

OLA 2012

Karen McGrath, President

This past year has been another banner year for OLA. The Board oversaw many important milestones to complete the last year of the association's current strategic plan and was proud to represent the membership's interests in assisting the association to complete another successful year on financially sound footing.

Some of the major issues that crossed the Board table included the implementation of phase 2 of the association's IT infrastructure, which saw the rollout of the membership database, OLA Store, EI, the OLA Community and myOLA. This type of work is somewhat behind the scenes, and invisible to the membership, but critical to the future of the association. Congratulations to Shelagh and staff for completing phase 2 of the migration on time. We also received many requests from organizations who recognize a successful organization when they see one — for funding and partnership opportunities — and these caused much spirited debate (as it should!) — around the Board table. By way of example, decisions were taken to support Our Digital World, and also to enter into a partnership with the Toronto Special Library group.

OLA advocacy efforts have become top of mind for all of us. Over the past year the activities related to copyright in libraries, the cuts happening at all levels of government — with Library and Archives Canada at the top of that list — and the continual questioning of the relevance of our work provided much work for the advocacy committee. To help us in these efforts, we began the year with Michael Ridley helping us through an exercise to articulate the organization's values. Why? In responding to the issues that were coming fast and furious, we realized that we had articulated our mission/vision but the values on which we stand were not there. Now as Michael would say, values are lived, not written on a piece of paper to sit on a shelf somewhere. Point taken! These values have provided a good benchmark for us in our advocacy efforts and can be accessed online at http://bit.ly/ola_strat. Thanks to Tanis Fink, 2011 OLA President, who continues to lead the Board's advocacy committee to provide a framework for identifying and responding to issues of concern.

Super Conference "The Ultimate Library Experience" was once again the highlight of the year. Until you are an active participant on the Super Conference Planning Committee you don't have an appreciation of the

hardworking volunteers and the OLA staff who put hours into making sure your conference continues to be the best in the country! But OLA does not rest on its laurels, and this year the committee continues to review the format to determine if there are some tweaks or major overhauls needed. Please contact the committee if you have any suggestions as these are welcome any time.



Personally I am so pleased to see the membership of ABO-Franco continue to grow. The Foire Franco at the conference was the first time we have put a spotlight on French language programs and services in libraries in Ontario. Félicitations et bonne continuation to the ABO-Franco team for organizing a wonderful program which garnered quite a bit of attention particularly from Radio-Canada (radio and TV). We cannot forget that there are over 600,000 people in Ontario who are looking for these services, and I am pleased that library workers serving these populations can find a home at OLA as well.

Volunteering first as Vice-President, then President and the Past-President has been a refreshing and renewing experience for me. I encourage all of you to consider running for Council and for the Board. Yes, there is a commitment of your time, but the enriching experience through the colleagues you meet and learn from, the new thinking you are exposed to is ...well... priceless. Start by volunteering at the conference itself, or on your division's planning committee...but just start!

Turning to the future — we are into a new strategic planning process under President Susanna's leadership. The organization doesn't exist without its membership. Please contribute to the future of your association by completing the survey which will be on OLA's website, or participating in the other ways that will be offered. We are at a critical time in the lives of libraries and library workers. What do you want from your association and more importantly — what can you do for it as well? Take the opportunity to help define the future — we need you.

Karen McGrath

OLA BY THE NUMBERS

2012

Membership



4412 OLA members

4879 Super Conference participants

500+ volunteer members engaged in committees, councils, projects and events throughout the year!

Social Networking



1,218
LinkedIn
group
members



926
Facebook "Likes"
facebook.com/
accessola



2429
Twitter followers
twitter.com/
ONLibraryAssoc

The OLA Store

BEST-SELLING TITLES

- Literacy and Learning Lessons from a Longtime Teacher**
by Regie Routman
- Read, Write, Play, Learn**
by Lori Jamison Rog
- Marvelous Minilessons for Teaching Beginning Writing, K to 3**
by Lori Jamison Rog
- Classroom Strategies for Interactive Learning, 3/e**
by Doug Buehl
- Archives: Principles and Practices**
by Laura Millar
- Comprehension Shouldn't Be Silent**
by Michelle J. Kelley,
Nicki Clausen-Grace
- Small-Group Reading Instruction, 2/e**
by Beverly Tyner
- Unlocking the Mysteries of Cataloging**
by Elizabeth Haynes,
Joanna F. Fountain
- Every Child Ready to Read Poster, 2/e**
- Easy MARC**
by Scott Piepenburg

