



ELAN Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Libraries of Tomorrow – The Annual Get-Together

BY MARJORIE BENDER

A thought-provoking talk, *Future Directions for the Faculty of Information Studies*, was presented by Brian Cantwell Smith, the recently appointed dean of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Studies, at the morning session of the Ex Libris Association's Annual Get-Together, held at the North York Central Library on November 8, 2004.

When he arrived at the faculty in July 2003, Brian soon became aware of certain tensions – for example, the search for an up-to-date identity. The faculty had previously been the Faculty of Library Science. Was it now involved with information science or information studies? And how did the faculty fit in with today's world of personal computers, laser printers, and digital developments? After all, the heartland of libraries is the copyrighted book, with its focus on intellectual property ownership. With present-day technology, printers abound, copying is routine, and everything is available to everyone.

Brian then reminded the audience that our modern society is drenched with information; everyone is involved with the spread of ideas, and the word 'information' itself is a technological term. The biologist studies genes; the physicist examines electronic exchanges; the journalist absorbs facts and proclaims opinions; the philosopher speculates about the mind and body. Each gathers infor-

mation, but each has a different view. Although these various practices constantly change, the practices themselves remain.

Brian believes that librarians need to initiate leadership and can help with the process of transformation. We can use our skills and expertise. We can develop new systems of access and preservation. We can prevail again! Let technology provide the instruments; we should still play the music!

The Get-Together's afternoon session, *The Growing Crisis in School Libraries*, was presented by Liz Kerr, information and literacy coordinator for the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board; Janet Kaufman, head of Information Services and co-director of the Learning Commons, University of Guelph; and Teri Shaw, from the Canadian Federation of University Women and a former Quebec public librarian. Liz, who also co-chairs the Ontario Coalition for School libraries, provided several startling statistics. In 2003/2004, 42 per cent of elementary schools had no teacher-librarian. Only 10 per cent of elementary schools had full-time teacher-librarians. Secondary school statistics were somewhat brighter – 60 per cent of schools had at least one full-time teacher-librarian, but the libraries were frequently closed during the school day. Budget cuts and chronic underfunding were also frequent problems.

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Help the Membership and Recruitment Committee Find New Members

BY FRANCES DAVIDSON-ARNOTT,
ACTING CHAIR

Experience shows that recruitment succeeds best when members of an organization invite others to join. So we're asking all ELA members to encourage their friends and colleagues to join ELA and to send any member of the committee the names of and contact information for people we could approach. You can email me at frances.davidson-arnott@senecac.on.ca or call me at 416-282-1864. To contact any other committee member, look at the membership list that was enclosed with this newsletter.



ELA Board. Front row, left to right, Nancy Williamson, past president; Peter Mutchler, president. Back row, left to right, Diane Henderson, treasurer; Marjorie Bender; Jean Wheeler, membership secretary; Meryn Beeckmans; Jean Weihs, recording and correspondence secretary, Jim Montgomery. Missing, Frances Davidson-Arnott, vice-president (Photo: Frances Davidson-Arnott)

The ELA executive established a new Membership and Recruitment Committee to separate recruitment activities from publicity, although the two new committees will still co-operate. The Committee is still being formed as I write this message in March, with at least one member from Toronto and perhaps more corresponding members from outside Toronto to be added. The members of the committee at present are:

- Harry Campbell
- Phebe Chartrand (corresponding member from B.C.)
- Frances Davidson-Arnott (Acting Chair)
- Doreen London
- Jim Montgomery
- Phyllis Platnick
- Murray Shepherd (corresponding

member from Waterloo, Ont.)

- Jean Wheeler (ex-officio member as Membership Secretary)
- Doug Willford (corresponding member from Niagara region, Ont.)
- Marie Zielinska (corresponding member from Ottawa)

Mavis Cariou created an excellent membership campaign proposal last spring. She suggests a number of ways we can attract more members. ELA's Long Range Plan for 2005-2010 directs us this year to set up a recruiting procedure and to start actively recruiting. From both these documents and discussion at

the last AGM, we know that we want to recruit members from across the country, from various sectors (including more teacher-librarians and special librarians) and from among information professionals who are not librarians (such as archivists, information specialists and library technicians).

We hope that the Publicity Committee will be able to create a brochure about the Ex Libris Association that we can use in recruitment. We plan to have booths at the CLA and

other conferences to encourage new memberships.

So just a little reminder – Please encourage your friends to join ELA and send to any committee member the contact information for people that you would like us to approach. □



Three ELA presidents. Left to right, Nancy Williamson, past president, Frances Davidson-Arnott, vice-president, Peter Mutchler, president (Photo: Jim Montgomery)

Libraries of Tomorrow –The Annual Get- Together

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Janet described our society's impact on university students' perceptions of libraries. Their world is one of cellphones, computers, and chat rooms, not ideas obtained from reading books. Traditional literature research is not important to them. For example, locating and using a periodical article is not a necessary skill. Indexes and citations are neither understood nor appreciated. Anything of significance must be on the Internet, and the Google search engine rules the day. "Tell me what I need to know, and tell me quickly."

Both Janet and Teri spoke about the importance of the teacher-librarian. Teacher-librarians have the opportunity to partner with subject teachers as well as other librarians. They can encourage leisure reading and teach literature research skills. They are teacher-librarians and deserve professional recognition.

Speakers urged the audience to take action about these issues. Visit your local school library, they said. If you live in Ontario, write to your MPP and/or the Ontario Ministry of Education. Join the Ontario Coalition of School Libraries (100 Lombard St., #303, Toronto, ON, M5C 1M3).

This was a thought-provoking and challenging meeting! □

Correction – Our Apologies!

In ELAN's Fall 2004 issue, the review of *A Boy All Spirit*. Thoreau MacDonald in the 1920s didn't mention that the one of the artist's designs was adapted as the Ex Libris Association logo. Look for MacDonald's design at the top of ELAN's front page.

EX LIBRIS ASSOCIATION

Long Range Plan, 2005-2010

As its major commitment in 2004, the Ex Libris Board of Directors embarked on an analysis of its accomplishments and the planning of its future activities. The general objective was to determine how the Association can best serve its national membership in future years. A draft plan was prepared. Discussion and consultation took place and suggestions for change were made. At the Annual General Meeting, November 8, 2004, the draft proposal for the long-range plan was accepted with the recommendation that it be reworked by the Executive Committee and presented for final approval at the January 31, 2005 meeting of the Board of Directors. The goals of the reworked plan together with the proposed means for implementation are presented below:

Goal 1

To provide a forum for interested individuals to stimulate the recollection and publication of the history of Canadian librarianship,

ELA will:

- a) carry out a feasibility study on the development of a central database of biographical information on individuals in the field of library and information science and implement such a project if it is recommended; Target date 2005
- b) continue to publish in ELAN articles of the personal recollections.

Goal 2

To facilitate the collection of oral histories related to library and information science in Canada,

ELA will:

- a) encourage the safe deposit of material from oral history projects in appropriate archival collections;
- b) explore the possibilities of continuing to collect oral history of libraries and librarianship and related fields.

