

Spring 2009

THE Trustee Voice

THE COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR ALBERTA LIBRARY TRUSTEES



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President's Message



Greetings, fellow trustees of Alberta's public libraries!

Since I was elected to this post at the AGM six months ago, I have been on a steep learning curve - listening, observing, reading, researching, asking, thinking - and have learned a great deal about what makes our organization, ALTA, what it is. The members of the Board, our Administrator, and I have worked diligently to understand its shortcomings, to appreciate its challenges, and to celebrate its successes. Allow me to share some of these with you.

Firstly, welcome to new ALTA Board Director from Area 3, Valdene Callin. Valdene replaces Melodie Stohl, who resigned from the Board due to increased commitments in her professional life. Also, welcome to Area 6 Director Martin Shields in his newly elected role of Secretary/Treasurer, replacing Edmonton Public Library Rep. Colin Minor who resigned from the position for personal reasons.

We have launched our new website www.librarytrustees.ab.ca which performs many functions for us all: a member database; a purveyor of relevant, current information of interest to trustees; a method of registration for ALTA events such as trustee training workshops and the Alberta Library Conference (ALC) in Jasper; a collector and distributor of nominations, resolutions, and other material for our AGM; a dis-

cussion forum and blog; library recruitment/employment info for trustees; educational resources such as online modules; and links to other relevant sites. Thanks to Lisa Holmes for her leadership in the development and administration of the website.

The Trustee Education Committee, chaired by Area 8 Rep. Carole Carpenter, responded to member requests and organized 4 trustee workshops for autumn of 2008. The committee is planning other workshops for the spring of 2009, which are jointly sponsored by ALTA and the Public Library Service Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs. The committee, including Area 4 Rep. Ian Morgan, is researching the offering of shorter, facilitated seminars to trustees and boards in need, and implementing other methods of delivery of educational resources. If your Public Library Board is willing to host a workshop, please submit a request form and contact your Area Rep who will work in tandem with the Ed. Committee to meet your needs.

Our third online module, Roles and Responsibilities, is just days from being available on the website to members. The creation of these trustee education modules has been spearheaded by Past President Donna Campbell who also works with Area 7 Director Marie Logan as the Grants and Fundraising Committee.

Communications Committee Chair Honey Pell and new Director Valdene Callin have published this issue of Trustee Voice. They are considering digital editions in the future; the twinkle in Honey's eyes tells me she probably has many other great ideas in mind! Honey also acts as the volunteer Registrar for ALC.

ALC is run by two organizations - ALTA and the Library Association of Alberta (LAA). Our ALC Co-Chair is Ann Craig, the Rep. for Calgary Public Library. Ann is a seasoned Director on our Board, taking on this new role with her usual bubbly enthusiasm. She and her crew are planning the 2009 conference in Jasper - an experience not to be missed!

Advocacy is one of ALTA's key roles, and this year's MLA Consultation sessions on libraries gave Advocacy Committee Chair Joan McDonald (Metro Edm. Rep.) and V.P. Ray Skrepnek (Area 1 Rep.) a unique forum for their advocacy work. Both Joan and Ray joined me in representing ALTA at the session in Edmonton for Library Support Organizations. Every Director on the ALTA Board attended a consultation session somewhere in the province; trustees at either the local, regional, or provincial level speaking directly with MLAs. In addition, ALTA joined LAA in publishing and distributing the Advocacy Guide.

Last but not least, Martin

Shields and I are the Finance & Admin. Committee. We are working together with our accountants and administrator on more detailed and better organized accounting, budgeting, and bookkeeping systems. We are also in the process of conducting a written, co-operative performance appraisal with our Administrator. Both of these activities are designed to streamline financial processes and ensure that our organization is as efficient and effective as possible.

These are some of the things that are happening at ALTA as we fulfill our mandate as trustees of public libraries. Libraries are on the top of the priority list for Municipal Affairs as they head into Budget 2009 - let us hope that our work in advocating for public libraries and in training library trustees continues to play a critically necessary role in Alberta's public libraries.

Great Public Libraries - Effective Trustees!