Forest of Reading



Forest of Reading
by the Ontario Library Association



116,424 eligible Forest of Reading voters

11,000 approximate number of Festival attendees in Toronto, Ottawa and Thunder Bay

New award: White Pine Non-Fiction Award added
2,000 attended the NEW Festival of Trees in North Bay and Parry Sound

Approximately 2,300 sites registered in the 2013 programs

Education Institute

49 paid sessions
830 site registrations
76% registrations were from the public library sector
49% were Ontario registrations, the rest from other provinces
Average webinar attendance: 17.8 sites
Most popular paid webinar in 2012:
RDA for Public Services



REPORT OF PAUL TAKALA

OLA TREASURER

In 2012 I completed my second term as OLA Treasurer. It has been an honour for me to work with OLA in this capacity for the last four years. Although we faced some new challenges in 2012, I want to commend the staff and Board for their ongoing dedication and commitment to serving the OLA membership and the Ontario library community. We ended 2012 with a modest operating deficit of \$64,825 and our accumulated surplus was \$1,083,886.

Between 1997 and 2011 OLA saw 15 consecutive years of surplus. That is a remarkable accomplishment that deserves note. While part of the operating deficit for 2012 was because of planned investments in our new IT system, some external factors created added pressure on OLA finances. The shift to digital books has resulted in a decrease in OLA Store revenue. OLA has developed several diverse revenue streams that limit our vulnerability to a loss in one area, however; we should anticipate that changes in the book publishing business will

continue to create challenges for OLA store revenues. Added pressure to our 2012 revenues were created by labour issues in the school sector which resulted in lower membership renewal, delayed and cancelled forest program registrations, and less book purchase from school and school boards.

OLA's record of service, innovation, membership growth and development of revenue streams that align with our mission have all contributed to OLA's success. Moving forward I encourage the Board to continue to invest in key initiatives that will help ensure OLA remains on a sustainable path for the future. Getting actively involved in OLA has been very rewarding for me personally and I encourage all OLA members to find ways to get more involved.

Paul Takala, OLA Treasurer 2012



Top left: University of Guelph Library's entry in The Ultimate Library Circus Act contest. **Top right:** OLA President Karen McGrath shares her opinion with former Library and Archives Canada head Daniel Caron. **Bottom left:** OLA's newly formed Advocacy Committee. **Bottom right:** Students attend the annual Festival of Trees in Toronto.

OLA FINANCIAL

BALANCE SHEET

Drawn from the audited statements for the year ended December 31, 2012 with the audited comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2011.

ASSETS

	Audited 2012	Audited 2011
		(re-stated)
	\$	\$
GENERAL FUND		
Current assets		
Cash and equivalent	287,140	934,649
Accounts receivable	674,109	677,334
Inventory	77,616	50,555
Prepaid expenses - conference	141,626	46,491
- other	22,302	36,910
	1,202,793	1,745,939
Capital assets	233,344	179,376
Investments	613,554	615,397
	2,049,691	2,540,712
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Due from General Fund	3,496	11,577
Investments	137,423	126,763
	140,919	138,340
	2,190,610	2,679,052

LIABILITIES

GENERAL FUND		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accruals	198,035	558,949
Government remittances payable	52,280	50,691
Due to Knowledge Ontario	1,773	1,773
Deferred revenue - grants	8,950	8,950
- conference	701,271	760,061
	962,309	1,380,424
Due to Restricted Funds	3,496	11,577
	965,805	1,392,001
Fund balance	1,083,886	1,148,711
	2,049,691	2,540,712
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Fund balance	140,919	138,340
	2,190,610	2,679,052

