

InsideOLBA

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Is it Time to Evaluate Your Board's Performance?

Inside OLBA Editorial Team: Lynn Humfress-Trute, Don Lynch and Beth Phieffer

The Spring of 2012 marks the passing of an anniversary date for many PL Board Members across the province. For most newly appointed or elected Boards in 2011, the large learning curve that has taken place is now behind them.

So now, how would your Board answer the following questions?

- ♦ Is your Board comfortable in its role and fully aware of its responsibilities?
- ♦ Did your Board accomplish what it set out to achieve?
- ♦ Did the Board function as a cohesive team?
- ♦ Did your Board Members attend Super Conference 2012 and meet their peers with whom they could network and brainstorm?

Before you can sit back and bask in the glory of the past year, it's important that as a group, the board must assess its performance. This is not an easy task; however, board evaluation/performance measurement is critical for the following reasons:

- ♦ To check progress



OLBA Council Visited by OLA President and Vice-President. OLBA were delighted to have OLA President Karen McGrath and Vice-President, Susanna Hubbard-Krimmer spend the day with us at our March Meeting. Back L-R: OLBA Vice-President Kim Vares, Lynn Humfress Trute, Joyce Cunningham, Beth Phieffer, Don Lynch, Irene Moore and Don Carter. Seated L-R: OLA President Karen McGrath, OLBA President Frances Ryan and OLA Vice-President Susanna Hubbard-Krimmer.

against mission and goals;

- ♦ To give Board Members a meaningful measure of accountability;
- ♦ To emphasize Board's accomplishments;
- ♦ To encourage team work; and
- ♦ To identify what obstacles (if any) were in the way of success.

This issue of Inside OLBA has some ideas and references tools and resources designed to assist your Board in its evaluation process, e.g. Performance Measures. We trust these will be useful to your Board as it begins to think about evaluating its performance and providing a measure of accountability

to the community (or communities) it represents.

If your Board has performed an evaluation and found the tool you used to be useful and productive, would you like to share it with fellow Board Members? If so, please send it to dlynch@snpl.ca and we will make sure it is made available on our website. ■

Library Governance Tidbits

Build a solid, governance framework that includes policies, by-laws, and a strategic plan based on your mission.

Best Practices: Professionalism and Board Evaluation

Jane Hilton, Whitby Public Library Board Member

There is a quiet evolution beginning to emerge in boardrooms everywhere. As a result of increased scrutiny and the demand for boards to have greater objectivity, board “professionalism” is becoming a key to good governance. Historically, the dominant sociological analysis of professionalism was focused on privilege, power and social behaviours of a few distinct professional classes. Even today most people think of professionalism in terms of elevated social status and value as it relates to well-educated persons with specialized knowledge who have a high degree of social responsibility. However, this same theoretical construct can be extrapolated to the boardroom and to board members. The core elements of a body of knowledge (governance) and commitment to service provide the tenets that underlie the social contract between board members and the public.

Definition

There is no single definition of “professionalism” as this is not a black-and-white issue but rather is a term full of nuances. While the concept means different things to different people, there is general agreement that professionalism is based on well-established personal

qualities and values. It is an internalized, personal belief system that to a large extent is defined by context. While professionalism can develop early in life, it can also be acquired through education and work experience. Essentially, it is the awareness of appropriate action in different situations. This makes professionalism difficult to articulate but is easily discernible as a broad range of behaviours expressed as actions and attitudes.

Characteristics

Most people can recognize professionalism or the lack of it in others. The

following are professional attributes applicable to board members:

- ◆ Knowledgeable about library board governance;
- ◆ Committed, independent stewards;
- ◆ Communicates in a way that is appropriate for each different audience;
- ◆ Active listener, open, and questions constructively;
- ◆ Treats all ideas with respect, allow differences to be forgotten;
- ◆ Cares about serving the community and puts that interest above self;
- ◆ Never compromises high standards, ethics and values;
- ◆ Dependable, puts

in strong effort, cooperative; and

- ◆ Is accountable and takes responsibility

Board Education

Board training is a widely accepted means of raising awareness of good governance practices and builds a cadre of qualified board members. As with other professionals, there is an expectation board members will constantly evaluate themselves, seek to improve their governance abilities and stay current in the developments of the library world.

