

Presidents' Advisory Council

The Presidents' Advisory Council will meet at CLA Vancouver on May 23 at 10:30 am. The establishment of a Presidents' Advisory Council was determined by a past executive of the CLTA after they had reorganized. The past structure of representatives from each province was no longer sustainable.

This meeting should offer an important opportunity to discuss the possibility of coordinated advocacy and sharing of ideas/programs, etc., on a national level among trustees. This executive wanted attempt to rebuild the organization by implementing this structure. We do need to discuss membership issues, program development, standards, awards, and possible joint programs.

Membership is another key factor in strong organizations. Our current membership is low. In order to "carry our weight" within CLA and to perform well in the best interest of all trustees, we need increased support from the larger community of trustees in Canada. That can be best achieved through participation, first in your provincial group, and then at the national level – CLTA/CLA. A number of options for membership are available. Please check the CLA website (www.cla.ca) for this information.

We hope that many delegates will attend the session from all the provinces and territories. [Come to CLA Vancouver 2008!](#)

Notes from across the country: **BRITISH COLUMBIA** **Greater Victoria Public Library Locks Out its CUPE Employees**

This stark headline greeted the public on February 17, 2008. In a strike position since September 2007, the Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association, the negotiator for the 10 municipal councils that fund the library, acted on the recommendation of the Library Board to lock out the Union. This action has resulted in over 180 full and part-time staff being out of their jobs. The issues revolve around "job parity" with City of Victoria workers, part-time auxiliary personnel and exempt positions. Board chair, Chris Graham, a councillor from the Municipality of Central Saanich, comments: "We do recognize and value the contribu-

tion of employees and would urge employees to ask their union representatives to return to the negotiating table to work out a fair collective agreement that meets the needs of all parties. Our first priority is to work with the union and our bargaining agency, the Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association, to resolve matters quickly and that is why we want the sides to work towards an agreement. We have a responsibility to protect the assets of the library. The strike activities by the union are having a severe fiscal impact and the library is losing important streams of revenue, while employees are continuing to be paid."

The Greater Victoria Public Library operates nine branches, serving 10 municipalities and almost 300,000 residents. **NEWS! Talks have been scheduled to resolve this issue.**

Provincial Library Trustee Associations

BC: BCLTA <http://bclta.org>

Alberta: ALTA

<http://www.librarytrustees.ab.ca/index.html>

Saskatchewan: SLTA

<http://www.lib.sk.ca/slta/>

Manitoba: MLTA Contact Bill Stilwell bills@mts.net

Ontario: Ontario Library Boards Assn. <http://www.accessola.com/olba/bins/index.asp>

New Brunswick: N. B. Library Trustees Association (related to the NB Public Library Service)

<http://www.gnb.ca/0003/who.asp>

Nova Scotia: Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS)

<http://www.westerncounties.ca/lbans>

CLTA Executive Council

Secretary-Treasurer: Elaine Kivisto,
Director at Large: Donald Hamilton,
Acting-President / President-Elect:
Jan Harder jan.harder@ottawa.ca
President: TBA

ALBERTA

The Alberta Library Trustees Association (ALTA) has long maintained a webpage. It has been brought to our attention that a two series of instructional modules are linked from that page. They are open to anyone interested in [Library Advocacy](#) and to trustees on [Policy](#).

While some of the material is specifically aimed at Alberta trustees, it may offer a useful approach for review or discussion. This is the link address:

<http://www.librarytrustees.ab.ca/content/eModule/eModule.html>

CONFERENCES

Library conferences are held across the country that will have interest to trustees. These are some you might attend:
BCLA: Richmond BC April 17-19/08
ALC: April 24-27/08- Jasper Park Ldg.
SLA: Regina on May 1 - 3/08 A joint conference with the Manitoba Library Assn (MLA) it takes place during Regina Public Library's 100th anniversary celebration.

