

# NEWSLINE

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

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### 1. MLA NEWS:

#### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the glories of federalism is the chance to compare experiences from one jurisdiction to another in the search for the best way of governing. Provincial governments all have the same set of legislative powers and the Premiers want to entrench this "equality" of governments in the constitution (Calgary Declaration).

I am interested in sharing the experiences of citizens who assert themselves in the face of unfair government policies as revealed in the account I have attached below.

As citizens are more and more being consulted, managed and manipulated via polls and focus groups, the media provides shallow background analysis focused on controversy and leadership personalities and plots. If one really knows the depth and complexity of issues, the level of ignorance, political theatrics and simplification is scary.

MLA is struggling to provide an open professional voice for all Manitoba libraries. Our forthcoming conference is an expression of this attempt to form information partnerships with other groups in our society interested in promoting access to quality information and discussion. The struggle continues to be difficult as more and more work falls on fewer and fewer individuals. We need help with the conference and our other professional activities NOW!

Please take the time to read the inspirational story below of the comparative experience of the citizens and information professionals of Ontario and consider carefully whether you can contribute here in Manitoba.

The local media have not seen fit to cover the story of Bill 109, which amended, in effect abolished, the Ontario Public Libraries Act by devolving all financial responsibility down to the municipal level and empowering municipalities to set fees and abolish boards. It was actually the first bill to be withdrawn by the Ontario Government in the face of widespread public opposition.

Ask yourself if this could happen in Manitoba.

# www.mla.mb.ca

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 23 No. 2 DECEMBER 97 - JANUARY 1998 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

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**I. MLA:**

### ★PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

#### The four pillars of electronic wisdom

The MLA website has already been visited by 1700 surfers and it will grow - both in use and information resources, especially if YOU will help us carry networking and cooperation to new heights.

The **Directory of Manitoba Libraries** on the site is well on its way to completion with over 90% of academic and public libraries entries updated, linked and expanded. Special and government libraries are less than half done so we still need help there. We are willing to consider adding school libraries or at least their resource centres for the first time if we are not byting off more than we can chew. Meanwhile **Donna Strike** is preparing the directory for possible print publication by pursuing grants from foundations. She has already found a publisher partner so the project is close to taking off. Once the

financing is ensured, she will be writing and commissioning articles about outstanding libraries of all types. Articles to help users make more intelligent and efficient use of libraries will also be featured, so sharpen your pencils (or oil your keys).

As we explore the possibilities, new ideas are surfacing and old ideas are reborn. The 1991 Serials list has been mounted and the first ten libraries have provided updates (see separate article in this [Newsline](#)). If the original 140 participant libraries rejoin the project, we will have another unique resource connected to the Directory or a library's web catalogue so that one can easily move in two or three clicks of the mouse from locating a title to initiating a request to a partner library. "Linking libraries" will move closer to reality.

**Norma Godavari** and **Norm Beattie** and others are, as usual, performing herculean labours on these projects but they need your information, ideas, constant encouragement and support to make it happen. They cannot do it all by themselves (or can they?).

Our forthcoming Information Partners Conference is now also available on the website. **Peggy Neal**, **Linwood Delong** and **Naomi Lloyd** are exploring presentation

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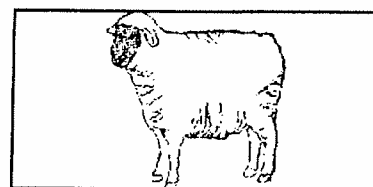
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### 1. MLA NEWS:

#### ★ADVOCATING ACCESS - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Manitoba Library Association, I joined an ad hoc citizen's coalition, Advocates for a Free Public Library, to fight for the principle of access to information as a basic, universal right, the public library free to all.

Jan Dalmy, former President of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library, was selected as the first speaker with me as seconder for our side of a public debate with members of the Winnipeg Public Library Board. We argued against the membership fee of \$5.00.

The debate was held on January 20 and drew a good crowd of about 80-100 people. In addition, media coverage was extensive with mini-debates, discussions and reports appearing on CBC Radio Morning and Questionnaire, CBC TV 24 Hours, Larry Updike (CJOB), Global TV, Insight (Videon), the Winnipeg Sun and the Winnipeg Free Press.

