



TRUSTEE

*The Newsletter of the Saskatchewan
Library Trustees' Association*

www.lib.sk.ca/slta

March 2005

President's Message

I have just returned from the Canadian Library Trustees Association Executive (CLTA) meetings in Edmonton, where plans were finalized for the Annual General Meeting at CLA in Calgary. Reinstated is the "Town Hall Meeting" which is a forum for delegates to discuss any items of concern prior to the AGM.

Membership in CLTA was one item on the weekend agenda. The question is "How to increase the membership in CLTA?" CLTA President, Marco Adria, has also made a presentation to the National Library and Archives Consultation concerning the new role of the National Library and Archives. CLTA made the point that knowledge is key and trustees are responsible for delivering cultural knowledge.

News from CLA: CLA's four Advocacy items for the year are the same concerns that trustees here in the province have: Community Access Program (CAP), The Library Book Rate, Copyright Reform and Aboriginal Services.

This year SLTA was saddened by the sudden death of Charlotte Theis, executive member from the Parkland Regional Library System.

At the SLA Conference in April there will be sessions planned *by* trustees *for* trustees. The SLTA executive is encouraging as many

trustees as possible to attend the conference on April 21-23 in Saskatoon. Trustee sessions are scheduled for Friday afternoon and Saturday, addressing the topics of lobbying and board governance. Of special note is the launch of the Library History Book, *A Book in Every Hand: Public Libraries in Saskatchewan*, which has been a special centennial project of the SLTA. Hats off to Judy Chuey and the History Book Committee for bringing this project to completion.

Hope to see you all at the Conference in Saskatoon!

Karen Basky, President



SLTA Membership

SLTA represents all library trustees in Saskatchewan. The library regions pay a \$5.00 membership fee for each of their regional representatives. We are asking all local library board members to also support the SLTA by acquiring personal memberships for local library board members.

Benefits of membership are many:

- You will receive three newsletters and communiqués each year. These provide background information on issues that are currently of interest or concern to our libraries.
- You are able to vote at the SLTA annual general meeting, held in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference, thus giving you a voice in the decisions of the organization.
- You will have input into the SLTA's campaigns for public libraries and into the annual brief presented by the SLTA to the Minister responsible for public libraries.
- You will have communication with SLTA members in the province.
- You will work with other trustees in the province on common goals.
- You will have active participation in the planning of the annual conference.
- You will have a voice on the MultiType Library Board.

Where else can you get so much power for just \$5.00??

The SLTA, as any organization, is only as strong as its membership. There are many important issues facing public libraries — the Library Book Rate and possible amendments

to copyright legislation, issues you can read more about in this newsletter, are only two. The SLTA needs to raise a strong voice in support of libraries. Please join us. Contact our Secretary at rasmussen@sasktel.net for information on how to join.

Maureen McGirr SLTA Treasurer

Saskatchewan Libraries Conference Calling all Trustees...

It's time to register to attend the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference, *Linking Communities: The Next 100 Years*, at Saskatoon Centennial Auditorium, April 21-23, 2005. A registration form is included with this newsletter — take time now to complete it and send it in to assure your spot at the Saskatchewan Libraries annual conference.

SLTA is very pleased to be taking a very active role in this Conference. Workshops especially for Trustees have been planned. This is a good opportunity to meet other Trustees and to learn what being a Trustee is all about. The sessions for Trustees are on Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23 and include: "Realities and Practicalities of Lobbying" by Pat Cavill and "Trustee Forum Part I & II : Effective Board Governance" by Ken Haycock.

The SLTA Annual General Meeting is on Saturday morning 10:15-11:45. Resolutions to be dealt with include proposed bylaw changes and a resolution to address the concerns of libraries over proposed copyright changes regarding digital copyright are contained in this Newsletter.