While the qualities of professionalism can be acquired through



experience and reflection as well as education, there is merit in implementing tools such as a code of conduct to establish how the board will address conflicts of interest and confidentiality. A code of conduct can also specify certain ethical standards and identify the positive behaviours and values expected of board members.

Board Evaluation

The strength and professionalism of the board is ultimately measured by its performance. A structured, systematic, annual board self-evaluation is an important process and is now common practice. This is an opportunity for the board to step back and reflect on all aspects of governance and how the board is doing. It's a review of its work, policies, structures, and practices. The results from an assessment will identify the board's strengths and what it's doing well and highlight any opportunities for improvement. It's a chance to make sure the board is on the right track, identify what it can do better and assist with establishing new goals. An evaluation of the board demonstrates that the board believes in the values of accountability, education

and development. By consistently benchmarking the board's performance against governance best practices and conducting a regular evaluation, the board espouses continuous improvement.

A formal assessment has the ability to contribute to board effectiveness by:

- ◆ Determining the inner dynamics and fostering a cohesive team;
- ◆ Reviewing behaviours and improving governance practices;
- ◆ Identifying weaknesses that can be remedied with training and education;
- ◆ Evaluating public and stakeholder's perceptions; and
- ◆ Assessing the adequacy of the board's leadership and succession planning.

The following are areas, which are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive, that should be considered by the board for including in an assessment:

1. Board role and conduct

- ◆ Board members are aware of their roles and responsibilities and come prepared to the meeting.
- ◆ The board has a strategic plan or set of long range goals, as well as an annual operating or business plan.

- ◆ The governing and policy documents are up to date.

2. Meetings

- ◆ The meeting agenda is well planned and focuses on strategic and policy issues, not administration.
- ◆ Written reports and materials are received in advance of the meeting. Different points of view are encouraged and the decisions supported.

3. External and Internal Relationships

- ◆ A report on the accomplishments, challenges and utilization of resources is communicated to the stakeholders.
- ◆ There is good communication with the CEO and the board regularly conducts an annual CEO evaluation.

Leadership

- ◆ Chair facilitates the discussion and manages different points of view.

Board evaluation is an opportunity to address dynamics and mechanics and to commit to improvement. Effective boards work as a team, have a high level of trust and well respected leadership. These qualities foster a

professional boardroom culture and strengthen governance capacity. Board members are encouraged to reflect upon their own contributions and implement the substance of professionalism – a moral compass so they make the right decisions in a variety of circumstances and enhance their board's performance.

Acknowledgement:

To Margaret Andrewes, who presented "Professionalism – A Matter of Knowledge, Motives and Attitudes" at the OLA Super Conference in 1983. ■

Board Evaluation Resources

(Click on titles for link)

20 Questions Boards Should Ask about Governance Assessments

Leadership by Design — Board Governance

SOLS Publications — Board Development

BC Trustees Library Assoc

Free Management Library — Board of Directors Self Evaluation

Library Governance Tidbits

Define what skills and attributes you need in your Board members and your CEO.

Know where and how to access the tools and resources you need to develop your skills in sound library governance.

Library Champions

Kim Dryden, Vice President OLBA; Dryden Public Library Board



Lynn Humfress-Trute

Ontario Library Boards' Association

**OLBA Council Member/Treasurer
SW Region Representative**

VP Middlesex County Library Board

Kim Dryden: What do you value most in other people?

Lynn Humfress-Trute: I respect and value intelligence, kindness, patience, a great sense of humour, excellent communication skills and being well-organized.

What has been your all-time favourite read?

That's a tough question and I usually think of the one I'm reading at the moment. However, two immediately came to mind: my favourite as a child was Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* and as an adult, Robert Fulghum's book, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. I love poetry too and one of my favourites is T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*.

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

I'd quote the old saying:
'Live simply... Love generously... Care deeply...'

Speak kindly... and leave the rest to (your) God"

Who is your favourite author?

I have loads of them, but if I had to pick one, it would probably be P.D. James because I love her command of the English language and her incredible range of vocabulary. I love a good 'who dunnit' and in my opinion, P.D. James has written many good ones!

What are you currently reading?

