaigns with a view to improving services, collections or property, and report great satisfaction with the level of community commitment to their libraries and the extent of volunteer service. Widespread Eastern Ontario response to the government funding cutbacks to SOLS has helped focus on the need for continued trustee training through OLBA, and the presence of many representatives from Eastern Ontario libraries at Super Conference is encouraging to all.

**9.10 PAST PRESIDENT –**

**IAN HUNTER, OTTAWA PLB**

The OLBA training of This is my last day as a member of the OLBA Council. I joined the Council in 2001 as the Eastern Region councillor, shortly after my appointment to the newly amalgamated Ottawa Public Library Board. I have enjoyed immensely my time on the Council, working with my colleagues and with library trustees on the various issues affecting Ontario libraries. I feel that the OLBA is in good shape and headed for a dynamic and prosperous future. After today, I will stay involved with the OLBA/OLA as a general member and volunteer. My principal activity will be as the 2006 OLBA rep on the new OLA Website Committee, working to improve our online performance and service. Thank you.

**2006 OLBA Council**

**President**

**Doreen Horbach (Hamilton)**

**Vice-President/President Elect**

**Catherine Dowd (Orillia)**

**Past President**

**Suzanne Culp (Lincoln)**

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Margaret Wicklum (Brockville)**

**Councillors:**

**Southwest**

**Paul Elgie (Huron County)**

**Northwest**

**Joyce Cunningham (Fort Frances)**

**Central West**

**Bob Ernest (Waterloo)**

**Mid-Central**

**Catherine Dowd**

**Central East**

**Selma Bochner (Belleville)**

**Northeast**

**Jan Perfect (North Bay)**

**Eastern**

**Margaret Wicklum**

**Toronto**

**Karen Stintz**

**Leaving Council in 2006:**

**Ian Hunter (2005 Past President)**

**Margaret Maclean (Thunder Bay)**

**Okeima Lawrence (Toronto)**