



OPEN DOOR

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION

BCLTA

SPRING 2006

A Newsletter for BC Library Trustees

BC LIBRARY CONFERENCE – PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

As we think of our mission - **To develop and support library trustees to advance public library service in British Columbia** - it is important, after each annual conference, to reflect on its contributions to the cause. After participating in three action packed days I'm again convinced of the worthiness of these events. The "power of collaboration" resonated throughout the conference. The member organizations, the staffs, the presenters, the volunteers, the vendors, the sponsors, the guests and the participants all play key roles in the success of a conference. All are to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts.

The conference offered great opportunities for inspiration, gaining new knowledge and enhancing one's skills. Glen Murray and Paul Born motivated us with their visions and actions regarding the importance of public libraries in the lives of our citizens and the community at large. Seasoned and new presenters shared their expertise and experiences to enhance the role of trustees as advocates, community developers and strong board members.

Another power constantly "humming" at all conferences, that requires little or no scheduling, is the power of networking. Opportunities to "plug into" this power are in abundance starting with travel to the conference, going to conference workshops, refreshment breaks, socials, key notes, first timers' breakfast, lunches, dinners, the awards' evening, interacting with vendors, the AGM's, and the return trip home.

Our Annual General Meeting was well attended and the BCLTA Board regrets the time restraints that "compacted" the end of our meeting. We appreciate your interest and we will schedule more time for this event in the future.

Any ideas that you have not already passed along to us regarding improvements for the future can be given to any Board member or forwarded to our Executive Director, Maureen Black at mblack@bclta.org. We look forward to seeing you at next year's stand-alone conference. The date and venue will be determined at our May 26th - 27th Board meeting.

Lawrence Lavender, President



At the April 2006 BCLA/BCLTA Conference - Minister Shirley Bond and Glen Murray (keynote speaker)

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{ BCLA/BCLTA CONFERENCE April 20 - 22nd, 2006 }

This year's conference in Burnaby was a resounding success with record overall attendance and 77 trustees participating during the three day event.

The new conference format which put a number of sessions geared to trustees all together on the same day was very well received. Not only did it allow trustees to pack a lot into one day, it also made the most of networking opportunities.

In addition to the keynote speakers mentioned in the cover story and the Awards Reception (see story on page 4), other highlights of the conference included the introduction of two new sessions by Ken Haycock - "Lonely at the Top? The Board Chair as Community and Board Leader" and "Effective Board Governance." Both provided some interesting questions for participants to reflect upon and take back to their local boards such as the idea of a focus question for the Board and the Chair at the end of each meeting - "How will the quality of life in our community be improved by our meeting tonight?"

Because of the broad range of topics covered during the conference, there truly was something for everyone. For instance, we received very high praise for the panel discussion on "The Role of Public Libraries in the Community" which covered the spectrum from Dr. Toni Samek's global perspective on the role of libraries in society to Connie LeBlanc's presentation describing how the Chetwynd Public Library has become a cornerstone of that community.

Also of interest to trustees were the "Best Practices" roundtable discussions on governance and advocacy which allowed trustees to share their successes and their challenges. Even after these sessions ended many trustees remained behind to talk with their peers about ideas and initiatives for their individual libraries.

Trustees were also front and center in the two panel discussions on "Libraries and Literacy" and "Regional Library Federations." These sessions, which included a number of trustees as speakers, provided some practical advice and ideas and allowed for Q&A with the audience.

BCLTA also held a Trustee Orientation Program hosted by Andy Ackerman and Don Hamilton - two of BCLTA's new TOP trainers.

The Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning was well attended. Thank you again to the Burnaby Public Library Board for giving us a great start to the day by hosting a hot breakfast for trustees. At the AGM, Maureen Woods, Director of PLSB, gave us an update on the implementation of the province's strategic plan. Brian Owen, a trustee and member of the Gateway Committee, gave an update on that project and encouraged all trustees to become involved with some of the new initiatives that are occurring regionally and provincially.

