

# TRUSTEE

*The Newsletter of the  
Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association*

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

Spring 2008

## **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 to meet the needs of Saskatchewan people and thereby improve their quality of life.

SLTA is incorporated under provincial non-profit corporations legislation. It has a board of directors, or Executive, consisting of one representative from each of the province's 10 library systems. 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. 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.

Through its annual brief to the Minister responsible for Libraries, SLTA strives to seek improvement to and foster necessary

changes in funding, provincial initiatives and legislation affecting 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*.

All library trustees in Saskatchewan have the opportunity to become members of SLTA. By joining SLTA, you can become part of the provincial voice advocating for public libraries in Saskatchewan.

More information about SLTA, and an individual membership application form, can be found on-line at [www.lib.sk.ca/slta](http://www.lib.sk.ca/slta).

## **Your Current SLTA Executive**

President, Bev Dubois (Saskatoon)

Vice President, Colleen Christopherson-Cote (Palliser)

Treasurer, Donna Hartley (Southeast)

Chinook: Gail Buehler

Lakeland: Dennis Taylor

Parkland: Sharon Armstrong

PNLS: Faye Charles

Regina: Darryl Lucke

Wapiti: Maureen McGirr

Wheatland: Kae Campbell

Multitype Library Board: Isabelle Butters

Provincial Library: Joylene Campbell

## SLTA Executive Director



The SLTA has hired a new Executive Director. Ciara McIlwaine has been working with the SLTA Executive since the February Executive meeting.

In addition to a background in bookkeeping and administration, Ciara holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in International Studies from the University of Saskatchewan. Her studies in French and German were also recognized by the University of Saskatchewan.

Through her post-secondary studies, Ciara has become convinced of the absolute importance of community development, particularly education, literacy, and access to the same. She is happy to be involved in an organization that, at its core, promotes the development of libraries and the many diverse services they provide.

In 2006, Ciara and her fiancé moved to an acreage outside White City, Saskatchewan. There they care for a large garden and two overgrown lap dogs.

Ciara can be contacted as follows:

P.O. Box 815  
White City, Saskatchewan  
S4L 5B1

Telephone: (306) 781-1580  
Facsimile: (306) 781-1345

Email: [slta@lib.sk.ca](mailto:slta@lib.sk.ca)  
or  
[mcilwaine@sasktel.net](mailto:mcilwaine@sasktel.net)

## Reports from Public Library Systems

### *Lakeland*

Highlights of the year 2007 in the Lakeland Library Region include:

- 2006 Statistics Canada census figures show our population declined slightly, but a boom has occurred since then.
- Flooding in our headquarters building over the summer, cause as yet unknown.
- Recruitment of a head librarian for the North Battleford branch ongoing
- Policy and bylaw reviews result in several updates and proposed rewrites
- Two more branches (Makwa and Mayfair) are chosen to receive satellite connections to C-Net
- New agreement negotiated with Saskatchewan Hospital for the operation of a small public library within the hospital facility

Our branches continue to provide a wide variety of interesting and appreciated programs. Throughout the region staff continue to amaze us with their dedication and commitment. We are truly blessed with a system of libraries that provide a valued and necessary service to our communities.

### *Wheatland*

- Wheatland was unable to secure a new property for purchase in the past year, as had been anticipated. At the 2007 Fall meeting of the Regional Board, it was decided to pursue renovating the present Headquarters building, instead of moving to a new facility.
- Wheatland has welcomed two new staff members. Kim Hebig as Branch Manager/Assistant Director; and Debbie VanKoughnett as Processing Clerk.
- We are still compiling final statistics for the year 2007. In 2006, our circulation rose by 17%, and we have maintained that level

of circulation so far. Outgoing interlibrary loans continue to increase, as has internet use by the public.

- Saache Heinrich, our Children's Services Manager, offered 41 children's and teen programs to our branches and visited virtually every branch in the Region.
- The Cap Grant allowed us to purchase new PAC computers for almost half of our branches, as well as some scanners/printers, and two more Early Literacy Computer stations. These special computers offer educational games and activities for pre-school to grade three children so they can learn computer skills in a safe and fun environment, particularly in communities where many families do not have home computers. We had previously installed seven of these units and they are enormously popular. When we are able, we hope to add additional units in future years.

