When putting together this annual report for my year as 2011 President of the Ontario Library Association, three words came to mind — exciting, eventful and memorable. It has been an honour to serve as the president of my association and also a remarkable learning experience. This year was an opportunity for me to work with the 2011 board on several exciting achievements and meet many new members of our association. I discovered how diverse our profession is, how hard our members work to make this association the best and a leader, and how passionate our members are about their profession.

My role as president of OLA, in conjunction with the board, was to champion the OLA strategic plan and its four strategic priorities: growing career paths and potential, collaborating to extend libraries strategic voice, transforming ideas into solutions, and strengthening the organization. As president, I was also able to participate in several great events this past year. I found myself getting caught up in the excitement alongside 8,000 children at the Forest of Reading Festival, scanning the crowd for my favorite authors. My friend Brian Nettlefold gave me a personal tour of the beautiful Nippising University/Canadore College's Learning Library and we got to enjoy a lecture by Rod Carley, Coordinator of Canadore College's Theatre Arts Program at the OCULA Fall Event. The Book and Periodical Council and OLA's Idea Exchange: “Crisis or Opportunity? School Libraries in the 21st Century” was edifying and the WNYO-ACRL Spring Conference, provided an opportunity to work alongside many creative people at the Innovation Boot Camp, which was run by the amazing University of Guelph team, M.J. D’Eli, Randy Oldham and Sarah Barriage. But with all the fun, there was an equal amount of hard work.

GROWING CAREER PATHS AND POTENTIAL
OLA’s first strategic goal is growing career paths and potential. OLA must provide progressive professional development and ample learning opportunities. One of my aims as president this year was to offer a virtual conference, as part of our successful Super Conference (more on the conference later). The virtual conference committee, under the leadership of Michelle Arbuckle, made available the “2012 Virtual Experience Portal,” in response to membership’s requests for alternatives. This new product enabled our membership to: attend the conference from a distance; bring the conference back to their workplace for review; use the sessions as training modules; and attend more conference sessions than they were physically able to do in the past. The OLA staff and the board want the association to be the “go to place” for our membership, so we will continue to develop new offerings every year. With each passing year, it seems the benchmark for these offers rises, but we will continue to react to the demand. As part of celebrating this strategic goal, the Dr. Janette Baker Scholarship was awarded to Meghana Jakate and Heather Lavallee. On behalf of OLA, I would like to send congratulations to these individuals as they embark on a path towards a career full of challenges and rewards.

The Ontario Library Association is known for our mentoring and career development programs, and as president, I was able to recognize the significant work of one of our members. Jim Brett, University of Guelph, McLaughlin Library was awarded the 2012 OLA President’s Award for Exceptional Achievement for his outstanding contribution in the leadership, development and implementation of the OLA Mentoring and Career Development Program. Through such work, Jim Brett has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the library profession and his passion and commitment to the importance of
credible and valuable mentoring and career development programs has made a difference in our association, and the membership services and resources we are providing. Jim’s success has demonstrated the importance of mentoring students joining our profession and also the importance of professional development for both the young and more experienced practitioners in our field. Congratulations Jim.

COLLABORATING TO EXTEND LIBRARIES’ STRATEGIC VOICE
In both the public and academic sector, this past year was difficult for many library systems in Ontario. Labour challenges, policy changes and budgetary cuts continue to affect both library staff and their respective communities, and the libraries/users have only begun their recovery. The OLA Board members and staff were involved in several advocacy issues this year, ensuring that the appropriate letters and documentation were sent out, that our website was kept up to date with key issues, and information on steps and actions taken by OLA, and information on how members can get involved. An achievement of the 2011 OLA board was the approval and creation of an OLA Advocacy Committee. This committee will play a critical role and will be the voice for libraries and the information sector, and the communities they serve. The committee members are: Tanis Fink (college sector), Michael Rosettis (school sector), Rochelle Mazur (university sector), Bessie Sullivan (public library sector), Diane Macklin (public library sector), Sherry Lawson (First Nations), Shelagh Paterson and Carla Wintersgill (OLA staff). The Advocacy Committee has identified a number of issues that prevent decision makers and potential library users from fully supporting libraries and will be developing plans to: help people understand what people who work in libraries do; articulate the changing nature of what a library is; and address some of our own professional barriers by speaking with one voice. One of our first initiatives was the “What I Do Library” campaign. The OLA Advocacy Committee asked librarians and library workers what their working days really looked like. Delegates at the OLA Super Conference 2012 shared their roles in writing and by tweeting using the hashtag #whatidolibrary. The wordle below is a transcription of those ideas. OLA needs to continue its advocacy growth as the value of libraries continues to be challenged.