Thank you to all trustees who attended the conference. We hope you had the chance to fill out an evaluation form and give us your comments. If you have any other feedback, please send an email to Maureen Black, Executive Director, BCLTA at mblack@bclta.org

BCLTA 2007 Conference

We are pleased to announce that in 2007, BCLTA will host a stand-alone conference for library trustees. It will feature speakers, events and workshops that reflect feedback we've received in recent years about your training and networking needs. The conference will be held outside of the Lower Mainland, in a location to be announced.

Our past partnership with BCLA on joint library conferences has been very beneficial. We will continue to partner with BCLA in 2008 and beyond, but will be exploring ways we can offer expanded trustee programming within a joint conference setting.

The 2007 Conference will also mark 30 years as a BC association representing library trustees. We'll have more information in the coming months and will want to hear your ideas for conference programming.

TRUSTEE ORIENTATION PROGRAM (TOP) - IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The weekend of February 25th - 27th was a historic one for BCLTA and reinforced our organization's commitment to trustee education and development. On that weekend, BCLTA trained eight individuals - all current or past trustees - to assume the role of TOP Trainers. We now have eight experienced trustees trained and ready to deliver TOP sessions throughout the province. **Please give us a call - we'd be happy to host a full day TOP workshop for your board, and others in the area, free of charge.**



BCLTA's Top Trainers: Ted Bacigalupo, Colleen Chambers, Lois Taylor, Dr. Ken Haycock, Christine Rinaldi, Don Hamilton, Andy Ackerman, Judy Chrysler, Dave Sherwood

What exactly is covered in a Trustee Orientation Program (TOP) session? TOP is a full day workshop that introduces trustees to the provincial context for public library leadership - including legislation and services, community advocacy, current issues and strategies for success. We also

cover topics such as the role of the chair, the Board's relationship to staff and effective meetings. This program was developed for BCLTA and was recently updated by Ken Haycock, an internationally recognized consultant. The broad content of this workshop makes it ideally suited to new trustees. However, we have had a number of long-serving trustees take this course as a refresher and they have found it a great energizer. It can be a great group activity if the entire board participates and it is also interesting when two or more boards join in to share their different perspectives.

Our goal is allow as many trustees as possible to participate in a TOP session. In past years, there were two significant barriers that often prevented trustees from attending TOP - the financial commitment and the time commitment. We have addressed them both. Through the generous support of the Public Library Services Branch, we are able to offer TOP at no charge for 2006 (previously the fee was \$150 per participant) and we'll even include lunch. And, by bringing the program right to your community, we're minimizing the time required to participate and have eliminated the high travel costs.

As of early May, we have nine TOP sessions coming up over the next two months around the province. To have a session in your community, all it takes is a phone call or email to BCLTA (contact Mandy Davies at 604-913-1424 or admin@bclta.org).

We encourage you to take advantage of this tremendous opportunity, put these new trainers to work and host a session for your board. Want to know more about the TOP trainers? Visit www.bclta.org.

INTRODUCING THE 2006/2007 BCLTA BOARD



Demi Dunlap, Caroline Waters, Sandy Hull, Timo Sokkanen, Jack MacNeill, Lawrence Lavender (President), Christine Lattey, Shannon Daub

The BCLTA Board is elected at the Annual General Meeting - this year held at the April 2006 Conference.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Lawrence Lavender | - President - Creston Public Library Association |
| Timo Sokkanen | - Secretary/Treasurer - Burnaby |
| Shannon Daub | - Director - Vancouver Public Library |
| Demi Dunlap* | - Director - Surrey Public Library Board |
| Sandy Hull | - Director - Pouce Coupe Municipal Library |
| Christine Lattey* | - Director - Whistler Public Library Board |
| Jack MacNeill | - Director - Kitimat Public Library |
| Caroline Waters | - Director - Vancouver Island |

*New to the Board in 2006/2007.



