

# TRUSTEE

*The Newsletter of the  
Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association*

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

Spring 2006

## **What is SLTA?**

The Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association (SLTA) is a voluntary association of library trustees from across the province who have joined together to help provide library services that will meet the needs of Saskatchewan people and thereby improve their quality of life.

SLTA is incorporated under provincial non-profit corporations legislation. SLTA has a board of directors, referred to as the Executive, consisting of one representative from each of the seven regional library systems (Chinook, Lakeland, Palliser, Parkland, Southeast, Wapiti and Wheatland), two municipal library systems (Regina and Saskatoon), and the northern library system (PNLS). Executive members bring to SLTA the knowledge, successes, concerns and issues of each library system in the province and together SLTA strives to develop plans of action that address issues of commonality and share collective successes.

SLTA's primary objective is to promote and foster the development of libraries and library services in the province of Saskatchewan. Through the exchange of ideas and experiences among library board members, through library conferences and publications, and through co-operation with associations of library trustees outside the province, SLTA endeavours to assist trustees

to understand their responsibilities for libraries.

The annual brief presented to the Minister responsible for Libraries (currently Minister of Learning, Deb Higgins) SLTA strives to seek improvement to and foster necessary changes in funding, provincial initiatives and legislation affecting Saskatchewan Libraries.

Each year SLTA accepts nominations for its Life Membership Award to a current or former trustee for distinguished service to libraries. As an organization, SLTA has initiated or facilitated projects for the common good of public libraries, such as CommunityNet, letter campaign expressing concern over the postal rate, and lobbying for fair changes to the *Copyright Act*.

Every library trustee in the province has the opportunity to become a member of SLTA and thereby lend their voice to the provincial initiatives and issues that affect their libraries. By joining SLTA, trustees then become part of the provincial voice advocating for public libraries in the province of Saskatchewan.

More information about SLTA can be found on-line at [www.lib.sk.ca/slta](http://www.lib.sk.ca/slta).

### **Your SLTA Executive**

Karen Basky, Palliser, President  
Elaine Kivisto, Regina, Vice-President,  
Maureen McGirr, Wapiti, Palliser  
Janet Wilkinson, Chinook  
Louise Cochran, Lakeland  
Sharon Armstrong, Parkland  
Donna Hartley, Southeast  
Kae Campbell, Wheatland  
Agnes Naytowhow (Henderson) PNLs  
Bev Dubois, Saskatoon

### **Around the Province's Library Systems**

There are 10 library systems in Saskatchewan. In this issue of *The Trustee* we highlight recent events at five of them.

#### *Chinook Regional Library*

Chinook Regional Library is pleased to announce that our Chinook Willow Awards project submission for a Partnerships for Community Learning Resources Grant has been approved. Chinook Regional library will purchase and process seventy copies of each of the Willow Award thirty nominated titles for 2006-2007. Ten copies of each title will circulate within Chinook branches with the other sixty sets of thirty titles travelling throughout the Chinook School Division. The goal is to have the book-sets boxed and ready to deliver with our first book exchange in the fall.

#### *New Director for Lakeland Library Region*

With the retirement of Annmarie Hillson at the end of February after 15 years of dedicated service to Lakeland, both as the Librarian at North Battleford and Director at Lakeland, the board of Lakeland Library Region announced the appointment of Louise Shah as Regional Director, effective January 9, 2006.

Ms. Shah was formerly the Head Librarian at Leduc Public Library in Alberta, where she worked to overhaul the staffing structure, revamp board policies and assist

the board in the preparation of its plan for service. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed), both from the University of Saskatchewan, and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Western Ontario. She was Chair of Alberta Public Library Administrators' Council, her professional association, from 2000-2005.

In making the announcement, Board Chair Gordon Yarde noted that Louise Shah has just the kind of experience and education the board needs to provide the board with assistance in the following key areas: board policies and governance; local board and council.

Mr. Yarde went on to say, "The board of directors of Lakeland Library Region looks forward to an exciting year and to providing the best possible service to our patrons in 2006. The board would also like to wish Annmarie Hillson all the very best in her retirement and thank her for her service to Lakeland."

#### *Palliser Regional Library System*

Palliser has focused this last few months on offering courses throughout the region on how to use databases. Sessions have been held in several branch libraries and several more libraries are waiting to hold these training sessions. All the doctors within the Five Hills Health Region have received information on how to use the Cochrane database via letters and an information pamphlet.

Working together with the new Prairie South School Division, Palliser has developed a co-operative working relationship in two specific areas: first, Palliser is acting as a courier service for the division's school library deliveries; and, second, age/grade appropriate information is being included in school newsletters for student and parent information.

Promotion of library services has been the main goal these past few months. The Palliser website is just one example as it lists new/informative database links, seasonal information links and a link to the provincial Gateway.