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION
The most significant 2011 initiative was the successful implementation of the Technology Plan and will continue to be a priority for several years. The board realizes that technology is the key enabler for the success of our association and for the achievement of our strategic plan. We now have a three-year IT road map, which consists of several components: a strong web presence and content management system, an improved OLA store e-commerce platform, improved membership management tools, a new learning management system, improved services for all our members and improved working processes for the OLA staff. With this capital investment, the next three years are going to be transformational for OLA’s online presence. The development and implementation of the IT Plan is a reflection of the hard work of the OLA Board, but also the strong leadership and contribution of Shelagh Paterson, Helios He, and OLA staff.

TRANSFORMING IDEAS INTO SOLUTIONS
The Annual Institute on Library as Place was a project under the leadership of our 2010 OLA President, Mary Ann Mavrinac and was a great success. A steering
A committee was formed and the first Annual Institute on the Library as Place was held on July 12, 2011 at the University of Toronto. Interest demanded that the event be expanded to include 60 delegates and proved a great learning experience.

This year’s Institute will take place over two days, July 10 – July 11 and will be held at the Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood. It is going to be a great event, so register now: http://bit.ly/IRqKJ5. The OLITA lending library, another new initiative, focused on transforming ideas into solutions by making available 25 Sony e-readers and five Flip videos to our membership. Thank you to OLITA for spearheading that great initiative.

SUPER CONFERENCE
The theme of the 2012 Super Conference was Innovation — Imagine.Innovate.Impact and one word comes to mind — WOW! This event gets better every year and is a success thanks to the enormous amount of work done by our volunteers, conference planners, board members and of course, OLA staff. What a Super Conference to be president of. My favourite conference events were: presenting awards to outstanding members, individuals and institutions including Margaret Ann Wilkinson, Bonnie Starr, Jim Brett, Sam Coghlan, Brantford Public Library, Carole Moore, Robin Bergart and M.J. D’Elia, Scholars GeoPortal, Margaret Rule, Shonna Froebel, Ken Roberts, Bernard Dowling, Helen Fisher and the People for Education; introducing and listening to inspirational speakers such as Tom Wujec, Neil Pasricha, Jonah Lehrer (he was my favourite), Catherine Gildiner and Nora Young; doing the hustle with 400 delegates; getting to meet the famous librarian, Nancy Pearl; honouring a student activist, Michael Lajoie-Wilkinson; having one of Seneca College students win the Super Conference Artwork Design Competition, Weimar Lee; and eating lunch with George. The energy at the conference was contagious and I would say— “the best conference ever”. Congratulations to our Super Conference co-chairs, Kristin Hoffmann and Jim Brett, the division and stream planners, the dozens of OLA committee volunteers and the incredible OLA staff.

THE MANY THANKS
As reflected in this annual report, 2011 was an exciting year for the OLA with several achievements being made. I had the privilege to work with a very strong, dynamic, insightful board. The 2011 Executive of the Board was made up of four individuals with different working experiences, expertise and backgrounds, but they shared a similarity — in being four bright, committed and
passionate library supporters. I want to thank Mary Ann Mavrinac, Karen McGrath, and Paul Takala for their wonderful support to me as president, and also for their hard work and many contributions to the OLA. Next are the 2011 presidents and vice-presidents of the OLA divisions — OSLA, OLBA, OCULA, OPLA, OLITA and ABO-Franco. These individuals are responsible for providing leadership to their individual sectors and ensuring that their sector needs are being met, but also come together to form the OLA board and provide the direction and support to ensure that our association is being effective and meeting the needs of our membership. Thank you to the OCULA team of Janice Mutz and Lynn Prunskus, the OLBA duo of Joyce Cunningham, and Frances Ryan, the OPLA team of Tammy Robinson and Lila Saab, the OSLA partnership of Roger Nevin and Elizabeth Gordon, the ABO-Franco duo of Monique Brûlé and Cathy Seaman and finally to the tech team of Krista Godfrey and Nick Ruest. You are an amazing group of people, and thank you for making my year as president such a memorable one. Special thanks to the OLA staff, Helios, Beckie, Liz, Michelle, Meredith, Carla, Suzanne, Yvon, Mark, Claire, Melissa and Brian. Thank you for all your support this year and never tiring of my many questions, also a thank you to Brian for your great photography skills. A special thank you to our Executive Director, Shelagh Paterson who had the most unbelievable patience that was always accompanied by smile and offer of support. Our 2012 president is Karen McGrath from Niagara College and has already demonstrated her strong visionary and leadership skills implementing initiatives already. Congratulations Karen, you will be an amazing president of OLA for 2012. Go Colleges Go!!!