{ BCLTA AWARDS }

On Friday, April 21st during the BCLA/BCLTA Conference, a reception was held at the beautiful Burnaby Art Gallery at Deer Lake Park to celebrate outstanding contributions to the library community. The celebration, and the setting, made for a very special evening. BCLTA President Lawrence Lavender presented the awards.

Nancy Bennett Merit Award



Connie LeBlanc receiving Nancy Bennett Merit Award

CONNIE LeBLANC currently Vice Chair of the Chetwynd Public Library Board was honoured with the Nancy Bennett Merit Award which recognizes a trustee who has made a significant contribution locally and regionally or provincially. Since joining the Board in 2001, Connie has been involved in numerous committees, policy development

and fundraising initiatives. As well, she has also served as Chair of the Peace River Associated Libraries (PRAL) where she has been instrumental in organizing the presentation of the Federated Library system to the PRAL libraries. Connie is everything you would want in a library trustee - hardworking, passionate and energized - as well as a great team member or team leader. Connie's dedication has made her an outstanding role model to trustees.

Super Trustee Awards



MARTHA ANSLOW, Past Chair of the Greater Victoria Library Board, was honoured for her strong commitment to, and passion for, the library which she demonstrated over a number of years on the Board. Martha also was a catalyst for the completion of a Strategic Plan which will provide the library with a useful framework for progress and development for the next few years.



TERRY AUETTE of the North Vancouver District Library Board was honoured for his significant contribution during his eight years of service. Terry was instrumental in promoting fiscal accountability, functional building space and workplace wellness.



"It is with great pleasure that I accept this year's Nancy Bennett Award. I have been a member of our Library Board for six years now and I can not remember a year that our Board, staff and community can not be proud of. In this ever changing world, our Library simply rolls along with the change. Because of the effort of our whole Library Family it is very easy to commit my time and energy to such a great library and community, and for this I have dedicated this award to the board and staff of the Chetwynd Public Library."

Connie LeBlanc

2006 Recipient of the Nancy Bennett Merit Award



ALEX DANTZER, former Chair of the Surrey Public Library Board, was honoured for his seven year contribution with the Board including the past four years as Chair. Alex was one of the library's strongest advocates with people he met through his other community activities and with local elected representatives at all levels of government. He also contributed to the library's fundraising success and helped the library maintain a strong donor recognition program.



Beth McLeod is flanked by Cynthia Lidstone, board chair, on the left and Cedra Eichenauer, board member, on the right

BETH McLEOD of the Nakusp Public Library was honoured for her contribution to that board since joining in 1999. In fact, Beth received her award - as a surprise - on Saturday April 22nd at the library's annual Silent Auction - a fitting tribute to someone who has been made a significant contribution to this fundraising event for the library.



MICHAEL WRIGHT of the Fraser Valley Regional Library Board was awarded the Super Trustee Award following fourteen years of Board service. Michael was instrumental in the establishment of the Terry Fox Library in 1983. During his tenure of the Board, he provided exemplary representation for the citizens of Port Coquitlam, where he serves on Council, as well as superb governance for the FVRL - BC's largest regional library system.

Library Advocate Award

The FRIENDS OF THE CRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY SOCIETY were honoured with a Library Advocate Award. According to the Creston Board, "the Library wouldn't be what it is today, without the Friend's energy and dedication. The group of 25+ members play a key role in the workings of the library." A formal presentation will take place in August.



Don (L) receiving his award from the Library Board's vice-chair, Clouston Chalmers

DON OHS, received his award for his work with the Cranbrook Friends of the Library over the past four years. The list of accomplishments of the Friends under Mr. Ohs' leadership is impressive. This group has been extremely active with projects ranging from fundraising to the creation of a fully furnished and well-

stocked teen room. As well, the Friends were involved in the "Moving Forward in our Community" Job Creation Project - a very successful partnership that completed a number of projects that benefited all library users.



JANICE HARRIS, a Councillor for the District of North Vancouver, was also honoured at this ceremony with an Advocate Award recognizing her efforts to support library service in the District. Janice has been a long-time advocate of the local library system and a strong, vocal supporter for the construction of a new Lynn Valley Main Library which is due to open in the spring of 2007.