Last night I finished *Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett, book number one in a new trilogy. The second book is scheduled to come out in the fall of 2012 and I know my name will be on the 'hold' list at my library! The next book on top of my to-read pile is one by Patrick Taylor entitled, *A Dublin Student Doctor*. ■

Getting Off to a Good Start: The Relationship between the Board and the New CEO

By Elizabeth Goldman, CEO, Perth & District Union Public Library

As the wave of library CEO retirements starts to hit, there has been much attention given to advising library boards on how to recruit and hire replacements. But what happens next? How can boards and CEOs be sure their relationship will get off to a good start?

My situation is fairly typical: I came to Perth & District Union Public Library in January 2011,

replacing a CEO who had been at the library for more than 30 years. At the time, I had about five years of post-master's professional library experience, and I had not previously been a CEO or upper level manager. Many of the other newer CEOs I know at smaller libraries in Ontario are also coming in as brand new or recent graduates, with little or no formal management

experience. Many of us are the first big change these libraries have seen in years, and often we are the first degreed librarians to join the staff.

What all of this means is that the library board plays a very important role in ensuring a smooth transition. The right combination of allowing your new CEO to make the job her own while also providing support can

make all the difference.

Realistically, the CEO will have a learning curve, whether it's related to library governance, local expectations in your community, or day-to-day operations. The CEO also will want to make changes. The board will want to keep an eye on these processes but not interfere too much.

Especially in small libraries, the board
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Getting Off to a Good Start

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sometimes plays an active role in everyday operations. But it's important to remember that the board's proper role is in policy and financial governance. One of the first discussions to have after the new CEO starts is where each side is comfortable drawing this line.

In my case, I started just after municipal elections, when our board membership turns over. Four of the nine board members were also new, which provided a great opportunity to conduct a training session. While this

session might normally be only for the new board members, we chose to include everyone so they would get to know my style and expectations better and so the entire group could discuss roles and relationships. We used the SOLS Library Board Development Kit, which is freely available at www.sols.org. While preparing the training, I found the kit very useful to me as a new CEO as well — it's a good single source that covers most of the necessary information.

What was important about that initial training session was that it gave the group time to step back and think about roles and

goals. (I started in January, about three weeks before our first budget hearing, so it would have been easy to get distracted.) From that initial interaction, the board and I established a mutually beneficial relationship. They understood that I would provide leadership and that they could trust me to research any information with which I was not familiar. I felt confident that board members understood their role to be in policy, not operations, and that they would support my decisions as long as I communicated with them. This has proven to be the case over the

past year. As a group, we have accomplished a tremendous amount, including rewriting much of the policy manual and launching a strategic plan. The library runs well without requiring intervention from the board, leaving board members free to work on larger governance projects and to support advocacy efforts in the community.

Give your new CEO the chance to shine, have an honest conversation about roles, and keep the lines of communication open. This will set the tone for a solid relationship between the CEO and the library board. ■

Our Dream Come True and Then Some

Lynne Baxter, Grenville Public Library Board

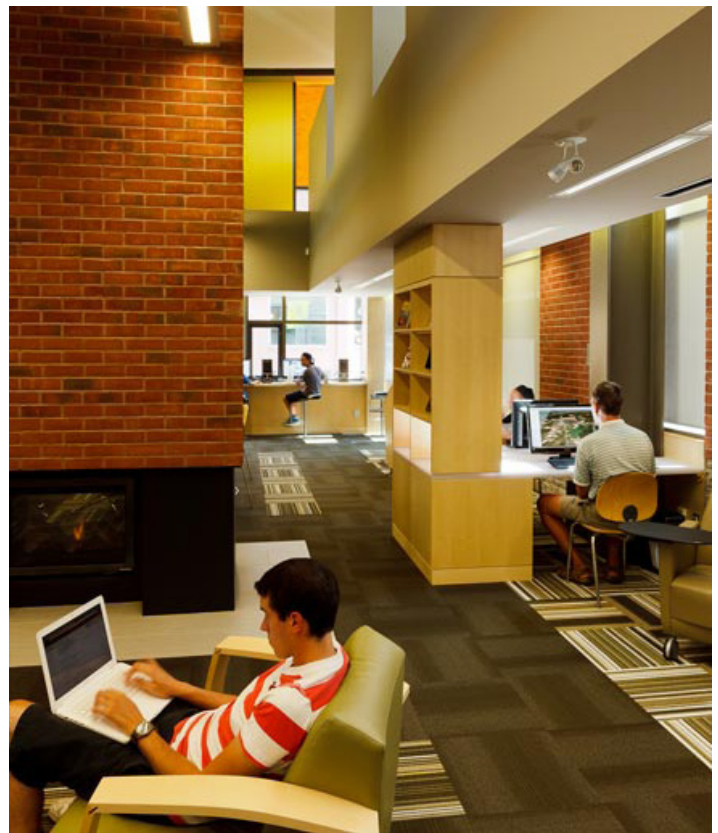
One year ago on May 28th, North Grenville Public Library's (NGPL) Norenberg Branch was officially opened in a very gratifying ceremony including all levels of government, the Room To Read Campaign, the Friends of the Library, staff and last but not least patrons. Located in downtown Kemptville and set on the South Branch of the Rideau River, it occupies a prime location and is highly visible.