A highlight for all of us will be the launch of the SLTA Library History Book: *A Book in Every Hand: A History of Saskatchewan Public Libraries*, on Friday, April 22 from

noon to 1:30 p.m. Author Don Kerr will be there to entertain and sign copies of his book. All this and a Mediterranean lunch, too! *The first one hundred registrants who wish to attend the luncheon will receive a free ticket to the event.*

The book will be priced at a very reasonable \$19.95 and you can reserve your copy of this wonderful book to pick up when you attend the Conference by contacting our Secretary.

Arthur Black of CBC's Basic Black fame will deliver the Mary Donaldson Lecture on Friday evening. Following the President's Reception, you can round out the evening with a Pub Crawl or Stories Before Bed (authors and storytellers entertain).

The following proposed amendments to the SLTA's Bylaws will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, April 23, 2005 from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Existing provision:

3.1 The Annual Meeting shall be held in April of each year. The Annual Meeting shall be held on a Saturday.

Proposed provision:

3.1 The Annual Meeting shall be held during the annual Saskatchewan Libraries Conference or in the month of April in the event there is no such conference.

Reason for change:

Last year the Libraries Conference occurred in the month of May. In the previous year, the AGM was scheduled to be held on a Friday. The changes are designed to permit some flexibility in the holding of the AGM in

future.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

Existing provision:

6.6 There shall be an annual audit.

Proposed provision:

6.6 The Association will provide for financial accountability in accordance with *The Non-profit Corporations Act.*

Reason for change:

At present we are required to have a complete "audit" of our accounts regardless of our revenues. The Non-profit Corporations Act provides flexibility for non-profit organizations when their revenues are less than \$25,000 annually allowing them to conduct a "review" rather than an "audit" or to otherwise ensure that financial records of the Association are in order, without incurring the substantial costs of a formal audit. The change will allow us to take advantage of the flexibility the legislation offers, while still ensuring that financial accountability is provided.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

Existing provision:

None.

Proposed provision:

6.7 Any two of the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer are required to sign cheques on behalf of the Association.

Reason for change:

The Association's practice has been to require two of the four officers to sign all cheques and bank accounts have been set up with that

requirement. However, the Constitution and Bylaws do not provide for signing cheques. Including this provision in the Constitution and Bylaws will ensure that two signatures are always required when dealing with the funds of the Association.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

Existing provision:

None.

Proposed provision:

9.4 The resolutions from the floor must be in written form and ready for distribution at the Annual Meeting.

Reason for change:

The changes is intended to ensure that resolutions that come from the floor are provided in writing and in sufficient copies to be distributed at the meeting so that there is clarity for members about what they are being asked to vote upon.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

Existing provision:

10.3 Copies of the proposed amendments shall be mailed to the membership at least (1) calendar month before the date of the Annual Meeting.

Proposed provision:

10.3 Copies of proposed amendments shall be mailed to the membership at least one calendar month before the date of the Annual Meeting or, where a member advises the Secretary of the Association to do so, by email to the address provided by the member.

Reason for change:

The purpose of the amendment is to allow the

Association to distribute proposed amendments to members by email, where members authorize the Association to notify them in that manner and provide an email address. If all materials are circulated to members by email, it will result in a savings to the Association as postage costs will be reduced. Members are urged to provide their email addresses to the Association and to authorize notification by email.

Digital Copyright – Action Needed

In November, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage resubmitted its Interim Report on Copyright Reform. Among its recommendations are the following:

“Recommendation 4:

The Committee recommends that the government of Canada amend the *Copyright Act* to allow for extended licensing on Internet materials used for educational purposes. Such a licensing regime must recognize that the collective should not apply a fee to publicly available material (as defined in Recommendation 5 of the Report).

“Recommendation 5:

The Committee recommends that publicly available material be defined as material that is available on the public internet sites (sites that do not require subscriptions or passwords and for which there is no associated fee or technological protection measures which restrict access to use) and is accompanied by notice from the copyright owner explicitly consenting that the material can be used without prior payment or permission”.