ALAN NIXON, a Councillor for the District of North Vancouver, also received an Advocate Award from the BCLTA. Alan is an ardent supporter of the library system and, in particular, it was his voice, and his ability to educate Council, that enabled this three branch municipal library system to obtain funding and approval for Sunday openings.

A Word of Appreciation



At the Annual General Meeting, BCLTA recognized the contributions of three outgoing Board members for their commitment and contribution to our organization and public library service in BC. All three are passionate public library advocates.

Sally Gibson, served on the Executive for five years, including two years as President, and was instrumental in bringing to fruition a number of education and training programs for BCLTA. Locally Sally served on the Boards for North Vancouver City, then North Vancouver District Public Library.

Dr. Alan Newberry from Surrey Public Library - served on the Executive for three years. Alan contributed in many ways to our organization - most notably in the area of advocacy and the re-establishment of the position of Executive Director.

Dianna Seaton, from the Greater Victoria Public Library Board, also ended her term on the BCLTA Executive. Thank you to Dianna for her dedication to BCLTA, willingness to contribute to the group and new ideas.

Thank you to Vancouver Public Library



For the past year VPL has provided meeting space to BCLTA for board and strategic planning meetings. Provision of this space is most appreciated and assists with meeting expenses throughout the year.



{ NEWS FROM PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES BRANCH }

We hope to make this a regular column in the newsletter that provides trustees with updates and information regarding the implementation of the provincial strategic plan for public libraries: Libraries Without Walls. It is important that all trustees are aware of the Plan's major initiatives and how these initiatives will affect their library.

Trustee involvement in the plan's implementation takes a number of different forms. Most of the initiatives begin with a symposium to gather and exchange ideas. Each public library in the province is invited to send representatives to participate in these opening discussions. These representatives may be from your library staff and/or from your Board depending on the topic under discussion; it is up to each library to determine who will best represent your library's interests. The provincial government provides financial support for travel to each symposium for one representative from each library - again it could be a trustee or a staff member. There were two symposiums in 2005 - Virtual Reference and Gateway. More than 16 trustees attended the Gateway Symposium and two trustees sit on this committee. The next symposium is slated for the fall of 2006 - "Libraries in Dialogue with Government" and will be held in Victoria.

In this issue of the Open Door, we will cover four strategic plan initiatives that are underway - Federations, OneCard, Virtual Reference and the Gateway Project.

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.

{ Federations }

The biggest news on this front was the announcement in April of the formation of Kootenay Library Federation (KLF) - the first new library federation in 30 years and the first ever outside the Lower Mainland. The Kootenay Library Federation includes 17 public libraries from Midway to Sparwood and from Creston to Nakusp.

The libraries are working together to improve services for people throughout the Kootenay region. Participating libraries and their patrons will benefit from reciprocal borrowing, group purchasing, shared collections, shared programming and shared public relations. For example some of the libraries had group purchasing arrangements with suppliers prior to the creation of the KLF, but now all the libraries participate in these arrangements to reduce costs. The larger collective receives more attention from vendors. The purchase of DAISY readers to be shared by the KLF libraries enables the smaller libraries of the KLF to participate in the Visunet Agreement arranged by the province and to provide this service to their patrons with print disability. The Provincial Government is providing \$106,000 in funding to support this new federation.

The Board of the KLF is made up of representatives appointed from each member library board. Participation in the KLF Board is an added duty for any appointed representative, but the success of the KLF as a whole depends on the active participation of these appointees.

According to Joanne Richards, Director of the KLF, "The creation of the KLF creates great potential to improve library service in an area where low population density makes delivery of the service challenging. With the funding from the province and by working together to achieve common objectives, superior library service can be realized throughout the region."

Around the province a number of other regions are working towards the formation of federations. Inclusion in a federation is voluntary; however, the Province is encouraging federation formation and providing funding to support these new collaborations.