Both sides of the debate agreed on the desperate need for more funding for the Winnipeg Public Library and the debate may yet lead to more funding from a variety of creative sources, and, perhaps to giving up the idea of a membership fee.

The theoretical and practical arguments on our side of the debate were greatly bolstered by the personal testimony of lower income individuals who expressed what the library meant to them and how a fee would constitute a psychological barrier of humiliation to many potential users, no matter how humanely it was administered. The next day the Winnipeg Free Press ignored all other substantive arguments and declared the anti-fee side the winner as a result of one such user's testimony at the debate.

A final decision on a membership fee will be made by City Council in March and in the meantime the Advocates for a Free Public Library are appealing for support from many other educational, information and social service organizations. We are trying to arrange meetings with Mayor Thompson, the Standing Committee on Protection and Community Services, Premier Filmon, Minister of Culture, Heritage and

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 23 No. 4 MARCH 1998 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

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**I. NEWS:**

### ★NURSING LIBRARIAN APPOINTED

Effective December 1997, **Jan Johnson** was appointed to the position of Nursing Librarian in the Reference Services Section, Elizabeth Dafoc Library.

Jan's responsibilities include coordinating library service to nursing students at the University of Manitoba, liaison with all the nursing teaching sites in the province, collection management of the Nursing collection, delivering library services to distant nursing students and faculty, assistance to on- and off-campus clients, orientations and bibliographic instruction, and participation in policy-making decisions and service development.

Jan as a BA in psychology and MLS (UBC). For the past 3 years, she was the Regional Services Librarian at the University of Northern British Columbia. Previously, Jan was also the Coordinator of the Manitoba Health Information Network (MHINET) in Winnipeg.

Jan can be reached at 474-6710 or e-mail at [Jan\\_Johnson@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Jan_Johnson@umanitoba.ca).

### ★CNIB UPDATE

The CNIB Library for the Blind, in partnership with the Regina Public Library and the Brantford Public Library, is undertaking a pilot project with the support of Industry Canada. The purpose of the project is to develop a model for extending Industry Canada's Community Access Program (CAP). Each partner library has established one computer workstation equipped with the technologies necessary to enable public access to the Internet for all members of its immediate community. Emphasis at these CAP pilot sites is being placed on connecting people who are unable to read print because of blindness, visual impairment, physical disability and/or learning disability to the Information Highway.

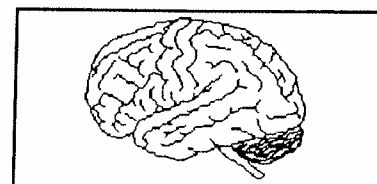
A team of 3 young Canadians is managing the pilot project. One member of the team is located at each site, known as CLASS (Community Library Access Superhighway Site). CLASS offers a one-on-one training program tailored to the needs, interests and level of computer literacy of those who visit each pilot site.

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 23 No. 5 APRIL 1998 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

### 1. MLA NEWS:

#### ★MLA WEB UPDATE

The MLA web is now 5 months old and constantly evolving. Now, more than ever, we can use your help in making it your first stop for Manitoba library information. Let me count the ways:

#### 1. Directory of Libraries in Manitoba:

- This is one of the most useful and used part of our web. However, there are many libraries that need updating (look for the ✓). Please contact Norma Godavari with your updates, staff changes, web additions. etc.

#### 2. News Flashes:

- promote your library!!! This section contains library press releases as well as press coverage of libraries in Manitoba. If you see ANY library articles in papers, PLEASE send them to Norma Godavari to get them posted here (address on the last page)! We also have an archive section, so you will have access to an online history of Manitoba Library issues.

#### 3. Calendar:

- Advertise what your library is doing here! This section is brief with only a reference to an event so make sure you also give us a contact person or a web link to refer to. It is not archived.