Finally, I want thank the Seneca College senior administration for enabling me to be the OLA president, especially my boss Laurel Schollel. Also, big thanks to the wonderful Seneca Library staff that I have the pleasure to work with everyday and who continuously supported me and championed me in this extraordinary role.

THE FINAL THOUGHTS

It was a year of innovation, but also a year of challenges. Advocacy was a significant piece, as the value of libraries continues to be challenged. Together, library associations and those that work in libraries need to champion what we do. We need to make our association a stronger advocate for our profession. It is an important time for us to become strong, active members by: being informed of the advocacy issues, writing letters, joining OLA committees, attending conferences, participating and voting at the meetings of your particular sector. Let us build an association together that is a strong unified voice for libraries. Thank you again for the honour of being your OLA 2011 president and hope to see you at the 2013 Super Conference. Be innovative, and of course, “Do the hustle.”

2012 Super Conference Planning Team
Top left: Karen and Tanis in their Friday Night Party disco gear.

Right: Seneca Libraries Extraordinary Team attending Super Conference (Patricia Presti is an honourary member)

Below: CBC personality George Stroumboulopoulos jokes with fans at the Super Conference gala luncheon.
**OLA BY THE NUMBERS**

**2011**

**Membership**

- **5153** OLA members
- **4576** Super Conference participants
- **18** print publications designed and distributed through the OLA office

**Social Networking**

- **781** LinkedIn group members
- **523** Facebook “Likes”
  - facebook.com/accessola
- **1549** Twitter followers
  - twitter.com/ONLibraryAssoc
- **50** Tumblr posts
  - olastaff.tumblr.com

**The OLA Store**

**BEST-SELLING TITLES**

1. Marvelous Minilessons for Teaching Beginning Writing, K to 3 by Lori Jamison Rog
2. Classroom Strategies for Interactive Learning, 3/e by Doug Buehl
4. Marvelous Minilessons for Teaching Intermediate Writing, Grades 4-6 by Lori Jamison Rog
5. Reference and Information Services in the 21st Century, Rev. 2/e by Kay Ann Cassell and Uma Hiremath
6. Library and Information Center Management, 7/e by Robert D. Stueart and Barbara B. Moran
7. Building Reading Comprehension Habits in Grades 6-12: A Toolkit of Classroom Activities, 2/e by Jeff Zwiers
9. Genreflecting: A Guide to Popular Reading Interests, 6/e by Diana Tixier Herald and Wayne A. Wiegand
10. The Literacy Coach’s Survival Guide: Essential Questions and Practical Answers by Cathy A. Toll

**Forest of Reading**

- **134,460** eligible Forest of Reading voters
- **170,566** Forest participants recorded through voting
- **15,000** approximate number of Festival attendees
- **New award:** Le Prix Tamarack Express added
- **Doubled:** Red Maple voting in 2011 from 2010. It is the most popular program to date
- **One week:** Time it took for Silver Birch Fiction, Red Maple and Le Prix Tamarack ceremonies to sell out

**Education Institute**

- **387** Sites attending EI sessions
- **Most popular one hour web conference:**
  - Canadian Copyright, DRM and eBooks: A primer for librarians with Dr. Sam Trosow
- **Most popular six week course:** Supervisory skills for library staff with Cheryl Stenstrom
- **54%** of sites attending EI sessions were public libraries
REPORT OF PAUL TAKALA
OLA TREASURER

Thanks to the hard work of staff and the volunteer efforts of many members, OLA continues to remain financially healthy. On behalf of the board and staff, I am pleased to report that OLA had another strong year. Our accumulated surplus now reaches $1,136,711; in 2011 our revenue exceeded expenditures by $91,762. The financial health of OLA has enabled the Board to make investments in many special projects. In support of our current strategic plan some of our reserve funds have been invested into improving the technology that underpins a lot of the work that staff do. The Board is making this investment to improve services to members and to ensure office operations are efficient and sustainable.

Top left: Author Kevin Sylvester signs autographs at the Harbourfront Centre for the 2011 Festival of Trees. Top right: The Festival crowd cheers for the winner. Below: Author Vicki Grant reacts to winning the 2011 Red Maple™ Award.
**BALANCE SHEET**

Drawn from the audited statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 with the audited comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2010.