{ OneCard and Increased Accessibility }

On April 19th, 2006 the Provincial Government announced \$3.25 million to expand the OneCard program and improve British Columbians' access to library services. To receive a portion of this funding, public libraries must commit to participation in the OneCard project and commit to working with the Ministry of Education to give every school-age student a public library card. Part of the funding - about \$2 million - will help individual libraries cover the cost of additional staff hours and postage and handling for the books and other materials that must be returned to another library. The remaining \$1.25 million will go to libraries working together in regional areas or through their federations to help them acquire the technology to support the OneCard system.

At the same time, the province provided \$40,000 for 85 new digital readers to be shared by libraries around BC to be used by people who are visually impaired or unable to read print.

《 The BC Province-Wide Virtual Reference Initiative 》

"Google is good, but a librarian is better!" These were the sentiments of a virtual reference patron at Vancouver Public Library.

In an information-rich world increasingly dominated by Google and Amazon, how do we spread the word to all British Columbians that their local libraries are a gateway to quality information and expert staff? Through a province-wide virtual reference network - that's how.

The BC Province-Wide Virtual Reference Initiative will build a network of public libraries across BC that connects all British Columbians with the broad array of remotely accessible, web-based information resources available through their local libraries. By pooling our human resources and expertise, we can together offer a service that few libraries could provide independently.

You might be asking yourself, "What is virtual reference? And how can incorporating it into our library services help my library, my staff, and my patrons?" Simply put, virtual reference uses Internet tools like email and chat to connect people who need information with the people who are best able to help them find it - library staff!

A committee of library staff, with representatives from public, post-secondary, and special libraries across the province, has been planning this collaborative, province-wide virtual reference service for all British Columbians. Now, PLSB is inviting individual public libraries to participate!

What are the Benefits of Virtual Reference to Your Patrons?

They will:

- Receive expert service when and where they need it, via chat and email.
- Have equitable access to library services.
- Get convenient, timely access to province-wide resources, beyond the limits of your library buildings and opening hours.

What are the Benefits to Your Library?

Your library can:

- Expand services beyond your current hours of operation.
- Attract users who normally don't use libraries, including teens, homebound individuals, rural residents, the technically savvy, and the socially marginalized.
- Provide opportunities for library staff to build their skills in new technologies and online resources.
- Benefit from collaboration and cooperation among libraries throughout the province.

How Will the Service Work?

- Live chat reference will be available Sunday through Thursday, 10 am-10 pm, and Friday and Saturday, 10 am-5 pm.
- E-mail reference will be available 24/7, and will be integrated with local libraries' existing e-mail reference services.
- Patrons will be able to access both live chat and e-mail seamlessly through their local library's website.

How Can My Library Participate?

Participation is flexible, and is based on a contribution of staff hours to the service. For small libraries, this can be as little as one or two hours per week (with no obligation at all for the smallest libraries). For larger libraries, this may be as much as 12 hours per week. Libraries may participate individually, or as part of a federation or other local collaboration.

When Will This Initiative Be Ready to Launch?

We hope to launch **Phase One** of the BC Province-Wide Virtual Reference Initiative in September 2006. Staff training will take place over the summer in preparation for our launch. We hope that a number of libraries will be on board to start providing service in Phase One. Supplementary staffing coordinated through the Vancouver Public Library - will cover additional hours needed during this phase.

In **Phase Two**, we hope to bring more libraries into the service, and modify our hours, schedules, services, marketing, and other operations based on what we learn in Phase One. We're also exploring partnerships with the post-secondary sector, and hope to move forward together.



Who's Paying for All This?

Generous funding from the Province of BC, through the Public Library Services Branch, will cover costs of a full-time coordinator for the first year, as well as software, marketing, and supplementary staffing.

Who Do I Contact to Find Out How My Library Can Participate?