#### *Saskatoon Public Library*

Saskatoon Public Library has hit the 4 million mark, anchoring the library's consistent ranking as one of the most well-used libraries in Canada.

For the past 15 years, Saskatoon Public Library has consistently ranked as one of the top three large urban libraries in Canada in terms of our circulation statistics. Saskatoon Public Library hit the 4,000,000 record circulation number on Wednesday, December 28, 2005. The library hit the 3,000,000 mark in 1993.

On Tuesday, October 11, 2005, Saskatoon Public Library was pleased to host the Lieutenant Governor's Celebration of the Arts: Libraries and Authors Centennial Tour. Her Honour Dr. Lynda Haverstock attended the Saskatoon portion of the tour, which was held in the evening at the Frances Morrison Library, and involved a three-part author reading by Lee Gowan, Gary Hyland and Barbara Sapergia. After the readings, Dr. Haverstock continued to engage and delight the audience of nearly 100 with an informal and humorous talk. She remained for the light reception which followed.

As part of the celebration of the arts, all staff at Saskatoon Public Library also received a Celebration of the Arts Centennial Pin developed by Dr. Haverstock as part of her final legacy to the province.

The Celebration of the Arts Provincial Literary tour began in May of 2005 and wrapped up in the fall. It covered small and large communities throughout the province and was extremely successful in not only showcasing writers, but also celebrating public libraries. Her Honour partnered with

the Saskatchewan Library Association and the Saskatchewan Writers Guild to sponsor this exciting centennial tour.

#### *Southeast Regional Library*

January 1, 2006 marked the 40th anniversary of Southeast Regional Library. Celebrations will be held at the Spring Annual Meeting April 1st in Weyburn. Branch libraries will celebrate during Saskatchewan Library Week in October.

#### *Wheatland Regional Library*

The Books for Babies project for the entire region was launched in February. This project is in co-operation with the West Central Health Division. It provides every newborn baby in Wheatland Library Region with a complementary reading kit that includes a board book, literacy and library information, a book mark and a picture frame. A virtual library is being implemented in the village of Elstow as a one-year pilot project.

Note: we will feature the remaining five library systems in our next issue of The Trustee.

#### **The Multitype Database Licensing Program**

(MDLP) is a province-wide program in which libraries pool funds to purchase access to electronic information resources — magazines, journals, newspapers, directories, reference books, and other information resources. Access is via the Internet through partner library web sites. The program provides access to almost 7,000 unique journal titles in full text.

In 2005/06, 40 libraries and all K to 12 schools participated in the program. Participants included all ten public library systems; all K to 12 schools through Saskatchewan Learning; the two university library systems, libraries on the four campuses of SIAST, and five small colleges; plus twenty special libraries and the

Provincial Library. Provincial Library takes responsibility for the administration and co-ordination of the program.

The MDLP has significantly enhanced access to reliable electronic information resources for Saskatchewan residents through their Saskatchewan libraries. By pooling funds, the overall contribution needed by any one library is greatly reduced. The program allows all libraries to have access to extensive online resources that would otherwise be impossible for a small library to acquire.

In 2005, patrons of Saskatchewan libraries accessed the magazine, journal and newspaper databases 488,002 times. Users performed 2,007,670 searches within these databases.

The goals of the Multitype Database Licensing Program are:

- to increase the amount of authoritative information available to library users;
- to ensure equitable access to information resources;
- to make these resources accessible in every type of library province-wide;
- to pay for access to these resources only once; and
- to maximize the buying capacity of all libraries through cost-sharing.

Some fifty Partners/Stakeholders of the MDLP held a General Meeting on February 22, 2006 to discuss achieving these goals.

Recommendations from this meeting will be on the Agenda of the MDLP committee's strategic planning session in April.

### **May 4 to 6, 2006 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference: Libraries, Value beyond words**

Saturday is the day for trustees at the Libraries Conference, featuring sessions designed especially for Trustees and the Annual General Meeting. Make sure to take

in these two sessions which are hosted by SLTA:

*Governing Best Practices for Regional Libraries*, S1 Saturday May 6th 9:00 a.m. (Part 1) — an overview of the core duties of a board and will be of interest to trustees, boards, chairs and CEOs.

*Governing Best Practices for Regional Libraries*, S5 10:45–12:00 a.m. (Part 2 ) — focuses on selected issues faced by trustees in public libraries in Saskatchewan.

Presenter Sam McCullough is a lawyer from Outlook, Saskatchewan. For the past 11 years, he has been presenting board governance workshops to numerous organizations across Saskatchewan and has worked with boards of directors in not-for-profit corporations, business corporations, co-operatives and public sector corporations.

The SLTA Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday May 6th from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. The AGM will consider reports from the 10 library systems, financial statements and budget for the SLTA, bylaw amendments relating to the timing of nominations for the SLTA's Honourary Life Membership Award and resolutions on the important topics of connectivity and CommunityNet, the Library Book Rate, and capital funding for public libraries (see text of these proposals below), as well as the election of the SLTA's President and Vice-President for 2006-2007.