If these recommended changes to copyright legislation are enacted, students and teachers

in Canada would have to pay a licensing fee to access information that is freely available to internet users everywhere else in the world. No other country in the world is contemplating legislation of this type. 97% of all Internet content comes from outside of Canada

In Saskatchewan, the Multitype Database Licensing Program, a co-operative project of ALL Saskatchewan Libraries, permits access by all Saskatchewan residents to more than 7,000 full-text on-line journals, for which we are paying more than some \$500,000 annually to creators.

Trustees are responsible for lobbying for the library. We need to become informed and act upon what we learn. For information on Copyright Reform check out the Canadian Library Association website at www.cla.ca, contact your Library Director, or call your SLTA representative, and read the Resolution on *Copyright Act* Amendments in this Newsletter. We MUST voice our concerns to our government representatives. This is an issue that could change libraries and education as we know them.

SLTA Executive members have met or are meeting with their Members of Parliament and writing letters. Please join us in making our concerns heard.

The following resolution on this topic will be considered at the SLTA Annual General Meeting on Saturday, April 23, from 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

2005 Annual General Assembly

Proposed Resolution 1 - Copyright Act Amendments

WHEREAS, in May 2004, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage issued an Interim Report recommending changes to the *Copyright Act* in order to bring Canada's copyright legislation into the digital environment.

WHEREAS the Committee's recommendations, if enacted by Parliament, will seriously hinder the public's access to information;

WHEREAS the Committee's Interim Report is flawed for the following reasons:

- The Report undermines the Government's "commitment to lifelong learning, innovation and access to culture, and the need to preserve balance in the Act" (Supporting Culture and Innovation: Report on the Provisions and Operation of the Copyright Act, p. 36) and ignores Ronald Hirshhorn's study for Industry Canada on Assessing the Economic Impact of Copyright Reform in the Area of Technology-Enhanced Learning.
- The Report ignores the fact that the Internet is not primarily a commercial marketplace, but rather the "commons" or public park of the new electronic-based global village.
- The Report would grant collective societies monopoly control over the access to and use of copyright works for the lifetime of the author plus fifty years.
- The Report ignores the concept of user rights (to access copyrighted content) and the criteria for fair dealing, both of which have been endorsed in recent Supreme Court decisions.
- The Report further disadvantages Canadian students, educators, librarians, archivists and researchers in comparison to their colleagues in the U.S., the U.K., and Australia;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SLTA Executive urge the Government of Canada and all Members of Parliament to reject the recommendations of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage as contained in its May 2004 Interim Report.

Library Book Rate

What is it?

The Library Book Rate assists libraries in extending services to rural and remote areas. Canada Post provides a discount to library mailings of print materials to their users or other libraries.

Why is it important?

It is estimated that the annual cost of this discount to Canada Post is approximately \$1.3 to \$2 million. The cost of the loss of this discount for libraries and their users is incalculable. Without this service rural areas could not afford to have inter-library books on loan. For example, if you live in a small rural town and are studying Interior Design on-line and need to read some books that are recommended as part of your course, you can have them sent to you from a larger library in Saskatchewan at no cost to you and a reduced cost of mailing to the library (\$1.80 mailing charge per book versus \$6.90 without the rate). Without the library book rate, libraries in Saskatchewan would not be able to provide books to their patrons through inter-library loans.

What can you do about it?

Write, call or e-mail your local MP and encourage others who will be affected to do the same. The time to do this is NOW, the library book rate agreement expires in March

2005 and is currently being negotiated. MPs need real stories from people who use this service so they can stand up in the House of Commons and fight to keep the Library Book Rate for the residents of Saskatchewan.

SLTA Accomplishments in 2004

Wow! What a busy year SLTA has had. It has been a year of challenges and opportunities. The Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association executive has been involved in several important areas that concern public libraries in Saskatchewan. SLTA is excited and encouraged by all that has been happening.