STATEMENTS

	Audited 2012	Audited 2011
		(re-stated)
	\$	\$
GENERAL OPERATIONS AND ADVOCACY		
Revenues		
Membership fees	260,541	288,572
Government grants	35,800	35,800
Donations, contributions, interest	19,592	22,668
Miscellaneous	53,821	112,601
	369,754	459,641
Operating Expenses		
	(1,357,661)	(1,265,175)
Net for General Activities	(987,907)	(805,534)
REVENUE PRODUCING ACTIVITIES		
Super Conference		
Revenue	1,143,313	1,171,296
Expense	(521,139)	(624,473)
Net	622,174	546,823
Sales Materials		
Revenue	428,753	614,355
Expense	(369,025)	(491,206)
Net	59,728	123,149
Continuing Education and Magazines		
Revenue	165,410	143,052
Expense	(158,315)	(164,506)
Net	7,095	(21,454)
Special Projects/Board Issues, Research		
Revenue - contract administration	151,854	170,435
- government project grants	45,000	1,170
- registrations, sale materials, contributions	320,228	281,512
Expense	(282,997)	(204,339)
Net	234,085	248,778
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	(64,825)	91,762
Accumulated surplus at beginning of year	1,148,711	1,056,949
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT END OF YEAR	1,083,886	1,148,711

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Drawn from the audited statements for the year ended December 31, 2012 with the audited comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Complete audited statements for the year ended December 31, 2012, as prepared by the accounting firm of Harris & Chong LLP, and approved by the Board of Directors on May 22, 2013, are available on the OLA website at www.accessola.com



ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES DE L'ONTARIO-FRANCO

CATHERINE SEAMAN, PRÉSIDENTE

**2012 ABO-Franco
Membership:
133**

Quelle année occupée et pleine de beaux succès pour l'ABO-Franco! Non seulement avons-nous augmenté notre profil parmi les membres du OLA et dans la communauté, mais nous avons aussi réussi à offrir davantage à nos membres, selon les suggestions faites lors des sondages menés en 2012. Le rapport de ces sondages et les résultats alignés au plan stratégique sont disponibles sur la page Web de l'ABO-Franco.

Plusieurs efforts ont été faits afin d'alimenter la page Web de l'ABO-Franco; vous y trouverez des liens à divers articles, prix et documents en français, y inclus la traduction révisée du document du OLBA intitulé Cut to the Chase. Bonnes nouvelles : le OLA offre de traduire des documents d'importance aux membres de l'ABO-Franco au cours des prochaines années! Nous avons été surpris par le nombre de visites aux sujets discutés dans le forum de l'ABO-Franco sur le OLA Community; en fait, le sujet *Auteurs jeunesse franco-ontariens et de l'Outaouais* a eu au-delà de 5 150 visites... Le 2e sujet le plus côtoyé du OLA Community!



Christian Pilon, voyageur authentique et éducateur

Encore une fois, nous avons pu offrir une gamme variée d'ateliers en français à la Superconférence 2013, dont deux qui ont été traduits simultanément grâce à une commandite d'Archambault. L'ABO-Franco a aussi eu le plaisir de planifier, avec l'aide de Pauline Portelance et l'appui du OLA, une foire franco-ontarienne. À notre surprise, plus de 50 personnes se sont joints au visionnement du film « La Sacrée »! Chantal Hébert a participé à une table-ronde animée par Odette Gough sur l'état de la francophonie en Ontario et Christian Pilon a raconté – ou plutôt fait vivre! – à ses spectateurs l'histoire de nos ancêtres voyageurs. À noter qu'un appel a été lancé aux membres de l'ASTED et de la CBPQ à participer avec forfait à la conférence, ainsi qu'au grand public pour le Super Saturday.

Grâce à des ententes avec divers organismes ontariens et québécois, les membres de l'ABO-Franco ont pu participer à un nombre d'ateliers en français au courant de l'année. De plus, la vice-présidente du conseil a participé au Congrès des milieux documentaires au nom du OLA ; vous trouverez son rapport sur la page Web de l'ABO-Franco.

Nous avons aussi cherché divers moyens de promouvoir l'association au cours de 2012. La brochure promotionnelle du OLA a été traduite et distribuée lors de présentations à l'ESIS, le collège Algonquin et LANCR. Les programmes de la Forêt de la lecture ont été promus aux salons du livre de Toronto, d'Ottawa et de l'Est ontarien, non seulement par l'entremise d'un kiosque mais aussi, pour la première fois, par la vente sur place des livres. Le Prix Micheline Persaud a été décerné lors de la réception du OPLA... Quelle magnifique opportunité de célébrer les succès des membres francophones du OLA!

