

TRUSTEE

*The Newsletter of  
the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association*

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*January 2004*

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I am pleased to have been appointed President of SLTA at the AGM in April 2003. I have big shoes to fill following after Isabelle Butters. Just so you know, I have not let go of Isabelle very easily and she continues to "mentor" me along the way.

I apologize for the delay in getting out a newsletter. As you may or may not realize, SLTA only gets together 3 times a year. Meetings are held in September, January or February and April. So from April until September things were a little quiet and I was "settling in ". Since our meeting in September I have been running. Our board is made up of volunteers who also are volunteers on their local library boards and who knows what else they may be doing with their lives - just like you! So I was the volunteer to do the newsletter and just didn't get it out in the fall.

In April 2003 it was announced that libraries would receive an increase in funding from the Department of Learning. So we can see that our hard work lobbying the provincial government on an annual basis can make a difference!

Isabelle was able to attend the CLTA/CLA Conference in Toronto this year along with 14,000 others. SARS scare didn't keep them all away! Isabelle continues to be involved with CLTA sub-committees and enjoying being retired from SLTA/CLTA.

**Executive 2003/2004:**

**President** Kathy Evans, Saskatoon

**Vice-  
President** Karen Basky Palliser

**Treasurer** Louise Cochran Lakeland

**Secretary** Merrilee Rasmussen (appointed outside the Executive)

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## **2004 SLA CONFERENCE**

**Regina Inn Hotel, Regina**

**"Making Connections @ your library"**

**May 6, 7 & 8, 2004**

<http://www.lib.sk.ca/sla/conf.htm>

SLA Board recently ratified that the **annual SLA Conference shall herewith be called the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference** in order to celebrate the contributions made by all of the libraries, library associations, and library workers in the province. As has been the case in most other years, this year workshops and events are being sponsored or provided not only by the Saskatchewan Library Association but also with the assistance of the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association, the Provincial Library, and the Multitype Library Board and other related associations. It seems fitting then that our conference is known as the "Saskatchewan Libraries Conference."

**Preliminary planning is underway for a conference in cooperation with SLA and SALT in Saskatoon to mark the centennial year for spring 2005.**

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## **SLTA Life Membership Award**

- Nominees are requested for 2004.
  - Applications available from SLTA Executive members.
  - Deadline is April 1, 2004.
  - Award presented at Saskatchewan Libraries Conference in Regina - May 6-8, 2004.
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## **SLTA History Book Project**

- Don Kerr has been busy visiting many libraries throughout the province gathering materials for the book. He has been interviewing library people. Don is enjoying this task immensely having formerly been a Board Chair for Saskatoon Public Library.
- Target is to complete manuscript and get to the printer by July 2004. Presentation and reading proposed for SLTA/SLA Joint Conference May 2005. Many thanks to the History Book Project Cte for their hard work in fund raising and bringing this dream into reality!
- Funds raised to date \$17,300.00
- Committee:

Judy Chuey  
Louise Cochran  
Zenon Zuzak  
Frances Morrison  
Andre Gagnon

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## **CLA Conference, Victoria, BC, June 16-19, 2004** **Celebrating our Community:** **Sharing Our Values and Sharing our Value**

CLA will hold its annual conference in conjunction with the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA). For more information on BCLA please visit [www.bcla.bc.ca](http://www.bcla.bc.ca).

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## **SLTA Feedback**

- Our Trustees are encouraged to raise issues/concerns or ask questions of SLTA.
- Contact either Kathy or Merrilee via e-mail or call any of the SLTA Executive.

[www.lib.sk.ca/SLTA/](http://www.lib.sk.ca/SLTA/)

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## **SLTA Minister's Brief - February 4, 2004**

- As a result of the provincial election we have a new Minister of Learning, Hon. Andrew Thomson, Regina South NDP MLA as of November 21, 2003.
- Presentation of Minister's brief in a meeting with Hon. Judy Junor on September 24, 2003 was very productive. As a result, she encouraged us to conduct some research on issues we had presented in the brief.
- SLTA is in the process of conducting a survey of Saskatchewan libraries on pay issues, capital projects and library amalgamations.
- Brief available on web site under Documents.

