

REPORT OF SHELAGH PATERSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OLA



First off, I would like to thank Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, president, and the 2013 OLA Board of Directors for their leadership in launching the strategic planning process for 2014–2017. There are so many exciting paths to pursue for the association, and a strategic plan keeps us focused and on target.

2013 was a challenging year for our school library members due to labour unrest. Despite this, and thankfully (teacher-librarians and library technicians are wonderfully tenacious!) they found a way to stay engaged with the association. We were a little concerned about OLA's Forest of Reading Program, but our schools came through, ensuring students still had access to the program and were able to celebrate at Festival of Trees across Ontario. OLA continues to prioritize the challenges school libraries are facing. We had record Ministry of Education participation at the 2014 OLA Super Conference thanks to the efforts of OSLA members.

OLA also moved during 2013 from 50 Wellington Street and the landmark view of Toronto's Flatiron Building to 2 Toronto Street and the landmark view of the King Edward Hotel. We are here 'til 2023! Kudos to the OLA staff team for their enthusiasm and energy during this process. It was certainly the most seamless and organized moving experience I have ever encountered. Stop by and visit us when you are in Toronto.

A few highlights from the past year:

- The OLA Mentoring Committee launched its mentor/mentee matching program.
- The launch of "21st Century School Libraries: Parent Engagement and Student Achievement" tutorial. Are you a parent? Visit our site to learn how you can get involved in supporting reading and learning in school libraries.
- The OLA Copyright Users Committee continued to support the membership by hosting two symposiums geared to copyright officers of college and university libraries.

- Mike Ridley, editor-in-chief, and the editorial team of *ACCESS Magazine* designed the final print magazine and spent the latter part of 2013 planning OLA's new online magazine. *Open Shelf* will launch in July 2014 and will be designed to intrigue, entertain, inform, and be interactive.
- A dynamic 2013 OLA Super Conference thanks to Co-Chairs Lita Barrie and Richard Reid and the planning team.

Susanna Hubbard Krimmer chose "A Universe of Possibilities" for the 2014 Super Conference theme, and we have her to thank for the brilliant finale with Colonel Chris Hadfield. A huge perk of my job is getting to work with a new president every year. Each person brings a different perspective, knowledge base, and personality. Susanna, also CEO of London Public Library, brought her strategic planning and governance expertise to the board table setting the stage for future boards to continue to strengthen the organization. The London Public Library team has been hugely supportive, including an impressively coordinated (with the London-area school boards) London OLA Festival of Trees for 1,500 young readers during May 2014 and as host community for the upcoming Annual Institute on the Library as Place in July 2014.

2014 is election year in Ontario: provincial elections will be held on June 12, 2014, and municipal elections will be held on October 27, 2014. The OLA Board and Advocacy Committee have spent the past year on government engagement. This will serve the association well as we head into election season.

"A Universe of Possibilities" prompted us to "Think It." 2014 OLA president Anita Brooks Kirkland's theme "Think It. Do It!" inspires us to create, innovate and apply. We are not standing still.