Goal 3

To encourage the preservation of, and accessibility to, Canadian historical materials in the field of library and information science,

ELA will:

- a) publish reports and make recommendations concerning the deposit of personal papers of individuals and the archives of institutions on the ELA Web site and in ELAN;
- b) communicate this information to provincial organizations;
- c) provide assistance to ELA members in finding appropriate locations for their personal papers.

Goal 4

To serve as a voice for members and other retirees on library services and other important library-related issues on which they would wish to be heard,

ELA will:

- a) continue to sponsor the W.K. Lamb Award for Library Service to Seniors;
- b) establish an ad-hoc committee of newly retired teacher-librarians to advise the Board on whether there is a role for ELA in fostering support for school libraries and if so what that role should be; Target date 2005
- c) continue to support the Canadian Coalition of School Libraries (CCSL) and its provincial counterparts;
- d) act as a sounding board on library and archival related issues of national importance through ELAN, the website, programmes at annual get-togethers, and other means.

EX LIBRIS ASSOCIATION

Long Range Plan, 2005-2010

Goal 5

To act as a medium of communication among members, to keep the members informed of library, archive and publishing developments of interest and to continue to improve communication with our members throughout Canada,

ELA will:

- a) continue to publish the newsletter, ELAN, twice a year;
- b) continue to maintain and update the website;
- c) establish an electronic discussion list and/or chat room to facilitate debate and discussion on relevant issues; Target date 2005
- d) seek to provide an ELA presence at the conferences of CLA and the provincial and regional associations;
- e) hold annual get-togethers and such other gatherings as from time to time may be deemed appropriate.

Goal 6

To expand the membership of the Ex Libris Association throughout Canada,

ELA will:

- a) explore ways and means of recruiting members, and developing strategies for recruiting members from all parts of Canada; Target date 2005
- b) conduct periodic recruitment campaigns; Target date 2005
- c) establish liaison with library and information associations across Canada;
- d) seek provincial or regional representatives to liaise with ELA and/or to serve as members of the Board of Directors and develop guidelines for responsibilities of liaison representatives. Target date 2005

2 February 2005

Edmonton Retired Librarians Celebrate

BY JOHN WRIGHT

Those of us in Alberta who are members of Ex Libris read about our colleagues in central Canada with interest and appreciation. It is for them, as well as for our colleagues here, that we share news of the following events. In July 1999 a committee of five organized the first retired librarians' reception at the Faculty Club of the University of Alberta. Just under 60 people attended.

There being no roster of retirees available, the organizing committee had to rely on word of mouth, snail-mail, and telephone. The organizers were Heather-Belle Dowling, former director of the Strathcona County Public Library in Sherwood Park and former president of the Library Association of Alberta; Blanche Friderichsen, former provincial

supervisor of school libraries for the Alberta Department of Education; Alma Webster, former supervisor of school libraries for the Edmonton Public School Board; and John and Shirley Wright, retired professors of the then Faculty of Library and Information Studies at the U of A.

The occasion was very well received with requests for another that, unfortunately for a variety of reasons, did not occur until five years later in September 2004. This event was organized by Sheila Bertram, retired director of the School of Library and Information Studies; Sieglinde Rooney, retired associate director of the University of Alberta Libraries; and John and Shirley Wright, even longer retired professors of the library school. By 2004, there were more retired librarians in the Edmonton area, so the old contact list plus e-mails rounded up over 160 names – some 80 of whom turned up for another successful event.

This time non-academic and library support staff were included in the roundup.

For practical reasons, the event focused on the Edmonton area, although people attended from the southern Alberta communities of Medicine Hat and Calgary. Two of the retirees in attendance had just recently returned from participating in the Canada Seniors' Games in Whitehorse, where they earned gold medals. Retirees do continue to live active lives!

In both the 1999 and 2004 events, Heather-Belle Dowling gave the formal welcoming address in her own inimitable style. We also were profoundly grateful to Ernie Ingles, director of libraries at the University of Alberta, who generously helped to underwrite the reception. It is abundantly evident that retirees welcome these events, and the Committee plans to continue them at least every two years. □

Do Your Bit for Canadian Library History

– Preserve Your Library's Archives!

The **Ex-Libris Association** is a group of retired librarians founded in 1986 and dedicated to documenting the history of Canadian libraries and librarianship in a number of ways.

What has **The Ex-Libris Association** done about the library-related archive problem in Canada?

- ❖ Set up a committee on Personal & Institutional Archives and consulted widely.
- ❖ Sent a questionnaire to members asking if they had personal papers relating to their work as librarians, encouraging them to preserve such documents and assisting them in finding an archive to make them accessible.
- ❖ Investigated the possibility of creating a database on library and librarian-related archival material in Canada but suspended this work when it became clear that this would duplicate holdings in CAIN (the Canadian Archival Information Network, <http://www.cainrcia.ca>), now developing rapidly in Canada.
- ❖ Gathered information on library- and librarian- related archival material found in Canada's archives via CAIN and found over 200 entries of which two-thirds are for institutional archives. More material is being added to CAIN every day and other material may be held unofficially.
- ❖ Created a document for our web-site: "Searching for Archival Records on Canadian Librarians and Libraries" (URL) to assist researchers in how to search CAIN and the provincial archival databases. This document contains information on the differences between archives and libraries & their cataloguing and how and where to search for records of archival holdings relating to librarianship in Canada.

Prepared by the Personal & Institutional Archives Committee, Ex-Libris Association, c/o Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto M5S 3G6. (<http://exlibris.fis.utoronto.ca>)

If we as librarians care about being able to write the history of Canadian libraries and librarianship, we need the archives that form the basis for library history. It is vital that we preserve both archival records of all libraries across the country and personal papers of librarians. The Ex-Libris Association, a group of retired Canadian librarians and library staff, has been concerned with this issue for the last few years.

A prominent Canadian librarian and library historian, Harry Campbell, said recently:

"Of particular concern is the history of Canadian library development in the period 1950-2000. This was an era of remarkable expansion in buildings, services, and library management. Do we have adequate records of what happened in Canada in the decade of the 1960s when off-line information searching was inaugurated, and such institutions as CISTI and new library schools sprang up? The 1970s brought on-line searching providing bibliographic and full-text information. These were the heady days of ONULP, UTLAS and Asyvol. In the 1980s came the world of CD-ROMs, and in the 1990s the Internet. Many of the active players, (both libraries and librarians) of Canadian library development in these periods have unique records of what actually happened. Is this vital record being made secure for future use?"

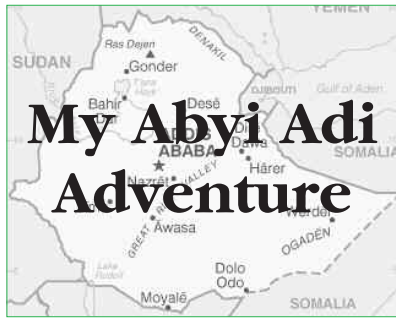
It is apparent from our research that many archival records generated by librarians stayed with their institution when they retired and that relatively few library archival records has found their way into Canada's archival institutions. We, therefore, urge individual libraries, public, special & educational, regional library systems, library boards, & library associations to take steps to see that the archival records of their institutions and personnel are preserved for posterity and moved to the appropriate archive if the library itself does not have one.

