



THE TRUSTEE

Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association

AGM Highlights

Special points of interest:

- 2009 AGM & SLA Conference
- Regional Updates
- New Executive Director
- Government & Libraries Forum October 19 & 20, 2009
- Library Advocacy Tools Online
- Ogema Success Story

The SLTA conducted their Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 1 at 9:30 am at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

- Your 2010 executive includes incumbent, Bev Dubois (SPL) as President, and newly elected members, Dennis Taylor (Lakeland) as Vice-President and Kae Campbell (Wheatland) as Treasurer. (*See page 2 for the President's Message.*)
- Newly hired Executive Director, Wendy Thienes, was introduced. (*See page 2 for Wendy's introductory column.*)
- Karen Basky is the new representative to the Multitype Library Board.
- Audited financial statements and budget were presented by Donna Hartley (Southeast). Expenses exceeded revenue in 2008. There was an increase in institutional memberships due to the 1/2 cent increase in levies and \$5 increase in membership fees in 2009. Another 1/2 cent levy increase is budgeted for 2010.
- The Bylaw Review Committee will present recommendations for changes to the bylaws to the membership at the 2010 AGM.
- President Bev Dubois reported on the excellent response from the Minister of Education following the SLTA's brief to the Minister which was delivered in November. Substantial funding for the SILS project has been committed by the government. In addition, a Government & Libraries Forum is scheduled for October 19 & 20 in Regina. One resolution was passed in response to this government support:

Sharon Armstrong (Parkland) moved, Dennis Taylor (Lakeland) seconded, that the following resolution be accepted:

Be it resolved that a thank you be sent to the Ministry of Education, expressing our appreciation for the support given to the Saskatchewan Regional Library System, specifically the support for the SILS project and for hosting the upcoming Government and Libraries Forum. Carried.

- The 2009 AGM was attended by 17 voting members and four guests.
- SLTA sponsored a three-part education session during the SLA Conference, lead by Pat Cavill of Calgary, entitled, *Library Advocacy Now!*

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President's Message-Bev Dubois (SPL)

2008 was another busy year for the SLTA. Your executive met in May (following the conference), September, February and conducted pre-and post conference meetings at the SLA conference April 30-May 2.

Following the departure of Executive Director, Ciara McIlwaine, the SLTA conducted a recruitment effort and interviews, and has contracted Wendy Thienes of Shaunavon to fill the position of Executive Director for the coming year. Best wishes to Ciara in her full-time employment and with her upcoming wedding!

I attended the SUMA and SARM conferences representing both the City of Saskatoon and the SLTA, met with Deputy Premier Krawetz and attended the U of S Senate on behalf of the SLTA, keeping the SLTA front and centre!

Thanks again to the Provincial Library for the grant to design and purchase an expo system. We anticipate that its completion will occur over the summer and will then be available to members for their use.

The SLTA met with the Honourable Ken Krawetz, Minister of Education, and his staff in November 2008. This was a very valuable and successful meeting. Minister Krawetz was very aware and up to date on the SLTA and our brief to him. He sent a letter on our behalf to the Federal Government regarding the book rate, as well as committed to working with libraries across the province to enable us to provide services to the citizens in the best way possible. The SILS funding provided by the provincial government is very much appreciated and SLTA believes that the meetings with the Minister enhanced the government's overall commitment to libraries.

The SLTA website is www.lib.sk.ca/slta. Updates are currently being made. The website is an excellent resource and includes our mission, constitution, bylaws and SLTA briefs to the Minister. Our newsletters are also posted on the website.

We were proud to sponsor educational sessions at the SLA conference. Ms. Pat Cavill presented a three part advocacy session, "Library Advocacy Now! Creating a Common Agenda". An extensive workbook and other resources were provided. The workshop was very well received.

I would like to thank the Executive Members for their continuing dedication, commitment and hard work on behalf of the SLTA. I would also like to thank Joylene Campbell, Provincial Librarian, for her continued support. I look forward to all of us continuing to work together to move forward with our missions and goals!

Executive Director Hired

The SLTA is pleased to introduce Wendy Thienes as our new Executive Director, effective May 1, 2009.

