

# InsideOLBA

FALL 2011

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## Maintaining Special Collections

Dr. Sabrina Redwing Saunders, CEO, Six Nations Public Library in Ohsweken, Ontario



Six Nations Public Library

Lieutenant Governor David Onley reads at the First Nations Public Library Week 2011 launch.

**A**s Trustees you are regularly involved in the big picture governance issues at your library, but do you regularly consider the collection? Usually, the Board's role of policy development is divorced from collection development as this falls to the CEO and/or department heads. Although this is the correct interpretation of roles, there is a place for every Board in collections. Consider the following:

### As a Board, what role can we play in ensuring that ...

- ◆ Special populations are served within the Library?
- ◆ Our community has access to information

about special populations?  
◆ Policy Development for special populations and special collections is a priority?

◆ Have we considered the Collection Development Policy of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines (OPLG) as a framework for future Board initiatives?

As a First Nations CEO and educator I take an Aboriginal perspective here, but you could also consider topical issues such as mining in a mining town, animal husbandry in a 4H community or large immigrant or growing population in your community.

Your CEO is regularly gathering information about the community including municipal

demographics, user stats, circulation trends, etc., but the statistics more regularly than not, are based on the users and not the non-users. The CEO and Board should also be asking, What do our non-users need? and What else do our users need that they haven't thought to ask us for?

Provincially, there is a policy titled 'Ontario's Approach to Aboriginal Affairs,' which is a cross-ministerial priority document addressing the Ontario government's priorities on working with and for Ontario's Aboriginal peoples (Ministry of Tourism and Culture included). Further, at the 2010 AGM both FOPL and  
**continued on page 6**

## Working Together

**A note from the president: Joyce Cunningham**

**A**s I begin to write this in the last week of August I am thinking about the many news reports, journal articles, blog entries, tweets and emails about libraries and their future that have come to my attention recently.

One of the things that I found interesting and somewhat disturbing is that in almost all of these, library boards are never mentioned.

Have we become bodies who serve no purpose and have no influence on the future of libraries? I would hate to think that is true.

I suggest that if we are to be truly relevant and if we are going to have any say in what happens to our libraries then we need to start working together. We all talk a great deal about communication but have we moved beyond a mere recitation of platitudes? Does our communication involve listening and examining others' opinions or perceptions?

I am suggesting that the verb in the title of this article is significant.

**continued on page 7**

## Editor's Note:

**Beth Phieffer**  
Editor, *Inside OLBA*



# HELP!

Ink in your veins?

Some extra time on your hands?

Interested in getting involved?

Got some ideas to share about libraries?

## Have we got a spot for you!

We're looking for people to share:

- ◆ Their writing skills to author articles
- ◆ Their knowledge to edit *Inside OLBA*
- ◆ Their willingness to share their expertise

If you are interested, please contact me at: [bphieffer@sympatico.ca](mailto:bphieffer@sympatico.ca). Beth Phieffer, Editor, *Inside OLBA*. ■

## NOMINATE NOW!

**Elections will be held for the following positions on the OLBA Council:**

- ◆ Vice-President/President Elect (also on OLA Board)
  - ◆ Northwestern Council Rep
  - ◆ East Central Council Rep

Successful candidates begin their terms in January, 2012.

Nominations close November 15, 2011.

Information about the duties of councillors and procedures for nominations can be found on the OLA webpage.

[www.accessola.com](http://www.accessola.com)

## Ontario Library Boards' Association Awards



**James Bain**  
1842 — 1908

Awards season gets into swing the first week of September with the presentation of the Gemini Awards. Those of us in the library field turn our thoughts to all the people who dedicate their time, knowledge and efforts to making things happen in libraries across Ontario. The buzz is in the air and we want you to consider nominating someone you know who is deserving of recognition for his or her dedication and accomplishments.