Natalia Toroshenko





Alberta Library Trustees Association ALC 2009 REGISTRATION/TRAVEL SUBSIDY

★ONLY ONE REGISTRATION/ONE TRAVEL CLAIM PER BOARD★

- CRITERIA:**
1. Only library boards serving 10,000 or less population are eligible.
(Subsidy amount may be prorated if claims exceed available funds)
 2. Library Board must be a member of ALTA.
 3. ONLY TRUSTEES are eligible - See LAA for Staff subsidies

Library: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Name of TRUSTEE attending conference _____

Early Bird Registration only:	\$195 - \$9.75 (GST) = \$185.25 (GST not eligible)	\$185.25
Travel from _____	and back = _____ km x .20 =	\$ _____
Total Claim:		\$ _____

Cheque Payable to _____ Library Board.

On behalf of the ALTA member library board I certify that the particulars of this claim are correct.

Signature of Board Chair _____ Date _____

Email Address _____ Telephone _____

RETURN COMPLETED CLAIM TO:
 ALTA - Subsidy Claim
 6-24, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square
 EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5J 2V5
 FAX: (780) 435-1445 PHONE: (780) 481-1725

Only Applications RECEIVED AT ABOVE ADDRESS by May 31, 2009 will be considered

OFFICE USE ONLY: Date Received: _____ Date Paid: _____ Amount Paid: _____

Descartes

"The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest men of past centuries."

Your 2009 ALTA Board

Valdene Callin

Area 3
Red Deer



I have enjoyed libraries since I was a little girl. This was my special time with my dad and we chose books to read together. I have continued this tradition with my son and have instilled a love of reading which I hope he will share with his children.

I enjoy libraries and all that they hold. I love to read fiction and non-fiction especially cookbooks. I am a frequent patron and have contributed to the overdue fines fund on more than one occasion due to my habit of taking more books out than my eyes can read at one time.

I have been a member of the *Red Deer Public Library Board* since 2003. I have enjoyed a variety of positions and all the opportunities that they have provided.

My time on the ALTA board has been short but I have enjoyed learning about the other library systems and how we work together.

I look forward to meeting you in Jasper in April.

Martin Shields

Area 6
Shortgrass



Martin has been a rural resident of Alberta for 60 years. As well as enjoying skiing, surfing, snorkelling and fly fishing, he is also a sports fan and loves to travel. Martin also volunteers every year at the *Encounters Canada Youth Forum* in Ottawa.

Martin graduated from the *University of Alberta*, the *University of Calgary* and *San Diego State University* with degrees in Political Science, and Education, as well as a Professional Diploma and Masters in Education Administration.

A school librarian for 15 years, Martin is also a *Brooks Library Foundation* and Board Member, is currently the vice chair to the *Shortgrass Regional Library Board* and has attended numerous library conferences.

In 2008 Martin was elected mayor of the *City of Brooks*, with previous years as a council member. His active involvement (2001-2008) as vice chair to the *Palliser Regional Health Board*, 30 years of teaching experience, 26 years as a school administrator and 20 years as an instructor for *Medicine Hat College* makes Martin a perfect fit as an ALTA board member.

Joan MacDonald

Area 7 -
Strathcona



I am currently a consultant with *Alberta Education*. Before retiring from teaching, I taught all elementary grades in public schools and several courses in colleges and universities in Western Canada.

I still have a strong interest in literacy, have served three years on *ALC* and am a past co-chair. I have served on several boards, both professional and public.

My personal interests include travel, fabric crafts, SCUBA, reading, fine arts and gardening. I am currently in my eighth year on the *Strathcona County Library Board*.

Your 2009 ALTA Board continues

Roger R. Breault Edmonton Public Library



Roger is a senior accredited fundraising professional, author and presenter with extensive non-profit expertise. He has raised over \$60,000,000 through capital campaigns, sponsorships, annual giving and other forms of fundraising, and he has worked extensively for charities in rural Alberta. He is currently president of *Fund Raising Consultants of Alberta*® and the *Speakers' Bureau of Alberta*®.

Roger is a successful business entrepreneur. He owns and manages a speakers' bureau with a roster of over 50 of Alberta's top expert articulate proven presenters on relevant topics of the day. As a volunteer, he is a trustee of the *Edmonton Public Library*, secretary of *Tomorrow Foundation for a Sustainable Future* and president of the Edmonton Chapter, *Muscular Dystrophy Canada*.