It's one thing to see the architects' drawings and frame a picture in your mind of what it will look like but the reality was way beyond expectations. Progress from a very large hole in the ground to a wonderfully warm

and welcoming library was an amazing journey. Pedestrians watched with awe as the building gradually sprouted from the ground. By the time it was ready to open, patrons and visitors alike were dying to see the inside. And they did, in droves, on opening day. As the grand opening was part of the larger and exceedingly well attended Dandelion Festival, there were line ups all day to get new library cards (we couldn't keep the old ones now could we?), sign out books and use our state of the art public computers.

The true measure of the new building's success is the increased, and increasing, number of people using the library.

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North Grenville Public Library, Norenberg branch.

Our dream come true and then some

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We've had 2562 new members in the first seven months, which is a 200% increase over the first five months of 2100. Circulation jumped by a gratifying 123% in the seven months the branch was open in 2011. But the really impressive increase was in the public computer usage. It went from a modest 159/month for the first 5 months of 2011 to a staggering 3278/month for the last seven months. That doesn't include all the use of the free Wi-Fi. So far in 2012 we continue to acquire new patrons, circulate materials at an expanded rate and our computers continue to be heavily used. Now that the library has a roomy program room with a beautiful view of the South Branch and access to the patio, we have been able to offer new and exciting teen and adult programs in addition to our well established and popular children's programs.

NGPL's Vision statement is and will be into the future: Making the Most of Every Mind. Our new facility has made an incredible difference in the Library's ability to follow this Vision. To chart our course over the next 5 years, the library board and staff are developing a new strategic plan but that's another story. ■



Library Governance Tidbits

Develop your capacity to engage, reflect, boundary span, and think broadly about where your library is positioned to connect to those it serves.

"The times they are a-changin'..."

A message from the 2012 President, Frances Ryan

After quickly reviewing OLBA presidents who have preceded me, I find I've been involved a lot longer with OLA and OLBA than I realized. But, that is usually what I discover whenever I start thinking back ... and back ... and back...

Last year, Joyce Cunningham became the first Northern Representative to become OLBA President since 2001 when Margaret MacLean held the post. This year marks the first time that the President, Vice-President and Past President are representatives from Northern Ontario.

Vice- President Kim Vares leaves home in Dryden to drive to Thunder Bay to fly Porter. Past President Joyce Cunningham flies Bearskin from Fort Frances to Thunder Bay to fly Porter, and I have the shortest trek with a 20 minute drive to the Sault Ste. Marie airport to fly Porter. This is a not promotion for Porter, but the airline has given a new opportunity for those of

us from Northern Ontario to access our meetings in Toronto at a lower cost, in less time... and with just a short walk or cab ride to the Council meetings.

Thanks to strong Northern Ontario representation, OLBA Council is becoming more aware of the differences between the two geographical regions of North and South, and strives to address these differences when making decisions that affect the delivery of our products. Again this year, we will have OLBA Council members coming out to meet you at some of the SOLS Trustee Council meetings; and this fall OLBA will again present a session at the OLS-N conference.

We have seen the launch of the new, upgraded website and technology at the OLA office, the first since 2003. The changes are evident in many ways:

- ◆ The new web pages incorporate many social media options;
- ◆ The consistency and clear look takes us seamlessly between

Divisions;

- ◆ The launch of the premier, online edition of Inside OLBA; and
- ◆ The provision of more opportunities for emphasis on current library events and issues.