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Audited 2011</th>
<th>Audited 2010 (re-stated)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalent</td>
<td>934,649</td>
<td>1,296,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>677,334</td>
<td>958,619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due from Knowledge Ontario</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2,155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>50,555</td>
<td>73,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses - conference</td>
<td>46,491</td>
<td>47,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- other</td>
<td>36,910</td>
<td>18,797</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>1,745,939</td>
<td>2,397,262</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CAPITAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital assets</td>
<td>179,376</td>
<td>98,944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>615,397</td>
<td>630,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>2,540,712</td>
<td>3,126,827</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Audited 2011</th>
<th>Audited 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>611,385</td>
<td>730,973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due to CELPLO</td>
<td>3,235</td>
<td>474,167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due to OHLA</td>
<td>1,384</td>
<td>1,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to OALT</td>
<td>5,636</td>
<td>5,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to Knowledge Ontario</td>
<td>1,773</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue - grants</td>
<td>8,950</td>
<td>8,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- conference</td>
<td>760,061</td>
<td>847,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>1,392,424</td>
<td>2,068,429</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due to Restricted Funds</td>
<td>11,577</td>
<td>13,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>1,404,001</td>
<td>2,081,878</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Audited 2011</th>
<th>Audited 2010</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balance</td>
<td>1,136,711</td>
<td>1,044,949</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</strong></td>
<td>2,540,712</td>
<td>3,126,827</td>
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**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Audited 2011</th>
<th>Audited 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Due from General Fund</td>
<td>11,577</td>
<td>13,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>126,763</td>
<td>124,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</strong></td>
<td>138,340</td>
<td>138,400</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Audited 2011</th>
<th>Audited 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balance</td>
<td>138,340</td>
<td>138,400</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</strong></td>
<td>2,679,052</td>
<td>3,265,227</td>
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# STATEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Audited 2011</th>
<th>Audited 2010 (re-stated)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL OPERATIONS AND ADVOCACY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>288,572</td>
<td>307,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>35,800</td>
<td>35,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations, contributions, interest</td>
<td>22,668</td>
<td>21,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>112,601</td>
<td>104,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>459,641</td>
<td>469,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td>(1,265,175)</td>
<td>(1,239,048)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net for General Activities</strong></td>
<td>(805,534)</td>
<td>(769,992)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **REVENUE PRODUCING ACTIVITIES** |              |                          |
| Super Conference                |              |                          |
| Revenue                         | 1,171,296    | 1,103,920                |
| Expense                         | (624,473)    | (772,364)                |
| **Net**                         | 546,823      | 331,556                  |

| Sales Materials                 |              |                          |
| Revenue                         | 614,355      | 637,626                  |
| Expense                         | (491,206)    | (407,848)                |
| **Net**                         | 123,149      | 229,778                  |

| Continuing Education and Magazines |              |                          |
| Revenue                            | 143,052      | 145,167                  |
| Expense                            | (164,506)    | (141,374)                |
| **Net**                            | (21,454)     | 3,793                    |

| Special Projects/Board Issues, Research |              |                          |
| Revenue - contract administration   | 170,435      | 165,117                  |
| - government project grants         | 1,170        | 74,190                   |
| - registrations, sale materials, contributions | 281,512 | 301,645 |
| Expense                            | (204,339)    | (290,892)                |
| **Net**                            | 248,778      | 250,060                  |

| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES |              |                          |
|                                    | 91,762       | 45,195                   |
| Accumulated surplus at beginning of year | 1,044,949 | 999,754                  |

| ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT END OF YEAR | 1,136,711 | 1,044,949 |

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**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

Drawn from the audited statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 with the audited comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2010.

Complete audited statements for the year ended December 31, 2011, as prepared by the accounting firm of Harris & Chong LLP, and accepted on June 8, 2012 at the 2011 OLA Annual General Meeting, are available on the OLA website at www.accessola.com.
En 2011, l'Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario-Franco a réalisé la plupart des objectifs qu'elle s'était fixés dans son plan stratégique.

En lien avec l'objectif du réseautage, l'ABO-Franco a participé à la migration des données du site Web vers la nouvelle interface du Ontario Library Association. De nouveaux forums de discussion ont été créés dans le OLA Community, notamment un forum explorant la littérature canadienne-française.