And we would urge any Canadian library institution that is not now archiving its records to put a records management system in place. Such a system is the first step in effective archives management and if properly implemented ensures a proper file organization from the beginning and a sound policy for the retention and disposition of records. Such a policy determines three kinds of records: (1) disposable records, (2) records that legally must be kept for a stated period of time (usually seven years), and (3) archival records that should be kept permanently. Often, staff are concerned about allowing files to go to archives, for fear that they will not be retrievable if needed. However, effective records management should result in orderly preservation of archival files, so that they can be found again easily.

We list below some examples of types of archival materials created by libraries:

- ❖ Legislation & documents re establishment of library & amalgamations
- ❖ Annual reports, minutes of meetings, etc., of library boards
- ❖ Sectional & departmental annual reports & other reports/documents
- ❖ Reports & documentation on services (& new services) to users, etc.
- ❖ Correspondence incoming & outgoing
- ❖ Library transaction records, user surveys, etc.
- ❖ Financial reports
- ❖ Audiovisual records of services, personnel, buildings, etc.

If you want to find what library archival records are already available in Canada consult our Web site and CAIN ! (see sidebar).



BY SHIRLEY LEWIS

I was invited by Allan, a Filipino VSO volunteer who was appalled at the state of the library at his posting (at a college in Abyi Adi in far northern Ethiopia), to advise on reorganizing the library. When I got to look at the library, it was certainly in terrible shape. There were six ladies without a lick of training, a librarian who did square root of nothing during his three-year tenure, book donations lying fallow in a container and a storeroom, and a very large backlog of books that hadn't been catalogued. They had Dewey but no Sears, which I brought with me.

There were four men: a deposed librarian, two very surly cataloguers who had a diploma that hadn't taught them very much, and the new librarian named Getu who was as different as day and night from the others, including his natty attire. He looked like he had stepped out of a bandbox: navy blue trousers with a crease in them, blindingly white shirt, and snappy tie. Full of enthusiasm and ideas – really magical under the circumstances. But he had little training, since he started out as an engineering student. He looked to me as a flower looks to the sun, and I couldn't let him down.

So we started out with just a workshop on how to shelve books and how the Dewey Decimal System keeps subjects together. Bless my soul, it was like turning a light on in the dark. All six of the ladies were dazzled, and I assigned them each a shelf to restore to order. Their interest and enthusiasm was like something out of the movies, and the cataloguers, who frankly also didn't seem to realize that Dewey was actually practical, headed up three teams of two women each to tackle the shelves. Pandemonium reigned for about half an

hour, as they found books totally wrong for their shelves and moved them into the right general area. They chattered enthusiastically, and I cheered them on, working madly myself and sweating profusely (it's *hot* in Abyi Adi). It was like a self-fulfilling prophecy, as they began to see that all the psychology books came together as we straightened things up – OK, look, all the English books are together, and so on. It took the rest of the day, and some of the next day, to get the books all in order, but they were very enthusiastic. The women never complained at all, but the men started to flag when we then moved all the books out of the back room that, for no particular reason, had been kept as a secret hideaway. I swept away their objections and insisted that all books should be on the shelves for all the world to see.

After that, I concurrently gave mini-workshops while exhorting staff about library service and rewriting policy with Getu. Apparently the students are not allowed to borrow the books, much to the chagrin of the dean of the college. In one fell swoop we changed that and made a plan to give every student a library card and start loaning the books by next semester in September. I warned the staff that their days of lounging about the library doing nothing were gone forever. I didn't care at all whether they liked it or not, whether they liked me or not – the library service had been so terrible that the whole library concept was about to go down the drain.

The two surly librarians were the ones who most took me by surprise. They started off really badly – so much so that I mentally called the thin one Ferret-Face and the big guy The Hulk. At first they sat slumped in their chairs, arms crossed and glowering. But, as they discovered, I knew so much more than they did, and I was implementing stuff with or without their cooperation. They were nonplussed. I just went about my job, and they could either join me or sit in the corner. I'm not sure when the tide turned, but within a couple of days they were carting books, slugging volumes into yes and no piles as we went through a storeroom in shocking condition. It held books that had just been tossed willy-nilly, with

many quite badly damaged. We worked non-stop, and when one of them complained, I laughed and said, "Well, I'm 68 and, if you can't keep up with me, just let me know". He shamefacedly went back to work.

On Tuesday Saba, one of the circulation workers, took my hand on the way to coffee break, then threw her arm around my shoulder. I knew instantly that this meant I was one of them. For the rest of the week they all hovered about, sharing their umbrellas when we went out in the sun, carrying my briefcase for me, and so on. The library wasn't that hard to straighten out once they all started to pitch in, and it was really a very happy week.

Allan mentioned that we would have a "closing ceremony" on Friday afternoon. Ethiopians just love ceremonies, so I expected that there would be certificates and soft drinks and cookies and speeches. I knew I would be expected to give one, so I got ready for that. But this was a ceremony to end all ceremonies. There were the usual events, but there were also pictures and videos, and then we were herded onto the college bus and taken into town for dinner and dancing. They nearly went into hysterics when I got up and tried my luck at a Tigrayan folk dance. Eventually I got so tired I wondered how I was ever going to get out of there. But not much after the fatigue started to hit, the vice-dean got up and made a nice speech, and the staff gave me a remembrance gift – a little woven dish that one of the circulation workers had made. This will certainly be a sentimental favourite that I will bring home with me. And the coup de grâce was, as we walked down the street back to the bus, Ferret-Face walked along with his arm around my waist and his other arm draped over my shoulder. The Hulk, who turned out to be an immensely shy person, said, in a voice loud enough to hush the other chattering, "Miss Shirley, you must phone us when you get back to Gondar so that we know you are safe". As if that was not touching enough, he added, "And you must let us know when you leave for Canada, so that we can say goodbye from our hearts". It was a magical moment that I will never forget. It really was a marvellous experience. □

Out in BC-Land



BY HOWARD OVEREND,
SALMON ARM

Strategic Plan Revealed

BC-Land's Strategic Plan for Public Libraries, in the works since January 2003 and commissioned by the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB), now lies open to the world. It's a 32-page report aptly entitled *Libraries Without Walls: The World Within Your Reach*. The title is meant to emphasize the array of electronic links that extend the resources of a library as far as imagination and technology and dollars will allow. And that's a long way.

The vision that it conjures up, despite the overlay of such business-speak as "suite of strategic options," "key library stakeholders," "branding campaign," "ongoing marketing campaign," (whatever happened to the term library publicity?), and using the noun aggregate as a verb, as in [to] "aggregate resources through collaboration", is rather more positive than it seems at first glance. Much of it is based on the introduction of broadband transmission of data, which means, simply, the simultaneous high-speed transmission of several channels or paths of information through a single coaxial cable. This technique could obviously provide a link between libraries province-wide, however isolated they might be, and indeed bring a world within reach.

