



# OPEN DOOR

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION

FALL 2007

## BCLTA

### A Newsletter for BC Library Trustees

#### 《 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 》

It seems like a short time since the BCLTA conference and Annual General Meeting in May. There have been some significant changes since then. Lawrence Lavender, Past President of BCLTA, continues to be active on the BCLTA Board but has also taken on the post of President of the CLTA. He is assisted by Don Hamilton, a trustee for the Greater Victoria Public Library, TOP Trainer and former BCLTA Board member, who is also a member of the CLTA Executive. We thank them both for their efforts promoting library trustee interests Canada-wide and we are proud to see BC playing a significant leadership role on the national scene.

This month Maureen Black, Executive Director for BCLTA, moved on to pursue other job opportunities with Vancity. During her 2½-year term as Executive Director, Maureen was a passionate advocate for library trustees' interests and was invaluable in helping BCLTA achieve its goals. While she will be sorely missed, we wish her every success in her new career. We look forward to seeing her from time to time as she continues to serve as a trustee for the North Vancouver Public Library.

The UBCM annual library reception on September 27th in Vancouver was again highly successful and we received many positive comments from those who attended. Our thanks to the members and employees of BCLTA, BCLA and ABCPLD who co-hosted this successful annual advocacy event.

Looking ahead, we see some exciting opportunities on the horizon. At a recent BCLTA Board meeting, we were informed by PLSB Director Jacqueline van Dyk that the Evergreen Open Source ILS project is proceeding well and that a pilot project implementation would begin in December at the Prince Rupert Library. PLSB has also received direction to update the Strategic Plan for Public Libraries and this will begin soon. Shortly after, PLSB will begin work towards amendments to the Library Act. BCLTA is looking forward to participating in these important initiatives.

In closing, I'd like to commend our TOP trainers, along with Mandy Davies and Maureen Black, for the excellent job they are doing delivering and promoting this program to our trustees. If you haven't taken the course yet, you really should consider doing so.

Peter Wainwright, President



(L to R) BCLTA President, Peter Wainwright; Minister of Education and Minister responsible for Early Learning and Literacy, Shirley Bond; ABCPLD Chair, Virginia Charron; BCLA President, Deb Thomas. At the BC Library Reception September 27th, Vancouver.

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## UBCM LIBRARY RECEPTION - A GREAT SUCCESS!

On September 27, 2007 the Annual Library Reception during the Union of BC Municipalities Convention (UBCM) was held at the Renaissance Hotel, Vancouver. The theme this year was 'Beyond Words: How Libraries Change Lives'.

Welcoming more than 200 attendees and thanking our sponsors was Deb Thomas, BCLA President. BCLTA President Peter Wainwright introduced the Minister of Education, Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Early Learning and Literacy, Shirley Bond. Minister Bond acknowledged the presence of the Minister of Advanced Education and Minister Responsible for Research and Technology, Murray Coell, as well as opposition critic David Cubberly, and other significant attendees. She gave a passionate and eloquent talk on Premier Campbell's and her own experiences with libraries, confirming that libraries do change lives. To that end she announced a \$2 million permanent commitment to the 'OneCard' System allowing all BC library card holders access to all libraries in BC. A very welcome addition to us all in the BC library community!

ABCPLD Chair and Kitimat Library Director Virginia Charron presented Minister Bond with a copy of Kitimat author/illustrator Denise Idle's recently published "Zoey's Room". Minister Bond also received a framed and signed Summer Reading Club 2007 poster from BCLA.

Well over 200 people enjoyed the food, ambiance and speech by Minister Bond as well as ongoing visual presentation featuring quotes from "Beyond Words", BC library website images, and PLSB initiatives such as AudioBooks, OneCard, PLOT and AskAway. BCLTA takes pride in this important flagship advocacy event and the ongoing collaboration of BCLA, ABCPLD and the support of PLSB, Whitehots Canadian Library Services and Canadian Video Services (CVS). This is certainly an excellent opportunity for UBCM delegates and members of the library community to come together to meet and share common goals and experiences.



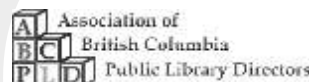
Minister of Education and Minister responsible for Early Learning and Literacy, Shirley Bond



Mayor Calvin Kruk of Dawson Creek, door prize winner.



Councillor Wayne Hunter of Saanich, door prize winner.