En lien avec les objectifs visant la promotion et la tenue d'événements locaux ainsi que la promotion de la littérature franco-ontarienne, l'ABO-Franco a offert 5 ateliers en français et un atelier-vedette sur le livre numérique lors de la SuperConférence 2012. En moyenne, une dizaine de membres ont participé à chacun des ateliers. Dans le but de promouvoir le Prix Tamarac de la Forêt de la lecture, l'ABO-Franco a géré l'installation de kiosques d'information à deux événements littéraires francophones, soit le Salon du livre de Toronto et le Festival du livre de l’est ontarien. Mireille Messier, auteure franco-ontarienne, était présente au Salon de Toronto et a parlé du Prix Tamarac lors de sa présentation aux élèves. En janvier 2012, la Forêt de la lecture annonçait la création d’un nouveau prix de littérature en français, soit le Prix Peuplier, qui vise la littérature jeunesse en format album. Dans le cadre des célébrations de la Forêt de la lecture à Harbourfront, quelque 170 élèves ont participé au dévoilement des gagnants des prix Tamarac et Tamarac Express.


Enfin, le plan stratégique de l'ABO-Franco sera modifié en 2012 suivant la compilation des résultats d’un premier sondage en ligne qui a été lancé en janvier 2012 et d’un 2e sondage lancé au printemps 2012.
I’d like to begin this president’s report by saying a bit about the OCULA council environment. We talk a lot about “collegiality” in the academic world, but this council truly embodies the concept. Respect and open discussion are hallmarks of this group, with all council members committed to working on initiatives that make a positive impact on OCULA members. To that end, this report will detail the continuing work of this council of aligning our goals to OLA’s strategic plan.

**GROWING CAREER PATHS AND POTENTIAL:**
We are in the 3rd year of the OCULA Resident Librarian program, which gives a recent graduate a chance to obtain experience in an academic setting. This year we had three applications and the winning submission was from UT Mississauga for an innovative new position: a social media librarian. Eva Stepanian was the successful candidate and has already attended two council meetings. We are looking for new ways to fund this program and have struck a sub-committee to investigate other sources of funding.

The spring dinner in May was a great way to network with colleagues. UT Mississauga was the venue this year and about 45 people attended the dinner and had a chance to tour the Hazel McCallion Learning Centre and listen to Dr. Alexandra Gillespie speak about manuscripts, printing presses and our assumptions about both.

The mentoring committee does a fabulous job throughout the year and at Super Conference. Mock interviews, reviewing resumes, and this year, the Human Library, are just a few of their services. Special thanks to Jim Brett, Laurie Morrison and Courtney Lundrigan for all their efforts in this area.

In the Fall, Nipissing University/Canadore College hosted a dinner/tour of their brand new library. We thank everyone who ventured a bit further afield to tour the new library and hear an award-winning professor (Rod Carley).

**STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION**
Super Conference 2012 was another great success. Thanks to our hardworking team of Jonathan Bengtson, Cyndi Smith and Monica Rettig for providing thought provoking sessions, and a dynamic spotlight speaker, Brewster Kahle.

Congratulations to our award winners: Carole Moore of University of Toronto for Lifetime Achievement and the dynamic duo of Robin Bergart and M.J. D’Elia from University of Guelph for Innovation Boot Camp, which was awarded the OCULA Award for Special Achievement. Sarah Barriage of UWO won the Student Lightning Strikes at Super Conference, a unique award where the audience votes for the best presentation.

In closing, I’d like to thank the Council (especially Cynthia Williamson for stepping in as past president and Kathryn Klages, departing councillor/treasurer) and all the OLA Staff (especially Shelagh Paterson, Helios He, Liz Kerr and Michelle Arbuckle) for their assistance and patience. And for the new council, I leave you in the very capable hands of Jennifer Peters (Seneca College), who has been involved in various capacities with OCULA for a number of years. I look forward to working with her on new and exciting ventures.
For the past two years, the council of OLBA has governed itself according to its Strategic Plan. Thus we concentrated on development or growth in four areas: Leadership by Design, Communication, Positioning, Presence & Profile, and finally Partnerships. This past year, we also integrated the objectives outlined in that plan with the priorities of the OLA Strategic Plan. Although we initially found this challenging, we did come to realize that there are many similarities in the two plans.

GROWING CAREER PATHS AND POTENTIAL:
• The tenth and final workshop of Networking with our Peers was held in London in May. The workbook was updated to reflect that we have now started new terms on public library boards.
• We entered into a contract with Andrewesloucks to update and improve “One Place to Look.”
• We updated “Effective Board Governance” by removing references to materials that were no longer available and providing links to useful webinars.