Education:

Certified Fund Raising Executive, (CFRE), Renewed in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007
Masters in Communication Studies, University of Calgary, 1988 (MCS)
Banff Centre School of Arts Management, 1978
Bachelor of Science in Recreation, University of Ottawa, 1972
Extensive/continual courses in all aspects of fundraising since 1984
Extensive background in economic development, recreation and parks
Bilingual in French and English.

Ann Craig Calgary Public Library



I really enjoy representing *Calgary Public Library* on the ALTA Board for the past four years. In addition to the regular board duties I also represent ALTA on the ALC Committee.

As to my "other life", I retired from *Calgary Public School* as a junior high library assistant last June and have wondered many times how I every worked full time as I seem to be so busy now! Although, the best part now is – my days do tend to start when I decide.

Apart from libraries I am involved with the Calgary Chapter of the *Jane Austen Society* and, am a very enthusiastic Red Hatter!

Funding for public library service

Alberta Municipal Affairs provides a grant program to support the delivery of public library service.

THE PROGRAM PROVIDES:

- Annual operating grants to 226 municipal and community library boards and 7 library system boards established under the Libraries Act of Alberta.
- Current maximum municipal operating grant is \$4.29 per capita based on local appropriation of at least \$2.72.
- Current maximum system operating grant is \$3.22 per capita based on an additional minimum local appropriation to the system board of \$1.53.

The amount budgeted for the library service program in 2008/09 is \$21,419,000. Included in this funding:

- Operating grants to municipal, community and system boards
- Funding for the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN)
- Support for SuperNet connectivity
- Project grants
- Establishment grants

*Source: Government of Alberta Municipal Affairs website:
http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mc_funding_for_PLS.cfm



Public Library Services Branch

Alberta Municipal Affairs

This report summarizes some of the program initiatives that the Branch has carried out over the fiscal year 2008-09.

The Branch provided operating grants to municipal and library system boards this year. A total of \$17,398,678 was provided to 226 municipal library boards, one community library board and 7 library system boards to assist these boards in the provision of public library service.

We have extended our agreement with AXIA to provide high speed broadband services through the Alberta SuperNet to 295 of 310 public library service points in the province. The agreement continues this service into the next year. It allows public libraries in rural areas to work through their regional library's integrated library system and also to access online resources through the web and through the licensed databases.

We have provided a significant amount of operational support to the MLA Committee on the *Future of Public Library Service in Alberta*. The committee has completed its report and has sent it to the Minister. The Minister will be reviewing the recommendations and making a

decision on implementing them. We expect that there will be more information available after the provincial budget is presented in April.

In conjunction with the resource-sharing libraries we have activated the reciprocal borrowing section of the

resource-sharing policy. Public libraries that are currently not participating in the network will no longer be allowed to borrow interlibrary loans through the network. These libraries include libraries not in library systems and libraries that are not nodes of the *Alberta Public Library Electronic Network*. These libraries may request interlibrary loans directly from libraries that hold them.

Libraries that are not currently participating in the network will no longer be allowed to borrow interlibrary loans through the network.

We have also begun to implement a training program on the Public Library Association's *Strategic Planning for Results*. This is a new way of identifying the programs and services of public libraries through a series of "service responses". It is a way of assisting library staff and trustees to identify the "products" that their library provides and it will have an impact on planning, budgeting and advocacy and awareness initiatives in the future. It should also make the development of a Plan of Service a more relevant process.

At the ALTA workshop held April 4th in Fort Saskatchewan

-photo by Dick Easton

Lady Bird Johnson

"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest."





Plan of service

All library boards and staff need to plan. Indeed, many boards find themselves in numerous planning cycles: plan of service, business plan, strategic plan, building plan, technology plan...

This plan is developed by the board and staff and the plan of service usually includes:

- a needs assessment process;
- mission statement
- goals and objectives; and
- the planning process to carry out your service.

The Libraries Regulation requires boards to have a plan of service that is current and on file with the Ministry. See Section 13.

To assist the board we have developed a few introductory articles that may get you started on your plan of service. All boards are required to deposit their current plan of service with the government. See Section 13 (2).