Nous sommes fiers des accomplissements du conseil de l'ABO-Franco en 2012, et nous remercions nos membres pour leur participation dans les divers comités du OLA et de la communauté plus large. Ce sont ces contributions qui assurent la visibilité du fait français en Ontario et qui portent appui à ceux qui œuvrent auprès des communautés francophones et francophiles!

THE ONTARIO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

JENNIFER PETERS, PRESIDENT



**2012 OCULA
Membership:
548**

I'd like to begin by thanking the present board for their support and hard work over the past year. Working with this OCULA council has been a real pleasure and even though this year saw the birth of what feels like a million initiatives for OCULA, I never heard one complaint.

New initiatives included creating information briefs (bit.ly/oculainfobrief). These are quick two-pagers that get you up-to-speed on hot topics in our field, such as Impact Metrics, Open Journal Systems and Learning Objects. We will be creating more throughout the year so watch your inbox for more information.

We have also created the OCULA Ambassador program (bit.ly/oculaamb) where we invite a library staff member from each college and university library in Ontario to liaise with OCULA. They will serve as your voice in OCULA. If you are interested you can contact anyone on council for more information (bit.ly/oculacouncil).

We are now in the 4th year of the OCULA Resident Librarian program (bit.ly/oculalibres), which gives a recent graduate a chance to obtain experience in an academic setting. This year the winning submission was from Seneca College for an exciting dual User Experience/eLearning librarian position. Lydia Tsai was the successful candidate and has been working on some innovative projects and has recently been offered the opportunity to continue on with Seneca in the role of part-time metadata and digital services librarian!

Last April we held our second annual spring conference (co-hosted by the WNY/O/ chapter of the ACRL) in beautiful Jordan Village. Our theme was "Bring it ON! Shaping the Future of Academic Libraries". We had a fantastic time delving into uncomfortable topics like "why does the world still need librarians?"

Ryerson hosted the spring dinner in May with an inspiring talk from Valerie Fox, the executive director of their business incubator, the *Digital Media Zone*. In the Fall, Western hosted a mentoring themed event guided by the

brilliant Jim Brett, Laurie Morrison and Tanis Fink. It was equally valuable for mentors and mentees alike!

Super Conference 2013 was another great success. Thanks to Cyndi Smith and Monica Rettig for providing thought provoking sessions, and a very popular, dynamic spotlight speaker, Alison Head.

Congratulations to our award winners: Cory Laverty of Queen's University for Lifetime Achievement, and Wendy Traas of UofT who won the Student Lightning Strikes at Super Conference, a unique award where the audience votes for the best presentation.

InsideOCULA published their last three print issues and have now migrated to a more dynamic online version. Please do check it out (bit.ly/insideocula) and we happily welcome any contributions, text or video based!

We also spoke up this year. In August we sent a letter to the Confederation College President expressing our disappointment at their decision to eliminate the library director role and instead have the library report to someone with no formal library training or background. We also released a statement encouraging colleges and universities to consider alternate options to re-signing with Access Copyright. We were very pleased to hear from our members that they were hoping for a stronger statement from us. Next time we will feel strengthened to speak up more firmly and definitively.

I'd personally like to thank all of the staff at the OLA office for their support and hard work. We wouldn't be able to do our work without them.

I look forward to being past president. Kristin Hoffmann is president for 2013 and I know she will be amazing!

Being president was far more challenging than I expected but also far more rewarding than I could have hoped for and I would urge anyone to get involved in OCULA Council.



ONTARIO LIBRARY BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

FRANCES RYAN, PRESIDENT

**2012 OLBA
Membership:
716**

In 2012 the Ontario Library Boards' Association continued to pursue its mission to be the recognized centre of excellence in governance for public library boards.

In keeping with OLBA's vision to be a leader and recognized authority in public library governance and leadership development, two projects with Andrewes-Loucks have renewed and invigorated Leadership by Design.

The first project revised and updated *Cut to the Chase* incorporating changes to the Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, cP44 enacted since *Cut to the Chase* was originally published years ago. One Place to Look was also realigned with those changes, updated and enhanced.