Changing Inside OLBA to an online format from a mailed-out, print version brings OLBA news to all our membership at one time and eliminates the extensive delays experienced using the postal system. The delays were such that the editors had to avoid articles and announcements that could be outdated before the newsletter reached all of its readers. The cost-savings is also a bonus!

We look forward to the next phase of IT upgrade, that will allow us better access to our membership, and make us fully aware of exactly who our members are. All things dealing with membership to this point have been done manually. We hope that the new membership database will allow us to deal more effectively and more directly with our members.

While some things

change, there are some things that remain the same. What is constant is OLBA's commitment to our membership assist them to pursue excellence in governance. We share that commitment through the online resource, Leadership by Design, whose various modules are being updated in an effort to ensure that the tools and resources within are as current as possible.

Also, Cut to the Chase, OLBA's laminated fold-out pamphlet which gives a quick overview of public library governance is being updated to reflect the changes within the Public Libraries Act and is being translated into French. The French version will be available by year-end!

Please check out our webpage where you will find information on all things relating to OLBA. Why not connect with one another through the OLA Community where you may share ideas and ask questions? There are several sections, with one dedicated to Library Boards.

We look forward to your participation in OLBA! ■

Message from Beth Phieffer, OLBA Super Conference 2013 Planner

Pssst... I don't mean to be nosey but...

What are you doing between 30 January and 2 February, 2013?

Why not plan to join us at OLA Super Conference 2013?

It's a wonderful opportunity to mingle and network with your peers in a learning environment!

Simple Questions

Donald D. Lynch, OLBA Councillor for the Central West Region and Chair of Six Nations Public Library

Who are You?

You're an intelligent, successful, accomplished, public-spirited individual with a strong sense of duty and personal responsibility. You're concerned about public institutions and would like to ensure that they succeed and serve the community in the best possible way. You would like to promote the preservation of local history, the furtherance of research, as well as provide intellectual stimulation and entertainment for every demographic group in your community. You like a challenge and aren't afraid of hard work or controversial issues. You are the most interesting person in the world. Not really. You are a Board Member for your library— and undoubtedly interesting to your friends and family.

Anything Else?

You come to Board meetings ten times a year. You make and second motions. You vote when asked to do so.

What are your Responsibilities?

As a Member of your library Board, you must be aware of all relevant legislation and also your community's needs and concerns. You must understand your bylaws and policies. You oversee your budget, ensuring that financial control measures are in place. You hire and evaluate your CEO. You evaluate your

own performance as well as others on your board. In short, you provide governance and leadership.

Who Else Knows You?

Now that we've established who you are and what you do, the next question is, who else knows this? Across the province, from Queens Park to the Boardroom, two aspects of governance and decision making have been at the forefront: transparency and accountability. With that in mind, it is important that the public knows who is overseeing and making decisions on behalf of one of the most important institutions in any community. Your agenda, minutes, resolutions, and meetings themselves are open to the public and it is the duty of the library to make the public aware of their representatives. Therefore, isn't it logical that the people in positions of utmost responsibility should be identified?

How Might this be Accomplished?

Publishing the names and brief biographical sketches of you and your fellow Board members on your library's website, undoubtedly provides for openness and transparency. Also, a brief statement of what the library means to each of you wouldn't go amiss. Most certainly the Board Chair should have his or her contact information listed along with the biography. Do you as a Board

Member have a library e-mail account? Board Members, other than the Chairperson, while not required to have their contact information listed (or have direct contact with the public outside of official meetings), might choose to have an e-mail address provided by the library. Again, knowledge of and access to the Board are simply matters of transparency and accountability.

Is your CEO acting as the Board's Gatekeeper?

In many cases, the CEO receives all correspondence and contacts from the public. Normally, the CEO will direct matters to the board that s/he deems to be appropriate or relevant for board consideration. That filter, under normal circumstances, is not a cause for concern. However, there are times when it would be preferable to direct correspondence to the board, through the Chair and this cannot be accomplished if there is no contact information provided on the library's website. While some Board Members may appreciate and even prefer the CEO to act as gatekeeper, this should not be considered the norm. Public Library Board members are the representatives of the public and as such, if the public have questions for their representatives, they should be able to contact them. This is especially true if the matter relates

to the CEO or the CEO's management. If the question is misdirected, then the Board Chair can refer the matter back to the CEO and in this case, the Board becomes the filter of their own matters.