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## FAREWELL AND THANKS TO MAUREEN BLACK

In May of 2005 the BCLTA Board determined that in order to move forward with an aggressive agenda, in the best interest of its members, it was necessary to hire an executive director. Maureen was interviewed in June and accepted the position on a one-year halftime contract basis, renewable after each year.

For the better part of two and one half years Maureen has given us outstanding service. Her knowledge, skills and attitude were instrumental in moving our agenda forward. All her work was carried out in an extremely professional manner. She has set the standard for the type of service required for BCLTA to serve its members well.

On behalf of the Board, our members and the greater library community we wish her all the best in her new position with Van City. She remains on the Library Board of the District of North Vancouver so we're not losing her completely from the "library world".

THANKS, MAUREEN

Sincerely,

Lawrence Lavender, Past President



## BCLTA BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO SUPER TRUSTEE AND TOP TRAINER



Dave Sherwood receives the Super Trustee award in 2005 from Sally Gibson (President)

This year we lose our friend and colleague to Alberta as Super Trustee and TOP trainer Dave Sherwood takes a promotion with PGTV and moves to Medicine Hat.

Dave was a trustee for the Prince George Public Library for eight years, including three years as Board Chair. During his tenure he was instrumental in maintaining stable funding during an economically difficult time for the city. Dave also instigated a major fund development study that changed the way that the PGPL fundraises. He also led the team that hired a new chief librarian for Prince George. As a result of these and other community initiatives he was awarded the BCLTA Super Trustee Award for outstanding service towards the development of the Prince George Public Library in 2005. As a TOP trainer during 2006-2007 he visited and facilitated work shops in Granisle, Kitimat, Vanderhoof, Prince Rupert and Prince George.

Dave Sherwood will truly be missed by all his friends and colleagues. While he leaves us behind he takes with him his wife Robin, their four dogs, a rabbit, some fish and most of all our best wishes for their future. Adieu Dave and "may the wind be always at your back"

## WE ALSO SAY GOODBYE TO TED BACIGALUPO

Ted Bacigalupo served on the Okanagan Regional Library Board as a trustee for 6 years and was active in the Board's Policy and Planning Committee and on the Finance Committee. Ted also served as a BCLTA liaison and on the BCLTA board for three years as well as TOP trainer. Good Bye Ted!



Ted Bacigalupo at the BCLTA Conference in Nelson 2002



## COLLABORATION WITH BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION BCSTA



In September, BCLTA and the BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) embarked on what we mutually hope will be an ongoing, collaborative relationship. Given our shared commitment to learning, and recent changes in provincial legislation, we felt it was time to open a formal dialog with our trustee counterparts in public education.

Boards of Education are now required by the provincial School Act to create district literacy plans focused on community-wide literacy improvement. It is important that library and school boards establish relationships with one another (or build on existing relationships) in order to ensure the best possible outcome for the district literacy plans. Given that school and library jurisdictions do not, in many cases, correspond, this may also involve a role for regional federations.

BCLTA would like to hear from members about the discussions you've had regarding participation in district literacy plans. Perhaps your board is already engaged in a consultation process (there are 10 boards of education filing "early" plans). Or your board has an ongoing, formal relationship with your local school board. Or your library is involved in a partnership – formal or informal – with a local school. We'd like to share your experiences with other BCLTA members and the BCSTA. And we'd like to hear your views on what further role BCLTA should play in facilitating library participation in the district literacy plan process.

In addition to discussing how we can facilitate collaboration between local school and library boards, BCSTA and BCLTA will seek out opportunities to get to know each other better. For example, we were pleased to welcome BCSTA President Penny Tees to the recent libraries reception at the UBCM convention, and our associations have extended invitations to attend one another's annual conferences and other events of interest.

## SHARING LIBRARY SPACE

There is a growing discussion going on in the province about co-location of school and public libraries. Some School Districts are now approaching individual libraries as the situation arises about co-location as part of a new or renovated school or public library. The BCLTA Board is now researching this issue and will be preparing a "check list" for any library board to use if presented with such a proposal. In the meantime, if you are in the situation and have any questions or concerns about what to think about, please contact your regional representative on the BCLTA board for assistance.