Broadband transmission would also allow the introduction of a one-card library system, an "information gateway" and the extension of virtual reference service throughout the length and breadth of BC-Land.

But who would pay for this? Big Daddy in Victoria mostly. Premier Campbell says his government will invest an additional \$12-million over three years to help put the plan in place. And Vancouver Public Library would take the lead, the plan says, in defining with other libraries what services would be available. Libraries themselves may have to enter into partnership with the private sector or with other libraries to finance their share of the cost. Who knows?

But at least The Vision is there, whether or not it becomes reality. Well done, PLSB. It hasn't been easy but you've made it. And hey, good luck, eh?

Innovative, but?

Whoever heard of libraries having enough staff to be able to loan them to other libraries? BC-Land's PLSB is floating a scheme whereby "subsidized secondment" would enable a library board in need of short-term staff aid to borrow it from another public library board, with the PLSB as broker paying compensation (up to \$1,500 a pop) to the providing library to reimburse it for continuing to pay salary, benefits and travel costs during the staff member's absence.

It's a charitable plan, to be sure, especially for the many small libraries in BC-Land, but only a few larger ones likely would be able to spare their personnel even on a temporary basis.

Hail to the Chief!

Saul J. Amdursky, former gung-ho head of the Kalamazoo Public Library which he successfully guided to winning the U.S. Library of the Year Award in 2002, has been appointed Chief Administrative Officer of the Fraser Valley Regional Library in December 2004.

He succeeds Jean Dirksen who retired at the end of October after seven effective years in the library system's top position.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., Amdursky, an MLS grad of the University of Kentucky (1971) with extensive experience in public and regional library sys-

tems, wants to replicate many of the measures that helped him make his 17 years at Kalamazoo a success. The menu includes enlisting sponsorship support and funding from the private sector, allowing library users to download audio books from a FVRL Web site and making tutors available to students online to help with homework. He would also introduce reading readiness programs for children, buy more copies of popular books, seek better library buildings in a few places and step up the FVRL's visibility throughout the Valley. "We need to really tell our customers that we exist."

The "animated and enthusiastic" new boss appears to be on solid footing with his 15-member board of management under the progressive leadership of Sharon Gaetz of Chilliwack. The FVRL, BC-Land's largest regional library system, serves nearly 650,000 people with 23 branches in 13 municipalities and two regional districts. It had a whopping \$15.3-million budget in 2003.

The proof of the pudding, though, is whether he and his board can persuade the member municipalities and their electors to pay higher taxes for the goodies he has in mind.

Hoo boy! Go get 'em, Saul! We're on your side.

Meanwhile, in the Interior

A few years younger but still a venerable institution is the Okanagan Regional Library, est. 1936. Like the FVRL and the Vancouver Island RL, its founder was the indefatigable Dr. Helen Gordon Stewart with Carnegie and Public Library Commission back-up. Its current Director is Lesley Dieno, born in Oliver in BC-Land's southern fruit country, who climbed the beanstalk from working as children's librarian in Windsor in 1970, area librarian for Richmond at the good ol' FVRL in 1972, and as assistant chief lib'n at Richmond when that municipality left the FVRL in '76. Seven years later Lesley climbed even higher to head the Prince George PL and

Ottawa Public Library Defends Its Budget



BY MARIE F. ZIELINSKA

To this emotional title should be added "A Report from the Battlefield". There seems to be an unending war between the City Council and OPL about approving sufficient funds to provide adequate library services to the whole population, both in urban and rural areas.

Each January's budget discussions are the most intense. This year the battle was particularly fierce. There were many legitimate demands from other City departments for more money to, for example, increase paramedic services, improve the transit system, help troubled youth and other vulnerable people. Councillors had to juggle these requests while keeping the tax increase as low as possible.

To gauge citizen opinion, the City used public consultation. OPL prepared an excellent package showing its achievements during the past year and the library's increased use. OPL suggested how to fill gaps in library services that opened after municipal amalgamation, particularly in rural areas.

Here are some data on library use in 2003.

- OPL was used by 58% of the population
- OPL achieved the highest user satisfaction rate (88%) of any City service
- Visits totalled 4.8 million
- Staff answered 1.1 million information requests
- About 9 million items circulated

- Over 7,000 programs were presented
- OPL website had 113 million hits

Despite these impressive figures, the OPL's operating budget (\$35.90 per capita) is well below Toronto's (\$55.70) and the Canadian average for libraries serving over 100,000 people (\$37.68).

This year's budget victory was fairly satisfying. The operating and capital budgets were approved as submitted. Although an additional half million dollars requested this year was cut to \$210,000, the approved amount will still fund a second bookmobile, and a librarian and children's services specialist for two rural branches.

During the entire budget exercise, however, one thing became clear: the public knows very little about what it takes in staff and money to provide library services to all citizens. So, the most important task for the Friends of OPL is to accelerate library advocacy. An excellent article on this topic by John Berry III appeared in the February 2005 issue of *Library Journal*. This call to arms should strengthen our efforts to educate the public about the importance of libraries.

Here is some more uplifting news. A special meeting of the Ottawa members of Ex Libris was held on October 14 at the Library and Archives Canada building, prior to the launch of the *History of the Book in Canada*. Harry Campbell chaired, and we discussed ELA's draft long range plan. Members' input was most helpful in creating the plan's final version.

Another successful event, the ninth annual OPL Foundation Gala on November 22, raised \$51,000 to help expand the Library's resources, programs and services. Governor General Adrienne Clarkson attended, along with Senator Joyce Fairbairn; City Councillor Diane Deans; Rick Chiarelli, chairman of the OPL Library Board; Gail Logan, head of the Ottawa Board of Trade; and Ron McInnis, senior vice-president of the TD Canada Trust, the main sponsor of the event. There was also an opportunity to meet and chat with a number of Ottawa authors. The beautiful sur-

roundings of the Ottawa Convention Centre, the excellent hors d'oeuvres and dinner, and the silent auction enhanced the evening's glamour. □

Out In BC-Land

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reached the top as Executive Director of the ORL in 1987.

Lesley admits to having two cats "who have never been to school but who are well mannered and very intelligent."

Like the FVRL and the VURL, her library is a big system serving many people (about 340,000) in 17 municipalities and four regional districts. It has 30 branches, and a computer instruction lab in Kelowna where its headquarters is. The system (get out your map) extends west from Golden in the Rockies to the Shuswap and Salmon Arm and south throughout the long Okanagan Valley to Osoyoos at the U.S. border. Penticton, at the south end of Lake Okanagan, withdrew in 1969. The ORL's budget is about \$11-million.

Another thing about this orchard country library system – it serves places with such idyllic Shangri La names as Cherryville, Lake Country, Summerland, Peachland, Kaleden, Keremeos and Sorrento, to name a few.

Odd Bits from Above

Saul Amdursky and his wife Marion just happen to have the same birthday (August 11). But he is a year older. Charity begins at home – when does the PLSB get to borrow staff help? □

Contributions welcome!

