



SSLA Awards and Bursary Recipients

Connie Acton Recipient

Spring 2009

Joan Miller – Recipient of Connie Acton Award

One of the first teacher-librarians to serve in Regina Public Schools, Joan Miller has been a teacher-librarian for almost thirty years. She has a wide knowledge of the issues around school library programs, years of practical experience and a vision for what could be. On many occasions, she has been called upon to articulate this vision in writing and orally which she has done in a clear, incisive manner. She has advocated passionately for our program for many years, locally in Regina Public and provincially through her support and involvement in SSLA.

In the early years, she worked closely with Connie Acton and others as the design of Regina Public School's library program evolved through Educational Development Funding. She was a member of a committee who, with Alixe Hambleton, created the provincial document, *Where Did you Find That? Resource-Based Learning*, part of the Instructional Strategies Series developed by the Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit. The publication has provided guidance for teachers and teacher-librarians throughout the province.

Joan has experienced life as a teacher-librarian at both the high school and elementary levels. She was a mentor to many in the initial years helping with both management and programming issues and this mentorship has continued to the present. Over the years, Joan has offered her knowledge and expertise during numerous workshops for teacher-librarians and teachers around curriculum, resource-based learning, inquiry learning and information literacy, most recently with her involvement as a presenter at Showcase 2008. She pioneered school library automation in Regina Public Schools, spending countless hours working out the glitches before other schools went through the process. With this experience, she was invaluable as a member of the Horizon Focus Group, charged with providing leadership and support in school library automation.

Notably, Joan was a member of the RPS School Library Review Committee struck in 2005 to provide the Regina Public School Board with historical background and information about the state of the library program currently in Regina Public Schools. Through this work, her skill as a writer and speaker was evident. Her extensive knowledge of our program's history was demonstrated as was her passion for the future possibility that school libraries hold. As the role of the teacher-librarian evolves in our system, she continues to show leadership among the elementary and secondary teacher-librarians through individual contact and our group meetings.

Provincially, Joan served as Vice-President of SSLA in 2006 and began in the position of President the following year. During this time, she was instrumental in putting a grant proposal together for redesigning the SSLA website. As past president this year, her meticulous writing skills and attention to detail have been invaluable as the executive works to revise the association's constitution. She designed the bookmark to help publicize the SSLA's new website and has worked as a committee member planning the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

The love of libraries and learning is a legacy that Connie Acton began with her work in Regina Public Schools. It is one that Joan Miller has carried on and nurtured within our school system and provincially through the Saskatchewan School Library Association. We believe that Joan is e an excellent recipient for the Connie Acton Award of Merit.

Submitted By
Rhonda Wills
Chris Arnstead