

The BC Library Trustees Association

# open door

bclta

2000/2001

A Newsletter for Library Trustees Spring 2001



Barbara Greeniaus, Director, Library Services Branch  
David Ryland, Assistant, setting up the BCLTA Chairs Listserve.

President's  
Message

New Executive  
Director

BCLTA Listserve

UBCM Event

Libraries and  
First Nations

Online Trustee  
Orientation  
Programs

Getting Ready For  
Provincial Election

Conference 2001

**BCLTA office:**

PO Box 4334, Stn. Terminal, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3Z7

Tel: (604) 430-9626 Fax: 669-5343 email: bclta@istar.ca

**PRESIDENT**

**Colleen Chambers**  
#317-7751 Minoru Blvd.  
Richmond, BC V6Y 3G7  
Res: (604) 279-8864  
Bus: (604) 643-6524  
Fax: (604) 844-7502  
Email: cchambers@cdnx.ca

**1st VICE PRESIDENT • EDUCATION**

**Blair Qualey**  
1501 - 1616 Pendrell Street  
Vancouver, BC V6G 1S8  
Cell: (604) 618-0614  
Bus: (604) 647-1010  
Fax: (604) 408-1646  
Email: qualey@telus.net

**VICE PRESIDENT • ADVOCACY**

**John Barton**  
4414 Meadowood Place  
Victoria, BC V8X 4V7  
Res: (250) 658-0031  
Fax: (250) 658-6045  
Email: jbbarton@islandnet.com

**VICE PRESIDENT • HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Mary Ann Graham**  
11231 Hwy 33E  
Kelowna, BC V1P 1J9  
Res: (250) 765-4848  
Fax: (250) 765-4301  
Email: magraham@telus.net

**PAST PRESIDENT**

**Ernest Neumann**  
9415 Snowberry Court  
Burnaby, BC V5A 4A6  
Res: (604) 421-3559  
Fax: (604) 421-7883  
Email: ernest@abbeygraphics.com

**SECRETARY • TREASURER**

**Mike Castle**  
4139 Sunset Blvd  
North Vancouver, BC V7R 3Y7  
Res: (604) 980-9464  
Fax: (604) 980-9464  
Email: mcastle@istar.ca

**DIRECTOR • AWARDS**

**Lynn Adams**  
1223 Felby Street  
Nelson, BC V1L 2W4  
Res: (250) 352-9526

**DIRECTOR • PUBLICATIONS**

**Kay Bremner**  
5921 Skeena Street  
Powell River, BC V8A 4V5  
Res: (604) 483-9289  
Bus: (604) 485-5212  
Fax: (604) 483-9289  
Email: kazy@prcn.org

**DIRECTOR • CONFERENCE**

**Margaret Long**  
17355 24th Avenue  
Surrey, BC V4P 2P2  
Res: (604) 536-7901  
Fax: (604) 536-7901

# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Do you get too much appreciation?** Is all that gratitude getting to you? What I would do to be in that situation: like most of us you probably don't have to worry about getting a sore back from all those pats. Well, let me express my appreciation and thank all of you for your dedication to our important public libraries in this Province. 2001 is the International Year of Volunteers and each of you should be applauded for the hard work you do to maintain and improve library services in your community. Your library needs you and you are appreciated!

The other volunteers in your library such as the "Friends of the Library", other individuals and groups who contribute to the library need appreciation too. In September, I had a great privilege to visit the Prince George Public Library and present BCLTA Library Advocate Awards to the Yellowhead Rotary Club, the CIBC and the Spruce Kings Hockey Club for their outstanding contributions to the library.

I've been reading newspaper articles where other libraries have celebrated receiving gifts, such as:

- ▶ a huge number of forestry books donated to the Smithers Public Library from the Bulkley Valley Woodlot Association,
- ▶ the Campbell River Kinsmen Club's donation of \$300 enabled the local library to purchase new books-on-tape,
- ▶ West Vancouver Public Library has a wonderful benefactor, Dr. Azarm who has generously helped build their Persian collection.

All these types of "friends", whether they volunteer time or provide other gifts, need to be celebrated. When an event is organized BCLTA would be pleased to provide a Library Advocate Award and if the event is in the lower mainland I would be happy to come out and express our thanks in person.