We welcome contributions to ELAN, especially photos and other illustrations. Deadline for the next issue is **August 24, 2005**.

Adult Literacy Tutors Needed

BY DEBORAH COX, WITH TINA NATALE

At York Woods Library in Toronto, an adult literacy learner was always using her husband's library card. She had difficulty reading and her husband accompanied her to select magazines and videos. A few weeks ago, we began chatting. She told me that she saw a book and wished she had her husband's card so she could borrow it. I reminded her that she had become a very good reader and asked her if she wanted her own card. Her eyes lit up, and she quickly said, "Oh, yes!". She was so happy that she took out a book and reserved two other ones. She said, "I have always wanted my own card but didn't think I deserved one because of my low reading skills. It was so easy to get one. What was I so afraid of? Thank you so much! I can't wait to show my husband and my kids!".....*Hurrah!*

Mary began volunteering as a literacy tutor four years ago, because she was tired of "talking the talk"; she wanted to "walk the walk." She is truly committed to her current student – who is a hard worker and shows up no matter what terrible things are going on in his life. Mary is realistic and strong, and she tells it like it is. However, she supports her student unconditionally. He has made radical changes in his life. Mary is impressed with his commitment to learning to read and write, and to improving the quality of his life – she admires this so much. She makes him feel important, that his goals are worthwhile and attainable. Mary never patronizes her student. She truly cares about him and his successes, both in literacy and in life.

At Toronto Public Library's Adult Literacy Services, we call these "success stories". There are literally hundreds more. However, the number of learners who need tutoring always far outstrips the number of tutors that we have. So many success stories are still waiting to happen. Nearly one in four Canadian adults have low literacy skills. Whether it's understanding medication directions or reading the newspaper; sharing a toddler's bedtime story or finding one's way around the city, thousands of adults find doors that the rest of us breeze through, locked tight to them.

Our literacy tutors are making substantial and lasting differences in many lives. However, there are never enough tutors. Please consider taking on this rewarding and exhilarating challenge. Our learner/tutor pairs meet for two hours every week for a six-month commitment (although many tutors have continued for years). Tutors receive training and ongoing support from the library and the Adult Literacy Coordinator, whose job it is to oversee and facilitate the literacy program. We have our own Adult Literacy collections and resources. We recognize and thank our volunteers with events and special library privileges.

We have a learner waiting who needs you right now and whose progress you will have the satisfaction of assisting

and witnessing. Tutors are particularly needed at Albion Library in Toronto. Contact Deborah Cox at dcox@torontopubliclibrary.ca or 416-394-5173. Read about other volunteer opportunities at www.torontopubliclibrary.ca. (click on Support your Library). Thanks! □

Most communities have similar programs. Retired librarians would make great tutors! Contact your local library about their tutoring program. – Ed.

Eileen Daniel: 1935-2004

BY MERLYN BEECKMANS

Eileen (Ward) Daniel, past president of the Ex Libris Association, died on October 8, 2004 after a five-year struggle with fronto-temporal dementia. She was born on August 8, 1935 in Fleetwood, England. She won a state scholarship to Oxford University, from which she graduated in 1955.

After emigrating to Canada, Eileen taught French. In 1978 and 1979 she attended the Faculty of Library Science at the University of Toronto, where she won the Jubilee Award in honour of the 50th anniversary of the school. The award was for her "distinguished contribution to the life of the Faculty, particularly in the areas of student-faculty relations and curriculum development."

Eileen's professional life included being project manager, head office librarian, and manager of the Information Resource Centre at Northern Telecom (1979-1986); senior resource officer for the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (1986-89); associate librarian and department head of the Reference Department of the York University library (1990-1995); and bilingual reference librarian at the Frost Library, Glendon College, York University (1995-1998).

In her off hours, Eileen reared her two children, volunteered at her church, gardened, travelled and pursued athletic interests, including tennis, rock climbing, swimming and downhill skiing.

At the service of remembrance, Eileen's children Colin and Mary referred to her love of books and reading. Colin recalled receiving care packages that were "filled with newspaper clippings and magazine articles" rather than things to eat. Mary said that, among other things, her mother passed on to her a love of learning in all its forms – "books, people, places, community education courses, keyword searches, lectures, experiences, stories".

Clearly Eileen Daniel was a fine mother and an exemplary librarian. May her like continue to flourish. □

Thanks to Ian Daniel, Eileen's husband, who supplied information for this article.

HOW I BECAME A LIBRARIAN



BY CLARA MILLER

How did I come to make Library Science my chosen career? It was not, as I have heard many a librarian say, a choice made early in life, having been influenced by pleasant memories of using a library and of knowing a librarian. No, I traveled a long and circuitous route before finding myself on the road to becoming a librarian.

When I was growing up in Newfoundland, there was no public library in St. John's. Some bookstores catered to what was considered female reading tastes, with copies of current romance titles, available for borrowing at a daily charge. I did not get to read what my sister borrowed, probably because of the bookstore's daily charge. Being younger, I was too slow with my reading. However, my sister made up for this by reading to me Andersen's Fairy Tales, poems by Tennyson, Milton, and Longfellow, sonnets of Shakespeare, Mark Twain's stories, and Scott and Dickens. My sister had a wide and varied taste in reading, and I benefited greatly from this.

Some of the city clubs in St. John's had lending libraries for their members. These were mainly men's clubs and their collections reflected male reading tastes. Courtesy of my older brother, and the clubs to which he belonged, I was early introduced to E. Phillips Oppenheim, Edgar Wallace, Sax Rohmer, Jeffrey Farnol, and even to Erich Remarque's novel of World War I, "All Quiet on the Western Front." Among school friends, too, we had a lending system in operation whereby

we exchanged L.M. Montgomery's books and other similar titles that would be considered more suited to a teenager's reading tastes. So I was one of those people who grew up unaware of the riches that a public library offered.

After matriculating in 1930 from Bishop Spencer College in St. John's, I had two years at Newfoundland's Memorial University College. Memorial did not become a degree-granting university until 1949, when Newfoundland became Canada's newest province. So in 1932, for any further education, it was necessary to go abroad. With a scholarship and financial help, I attended Acadia University, where, having majored in Organic Chemistry and minored in Mathematics, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1934. It was not the best of times in which to graduate – in the midst of the Depression! Neither male nor female graduates were inundated with job offers in 1934.

However, during the winter of 1934-35, I was needed at home. I did fit in a course in typing and shorthand that I thought might be a future asset. It did provide a job that had a salary, but it was not a job that would lead to a satisfying career. Among the avenues I explored, one was with a firm of chartered accountants. My minor in Mathematics, though it did not outweigh my being female when applying for a job, did make a difference. That particular firm, at that time, would not even consider having a female prospective chartered accountant on staff. But, in spite of that, things did brighten up, and a glimmer of light did appear at the end of my job-hunting tunnel.