1. For the past year, SLTA has been capably represented on the Multitype Library Board by Isabelle Butters, former SLTA President. The Multitype Library system provides opportunities for linkages with all types of libraries through joint projects and collaboration. The Multitype Database Licensing Program collectively purchased an electronic database which gives public libraries access to over 6500 full text magazines, made provision for the Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary and has continued communications with library sectors and information providers.

2. At the time of writing this report the library history book, *A Book in Every Hand: Public Libraries in Saskatchewan* by Don Kerr is at the printer's and will be launched at a special luncheon during the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference in Saskatoon, April 21-23. The book chronicles the development of libraries in the province complete with 50 historical photographs. The history book committee is to be commended for their foresight and their dream, raising over \$26,000 to see this project come to completion.

3. The SLTA executive held a Strategic Planning session in June, which resulted in an action plan encompassing the following areas: development of a communication plan, development and expansion of external relationships, development of a promotion plan, enhance the development of the SLTA organization, expansion of public library system relationships.

4. SLTA has representation on the Senate of the University of Saskatchewan and the of University of Regina. This external relationship with the universities is an important partnership for SLTA.

5. The SLTA executive committee presented the annual brief to Minister Andrew Thomson in February 2005. SLTA addressed the issues of provincial funding for libraries, funding for capital expenditures, and the provision of library services to Aboriginal peoples. SLTA is most appreciative of the support from the Minister in Charge of Libraries. Thank you to the individuals and library boards for contributions to the brief.

6. In 2004, SLTA had a representative on the Provincial Promotional Steering Committee for Libraries. The purpose of the committee was to develop a province wide multitype approach to promoting the value of libraries and online library services.

7. A new initiative of the SLTA executive has been to issue a communiqué to SLTA members, directors and branch libraries following each executive meeting. SLTA is hopeful this communiqué will keep the members more informed and up to date on the activities of the organization. This is in addition to the SLTA newsletter, *The Trustee*, which is published three times during the year.

8. SLTA was actively involved on the

planning committee of the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference, April 21-23 in Saskatoon. A special stream for trustees is planned this year: Realities and Practicalities of Lobbying by Pat Cavill and Trustee Forum Part I & II : Effective Board Governance by Ken Haycock. Your executive is excited about these sessions and looks forward to seeing trustees at these sessions and the Annual General Meeting. This is the opportunity for trustees to receive information from the experts and to have a voice in the activities of their organization.

9. SLTA was represented at the annual SUMA Convention. It is important to maintain the partnership with SUMA and other external organizations.

10. SLTA was pleased to accept the invitation from SLA to have a representative on the planning committee for SLA Library Week 2005.

11. SLTA is continuing to lobby to maintain the Library Book Rate for public libraries. Also we are initiating activities to express concern regarding the federal government's proposed changes to the *Copyright Act*. These two areas are of concern to all trustees. Each trustee and library board is asked to be involved in expressing their concerns related to these issues.

12. SLTA maintains a website, www.lib.sk.ca/slta with the help of a "webmaster". Updates are added to the website after each executive meeting.

13. The Executive Handbook was completed this year and is a ready tool for present and future executive members.

SLTA is an organization which only becomes stronger as trustees become more actively involved in the organization. Your executive

in 2004 explored more avenues of communication in order to keep trustees, directors, and local libraries informed on the business of SLTA. This report is intended to help with that process and keep individuals informed on the activities of SLTA. I personally wish to extend my sincere thanks to all the executive members for going above and beyond this year, to Merrilee Rasmussen for all her work on the brief to the Minister and the many other jobs that are so efficiently completed, and to Joylene Campbell, Provincial Librarian for all her support and help with the organization. We are all committed to maintaining and enhancing the one province library system of which Saskatchewan is so justifiably proud.

Karen Basky, President, Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association

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 subject line to our Secretary at rasmussen@sasktel.net.

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