

117th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
InterContinental Toronto Centre, Caledon/Oakville Room
Toronto, Ontario

January 30, 2018, 6:00 pm.

DRAFT MINUTES

Presiding: Leslie Weir, OLA President, 2017

1. Welcome

Leslie Weir, president, OLA, welcomed members to the 117th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Library Association.

Ms. Weir provided instructions for remote participants and reminded attendees that they must be an OLA member to vote.

Ms. Weir provided some instructions about processes used in an annual general meeting as follows: A motion is a process for ensuring the relevant business is raised for discussion and voting. For each motion a mover and a seconder are required. This simply puts forth the motion for consideration and discussion. Members who move or second a motion are asked to state their name for the minutes.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was not established at 6 pm and the meeting was adjourned while the special commemoration was presented. As per the by-law stipulation, quorum was then subsequently established as those in attendance following the special commemoration.

3. Special commemoration: Mary J.L. Black

Mary J.L. Black was the first female president elected to OLA in 1917. She was a former Chief Librarian at what is now known as Thunder Bay Public Library. As such, John Pateman, the current CEO of Thunder Bay Public Library is invited to receive the commemorative plaque and to present remarks. These remarks are attached separately to the minutes.

4. Adoption of the Agenda.

Ms. Weir re-convened the OLA Annual General Meeting and declared quorum.

Motion 117 – 1: That the agenda for the 117th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Library Association be approved.

Moved: David Harvey

Seconded: Maggie Weaver

Carried.

OLA 117th Annual General Meeting, January 30, 2018

Special Commemoration

Leslie Weir, OLA President, 2017:

“In keeping with our Fearless theme, we have an important commemoration this evening.

Tonight, we honour the first female president of the Ontario Library Association.

Mary J.L. Black became the association president in 1917 and 100 years ago presided over the 1917 AGM held in 1918.

To put this achievement in context, Canadian women did not fully and freely have the right to vote federally until 1918.

While OLA was founded in 1900 and thus it still took 17 years for a female president, women were actively involved with the association right from the beginning; delivering papers at annual meetings and serving on the board as early as 1909.

Mary Black was a founding leader of libraries in Ontario. She was appointed to the position of librarian at the Fort William Public Library in 1909. At this time the library was one room opposite the jail cells, in the basement of City Hall. During her twenty-eight years of service to the community, she worked tirelessly to improve library service, not just locally, but nationally. In addition to becoming the first woman president of the Ontario Library Association, in 1930 she served on an American Library Association committee that studied the state of libraries across Canada. Mary Black was the founder of the local women's Canadian Club, served as secretary and then president of the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society and was a leader of the Girl Guides. Her keen interest in bringing art and culture to the community resulted in two exhibits featuring original paintings by the Group of Seven, in 1914 and 1921.

In her honour, we are pleased to present this commemorative plaque to John Pateman, Current CEO, Thunder Bay Public Library.”

John Pateman:

“Thunder Bay Public Library is proud to share the news that work is underway on a new book to celebrate the history of library service in the Thunder Bay community. With a working title of 'Bright Symbols: a history of the Thunder Bay Public Library 1876-2020'.

The title is taken from "The Lake Superior Country" by T. Morris Longstretch published in 1924. The passage is in reference to the author's impression of the Fort William Public Library under the leadership of Mary J. L. Black:

"The bright symbols of intelligence and taste shone everywhere, and later, as I roamed the wide wilderness of Ontario with successive borrowings from these stacks in my pocket, I had occasion to be thankful to those who had stood behind Miss Black as she created this refreshing oasis in the adjacent desert."

This book is planned for publication in 2020 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the amalgamation of Fort William Public Library and Port Arthur Public Library. Focus will be given to the role of Mary J. L. Black in establishing a strong foundation for public library service that is free and open to everyone.

The struggle to create a community led and needs based leadership continues under my leadership."

5. Approval of the Minutes of the 116th Annual General Meeting, June 9, 2017.
 - 5.1. Business Arising. There was no business arising.

Motion 117-2: That the minutes of the 116th OLA Annual General Meeting be approved.

Moved: Jennifer La Chapelle Seconded: Cyndi Smith

Carried.

6. Financial status of the Association: Susan Kun, Treasurer, OLA
 - 6.1. Report of OLA 2017 Treasurer Susan Kun.

Ms. Kun had provided a written report in advance and highlighted a few items including that this fiscal year was shortened to accommodate the transition to the new fiscal year (September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018), the association realized a surplus of \$143,872, and the creation of a new fund development program for the association.

- 6.2. Audited statements for 2017.

Motion 117-3: That the audited statements of the Ontario Library Association for 2017 as provided by Hilborn LLP be accepted.

Moved: Susan Kun Seconded: Anita Brooks Kirkland

Carried.

Motion 117-4: That the firm of Hilborn LLP be engaged to prepare the 2018 audited statements of the Ontario Library Association

Moved: Susan Kun Seconded: Rachel Couban

Carried.

7. OLA 2017 in review: the following officers of the Ontario Library Association provided a report in advance:
 - OLA 2017 President Leslie Weir,
 - OCULA 2017 President Sarah Shujah
 - OLBA 2017 President Kerry Badgley
 - OLITA 2017 President Mita Williams
 - OPLA 2017 President Jennifer La Chapelle
 - OSLA 2017 President Kelly Maggiras
 - ABO-Franco 2017 Maryse Laflamme
 - Executive Director Shelagh Paterson.

Ms. Weir extended thanks to the 2017 OLA Board of Directors for their commitment to OLA and for providing annual reports in advance to the membership.

Motion 117-5: That the reports of the officers of the Ontario Library Association be received.

Moved: Sarah Simpkin

Seconded: Cortney LeGros

Carried.

8. Resolutions

Ms. Weir explained that a resolution is a main motion that needs to be expressed formally in writing, to attach a special level of importance. Examples include a change to an OLA by-law, or endorsement of an important statement or direction. A notice to submit resolutions was sent to all members in advance. There were no resolutions put forth.

9. Report of the OLA Nominations Committee.

Ms. Weir reported on behalf of Jane Hilton, chair, OLA Nominations committee, that Richard Reid was acclaimed OLA Vice-President 2018/President-Elect 2019.

Motion 117 – 6: That the report of the OLA Nominations Committee is to be accepted and all ballots cast in the elections of 2017 be destroyed.

Moved: Maryse Laflamme

Seconded: Kate Johnson-MacGregor

Carried.

10. A look forward by 2018 President Kerry Badgley

Mr. Badgley thanked Ms. Weir for her leadership as 2017 OLA President and presented her with the presidential pyramid.

In contemplating the year ahead, Mr. Badgley referenced the year that Mary J.L. Black was president as a tumultuous time with revolution, war, and a flu pandemic. Now 100 years later, we are in no less tumultuous times with global political unrest, environmental degradation, and a number of other concerns. That said, he looked forward to working with the OLA Board and all OLA members in the upcoming year because, as with their predecessors, they have a keen sense of mission and optimism. Working together and drawing from past experiences of people such as Mary J.L. Black, we can continue to improve the profession and the provision of library and information services throughout the province.

11. Adjournment.

Motion 117 – 7: Motion to adjourn the 117th OLA Annual General Meeting.

Moved: Cortney LeGros.

Carried.