

TRUSTEE

*The Newsletter of the
Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association*

www.lib.sk.ca/slta

June 2005

President's Message

Summer is just around the corner, gardens are waiting to be planted, flowers to be enjoyed and holiday planning is in full force. A successful Saskatchewan Libraries Conference is over and the trustee sessions were particularly informative. Pat Cavill and Sam McCullough did an excellent job of providing trustees with a wealth of information with which to make informed decisions.

The 2005 Canadian Library Conference is being held in Calgary, June 15-18, and during that time the Canadian Libraries Trustee Association Annual General Meeting will take place. Discussions in CLTA's "Town Hall" meeting will focus on future plans for CLTA including; plans for strategic directions, increasing CLTA membership and increasing participation of the provincial associations.

The article on Copyright Legislation is intended to give trustees information with which to discuss these proposed changes with local MPs. Trustees are encouraged to let their MP know how these proposed changes will negatively affected library services.

The Library Books Rate agreement has been signed, but only for one year. Future lobbying will be needed in this area.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer,

*Karen Basky
President, SLTA*

Digital Copyright

On March 24, 2004 the Department of Industry and Canadian Heritage released the *Status Report on Copyright Reform*. After a review by the House of Commons Standing Committee, it was recommended that the Government of Canada amend the *Copyright Act* to allow for blanket licensing of the Internet when used for educational purposes.

These changes are inappropriate for the following reasons:

- *only Canadians will have to pay for usage
- *only 3% of Internet content is Canadian and if licensing covers all Internet material then 97% of fees collected will leave the country
- *the principles of the Internet are being ignored as the Internet is primarily a public space and this is an attempt to

license the Internet and not the content.

Any amendment that includes a fee based on use would be prohibitive for Canadian public libraries and would negatively affect the service that public libraries in Canada provide.

The Canadian Library Association has provided leadership in this area. CLA has published an advertisement in the newspaper, Hill Times, targeted at federal officials and politicians, noting that the government is going down the wrong path with this proposed copyright reform. Letters have been sent to every MP asking them to link with their local libraries to discuss CLA's position on the copyright reform.

A group called Digital Copyright Canada is circulating a petition calling on the House of Commons to recognize users as interested parties in copyright reform and that they be meaningfully consulted about proposed changes to the *Copyright Act* to ensure changes at least preserve existing users' rights. The petition also calls upon Parliament not to extend the terms of copyright and to recognize the right of citizens to personally control their own communication devices.

SLTA has also taken a leadership role by writing all Saskatchewan Members of Parliament to point out the flaws in the proposed legislation. Directors and regional executive members have met or are meeting with their local MPs to discuss the proposed copyright changes. SLTA is encouraging all trustees to contact their local MP to discuss how badly flawed the proposed changes to the *Copyright Act* are and how the rights of the creator and user are being ignored.

Any change in legislation should reflect a balance amongst all interested parties.

Saskatchewan Libraries Conference

Saskatchewan Libraries Centennial

Conference 2005

Saskatoon April 22 & 23

SLTA sponsored three trustee sessions:

REALITIES & PRACTICES OF

LOBBYING by Pat Cavill

Pat has 35 years experience as a library consultant and library director in rural Saskatchewan and Alberta. She gave a power point presentation on successful lobbying.

Effective lobbying happens when the right person talks to the right person about the right issue at the right time.

We need to ask four key questions:

What do you want?

Who has what you want?

Who decides if you can have it?

How do you get what you want?

Finally, the best arguments usually win, especially if your arguments are sensible and are consistent with the decision maker's agenda.

TRUSTEE FORUM: EFFECTIVE BOARD GOVERNANCE - TWO SESSIONS by Sam McCullough.