PLSB is currently looking for libraries interested in participating in the service with an initial deadline of May 31, 2006. For more information, contact either of the two project managers:

Deb Hutchison
West Vancouver Memorial Library
604-925-7449
dhutchison@westvanlib.org

Michele Pye
virtual Library, Vancouver Public Library
604-331-4058
michepye@vpl.ca

Submitted by Michele Pye, Vancouver Public Library and Deb Hutchison, West Vancouver Memorial Library

《 The Gateway Project: A Mystery Wrapped in an Enigma 》

Of all of the current province-wide initiatives underway, the Gateway Project is probably the most mysterious one. And it only adds to its enigmatic profile by stating there will not be a gateway... at least in the conventional meaning of a single or central point of entry. In fact, the intent of the Gateway project is ensure that it is easy for every BC public library to provide a local online gateway to the range of services and content such as virtual reference and the core suite of databases being implemented as part of the provincial strategic plan for public libraries.

The decision on which services to include and how to provide access to them will ultimately reside with each library. So, the intent of the Gateway Project is to provide a portfolio of tools and related support, not a "one size fits all" solution. Some libraries may elect to use as much as possible of the Gateway framework, others may be more selective and even undertake some customization to reflect their local requirements or preferences.

The Gateway Project has identified three phases of activity over the next two years. Phase 1 has a target completion date of September 2006 and will focus on the **integration of established province-wide services** such as union catalogues, interlibrary loan, virtual reference, and the core suite of databases. Phase 2 will concentrate on the **expansion and integration of new services and resources**. These could include additions to the core suite of databases, integration of the e-audio collection, meta-searching (i.e. search many databases simultaneously) of resources, and implementation of a "toddlers" interface. Phase 3 will wrap up at the end of three years and shift activities to the **personalization of services and resources** – such as an online MyLibrary that allows each user to customize and personalize their view of the numerous resources and services they will be able to access via their local public library.

The most dramatic example of what the Gateway Project hopes to accomplish is already well underway in Phase 1 with a pilot project to develop and implement a template system for small public libraries' websites. This project is using state-of-the-art software known as a content management system or CMS that provide a complete set of tools to create, design, and maintain an entire website. Once everything is set-up, it is very easy for anyone update content, customize the "look and feel," and make other minor changes without having to be a technical expert or require extensive training.

Two public libraries - Fort Nelson and McBride - have volunteered to participate in the pilot project that will provide them with a complete makeover of their current websites. At the same time, all of the province-wide resources and services will also be seamlessly incorporated into the templates for their new websites. The expectation is for the completed systems to be taken and easily replicated in part or in whole to other BC public libraries that are interested in making use of them. The PLSB is also piloting a central website hosting service as part of this project. The preliminary versions of the new pilot websites are available at:

<http://p8080-192.168.90.13.dbtest.bcpl.gov.bc.ca/fortnelson>
<http://p8080-192.168.90.13.dbtest.bcpl.gov.bc.ca/mcbride>

For more information on the Gateway Project, interested trustees should contact Cheryl Stenström at the Public Libraries Services Branch, or any member of the Gateway Project Committee.

Submitted by Brian Owen, Member of the Gateway Committee and Trustee, West Vancouver Memorial Library

《 LIBRARY BOOK RATE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 2007 》

BCLTA is pleased with the recent announcement that Canada Post will be continuing the Library Book Rate until at least January 15, 2007. We will continue to work with the Canadian Library Association to ensure the long-term sustainability of this critical program and the expansion of the rate to include other library materials such as videos, CD's and DVD's.

The Library Book rate provides special postal rates for libraries to ship books to other libraries and to readers, allowing libraries to loan more books and encourage reading. The Book Rate is especially important to Canada's rural and remote libraries and is critical to systems such as Vancouver Island Regional Library. Special rates for shipping library books have been in place since 1939.

The current program was scheduled to end March 31, 2006. Last July, following an outcry from the library community, then-Revenue Minister John McCallum pledged the federal government would ensure the program would continue past March 31, 2006 but there was no word on whether the rates would increase. This recent announcement extends the current rates to January 15, 2007.