### James Bain Medallion

The James Bain Medallion is awarded to a library board member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in governing a public library in Ontario. This province-wide award recognizes and honours the best contributions and efforts of those board members. The winner is selected by the Awards Committee of OLBA and presented by OPLA at the Awards dinner held in conjunction with OLA's annual Super Conference.

James Bain was the first president of the Ontario Library Association in 1901 and chief librarian of the Toronto Public Library.

#### Who is eligible?

The nominated candidate must have served on a public library board for at least part of the calendar year for which he or she is honoured. All nominated board members from small, medium and large libraries are given equal consideration.

### W.J. Robertson Medallion

The W.J. Robertson Medallion is presented by the Ontario Library Boards' Association to a librarian who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the advancement of public library service in Ontario. This provincial award recognizes and honours significant contributions to the library profession and is presented at the Awards dinner held in conjunction with OLA's annual Super Conference.

William John Robertson was a founding and very prominent member of the "originals" who established the constitution at the first Annual meeting of the Ontario Library Association in 1901.

#### Who is eligible?

The nominated candidate must be a professional librarian working in an Ontario library for at least part of the calendar year for which he or she is honoured. Librarians from small, medium and large libraries are given equal consideration.

**To learn more about these awards, and how you can nominate someone you feel is worthy, go to the OLBA webpage [www.accessola.com/olba](http://www.accessola.com/olba)**

## Library Champions

Kim Vares, Northwestern Region Council Rep, Dryden Public Library Board



### Joyce Cunningham

/olba

**Ontario Library Boards' Association**

**Council Member / President**

**OLS-North, Chair**

**Fort Frances Library Board**

**Q What do you value most in other people?**

**A** The ability to think. In some I see a wonderful logical mind; in others it is creativity; in others it is the practicality and knowledge of the true craftsman. Whatever the basis, these people stimulate and enrich our lives.

**Q What has been your all-time favourite read?**

**A** I don't seem to have one. Often it is a recent read or sometimes a book I have gone back to because of current events or experiences.

**Q If the whole world were listening, what would you say?**

**A** Can we all learn how to truly listen to one another? Rarely do we have the skills or the energy or the desire to listen to what is really being said or

what is not being said. I don't mean we have to agree with everything but it would be nice if we could try to understand one another.

**Q Who is your favourite author?**

**A** Shakespeare. It is amazing how often a word or phrase or a character will pop into my mind in the midst of a conversation or activity. Some of my most memorable moments have been in a theatre when the words come to life and I am transported to another world.

**Q What are you currently reading?**

**A** I read mysteries. Currently I am reading *Spare Change* by Robert B. Parker. It is one of his Sunny Randall novels and I discovered that I had not read any of this series. ■

## Library Board Trustees Can Make the Difference for Your Friends

Dorothy Macnaughton, President, Friends of Canadian Libraries; Volunteer, Friends of the Prince Township Library (outside Sault Ste. Marie, ON); Past President, Friends of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

In these challenging economic times, it makes sense for libraries and library Boards to take a serious look at whether you are taking full advantage of individuals in your community who believe in the value of your library. We just need to look at the situation in the Greater Toronto Area where libraries may face serious cuts in the near future. Libraries need advocates and fundraisers who are willing to offer their time and energy to the library.

In the areas of advocacy and fundraising, it really makes a difference if you have an established Friends group for your library. In many cases across Canada, Friends groups were formed with the help of forward-thinking Library Boards. Library Boards themselves are made up of volunteers and therefore, it only makes sense that they should understand how important volunteers can be. Often Trustees are aware of the existence of other Friends groups across the province and can offer contact information for another group in the area, or for the national organization, Friends of Canadian Libraries (FOCAL at [www.friendsoflibraries.ca](http://www.friendsoflibraries.ca)).

Assistance with a Friends planning meeting, providing a location for meetings, and/or some start-up funding from the

Library Board indicates to the community that the Trustees support the formation of a Friends group and that they understand the value of a Friends group. The Board may appoint a liaison person to attend Friends meetings and report back to the Library Board to enhance communication.