What are the Practicalities of Electronic Communication?

The Library is a business and I would personally question any organization that was not accessible through electronic communication. In most communities, the library is the hub of technology for the community; in some communities the requesting and checking out of materials is done via electronic login and e-communication. When I want a book, I order or e-mail my selection to the library or through the online catalogue and voilà, it is on a shelf with my name attached when I arrive that afternoon!

While instant coffee may be passé, we live in an era of instant gratification and instant communications and so we must have the mechanisms in place for our library boards to be accessible to the public. You may argue against this level of access on a personal, moral ground, but the fact is libraries are businesses and must meet legal standards in all aspects of our respected institutions in order to present our selves in the best possible light.

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Simple Questions

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So take steps to ensure that the public knows who is on your library board by establishing a Board Page on your website. It should include your library's policies, meeting dates and locations and perhaps biographies of each of the Board members... and at a very minimum, contact information of the Board Chairperson.

Is This Sufficient?

Perhaps not, but it is a good beginning. Ontario Library Service through SOLS and OLS-North provide an

alphabetical listing of all public libraries and some basic information. To date, they include the CEO and branch heads with mailing information, community demographics, and other pertinent information for public review; but nothing pertaining to the Board. Should the Board, via the Chair, also be accessible to the public in this forum? This is a matter for further consideration and action if warranted. As members of our openly transparent library Boards, it is our responsibility to act locally and provincially in this matter.

In Conclusion

If this all sounds too daunting, don't despair. Help is available. The Ontario Library Boards' Association's online resource, Leadership by Design provides many tools for you to use. One of the most useful modules of Leadership by Design is called Cut to the Chase. You can easily locate it with a Google search, 'OLBA' and click on the left side navigation bar link to Leadership by Design. In an easy-to-read format, it lists all of your duties and responsibilities, and clearly distinguishes your role from that of the CEO.

You may not be the most interesting person in the world but now everyone will know that you are a dedicated, enthusiastic, and serious member of your library Board. You take your responsibilities seriously and strive to be the best you can be and with transparency and accountability, you can give your community confidence that the library, one of their most important assets, is in safe and in competent hands.

Now, give yourself a pat on the back; you deserve it. And who exactly is the most interesting person in the world? Isn't it obvious? ■

Library Governance Tidbits

Know who you represent; make sure they can connect with you and you with them.

Super Conference 2012 OLBA Bursary Recipients' Report

Lucille Ayers and Sheila Lindsay, Dryden Public Library

We appreciate the opportunity we had to attend Super Conference 2012 in Toronto February 1-4. Thank you for the bursary which enabled us to do so. We were amazed to see how big the conference was and impressed at how professionally organized. There was something for everyone: socializing and networking, shopping for resources, meeting authors, listening to amazing speakers, and attending valuable workshops with a variety of topics to choose from.

Everyone associated with the culture of librarianship

should attend this event at least once if possible. As travel and accommodations for those of us living in Northwestern Ontario is expensive and challenging (away from home for five days), the bursary certainly made our attendance far more tenable for our Board.

We are both new board members as of January 2011 from the Dryden Public Library Board in Northwestern Ontario; Lucille a retired elementary school teacher, and Sheila a retired registered nurse and insurance company manager. One of the statements made during a

presentation on Ontario's Public Libraries Act noted that

"Being a Library Board member is a serious responsibility; the Board is not just a group of book lovers."

If we didn't realize this when we agreed to sit on the Library Board, we certainly do now after attending Super Conference. We learned what our responsibilities are in recruiting, hiring, and employing a CEO; what makes a great leader and team; some innovative ways to advocate publically for our library; the protocols and formalities

unique to the aboriginal culture; and gained a greater understanding of the process involved in and the benefits of accreditation. We will feel more confident tackling the business of the Board in the future; we see things much clearer now.

The two of us tried to attend as many different sessions as possible so we would have a variety of information to share with our board members and library staff on our return. We especially enjoyed the session on trouble shooting and would recommend more of that

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Congratulations to OLBA's 2012 Super Conference Bursary Winners!