Sam is a lawyer from Outlook, SK. He talked about governance of libraries with reference to *The Public Libraries Act, 1996*, *The Public Libraries Regulations, 1996*, *The Interpretation Act, 1995* and *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

(For a copy of any of this legislation go to www.qp.gov.sk.ca)

Sam gave some excellent advice for Public Library boards on their accountability as they govern in good faith.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Constitution and Bylaws of the SLTA require that the President and Vice-president be elected by the membership from among the persons who are nominated as representatives to the Executive of the SLTA.

At the AGM in Saskatoon, the nominating committee brought forth the names Karen Basky for President and Elaine Kivisto for Vice-President. Those attending accepted these candidates with thanks for giving their time and talents to these positions.

Members of the Executive, 2005-2006

CHINOOK REGION

Janet Wilkinson
Frontier, Saskatchewan

LAKELAND REGION

Louise Cochran
Radisson, Saskatchewan
PAHKSIMON NUYE?
Mark Williment

La Loche, Saskatchewan

PALLISER REGION

Karen Basky (President)
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
email: kbasky@palliser.lib.sk.ca

PARKLAND REGION

Sharon Armstrong
Wynyard, Saskatchewan

SOUTHEAST REGION

Donna Hartley
Ogema, Saskatchewan

WAPITI REGION

Maureen McGirr (Treasurer)

Nipawin, Saskatchewan
WHEATLAND REGION

Kae Campbell

Wilkie, Saskatchewan
REGINA PUBLIC

Elaine Kivisto (Vice-President)
Regina, Saskatchewan

SASKATOON PUBLIC

Bev Dubois

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
PROVINCIAL LIBRARIAN

Joylene Campbell

Regina, Saskatchewan

MULTITYPE LIBRARY BOARD REP

M. Isabelle Butters

Weyburn, Saskatchewan

SLTA SECRETARY

Merrilee Rasmussen

Wheatland Regional Library Launches New Website and Online Library Catalogue

The Wheatland Regional Library is pleased to announce two newly updated services for the general public and Wheatland Region Library patrons.

A new website has been created featuring profiles of its 46 branch locations, job postings, magazine and newspaper databases, "Ask Us" reference service, HIP (Horizon Informational Portal) catalogue, interlibrary loan service, a recommendation for purchase request form, as well as, information on the history, mission statement and values of the Wheatland Regional Library. The website address is www.wheatlandlibrary.sk.ca.

Available 24/7 from this website is the new, state-of-the-art catalogue used for searching materials from the Wheatland Regional Library collection. It also

allows patrons to view and renew materials on their record and to place holds on materials within and outside the region from their branch library or home.

The online catalogue provides enriched content featuring attractive cover art, related works and reviews of the materials in the Wheatland collection. Searching functions are intuitive, user friendly and allow the patrons to select a basic search or a power search.

"These exciting new developments will provide a higher level and far-reaching service to our rural communities, especially in the areas that do not have a physical library," says Board Chair Arlene Pederson.

Library Book Rate

On April 21, 2005 the Department of Canadian Heritage announced that an agreement was reached with Canada Post Corporation to continue the Library Book Rate. *There will be no rate increases for one year.*

Since 1939, Canada Post Corporation has provided discounted postal rates for the mailing of books between libraries and from libraries to their users. These significantly reduced rates, which are administered and funded by Canada Post, allow Canadians in all communities to have access to current reading materials.

The Library Book Rate has been agreed upon for one year. The agreement is a result of a lot of hard work by Trustees in Saskatchewan and across Canada. Congratulations!

It is vitally important that we keep this issue alive. Saskatchewan needs to see

the Library Book Rate continued indefinitely. That means keeping up the good work of contacting your Members of Parliament and letting them know just how important having access to all books and materials is to you. The discontinuation of the LBR would severely limit the sharing of library resources.

Become informed and share the information with others. The more voices we have the more effective our lobbying will be.

SLTA Information by email

Send us your email address and we will provide you with our communiqués and newsletters via email. Email distribution saves the SLTA the cost of printing and postage.

Take a moment now to send an email indicating "subscribe SLTA" in the re line to our Secretary at rasmussen@sasktel.net.