The second project focussed on the Leadership Development Toolkit. This element is a three-part exercise designed to help Public Library Boards identify their governance and leadership knowledge gaps, assisting boards to design board training and development programmes. The revised package offers updated survey tools, and applications streamline access and completion of the seven gaps analysis sheets and collating results – all in one sleek and user-friendly module!

The OLBA partnered with OLA, ABO-Franco, OLS-N and SOLS to produce a French translation of *Cut to the Chase*. Both *Cut to the Chase* and *Le vif du sujet* are available online and through the OLA bookstore.

OLBA Councillors' Handbook was updated and revised and now contains links to all the relevant pages on the OLA website ensuring currency.

The Education Institute drew the highest board registration ever for its series Building Better Boards: a four part series to improve library board effectiveness.

OLBA engaged public library board members in conversation and training opportunities through the SOLS Trustees Council meetings and presented 3 sessions at the OLS-N Conference.

The OPLA/OLBA Partnership continued at a joint meeting in September with two guests presenting. Bessie Sullivan introduced the work of the OLA Advocacy Committee and sought preliminary feedback and divisional contacts.

Bill Irwin, Associate Professor, Western University outlined a research proposal being presented to OLA to qualitatively evaluate the impact of public libraries on society and culture.

The article exchange between OPLA and OLBA publications was very successful and the consensus was to continue. Additionally, a joint OLBA/OPLA forum was established in the OLA Community.

The Editorial team published the first electronic edition of *InsideOLBA* with an outstanding issue which was well received; initiated much discussion and presented stimulating articles.

Five bursary winners attended Super Conference 2012. The Bursary Committee recommended a change to the criteria, allowing any Board member who has not previously attended Super Conference to enter the draw for Super Conference 2013.

This year has proven that once again, the dedication of volunteers is without limit. Each member of the OLBA Council not only volunteers on their local public library board, but further expands on that dedication by contributing countless hours to OLBA.

Enthusiastic and knowledgeable work by our Councillors on various committees, portfolios and ad hoc opportunities advance public libraries and their boards. The level of expertise and spirit of collaboration is nothing short of superb!

I thank you for the opportunity afforded me to serve as your President for 2012 and in turn thank those who worked so tirelessly on our behalf.

All the best,
Frances Ryan

ONTARIO LIBRARY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

NICK RUEST, PRESIDENT



**2012 OLITA
Membership:
1912**

Yet another wonderful year for OLITA, and I could not have been more proud to be apart of such a wonderful and strong association!

We continued our work on the strategic plan, *Growing Career Paths*, **AND** we moved Appetizers from OLA Community to our blog. Our council did not believe that access to these should be restricted, and we must demonstrate open access! We also re-launched Appetizers as a community driven collaborative by soliciting topics and authors from the OLITA community. We have an extremely diverse division, and our appetizers need to reflect that.

COLLABORATING TO EXTEND LIBRARIES' STRATEGIC VOICE

OLITA teamed up with OCULA to write a statement on the AUCC/Access Copyright Model License, and both councils unanimously passed resolutions in opposition to the Access Copyright license agreements. OLITA Council also voted unanimously to sign the Declaration of Internet Freedom — standing for a free and open internet — and signed on to Protect Global Internet Freedom, a response to the attempts by some governments proposing to extend the authority of the UN agency, International Telecommunication Union, to Internet governance. These attempts are a potential threat to openness, innovation,

increase in access costs, and an erosion of human rights online.

TRANSFORMING IDEAS INTO SOLUTIONS

OLITA continued to build up its fantastic Technology Lending Library by adding Android tablets, Arduino starter kits, and Raspberry Pi computers. We simplified and streamlined the lending process with a webform on the OLITA site, as well as opened up borrowing to individual members and extending the borrowing time.

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION

Digital Odyssey 2012: Liberation Technology was an amazing success. This year we also piloted recording the sessions, and made them available as open access. I believe OLITA should continue tackling and providing a forum for ethical issues around technology in our profession.

Finally, I want to close by stating what an honour it was to serve as President of this association. I am extremely proud of the community for recognizing the importance of social justice in our profession, and particularly proud that we were able to recognize and honour the work and life of Aaron Swartz with a resolution at our AGM this past year.