There are many activities dealing with literacy that libraries can get involved with at the local level. For instance, Literacy Now funds regional literacy coordinators who work with local literacy coordinators to ensure a coordinated and cohesive regional plan towards literacy. This same funding source provides resources for the development of regional literacy plans which are being prepared by teams of organizations who are involved with literacy. This includes the local School Districts. The Ministry of Education has also now instructed the School Districts to produce their own literacy plans and there are funds available to do this. In addition to all of this, there are now federal funds available under Stream One plan. More information is available at:

[www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/workplaceskills/oles/olesfunding\\_en.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/workplaceskills/oles/olesfunding_en.shtml)

In Fort St John, the Library Board (via the Chair and Executive Director) has been involved with the development of a regional literacy plan, which is now moving to implementation phase. The planning group has received over \$50,000 in funding to develop the plan and hire a coordinator to implement it. This team consists of a number of groups including the Fort St John Literacy Society, Success by Six, School District 60 and the Fort St John Public Library. The FSJ Library is also getting involved with the School District in the development of their plan, as we feel that the major goal of improved literacy needs to involve us all. We are also attending the 2020 symposium for libraries on October 22nd and a subsequent session with northern school districts in Prince George on October 23rd to learn more about the School District initiative.

Involvement in these initiatives is very important for libraries to ensure that we are informed. If you need more information on these initiatives, you should talk to your local regional literacy coordinator or School District.

### You'll Be Hearing From Us

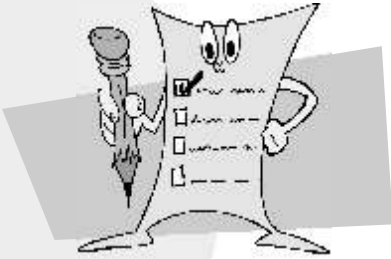
A new initiative by the current BCLTA board is underway.

This year, each member of the BCLTA has been designated library boards in the province that they will personally contact from time to time regarding library issues. It will probably be either a phone call or an email. We hope this more personal regional connection will help to increase dialogue between BCLTA and our members.

As much as possible, we tried to match Directors with local boards in their geographical area of the province.



## AND THE SURVEY SAYS...



One of the goals of the BCLTA Board is to "improve consultation and communication with library boards." As one of the tools to help open up this dialogue, BCLTA recently conducted a "membership needs" survey. This online survey was open for six weeks during July and August 2007 with two bulletins sent out to trustees encouraging them to participate.

We received 67 responses i.e. approximately 10% of our membership which is a fairly typical survey response rate. We received information from all types of libraries (municipal, PLA and regional) and from many different locations around the province. We also heard from new trustees and from veterans. The cross-section of our membership was quite good.

Overall, respondents are satisfied with their BCLTA membership at both a general level and within the specific areas covered in the survey e.g. BCLTA's "representation" of their interests, our education programs, newsletters, etc. The information provided helped to reinforce to the Board that BCLTA is on-track with its goals and priorities.

As well, there were some specific recommendations that we took from the results:

- BCLTA should definitely continue to offer the TOP program - and promote this program using testimonials - as there is very high satisfaction with the program.
- There is an opportunity to increase awareness and use of the TOP online program.
- BCLTA needs to ensure that it serves both urban and rural libraries. For a few respondents, there is a perception that BCLTA has a bias towards urban libraries. We can use our current board to help us raise our relevance to small libraries as we currently have three Directors from very small communities. In the longer term, BCLTA

may consider whether the Association wishes to formalize regional diversity in its Constitution.

- When asked to list the top three issues that BCLTA should be addressing funding was the number one issue. This was followed by trustee education and advocacy. This mandate from the membership is quite clear.
- Although BCLTA puts many resources into the conference, half of the respondents had a 'neutral' attitude or 'didn't know enough about it' so there is an opportunity to improve awareness of this major education/networking event.
- BCLTA should investigate options that would allow us to gradually migrate to an electronic newsletter although we do need to continue to offer a printed version at the present time.

We will use this feedback to improve our service and support to all members.

*Thank you to all the trustees that took the time to send us your opinions.*

## NEW "FORUM" FEATURE ADDED TO BCLTA'S WEBSITE

Have you ever wanted to discuss library board issues with other trustees in BC without having to travel? Would you like to canvas your trustee colleagues to learn how they've handled a particular situation? Would you like to be able to share ideas with other trustees?

BCLTA has launched a new "Forum" feature on our website to facilitate these types of exchanges. Basically the forum is an online message board that allows trustees to participate in discussions and conversations with their colleagues.

If you go to BCLTA's website [www.bclta.org](http://www.bclta.org) you will see two new buttons on the homepage. The "How To" button is the place to start if this is the first time you're using the Forum. It describes the features of the forum and allows you to register to use the Forum.