*If you do not have access to e-mail and would like a copy, please contact an Executive member and we would be pleased to mail you a copy.*

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## **Promotion Steering Committee**

- Provincial Library is forming a Promotion Steering Committee.
- SLTA has been invited to have a representative.
- Purpose is to work on a province-wide multitype approach to promoting the value of libraries and online library services.
- Role of committee member is to act as a liaison to their groups and seek input on discussion items and assisting with coordinating a roll out strategy.
- Initial meeting will be held in mid-April 2004.
- Maureen McGirr has agreed to represent SLTA.

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## **Library Services for Aboriginal People**

- The key recommendation in the Minister's Advisory Committee on Library Services for Aboriginal People Report was: That every

resident of Saskatchewan, including all individuals who reside on First Nations reserve land, have access to the full range of existing public library services.

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### **Boughen Commission Re: Financing K-12 Education - November 25, 2003**

- Information was shared advising affect on libraries (particularly in the rural) changes in taxation would make.
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### **Multitype Library Board**

- Thanks to Merrilee for being our representative to the Multitype Library Board for the past 5 years.
  - Our new representative will be appointed in the next month. Isabelle Butters, Kae Campbell and Kathy Evans have put their names forward and Minister of Learning will advise of the appointment.
  - The Multitype Library Board is developing a five year strategic plan to guide the Board's priorities and actions. The plan may be finalized at the September meeting of the board and will be distributed to the multitype partners shortly.
  - The 2002/2003 Annual Report of the Multitype Library Board is available online at: [www.lib.sk.ca/sklib/02-03MLB.pdf](http://www.lib.sk.ca/sklib/02-03MLB.pdf)
  - The Multitype Library Board partnered with Sask. Learning & SLA to establish Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary. More information available on SLA's web site at: [www.lib.sk.ca/sla/bursaryguidelines.htm](http://www.lib.sk.ca/sla/bursaryguidelines.htm)
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### **SUMA Conference - Regina - February 1-4, 2004**

- President will attend to represent trustees.
  - Excellent opportunity to talk with government officials at various levels.
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## **Provincial Library Move**

- The move is scheduled for end of February 2004.
  - Closer to the occasion, an announcement will be posted on the Saskatchewan Learning website and the Saskatchewan Libraries website: [www.lib.sk.ca](http://www.lib.sk.ca)
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## **Industry Canada Funding for Library CAP Sites 2003-04**

- It is anticipated that public libraries will receive approximately \$1 million dollars in sustainability funding in 2003-04. The program will cover the period April 1, 2003 to March 15, 2004.
  - Copy of report "Maximizing the Value of Library CAP Sites: Saskatchewan Perspectives and Recommendations" available [www.lib.sk.ca](http://www.lib.sk.ca)
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## **CommunityNet for Public Libraries**

Current status:

- CNet has been installed in 142 libraries as of December 31, 2003. Provincial Library awaiting completed templates from SPL which has decided it will not proceed in the near future.
  - Provincial Library working with Sask. Learning to determine possible funding sources to add another 65 libraries to CommunityNet.
  - Background: The Information Technology Office & Provincial Library assisted the SLTA in the preparation of a Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program Application for \$4.4M over 6 years to provide 162 libraries with high speed Internet connections.
  - Additional information: Each regional library board has determined how to address the matter of equitable costs, because the SLTA application said libraries would ensure equitable distribution of the savings from CommunityNet.
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## **Financial Reporting Update**

- At the request of one of the library systems, the Financial Reporting Committee formed a sub-committee to develop guidelines for local library boards.
  - Current status: The guidelines provided to library boards who decide to adopt them as policy. The Financial Reporting Committee is working on a Financial Reporting Manual, to provide standards and guidance for financial reporting and to achieve comparability.
  - A draft Financial Reporting Manual was distributed to all library systems in December 2003.
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## **IT Projects**

### **1. Horizon Migration Project**

- The primary objective of the Horizon Project is to replace the existing Dynix integrated library system with the Horizon integrated library system. Replacement of the system means implementation in the Provincial Library including the currently hosted Chinook and Pahkisimon Nuyeᑭáh Library Systems. The project is proceeding on schedule and on budget.

### **2. Gateway**

- The purchase of the gateway software was the first step toward seamless access. It gives the public the ability to search all public library catalogues in a single search and to receive the results in a single list of unique records with locations and item availability statuses.
- One library system has the gateway on their website.

### **3. Government Online Project for Interlibrary Loan Software and Remote Patron Authentication Software**

- The second stage of seamless access is to implement software which will allow the public to create an interlibrary loan request from their search of library catalogues, including the Gateway and for the Saskatchewan user to be validated for restricted library services such as access to licensed databases.

