

# NEWSLINE

Newsletter MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 208 - 100 Arthur St., Wpg. MB R3B 1H3

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 22 No. 1 SEPTEMBER 1996 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

### I. MLA NEWS:

#### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm not sure I'd of believed it if I hadn't heard it with my own ears. Yes, the words Manitoba Library Association coming from Peter Gzowski's own lips on Morningside (Tuesday, September 9th at about 11:20 am). Peter Tittenberger of our own CM was being interviewed. You just can't buy publicity like that! Congratulations to the CM board and employees for all the hard work and inspiration that attracted the attention!

After much soul searching this summer the MLA executive has decided not to participate in a joint conference this Spring. For those of you ever involved organizing one of these conferences you know how much of a commitment they involve, and for those who have not, I think you can imagine. There are several reasons we decided to go in other directions: no one on the executive was committed enough to the concept to chair the conference; by the time all the bills are paid the conferences do not generate a significant amount of

income; and we cannot afford an office manager (and therefore a large part of the support a large conference needs). What we are going to pursue (and I don't want to scoop anyone, but I will anyway) is a joint conference with at least PLS in the fall of 1997. I really hope this flies, because I think it would be a great opportunity for all of us (and anyway it fits in with the theme of inclusion I talked about at the AGM).

Speaking of office managers, I should of started with a big "We Apologize for the inconvenience, picture quality will resume shortly". For those of you trying to do any business with MLA during the last few months, you may have found us nearly impossible to reach. In order to improve this situation the members of the executive residing in Winnipeg will be sorting and answering mail twice a week and returning phone messages daily. Unless of course there is a person reading this that would like to volunteer some time to help the Association out in the office. I'm thinking perhaps a recent graduate looking for contacts (and extra goodies to put on their resume) or a retired librarian at loose ends (ha!).

The major problems we will be correcting are: slow mailing of Newsline resulting in lost opportunities in job ads, et cetera; receipts for membership cheques not received; membership cheques not cashed in a timely

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 22 No. 2 OCTOBER 1996 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

### 1. MLA:

#### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few weeks ago Richard Thiessen sent out over 200 membership renewals. I was extremely pleased to see the stacks of renewals (with cheques included!) that have been coming into the MLA office. Thanks to all who have replied promptly!

At the October 7 meeting of the executive we passed the Strategic Plan for the 1996/97 year. Here are a few of the highlights. If you would like to receive a copy, please email me at [karenh@rcc.mb.ca](mailto:karenh@rcc.mb.ca).

#### 1.0 Professional Development

We are planning a one to two day conference in the Spring. If you would like to serve on the committee organizing the event please contact me. Last month I mentioned the possibility of a joint conference with Public Library Services for this fall. Unfortunately that will not be possible, but we will be working on a joint conference to be held within the next 12 to 18 months.

The events throughout the year I discussed last month are really shaping up. October's HTML writing workshop is scheduled for October 28th (see details in this issue of Newsline).

Paul Nielson and I are organizing a public forum on Information Rights for the end of November.

Hal Loewen will be doing a session on automation for smaller libraries (similar to the session done on February 1st). If you were on the waiting list for that session please contact Hal for details (452-7734).

For February, Iris Loewen is organizing a session on Genre Fiction. I think this will be very interesting and should appeal to library people, and moreover, readers of mystery, romance, westerns, et cetera.

Keep reading upcoming issues of *Newsline* for more information on the above and future events.

All scholarships were awarded this summer, and a full list is included on page 2.

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 22 No. 4 DECEMBER 1996 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

### 1. MLA NEWS:

#### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

##### Training and Libraries:

The latest issue of *Library Journal* (November 15) has a report on a special survey entitled: "The Profession's Changing Face: Net work, new roles, same mission."

The survey of 1,000 librarians plus another 100 who chipped in via e-mail found that all types of libraries and all types of library staff are experiencing changes in their jobs.

Three forces were identified: technology, especially the internet; funding shortfalls (not necessarily cuts) that led for pressures to do more with less or to actual downsizing; reorganization and staff development/training which may be independently driven or may be the unavoidable reaction to the other two forces.