Once you're familiar with the forum, you can skip the "How To" button and go directly to the "Forum" button.

Initially we've set up six areas for discussion:

- Advocacy
- Facilities
- Fundraising
- General
- Governance and Policy
- Library Act Review

If necessary we can add to this list if other specific areas of conversation become popular and warrant their own 'space'.

We've decided to give this service a six month trial - to see if it is useful to our members. Degree of use will determine its success and we hope that it will facilitate conversations between members.

We encourage you to give it a try. Post a question, post a comment and check back for responses.

And, as with every service we provide through BCLTA, we welcome your feedback and comments.



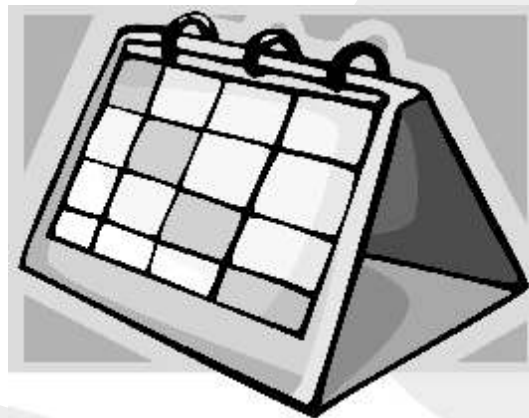
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR, LIBRARY TRUSTEE EVENTS

The 2008 BC Library Conference "Off the Shelf and Out of the Box: Creativity in Libraries" will be held in partnership with the BC Library Trustees' Association and the Health Libraries Association of BC. The conference will take place at the Marriot and the Best Western Richmond Hotel & Convention Centre in Richmond, BC, from April 17 to April 19, 2008.

The annual conference is a time to meet other trustees, share challenges and successes, network, and learn new skills. This year BCLTA has organized a series of events specifically geared to trustees, including:

- The popular Trustee Orientation Program (TOP) pre-conference session
- Five 'regular' conference workshops on Friday April 21st, which will allow trustees to spend a full day together
- Trustee Breakfast
- BCLTA's AGM

As well, throughout the conference there will be many other sessions of interest to trustees so please feel free to register for whatever will best suit your needs and interests. It is very important for trustees to have a presence at this gathering so that our perspective and voice contributes to the on-going discussions about library service in B.C. For updated information see: <http://www.bcla.bc.ca>



## NEWS FROM PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES BRANCH (PLSB)

### Library2020 Symposium – October 22, 2007

Held in Burnaby, this Symposium brought together representatives of the library community - public, academic, and school libraries - to talk about collaboration. The day presented an opportunity to look back on the achievements resulting from libraries working toward common goals, and also to create a vision of what libraries could do in the future.

Many of the accomplishments of BC libraries have been in development for a long time. Those who came before us identified the needs of libraries in order to better serve their communities, and expressed willingness to cooperate with each other. With the new opportunities provided by technology, and with additional funding and support from the province, these dreams are well on their way to being realized.



Increased collaboration among libraries, and with other organizations, is a goal of the Strategic Plan for Public Libraries, Libraries Without Walls. This Symposium is another step in helping to form new and stronger relationships that will benefit all libraries.

Attending from the BCLTA executive were Peter Wainwright, Andy Ackerman, Philip Mantler and Natasha Brien.

For more information, you can go to the Symposium website: <http://library2020.bclibrary.ca/>

## 《 Get Ready for BC Pines 》

All BC public libraries have the option of participating in the BC Pines Project, which will install Evergreen Open Source library automation software in the libraries taking part. The Province is assisting in the implementation of this project, to be phased in over a period of five years, and which will result in a library consortium overseen by the ILS Advisory Committee. The first BC Pines libraries have been selected and work is underway to prepare for installation, training, and support.

It is anticipated that the BC Pines project will result in lower ILS (Integrated Library System) costs for public libraries and will allow for technological improvements in co-operative library programs, e.g. OneCard, based on a common ILS system. Prince Rupert Library will be the BC Pines pioneer and is set to go live on November 5, 2007. You can find out more on the BC Pines web site: <http://pines.bclibrary.ca/>.

## 《 Update of the Strategic Plan for Public Libraries 》

Many of the PLSB projects in the last three years have come out of the Strategic Plan for Public Libraries. Having this plan, with clearly defined goals to work toward, has helped the Branch move ahead and create projects and programs to support the growth and development of library service in BC, with the invaluable support and cooperation of the library community. This was a three year plan, which will take the Branch into 2008.