### *Southeast*

Southeast has continued to work through a Needs Assessment and Planning process. As a result of our planning process, the Regional Library board dealt with two major policy papers this fall. **Electronic Branch Services** (which has been deferred until the future of the Province-wide SILS project has been determined) and **Community Based Library Services** (which has identified the need for better clarity on the Regional Library's core values and the need for a new position at Headquarters that is focused on community program and service co-ordination).

### *Chinook*

#### Digital Imaging Project

Swift Current Library is creating a virtual library of prairie landscapes and people as part of a digital imaging project. Local

images have been scanned and posted and linked to the library web site. Images are categorized into culture, people, events, landscapes, and plants. At present, CAP interns have scanned almost 1,500 pictures into the database.

Saskatchewan Book Awards Gala  
Swift Current was one of four locations in the province to host a gala in honour of the Saskatchewan Book Awards. The event was co-hosted by the Swift Current Library Board and the Prairie Quills Writing Group. Readings from four titles from the short-list were enjoyed by more than 100 people in attendance.

### Libraries of the Year

At its Fall Board Meeting, the Chinook Regional Library awarded the Library of the Year to its Shaunavon branch and Corner Library of the Year to its McCord location.

### *Palliser*

Some 2007 stats:

- 19,317 hours open
- 35,038 new materials
- 503,437 items circulate
- 34.2% rural circulation
- 31,558 used the internet stations

Some programming:

- Encouraging reluctant readers through graphic novels increased our circulation of regular YA materials by 217%
- SK Library Week was celebrated by 15 of our 20 branches. 6 Branches hosted SK authors for readings.
- Aboriginal programming featured 6 storytelling sessions and \$6,654.39 spent on 308 unique materials incorporated into the branch block program.

Single Integrated Library System (SILS):

- Palliser believes that this is an opportunity to create an integrated infrastructure through Regional and City Library partnership. We want to encourage all SK Library users to promote this project as an information portal for the entire province.

#### Coming Events:

- TD Summer Reading Program: Laugh out Loud!!
- Teen Reading Program
- Many local branch initiatives - check out our website for ideas and contact info.

#### *PNLS*

- The library staff education project is so popular that we are starting a second group. The partners are enthusiastic enough to pay for their library staff member to join it. We are looking for a grant for the next course which starts in September.
- As part of Aboriginal Storytelling Month, we have Joseph Naytowhow and John Murray touring the Athabasca and Centre area doing a presentation about the Boreal Forest. This will take place from February 25 to March 7.
- We are in the process of attending each of the Annual General Meetings of our member libraries. We are also preparing our Annual Report and our Annual General Meeting on April 5.
- Our biggest literacy event: The Northern Reading Program is underway. The tour of Alison Lohans was cancelled in the middle of the week this week because of the cold weather. Schools were closed in most of the communities.

#### *Wapiti*

The fall Wapiti semi-annual meeting was held in Prince Albert, with 54 municipalities being represented and the proposed budget was set for 2008. The union representing the

organized staff of Wapiti Regional Library, CUPE, has indicated that they intend to withdraw their latest efforts at requesting certification of the local branch personnel.

#### Staffing:

There have been several interesting changes in personnel over the last few months. During the fall and winter, Wapiti promoted Ms. Glenda Goertzen to head of Cataloguing and hired Ms. Misty Mliezcko, who is also an experience SIAST Kelsey trained library technician. Former head of Cataloguing, Ms. Christy Andrews and Regional Director, Ms. Christina Petrisor both resigned with Christina moving to Lacombe, Alberta.

The Executive board expended major effort in recruiting and interviewing for a new Regional Director. The position of Regional Director of Wapiti has recently been filled, in an acting capacity, by Mr. John Murray on contract until the end of April. John brings significant Saskatchewan library experience to the job. He was branch supervisor, Parkland Regional Library, Development Consultant for Northern Saskatchewan, First Nations and Metis services at Provincial Library and Head Librarian at Gabriel Dumont Institute. Mr. Murray also spent five very interesting years working overseas at two international university library directorships.