Several years ago, a Trustee approached a FOCAL exhibit at the Canadian Library Association conference in Ottawa. He asked if there were any resources for Library Trustees or Library

the OLA who understand the immense value of Friends groups. The OLA's support enables FOCAL to reach out to Library Trustees, as well as staff and Friends' volunteers, not just at the time of the OLA conference, but with ongoing resources and support, some of which were developed as a direct result of conference sessions. FOCAL offers a variety of sessions each year at the OLA Super Conference. We design these sessions to support Trustees and library staff who want to start a

2012, FOCAL has arranged for Sally Reed, Executive Director of the American Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF) organization to present a session on "Friend Raising — Fund Raising: New Innovative Approaches." The Ontario Library Boards' Association is also having Sally speak on "Trustee Power: Innovative Ways to Impact Your Library!" Since there have been Friends groups in the U.S. for many years, and since ALTAFF is fortunate to have paid staff, we can all benefit from the knowledge and expertise that Sally can provide.

It is worthwhile to at least investigate the possibility of creating a Friends group, or to provide meaningful support to your existing group. A Library Board can assist a new Friends group with a financial contribution that can ensure the viability of the group. If you can volunteer for your Friends group on an occasional basis, it demonstrates how much you value their contribution. If you say, "Thank You" to individual Friends, it demonstrates your support in a tangible way.

It doesn't take a huge amount of time or effort to show your Friends volunteers that you enthusiastically support what they do. ■

### Libraries need advocates and fundraisers who are willing to offer their time and energy to the library

staff interested in starting a Friends group. At the time, most of the resources about that topic were American. FOCAL listened to this valuable input and two of the FOCAL Executive members wrote a Canadian manual designed to help libraries start a Friends group. It is sold by the OLA Store.

The Ontario Library Association (OLA) has nurtured an ongoing relationship with FOCAL since 1999, thanks to FOCAL's Executive at the time, particularly Val Marshall from Ajax, and thanks to Larry Moore and Shelagh Paterson of

Friends group and to offer meaningful support to existing Friends groups.

For the past two years, FOCAL has been emphasizing how Friends can support their libraries through fundraising, assisting with capital campaigns and selling books online. Rob Lavery of Southern Ontario Library Service has provided excellent presentations and resources. All of the session materials from the OLA conference can be found on the FOCAL website and on the OLA website.

For the conference in



## Maintaining Special Collections

... continued from page 1

OPLA passed unanimous resolutions that members and organizations would (a) support First Nations Public Library's advocacy campaigns for on-par resources and (b) would support Aboriginal content within their own library systems. As a Board, policy development pertaining to prioritizing Aboriginal collections content is a first step towards meeting commitment (b).

According to the OPLG, every Library should have a collection development policy and plan. This plan should include budget percentages allocated for various collections such as children's, fiction, non-fiction, electronic, local history, replacement materials, reference/resource, etc.

Why not add a category of Aboriginal materials? Every K-12 learner in Ontario has integrated studies including Aboriginal content. With reports and projects required across the curriculum, a children's collection involving Aboriginal content is a service required for successful literacy and education. A program such as the First Nation Communities Read provides an easy and user-friendly group of books published over the last decade which were selected by qualified First Nations specialists. As a lifelong learner, I regularly pick up hot topics and new releases across disciplinary fields. Aboriginal adult materials would be a strong



## Super Conference 2012 Bursaries Draw

### Available to board members:

- ◆ Who have not previously attended
- ◆ Who are serving their first term
- ◆ Who serve on Northwestern, Northeastern or Ottawa Valley public library boards
- ◆ Who submit applications by Nov. 15, 2011

Check for details Oct. 15 at

[www.accessola.com/olba/bins/index.asp](http://www.accessola.com/olba/bins/index.asp)

addition to any collection.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, there are nearly 300,000 Aboriginal people in the province. Most people immediately think of the reserve or urban Torontonians as the Aboriginal population, but that is a misconception. According to Census Canada, there are 150,565

urban Aboriginal peoples (2006). As an additional 18% of all Aboriginal people live off-reserve in non-urban communities, you most likely have an Aboriginal constituency and these would not have been counted in the urban numbers.