Our wonderful Super Conference planning team with OLA President Karen McGrath.



ONTARIO SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ELIZABETH GORDON, PRESIDENT

**2012 OSLA
Membership:
1146**

I am happy to report that 2012 was a busy and productive year for OSLA council. Like OLA, we kicked it off by re-working our mission statement, really thinking about the components and how they guide us in our work.

The opening statement says that: The mission of the Ontario School Library Association is to promote, develop and advocate for strong, equitable school library programs throughout the province. It includes specific actions such as strengthening and unifying the voice of school library staff and supporting effective operation of school libraries.

This report highlights what we've been working on this past year, to realize our goals.

T4L WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

With funding from OLA, this project was led by Carol Koechlin, Anita Brooks-Kirkland and Liz Kerr. A summer writing session took place at the OLA office in Toronto, where several people joined forces to contribute their ideas. After that, the committee worked tirelessly to put the pieces together in the format of a web-based, interactive resource to support school library staff and their communities in putting the components of Together for Learning into action. The website can be found on the front page of both the OLA and OSLA webpages, or by going to togetherforlearning.ca directly.

Karen McGrath, president of OLA, attended September's OSLA meeting, heard an update on the project from Anita, and was so impressed at the accomplishments, she nominated the entire T4L project (document + interactive website) to receive the **2013 OLA President's Award for Exceptional Achievement**. The website was officially launched at the 2013 Super Conference, complete with noise-makers, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and a showcase of teacher-librarians from various regions highlighting their work in schools and alignment with the vision of T4L.

Other OSLA award winners recognized at the Superconference were: The OLA/Brodart Award for Technical Service (Deanna Harron, Peel DSB), Teacher-Librarian of the Year (June Rysinski TBCDSB),

Administrator of the Year (Troy MacKenzie KPRDSB), and Award for Special Achievement (Anita Brooks-Kirkland WRDSB).

CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE & TREASURE MOUNTAIN

The CLA Conference was held in Ottawa in June, followed by the second installment of Treasure Mountain; a weekend to share and gather ideas around national standards for school libraries in Canada. This work is continuing with OSLA's involvement in the **CLA Standards Project**.

LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

We continue to build relationships and have representation at conferences with various associations such as: Ontario Teacher's Federation, ECCO – Educational Computing Organization of Ontario, TALCO – the Association of Library Consultants & Coordinators of Ontario, Ontario Principal's Council conference, People for Education, and more. We recently contributed to the revision of the Additional Qualification course for Librarianship Parts 1, 2, 3.

ADVOCACY

One way we continue to advocate for equity in school library programs across Ontario, is through letters sent to various stakeholders where we emphasize the positive correlation between a properly staffed school library and higher student achievement, positive attitudes toward reading and equitable access to resources including technology.

The mission of the Ontario School Library Association is to promote, develop and advocate for strong, equitable school library programs throughout the province.

It's my hope that through our actions as a council we have kept this statement alive as our vision and put its specific goals into practice. I'd like to extend my sincere appreciation to all members of council past and present who dedicate their spare time to work hard for this organization and the well-being of school libraries in Ontario. It's been my pleasure to serve as President for 2012 and I look forward to continued involvement as treasurer under the trusted leadership of Isabelle Hobbs.



ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LILA SAAB, PRESIDENT

**2012 OPLA
Membership:
1154**

2012 was a good year for the OPLA Council . We continued with well-established and popular core programs and we started some new initiatives.

The Readers' Advisory Committee held another successful Readers Advisory in a Day workshop in October, and the Children's and Youth Services Committee launched the results of its Teen Survey at Super Conference 2013. Our Super Conference planners Barb Janicek and Nicole Adams did an excellent job in organizing sessions of particular interest to public libraries.

Rudi Denham continued her remarkable work as editor of HoOPLA with the assistance of Carla Wintersgill of the OLA office. HoOPLA is a quarterly newsletter highlighting the activities of our public libraries. A new electronic format was introduced at the end of 2012.

Our Kickstart to Participation program is proving to be very successful. Our 2011 candidate Chantal Boileau ended up being elected on OPLA council for 2012. Our 2012 candidate was Erin Kent, who played a major role in our Community Forum project.