For other helpful hints about recognizing your library's volunteers check out the Volunteer Canada website at [www.volunteer.ca](http://www.volunteer.ca). An example tip is: Find out what types of food your volunteers like then randomly present them with treats; that

conjured up some interesting images of library board meetings.

The last few months have been very busy at BCLTA. We've met with the **Hon. Jim Doyle**, Minister of Municipal Affairs in hopes that the upcoming budget will include much-needed increased funding for libraries. We've started building a relationship with the BC Liberal Party at a meeting with **Mr. Ted Nebbeling**, Municipal Affairs Critic who has expressed his party's very positive view of libraries.

With outstanding help from the Greater Victoria Public Library, we joined BCLA and ABCPLD in hosting a reception at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention in Victoria attended by approximately 200 mayors and city councillors from the entire Province to thank them for all they have done for our libraries. It was a perfect opportunity to bring the needs of public libraries into the forefront of the library funders minds and encourage their continued support. For a first-time event, this was a very successful afternoon. (Read more about it on page 4)

If you missed the Internet Filtering Session in November no need to worry. Thanks to the generous donation of \$500 from Net Nanny Software Int'l Inc. we were able to videotape the session. Your library can purchase a tape from our office and hear the expert's opinions on filtering public library Internet stations.

I am very pleased to announce we have a brand new Executive Director, **Joan Abbott**, who started on November 1st. Joan is available to help our member libraries on Mondays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please take a moment to call Joan and introduce yourself, she loves libraries and would be pleased to hear from you.

Lots of changes at BCLTA with more to come. Let us know what we can do for you --better yet, why not run for a position on the BCLTA Board. It doesn't pay well but we promise to give lots of appreciation.

**Colleen Chambers**  
**President**

# TRUSTEE ORIENTATION PROGRAM ONLINE:



## APPLICATION FOR COURSE REGISTRATION

Have you attended a previous Trustee Orientation Program Online Session?

Yes  No

If Yes, where and when

Have you attended an in-person Trustee Orientation Program Session?

Yes  No

If Yes, where and when

**PERSONAL DATA** (please print clearly)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best days of the week and times to reach you by phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**LIBRARY AFFILIATION**

Name of the Library where you are a Board member: \_\_\_\_\_

What year did you become a Board member? \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION DATES**

Please note that there is no charge for the TOP Online sessions

TOP Online has been developed in close partnership with the BC Library Services Branch, and with financial assistance from the federal government's SchoolNet Program, an initiative of Industry Canada. Prior to the beginning of each session registered participants will be sent a package of course materials, and will be matched with a BCLTA group Leader, who will act as a guide and consultant through the course and its activities.

I wish to register for the following TOP Online session:

Spring 2001  May 14th – June 30th Registration deadline: April 12th

Fall 2001  October 8th – Nov. 24th Registration deadline: Sept. 28th

Spring 2002  Feb. 25th – April 15th Registration deadline: Feb. 8th

Please fax your completed form before the respective deadline to the BCLTA Office in Vancouver at (604) 669-5343. For further information contact

Joan Abbott, Executive Director at (604) 430-9626.

# GETTING READY FOR THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION

## Library Board Trustees can play an important role in the coming Provincial election in each of our constituencies.

The Public Libraries in British Columbia are facing a crisis which can no longer be ignored. The Public Libraries of this Province, 71 Boards with 331 service points, represent an investment of over \$500 million. It is a deteriorating investment in the value and quality of its collection of print and electronic material, and it is increasingly less accessible to the very people who need it most because of reduced days and hours of opening.

Despite increases in wages (62% of library expenditure), increases in the cost of the collection of 15% in the last five years, WCB required ergonomics improvements, increasing demand for Internet Access, and increases in building maintenance costs, the Provincial core funding for public libraries has been frozen since 1993. This crisis has been met in different ways by each Board, but it inevitably involves a deterioration in the quality and range of our collections, closures of buildings for differing periods of time, and cuts in staffing whose skills are one of our greatest gifts to the public.

