

REPORT OF SHELAGH PATERSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OLA

As Tanis Fink, 2011 OLA president remarked in her report, libraries faced a number of challenges in 2011. This continues and is escalating. OLA posted a list of cuts under the headline 'libraries under attack' — perhaps dramatic, but if we don't care who will? OLA members have been taking action — writing to their local MP regarding the elimination of the Community Access Program, writing the Minister of Canadian Heritage about the serious cuts to Library and Archives Canada, and a lively dialogue has been occurring about the looming copyright tariff increase universities and colleges are facing. The Summer 2012 Access Magazine is timely. It is devoted to Social Justice and libraries.

This year, we thanked Wayne Jones, editor-in-chief of *Access Magazine* for the past four years, who wanted to make way for a new perspective for our members' magazine. During his tenure, Wayne implemented a new graphic design and cover strategy, developed new columns, and began the process to develop an online presence for the magazine. OLA welcomed Mike Ridley as the new editor-in-chief of *Access*. He will introduce some edgy and provocative features, and will challenge our members to contemplate our profession in new ways.

My thanks to the 2011 OLA Board and Divisional Councils for their energy, fresh ideas and tenacity. The opportunity to connect with a fresh group of leaders each year is what makes this job interesting. Tanis Fink, 2011 OLA President, injected a collegial and fun atmosphere

into the association — from spearheading the giant Hustle at the Super Conference disco party to ensuring that members were listened to when a difficult situation arose, to her support of the OLA staff.

Since launching our current strategic plan in 2010, and the four strategic priorities:

Growing career paths and potential
Collaborating to extend libraries strategic voice
Transforming ideas into solutions
Strengthening our organization

OLA has implemented new committees, transformed OLA's IT road map, strengthened and created a dynamic and responsive staff team to better meet new priorities, launched new signature events, grown the Super Conference, expanded the Forest of Reading program, and increased our social media presence dramatically.

2012 and 2013 will be another opportunity to connect more closely with members. Under the leadership of Karen McGrath, 2012 OLA president, and Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, 2013 OLA president, we start the process to develop our next strategic plan. We hope you will get involved in the evolution of your association. It can only lead to "The Ultimate Library Experience!", Karen's theme for the 2013 OLA Super Conference.

