



## Saskatchewan School Library Association Executive Newsletter

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### SSLA CONFERENCE 2006

The theme for this year's SSLA Conference is *Teachers and Teacher-Librarians as Partners: 101 Reasons to Celebrate School Libraries*. The Conference will be held April 6 through 8 at Saskatoon's Travelodge Inn and is hosted by K to 12 teacher-librarians in the Saskatoon Public School Division.

Keynote speakers include Eric Walters, best-selling Canadian author, and Dr. Lois Barranoik, selected in 2004 by the Canadian School Library Association as *Teacher-Librarian of the Year*. The banquet speaker is Arthur Black, acclaimed Canadian radio host and two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour.

Registrations will be accepted until April 6. The fee for SSLA members is \$200; non-members pay \$215. To view Conference details and to obtain a registration form, visit the following Website:

<http://www.members.shaw.ca/ruthgarnett1/>



## THE WILLOW AWARDS

Fundraising dinners and silent auctions in support of the Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Willow Awards were held in Saskatoon and Regina. Saskatoon's *Books and Buffet* took place on February 24, 2006 at the Park Town Hotel. Regina's *Noodles and Books* took place on March 10, 2006 at Alfredo's Restaurant. Those who attended each of these events had a great time!

For information about the Willow Awards, visit: <http://www.willowawards.ca>

### EXECUTIVE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The third Executive meeting of the year was held in Regina on February 24 and 25, 2006. Delee Cameron (Director, Instructional Resources Unit, Saskatchewan Learning) and Judy Nicholson (Curriculum Actualization Consultant, Saskatchewan Learning) joined the Executive for a portion of the meeting. Discussion items included the following:

- Judy Nicholson reported that the School Library Reference Committee met once in the fall of 2005 to review factors that will have an impact on provincial policy. The Committee will meet again in March to begin drafting the policy document.
- Delee Cameron reported that changes probably will not be made to the CanCopy license until 2007. In addition, work is being done to address issues associated with the educational use of Internet resources as they relate to Canadian copyright law.
- Karen Walliser and Valerie Hopkinson attended the School Library Services for RBL/Library Coordinators and Consultants Focus Group Meeting that was held in Saskatoon on December 9, 2005. Data from the *Saskatchewan Indicators Report 2004* was shared and issues affecting the delivery of school library programs in the province were discussed.
- Karen Walliser reported that preliminary planning for the 2007 SSLA Conference has begun. The Conference is being co-hosted by Prince Albert Catholic Schools and the Prince Albert Grand Council.

## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES ANNOUNCES WINNER OF 2006 THACKER AWARD

The Angela Thacker Memorial Award was established in memory of Angela Thacker, teacher-librarian and library coordinator, who served the Association for Teacher-Librarianship in Canada and the Canadian School Library Association in many capacities. This prestigious award honours teacher-librarians who have made contributions to the profession through publications, productions, or professional development activities that deal with topics relevant to teacher-librarianship and/or information literacy.

This year, the Angela Thacker Memorial Award is being presented to a group of teacher-librarians from the Regina Catholic and Prairie Valley School Divisions who created a web-based professional development resource called *Teacher-Librarians ... Supporting Student Learning*. The website consists of modules that explore components critical to the role of teacher-librarians as instructional leaders in Saskatchewan schools. Each module contains information, examples of best practices, resources, and learning opportunities. Together, they assist in developing the skills required by teacher-librarians to support student learning.

Members of the development team are Joanne Beltramini, Maureen Erlendson, Judy Nicholson, and Carolyn Yaskowich. They have been invited to receive the award at the Canadian Library Association Conference, which will be held in Ottawa from June 15 through 17.

This project was funded for the 2004-2005 school year by the Saskatchewan Educational Technology Consortium through the Web-Based Learning Resource Development Initiative. The site is published by Saskatchewan Learning and can be accessed at:

[http://wblrd.sk.ca/~teachlib\\_dev/index.htm](http://wblrd.sk.ca/~teachlib_dev/index.htm)

**Congratulations!**

## MULTITYPE LIBRARY BOARD RELEASES DISCUSSION PAPER

The mandate of the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board is to build cooperation among libraries in different sectors of the province and to report to the Minister of Learning. In its discussion paper titled *Working Together: Saskatchewan Libraries and Other Information Providers* (November 2005), the Board highlights the positive impact of libraries throughout the province, advocates for greater awareness of and support for libraries, and discusses several issues crucial to libraries and other information providers today.

*Working Together* raises concerns that specifically relate to Saskatchewan's school libraries and extensively refers to Ken Haycock's report *The Crisis in School Libraries: The Case for Reform and Re-Investment* (2003) for background information. In addition, reference is made to the amalgamation of Saskatchewan school divisions and the development of an accompanying accountability framework. "[Amalgamation] provides an opportunity for Saskatchewan Learning and the new school divisions to investigate how accountability measures and processes might address the contribution school libraries make to the outcome of student achievement. It is the hope of the Board that this increases support for the role of school libraries and resource centres" (pp. 30-31).

Of particular interest are the Board's recommendations for the improvement of school libraries throughout the province. These include (1) that there be a formal assessment of current conditions in the province's school libraries, (2) that there be qualified teacher-librarians in all school divisions with the ultimate goal of a teacher-librarian in every school, and (3) that there be library technicians working in partnership with teacher-librarians in all school divisions (p. 31).

*Working Together* is a useful document for library professionals and others concerned about the delivery of information services. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/Documents/WorkingTogether2005.pdf>