As Sandra Anderson, Chief Librarian of the Greater Victoria Public Library puts it in her article in the September issue of "Check it Out", "Public libraries find themselves competing with fire and police services at local councils, or fighting for a share of the recreational dollar. Worse still, they risk being treated as a discretionary expense. At a time when the public is asking for increased hours of opening and Sunday service, libraries are fighting to keep their doors open; an outrageous situation."

Your BCLTA Board accepted as its key Advocacy Goal for 2001 to request the Provincial Government to increase its core funding for Public Libraries by \$2.00 per capita in its budget for its 2001 fiscal year. This will be at a cost of approximately \$8 million, and would increase the present per capita grant equivalent of \$2.32 to \$4.32.

Our Province is already the lowest of all Western provinces in its per capita grant equivalent of \$2.32. Alberta pays 4.89, Saskatchewan 6.09, Manitoba \$4.64. Our Province provides 7% of the revenue required to operate the Public Library system. Alberta provides 20%, Saskatchewan 18%, and Manitoba 16.7%. The average level of support of the other Western Provinces is 18%. It is time for a change in the level of Government funding in British Columbia!

What can you do? You can ask all of the candidates in your constituency running in the Provincial election:

- ▶ **"Do you support increased funding for public libraries?"**
- ▶ **"Do you support a minimum increase of \$2.00 per capita in 2001?"**
- ▶ **"Do you support moving to the average level of support of the other Western Provinces within the next two years?"**  
[ That is, move up from the low 7% of today to 18% within two to three years.]

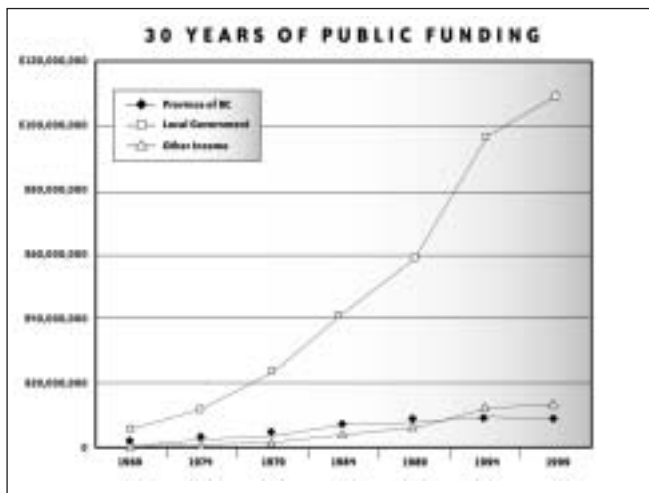
You can ask these questions in writing which has the advantage of a written response which can be kept as a record, and you can ask these questions verbally of all candidates at public meetings, in the process increasing public awareness of the crisis in funding of our public library system.

There will be material available to you on Public Library issues in this Provincial election at the BCLTA website: <http://home.istar.ca/~belta> and through the BC Library Association Advocacy Listserv. The address for sending a message to the listserv is: [advocacylist@moon.bcpl.gov.bc.ca](mailto:advocacylist@moon.bcpl.gov.bc.ca) To subscribe, people need to send a message to: [majordomo@moon.bcpl.gov.bc.ca](mailto:majordomo@moon.bcpl.gov.bc.ca) In the body of the email they need to type "subscribe advocacy-list".

You may also find useful information at the BCLA website: [www.bcla.bc.ca](http://www.bcla.bc.ca) and at the American Library Association website [www.ala.org/@your library](http://www.ala.org/@your library)

**The Public Library system, an essential part of the educational infrastructure of this Province, and one of its key intellectual resources is in danger.**

**Make this the time when Library Board Trustees who represent the people make their weight count.**





Suzanne Veit and John Barton discussing library issues.



Left to Right: Maurice Chazottes (Trustee GVPL Board), Val Ethier (Chair, Greater Victoria, Public Library Board), John Herbert (Oak Bay Councillor), Richard Dalon (Director, Capital Regional District, Outer Gulf Islands).



Minister of Municipal Affairs, Cathy McGregor, addressing the municipal delegates.

