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 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.


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).

COLLABORATING TO EXTEND LIBRARIES STRATEGIC VOICE
Last April OCULA collaborated with WNY/O/ chapter of the ACRL to host the one day workshop “Innovation and Creativity” in beautiful Jordan Station. About 80 people attended from both the U.S. and Canada and feedback was so positive we are holding another workshop there this year.

InsideOCULA published three issues, and featured articles on all these events and more: copyright, virtual reference and updates on people and event news are just some of the topics covered. We are looking at ways of updating the online edition to make it more streamlined and modern, so look for that in the near future.

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 Andrewe sloucks 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!