Thank you to all the libraries that supported the extension of this program through BCLTA and through your efforts with letters and meetings with your local Member of Parliament.

FEEL FREE TO STEAL



... This column highlights some interesting Board practices in action. We profile ideas from one or two Boards in each issue and we encourage you to "feel free to steal" these ideas for use in your library. The ideas are a mix of quick hits and more significant undertakings. We are always looking for new ideas for future issue, so please "feel free to ... contribute." We'd love to hear from you.

《 Beyond Statistics In Trail, BC 》

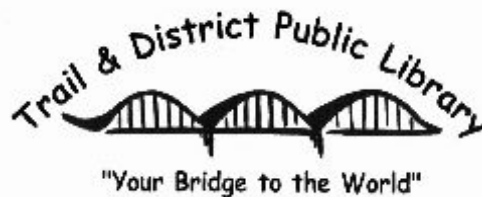
If you are searching for ways to demonstrate the importance of your library to the community beyond the usual statistics, you may want to check out the report prepared by the Trail and District Public Library called "Showing our Value".

In just eight short pages, this report uses a number of techniques to demonstrate their value in the community in a format that's interesting to read. For example, the report:

- layout is quick and easy to read; lots of colour, some photos, not heavy on text or stats
- includes some interesting "teaser" facts - e.g. "\$170 is saved per person in the Library's service area annually"
- contains many compelling quotes from the TDPL User Survey
- has a relevant anecdote about the library's role to assist new businesses (in this case, it was the importance of the free library resources regarding government economic information to a new business)
- highlights lesser known library services - e.g. an exam proctoring service that allows Trail and area residents to participate in distance education programs
- clearly indicates the extensive partnerships that the library has within the community - e.g. with literacy organizations, businesses, non-profit organizations, etc.

The report is available through the Trail and District Library's website at: www.traillibrary.com where there is a link to the "Showing our Value" Report on the home page.

Similar to the Beyond Words booklets, the format and ideas contained in this report illustrate the value of libraries in a more personal manner... and makes them useful advocacy tools for trustees.





{ INVESTING IN BOARD DEVELOPMENT }

Here's the scenario . . . it's January and you are holding your first Board meeting of the new year with your Board of 37 (yes - 37!) individuals. All Board members are elected to office either in a municipality or regional district and sixteen people in this group are brand new to the Board. How do you get everyone "on the same page" and up to speed as productive members as quickly as possible? This is especially important because your Board is embarking on a Strategic Planning process this year.

Ken asked Board members to consider some important questions including: Why are you here? What's your strategic direction? How will you know if you have succeeded? How can you move from being a public good to public value?

Board Chair Patty Edwards said, "I think one of the most challenging things about Ken Haycock's presentation was his view of the Library Board as an agent for community development. He described a vision of the Board as a leader in family literacy, and cultural, social and economic development in communities. VIRL is in the first stage of developing our Strategic Plan and I feel Mr. Haycock's presentation was very timely as it stressed the leadership role that the Board can take in community revitalization. In the past we have been viewed as a passive service but we have an opportunity to engage with the communities we serve to identify priorities that demonstrate public values."

All Board members who attended seemed to find Ken's approach interesting and useful. And after this solid start to the new year, it was exciting to see that more VIRL Board members than ever before attended the BCLTA Conference in Burnaby in April.

As Boards, we oversee library budgets that include the appropriate dollars for the training and development of library staff. It's important to remember that Board development and training is a worthwhile investment as well.

Ken Haycock & Associates Inc.