## LIBRARIES AND FIRST NATIONS

**Lotsee Patterson, Ph.D. is a professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma.** A leading authority in Native American and First Nations' issues, she was a visiting scholar at the UBC School of Library, Archival and Information Studies during the Fall 2000 term. She kindly agreed to speak to me from Norman, Oklahoma for the current issue of the BCLA Reporter.

*What is your background and what brought you to the field of Librarianship?*

**[Patterson, Lotsee F]** I was working in a Bureau of Indian Affairs high school and the principal told me to go take some library science classes since I was working two hours a day in the library.

*How did you become a specialist in Native American and First Nations' library service?*

**[Patterson, Lotsee F]** I don't consider myself a specialist in anything but I have spent a good bit of my professional career working with library development on Indian reservations. I saw a need and tried to address it. My first concern was the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools on and near reservations all over the country that had very few libraries in them. My effort there led tribal officials to seek me out asking that I help them get a tribal library.

*How did you come to be a visiting scholar at SLAIS?*

**[Patterson, Lotsee F]** Ken Haycock called and offered me the position. He wanted me to work with the school's First Nation concentration.

*Have you noticed differences in service to First Nations' people here in British Columbia as compared to Oklahoma and the United States?*

**[Patterson, Lotsee F]** In many ways they are the same, all share the lack of adequate budget and a stable funding source, facilities are often "space where you can find it", and finding trained personnel in the community is next to impossible. The one big difference I did note is that here you have a group of professional librarians who organized the First Nations Interest

Group and who have given freely of their own time and expertise to provide workshops, training and support in general for the First Nations libraries, archives and records management. I was most impressed with their dedication and generosity.

*How can we encourage more First Nations' people to go into Librarianship?*

**[Patterson, Lotsee F]** It is important that communication with First Nations be established and maintained; the FNIG is doing this. I have found that word of mouth and lots of encouragement is what works best. I work at recruiting native people every day, 365 days a year. By that I mean I never miss an opportunity to "sell" the profession to a native person. Being able to provide scholarships is a big factor in success.

*What do you see as the issues around service to First Nations?*

**[Patterson, Lotsee F]** All of the above! Money, training, professional support, distance, isolation, are a few words that come to mind. Of these, I believe the lack of a stable funding source is the primary issue.

*What can we do to improve service in the future?*

**[Patterson, Lotsee F]** Keep working at legislation to provide a permanent source of funding; keep a dialog going with First Nations people and follow their lead when talking about library and information services – they know what they want, let them tell you and then do what you can to assist them in making it happen.

*Thank you and best wishes for the holidays and the new year.*

Lotsee Patterson is the keynote speaker at the 2001 British Columbia Library Conference at the Vancouver Metrotown Hilton, April 19-21. Her presentation "Stone Soup Libraries: It's All About Believing" is scheduled for Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

**- Barbara Patterson**

# SO YOU WANT TO BECOME A BETTER TRUSTEE?

Online Trustee Orientation Program (TOP) now offered at no charge to BCLTA members!

If you have access to a computer with a good Internet connection - then this is for you!



---

*"Due to work and family commitments, I have been unable to attend a trustee workshop (in-person)."*

*"I find the online workshop interesting and informative."*

*"Working online gives lots of freedom time-wise. I can work in the mornings before going to work and in the evenings when the kids are in bed."*

*Board Member, Tumbler Ridge, BC*

---

BCLTA is very excited to now be offering the popular online version of the Trustee Orientation Program (TOP) at no charge to BCLTA members.

With the support and cooperation of the Provincial Library Services Branch, the BCLTA is now planning 3 new sessions of this powerful educational toolkit for Trustees.

The online version of TOP is designed for Trustees who find it difficult to attend an in-person, day-long TOP workshop or who prefer the flexible, interactive format of the web-based version.

TOP Online is a Web-based course that covers the basics and a great deal more about being an effective, knowledgeable Library Trustee.

The course provides an introduction to the work of library boards, a forum for sharing information and ideas with other trustees throughout the province, and outlines useful resources for continued learning.

The course is designed around six main topics. These include:

- › the role of the public library
- › library legislation and organizations
- › the work of the board
- › policy development
- › planning for results
- › advocacy

TOP Online requires an estimated 10-20 hours of course work over approximately 6 weeks. The Course Schedule gives a suggested timeline for completing the learning activities. This schedule is flexible, and you may focus on topics of importance to you.