A public library had been opened in St. John's in 1936. The private library of W.G. Gosling, a former mayor of St. John's, had been left to the city, and this formed the basis for the library. I was engaged to fill an opening on staff that occurred in 1937, so there I was at the Gosling Memorial Library. What a difference that was from the incessant typing in the business office – invoice after invoice and such like. In the city

of St. John's, the public library was a very new feature, and the users were very enthusiastic and welcomed the services provided.

At the GML, I felt quite at home. We were a young staff, willing and ready to take on any job to make the library successful – getting to know the reading tastes of the library users and the reference section and its capabilities, and providing information and material needed by the library customers.

Then I was promoted and placed in charge of the children's section. There I had many little helpers not only for shelving books, but also accompanying me home. We must have been a walking advertisement for the GML, as I would walk, carrying books, with a trail of little ones, also carrying their books. Being in charge of the children's division was a good experience for me. I was responsible for book selection and ordering, and preparing the books for library use. There was also the designing of displays for various seasons and events, story-telling on Saturday mornings and for radio programmes, visits from school classes, and so on. Never a dull moment.

It was from the experience I gained at the Gosling Memorial Library that the idea of a library career was formed. Although I enjoyed the work as the Librarian of the Children's Department, it was the reference aspect of library work that really interested me. I was hooked on that and I set my goal on obtaining formal library training, so that I might find a position in a research library where I would use my undergraduate education along with the library training.

But having a goal in mind was one thing; the financing to reach that goal was now the problem. In those days there were just two universities in Canada offering Library Science courses: McGill in Montreal and the University of Toronto. Neither location was just next door to St. John's. I would need enough savings to cover travel, education, and living expenses until I had a job after graduation.

continued on page 11

Our President's Report

BY PETER MUTCHLER

The ELA Board's most exciting event so far this year (Be still my throbbing heart!) has been our effort to examine our committees, especially our former Recruitment and Membership Committees and our Publicity Committee. I know this is not really "Hold the Presses" news, but it is another step in our continued efforts to make Ex Libris a truly national organization.

To help us do this, we now have new names for these two committees: the Membership and Recruitment Committee, and the Promotion and Public Relations Committee. The former has been very active and has come up with a plan to help recruit new members. Personally, I am very excited with the proposal for this committee's future activities, which will be discussed at our May Board meeting. Although the plan is a realistic start on recruitment, its most important objective is following through on the idea of corresponding members.

At the moment, there are two such members on the Board, Marie Zielinska and Phebe Chartrand. The Membership and Recruitment

Committee plans to seek out volunteers from across Canada who will help recruit members in their area and keep in touch via e-mail. We hope to eventually expand communication through conference calls, with the assistance of the Ontario Library Association.

As I write this report in March, spring is springing somewhere (but not here in the Greater Toronto Area), and librarians' fancies turn to conferences. ELA hopes to have a booth at ALPA, and CLA has offered us a booth at the Calgary conference if it can be staffed by volunteers. We hope that Alan McDonald will agree to chair the enterprise in Calgary. Volunteers will have access to the exhibits. At the ALPA conference, I hope that Norman Horrocks will help with setting up a small booth.

From the list enclosed with this issue of ELAN, you will see that not all our committees are complete. As we are a very volunteer organization, we need all the assistance that you can give. So if any of the committees strike a chord within you, why not contact the chair and offer whatever you can? No reasonable offer will be refused. And you don't have to live near Toronto to help us – we welcome anyone with e-mail access.

Have an enjoyable summer! I'll be in touch in the next issue of ELAN. □

HOW I BECAME A LIBRARIAN

continued from page 10

Salaries were low and slow in growing, but I owe a great debt of gratitude to my parents, for they backed my decision completely.

Then in September 1939, World War II was declared. Almost immediately, St. John's, being the easternmost port of North America, was on a wartime basis. I was offered employment with the Signals Division of the Royal Canadian Airforce at No. 1 Group

Headquarters in St. John's. This was prior to any Women's Division of the RCAF. Eventually, when recruiting began for the Women's Division I did try to enlist, but I was not successful. As wartime activity increased, our workload also increased. The Women's Division was now in operation, and we were assigned General Duty WDs to train in codes and cyphers. Later, a signals course was established in Galt, Ontario, from which WDs would come ready-trained. As time went on, I could see that service personnel were now available to carry out the war work that I was doing. My savings had grown and

the financing of a year in Toronto now seemed possible. So I applied to the University of Toronto Library School, and was accepted.

Toronto was a real shock to me. In St. John's, on that September 1939 weekend before war was declared, the superstructure of every ship in the harbour had been painted battleship gray. It was strange now to see the boats on Lake Ontario with their superstructures in light colours, and not that battleship gray that had become so familiar. Also in Toronto, there was no blackout enforced, and no automobiles with fenders painted white and headlights shaded and painted so that only a small glimmer of light fell on the ground in front of the vehicle. Toronto in 1943 seemed a very peaceful, quiet, and slow city, compared to St. John's in wartime. As I had not hit the books since 1934, it was probably just as well. I had to settle down and get in the study groove again.

When graduation came in May 1944, there were no openings in the types of special library of interest to me. I did accept a position as librarian and reviser in cataloguing on the staff of the Library School. I did not know at the time, but my career goal was just around the corner. On February 2nd, 1945, I was interviewed to start a library at Imperial Oil Limited, an exciting opportunity I enjoyed through to my retirement years later. [Clara was also a visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Information Studies from 1951 to 1970.]

Library and Information Technology offers many avenues that career-seekers may travel to find their specific career goals. It took me a long time to find my chosen career, but when I found it I was well pleased and content with the choice I had made. □

Reprinted with permission, and slight revision, from INFORMED, the newsletter for alumni of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Studies.

Atlantic News

BY NORMAN HORROCKS, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM SUZANNE SEXTY

Elizabeth (Betsy) Armstrong, Nova Scotia provincial librarian, retired after heading the Provincial Library since June 1999. She joined the Library in 1978 after working in public libraries in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Grace Butt, teacher, librarian, award-winning playwright, author and poet, died January 22, 2005 aged 96. She founded the first little-theatre company in Newfoundland, the St. John's Players, and wrote and directed the Newfoundland's first little-theatre play. She worked with the Public Library in Newfoundland from 1955 onward, and was librarian of the Newfoundland Collection when she retired on December 31, 1973. In 1981 she received an honorary doctorate from Memorial University. As a gesture of remembrance, friends are asked to purchase a book by a Newfoundland author. – S.S.

Michael Colborne, coordinator of Public Services, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, was the first recipient of the Nova Scotia Library Association's Norman Horrocks Leadership Award, at the October 2004 NSLA Annual Conference in Debert, NS.

Virginia Eamon, deputy director, Western Counties Regional Library in Nova Scotia, retired after 34 years at the Library. She began with the book-mobile service before leading the library's move to automation. Virginia was the lead staff person responsible for overseeing the Smart Library partnership that led to the development of the library's full-service website.

Shirley Elliott, distinguished Nova Scotian librarian and author, died on October 15, 2004 in Kentville, NS at the age of 88. She was Nova Scotia's legislative librarian for almost 30 years. She wrote several books on Nova Scotia politics and history, including *Nova Scotia Book of Days: A Calendar of the Province's History*. For more on

Shirley's life and awards, see p. 11 of *ELAN's* Spring 2004 issue.

