



ONTARIO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

MICHELLE GOODRIDGE, PRESIDENT

OLITA

2022 OLITA Membership: 751

This past year I had the pleasure of being the President of OLITA after serving two years as VP due to the pandemic, which just meant I got to be more involved in OLA! 2022 was a productive year and it was a joy because of all of the talented OLA staff and members of OLITA council. Teamwork is dreamwork, as they say.

The year began with the 2022 OLA Super Conference in its second year as a virtual event. With the apt theme of 'Gather' we saw OLA members join from coast-to-coast. Our OLITA spotlight this year was a panel entitled "What Do Accessible Services Mean in Your Library? Successes and challenges in the provision of accessible library service during a pandemic" which tied in nicely to the 2021 theme we had at Digital Odyssey and continued the important conversation. We also had our AGM virtually as well (without snacks, sadly) and we had the pleasure of awarding Courtney Mellor of the Ottawa Public Library with the OLITA Technology Advancing Libraries Award. It has been a blessing to be able to make Super Conference more accessible to members by having it virtual and we are excited to see what the hybrid rollout for 2023 looks like.

Digital Odyssey 2022 was a huge success thanks to the DO planning subcommittee and of course OLA staff and OLITA council. Our theme was "Evolution of Virtual Library Services" and had fantastic speakers who discussed hybrid programming, evolution of coding instruction, purchasing tech on a budget, and virtual gaming programs. It seems like a natural fit for a library tech division to make use of tech to run our events so we are planning to hold Digital Odyssey 2023 virtually in June and while we don't have our theme pinned down, I am sure it

will be topical and will continue to draw diverse library crowds.

After being on hiatus due to the pandemic, OLITA decided to bring back the Tech Lending Library. We have purchased new materials and we plan to officially launch the lending library at the 2023 Super Conference. We are also exploring ways to continue engaging with OLITA members so please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions!

As I write this, we are preparing for 2023 Super Conference to be held both in-person and virtually. We have two enthusiastic and engaged planners, Randy Oldham and Jess Posgate who are working hard to bring great library technology programming to the conference. We also have a new member joining us in 2023, Ashley Prince and the lovely Max Lupo will become the division president – I have full confidence you will do an amazing job, Max! We are still looking for a VP/ President Elect so if you are interested in joining this dynamic team of dedicated library workers in tech, please contact OLA. We would love to have you join.

I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone involved with OLITA – I have made so many connections (and friends!) because of my involvement with OLA over the years and it really is the people who make it such a wonderful experience. I know 2023 is going to be an exciting year and I hope as we move forward that everyone continues to be safe, happy and healthy.