The work for TOP Online involves completing the "required activities", as well as any suggested optional activities, in each unit. There are no formal assignments or tests, but a self-test will be provided at the end of the course to help you review and apply the course content to your own library and board work.

The TOP Online program is not meant to replace the in-person sessions sponsored every year by BCLTA, but for those unable to attend a session, TOP Online is a great

opportunity to learn and share ideas about trusteeship using the power of the Internet.

Should individual Boards or neighbouring Boards wish to work through the material as a group, please contact the BCLTA office to arrange a suitable date.

## COURSE CONTENT

The following questions are designed to give you a hint of some of the course content:

1. Public libraries as we know them are generally committed to the concept of "free" basic library service. What exactly does this mean in terms of the B.C. Library Act and your own library's policies?
2. Your library's staff and board need to work as a team to develop and deliver the best possible library services for your community. An understanding of the different roles of the board and staff is important to ensure that the work gets done more effectively.
3. Who should be primarily responsible for the following tasks at your library - the Board? the Chief Librarian? Or both? Does your board have policies in place to ensure role clarity in these types of situations?
  - Orientation of new board members.
  - Developing a five-year plan.
  - Recruiting, supervising and evaluating support staff and/or volunteers.
  - Approving a collection development policy.
  - Handling complaints about "too much noise" in the library.
4. What is your library's "mission statement"? When was it last reviewed? How is it communicated to the board, staff and community?
5. Describe one specific thing you can personally do to be an effective advocate for your library. What is one specific thing your board could do?
6. What are 3 things you can do to continue your learning as a trustee and/or increase your awareness of issues affecting libraries?

## TIME COMMITMENT

According to Ene Haabniit of Library Services Branch, "The course would take at least two to four hours per week, or it could be much more, as there are lots of supplementary "links" and information to pursue for those who are interested - and many people are!"

Individual or neighbouring Boards can do the TOP Online course together as a group!

## HOW TO REGISTER

Registration for TOP Online is easy. Complete the registration form included in this issue on page 11 and mail or fax it to the BCLTA office.

## PLANNED COURSE OFFERINGS

Spring 2001

- Course dates: May 14 – June 30
- Registration deadline: April 12, 2001

Fall 2001

- Course dates: October 8 – November 24
- Registration deadline: September 28, 2001

Spring 2002

- Course dates: February 25 – April 15
- Registration deadline: February 8, 2002

*"Recently I have completed the TOP online. It is an excellent course and I highly recommend that each trustee, whether new at the position or not, be encouraged to take this program. It will not only enlighten you as to how policies are developed but gives you knowledge of resources, job descriptions and how to advocate for your cause. This type of orientation helps to make the libraries function better and closer together."*

*Board Member, Hudson's Hope, BC*

# UBCM EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS



*Colleen Chambers (BCLTA President) with guests Bill Monroe (Councillor, Smithers, BC), Fred Thode-Hamilton (Councillor, Invermere BC), and another of BC's Municipal Representatives enjoying the event.*

## The Public Libraries' Reception October 25th, 2000

**A warm sunny October afternoon** in 18 degree temperatures and the Penthouse suite and verandah of the Executive House Hotel provided the pleasant ambience for the first Reception hosted by the BCLTA, the BC Library Association, and the Association of BC Public Library Directors for the Mayors, City Managers, and Municipal Councillors who were participating in their annual Convention, held for the first time in ten years in the Capital City of Victoria.

Normally the three associations have cooperated in hosting a Booth at UBCM Conventions. Display space at the Victoria Convention Centre is severely limited so Michael Burriss of BCLA suggested a reception and Sandra Anderson, Chief Librarian of the Greater Victoria Public Library, said "Let's book the President's Suite of the Executive House Hotel." It is just across from the Convention Centre which is an adjunct to the Empress Hotel.

Next question. "How do we get the delegates to the Convention to come to the Reception.?" Councillor David McLean of Victoria who was on the arrangements committee for the Convention made it possible for our invitation to the reception to be enclosed in the delegates' packages. Last minute panic when the committee decided the time of our reception would have to be changed by nearly two hours as the initial time conflicted with meetings with four Cabinet ministers. Janet Hawkins and Suzie Jones of GVPL staff leapt into the breach and ran off 1400 new invitations with the new times for the reception just a few hours before the deadline for their inclusion in the delegates' packages.