Suzanne Ellison retired after 30 years of service at the Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland. She was head of Bibliographical Control Services, after previously serving as periodicals cataloguer and maps and audio-visual cataloguer. – S.S.

Mary Louise Fraser died on January 2, 2005. A Library Science graduate of McGill, she worked at Dalhousie University Library from 1937 to 1947 before becoming city librarian for Sydney, NS. Later she was Cape Breton regional librarian until her retirement in 1982. For her work in gathering and preserving Cape Breton historical material, she received the Parks Canada Heritage Award in 1985.

Anne Hart was appointed Member of the Order of Canada for her "lasting contributions to the cultural life of her province....A highly regarded author and poet, she has been a tireless champion of the literary community...." The former head of Memorial University Library's Centre for Newfoundland Studies, she is now honorary research librarian at Memorial. Anne is well known for her earlier work *The Life and Times of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple* (1985) and her work on Hercule Poirot (1990). McGill-Queen's University Press has just published *Woman Who Mapped Labrador*, the diary of Mina Hubbard to which Anne contributed the biography. – S.S.

Bertrum Macdonald became associate dean (Research) for the Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University at the end of 2002. He was formerly director of the School of Library and Information Studies and continues to teach in the School.

Gaylen Ritchie died March 10, 2005 in Dartmouth. A special librarian until she retired in 1991, her career was spent with the libraries of Transport Canada and as a regional librarian for the Canadian Coast Guard in Dartmouth.

Margot Schenk was appointed interim university librarian at Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax for March to June 2005. She succeeds former university librarian **Stephanie Walker**, who left in February to become manager of Collection Services in the Francis A. Countway Medical Library at Harvard University.

M. Eileen Travis was appointed Member of the Order of Canada. "As the Saint John Regional Librarian, she was highly respected for expanding library services throughout the area and for promoting children's literacy through various reading and tutoring programs". Eileen was a powerful force in Saint John, where she was regional librarian for 28 years. She was voted Woman of the Year in 1972 by Beta Sigma Phi, received an honorary doctorate from St. Thomas University in 1976, Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee Award in 1977, and the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Merit Award in 1982. She was the first female president of the Saint John Board of Trade in 1983/84, the first woman to receive the Saint John YM-YWCA Red Triangle Award, and the first woman to receive the Saint John Board of Trade's Chairman's Award in 2004. □

A History of Library Technician Programs in Canada: A Correction

I wish to make a public apology to June Munro for omitting mention of her important work in the development of library technician programs. June Munro's contribution to the development of standards for library technician programs in Canada and in Ontario was not noted in the article published in *A History of Library Education in Canada*. She was co-chair with John Marshall on CLA's committee to develop standards and guidelines for the training of library technicians. She also visited the new library technician programs in Ontario to assist them in the organization of their new programs and to examine whether their libraries could support these programs.

– Jean Weibs

As I Saw It: The Great Northwest, 1942

BY ALBERT BOWRON

I was 22 years old when I swore allegiance to the government of the United States of America, so that I could travel up the Alaska Highway for the summer of 1942.

At that time this part of our country was the demesne of the U.S. army, which was building a road linking Alaska with the U.S. through Canada to protect us all from a threatened Japanese invasion and to link a series of air fields.

I had already been a draftsman in a Hamilton steel plant, a surveyor on airports and, in that year, a struggling mechanical engineering student at the University of Toronto.

My Alaska Highway boondoggle was just another summer job that paid \$165 a month with board and travel expenses. Tuition at U of T was \$60 per term in 1942. I jumped at the chance and, in May, travelled west by train.

In Edmonton I was hired by the U.S. Public Roads Administration, medically examined, inoculated, and put on a train for Dawson Creek, B.C. After 13 hours without sleep I, Bob Davis and Glen Campbell arrived. Dawson Creek was a wild, chaotic boomtown spread over the muddy countryside – an entrepôt of jeeps, trucks, construction equipment; gloomy, mostly black, American soldiers; confused RCMP constables keeping the peace; and supplies of infinite variety and tonnage.

After a night's sleep a bus carried us to the beautiful Peace River valley, the river majestically in flood. We crossed by barge near the new suspension bridge being constructed and boarded a new sedan for a stately entrance into Fort St. John, a relatively orderly town. For two days we rested in Barrack J, visited the Hudson's Bay post and danced with the girls working in the construction offices. I painted a watercolour of the bunk houses and sold it to a guy from Virginia for two bucks.



Crossing the Peace River

skidded hub-deep through the mire. Gradually we became very sick. After being unable to get a response to our panicky pounding on the front of the box, one of our party ran to the cab as the driver slowed down on a steep grade. After recuperating beside the road, Bob and I left that carbon monoxide cabinet and hitched a ride in an airy station wagon – what comfort! After 140 miles of spectacular mountain scenery and forests of tall slender spruce, we felt much better and continued in a six-wheeled diesel driven by an American soldier who managed to avoid 2000-foot cliffs, washouts and fallen trees.

The next stage of our journey was almost a disaster. Crowded into a box-like structure added to the back of a pickup, we tried to play poker as we bounced and

In 1941 the American army crudely punched the first road through deep gorges, across rivers and over bottomless muskeg that, when thawed, swallowed bulldozers and jeeps whole. Then came Canadian and American civilian contractors to widen, reroute and improve the roadbed for the heavy trucks and buses heading to Fairbanks. Frequent camps were established to house their work crews and amateurs like me. For everyone on the Alcan highway, the constant problems were mud, dust, washouts, huge mosquitoes and rough mountainous terrain.

Finally we arrived at what I thought to be my designated camp, only to be told that I was assigned to the Dufferin Construction Camp near the Yukon border and Watson Lake, Mile 630 from Dawson Creek. I was thankful to have completed my complex journey in an improvised variety of vehicles. However, I was separated from my friends and, as I found out later, the Dufferin Camp was poorly managed – with dirty rooms, primitive latrines and monotonous food.

However, I settled in and spent the rest of the summer in a cramped shack called an office interpreting the



1942 – On a better section of the Alaska Highway

confusing notes of the surveyors in the field, drawing profiles of the road and calculating the quantities of earth and rock to be moved – the cut and fill – to improve my segment of the Alcan.

In 1943, after failing my second try at mechanical engineering, I ceased the struggle and joined the RCAF. □

Class Photo, Library School, University of Toronto, May 1951



How many of these fledgling librarians do you know? Can you add to the following names? Margaret Cockshutt (staff), number 33; Helen -----, 35; Jessie Mifflin, 41; Florence Murray (staff), 51; Melba Morrison, 52; Bertha Bassam (staff), 53; John Dutton, class president, 57; Winifred Barnstead, Director, 58; Noel Owens, 59; Mary Silverthorn (staff), 61; Ruth James, 62; Sam Neil, 64; Stan Richards, 66; Howard Overend, 67; Larry Weidrick, 68; and Father McDonald, 70. Help, anyone?

