

# NEWSLINE

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Newsletter MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 606 - 100 Arthur St., Wpg. MB R3B 1H3

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 24 No. 1 SEPTEMBER 1998 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

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*I. NEWS:*

✧ MANITOBA LITERARY AWARDS

From: Linda Petriuk <lpetriuk@FDC.MB.CA>

The Manitoba Literary Awards Committee is getting ready to start meeting again for the 1998 Awards year. For the 1997 Awards year I was the committee's MLA representative. I am unable to continue on the committee this year so another MLA representative is required.

The committee will meet probably three times in the next year and the Awards event itself will be on Saturday 24 April 1998 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, as in the previous years. The MLA representative's obligations in being on the committee are to attend the several meetings and offer ideas or just listen. Judging of the books in the various categories is carried out by an independent jury and is not the work of the committee.

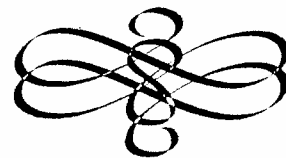
Please contact me if you are interested in being involved with the Manitoba Literary Awards. It's a wonderful chance to become involved in Manitoba's literary community, especially

with local authors, publishers, the MB Writers' Guild, and the Association of MB Book Publishers. Involvement can be as great or as little as you choose. You can attend all the readings and the awards, or just take part in the committee meetings.

I can be reached at home at (204) 474-2435 in Winnipeg or at work (below). Please do call if you'd like to be on the committee or if you first want more information.

Thank you.

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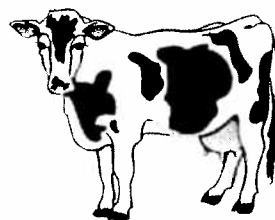
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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 24 No. 2 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1998 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

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I. MLA NEWS:
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### ★PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MLA has designated November as Manitoba Library Month. The theme which has been chosen is "Celebrate Manitoba's Libraries," and there is much to celebrate. Libraries have a long history in Manitoba going back to the fur trading days. *Directions: A Guide to Libraries in Manitoba* has just been published and provides us with some of the history of the development of libraries in our province. Within its pages are stories of the struggle to establish and maintain library services for the public throughout rural and urban Manitoba. It was especially interesting for me to note how recently some of the rural public library systems had been established. Surely this is a testament to the enduring values of public library service at a time of economic retrenchment, and at a time when some would have us believe that electronic sources alone will fulfill all our information needs.

Technology, to be sure, plays an important role in all types of today's libraries whether they be school, small public, academic or highly specialized. MAPLIN, the Manitoba Public Libraries Information Network, for example, joins together Manitoba's public libraries in a shared electronic network of holdings.

Internet access is available through many libraries for those without the means or need for their own private hook-ups. It is a given when renovating or planning for new libraries that the needs of technology which exists both today and in forms we can only imagine for tomorrow must be considered.

Yet, even where the "virtual library" has been most fully embraced, as at the National Research Council's Information Centre Winnipeg, it is interesting to note that according to the article in *Directions*, "most users still used books as one of their most important sources of relevant information, and those users who were more likely to embrace electronic library habits were also more likely to avail themselves of more traditional library services such as mediated searching and consulting the on-site reference collection."

Yes, libraries do have much to celebrate. Oftentimes, however, we neglect to give ourselves credit for the job we do and the services we provide, especially in terms of the "bang for the buck" we are able to deliver. Leslie Firch and Jody Warner in their *Dividends: The Value of Public Libraries in Canada*, published by the Book and Periodical Council of Canada in 1997, remind us of some of the supports public libraries provide: support to the local economy, to the cultural sector and Canadian

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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 24 No. 3 DECEMBER 1998/ JANUARY 1999 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

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### I. MLA NEWS:

#### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The other day I happened to catch CBC Radio's This Morning programme when the topic under discussion was "Wither Libraries?" This event came together with the editorial in the December 1, 1998 issue of Library Journal entitled "The Public Library Renaissance." In both instances the mood was upbeat and positive regarding the future of the public library. As John Berry said in LJ "Let a few futurists preach the decline and death of the institution; the people know better." After so many scenarios of doom and gloom, it made for a refreshing change.

The publication in November of Directions: A Guide to Libraries in Manitoba was a success story for the Manitoba Library Association and my thanks on behalf of the membership go out to its editor Donna Strike and the Editorial Committee. With the completion of the Directions project and the passing of the holiday season, it is time to focus on future endeavours. To that end, planning is underway to offer several training workshops relating to the Internet. As always, your suggestions are most welcome for additional topics. Please contact any of the executive as listed at the back or on the web page.

In terms of a conference, after the enormous effort that went into the planning and running of the 1998 event, a decision was made to go to defer a major conference this year. Thus, the next conference is slated for the spring of 2000 (assuming we all survive the Y2K bug). MLA is in the midst of forming a conference committee and as always will be seeking volunteers to assist. Please flood Kenlyn Collins with your offers of assistance. With CLA coming to Winnipeg in 2001, our Millennium Conference will be the only real opportunity to focus in depth on Manitoba concerns at a provincial level until 2002.

Just on the horizon is the Annual General Meeting. To that end, a call for nominations will be going forth. Please seriously consider offering your name. I am sure all of us can probably say we are being asked to do more, but as an all volunteer organization we really do need your participation to ensure there is an independent voice for libraries in the province. Consider also the advantages of being on the executive, not only do you get to meet colleagues whose paths may not otherwise cross with yours and form lifelong friendships, but you also have the opportunity to gain skills and insights which may help you in your own situation. If you are new to the province or to the field as a whole, don't underestimate the contribution and enthusiasm you could bring to MLA. WE WANT YOU!

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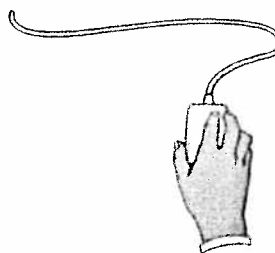
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ISSN 0070-3684 Vol. 24 No. 4 FEBRUARY/MARCH 1999 Editor: S. Norma Godavari

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### 1. MLA NEWS:

#### ★PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is a whiff of spring in the air and with the prospect of spring comes the promise of renewed life. Just as nature moves from one season to another, so too does our organization. The wheel has almost turned its full circle since I assumed the presidency and its time for the next generation of volunteers to bring their talents to bear. Last time I urged you to consider running for a position on the MLA executive. You have had time to think it over and now is the time to act.

Three directorship positions are available as well as the position of secretary and the position of vice-president/president elect. Due to the unexpected resignation of the current vice-president we will also be filling the position of president. We all have busy lives and could easily say I don't have the time or energy to take on an extra roll. But some of us must

to ensure we have a collective voice when needed. Don't be shy! Get your nominations in! I look forward to seeing a full slate of candidates and serving as past-president with a new mix of talented individuals.

On another front, planning is underway for Conference 2000. An initial meeting has been held and regular monthly meetings are being scheduled. Administrative matters such as site selection and confirmation of dates are on the verge of completion. The task of determining a conference theme is being tackled with vigor. As in the past, other library and library related organizations have been invited to work with MLA in planning and successfully executing the conference. MLA is particularly pleased to welcome representatives from Public Library Services on the planning team.

Regardless of the theme that is chosen, now is the time for you to make suggestions for workshop topics and dynamic speakers. What are the issues you are facing in the workplace or as a user of libraries