PLSB wants to keep the momentum going and continue to build on these achievements. The Strategic Plan will be re-examined and expanded to guide the Branch through the next three years. One of the goals of Libraries Without Walls was legislative reform, and this still needs to be addressed. Library boards and staff will be consulted in the near future for their input on the development of the Branch's Strategic Plan.

## 《 New People on Staff 》

Trish Rosseel has accepted the position of Manager, Strategic Programs and Policies, and will be based in Vancouver. Trish is well known to us, particularly in her capacity as a leader of the AskAway service on the post-secondary side and as a tutor with PLSB's Community Librarian Training Program (CLTP). Trish has lead large projects with BC Campus and worked at UBC and ELN prior to her current position as Head of Reference at SFU Library.

Sabina Iseli-Otto, who will also be based in Vancouver, has accepted the position of Library Consultant. Sabina comes to the Branch from Northern Lights Library System where she was a Public Service Coordinator providing consulting and training services to 40 public libraries in Northern Alberta.

Kyle Armour has been hired as the new Library Technician/CLTP Program Assistant and will be based in the Victoria office. He is a graduate of the University College of the Fraser Valley Library and Information Technology Program and has worked at the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Library, Fraser Valley Regional Library, and Greater Victoria Public Library as a Library Assistant.

If you would like to know more about PLSB programs or services, visit their "Service Center" online at <http://www.bcpl.gov.bc.ca/servicecentre/>. There you will find instructions on how to get a user name and password to enter the site.

## CLA Conference

LIBRARIES & PUBLISHING 3.0: Connecting Authors to Readers in the Digital Age  
May 21 - 24th, 2008 Vancouver. For more information <http://www.cla.ca/conference/2008/>



**Have you visited TOP Online?**  
<http://www.bclta.org/toponline.html>



## { WHY BELONG TO BCLTA? } Membership Benefits

### ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR BC PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES

The British Columbia Library Trustees' Association was registered under the Societies' Act, February 9, 1977. It represents more than 65 library boards and over 650 library trustees who volunteer their time on library boards throughout our province. The association provides support and representation for library trustees. The Member Boards exercise their votes at the annual meeting, and their individual trustees are eligible to run for the BCLTA Executive which meets three times each year.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the BCLTA is an institutional membership for the library board with each board member then being recognized as an individual member.

**Institutional** - Membership is available to a Board of any public library recognized by the British Columbia Library Trustees' Association and any public library system as defined under the British Columbia Library Act.

**Individual** - is a trustee who is a member of a Library Board as recognized by the British Columbia Library Trustees' Association or as outlined in the Library Act of British Columbia, and whose Board has paid the required fees for the year.

As a BCLTA member you enjoy these benefits:

- Organized Representation to the Provincial Government
- BCLTA Trustee Handbook
- BCLTA Annual Conference
- Province wide trustee orientation training programs
- Subscription to the Open Door Newsletter
- Voting rights and eligibility to run for the BCLTA Executive
- Representation on the Canadian Library Trustees' Association Executive

- Annual representation at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention
- Representation to other Library Associations and the Public Library Services Branch
- Right to nominate Individuals or Organizations for the BCLTA awards; eligibility to receive BCLTA awards

BCLTA also supports the trustee community through:

#### BCLTA Awards

Appreciation for outstanding efforts

- The Nancy Bennett Merit Award
- Super Trustee Award
- Library Advocate Award

#### Conference

The BCLTA conference is held annually either as a standalone or in partnership with BCLA and/or CLA.

Theme speeches, issues, forums, awards ceremonies, annual general meeting and social events are planned for trustees by trustees.

#### Newsletter

The Open Door is published two times annually. Each institutional membership includes copies for each board member.

#### Workshops

##### Trustees Orientation Program (TOP)

- Presented on request throughout the province
- Access to Online TOP

#### Website

Updates on library issues, upcoming events and news.

### SUBMISSIONS TO OPEN DOOR

The BCLTA Open Door is the official newsletter of the British Columbia Library Trustees' Association. It is published two times annually. We welcome submissions or story ideas by email to [admin@bclta.org](mailto:admin@bclta.org). (The editor cannot assume responsibility for rewriting any article but does reserve the right to edit all material.)

[www.bclta.org](http://www.bclta.org)

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

'To develop and support library trustees to advance public library service in British Columbia'