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## **Dr. Janette Baker Scholarship Fund**

### **Description**

The Dr. Janette Baker Scholarship was established to encourage participation in a formal full-time library and information science qualification program.

The Award is based on interest proceeds from the Dr. Janette Baker Scholarship Fund. A minimum of \$2,000 is guaranteed to the winning applicant by the OLA Board of Directors. The maximum scholarship being offered in one year is \$5,000. The winner(s) of the scholarship will also be offered a 1 year complimentary student OLA membership.

### **Janette May Baker, MLIS, Edd. Biography**

Janette May Baker was a teacher of teachers, and an ardent librarian. She died July 14, 2001, aged 62. Her bequest to the Ontario Library Association arose out of her enthusiasm for the discipline of librarianship and beyond that for dedication to lifelong learning itself.

Janette (pronounced Janet) completed her BA (Toronto) at night school. Her other degrees were taken full time: MA (Toronto with courses at Guelph), Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS - Western), and Doctorate (OISE). When Janette chose the subject of her doctoral thesis she chose a matter that underlay her approach to live. The thesis consisted of an examination of the extent that the teaching of independent learning skills was included in regular instruction.

Leaving high school she worked variously as a secretary, clerical assistant, and laboratory technician. She began her career at York University as an administrative assistant. After completing her library science degree at the University of Western Ontario she returned to York as administrator of the university's research grants program. In time she moved to head a unit that provided in-house consulting for faculty members wishing to improve their teaching skills. She supported this program by establishing a specialized and comprehensive library on instructional methods. She was proud of her librarian accreditation, the library that she developed while in the teaching skills program, and her research skills. Later she did similar work at the University of Toronto. She eased her way into retirement by teaching adult instructional methods at Seneca College.

Toward the end of her career she sought and gained acceptance in, but did not pursue, an MBA program. In retirement, she thought seriously of taking a law degree. Had the burden of family matters been less she may well have done so.

She was a person of deep intellectual curiosity and wide ranging interests. Coming from a family of amateur artists, she gathered a modest collection of Canadian art that included works of the Toronto artist Thoreau MacDonald. As an artist in her own right, she left a meager, but brilliant set of cartoons. She held a rich collection of antiques - obtained largely from family holdings.



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In all her life she was a diligent student. As a cook she progressed from the ordinary to become a cook and entertainer of exceptional skill. She maintained a pleasant garden which included a small treasure trove of heritage plants. Many of the herbs from her garden found their way to use in her kitchen.

She was a convert to outdoor activities: hiking, canoeing, bird watching. In her last weeks, while hiking along the Humber River, she spotted a rare - for the Toronto area - violet green swallow.

Her modest publishing record is devoted to technical aspects of teaching. One title, *Tips for Teaching*, an in-house publication at U of T, has recently gone into wider circulation and is now published on their web site.

A friendly, giving spirit, she was throughout her life pleasantly astonished to find that strangers liked to talk to her at a bus stop. Early in her adult life she was active as a leader in the Girl Guides. She was also a deeply private person. She kept friends made at all stages of her life. To some of these she was a help and support. In the end she was bonded to a precious circle of friends. During her undergraduate years she formed a friendship with a fellow student. That friendship grew to become an enduring life partnership.

Her last fifteen years were dedicated to the support, and finally, the care of her aging mother. When her mother died at age ninety-six, Janette, exhausted and grieving, survived only a few short months.

In addition to her circle of friends, fond cousins, nieces and nephews, she was survived by one sister and her life partner.

**Past Recipients:**

- 2018 Amber Matthews, Western University  
Sarah Gorman, University of Toronto
- 2017 Rhea Smith, Western University
- 2016 Frances Gao, University of Toronto  
Karolina Roussakis, Western University
- 2015 Alexander Herd, University of Toronto  
Roberto Antonio Muñoz Gómez, University of Toronto
- 2014 Jennifer Browning, Western University (Formally University of Western Ontario)  
Faculty of Information and Media Studies  
Shawnee Hayward, Western University (Formally University of Western Ontario)  
Faculty of Information and Media Studies
- 2013 Allison Harrison, University of Ottawa, Master of Information Studies  
Dawn Wright, Durham College, Library and Information Technician
- 2012 Avery Greaves, Western University (Formally University of Western Ontario)  
Faculty of Information and Media Studies



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- 2011 Meghana Jakate, University of Western Ontario Faculty of Information and Media Studies  
Heather Lavalley, University of Western Ontario Faculty of Information and Media Studies
- 2010 Janet Cooper, Seneca College, Library Techniques Program
- 2009 Not awarded
- 2008 Not awarded
- 2007 Not awarded
- 2006 Graeme Campbell, University of Western Ontario Faculty of Information and Media Studies
- 2005 Lianne Hoang, University of Western Ontario Faculty of Information and Media Studies
- 2004 Darren Furey, University of Toronto Faculty of Information Studies  
Melanie Sellar, University of Western Ontario Faculty of Information and Media Studies