Wapiti has also been very fortunate to hire a Financial Administrator, Mr. Lee Harris, formerly an executive with Cameco Corporation in Saskatoon. Lee and his young wife are originally from Prince Albert and were very pleased at the opportunity to return and raise their three young children here. Mr. Harris is currently receiving extensive training from Ms. JoAnn Schnell, the former business manager for Wapiti Regional Library, who specializes in

administrative business matters.

### *Regina Public*

#### New Deputy Director

In the fall of 2007, Julie McKenna joined the senior management team at RPL as Deputy Library Director. Julie came to the Library after several years experience as Associate University Librarian at the University of Regina.

#### Fundraising

The Library's 3<sup>rd</sup> Home Lottery has just been launched with a home in southeast Regina's Wascana View neighbourhood. From the first two lotteries, the Library has added over \$200,000 to its capital donation fund for rebuilding its branch system.

RPL is also conducting a search for a Director to lead its \$10 million capital campaign. If all goes well, there will be more to report at SLTA's May meeting.

#### Job Evaluation/Pay Equity

In the collective agreement following CUPE's strike at RPL in 2002, the Library agreed to work with CUPE in a joint process to develop a new Job Evaluation (JE) Plan and to investigate options for achieving Pay Equity (PE). An agreement covering both of these issues was reached in December 2007 for implementation in January 2008. The JE/PE Plan was achieved at a cost of 4.94% of salary.

#### Programs & Services Review

Spanning 2007 and 2008, RPL is undertaking a review of its programs and services and working toward the development of a Service Plan. The work of the project is being done by library staff at all levels under the guidance of consultant Jeanne Goodrich. An interim report on the

results of the first half of the investigation is the basis for development of the following key projects for 2008:

- Virtual Branch: The Library's web development will be wrapped up into a new Branch unit that will advance the online library experience for users.
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and Self-check: Consistent with the Library's desire to use technology for routine work and focus staff on duties that require person-to-person interaction, RPL will investigate RFID options with the goal of implementation in 2009.
- Public Internet: RPL has a history of very conservative IT development that has led to a lower than average number of publicly accessible Internet stations. In 2008, the Library will begin to enhance both the number and capabilities of its public workstations and address significant network issues that prevent the Library from meeting use expectations.
- Collection Development: RPL will launch this year a program that will place high demand, current items on special display units at each location. These special items, circulating for shortened loan periods and unavailable for patron holds, are intended to provide popular items to anyone who walks into the Library without having to wait for long hold queues.
- Approach to Reference: The Library will begin a Roving Reference program very soon that will take Reference Unit staff away from the central reference desk and arm them with portable computers so that they can provide the service anywhere in the Library.

#### Renovation/Refresh

While there are many major projects coming from RPL under its branch development plans, there continue to be a number of smaller projects to renovate and refresh the

libraries. In 2006/07, some flooring and lighting changes at the Central Library provided a new welcome to visitors. For 2007 (and early 2008) there have been a number of changes at the Sherwood Village Branch to consolidate staff functions and increase public floor space. Coming later in 2008 is a major repair at the Albert Branch that will once again allow for the re-opening of its biggest program room.

### *Multitype Library Board*

Online MLS through San Jose State University: Information regarding this Online program was distributed widely in the province.

Resource Centre Closure: A letter was sent from the MLB to Saskatchewan Learning regarding the closure of the Resource Centre, encouraging the Department to measure the impact of this decision.

Multitype Database Licensing Program: The MDLP partners held their annual meeting in September. The MDLP partners commended the Committee for their efforts on behalf of all the partners involved.

Saskatchewan Libraries Website: MDLP partners discussed the scope and content of the website. Various communication methods were discussed from online forums, RSS feeds and email lists to phone calls. There was wide support for the idea of separating information for the public from information targeted for library staff and trustees.