We also highly recommend that the board and staff look at the ALA book: *The New Planning For Results: A Streamlined Approach* by Sandra S. Nelson. Published 2001 by ALA.

Source: Government of Alberta - Municipal Affairs website:
http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/am_plan_of_service.cfm



At the ALTA workshop held April 4th in Fort Saskatchewan

—photos by Dick Easton



Unknown

"Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container."

Code of Ethics

Library boards exist to develop, promote and monitor library services as a public trust. To this end, library trustees should be committed to the following principles:

- 1 The primary goal of public library trustees is to ensure that the public has access to the highest quality of library services possible.
- 2 Trustees should ensure that each person has access to the most complete library service possible compatible with equal service for others. Where limitations in service are unavoidable, any inherent inequality of service should favour those residents least able to obtain alternative service.
- 3 Library Trustees should observe ethical standards with truth, integrity, and honour.
 - Trustees should avoid situations where personal advantage of financial benefits may be gained at the expense of other library users.
 - Trustees should distinguish between their personal views and those of the institution by respecting the position of the board, even though they may disagree,
 - Trustees should respect the confidential nature of library records within the framework which allows for the monitoring of material usage and the need for public accounting.
- 4 Trustees should respect the established structure of the library.
 - Trustees should attempt to work harmoniously with the board and ultimately accept its will.
 - Trustees should limit their trusteeship role to policy governance and advocacy.
- 5 Trustees are expected to take responsibility for their personal development through continuing education opportunities and participation in provincial and national library organizations.
- 6 Trustees should support intellectual freedom in the selection of library material.



Alberta Library Trustees Association ALTA Why Belong?

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

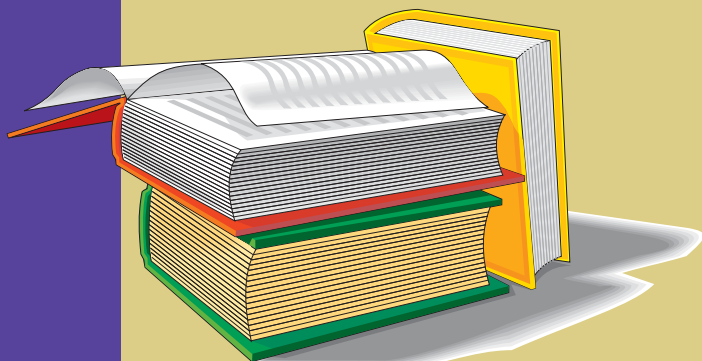
*Education, Advocacy and Leadership Opportunities for
Alberta Library Trustees*

As an ALTA member you enjoy these benefits:

- ALTA Trustee handbook
- Website www.librarytrustees.ab.ca
- Access to on-line trustee orientation modules
- Access to trustee education workshops
- Participation in the Alberta Library Conference at reduced rates
- Access to travel and registration subsidies to the Alberta Library Conference
- Information on what is happening in the library community both provincially and nationally
- Direct representation to the Minister's office
- Voting rights and eligibility to run for the ALTA executive
- Representation on other library associations
- Be eligible for ALTA's Award of Excellence
- Send a delegate to the ALC and be eligible for the Lois Hole Award
- Attend the ALC if selected as the Honorary Life Membership Award winner
- Join CLTA as an associate member

Fee Structure

available on the ALTA website at
www.librarytrustees.ab.ca



Board of Directors 2008-2009

Executive

PRESIDENT Natalia Toroshenko

PAST PRESIDENT Donna Campbell

SECRETARY TREASURER Shortgrass
Martin Shields

VICE PRESIDENT /Peace (Area 1)
Ray Skrepnek

Directors

Peace (Area 1)
Ray Skrepnek

Chinook Arch (Area 5)
Marie Logan

Yellowhead (Area 2)
Honey Pell

Shortgrass (Area 6)
Martin Shields

Parkland (Area 3)
Valdene Callin

Metro Edmonton (Area 7)
Joan MacDonald

Marigold (Area 4)
Ian Morgan

Northern Lights (Area 8)
Carole Carpenter

Calgary Public Library
Ann Craig

Edmonton Public Library
Roger Breault

Upcoming Events

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Alberta Library
Trustees Association

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