

Welcome to the first issue of CLTALK. We hope to offer an ongoing series of news and information for public library trustees across Canada. There are perhaps 30,000 volunteers and elected officials in this role in over 2000 public libraries across the country. CLTA was formed 59 years ago to provide a national voice through the Canadian Library Association. Library trustees are, with few exceptions, creatures of provincial laws and regulations surrounding the operation of the public library in their communities.

CLTA is a Division of the Canadian Library Association. That group maintains divisions for public, university and college, school and special libraries. We are unique in the group for we do not represent employed personnel in libraries but rather represent the public who use libraries under our care. We are a small group - only 4 individuals make up the Executive, have a small budget provided mostly through membership and the larger CLA.

This is the **Executive Council** for CLTA for 2007-2008

- President: Lawrence Lavender, Creston, BC. Past President of the BCLTA and elected councillor for Creston and named to the Creston Public Library Board. llavend@telus.net
- Vice-President/President-Elect: Jan Harder, Chair of the Ottawa Public Library Board and an elected Councillor on the Ottawa City Council. jan.harder@ottawa.ca
- Secretary-Treasurer: Elaine Kivisto, Vice-Chair of the Regina Public Library and President of the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association elainekivisto@accesscomm.ca
- Director at Large: Donald Hamilton, Trustee for Gt. Victoria Public Library. donaldhamilton@shaw.ca

In May 2007, CLTA had 175 members. It is our hope to increase this number substantially this year. We look to the thousands of trustees across the country for their support. The next CLA conference will be held in Vancouver May 21-24, 2008. We hope to have an outstanding program at that event that would draw many to that Conference. We would welcome receiving ideas and proposals for speakers and programs for this important meeting. There is much to discuss and debate and many great people to meet. More information will appear in later CLTALK issues.

Provincial Library Trustee Associations have been formed in several provinces to provide assistance to their members:

British Columbia: BCLTA

<http://bclta.org>

Alberta: ALTA

<http://ecn.ab.ca/alta/director.html>

Saskatchewan: SLTA

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

Manitoba: MLTA (Not in service?)

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)

www.westerncounties.ca/lbans/



CLTA's WebSite is at <http://www.cla.ca/divisions/clta/clta.htm> This newsletter and other information will be come part of that service. All the links on these pages will be alive on the CLTA WebSite.

CLTA has several awards that are given annually. Calls for these awards are circulated widely.

- In 2006 the **Stan Heath Achievement in Literacy Award** was presented to the Perth County Information Network (the Public Library Boards of Stratford, Perth East, and West Perth) in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in identifying and meeting the need for literacy services and support in Perth County, Ontario.
- In May 2007 the **Merit Award for Distinguished Service as a Public Library Trustee** was awarded to Sally Gibson, North Vancouver Public Library Board.

The Association has taken an active role through CLA in lobbying the Federal Government on library postal rates, copyright issues and the Community Access Program (CAP). Important work has also been done on “infrastructure funding” stimulated by the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association and carried by CLTA to the CLA AGM in 2006. All these areas have serious implications to our libraries and our services to the public. We need to build CLTA into a force for change across the country. Our incoming President, Lawrence Lavender made these remarks in his inaugural address to the Association in St. John’s in May...

In the eyes of many trustees, we are at a crossroads, not dissimilar from the one mentioned in a presentation yesterday : that of either despair and depression or extinction. I don't believe that things are that bad and that with a concerted effort we can rebuild the CLTA. We can do that most effectively with the participation of the leadership of our provincial organizations, an expanded team of trustees working with the CLTA executive and increased support from the CLA. We need to develop and implement action plans on the concept of a provincial advisory council.

We must and we can offer more to our members and then we can reasonably expect an increase in our membership. I would like to reemphasize the need for a national trustees' organization. There are national issues and library trustees, either appointed or elected, are key public representatives in advocating support for public libraries and literacy causes in general. A collective voice is a stronger voice at the national level. The CLTA should mobilize that cross-country support among the provinces. We can also facilitate the sharing of a variety of resources and support among our provincial partners in a number of ways. We can assist CLA in providing better conferences for trustees.

There is a huge job ahead of us. Your executive is eager to move forward. We solicit and welcome your support and input at this crucial time in the building of the trustee division within the CLA. Expect to hear from us soon.

You can join CLTA by joining the Canadian Library 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 with fees based on the level of participation required. Full details and membership forms are on the web at <http://www.cla.ca/membership/membership.htm>

The CLTA Executive will be meeting in Ottawa on September 15. Please advise Lawrence Lavender <llavend@telus.net> about concerns, issues and ideas that CLTA must consider.