

TRUSTEE

*The Newsletter of
the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association*

October 2002

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Yes, I'm back and I suspect a word of explanation is necessary. The Trustees present at the 2001 Annual General Meeting elected Allard Merasty (P.N.L.S.) as President. Allard resigned when he moved to Saskatoon to attend school. Mavis Bellisle (Wapiti) assumed the office in September 2001 but found it necessary to resign as Wapiti's appointment to the Executive, and was not present for the 2002 A.G.M.

Your Executive for the current year:

President Isabelle Butters, Southeast

**Vice-
President** Kathy Evans, Saskatoon

Treasurer Karen Basky, Palliser

Secretary Merrilee Rasmussen (appointed outside the Executive)

Other members of the Executive include:

Chinook	Myra Sutter
Lakeland	Louise Cochran
Pahkisimon Nuyeꞑáh	Brian Suetta
Parkland	Charlotte Thies
Regina	Cindy Smith
Wapiti	Maureen McGirr
Wheatland	Kae Campbell

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SPRING CONFERENCE

SLA experienced considerable difficulty in filling some Executive positions and finding volunteers for the planning committee for the 2003 conference. Consequently a mini-conference has been suggested (to utilize the financial deposit made at the Sheraton-Cavalier, Saskatoon). The proposal is:

- One-day conference – Friday April 11, 2003
- Seminars/Workshops in the morning
- Extended lunch period to accommodate the Mary Donaldson Memorial lectures and SLA and SLTA Award presentations.
- A.G.M.'s for both organizations in the afternoon.



COMMUNITY NET FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

CommunityNet was formally announced by the Honorable Allan Rock, the Honorable Ralph Goodale and the Honorable Ron Osika on May 16th, 2002. In announcing High Speed Internet Access for Saskatchewan libraries, the Ministers stated that the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan will provide \$4.4 million to install high speed

Internet access for 162 libraries throughout the Province.

Treasurer Karen Basky and President Isabelle Butters officially represented SLTA at this important announcement.

The Information Technology Office and the Provincial Library assisted the SLTA in the preparation of a Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program Application for \$4.4 million over 6 years to fund the initiative.

Parkland Regional Library headquarters has been connected to CommunityNet. The remaining public library headquarters will all be connected by early next year.

The plan is to have 32 libraries connected to CommunityNet by March 31, 2003. Once the headquarters are connected, the priority will be regional city libraries, along with the Regina and Saskatoon branches.

SLTA EXECUTIVE 2002-2003



(Back Row, L – R): Myrna Sutter – Chinook, Charlotte Thies – Parkland, Brian Suetta – PNLS, Louise Cochran – Lakeland, Kae Campbell – Wheatland.

(Front Row, L – R): Merrilee Rasmussen, Karen Basky, Palliser, Isabelle Butters – Southeast, Joylene Campbell, Provincial Librarian.

(Absent): Cindy Smith – Regina, Kathy Evans – Saskatoon, Maureen McGirr – Wapiti.

SLTA LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

The 2002 Award was presented to Mary Beitler of Tisdale, at the SLA/SLTA Conference in Regina on April 12, 2002.

Bob Burgess, Chairman, reports that "Mary has given twenty-one years of dedicated service to the local board, was the Town of Tisdale's representative to the Wapiti Regional Library Board for thirteen years, and served on the Regional Board Executive from 1981-86 and 1990-91".

Congratulations Mary!!

CONGRATULATIONS

To: Pahkisimon Nuyeháh Library System on the opening of their new Headquarters Building.

BRIEF TO THE MINISTER IN CHARGE OF LIBRARIES

President Isabelle Butters, Secretary Merrilee Rasmussen and Treasurer Karen Basky presented the SLTA Brief to the Honorable James Melenchuck, on June 17, 2002. The presence of Provincial Librarian Joylene Campbell was much appreciated. If you wish a copy of the brief, please contact the SLTA Executive Member from your library system or visit the document section at our new website.

SLTA HAS A NEW WEBSITE

Visit the new SLTA website at:

<http://www.lib.sk.ca/slta>

LIBRARYNET BEST PRACTICES

The Saskatchewan winners of this year's "LibraryNet's Best Practices" Award are:

- Pahkisimon Nuyeᑭáh Library System
- Palliser Regional Library
- Saskatoon Public Library
- Southeast Regional Library

This award recognizes the important role Canada's public libraries play in encouraging the innovative use of information and communication technology (ICT) in their communities. This year, 19 public libraries from across the country were recognized.

"This year's recipients are shining examples of Canadian innovation at work," said Minister Rock. "From the creation of an online historical, geographical and cultural tracking system in Windsor, Ontario, to a virtual reading club in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, to the implementation of a digital training project for Aboriginal and low-income individuals in Saskatchewan."

CONGRATULATIONS

To: Rouleau Branch of Palliser Regional Library on receiving some wonderful publicity in the July 4th issue of the Western Producer. The article promoted and publicized small rural libraries.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN SOFTWARE AND REMOTE PATRON AUTHENTICATION SOFTWARE

The second stage of this initiative will implement software that will deliver "point and click" functionality so the public can create an interlibrary loan request from their search of library catalogues, including the Gateway. Further, the software will allow for the validation of users for access to restricted library services such as licensed databases.

The Information Technology Office (ITO), Saskatchewan Industry and Resources are funding the Government on Line (GOL) project. By the end of March 2003, the software will be available to all public library systems in the province. An application is being made to the ITO for funding to all other types of libraries in 2003-04.

HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHERS CONTRACT

A "Memorandum of Agreement" between the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association and Thunder Creek Publishing Co-operative Limited (Coteau Books), was signed and returned to Nik L. Burton, Managing Editor, Coteau Books, on July 26th, 2002.

Last call for submissions from all 320-branch libraries in the Province!

DIGITAL DIVIDE PROJECT

Project highlights include:

- Saskatchewan Economic and Cooperative Development funded project in 2001-02.
- The Digital Divide project was targeted at low income and Aboriginal peoples, to ensure that all the citizens of our province have the ability to communicate and compete in this wired world.
- The Saskatoon Public Library developed three modules including computer basics, email, and word processing targeted at the

computer novice. The modules were formatted on a CD-ROM and are being distributed to all public library branches in the province.

- Southeast and Palliser Regional Libraries offered computer training using laptops in 15 rural communities for their portion of the project.
- The English version of the CD's is longer than anticipated and PNLs now is seeking \$28,000 in additional funding to translate the modules into Cree and Dene.
- A funding proposal to extend the training portion of the project to all libraries in the province has been unsuccessful.
- An application to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for funding to hire a trainer to train branch librarians to use the CD was also unsuccessful.

SUSTAINABILITY FUNDING FOR LIBRARY CAP SITES

The Library Cap Project provided \$1.3 million dollars in support of public access to the Internet and related services. The funds were provided by Industry Canada and were coordinated by the Saskatchewan Government. Most of the funding was used to update and expand the public Internet computers in 291 eligible public libraries in the province. Further, funds were also used to purchase or update hardware, software, communications, and staffing that supported public access to the Internet and related services.

This project provided essential sustainability funding that allowed for older equipment to be upgraded and new equipment and services to be introduced. The response to the project has demonstrated a new awareness and understanding of the importance of the information technology to the entire public library community.

A HIGHWAY SIGN FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES



The SLTA raised the question of adopting a library symbol for use on highway signage in Saskatchewan. The Multitype Library Board supported the concept on behalf of public libraries and included this concern in the Discussion Paper presented to the Minister of Saskatchewan Learning. (<http://www.lib.sk.ca/workingtogether.pdf>). As a result, the Deputy Minister of Highways and Transportation has approved a proposal to use the universal symbol for libraries.

Libraries will be able to apply for a 2' x 2' symbol to be placed on highway signs in communities that wish to have it. The usual cost is \$100 but for the period up to March 31, 2004, as a Centenary program, the cost will be about \$25. Regional libraries will distribute applications to regional board representatives at their Fall semi-annual meetings. Local library boards will need to work with their town councils to receive their approval. For further information contact your library headquarters.

CONGRATULATIONS

To: Cabri Branch of Chinook Regional Library for being featured in "Feliciter" – "What distinguishes Cabri, Saskatchewan".

SASKATCHEWAN WORKING TOGETHER

The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board has released a discussion paper that explains the multitype library system in Saskatchewan, outlines the impact of libraries on Saskatchewan quality of life, and discusses fundamental issues facing libraries in the province.

The discussion paper highlights the positive impact of libraries on

communities, culture, youth, learning, economic development, rural life, Aboriginal people, and northern Saskatchewan. Merrilee Rasmussen, chair of the Board, notes that "often library services are overlooked and taken for granted--a network of over 300 public libraries, over 40 post-secondary and special libraries, and hundreds of school libraries enrich the quality of life for Saskatchewan residents every day."

The key discussion issues relate to the role of libraries in:

- Promoting how libraries provide access to a world of information;
- Providing a means for schools to deliver resource-based learning;
- Partnering with governments to develop an information management infrastructure in support of e-government;
- Supporting competency standards for information management professionals;
- Recruiting and retaining professional librarians in the province;
- Stabilizing the current database licensing system; and
- Gaining tax-exempt status for electronic subscriptions.

Printed copies of the discussion paper are available from the Provincial Library, 1352 Winnipeg St, Regina, SK, S4P 3V7. A PDF version (an electronic format over the Internet) of the paper is located at <http://www.lib.sk.ca/workingtogether.pdf>. More information about the Multi-type Library Board is located at <http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype>.

MINISTER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY SERVICES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

The Advisory Committee held public hearings throughout the province last year and made 46 recommendations. Key recommendations include:

- Universal access for all residents of Saskatchewan
- Development of equitable arrangements for Aboriginal access to public library services
- Revision of the regional library funding formula and increased financial support for Aboriginal services
- Aboriginal cultural awareness and sensitivity training
- Establishment of Aboriginal Library Consultant positions

- Initiatives to assist in the promotion and preservation of Aboriginal languages, culture and histories
- Promotion of literacy within the Aboriginal community
- Partnerships with First Nations and Metis organizations, institutions and communities
- Promotion of the importance of First Nations and Metis board members, including Elders in ex-officio positions

The implementation of the committee's recommendations is critical to the future of the public library system in our province and is a key step in enriching lives of all residents of Saskatchewan. SLTA supports the recommendations, in principle, and is sending a letter to FSIN offering to discuss the recommendations with them. The report can be found at http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff_minaboriginal/ablib/ablibfinal.html.

On August 20, 2002, the Honorable Robert D. Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announced the establishment of the National Working Group on Education to review education policy for First nations people. The "Information for Everyone" has been forwarded to Indian and Northern Affairs' National Working Group on Education for their Consideration.



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