

TRUSTEE

*The Newsletter of the
Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association*
www.lib.sk.ca/slta

Fall 2007

President's Message

SLTA Executive meet three times a year. Meetings are held in October, February and May.

Our Trustees are encouraged to raise issues/concerns or ask questions of SLTA. Contact either Elaine Kivisto or Merrilee Rasmussen via e-mail or call any of the SLTA Executive (see list at the end of this newsletter).

SLTA at the provincial level represents over 2800 men and women who serve as trustees of public libraries.

There are many issues that affect public libraries that are in the hands of federal and provincial politicians. At the federal level these include the Library Book Rate, the Community Access Program and the *Copyright Act*. At the provincial level the issues include operational and capital funding for public libraries. Without more provincial funding for public libraries in Saskatchewan, many public libraries will disappear.

Library trustees potentially are the most effective political and lobbying force in this country **B** but only if we get our act together. So beginning today, lets make the politicians take notice.

Elaine Kivisto, President

Funding of Public Libraries and the Provincial Election

In anticipation of a provincial election call this fall, the SLTA Executive has identified questions for candidates and has prepared posters in support of increased funding for public libraries in Saskatchewan.

All library trustees are urged to ask the candidates for election in their constituencies these questions and to

make adequate funding for public libraries an election issue.

Q *Provincial funding for public libraries has failed to keep pace with the rate of inflation. What are you prepared to do to rectify this serious shortfall?*

Q *As with many publicly funded institutions, public libraries have reacted to funding shortfalls by deferring staffing, major maintenance and replacement of facilities and equipment. Are you and your party willing to make the general funding needs of public libraries a priority?*

Q *Will you and your party support the continued development of a Single Integrated Library System for Saskatchewan?*

Copies of the poster, details of provincial funding and of the Single Integrated Library System can be obtained from our website at www.lib.sk.ca/slta

Honorary Life Memberships

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships for 2008 are now requested. Honorary Life Membership may be conferred by the Association upon a member or past member of the SLTA for distinguished service as a trustee in the library field at local, provincial, or national levels. Nominations should be made prior to January 31st each year and should include the following information an outline of the record of contributions of the nominee on the local library board, on the SLTA executive, and in other community activities. Nominations made by a librarian must be supported by at least one trustee.

The recipient of the Award will be invited to the

annual conference banquet. Conference registration fees are waived, and the recipient is provided with one night accommodation at the conference hotel and transportation costs to the conference location at current government rates.

The 2007 Honorary Life Membership recipient, Rose Hoffart, Tribune, Saskatchewan's regional representative on the Southeast Regional Library Board for almost 40 years, was honoured at the Library Conference banquet in May. Rose is the longest serving active trustee in the region and her many contributions to libraries were gratefully acknowledged.



Rose Hoffart
2007 SLTA Honorary Life Member

SLTA seeking Executive Director

The SLTA has long recognized the need to have paid support for its activities and the recent announcement by its Secretary that she will withdraw from the role presents a challenge for the organization, but an opportunity as well. The Executive has decided to contract an Executive Director on a part-time basis on a one-year trial basis. Anyone interested in more information should contact Merrilee Rasmussen, Secretary, at rasmussen@sasktel.net. The SLTA is hoping to have an Executive Director in place for January 1, 2008.

Saskatchewan Libraries Conference May 1 to 3, 2008, APrairie Partnerships - Expanding our Horizons®

The 2008 Conference will be held in Regina, jointly with Manitoba. The SLTA AGM will be held on

Saturday, May 3, 2007. More details will be available in the Spring 2008 *Trustee* Newsletter.

Take in workshops designed to address issues of interest to trustees. This year it is anticipated that there will be trustee workshops on Saturday, May 3, 2008. One will focus on the duty of employers to accommodate employees with mental or physical disabilities; another will look at creative funding sources for local branch libraries, such as:

- \$ New Horizons for Seniors (an HRSDC funding opportunity for youth and senior projects)
- \$ Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) for recreation, sport and culture
- \$ ABC Canada "Gift of Words" for new books and programs
- \$ SaskSmart - for innovative literacy projects
- \$ James Richardson International (does your community have a Pioneer Elevator?)

Learn more about these and many other innovative ways to decrease local board burnout and increase local branch funding at an SLTA sponsored workshop at the SLA conference in May.

Call for Resolutions

Resolutions for consideration at the SLTA Annual General Meeting on May 3, 2008, must be received no later than April 3, 2008. Submit your proposed resolutions to the Resolutions Committee Chair, Bev Dubois, by email to: bev.dubois@saskatoon.ca

Reports from Public Library Systems

Regina Public Library

RPL turns 100 years old in 2008/09. The RPL Board has recently designated the period from 27 March 2008 to 1 January 2009 to be the official anniversary and several programs carried out during that time will be designated anniversary events. The dates chosen are significant in that they mark, respectively, the 100th anniversaries of the first RPL Board meeting and the opening of RPL's doors to the public.

Palliser Regional Library

Palliser is currently coordinating the spending of \$107,100 in special literacy, public training and computer grants. The "It's a Graphically Novel Summer" went over very well with teenagers, as over

5,000 graphic novels were read in a 6 week period, with 2,300 surveys answered on the contents providing valuable collection development information.

Innovative item: Community Programming Coordinator - a youth employment opportunity funded by pooling funding resources. This position allows for the implementation of innovative programs for all ages.

Wheatland Regional Library

Celebrations for Wheatland's 40th Anniversary are continuing, and as many of Wheatland's branches also turn 40 this year, will continue right to the end of 2007.