#### 4. Serials List:

- if you have a serials list which is updated since the 1991 list, please send it to Norm Beattie at the Red River College Library (nbeattie@rrcc.mb.ca). If you are a new special library, we welcome your serials list. Please read the history and how to use sections to understand what this list is and where it may go. The Serials List links to the Directory of Libraries in Manitoba so people will know if you do interlibrary loans or not.

#### 5. Manitoba Library Jobs:

- this section lists all Manitoba library jobs by deadline date. If you see ANY library jobs in Manitoba for librarian, library technicians, clerks, etc., please notify Norma Godavari (ngodava@cc.umanitoba.ca) about them so they can be posted as soon as possible. Also, if your library is looking for any library staff, please consider the MLA Job Site as one of the first places to post jobs (hey, it's free!!) Norma has been and is STILL keeping an informal "Jobline" for any term position people; send her

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 23 No. 6 MAY - JUNE 1998 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

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1. *MLA NEWS:*

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### *CHANGE*

Before I start my missive, let my opening remarks as in-coming president of MLA be words of thanks to those who were responsible for the success of the Conference. It was a major undertaking by a dedicated core of volunteers under the direction of Peggy Neal. All those involved in its successful outcome have much to be proud of. The conference highlighted in many aspects my theme of change, especially with regards to our embracing of technology in order to provide service to on site users and users who wish to access our resources remotely.

Change is a word with many meanings. We have just experienced a change of seasons with winter giving way to spring, prompting some of us to rush out to the gardening centres in anticipation of a period of growth to come. But just as there is a change of seasons, there can also be a season of change. We can have a change of heart or there can be a change of pace. Some of us go through changes in our lives which for us may

mean a "sea change" but for others be only "small change". We speak of the "changing of the guard" or "ringing the changes." Some say "a change is as good as a rest," while for others, the "rate of change" is dizzying.

Change can mean a variety of things either as a noun or as a verb. Change can mean sameness as when we exchange one item for another of comparable worth or of the same kind. It can also mean "to make different in some particular" either subtly or radically, or to "make a shift from one to another". MLA's recent Annual General Meeting marked the shift from one executive to the next. The Executive's composition is different, but continuity is maintained through returning members and ongoing issues. Whether the change will bring equivalency or alteration in direction is something which will unfold over the course of the coming year as new voices and ideas blend with those of the veterans to create a new dynamic.

Part of this dynamic I see as input from members at large. MLA is your organization. Make it truly yours by becoming active. Get in touch with members of the executive and let us know what activities and issues you would like us to pursue in addition to such projects as the Directory. It is anticipated that Manitoba Library Week will take place in

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 23 No. 7 JULY-AUGUST 1998 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

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*1. PEOPLE:*

### **HEATHER GRAHAM RETIRES**

(But not for long!!)

A life change may be seen as exciting or stressful, but to some people, changes represent new opportunities and challenges.

**Heather Graham** who retired as Winnipeg Public Library's Community Relations Coordinator on July 31, 1998, after nearly 33 years with the City of Winnipeg, is already planning her next career move.

Heather, who confronts changes with her own brand of optimism and quiet self-confidence, is finding new challenges to be mastered.

"I'm in the process of establishing a consulting business in the library and communications fields. I will volunteer to deliver library materials to homebound library customers. I will be fund-raising for the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library," Heather said.

While this may seem a busy agenda for someone who's "retiring," Heather's reputation for successfully working through challenges (often wearing several hats) has been well earned. Heather faced her first major challenge at the age of 10. She immigrated to Canada with her mother from Belfast, Northern Ireland to rural Saskatchewan where her mother taught elementary school.

"Coming to Saskatchewan was a real culture shock," she said. "My new school was a four room, twelve grade school, and education was much more relaxed. I was introduced to the joys of baseball and corn on the cob."

She and her mother soon moved to Winnipeg where Heather completed her elementary and high school. She attended United College (University of Manitoba) where she received her Bachelor of Arts, focussing on languages and English literature, in 1965.

In September of the same year, she became the Assistant Librarian at Transcona Public Library. It was there that she worked with the late **Bob Oliver**, who became her mentor and close personal friend.