The BCLTA Board Chairs Listserve (see article on page 3) enabled us to ask Library Board Chairs to bring the reception to the attention of the Municipal Councillors from their Board who were coming to Victoria.

At the same time that we decided on a reception at the Executive House, Sandra Anderson came up with the great idea of printing @ your library labels to attach to the delegates' name-tags. This was based on the use of the new American Library Association logo which will be widely used in advertising and Television in North America in 2001. These labels would remind delegates of the reception in advance and help to advertise libraries at the Convention. See samples on the next page. In addition we came up with some good quotes by people such as Mark Twain and Jorge Borges about the importance of libraries which were displayed in Plexiglas stands at the reception.

With the Liberal Party reception and the BC Hydro receptions occurring at exactly the same time as ours, would anyone come? To our great delight and surprise more than one hundred and fifty came, (the Hotel thinks 200 by the volume of refreshments consumed), including the Deputy-Minister of Municipal Affairs, Suzanne Veit, and a little later the Minister, Cathy McGregor. In their speeches both stressed the importance of public libraries and their significance for an educated and vibrant civil society.

One report said, "Never have so many municipal councillors and mayors had such fun at a library event."

Watch for its successor in Vancouver, site of next year's UBCM convention.

Our heartfelt thanks to all those whose imagination and energy made it possible.

Barbara and John Barton.  
4414 Meadowood Place,  
Victoria B.C. V8X 4V7  
Tel: (250) 658-0031  
Fax: (250) 658-6045



*Suzanne Veit - Deputy  
Minister of Municipal Affairs,  
BC Government*

## MUNICIPALITIES WANT PROVINCIAL HELP WITH LIBRARY FUNDING

**While B.C. mayors and councillors** don't want to start charging for library cards, they're fed up with how property taxes are taking on a steadily growing share of the funding load.

As a result civic leaders are calling on the B.C. government to lift the decade-old freeze on provincial funding of local libraries.

"We want this issue to stay on the radar screen," said Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard, whose Victoria-area council raised the issue at October's Union of B.C. Municipalities convention.

"We don't want library funding at the expense of anything else, like health care. But we've had property tax increases (for libraries) in excess of the rate of inflation, and there's a temptation to go to user fees.

"It's a real challenge."

Two related resolutions advanced by Saanich were approved at the UBCM convention: the principle that user fees, such as charging for library cards, should not be adopted; and the call on Victoria to lift the funding freeze.

Most B.C. libraries, city and regional systems, have felt the pinch from the freeze. The per-capita rate has stayed the same, failing to keep pace with inflation, leading most libraries to rely more heavily on the

property tax—and/or cut services, most often by reducing the number of hours library branches are open.

The Vancouver Public Library, for example, shuts down for the last week in August every year to trim costs. The VPL's funding needs rise two to four per cent each year, director Madge Aalto said, and the system now gets about 80 percent of its budget from the city of Vancouver.

"We were really struggling for a couple of years, and we're still struggling," Aalto said. "(And) I imagine (the funding freeze) would affect smaller systems more."

Municipal Affairs Minister Jim Doyle, whose ministry is responsible for public libraries, pointed out that as recently as 1969 Victoria didn't supply any funding for libraries. Now it spends \$8.4-million a year province-wide, he said, but he allowed that "there's room for improvement".

I'm going to see what I can do to get funds from the treasury board in coming weeks," he said.

*by David Marsh  
The Richmond Review  
Wed. Dec 13, 2000  
reprinted with permission*

# CONFERENCE 2001

**2001: A Learning Odyssey...** Arthur C. Clarke himself would have been wowed by the real odyssey of the 21st century, attending the conference of the B.C. Library Association at the Vancouver Metrotown Hilton in Burnaby, April 19 to 21, 2001. H.A.L. too would have marvelled at the talent and innovation that will be showcased at this gathering.