CLA/ CLTA:

Highlights of the CLA Conference in Vancouver May 21-24 for Trustees

<http://www.cla.ca/conference/2008/program.htm>

- Wed. May 21 •Pre-Conference workshop: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Community Led Libraries: Working together with your community
- Thurs. May 22 1-2:30 p.m. Get Strategic: Library Marketing in the Digital Age
- Fri. May 23 9:00-12 noon CLTA Executive Meeting and the Presidents' Advisory Council
- Fri. May 23 1-2:30 p.m. Public Library Success: How do we Measure It?
- Fri. May 23 2:30-4 p.m. Creating a Reading Culture in the Digital Age
- Fri. May 23 2:30-4 p.m. City Council: Library Boards - Working together, Working apart
- Fri. May 23 4:30-6 p.m. CLTA Annual General Meeting: All trustees are welcome!
- Sat. May 24 8:30-9:30 a.m. Library Advocacy Now Part 1.
- Sat. May 24 11:15 -12:15 p.m. Keynote: Alberto Manguel
- Sat. May 24 2:00-2:30 p.m. CLA Awards
- Sat. May 24 2:30 -5 p.m. CLA Annual General Meeting

Presenting another way to present the library in a community:



Did you know in 2006...


over 3.4 million materials - books, movies, music cds, magazines - were borrowed

program attendance increased by 37%

over 20,000 new Library cards were issued


LPL staff answered over 1 million reference questions

Find out more in [London Public Library's Report to the Community](#)

 Jan Harder, CLTA's Vice President is an Ottawa Councilor and Chair of the Ottawa Public Library Board. She participated in a session called *Social and Economic Value of your Library to your Community* with Martín Gómez, President,



Urban Libraries Council, Chicago at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference in Toronto. Held in late January and early February, the conference draws over 4000 delegates and features a wealth of information, stimulation and networking by Ontario's library community -including a large contingent from library boards across the province.

 The Ontario Library Boards Association (OLBA) has developed an extensive on-line **at-a-glance** reference guide for library trustees called *Leadership by Design*. It offers a wealth of information using a mouse driven interface...You have to try it!
<http://accessola.com/olba/oneplacetolook>



More bumper stickers from Wyoming...Should we have our own Canadian series? Send ideas to donaldhamilton@shaw.ca

Ten principles guiding effective library governance

1. Build a solid governance framework that includes by-laws, policy and an achievable plan that is based on why you exist: your mission
2. When you have built it, make sure it works and keep it in shape.
3. know who you are there to represent and how to connect with them.
- 4, Make good decisions on their behalf.
5. Know what it is that you need to achieve.
6. Assess what you have accomplished and report progress regularly.
7. Know what information you need and where and how to get it in order to manage risk.
8. Know who you need on the Board and who you need to run the library.

9. Know where and how to get the resources you need.
 10. Remember you are not there to manage - you are there to govern. *from OLBA's Leadership by Design*

Trustees in the US

You may never have stopped and considered that the United States has thousands of public libraries, many thousands of library trustees, and a huge organization to sustain and nurture those library trustees. Here is the ATLA Mission Statement

The Association for Library Trustees and Advocates promotes and ensures outstanding library service through educational programs that develop excellence in trusteeship and actions that advocate access to information for all.

Two links of interest:

- [ALA/ALTA](http://www.ala.org/ala/alta/alta.cfm)
- [FOLUSA Friends of Libraries USA](http://www.folusa.org/who-we-are)

Join the Canadian Library Trustees Association!

If you are retired, CLA offers personal membership with one division for only \$50.00. Simply join and put CLTA as your Division. Not retired? Then the cost would be \$200.00, again with CLTA as your Division. Library Boards are urged to consider taking out an institutional membership: This provides CLTA membership for all the trustees on your Board. Fees are based on the size of your Board, but it works out to about \$50.00 per trustee. Full details and membership forms are on the web

<http://www.cla.ca/membership/board.htm>

CLTALK is produced 3 times a year.

Contact the Editor:
donaldhamilton@shaw.ca
 Please send news, articles, etc.