



ONTARIO LIBRARY BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

KERRY BADGLEY

OLBA

2017 OLBA Membership: 1,114

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to serve as Ontario Library Boards' Association (OLBA) President for 2017. As you know, OLBA is a division of the Ontario Library Association (OLA), representing public library board members on issues relating to their areas of responsibility. It serves chiefly to build a professional development program, and to provide information and training in aid of board development. The past year has been a busy and productive one for your OLBA Council, and what follows are highlights of some of our activities.

Bursaries

I am pleased to report that Council has added another Super Conference bursary to our list, making six in all: two for the North-West, two for the North-East, one for rural libraries serving populations of fewer than 5,000 people, and one designed to offset travel costs associated with attending the Saturday Boot Camp only. Virtually everyone who attends Super Conference believes it is a positive experience, and we are endeavouring to make Conference attendance a reality for as many board members as possible, regardless of location and/or resource constraints.

Web Site Renewal

We were also very fortunate to have had a student assist us in reviewing and revising our web pages

and related documents, including our *Councillors' Orientation Manual* (which will henceforth be known as the *Councillors' Handbook*). We thank Allana Mayer for her superb work on this project. I encourage members to make use of our web resources, and to let us know if there are ways that we can improve them.

OLBA Work Plan

I am also excited to announce that your Council has developed a new Work Plan. Now that the OLA has developed and approved its three-year Strategic Plan, OLBA developed and approved its own Work Plan. OLBA's Plan is designed to identify our key priorities, what we intend to do about them, and when the work will be accomplished. At the same time, we endeavoured to align our priorities as much as possible with those of the OLA. Consequently, our new Work Plan is not set for a period of one year (as had been the case in the past); instead, we have developed a three-year Plan that will enable the Council to take a long-term view on some of its key objectives. The new Work Plan is available on our web site, and I encourage you to read it. We are excited by our ambitious yet realistic Plan, and we hope that you will be, too.

Other Items

In addition to all of the above, we have been busy on a number of fronts, such as planning for OLBA

Council elections, addressing questions we receive from boards, attending SOLS Trustee Council meetings, publishing *InsideOLBA* (our semi-annual newsletter, available online) and the day-to-day governance associated with our organization.

What's Ahead?

The coming year promises to be an exciting one under the direction of our new President, Mariam Hamou. Mariam brings incredible abilities and enthusiasm to the position, and I am certain that she will focus on priorities such as increasing OLBA's membership, enhancing ties with Northern Ontario board members, and fostering an enduring relationship with First Nations libraries. I am looking forward to working with Mariam in my capacity as Past President.

To Conclude

In conclusion, my sincere thanks are extended to the OLBA Council for their enthusiasm, dedication, hard work this past year. I am very proud to work with you. And my sincere thanks to you, public library board members, for all you do for your respective local public libraries. Your efforts have a positive and significant impact on people throughout Ontario.