The Summer Reading Program included branch visits by "Prairie Dog", Doug Campbell; Smokey Bear and Hootie, the Owl. Wheatland's new Youth Services Manager has been hard at work creating pathfinders on topics such as "What to read AFTER Harry Potter", and "Great books for boys". She has organized a fall schedule for storytimes and craft programs and will be touring the branches to present these programs.

Lakeland Library Region

Like all of the other library regions, Lakeland is currently busy with the budgeting. The Board continues to struggle to provide library services with the monies allocated. To that end, the Board sent a letter to the Minister of Learning and to regional MLA's about budget shortfalls. Given the rumoured election, it is hoped that this will have some effect on Library funding in the province.

Lakeland continues the automation process in its branch libraries bringing two more branches on line. Lakeland is looking forward to the establishment of the Single Integrated Library System, now under consideration by the provincial government.

Lastly, Lakeland is currently exploring partnership arrangements to provide extended library coverage in the region.

Chinook Regional Library

Chinook has implemented a commercial courier service that has now been extended to about 1/3 of its libraries. Depending on volume, branch delivery can be a matter of days to one week. This has reduced Canada Post cost while saving packaging time in both branches and especially headquarters. The arrangement is financially feasible because half of the

initial delivery expense is being returned to the library in return for a tax receipt as the library is a registered charity. Chinook is still assessing further expansion to the service.

A Branch Staff Workshop is scheduled to be held on October 29, 2007.

Wapiti Regional Library

Wapiti Regional Library has had a very productive summer, having received two grants for summer students. One, a Library and Information Technology Student from SIAST Kelsey Campus, and another from the University of Saskatchewan. These grants were from Human Resources and Development Canada and Prince Albert Supported Employment (PASE). PASE agreed to provide funding at a 60%-40% split if Wapiti agreed to hire a student with an intellectual disability. This program was very successful in completing work on a much needed program.

There will not be a Branch Librarian's Workshop this fall but Wapiti will be hosting five small workshops throughout the region in the spring.

Wapiti Regional Library is in the process of recruiting a new Regional Library Director to be in place for January 2, 2008

Southeast Regional Library

Southeast Regional Library has settled with CUPE. The three year contract calls for increases of approximately 1% in 2007, 2% in 2008 and 3% in 2009. Three additional increment steps were added to the professional librarian salary and there were a number of other smaller benefit improvements. Of note is Southeast's move from health and dental group insurance to a Private Health Service Plan: Administrative Services Only Program in an attempt to control premiums.

James Richards, branch supervisor is on a 15 month leave of absence and will be spending the first half of next year in Afghanistan. The library community joins with Southeast in wishing him the best, and a safe return home.

Pahkisisimon Nuyeh?áh Library System

The next stage of the PNLs Library Staff Education Project started in August, with students studying the Introduction to Libraries course. This course

includes a tour of the different types of libraries which took place during the library staff conference, September 24-27th, a joint conference with Prince Albert Grand Council, Northlands College, John M. Cuelenaere Public Library, NorthWest Nations Education Council and Prince Albert Catholic School Board. It includes sessions for teacher-librarians, school library staff, literacy tutors and public library staff. As the conference is based on the concept of many partners sharing to achieve a common goal, it is entitled "Building Relationships in 4 Directions. To organize the conference, we used a wiki for the first time.

Darren McKee, the new Assistant Deputy Minister who is in charge of libraries, came for an extended visit.

Parkland Regional Library

Parkland received a Department of Learning Partnerships for Community Learning Resources to introduce Tutor World Saskatchewan province-wide.

Tutor World Saskatchewan is a FREE Math and Science tutoring service. Students from Grade 6 to 12 can visit the Parkland Regional Library website to get immediate, free help from qualified Saskatchewan tutors. The service operates from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Sunday B Thursday.

Parkland Regional Library has added TumbleReadables to its collection. To access go to www.parkland.lib.sk.ca and click on the TumbleReadables icon. It's an online collection of read-along titles for elementary, middle school, and high school students which features adjustable online text and complete audio narration. The collection features chapter books, early readers, YA/Teen Novels, high interest/low level books for middle and high school students, plus classics of American and English literature. Read-Alongs are great for emergent, struggling, and reluctant readers, and are an excellent tool for ESL. Children, who are now growing up with e-mail, instant messaging, IPODs, and text messaging are early and willing adopters to this innovative online reading experience.

About SLTA

The Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association (SLTA) is a voluntary association of library trustees and other public library supporters from across the province who have joined together to help provide

library services to meet the needs of Saskatchewan people, and thereby improve their quality of life. SLTA is incorporated under provincial non-profit corporations legislation.

Through its annual brief 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 libraries.

Any library trustee or other supporter of libraries is eligible for membership in the SLTA. For information about SLTA and its activities, and an individual membership application form, check on-line at www.lib.sk.ca/slta

Your Current SLTA Executive

The Executive of the SLTA is composed of one representative named by each of the 10 public library systems. The president and vice-president are elected by the membership at the AGM from among the persons named to the Executive. The Secretary and Treasurer are appointed by the Executive, but need not be members of the Executive.

The Executive for 2006-2007 consists of the following persons:

Elaine Kivisto, Regina, President,
Bev Dubois, Saskatoon, Vice-president
Donna Hartley, Southeast, Treasurer
Maureen McGirr, Wapiti
Colleen Christopherson-Cote, Palliser
Gail Beuhler, Chinook
Dennis Taylor, Lakeland
Sharon Armstrong, Parkland
Faye Charles, PNL
Kae Campbell, Wheatland

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