Although this is only a teaser of what a Board can do to improve Aboriginal

and other special collections, a session is planned for 2012 OLA Super Conference under the OLBA stream which can assist in developing language around this and other policy issues. We hope that you will consider your own situation and community and then join us in February for the working session. ■

## Note from the President

... continued from page 1

Moving forward is not easy; it requires effort, skill and dedication. I am suggesting that in many ways, at many levels, we need to start working together now.

### First, at the local board level:

- ◆ The Board must become a team, not merely a bunch of individuals who come together once a month.
- ◆ The Board, particularly the Chair, must work co-operatively with the CEO.
- ◆ The Board must establish an effective working relationship with Council.
- ◆ The Board must reach out to build a healthy respect and relationship with the community's organizations, groups and individuals.

### Second, OLBA Council, a Division within OLA:

- ◆ We on council must see ourselves as a team and act as such, not merely as representatives from particular regions.
- ◆ The OLBA council must recognize its role as a significant and contributing member of OLA and all it represents.
- ◆ The OLBA council must develop effective working relationships with some of the other Divisions of OLA.
- ◆ The OLBA council

must find ways not only to communicate with our members, but also to work with them as we all strive toward more effective libraries and better service to our communities.

### Third, OLBA and its potential partners:

One of the priorities in OLBA's Strategic Plan is to develop partnerships with clearly defined expectations. As we assess initiatives with partners such as SOLS, OLSN, FOPL, we must keep some things in mind:

- ◆ If we wish to participate in SOLS Trustee Council Meetings, what is our goal or purpose? Are we merely distributing information and if that is the case is this the most efficient and cost efficient way to do it?
- ◆ If we wish to offer sessions at the OLSN Conference who is our targeted audience? Are we reaching them in an efficient way?
- ◆ When we support FOPL's efforts as they lobby for increases to the operational grants, are we clear that we do not endorse any particular funding formula as that is the responsibility of local boards?

What I am suggesting is that developing partnerships does not imply that the mission or focus of both organizations has to be identical. We can work together when we have

goals or objectives in common; we can respect and understand others' goals and objectives that may not coincide with ours or may not be part of our mandate. What we do need is honest dialogue.

If we truly wish to reach out, to work with others and develop our skills and knowledge there are many resources available to us:

- ◆ OLBA's Leadership by Design, particularly One Place To Look
- ◆ SOLS/OLSN Joint Clearinghouse (available on both the OLSN site, [www.olsn.ca](http://www.olsn.ca) and the SOLS site, [www.sols.org/](http://www.sols.org/))
- ◆ OLSN webinars ([www.olsn.ca/webinars/index.asp](http://www.olsn.ca/webinars/index.asp))
- ◆ Articles in publications such as *OLA.Access* and *Inside OLBA*
- ◆ OLA's Super Conference presentation materials and the Virtual Conference

I realize I have said nothing that is new. However, in the last few weeks I have been reminded that every now and then we all need to be prodded to take the next steps. If we do, our boards, our associations, our libraries can benefit greatly.

On the other hand, if we remain complacent or refuse to listen to and talk with others we will be contributing to the erosion of library boards. We will have abdicated our responsibilities and handed over power and influence to others, some of whom have little

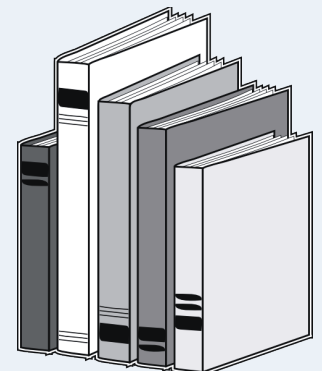
knowledge and whose interests may not be compatible with ours or the communities we serve.

