



SSLA Awards and Bursary Recipients

John G. Wright Award Recipient

Spring 2009

Florence Barton – Recipient of John G. Wright Award

Florence has been a selfless and tireless spokesperson for school libraries and the critical role of teacher librarians in student learning throughout her career. As an ardent supporter of SSLA for over 20 years, she was co-chair of the 2006 SSLA Conference and is currently president of SYRCA, the Saskatchewan Young Reader's Choice Awards, The Willows.

Over the years there have been difficult times for teacher librarians. At the community level, specifically Saskatoon Public Schools, where Florence taught for 33 years, school libraries and teacher librarians cannot be mentioned without immediately thinking of Florence. When we think back to 2002-03 when the role of the teacher-librarian was greatly reduced, it was with tenacity and commitment that Florence presented a brief to Saskatoon Public trustees which showed the critical link of professionally staffed school libraries to academic achievement. Thus, there is now a greater understanding and appreciation of the connections of school libraries to the improvement of teaching and learning. Every elementary school in Saskatoon Public continues to this day to have a .5 teacher librarian.

Florence has shown leadership in many ways over the years. Some of the highlights are:

- Updating of the Saskatoon Public Schools procedural document on school libraries to reflect the current thinking and philosophy of the Ministry of Education's updated document: Connections;
- The initiative for Professional Development in the area of Critical Thinking, and the work of Dr. Roland Case at Simon Fraser University, which resulted in Saskatoon Public Schools becoming a member of the Critical Thinking Consortium;
- Supporting the Literacy for Life Conference in Saskatoon, now in its 5th year;
- Organizing Breakfast Book Talks for tls from Saskatoon and surrounding divisions;
- Relentless commitment to the work of the Teacher Librarian Council in Saskatoon Public Schools and the mentorship of new teacher librarians.

Submitted By
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