Wendy's experience includes a variety of volunteer and paid positions with non-profits in the health care and arts & culture sectors. She is employed as the part-time Curator/Programmer at the Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre (museum & art gallery) in Shaunavon. The Centre is in the same building as the Shaunavon Library, and through her work, has had many opportunities to collaborate with the local library. She also operates her own business, Kindermusik with Wendy, a music and movement program for children from newborns to age 7, which she teaches in the library!

Wendy is President of the local Arts Council and is involved with the local Music Festival. She resides in Shaunavon with her husband Michael and two children, Logan (age 8) and Auburn (age 5).

Wendy looks forward to bringing her skill set to the library sector in this position, including strategic planning, governance, event planning, fundraising and creativity! She is passionate about the arts & culture sector, of which libraries are an integral component, and is eager to work with colleagues to advocate and support the work of library trustees across the province.

Wendy's contact information can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Meeting Communiqué-April 30 & May 1

- There were no nominations for the Life Member Award. The Board urges Regions to consider nominations for 2009/2010.
- Bev Dubois (President) will be the SLTA representative to the Canadian Library Trustees Association.
- The website will be brought up to date in the near future, and will remain current.
- New SLTA brochures have been printed and can be obtained from the Executive Director.
- Design of the expo unit will be completed this summer and is then available for member's use.
- SLTA Executive will conduct a strategic plan review session in 2009/2010.
- Recommendations for bylaw changes will be brought forward at the 2010 AGM.
- The SLTA will approach the Palliser region to attempt to resolve the issue of non-payment of membership fees.
- Bev Dubois will be the SLTA representative for Saskatchewan Libraries Week in 2009.
- Kae Campbell (Wheatland) was appointed as Treasurer. The services of an auditor will be sought that are economical and in geographic proximity to the new Treasurer.
- Next regular board meeting is scheduled for September 25 & 26 in Saskatoon.

SLTA Board of Directors 2009/2010

CHINOOK REGION-Gail Beuhler, Frontier
Email: gailbeuhler@yahoo.com

LAKELAND REGION-Dennis Taylor (Vice President), Hafford
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PAHKISIMON NUYE?ÁH-Lorna Black, Green Lake
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PARKLAND REGION-Sharon Armstrong, Wynyard
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REGINA PUBLIC-Darryl Lucke
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SASKATOON PUBLIC-Bev Dubois (President)
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SOUTHEAST REGION-Donna Hartley, Ogema
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WAPITI REGION-Maureen McGirr, Nipawin
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WHEATLAND REGION-Kae Campbell (Treasurer), Wilkie
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MULTITYPE LIBRARY BOARD REP-Karen Basky, Moose Jaw
Email: k.basky@sasktel.net

PROVINCIAL LIBRARIAN-Joylene Campbell Email: joylene.campbell@gov.sk.ca



Back Row: Dennis Taylor (Vice President), Kae Campbell (Treasurer), Sharon Armstrong
Front Row: Bev Dubois (President), Donna Hartley, Wendy Thienes (Executive Director), Gail Beuhler

Regional Updates

Chinook

- Retiring after 33 years of service were Michael Keaschuk and Myra Leyshon. Both librarians began work at the CRL in 1975. They also said good-bye to long-time administrative assistant, Shirley Syrenne, who retired at the start of 2009.
- Chinook also said goodbye to Piapot branch librarian Marlene Meacock, as the branch closed its doors at the end of May 2008.
- A new Director, Stephanie Hall, was hired. Stephanie comes to Swift Current from Powell River Public Library where she served as chief librarian.
- Under the leadership of their new director, the CRL will embark upon a region-wide survey of staff, boards and patrons in 2009 to obtain their thoughts on library service.

Lakeland

- Northwest Community College students conducted a public satisfaction survey for the library. 400 surveys were returned and results showed that people were very satisfied with the service.
- A North Battleford school, located in a low-income area of the city, is working with library staff to ensure that students are issued library cards without a parent or guardian having to be present at the branch. The school and library will work closely together to assist the children as they are exposed to library procedures and programs.
- The North Battleford branch organized a highly successful provincial launch of the annual Aboriginal Storytelling Month on February 1 & 2, 2009.