From left to right, top row: Don Lynch, OLBA Council Member & Bursary Coordinator; Frances Ryan, Incoming President 2012; Bill Halkett, Pembroke PL Board Member; Lynn Humfress-Trute, Treasurer, OLBA Council (who just happened by as the photo was being taken!)
From left to right, front row: Lucille Ayers and Sheila Reid-Lindsay Board Members, Dryden PL; Centre: Gayle Harris and Debbie Leeming, Board Members, Whitestone-Hagerman Memorial PL, Dunchurch.

OLBA Bursary Recipients' Report ... continued from page 9

kind of learning tool. We all have potential problems and it is good to be able to share in this type of forum. It was interesting and informative to hear different perspectives and possible solutions from CEOs, Board Chairs, and Board Members. We also found the sessions related to aboriginal culture most helpful. Our Native population is growing in Dryden as

many are moving south from the northern reserves that surround us. We are working hard, with considerable success, to make our new citizens familiar and comfortable with our library.

Having a "conversation" with George Stroumboulopoulos "over lunch" was definitely a highlight; especially to learn of his strong connection to libraries from childhood. The plenary sessions we attended were awesome – Neil Pasricha, author

of *The Book of Awesome*, for one, who spoke about the four A's of Awesome: Attitude, Awareness, Alignment, and Authenticity that lead to positive relationships and great customer service in any business. We were on the edge of our seats during Jonah Lehrer's presentation on creativity – a brilliant mind, great energy, and new ideas that forced us to think outside the box. We were particularly struck by his statement that simple problems have

already been solved by lone geniuses, but complex problems that we are faced with today require a team effort. Therefore we need to invest in public spaces such as libraries where people can gather because it is human friction that creates the spark for an epiphany to occur.

Surely the human friction that occurred at the OLA Super Conference 2012 created several sparks; possibly fireworks for some! Thanks again to OLBA for providing the opportunity to participate. ■



the ontario library association

Announcing the call for submissions for the Ontario Library Association Library Building Awards!

Deadline for submission is May 3, 2012.

The Ontario Library Association is calling for submissions for The Library Architectural and Design Transformation Award.

About

Awards may be given for additions, renovations, restorations, conversion to library use, and interior redesign and refurbishing. The competition runs every third year to allow a critical number of projects in all types of libraries to accumulate.

Purpose

To encourage and showcase excellence in the architectural design and planning of libraries in Ontario.

Eligibility

Libraries eligible for submission must be located in Ontario, have been completed and fully occupied within the three calendar years immediately prior to the award being given. (Since June 2009). Projects submitted for the last competition (2010) are not eligible for re-submission.

All entries should be submitted with the consent of the architect and the owner.

The program is open to all types of libraries (or combination thereof):

- Academic libraries (community college, college, university)
- School libraries (elementary, secondary)
- Public libraries (municipal, branch, county, regional, system)
- Institutional and private firm libraries (must permit public access).

Any project involving a jury member as architect, associate architect, consultant, or client is ineligible.

Categories

In addition to design achievement, projects may be exemplary in the following subcategories:

- Societal advancement, which demonstrates a commitment to community development
- Technical advancement, which explores new technologies and their architectural applications
- Environmental advancement, which demonstrates a commitment to environmentally sensitive design and conservation
- Preservation/restoration, which demonstrates skill, sensitivity, and thoughtfulness in preservation, restoration, or the alternative use of existing buildings regardless of their original architectural intentions.

Applicants are required to provide an entry fee of \$35 and an electronic submission consisting of an entry form, a description of the project (responding to criteria outlined on the web site), and a powerpoint presentation containing photos and floor plans.

The awards will be presented at the Annual Institute on the Library as Place event at Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood Ontario, July 10. A poster display will be featured at the 2013 OLA Super Conference.

Full details are on OLA's web site at:
<http://bit.ly/xhEE5F>

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InsideOLBA

Ontario Library Boards' Association

A division of the Ontario Library Association,
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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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OLBA COUNCIL MEETINGS

Next meetings:
June 9, 2012
Sept. 28, 2012 (Joint OPLA/OBLA)
Sept. 29, 2012

OLBA WEBSITE

www.accessola.com/olba

OLBA LISTSERV

Email olba-l@accessola.com
Subscribing required; for OLBA members only.

There is a vacancy for a Representative from Toronto Public Library.
If you are interested in filling this position, please contact the Membership Committee members, Joyce or Don Carter.