The rest of the article presents some interesting statistics but more importantly presents some profiles of

outstanding individuals who have moved to master these forces and lead their libraries in to the future.

*These outstanding individuals seemed to have three characteristics:*

- 1) They are at the webmaster level in their development
- 2) They learned it themselves
- 3) They are very dedicated line workers or operational managers who work long, long hours.

*If you are lucky enough to have such a person in your library, be nice to them!*

The article throws a scare into everyone at the pace of change. It probably exaggerates the degree of change because the people who responded to the survey were more in the throes of change than those who didn't. Some respondents argued for the truth of the old ways and warned about the danger of throwing over the tried and true old technology for an overhyped new technology. Such resistance is necessary to allow for a synthesis of the new and the old that is a real

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 22 No. 5 JANUARY 1997 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

### 1. MLA NEWS:

#### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Paul Nielson <pnielson@freenet.mb.ca>

#### MLA MEMBERSHIP = BENEFITS + VOLUNTARISM + PARTNERSHIP + ADVOCACY

At its last meeting the MLA Executive decided to begin our annual membership drive. Our current membership is around 300 which seems to be its "natural" long term level but a forthcoming study of employment in libraries estimates that there are over 3,000 (410 librarians in the 1991 census) people working in libraries in Manitoba. Of course, the other library associations in Manitoba also serve and represent library workers and supporters and many people only have the money and time for one library membership but I would still like to review the benefits and importance of membership in MLA in this message and appeal to all potential and lapsed members to join the association, not just by subscribing but by participating.

MLA strives to be a paying proposition by providing its members with numerous benefits. Our information services include MLA Newline which carries all the library news in the Province. Our mailing list, MLA-News, offers fast-breaking news and job postings as well as a host of internet resources. Our forthcoming web page will begin with the most current, thorough and comprehensive provincial library directory ever (free of paper costs!)

Our professional development services currently include monthly workshops on need-to-know topics and technologies. Our last conference offered a cornucopia of the same with national and international speakers/experts.

The value of MLA goes beyond these tangible benefits. MLA is the primary vehicle for library leadership and advocacy on all the pressing information issues of the day from access to training. Our committees, especially our conference committee, are in need of an infusion of membership energy and ideas to make MLA a force in the larger society.

Studies show that more and more people are struggling to survive and meet their numerous job and family

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 22 No. 7 MARCH 1997

Editor: S. Norma Godavari

### I. MLA NEWS:

#### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, actually Paul doesn't have any message, mainly because he was really inspired by a message forwarded to him and he would like to share it with you. It is a heartwarming graduation speech given by Guy Kawasaki, one of the founders of Apple Computer who helped create the Mac. This is the speech he made on June 11, 1995 at the Palo Alto High School Baccalaureate ceremony. It's worth passing along to young and not-so-young.

"Hindsight" by Guy Kawasaki

Speaking to you today marks a milestone in my life. I am 40 years old. 22 years ago, when I was in your seat, I never, ever thought I would be 40 years old.

The implications of being your speaker frightens me. For one thing, when a 40 year old geezer spoke at my baccalaureate ceremony, he was about the last person I'd believe. I have no intention of giving you the boring speech that you are dreading. This speech will be short, sweet, and not boring.

I am going to talk about hindsight today. Hindsight that I've accumulated in the 20 years from where you are to where I am. Don't blindly believe me. Don't take what I say as "truth." Just listen. Perhaps my experience can help you out a tiny bit.

I will present them ala David Letterman. Yes, 40-year old people can still stay up past 11.

#10: Live off your parents as long as possible

When I spoke at this ceremony two years ago, this was the most popular hindsight - except from the point of view of the parents. Thus, I knew I was on the right track.

I was a diligent Oriental in high school and college. I took college-level classes and earned college-level credits. I rushed through college in 3 1/2 years. I never travelled or took time off because I thought it wouldn't prepare me for work and it would delay my graduation. Frankly, I blew it.

You are going to work the rest of your lives, so don't be in a rush to start. Stretch out your college education. Now is the time to suck life into your lungs-before you have a mortgage, kids, and car payments. Take whole semester off to travel overseas. Take jobs and internships that pay less money or no money. Investigate your passions on your parent's nickel. Or dime. Or quarter. Or dollar. Your goal should be to extend college to at least six years.