COLLABORATING TO EXTEND LIBRARIES’ STRATEGIC VOICE:
• Follow-up networking sessions that included both CEOs and board members were held in Nipigon and Dryden.
• In September the OLBA council and the OPLA council met jointly to discuss areas of mutual interest and explore ways that we might collaborate in the future.
• Several councilors participated in the webinars offered by Ontario Library Services North. Jane Hilton, our past president, presented the webinar entitled “The Board as Team.”
• Several councilors attended Southern Ontario Library Trustee Council meetings to provide information about OLBA, its mandate, its initiatives and the resources it provides.
• I was part of a panel discussion at the OLSN conference in May on the topic of Library Board/ Municipal Council Relationships.
• Frances Ryan and Beth Phieffer presented a session on Networking With Our Peers at the OLSN conference.
• Jane Hilton wrote articles about effective governance and the role of board members for both Inside OLBA and Access Magazine.

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION:
• We received the report from Leslie Yeates of ROCG. We then established a marketing committee to study the report and make recommendations for implementing some of the suggestions.
• As members of the OLA Board, both Frances Ryan and I participated on committees such as the By Law Review Committee and the OLA Strategic Planning Core Team. Through these committees and collaboration with outside organizations, we gain an understanding of the larger library world and share our knowledge of the role and responsibilities of library boards.
• We have continued to explore ways to improve communication with our members.

I found my year as President to be busy but rewarding. My association with the other members of the OLA Board has led to a new appreciation of the strength and depth of our organization. At the OLBA council I have been impressed by the dedication and knowledge revealed. I very much appreciate the help offered throughout the year.

I wish to express my deep thanks to Shelagh Paterson and the rest of the staff for their support, their expertise and their enthusiasm.

Did you know?
OLBA HAD THE HIGHEST INCREASE IN MEMBER NUMBERS OUT OF ALL THE OLA DIVISIONS IN 2011. IT ADDED 327 NEW MEMBERS.
It was another amazing year for OLITA! Our new strategic plan meant a number of new initiatives. A huge thanks goes to OLITA council and volunteers for the success of these new initiatives.

OLITA Accomplishments:

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION
OLITA held one of its most successful Digital Odysseys this year. Eric Hellman of Gluejar was the keynote for this year’s Digital Odyssey: Ebook (R)evolution. The importance of the topic is seen in the fact that we had 191 attendees. This year saw both a hands-on workshop and the addition of a virtual session, which allowed presenters from further distances to share their expertise. Many thanks to Michelle Arbuckle and Sally Wilson for helping make the day a success.

Super Conference saw another strong showing in the OLITA sessions and our spotlight panel. Thanks to Steve Marks and Elizabeth Goldman for pulling together such a stellar conference.

OLITA continued to contribute to Access Magazine with thoughtful pieces. Thanks to Aaron Lupton for coordinating them.

COLLABORATING TO EXTEND LIBRARIES STRATEGIC VOICE
PlanetOLITA, which features technology related feeds via RSS, was launched on the OLITA blog. This allows for one stop access to relevant technology news. Check it out at http://www.accessola2.com/olita/insideolita/wordpress/

Special thanks to Fiacre O’Duinn for maintaining our blog.

GROWING CAREER PATHS
This year, OLITA launched Appetizers, a series of short introductions to technology. Thanks to Mita Williams and others who have offered content.

http://www.accessola2.com/olita/insideolita/wordpress/

TRANSFORMING IDEAS INTO SOLUTIONS
OLITA’s Technology Lending Library has been a huge success. This year’s library started with Flip video cameras and e-book readers. The most recent addition has been Android tablets. Interested libraries can borrow the technology and are required to share their results with the library community. Presently, there have been over 28 participants and there is a waiting list. Those interested can visit http://bit.ly/x1TU82 for more information. Thanks to David Fiander, Andrea Kosavic, Beckie MacDonald and the OLA office for all their help with this initiative.

The winner of the OLITA Award for Technological Innovation: Scholars GeoPortal by Ontario Council of University Libraries.
It has been another busy year for the OSLA. Our main focus is still advocacy to support and improve school library programs across the province.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE LAST YEAR INCLUDE:

• A personal highlight of the year was presenting Michael Lajoie the OLA’s 2012 Media and Communications Award at the 2012 Super Conference Gala for his tremendous advocacy for school libraries during the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board attempt to eliminate school libraries in the spring of 2011. This grade 10 student stepped up: using Facebook he organized a student walk-out, then launched an online petition — which many of our members signed, he contacted and spoke to the local union, was interviewed by the media and spoke at two school trustee meetings, making the case from the users perspective of how important the library was to his schoolwork.

• People for Education have been very strong advocates for us, especially over the last year. In recognition of this, they received the OSLA’s Special Achievement Award for 2011 which was presented to Annie Kidder.

• Derrick Grose is new to the council and will have the important role of gathering data on the status of school library programs in school boards across the province. The OSLA received funding from the OLA for this initiative. The data gathered by Derrick will be used to help advocate for school library programs and identify school boards with challenges in their school library programs.

