

REPORT OF SHELagh PATERSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



OLA members kept the association on its' toes this past year! In 2016, we hit a few milestones, and started new things:

- The Education Institute launched **Bright Young Minds**, a series of webinars presented by students and freshly minted

library graduates. Thanks to OLA's own bright young mind Mary Rose O'Connor for implementing this program!

- The **OLA Forest of Reading** presented the first full-day Festival des Arbres for 1,500 young readers making this the largest French reading festival for kids in the country!
- The OLA Board approved a fund development program that will help strengthen priorities such as research, reading engagement, and professional development for the library sector. We'll be encouraging members to get involved in strengthening our sector.
- A new tagline for libraries was launched: **A Visit Will Get You Thinking** is intended for all types of libraries and tool-kits are available. Thank you to the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries for leading the process.
- OLA became the convenor for the popular **Marketing Libraries Think Tank** held annually in August and expanded the target audience to all types of libraries.
- OLA's **Indigenous Libraries Task Group** was formed to identify ways to strengthen library services for First Nations people and to work collaboratively with other organizations on

this goal.

- OLA formed the **Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee** to initiate, advise and mobilize support for appropriate action plans related to issues of cultural diversity in libraries within Ontario including recruitment, advancement and retention of underrepresented groups in libraries.

Milestones and gratitude:

- In 2016, **Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research** celebrated its' 10 Anniversary. *Partnership* is a peer-reviewed journal promoting the exchange of ideas about libraries, librarianship, and information science among practitioners across all library sectors. OLA along with the provincial and territorial associations are members of The Partnership
- OLA's online magazine, **Open Shelf**, said farewell to founding editor-in-chief Mike Ridley and a warm welcome to Martha Attridge Bufton. Mike, also a past-president of OLA, recipient of the Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award and the OCULA Lifetime Achievement Award, has been a continuing source of inspiration for OLA.
- The **OLA Copyright Users Committee** captured the

interest of the Senate of Canada when Senator Black was our guest at Super Conference. As part of the Committees' annual copyright update by OLA Copyright Advisor Margaret Ann Wilkinson, the Senator publicly discussed the December 2016 Report of the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce on the Copyright Board (prepared in anticipation of the statutory 5 year review of the Copyright Act in 2017).

- Finally, it was a pleasure to work with the terrific staff team, all Super Conference planners, publication editors, committee members, the 2016 OLA Board of Directors, and divisional councils — and especially Todd Kyle, whose "**All In (Le tout pour le tout)**" theme at the 2017 Super Conference was particularly timely. We can't wait to live up to 2017 OLA President Leslie Weir's 2018 Super Conference theme: Fearless by Design (Délibérément audacieux)!



Senator Black and the OLA Copyright Users Committee