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 22 No. 8 APRIL 1997 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

### I. MLA NEWS:

#### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Paul Nielson <pnielson@freenet.mb.ca>

A dazzling and dizzying abundance of information surrounds us today. In the midst of this plenty, however, there are many troubling questions.

Manitoba Library Association (MLA) and the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba (PCWM) are sponsoring a series of seven in-depth panels/town hall meetings -- the first of their kind in Manitoba -- to explore the following:

Are the highly complex issues facing Canadian society being debated fully and fairly enough or are they being simplified, sensationalized and manipulated?

Is adequate, timely, critical information available to decide public issues properly or is information being shaped and selected, or kept secret and inaccessible?

Are we educating informed, concerned citizens with the skills to find and evaluate information or are we creating apathetic, ignorant and alienated citizens who are easy prey for info-tainment?

Do our leaders and politicians respect our views or are they using polling, focus groups and message management techniques to play with our emotions and prejudices?

The panelists have been carefully selected to include not only the best available experts on the subject but also to provide balance and a variety of points of view.

Thought-provoking questions have been sent to each panelist and are included in this newslite for your consideration as well.

If you look carefully, you will discover that the principles and techniques of library science underlie the structure of all these panels.

Please attend as many of these events as possible and participate actively in the discussions.

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 22 No. 9 JUNE-AUGUST 1997<sup>1</sup> Editor: S. Norma Godavari

### 1. MLA NEWS:

#### ★ MLA NEWS RELEASE ON BILL 50

Issued at 10:30 a.m., June 19 at a joint news conference with Canadian Association of Journalists, Council of Women, Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties and Manitoba Taxpayers Federation.

We requested a meeting with Premier Gary Filmon and Rosemary Vodrey, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship.

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BILL 50 - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION & PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT MUST BE DELAYED

Access to timely, accurate, critical information is vital to an open, equitable, accountable and dynamic society.

Freedom of information is the basic right upon which all the other democratic freedoms (speech, assembly, elections, etc.) rely.

The current Manitoba Freedom of Information Act has major flaws. It has allowed the government to delay responses to controversial requests for over a year (e.g. the Jets Deal) and to deny requests for critical information entirely by using the broad exemptions of the Act (cabinet documents and policy advice). The Provincial Ombudsman's Office does not have the budget to properly discharge its responsibilities for handling complaints.

Section 56 of the current Act required a "comprehensive review of the operation of this Act" within three years of proclamation (1988) and a report to the Legislature within a year after that. Such a statutory review has never been conducted.

The Government has violated the spirit of the law many times and now introduces new legislation at the very end

<sup>1</sup>. Ooops! The last issue you received was supposed to be Vol. 22 No. 8 May 1997 & NOT Vol. 22 No. 9 September 1997.

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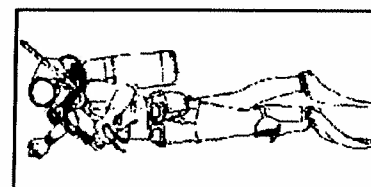
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**1. NEWS:**

### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An Annual General Meeting does not have to be formalistic and boring.

It could present opportunities to review past achievements and analyze problems. New ideas and solutions may come forward as well. Most of us are completely occupied by work, family and recuperation. If you have that little extra to give, please consider MLA as an outlet for your creativity and effort to make the world a better place.

We are working in the following areas:

- 1) April 1998 Joint Conference under the theme of partnership
- 2) Information Rights Coalition
- 3) MLA webpage development to create a directory of library resources and services in Manitoba

4) training workshops to share new skills and exchange ideas

Please come to the AGM to review progress to date and explore mutually beneficial ways of participation in your profession. Your contribution does not have to be open-ended and even small commitments can make a difference.

Remember even after the flood is finally gone and cleaned up, the flood of information will still be there and we have an important role in applying the principles of library science to the chaos and the hype of the information revolution.

The challenge is with us and cooperation and partnership are two key lanes on the information highway that must not be washed away.

From: Paul Nielson <pnielson@freenet.mb.ca>