

OLA 2004

Ken Roberts, President

“Increasingly, there is an awareness that the DNA of all Ontario libraries are the same...”

A couple of years ago Stephen Abram wrote in his OLA President's report, that he is an organization junkie.

I can't say the same thing, in fact I intensely dislike organizational procedures and endless meetings and –forgive me- Annual General meeting with their elections and amendments to motions and empowerment of the talkative over those with thoughts that should be heard.

People participating in groups that make decision astound me. Groups are so messy and difficult to please. But groups can also build bridges that stand for centuries and planes that fly and ideas that soar even higher.

The Ontario Library Association is an organization that, with uncommon frequency, manages to bring people together in a way that creates magic. Without fail the annual conference's Saturday luncheon lifts my soul. With out fail at least one keynote speaker reminds me of the values library workers hold dear. Without fail session speakers make me proud

of our profession. The organization of the annual conference is a key OLA objective. Rose Vespa, Susan Hendricks and the crew that worked with these two heroes are to be congratulated.

Involvement with the Ontario Library Association Board has helped me to appreciate the hard work and dedication that hundreds of Ontario library workers undertake on behalf of their profession and this organization.

The Ontario Library Association board continues to support long term initiatives such as the Ontario Digital Library. I have reason to hope that the volunteer work done in support of the ODL will begin to pay dividends (although small ones) during the 2005 Super Conference. If it does, then we should all thank Peter Rogers, the task forces, along with those who worked with

Peter. I have particular respect and admiration for people such as Catherine Henderson, former President of Centennial College, who heard our ODL goals and adopted the task force as a cause.

The Fall Leadership Forum on Partnership and collaborations was well received and came at just the right time. Public libraries are attempting to reorganize their