Parkland

- Parkland celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2008!
- Several grants were received by the region including:

\$5,000	Raise a Reader
\$70,000	SaskSmart Innovations grant from the Literacy Office for the Circle of Learning Communities project. This was in response to a Literacy Café held in Yorkton. Several partners are involved.
\$28,500	Family Literacy Initiative grant from the Literacy Office
- Staff made a presentation on behalf of the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples' Committee at the IFLA conference in Quebec City in August.
- The program *Every Child Ready to Read@Your Library* was presented at the SLA conference, and in Yorkton and Moose Jaw.

PNLS

- The Northern Library Conference held in August was a joint effort between PNLS, Prince Albert and Meadow Lake Tribal Councils and several school divisions.
- A partnership with Saskatchewan Writers' Guild enabled PNLS to host playwright-in-residence, Mark Dieter.
- "Our Legacy" website (<http://scaa.sk.ca/ourlegacy/>) contains extensive material about First Nations and Métis culture and history. This was a joint initiative between the PNLS-housed Northern Saskatchewan Archives and the U of S archives.
- Priorities for 2009 include continuation of the Library Staff Education Project by seeking alternate funding options, board training and the implementation of SILS.

Regina Public Library

- Service plan will include 1600 additional open hours per year.
- Aboriginal programming met with success as RPL hosted the second library Round Dance.
- Reorganization of management and staff continues.
- Process in place to improve its Central Library, Prince of Wales and Albert Branches.
- Home Lottery continues to be highly successful.
- The RPL 100th Anniversary history book is a graphic novel featuring four Regina artists and will be sent to all library systems when it is released. Anniversary celebrations also included delivery of a newly designed library card to every kindergarten aged child in the city.
- Other projects include a new look for their logo and receipt of a literacy grant to produce an online tool to train literacy tutors.

Saskatoon Public Library

- Plans for the renovation/expansion of the Frances Morrisson Library continue with Kindrachuck Agrey Architecture being selected as the consultant to fully analyze and identify options.
- The Library on 20th Street Branch will open in June 2009.
- SPL Board approved Phase II expansion plans for the Alice Turner Branch.
- SPL hosted a Round Dance at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge in March '08, in honour of the special relationship between public libraries and Aboriginal communities.
- "Clean Slate" project during Libraries week accepted recyclable household plastics in exchange for fine credits.
- Special programming included a Phantom Family Fun draw and Stories in the Park throughout the summer.
- Writer-in-Residence for 08-09 is John S. Barton of Victoria, B.C.
- Friends of the Library's annual fundraiser, "Dance Party at the Hat" was held in September.

Southeast

- Conducted a strategic review of the library's vision, mission, values and goals:
 - Vision: An informed and literate community.
 - Mission: To provide the residents of southeastern Saskatchewan with the resources and experiences that foster a lifetime of imagination, discovery and learning.
- Support for the SILS project is ongoing with Southeast serving as managing library for handling of funds for the consortium.
- Operations and services have been stretched in the face of staff departures. Recruitment is increasingly difficult due to current pay and benefit levels. This issue is addressed in the strategic goals.

Wheatland

Staff moved back into newly renovated headquarters in February '09, complete with heated garage and drive-through access, and natural lighting.

Programming included:

- Aboriginal Storytelling Month
- Genealogy, computer training, author readings including Mary Ann Kirkby (*I Am Hutterite*).
- CAP grant used to purchase more computers, Early Literacy Stations, scanners and printers for the branches.
- *Press Display* database purchased and will allow patrons to view newspapers from all over the world.
- Youth Services Manager performed over 50 programs for children and teens.

Wapiti

- The Wapiti website has been updated with many new features.
- Full staffing is in place at headquarters, and significant staff time is being allowed and tracked under SILS asset capitalization.
- Branch of the year awards went to Mistatim and Prairie River.
- The Marion Sherman Bursary (library science student specializing in children library services) was awarded to Ms. Sarah Goetz (U of A).
- Trustees voted to give library staff a \$1.00/hour wage increase and approved a study of system delivery costs comparing the existing van delivery compared to Canada Post or bus equivalents. Speed, costs and efficiency outweighed the latter options.
- Several new executive members were chosen including Martha Constant, representing the James Smith Cree First Nation.
- Wapiti boasts 70,000 Memberships (from a population of 120,000).

Ogema Southeast Regional Library Offers a Newcomer Service

In February 2008, Ogema established a Settlement Committee of volunteers to provide support to newcomers. The Ogema committee serves a total of 21 workers and family members. The majority of the immigrants are from the Philippines and are employed with Big Sky Farms. Ogema expected to welcome more newcomers in the spring and fall, bringing the total for the community to approximately 40 immigrants.