Strategic Plan: The Board is in the process of determining the structure of its strategic planning process. The current Strategic Plan is due to be updated or Replaced in 2008.

Digitization Update: The Board is recommending that the Ministry of Education continue the Digitization Pilot Project Grant Program in the 2008/09 budget Year.

Digital Alliance (SDA): The Saskatchewan Digital Alliance has officially launched their blog to provide information and support for organizations in Saskatchewan wanting to undertake digitization projects.

### *Provincial Library*

Ministry of Education Update

- The former Saskatchewan Learning department has become the Ministry of Education.
- On November 21, Ken Krawetz was sworn in as Deputy Premier and Minister of Education. He is from the Canora-Pelly area and has worked in the education sector for many years including work as a teacher, principal, school board member and Chairperson, as well as serving as President of the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association.
- The Ministry also welcomes a new Deputy Minister, Audrey Roadhouse. Audrey comes from the Regina Public School Division. Single Integrated Library System (SILS) The Business Case for a Single Integrated Library System (SILS) was submitted to the department, now named the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education approved the proposal and submitted it to the government decision-making process. Now we await a government decision in the 2008-09 budget. In the meantime, the Boards of the ten public library systems and the Ministry have signed an agreement, called the SILS Protocol Agreement, to identify their support for the project and to create a Steering Committee, composed of Library Directors and the Provincial

Librarian. Allan Johnson and Joylene Campbell co-chair. The Steering Committee is responsible for developing the content for a Request for Proposal (RFP) as well as making governance and financial recommendations. If the SILS proposal is approved in the 2008-09 budget, the recommendations would go to the Ministry of Education and each of the ten public library system boards.

**Saskatchewan Manitoba Libraries Conference May 1 to 3, 2008**  
**“Prairie Partnerships: Expanding Our Horizons”**

This year, the Saskatchewan Library Association has teamed up with the Manitoba Library Association to present “Prairie Partnerships”.

Saskatchewan Libraries have a long history of cooperation. The 2008 SLA/MLA Conference will expand on this tradition and emphasize inter-provincial cooperation and its importance to the future of libraries.

Highlights of the Conference include the Keynote speaker, Michael Ridley, Chief Information Officer and Chief Librarian at the University of Guelph and the Endnote speaker, Jessamyn West, a librarian from Vermont.

On Saturday May 3, 2008, the SLTA is pleased to sponsor two sessions:

S4 9:00a.m. - 10:15a.m. May 3  
*The Library as Employer: Human Rights and the Duty to Accommodate*  
Human rights legislation prohibits discrimination against employees on the grounds of disability and requires employers to accommodate an employee’s disability to the point of “undue hardship” What does

this mean for libraries?  
Presenter: Merrilee Rasmussen

S9 10:45a.m. - 12:00p.m. May 3  
*Funds & Fiction: Redefining Local Funding For Libraries with Innovation and Imagination*

This session will discuss sources of local, regional, provincial and federal funding for local library branches to increase programming, services and materials and decrease volunteer burnout, local board commitments and operating stresses. Innovative pooling of resources is advanced as a way to increase hours of operation, provide new services and offer youth employment opportunities. The result is imaginative programs and community partnerships that promote access to information and the journey of life-long learning.

Presenter: Colleen Christopherson-Cote

The SLTA Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday May 3rd at 1:30p.m. The AGM will consider reports from the 10 library systems, financial statements and budget for the SLTA, as well as the election of the SLTA’s President and Vice-President for 2008-2009.

**Conference Registration**

Please visit the SLA/MLA Conference website at [www.prairiepartnerships.ca](http://www.prairiepartnerships.ca) for more information and to access the Conference Registration form. Or visit the SLTA website at [www.lib.sk.ca/slta](http://www.lib.sk.ca/slta) and click on the link to the Conference website.

**E-Version of the SLTA Newsletter**

Please contact the Executive Director, Ciara McIlwaine, at [slta@lib.sk.ca](mailto:slta@lib.sk.ca) if you wish to subscribe to the e-version of the *Trustee*