

**107th Annual General Meeting
of the Ontario Library Association
May 29, 2008**

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Larry Moore**

The annual reports of President Esther Rosenfeld and Treasurer Sonia Lewis eloquently capture the program and fiscal situation of my last year as your Executive Director.

Another busy year

Much time was spent this year on the search for a new Executive Director and much background and research was developed for that fascinating exercise. As always it was stimulating to work with the Executive and the staff on this project.

The year was again dominated by OLA's technological reconstruction and by the everyday work with you and your fellow members on the excellent programs and advocacy you pursue so intelligently year after year.

Liz Kerr left her education career to become full-time Education Director for the OLA, The Partnership across Canada and the new partnership with Neal Schuman's Professional Education Network in the United States. Media Designer Andrew Ryther left OLA to freelance after six years of stellar designs for everything from Super Conference and the Forest of Reading to Canadian Library Week and First Nations materials.

My final annual report

The farewell given me at the 2008 Super Conference, although it falls outside the time frame of this report, cannot be ignored. How many people have the privilege of such a send-off! The event at the conference was extraordinary. All the letters and gifts that have come before and after it have been overwhelming – from Burlington Public Library Board's so innovative action to create a bursary for a non-member staff person to attend Super Conference each year, to the eloquent and personally moving letters from so many organizations, OCUL to the Premier.

I have accepted awards from associations from coast to coast, to end in June with a black tie affair at the ALA annual conference. I have accepted all of these citations on your behalf because they are all a tribute to OLA, to its creative members, its hard-working staff and volunteers and to the value of the work we have all done together for the betterment of libraries and associations in Canada.

A team like few others

Much has been said in praise of the young team that staffs the OLA office. They have been a joy to work with – loyal, hard-working, creative, stimulating. That they work so well with each other and with our members is one of those special things that I already miss.

Leaving Jefferson Gilbert, my soul mate and co-Director for the last eighteen years, is staggeringly hard. We had an extraordinary balance of talents for furthering and protecting the OLA and its members over the years. Even though our abilities fell cleanly between my program and advocacy activities and Jefferson's fundraising and business strengths, we played off each other in inventive, often surprising, ways that led to many innovative solutions for member ideas. We daily sought better ways to take the OLA forward, preferably into uncharted waters.

And I miss all of you – our extraordinary leaders, our totally dedicated volunteers, our thoughtful, caring members. Thank you for your ideas, your love of this field and everything you have shared. Without you, there is no OLA.

My congratulations and heartfelt best wishes go to my successor, Shelagh Paterson.