I believe that those of us who volunteered to serve on library boards did so because we care about libraries and our communities. It behooves us to take our positions seriously and work together to save and improve what others have left in our care. ■

### Worth remembering

*The world of books is the most remarkable creation of man. Nothing else that he builds ever lasts. Monuments fail; nations perish; civilizations grow old and die out; and, after an era of darkness, new races build others. But in the world of books are volumes that have seen this happen again and again, and yet live on, still young, still as fresh as the day they were written, still telling men's hearts of the hearts of men centuries dead.*

— Clarence S. Day



# Ontario Library Boards' Association Council 2011

## EXECUTIVE



**Joyce Cunningham**  
President  
Fort Frances Public Library  
Board  
joycec@jam21.net  
725 Third Street West  
Fort Frances, P9A 3B5  
H (807) 274-9248  
C (807) 275-7250



**Frances Ryan**  
Vice-President  
Northeastern Region  
Sault Ste. Marie Public  
Library Board  
fryan@sympatico.ca  
71 Rossmore Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, P6C 5Z2  
H (705) 949-6040



**Jane Hilton**  
Past President  
Whitby Public Library  
Board  
jhilton@idirect.ca  
405 Dundas Street West  
Whitby, L1N 6A1  
H (905) 666-4655  
W (905) 721-2000



**Lynn Humfress-Trute**  
Treasurer  
Southwestern Region  
Middlesex County Board  
trute@execulink.com  
11765 Petty Street  
Ailsa Craig, NOM 1A0  
H (519) 232-9190  
W (519) 872-8143

## COUNCILLORS



**Beth Phieffer**  
Secretary  
Central Region East  
Belleville Public Library  
Board  
bphieffer@sympatico.ca



**Jacqueline Houde**  
Eastern Region  
jjhoude@cogeco.ca  
Cornwall Public Library  
Board



**Kim Vares**  
Northwestern Region  
kvares@shaw.ca  
Dryden Public Library Board



**Don D. Lynch**  
Councillor - Central West  
Region  
dlynch@snpl.ca  
Board: Six Nations PL



**Sheila Taylor**  
Mid Central Region  
Halton Hills Public Library  
Board, staylor@condar.ca

## InsideOLBA

### Ontario Library Boards' Association

A division of the Ontario Library Association, 50 Wellington St. East, Suite 201 Toronto, M5E 1C8 416 363-3388 or 1-866-873-9867 toll free

*InsideOLBA* describes the decisions and activities of OLBA leadership, explains OLBA program and provides news about Ontario's public library boards.

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**Beth Phieffer**  
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### OLBA COUNCIL MEETINGS

Next meeting: Nov. 26, 2011

### OLBA WEBSITE

[www.accessola.com/olba](http://www.accessola.com/olba)

### OLBA LISTSERV

Email [olba-l@accessola.com](mailto:olba-l@accessola.com)  
Subscribing required; for OLBA members only.

### SUPER CONFERENCE 2012

February 1-4, 2012  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
Over 20 seminars developed specifically for Library Board Trustees. Special programming for new Trustees at the 2012 Super Conference.

### OLBA Super Conference Planners Jacqueline Houde

Cornwall Public Library Board  
[jjhoude@cogeco.ca](mailto:jjhoude@cogeco.ca)

### Kim Vares

Dryden Public Library Board  
[kvares@shaw.ca](mailto:kvares@shaw.ca)

Would you like to get involved with Super Conference?

Consider convening a session.

Look for the call for convenors on the OLBA email list in November!

**Correction** *Inside OLBA* spring edition featured 'Governance Best Practices — Effective Meetings' by Jane Hilton. We regret omitting the author's name. The article can also be accessed online from OLA's website under Resources and Publications.