Once again, BCLA joins with the B.C. Library Trustees Association to bring us absorbing speakers, informative workshops and entertaining social events. But this year's conference goes much further, highlighting, as BCLA President Julie Spurrell observes, how libraries in the new millennium are exploring the next frontier. And what a frontier it is, technological advances going hand-in-hand with promoting education to ensure that no one is left behind.

The conference's keynote speaker is working tirelessly to make sure this happens. Lotsee Patterson is a professor of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma and a leading scholar in Native American and First Nations' issues. (See interview in this issue.) For more than 25 years, she has been a fervent spokesperson for libraries on reservations in the United States. Her keynote address, "Stone Soup Libraries: It's All About Believing" offers inspiration for everyone.

As does this year's conference, beginning with the pre-conference skills-building workshops on Thursday, April 19th, including the Trustee Orientation Program. Some may wish to attend "Valuing Conflict" to discover how to improve their negotiating skills. Others who are asking "What's the Computer doing to our Children?" won't want to miss this session. Whether you choose to attend "Designing Effective Training," "Screen Writing: Communicating on the Web," or any of the other workshops, you will come away with a new perspective.

Check out the conference program, included with this issue of the BCLA Reporter and enroll early, as these pre-conference events promise to be popular.

Also included in the program is the backbone of any conference, the wonderful myriad of sessions. Choose from thought-provoking seminars such as "Radical Reads," "What's That Doing in My Library," "A Destination Beyond Carver" and "Cricket Scores from India." Likewise, you won't want to miss "Taking a Page from Retail," "The Harry Potter Effect," "Law and Ordering," the "Ebook Generation" and "Back to the Future." Once you've heard what's happening in libraries, take the opportunity to meet with the vendors at the trade show, during the reception on Thursday evening and all day Friday.

Finally, don't forget the other events that will keep you busy during the conference. Browse the Library Showcase on Saturday and discover some of the projects taking place in the library community. You may be surprised at what other libraries are doing. This is always an exciting and innovative part of the conference so make a note to attend! Relax with the social events planned for your free time: work out your frustrations at Playdium, laugh yourself silly at the musical comedy *Angry Housewives*, commune with nature at Deer Lake Park and unwind at the conference's wrap-up dinner, complete with live music. If you're lucky, you might even win the 50/50 draw at this year's Awards Reception on Friday evening.

Unlike the characters in Stanley Kubrick's classic film, you don't have to travel far to begin this odyssey. Mark April 19-21 on your calendar and hop on the Skytrain to Metrotown station. Kudos to the BCLA conference planning committee for this exciting event. For questions or more data, transmit a message to [bcla@office.bc.ca](mailto:bcla@office.bc.ca). -BarbaraPatterson

## TOP IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS



Dear Board Chair:

The Trustee Orientation Program is the BCLTA's most popular workshop. It examines the work of the board, the role and responsibilities of the board and chief librarian, how to work together more effectively and other topics of interest.

The materials provided are the TOP Workbook, Library Act, B.C. Public Library Statistics, BCLTA Pin and a certificate of achievement.

This workshop is provided annually at locations that are determined according to anticipated interest. Each workshop is delivered by 2 enthusiastic BCLTA TOP Trainers. The cost is \$145.00 for each participant, with a 10% reduction if 4 or more of your library staff or trustees attend the same workshop. This fee includes coffee and a muffin in the morning and a business lunch. The workshops are conditional upon 10 or more registrants. We will be presenting two TOP workshops in the Lower Mainland.

-1-

One will be held on Saturday March 17, 2001 (please see registration form) and there will be one on Thursday April 19, 2001 at the Conference. The registration form for the latter will be in the Conference package.

If your board would like to host a workshop of less than 10 participants special arrangements can be made. The cost is assessed to provide the trainers and materials to your board at an arranged date. You will be invoiced for the cost of the materials, trainers' fees and their expenses. You will be responsible for providing the room, audio visual requirements and all refreshments. All registrations will be your responsibility, however you have the option of registering up to a maximum of 20 participants at no extra cost.

If you would like more information please contact the BCLTA office at (604) 430-9626.

