

Over the past year, the Ontario School Library Association (OSLA) has been busy with a number of ongoing and new initiatives. As we build capacity within our division, collaboration and advocacy continue to be important threads that connect our work to the broader library sectors and beyond. We are grateful for the unwavering support of the Ontario Library Association (OLA). This year as president of OSLA I was privy to the important work that the OLA Board of Directors undertakes on behalf of all the divisions. I also experienced first-hand the time commitment of OSLA Council, voting and nonvoting members –Diana, your voice counts ☺, all dedicated school library advocates, some of whom come from the farther reaches of Ontario. The membership thanks you for all your hard work!

As previously reported, in an effort to reach out to new members, OLA agreed to a trial period of offering free OLA membership to teachers taking their Librarianship Part One Additional Qualification courses. We are pleased to report that this initiative has resulted in a 10% success rate for the year. At our peak we were 1,409 strong!

The collaboration between the Ministry, OSLA and The Association of Library Consultants and Coordinators of Ontario (TALCO) was interrupted by job action. This initiative to create an inquiry based learning resource to support the *Getting Started with Student Inquiry* Ministry monograph that is part of the Capacity Building Series has been resurrected. With this resource, we hope to establish a direct link between school library program and the inquiry learning processes, thereby highlighting how learning is amplified when it happens in a rich print and digital collaborative learning environment that is inherent in the library learning commons.

OSLA Council has also continued to pursue communication with People for Education (PFP) to explore links between school library program and PFP's research around their Measuring What Matters initiative. David Cameron, the lead researcher for PFP is a key note speaker for Treasure Mountain Canada 4 (TMC), a symposium that will be part of the OLA Super Conference this year. OLA and OSLA have worked with Carol Koechlin to find a home for TMC when the CLA Conference was cancelled. We thank Carol for leading the charge in this endeavour. Carol and David Loertscher have also been instrumental in initiating the Year of the Learning Commons. OSLA supports this initiative and encourages members to use the hash-tag #yearlc and to contribute to the Year of the Learning Commons Showcase. This presents an excellent opportunity for educators to highlight the amazing work that is happening in Ontario school libraries.

Other outreach efforts undertaken include TV Ontario that is now highlighting the work of teacher-librarians across Ontario on their Teach Ontario platform www.teachontario.ca. This site is also hosting two book talks that have a high degree of relevance to issues that pertain to current teaching practices in the library learning commons. Last Fall, the vice president of OSLA, executive director of OLA and I also met with the executive director of the Ontario Principal's Council to discuss the possibility of establishing a line of communication to Ontario school principals who, as we know, play a key role in school library advocacy.

OSLA continues to have representation on the Subject/Division Association, OTF Curriculum forum and the Student Success Round Table. Once again, due to job action, meetings were cancelled so there is nothing to report on this front. In the Spring of 2015, the OSLA President and Vice President had the opportunity to have a booth at the Faculties of Education Curriculum Forum held at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Important connections were established, one of which resulted in a presentation to teacher candidates enrolled in the faculty of education program at Brock University. The teacher candidates were surprised to see how connecting to a teacher librarian could benefit them in their practicums and were also intrigued by the potential that librarianship might have for their future career choices.

For the second consecutive year, OLA organized a day at Queen's Park. Representation for all divisional councils resulted in another successful event. OSLA is following up with liaisons that were established with MPPs and Policy Advisors on that day.

There are some changes in the works. OLA has a new website that looks fantastic and is much more user friendly. Please be sure to also visit the OSLA page located at www.accessola.com under Divisions. Here you will find access to information about matters pertaining to our association including curriculum support in the form of webinars, library documents, curriculum support documents, as well as the names of this year's award winners and new and returning OSLA Council members. Also of note is a newly created committee to assist with content management for the T4L website. Together for Learning remains active as a living document and can be accessed on the OLA website or directly at www.togetherforlearning.ca. We thank Anita Brooks Kirkland for her diligence in creating and maintaining the website until now.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of departing council members, Heather Yearwood and Anna Szumilas as well as the work of past president, Deb Kitchener who also served on council prior to her presidency.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the OSLA President this year. I look forward to serving as past president in the upcoming year.