• Ruth Hall, OSLA council member and editor of The Teaching Librarian helped run the OSLA video contest. The OSLA asked schools from across the province to submit short videos on the theme School Libraries Matter. We had some excellent entries. To see videos and the winners go to tinyurl.com/oslavideo

• An Idea exchange — Crisis or opportunity: school libraries in the 21st century was held in December 2011. Diana Maliszewski represented the OSLA. Another exchange may be held in the Windsor area, in the same area that the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board tried to eliminate all school libraries.

• Shelagh Paterson and I had a meeting with the Mary Jean Gallagher, Policy Advisor, Student Achievement at the Ministry of Education in April 2011 and brought across a number of issues:
  - We discussed concern about the suspended funding from the original $120 million promised by the premier in 2007
  - We also discussed concern about the removal of the requirement for a teacher who has the school library program A/Q training due to the trade agreement.
  - Further integration of the vision of Together for Learning into the curriculum and other board initiatives were discussed with a request for support and resources from the ministry.
  - Unfortunately none of these issues has been addressed by the ministry.

• Ruth Hall, Elizabeth Gordon, Diana Maliszewski and myself helped run a very successful OTF library summer camp from July 6th to 8th 2011 in Toronto with 50 participants. We presented and collaborated on different resources and activities that promote together for learning (togetherforlearning.ca) and improve school libraries programs. See tinyurl.com/otfcamp

• The Association of Library Consultants and Coordinators of Ontario (TALCO) and the OSLA have made stronger connections. Former OSLA council member and TALCO member, Anita Brooks-Kirkland has agreed to liaison with the OSLA through attending our meetings. Both TALCO and the OSLA are advocates for strong school library programs. Anita also received funding from the OLA to continue her work on the Together for Learning web site (togetherforlearning.ca).

• The OSLA received a grant from the ministry to create resources on financial literacy. The project is almost done and will be presented at the Ontario Mathematics for Ontario Education (OAME) conference in May 2012. See chirpy.ca

• Hon. Laurel Broten, Minister of Education spoke
It was a very busy and productive year for the OPLA Council. We focused much of our energy on OPLA’s contribution to the OLA Strategic Plan. We focused on identifying OPLA’s specific initiatives that align with the OLA’s plan of growing career paths and potential, collaborating to extend libraries strategic voice, transforming ideas into solutions, and strengthening our organization. I have particularly enjoyed being the OPLA rep for the strategic planning committee.

Our two OPLA Committees also had a successful 2011. The Children & Youth Services Committee continues to advocate and raise awareness while working towards the advancement of Children’s and Teen Services. The Committee started the process for the Youth Services Survey, which follows quickly on the heels of their successful Children’s Survey, which was just completed last year. The committee also held their second Children & Youth Services Expo at Super Conference, which was also a success.

The Readers’ Advisory Committee continued its work on developing the components for RA competencies — the skills needed by public library staff to provide a high level of service to adult readers. They also had another very successful RA in a Day Workshop with approximately 150 people in attendance.

Rudi Denhem continues to work tirelessly on the HoOPLA newsletter. If you haven’t read one lately, I encourage you to do so as it contains many interesting articles written by your colleagues from public libraries across Ontario.

Our 2011 Super Conference Planning Team also did an amazing job of coordinating an excellent line-up of public library sessions.

Also, congratulations to our OPLA Award Recipients:
- Archival & Preservation Achievement – Brantford Public Library
- Leadership in Adult Readers’ Advisory – Shonna Froebel
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Ken Roberts

Finally, I would like to thank all of the OLA Staff for their support, and assisting me greatly this past year. I also would like to thank the 2011 OPLA Council for their dedication and commitment throughout the year — I am very pleased at what we have accomplished. And a final thank you to OPLA members for allowing me the opportunity to have been your OPLA President through 2011. Being President has been a fabulous experience, and I wish Lila Saab all the best in her term as 2012 President.

Did you know?

OLA MEMBERS ARE NOT ONLY FROM ONTARIO! WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS FROM ALL PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES AND BEYOND: IRELAND, FRANCE, INDIA, UK, PUERTO RICO AND 16 STATES!
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Super Conference major corporate sponsor, ProQuest, on the Expo floor.
Congratulations to this year's OLA award winners!

THE ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE BEST!

Did you know?