- A web form will be available to the public to initiate their requests from a number of sites.
  - The GOL project is being funded by the Government On-Line Fund, Information Technology Office.
  - Implementation of the Resource Sharing Software (RSS) is progressing.
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## **GST Rebates**

- On January 9, 2004, Finance Minister Ralph Goodale announced the federal government is considering 100% rebate of GST paid by MUSH sector (municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals).
  - In Nova Scotia public libraries are considered as "municipalities: for the purpose of GST/HST rebates.
  - SLTA supports this initiative and will write a letter.
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## **Library Book Rate**

### **Why is the Library Book Rate IMPORTANT?**

**The elimination of the Library Book Rate would make it impossible for public libraries to deliver books by mail and would thereby seriously undermine resource sharing, which is recognized by clause 3(1)© of *The Public Libraries Act 1996* as one of the fundamental components of the public library system in Saskatchewan.**

Introduced in 1939, the Library Rate (commonly called the Library Book Rate) assists in extending library services to rural and remote areas. Through an agreement with the Department of Canada Heritage, Canada Post provides a discount to libraries mailing print materials to their users or other libraries. It is estimated that the annual cost of this discount to Canada Post is approximately \$1.3 million. The cost of the loss of this discount for libraries and their users is incalculable.

The Department's current contract with Canada Post expires March 2002 and negotiations are beginning for the continuation of the programme after that date. It is not clear, however, that Canada Post will continue to provide



the discount mailing rate to libraries, therefore it is important for the Canadian Library Association and its members to advocate with the federal government for the continuance of the rate.

In preparation for the negotiations the Department of Canadian Heritage will be undertaking a study of the rate. Libraries will be asked to provide data and information in the completion of that study.<sup>2</sup>

The Library Book Rate is not just a library issue. It is also an issue for all of those who live in rural or remote communities or who, due to illness or disability, must rely on the mail to deliver important reading and learning materials. The elimination or the lowering of the discount would have serious impact on the ability of libraries to continue to provide their mail delivery programmes or to access the collections of other libraries.

CLA is actively seeking the commitment of Canadian MPs and government officials to ensure that both the Department of Canadian Heritage and Canada Post continue to partner to provide the Library Book Rate.

It is estimated that the annual cost of this discount to Canada Post is approximately \$1.3 to \$2 million. At the beginning of the negotiations for the extension of the LBR, it was unclear whether a deal could be reached.

Understanding the value of the Library Book Rate to Canadians across the country, particularly to those in rural areas, CLA spoke to federal members of Parliament and officials from the Departments of Canadian Heritage, Industry Canada and Canada Post. Through its recently launched Campaign for Canada's Libraries CLA voiced its concern that the Library Book Rate might be cancelled during the current round of negotiations. The response given was clear - it is essential to Canadians and their leaders that library materials can be delivered across the country through Canada Post at a discounted rate.

Thus, in February 2002 the Department's and Canada Post reached a new three-year deal. The three year deal will see the current mailing rate for libraries increase by 6.8% in 2002, 0% in 2003, and 6.3% in 2004, an overall increase of 13.1%.

Department of Canadian Heritage officials have commended CLA for taking a proactive stance on ensuring that the LBR continues. The signing of the deal will not end CLA's commitment to expanding the LBR in future years

to non-print materials, to ensure its continuance or to limit future increases in the cost of using the rate. CLA will be working with the Department and Canada Post in order to strengthen the ties between the three groups and to begin discussions for the next round of negotiations which will begin in 2004.

These discussions will be based in part on information that is currently being gathered in a study examining the use of the LBR. This study, which is likely to be completed in March-April 2003, includes a survey component as well as consultations, was commissioned by the Department of Canadian Heritage; it is being conducted by ASM Consultants with Fuse Communications. It is imperative that librarians across the country provide data and input to this study. For this reason, CLA asks that everyone who has received a copy of the Library Book Rate survey to complete it. (For more information on the LBR study, contact; Stan Skrzyszewski, ASM Consultants, 411 Rippleton Place, London, Ontario L6G 1L4. 519-473-7651. [asmstan@attcanada.ca](mailto:asmstan@attcanada.ca).)

*The cost of the loss of this discount for libraries and their users is incalculable.*