### **Proposed SLTA Bylaw Amendment**

The following amendment to the SLTA Bylaws will be considered at the AGM:

Existing provision:

1.3 [second paragraph] Nominations for the award will be solicited by the executive by advising Regional, Regina, Saskatoon, and Paskisimon Nuyeh Library System Boards each year and that nominations

should be made prior to *December 1st* of each year.

Proposed provision:

1.3 [second paragraph] Nominations for the award will be solicited by the executive by advising Regional, Regina, Saskatoon, and Pahkisimon Nuye-?ah Library System Boards each year and that nominations should be made prior to *January 31st* of each year.

Reason for change:

The life membership award is presented at the AGM, which is held in April or May. It is not necessary to receive nominations as early as December 1 and extending the deadline for receipt of nominations will make it easier for them to be received in time.

### **Proposed Resolutions**

The following resolutions will be considered at the AGM:

#### *Library Book Rate*

Whereas the Library Book Rate provides support for literacy objectives since 1939 and has been provided by the Government of Canada to Canada Post to assist libraries in extending services to rural and remote areas by providing a discount to library mailings of print materials to their users or other libraries; and

Whereas it is estimated that the annual cost of this discount to Canada Post is approximately \$1.3 to \$2 million while the cost of the loss of this discount for libraries and their users is incalculable; and

Whereas without this service rural areas could not afford to have inter-library books on loan; and

Whereas in the last few years, the Library Book Rate has been extended on an annual basis with the result that the battle to keep the Library Book Rate — and to keep library services for rural and remote areas — must be fought over and over again;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the SLTA and the CLTA urge the Government of Canada to establish the Library Book Rate as a permanent support for the benefit of libraries, without making the procedures for using the Library Book Rate unnecessarily complicated and time-consuming; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Library Book Rate be enhanced to become a Library Mail Rate that applies to all library materials shared on interlibrary loan including audio, visual and electronic media.

#### *Capital Funding for Libraries*

Whereas several system headquarters, as well as the main branches in the municipal libraries of Regina and Saskatoon, are in a crisis caused by aging or structurally unsound buildings; and

Whereas adequate library facilities are a necessary prerequisite to the delivery of library, learning and literacy services to citizens and in order to protect and maintain library collections to preserve this inheritance for future generations, these inadequate physical structures must be repaired or replaced; and

Whereas capital funding for computers, which become obsolete and unrepairable much more quickly than buildings, adds a substantial burden to the capital funding needs of all libraries; and

Whereas a strong public library network, including sound infrastructure, across the province enables resource-sharing province-wide;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the SLTA urge the Government of Saskatchewan to work with libraries to develop an infrastructure program to meet the critical capital funding needs of libraries.

#### *CommunityNet*

Whereas the Canada Saskatchewan infrastructure program made it possible for about half the public libraries in Saskatchewan to participate in CommunityNet; and

Whereas there are still about 100 public libraries that are not connected to CommunityNet; and

Whereas funding for the maintenance of CommunityNet expires at the end of the 2006-2007 fiscal year;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the SLTA urge the Government of Saskatchewan and/or the Government of Canada to provide infrastructure funding to the public libraries in Saskatchewan that are not yet connected to make it possible for them to participate in CommunityNet and to all libraries to ensure the continuance of library participation in CommunityNet.

#### **Conference Registration**

Make sure to complete and send in the registration form to attend the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference May 4 to 6, 2006 inserted in this newsletter

#### **New Minister responsible for Libraries**

On February 3, 2006 Premier Lorne Calvert appointed Deb Higgins as Minister of Learning and Minister responsible for Libraries.

Ms Higgins was first elected to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly in 1999 representing Moose Jaw Wakamow. Premier Lorne Calvert appointed her as Minister of Labour on October 12, 2001 and added Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to her portfolio on March 26, 2002. From September 2003, to November 21, 2003 Deb was also responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance. On November 21, 2003 Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation was added to her responsibilities.

Ms Higgins also served on the Public Sector Compensation Committee and is a member of the Treasury Board, Investment Board and Vice-Chairperson of the Liquor and Gaming Authority, Minister Responsible for the Labour Relations Board, Minimum Wage Board, Worker's Advocate, Saskatchewan Worker's Compensation Board and Wakamow Valley Authority.

The SLTA Executive looks forward to their first meeting with the new Minister responsible for Libraries tentatively scheduled for April 19, 2006.

#### **A Book In Every Hand: Public Libraries in Saskatchewan**

##### **By Don Kerr**

You can still purchase a copy of the history of Saskatchewan's public library system. This book is a fund-raiser for SLTA and is available for \$19.95. Pick up your copy at the upcoming Saskatchewan Libraries Conference in Regina or by contacting:

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