Sincerely,

Joan Abbott  
Executive Director

-2-

# NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Effective November 1, 2000, we are very pleased to introduce your new Executive Director, Joan Abbott.**

Joan's passion for libraries began while attending the Bishop Anstey High School in Port of Spain, Trinidad, her birthplace. She often volunteered her time after school working at the Circulation desk at the school library and at the local Central Library. Upon graduation, she worked at the Law Library, Supreme Court of Judicature and then became a secondary school teacher, before leaving her country for studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, where she gained her University degrees.

Her interest in associations began when she was elected President of the Certified General Accountants Students' Association. Experience as a long-time Canadian Federal Government employee included work at the libraries of the Department of the Environment and at Health Canada, where as a job analyst she was involved in the planning and reorganizing of the organizational structure of the Health Protection Branch Library. Program Administration experience was gained at Human Resources Development Canada.

An interest in the new emerging computer age and the evolution of printing, led Joan to graduate from Langara College with a post-graduate diploma in Publishing: Techniques and Technologies. She also has Certificates in Marketing and Technical Writing from Simon Fraser University.

Joan therefore comes to BCLTA with a breadth of skills and experience, including directing and co-ordinating the provision of services for several non-profit organizations as Director of Communications and Administration for Association Management Consultants and as Marketing Director for the Downtown Vancouver Association.



*Joan Abbott in her new position as Executive Director*



*Ene Haabniit, Library Consultant from LSB & Joan planning the TOP On-Line*

## IS YOUR CHAIR ON THE LISTSERVE?

**A significant new fast communications link for the Chairs of BC Public Library Boards.**

At the request of BCLTA, the Library Services Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs has kindly set up and will administer a new "listserve" for our use.

If as a Library Board Chair you wish to get information from your colleagues or engage in a discussion with them on issues of concern to your Board you simply type an e-mail and send it to [chairs@moon.bcpl.gov.bc.ca](mailto:chairs@moon.bcpl.gov.bc.ca). It will then automatically appear as an e-mail on the computers all of the seventy Board Chairs in British Columbia, providing of course they have an e-mail address which has been made known to David Ryland of the Library Services Branch in Victoria! (Please be sure you keep David advised of any change in the person of your Board Chairs and of their e-mail addresses.)

Peter Wainwright of the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board was the first to initiate a discussion. His concern was the present limit of eight years for Library Board Trustees, suggesting that should be changed upwards in the next revision of the Library Act.

The "listserve" is also valuable to your Library Trustees Association because it provides us with an immediate vehicle of communication with all BC Public Library Boards. In a recent e-mail to Board Chairs our President Colleen Chambers was able to

announce the appointment of Joan Abbott as our new BCLTA Executive Director, provide information of the 'on-line' version of the Trustee Orientation Program which is now available **free of charge**, report on a BCLTA meeting with Ted Nebbeling, the Liberal Party's Municipal Affairs critic, and on a forthcoming meeting with the Hon. Jim Doyle Minister of Municipal Affairs which will stress the urgency of a \$2.00 (increase in the Provincial per capita operating grant for public libraries), and invite Boards to forward library issues of concern to them for the forthcoming BCLTA Board meeting in Richmond. To have your chair signed up for the listserve, please provide the preferred e-mail address of your chair to David Ryland at [dryland@hq.marh.gov.bc.ca](mailto:dryland@hq.marh.gov.bc.ca), or call him toll free at (250) 660-7436.



## Special Message to all Library Boards

AWARDS  
AWARDS  
AWARDS

Now is the time to nominate a candidate for a BCLTA AWARD

1. The Nancy Bennett Award
2. The Super Trustee Award
3. The BCLTA Library Advocate Award

*Nomination forms are in this issue*

### GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO OPEN DOOR

The BCLTA Open Door is the official newsletter of the British Columbia Library Trustees Association. It is published three times annually. Material should be camera ready art or in Word format if sent by email. A printed copy along with text and graphics of each original file on a computer diskette is appreciated. 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.

Send articles to:

The Editor, BCLTA Open Door  
PO Box 4334  
Stn. Terminal  
Vancouver, BC  
V6B 3Z7  
Email [bclta@istar.ca](mailto:bclta@istar.ca)

### MISSION STATEMENT:

*'To promote and foster the effectiveness of Public Library Boards in British Columbia through unity, advocacy, education and leadership for the advancement of library service throughout the Province.'*