One of our new initiatives was to build a direct relationship with the Ministry of Immigration and Citizenship since both public libraries and the Ministry share a common interest of having newcomers settle successfully in their country of choice. One of the Ministry's programs is Global Experience Ontario, and they are now offering free information sessions in public libraries. The Ministry is also publicizing the services of public libraries to newcomers before they even arrive in Canada.

Another new initiative we undertook is promoting the use of OLA's community forums amongst our members. Our vision is to see the use of the forums increase and have it as place for public library workers to share best practices, including policies and procedures, and to archive our topics so they are always there for others to use.

We have strengthened our ties and mutual

understanding with OLBA by continuing to hold a joint meeting once a year, and by exchanging articles in our respective newsletters. One of the outcomes of our joint meeting is to have both divisions working with Dr. Bill Irwin on a research project on Qualitative Models of Evaluation, measuring outcomes and not outputs in public libraries. Another new project is for OPLA Council to working closely with OLA's Advocacy Committee in 2013.

We listened to feedback from our membership and changed the format of our annual Public Library Awards event. Kevin Sylvester was our MC and our special guests were the Honourable Michael Chan, Minister, Tourism, Culture and Sport, and Steven Davidson, Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Please see our web page or page 13 for a list of all our award recipients for 2012.

We changed wording in our OPLA by-law to make it more inclusive and more reflective of our public libraries in Ontario.

Joanna Aegard and I attended the OLA Board meetings representing our division. One of the exercises I enjoyed was helping create the new OLA Board Values.

Getting involved on the OPLA Council and OLA board was truly a very rewarding experience for me. I learnt a lot and I met amazing people. One of the things "I know for sure" is that there a lot of very dedicated volunteers putting in a lot time to make and keep our public libraries strong. There is also a remarkable staff working at the OLA office. A special thanks to Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director of OLA, and to Karen McGrath, President of OLA for 2012 for their leadership and guidance.

A sincere thank you to everyone on OPLA Council for a great year. I wish Joanna Aegard, our President and Lisa Moran, our new vice-president for 2013 all the very best in 2013.

Thank you.
Lila Saab

With great appreciation and thanks to our financial supporters

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THE FAITH IN OLA STAFF OF

Industry Canada
Authors at Harbourfront and
Harbourfront Centre

AND THE SUPPORT OF

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SkyWords Media



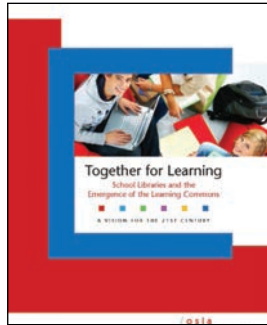
Some of our Champion financial supporters on the Super Conference Expo floor.

Congratulations to this year's OLA award winners!

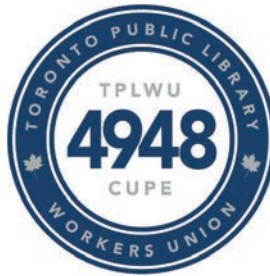
THE ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE BEST!



OLA's Larry Moore
Distinguished Service
Award: **Randee Loucks,**
CGS Consultants



OLA President's Award
for Exceptional
Achievement: **Together
for Learning Project**



OLA's Media and
Communications Award:
**Toronto Public Library
Workers' Union
Local 4948**



Brodart/OLA Technical
Services Award:
**Deanna Harron, Turner
Fenton Secondary
School, Peel DSB**



OLA Archival and
Preservation Achievement
Award: **Whitby Public
Library Archives
Digitization Project**



OCULA's Lifetime
Achievement Award:
Cory Laverty,
Queen's University



OLBA's W.J. Robertson
Medallion: **Ian Ross,**
Whitby Public Library



OPLA's James Bain
Medallion: **Jane Hilton,**
Whitby Public Library
Board



OPLA's Children or
Youth Services Librarian
of the Year Award: **Jane
Salmon, Barrie Public
Library**



OPLA's Advocacy in
Action: Excellence in
Children's or Teen Services
Award: **Brantford Public
Library Choices Project**



OPLA's Leadership in
Adult Readers' Advisory:
**Angela Bowen, Ottawa
Public Library**



OSLA's Teacher-Librarian
of the Year Award:
June Rysinski,
Corpus Christi/ St. Paul
Schools, Thunder Bay
Catholic DSB