THE OLA AND DIVISIONS HAND OUT UP TO 24 AWARDS EACH YEAR. (nominate a deserving colleague in the fall!)
OLA Board and Councillors, 2011

From left: Tammy Robinson, OPLA president; Roger Nevin, OSLA president; Tanis Fink, OLA president; Joyce Cunningham, OLBA president; Michelle Arbuckle, OLA education co-ordinator; Monique Brulé, ABO-Franco présidente; Janice Mutz, OCULA president.

OLA BOARD EXECUTIVE

President
Tanis Fink, Seneca Libraries

Vice President
Karen McGrath, Niagara College Library

Past President: Mary Ann Mavrinac, University of Toronto at Mississauga

Treasurer: Paul Takala, Hamilton PL

In addition to the board executive, the OLA board is comprised of the President and Vice President of each division.

OCULA

President
Janice Mutz, Lakehead University Library

Vice President
Lyne Prunskus, Nipissing University/Canadore College Library

Past President
Cynthia Williamson, Mohawk College

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Kathryn Klages, Seneca College, King Campus Library

Secretary
Jennifer Horwath, Mohawk College, Fennel Library & Archives

Councillors-at-large

Cory Laverty, Queen’s University, Teacher Resource Centre

Jennifer Peters-Lise, Seneca College, Newnham Campus Library

Sarah Forbes, University of Toronto Scarborough

OLITA

President
Krista Godfrey, Memorial University

Vice President
Nick Ruest, Mills Memorial Library, McMaster University

Past President and Treasurer
Peter Ellinger, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Legislative Library

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David Fiander, University of Western Ontario, Economics Reference Centre

Mita Williams, University of Windsor, Leddy Library

Sally Wilson, Ryerson University Library

Andrea Kosavic, York University Libraries, Scott Library & Archives

Aaron Lupton, York University

Fiacre O’Duinn, Hamilton Public Library

OLBA

President
Joyce Cunningham, Fort Frances Public Library Board

Vice President
Frances Ryan, Sault Ste Marie Public Library Board

Past President
Jane Hilton, Whitby Public Library Board

Regional Councillors

Lynn Humfress Trute, Middlesex County Library Board, Southwestern Region and Treasurer

Jacqueline Houde, Cornwall Public
Library Board, Eastern Region  
Beth Phieffer, Belleville Public Library Board, East-Central Region  
Donald Lynch, Six Nations Public Library Board, Central-West Region  
Kim Vares, Dryden Public Library Board, Northwest Region  
Sheila Taylor, Halton Hills Public Library Board, Mid-Central Region

REPORT OF SHELAGH PATERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OLA

As Tanis Fink, 2011 OLA president remarked in her report, libraries faced a number of challenges in 2011. This continues and is escalating. OLA posted a list of cuts under the headline ‘libraries under attack’ — perhaps dramatic, but if we don’t care who will? OLA members have been taking action — writing to their local MP regarding the elimination of the Community Access Program, writing the Minister of Canadian Heritage about the serious cuts to Library and Archives Canada, and a lively dialogue has been occurring about the looming copyright tariff increase universities and colleges are facing. The Summer 2012 Access Magazine is timely. It is devoted to Social Justice and libraries.

This year, we thanked Wayne Jones, editor-in-chief of Access Magazine for the past four years, who wanted to make way for a new perspective for our members’ magazine. During his tenure, Wayne implemented a new graphic design and cover strategy, developed new columns, and began the process to develop an online presence for the magazine. OLA welcomed Mike Ridley as the new editor-in-chief of Access. He will introduce some edgy and provocative features, and will challenge our members to contemplate our profession in new ways.

My thanks to the 2011 OLA Board and Divisional Councils for their energy, fresh ideas and tenacity. The opportunity to connect with a fresh group of leaders each year is what makes this job interesting. Tanis Fink, 2011 OLA President, injected a collegial and fun atmosphere into the association — from spearheading the giant Hustle at the Super Conference disco party to ensuring that members were listened to when a difficult situation arose, to her support of the OLA staff.

Since launching our current strategic plan in 2010, and the four strategic priorities:

Growing career paths and potential
Collaborating to extend libraries strategic voice
Transforming ideas into solutions
Strengthening our organization

OLA has implemented new committees, transformed OLA’s IT road map, strengthened and created a dynamic and responsive staff team to better meet new priorities, launched new signature events, grown the Super Conference, expanded the Forest of Reading program, and increased our social media presence dramatically. 2012 and 2013 will be another opportunity to connect more closely with members. Under the leadership of Karen McGrath, 2012 OLA president, and Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, 2013 OLA president, we start the process to develop our next strategic plan. We hope you will get involved in the evolution of your association. It can only lead to “The Ultimate Library Experience!”, Karen’s theme for the 2013 OLA Super Conference.