ELA T-Shirts Can be Ordered by Mail!

Our t-shirt with the distinctive Ex Libris Association logo makes a great gift for retirees, anniversary celebrations, presentations, or for children's reading awards. Made with short sleeves, of good quality cotton, we have a supply of most sizes and colours. Price includes mailing and is \$17 for adult and \$10 for children's sizes. We also have a new style with a white logo on red or navy:

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- Red with white logo: Xtra Large and Large
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- Yellow with black logo: Medium
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- Orange with black logo: Medium and Small
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Milestones

Compiled by Merlyn Beeckmans

Obituaries

Barbara Elizabeth (Tubman) Beardsley died on February 11, 2005 at her home in Milford, Ontario at the age of 77. She received a BLS degree from the University of Toronto in 1962. She worked at the Education Centre Library (Toronto Board of Education) and for the ONTERIS project (Province of Ontario).

Robert David Binkley died on February 25, 2005 in Peterborough, Ontario at the age of 52. He was educated at the Universities of Toronto, Western Ontario and Waterloo. He worked at Trent University. He developed the AVISO software program and contributed to the development of GODOT, a document-request system.

John Alexander Bovey died in Winnipeg on January 12, 2005 at the age of 70. He was an historian and archivist, serving as such in the Northwest Territories (1960s), Manitoba (1970s) and British Columbia (1980-1998).

Ruth Patricia Brooking died on January 11, 2005 in Oshawa, Ontario at the age of 76. She received a BLS from the University of Toronto. She was the CEO of the Oshawa Public Library from 1974 to 1993.

Diane E.M. Cooper died on September 17, 2004 at the age of 61. She was a fine arts reference librarian at the University of British Columbia Library for 39 years.

Mary Higgins died on November 8, 2004 in Toronto at the age of 87. She received a BLS in 1940. She was deputy chief librarian for the City of York Public Library.

Margaret Noreen (McManus) Hyland died on January 30, 2005 in Pointe-Claire, Quebec at the age of 76. She received a BLS from McGill University in 1952.

Jean Irene Lavender died on February 23 in Lindsay, Ontario at the age of 87. She held a BLS from the University of Toronto. She was music librarian at the Royal Conservatory of Music and later became head librarian at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto.

Edith Mildred (Gibson) Lawford died on February 18, 2005 in Markdale, Ontario at the age of 91. She held an MLS.

Mary Ruth Thompson died on May 28, 2004. She received a BLS in 1953 and an MLS in 1970 from the University of Toronto. She was young adults librarian and later head of the Westdale Branch of the Hamilton Public Library.

Rosemarie Wolfe died December 3, 2004 in Toronto at the age of 85. She was a librarian at the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Jean Woodrow died on June 11, 2004 in Vancouver at the age of 97. She received an MLS from the University of Washington. She was a teacher-librarian for a total of 30 years at two Vancouver high schools. She contributed her considerable musical skills to both her high schools and to her church. She left a bequest to the Vancouver School of Theology Library.

Muriel Margaret Wright died on January 22, 2005 in Kamloops, B.C. at the age of 90. She held a BLS. She retired as head librarian at Macdonald College (McGill University) in 1979.

Patricia Helen Yamamota died on June 17, 2004. She was a librarian with the University of Toronto at Scarborough for 30 years.

Awards

Wendy Newman (MLS 1985) was awarded the Faculty of Information Studies Alumni (University of Toronto) Jubilee Award last spring. Wendy was chief librarian of the Brantford Public Library and co-chair of the Joint ALA-CLA Conference in June 2003.

Judith St. John (Dip. Lib. 1934) received the 70th Anniversary University of Toronto Chancellor's Medal on August 4, 2004 in conjunction with her 90th birthday. She was a children's librarian at the Toronto Public Library (1934-1952) and head of the Osbourne Collection (1952-1979).

Lorna Rourke, of the University of Guelph Library, received the Academic Librarianship Award in recognition by her peers of her significant contributions to academic life.

Retirements

Barbara Lee retired as associate director of Library Services for Canadore College and Nipissing University, after 30 years of dedicated service.

Lynda MacLeod retired at the end of July 2004 as the Reference Services library technician at the Lakeshore Campus of Humber College. She had served for 23 years.

Karen Melville retired from her position as Professional Learning Centre director at the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto. She was instrumental in making the Centre the largest continuing education program for the information field in North America.

Milestones, continued

Donna Munroe retired in February 2004 from her position as head librarian at Citizenship and Immigration Canada. During her career with the Government of Canada, she served in the National Library of Canada, National Archives of Canada, and Employment and Immigration Canada.

News

The late **Florence Partridge**, long-time chief librarian of the University of Guelph, left a considerable legacy to the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, in support of student learning and librarianship.

News from America: Letter to ELAN

Hello,

I read this in ELAN, Number 36/Fall 2004:

"Laura Soto-Barra, MLS (University of Toronto, 1991) is assistant managing editor and librarian at the *Post Standard* in Middleton, Wisconsin."

I appreciate you keeping my colleagues and friends informed, but I actually work in Syracuse, New York, that's where the *Post-Standard* is...! Would you run a correction?

And now that I have your attention, may I tell you about our latest project? We digitized our microfilm, 1829-2004, and have opened the Post-Standard Archives to the public. It's paid service but it's very affordable. See

<http://poststandard.newspaperarchive.com>.

This is a unique project for a regional newspaper. Most important, we didn't pay a cent. We are the only newspaper in the US who accepted a free digitization offer from a microfilm company. I understand this is an offer open to Canadian newspapers too.

Thanks,
Laura Soto-Barra, Liverpool, NY

WE INVITE YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN ELA

This is your organization and you are invited to get involved. If you would like to be on a committee, or even be a corresponding member of a committee, or just help out from time to time, please get in touch with Frances Davidson-Arnott (frances.davidson-arnott@senecac.on.ca) or any of the executive.

Stephen J. Kees died on September 10, 2004 after a long professional career. In 1937, he began studies at the School of Librarianship of University College in London, England. With an interruption for war service, he ended his studies in 1947. In 1948, he was awarded the Fellowship certificate of the Library Association. After positions in the London area, he accepted a position as intern at the Toronto Public Library in 1957 and emigrated to Canada. The following year, he was appointed librarian in the Research Department of the Ontario Paper Company, in the Niagara Peninsula. When the newly instituted

colleges of applied arts and technology opened in 1967, he was appointed chief librarian of the college being formed in the Niagara area. There he remained until his retirement in 1984. This appointment included assisting in the design of the first custom-designed library in the community college system. Following retirement he was appointed to the Town of Pelham's Public Library Board in 1984 and served on the board until 1993. Increasing eyesight problems resulted in his becoming completely blind by 1995. He is survived by his wife Mollie, who had also served on the Public Library Board.

BACK ISSUES OF EX LIBRIS NEWS

The Board of the Ex Libris Association has authorized the sale of back issues, *Ex Libris News*. Single issues are available at a cost of \$2.00 per copy; a complete set of back issues from Number 1 to 28 is available for \$24.00.

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