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MYTH AND TRUTH ABOUT PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Over the two decades of my work as a Meeting Mentor and Registered Parliamentarian, I've encountered many myths and misconceptions about Parliamentary Procedure and Robert's Rules of Order. The most typical myths versus truths are listed in the table below

THE MYTH	THE TRUTH
The mover of a motion owns it forever.	The mover of a motion stops owning it once debate on it begins. From then on the Board owns it, and the mover no longer has the right to unilaterally withdraw or amend the motion.
The mover may not vote against his or her own motion.	Although, strictly speaking, movers may not speak against motions they introduced, they may change their minds and vote against them. If they were not allowed to do so, what would be the point of having any debate?
A person who seconds a motion indicates that he or she supports it.	Seconding a motion only indicates that the person agrees that the motion should be discussed, and not that he or she supports it. In fact, the seconder may be opposed to the motion, and wanting it publicly defeated.
Robert's Rules always require motions to be seconded.	Surprisingly perhaps, but this is false. Under Robert's Rules of Order, meetings of small boards or committees (no more than about a dozen members present) run less formally than larger meetings, and motions need not be seconded in them. Notwithstanding what Robert says, most Procedure Bylaws do require a seconder. Internal bylaws always supersede Robert's Rules of Order.
If a motion is moved and seconded, it is automatically open for debate.	A motion is open for debate only after the Chair has stated it and placed it before the meeting. The Chair is entitled to refuse to accept a motion on the ground that it is out of order (in violation of a certain rule) or because it is confusing or poorly worded.
A "point of order" can be raised to express disagreement with another member and may interrupt a speaker for that purpose.	A "point of order" is a complaint that a "rule of order" is being violated, and - if used legitimately - it can interrupt a speaker. However, using a point of order to interrupt someone or get priority in debate when no rule is violated is an abuse of the process.
If a member "calls the question," debate automatically ends. "Calling the question" may interrupt a person who is speaking and gets priority over anything else.	The decision to close debate is made by the Board, collectively, and not unilaterally by the Chair or any one member. If a motion to close debate is made formally, it may not interrupt a person who is speaking and has no special priority in the speaker's lineup.
The mover may close debate by speaking on a motion for a second time.	No (unless your Procedure Bylaw says otherwise, which would be poor procedure). Such a procedure would give a mover an unfair advantage, plus the Board will not be able to benefit from the ideas of members who are still waiting to speak.
Minutes must include everything that was said at the meeting.	Minutes are primarily a record of what was done by the Board, not what was said by each member.
A Board member may insist that his or her comments be entered in the minutes.	Minute takers should follow minute taking standards, as established by Board policy. They should not be subject to random demands by individual members.
The Chair never speaks in debate, unless he or she vacates the Chair.	This is only true if your Procedure Bylaw stipulates it. Robert's Rules do not preclude the Chair from speaking while chairing a meeting (on the same basis as others).

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Eli is the author of "The Business Meetings Sourcebook", "Mina's Guide to Minute Taking" and other books on meetings, rules of order and shared decision-making. Eli can be reached at 604.730.0377 or by e-mail eli@elimina.com. He has numerous articles posted on his website: www.elimina.com.



{ WHY BELONG? } 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 650 library trustees who volunteer their time on library boards throughout our province. The association provides support and representation for library trustees.

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
- Topical Issues Workshops
- Subscription to the Open Door Newsletter
- Voting Rights and Eligibility to Run for BCLTA Executive
- Representation on the Canadian Library Trustees' Association Executive
- Annual Representation at the Union of BC Municipalities Exhibits
- Representation to Other Library Associations and the Library Services Branch
- Right to Nominate Individuals or Organizations for the BCLTA Library Advocate Award

Eligibility for BCLTA Awards:

Appreciation for outstanding efforts

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

CONFERENCE

The BCLTA conference is held annually either as a stand-alone 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 2 times annually. Each institutional membership includes copies for each board member.

WORKSHOPS

Trustees Orientation Program

- Presented on request throughout the province
- Topical Workshops

WEBSITE

Relevant updates on library issues, upcoming events and news.

The BC 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 the Province. 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.

GUIDELINES FOR 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. Material should be submitted by email, plain text format, or word processing software and images sent digitally. Clear faxes or printed copies of text and photos can also be accommodated. Material submitted will not be returned unless special arrangements are made with the editor. The editor cannot assume responsibility for rewriting any article but does reserve the right to edit all material.

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MISSION STATEMENT:

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