OSLA's Administrator
of the Year Award: **Troy
Mackenzie, Beatrice
Strong Public School,
KPRDSB**



OSLA's Award for Special
Achievement: **Anita
Brooks Kirkland,**
Waterloo Region DSB



ABO-Franco's Prix Mi-
cheline Persaud:
Julie Desmarais,
Bibliothèque publique
d'Ottawa

OLA Board and Councillors, 2012

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Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa

OLA Staff 2012



Back row: Yvon Duhamel, Beckie MacDonald, Suzanne Wice, Meredith Tutching, Mark Sawh, Claire Ward-Beveridge, Carla Wintersgill. **Front Row:** Brian Pudden, Melissa Gifkins, Shelagh Paterson, Liz Kerr, Helios He, Michelle Arbuckle.
Missing from photo: Sandra Dimock

REPORT OF SHELAGH PATERSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OLA

2012 was a tumultuous year for libraries — there were so many cuts that OLA posted a timeline of destruction on our website. Within the space of less than one year, we witnessed the elimination of the Community Access Program, elimination of school libraries in two school boards, multiple cuts to Library and Archives, the loss of the National Archival Development Program, the elimination of a multitude of government libraries, and the closure of the Canadian Conference of the Arts. OLA members contacted their government representatives and were interviewed by the media — we continue to fight off the chill on information access and culture, but challenging times continue.

OLA's membership numbers took a hit due to the continued erosion of school library positions. We hear from our teacher librarians, most of whom do not work a full-time position in the library, that they have had the time allocated to their school library role further reduced. How to run a robust school library program when you are allocated 0.2 of your time? Despite this, over 60 researchers and school library practitioners met last spring in Ottawa to focus on "Transforming Canadian School Libraries to Meet the Needs of 21st Century Learners" — most on their own dime and time.

2012 was a banner year for the OLA Festival of Trees. In partnership with Authors at Harbourfront, and thanks to a grant from OCAF, OLA was able to take the show on the road along with 20 authors and illustrators to Ottawa and Thunder Bay (more than 70 are at the Toronto festival). 10,000 young readers across the province went to an OLA-hosted Festival, in addition to thousands more who celebrated at their own schools. It could not be done without the effort of close to 300 OLA members who run the programs and manage local festivals.

In addition to the Festival of Trees expansion, OLA launched or grew a number of programs:

- Copyright services: OLA members can ask a copyright related question and receive a legal brief thanks to our partnership with the Faculty of Law at Western University.
- The 10-year Anniversary of the Blue Spruce program was celebrated with an art exhibit featuring 70 illustrator works from picture books at the Canadian National Exhibition for 18 days last August.
- The launch of the OLA Discovery Fund spearheaded by OLITA council. Up to \$500 is available for interesting and innovative ideas — the freedom to experiment is the purpose.

- The launch of the OPLA Child and Youth Services Teen services survey report — among other findings, the survey revealed that public libraries are a key source of youth employment and volunteer opportunities in communities.
- The second Annual Institute on the Library as Place — quickly becoming an OLA signature event — was held as a 'destination conference' at Blue Mountain in July 2012. More than 130 delegates participated from the library and architectural worlds.

By end of July this year we look forward to welcoming members and partners to our new location at 2 Toronto Street. Our new digs will offer two meeting spaces to accommodate the more than 700 visits to our office annually!

I would like to thank the amazing OLA staff team for their commitment to the association. This mighty group of 12 help daily to make the ambitions of our members for our profession a reality.

It has been such a pleasure working with the 2012 OLA Board of Directors, and the divisional councils. You will read in this report their remarkable accomplishments over the past year. Karen McGrath, 2012 OLA president led the association through some tumultuous times (cuts to library programs, copyright and licensing controversy), and laid the groundwork for deeper conversations by implementing the OLA Values. Her Super Conference theme "The Ultimate Library Experience" challenged us all to champion how we make a difference in peoples lives. Jim Brett and Lita Barrie co-chaired a Super Conference that had record numbers! We are so fortunate to have such leadership.

Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, 2013 OLA president, has inspired us to continue to be forward thinking with her 2014 Super Conference theme "A Universe of Possibilities."