The Committee holds twice-monthly gatherings at the Ogema Southeast Regional Library. At these gatherings, needs are identified and volunteers who can fulfill the needs offer their services. The wider community is called upon if needed for things like clothing, furniture and storage space. Initially the volunteers assisted newcomers with school enrolment, driver's licenses, resumes and child tax credit forms.

The Southeast Regional Library has become their 'home away from home' base. What better place to get help with the English language, find answers to their many questions and meet other people from the community in which they now live. The high speed internet at the library is greatly appreciated by the Philippine people as they can easily keep in touch with their families and friends. They can also research and educate themselves on living in this province.

Fortunately Ogema Library now has three public access computers and two extra open hours per week to meet the needs of their community's newcomers.

The CBC Program "Living Saskatchewan", with host Connie Walker, had a short highlight of the Philippines in Ogema using the Library. The Program was aired January 6, 2009 on cable channel CBC Saskatchewan. It can be viewed online by following links at www.ogema.ca or www.cbc.ca/livingsaskatchewan and typing "Ogema" in the living videos search box.

In November 2008, Ogema School opened the TLC Daycare (Total Learning Care) which has provided additional services for the newcomers; childcare and employment. The Daycare uses both the School Library and the Public Library to obtain books and other resources to start these young children on the road to literacy and lifelong learning.

Individual Membership Campaign

The Saskatchewan Association of Library Trustees is currently involved in a membership drive to increase our numbers. It is our belief that a large, strong and vocal membership base would increase our ability to lobby on behalf of libraries in this province. As you all know, Saskatchewan libraries are making a quantum leap forward with the single integrated library system. At this juncture, it is important that we have as many people as possible involved in the decision making process. If you know of some of your board or other library friendly people who are not currently members of the SLTA, please urge them to join, or better yet, buy them a membership. **Application forms are available from the Executive Director or on the SLTA website.**

-Dennis Taylor, Vice Chair



Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association

Wendy Thienes, Executive Director

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SLTA strives to:

- promote and foster the development of libraries and library services in Saskatchewan
- provide for exchange of ideas and experiences among library board members through conferences and publications
- assist members by understanding their responsibilities as library trustees
- cooperate with associations of library trustees outside the province
- seek improvements and foster necessary changes in the legislation affecting Saskatchewan libraries
- work in close cooperation with the Saskatchewan Library Association

Coming Events & Education

ONLINE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Tutorial for Directors and Officers of Non-Profit Corporations

www.justice.gov.sk.ca/NPT

LIBRARY ADVOCACY NOW!

Resources available at:

<http://www.cla.ca/divisions/capl/advocacy>

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC LIBRARIES FORUM

October 19 & 20, 2009

Queensbury Convention Centre
Regina, SK

Hosted by the Ministry of Education, the forum will bring together representatives of the provincial government and members of Saskatchewan's public libraries to discover their strategic alignment, to discuss how they can work together to achieve their common goals, and to form new relationships that will help turn their dialogue into action. Further details will be forthcoming.

SLTA BOARD MEETING

September 25 & 26
Saskatoon

Newsletter Distribution

We hope you like this new format for *The Trustee*. Please note that we will be including the *Meeting Communiqué* as part of the newsletter beginning with this issue. Therefore, you can expect to receive three newsletters each year, following the board's regular meetings. The other two newsletters will be shorter in length than this one!

Thank you to Donna Hartley for submitting the success story from Ogema! Do you have a story to share? Please send newsletter submissions to the Executive Director for possible inclusion in future newsletters. This is *your* newsletter, so please let us know if there are other things you would like to see!

Our next submission deadline will be September 15, 2009.

Do you want to be environmentally-friendly? Let us know if you'd prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, or if you'd rather just access it through the SLTA website. **Please E-mail Wendy at neverland@sasktel.net and indicate your preference.** Of course, we will continue to mail the newsletter to those that prefer that as well. Electronic distribution will help the SLTA reduce costs, thus saving funds for advocacy and education. Thank you for your attention to this request! Hope to hear from you soon...

Wishing all our members a happy and safe summer, filled with family, friends and a good book for the beach!