

7:00 am

## National Librarian provides engrossing food for thought

### BRIGHT AND EARLY

In the middle of our traditional OLA Super Conference snowstorm and before eight in the morning, the room was full and Roch Carrier, the National Librarian of Canada was providing engrossing food for thought.

Wearing his treasured "Peter Gzowski" baggy sweater in an emotional tribute to his dear departed friend, Roch stressed the need to speak out and to do so with a clear Canadian voice. ...speak out on behalf of funding libraries, on maintaining the book rate, on ensuring that a new National Library facility (one without leaky pipes!) gets built!

### BE PROACTIVE!

Roch made a personal commitment to raise the focus on kids and their school libraries... "it's the beginning" he said, "kids are the beginning. Our strategy has to be built on kids and helping them grow. I try to visit a school library every three weeks to encourage kids and literature".

"We need kids who can read and think critically, and what we are growing is a generation of copiers! Kids who just click and paste and move the paragraphs around. We need teacher librarians, they are the knowledge leaders who teach the critical skill of getting the kids to learn to think!"

Along this same line he warned public libraries not to think or look like banks... implying that walls of workstations without the staff were not the way to go! Libraries must remember to

not become just "techie"... we need to remember that we are more than just access to information... we are about education and using the information.

### LIBRARIES ARE NOT DEAD!

Technology can build wonderful connections, but the literature must always be there and be supported. In this day and age of networks and globalization, Canada needs to develop a competitive edge, and growing a population of critical thinkers who can work creatively will be our biggest edge.

### ROCH'S RANT

Now, more than ever, sovereignty is a key issue... I am a Canadian, I want Canadian content, I want my own identity, I want my own understanding. And in the crush and global glut of information out there... I want the world to know that there is a Canadian voice, I want the world to know that there is a Canadian knowledge base, I want the world to know that we have Canadian solutions to problems! .... We have to compete!"

## Excellence recognized at OSLA awards night

Congratulations to all recipients who received an award from the Ontario School Library Association for their outstanding achievement, leadership and vision toward school libraries.

**Teacher-librarian(s) of the Year:**  
*Michelle Regina*, York Catholic District School

## Brodart sponsors four first time conference delegates

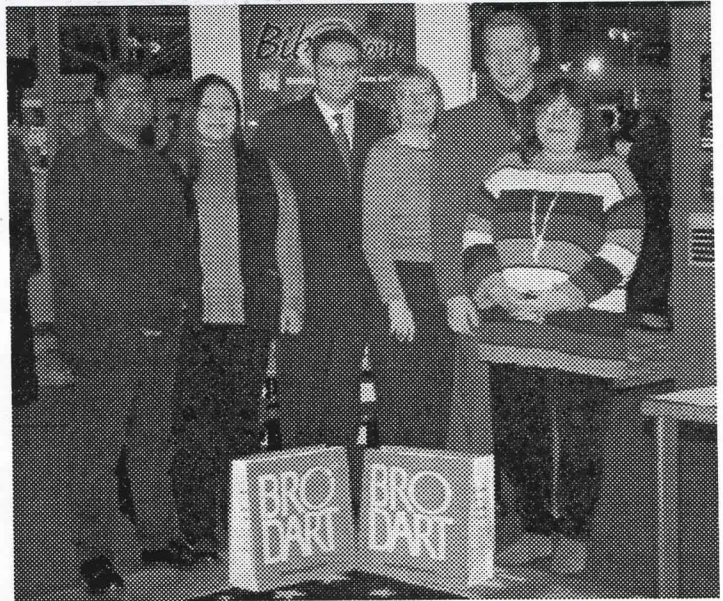


Photo L-R: Ray Fernandez, Vaughan Public Libraries; Sherry Caibaisai, Mississauga First Nations Public Library; Franc Chenet, VP Marketing, Brodart; Joy Leslie, St Lawrence College; Jason Graham, Canadian Sales Representative, Brodart; Karen Foster, Georgina Island First Nations Public Library.

### New Partnership

"This pairing is an ideal combination for customers, publishers and employees," said Stephen Abram.

Through Micromedia's strong presence in and knowledge of the Canadian marketplace, and ProQuest's strong sales network, it is anticipated that Micromedia ProQuest will become the premier information source in Canada.

It will take the next three months to set a clear strategy... but it will be worth the wait.

## WITH ENORMOUS APPRECIATION TO SUPER CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

Micromedia  
epixtech  
National Book Service (NBS)  
Brodart  
CVS Inc.

The Bibliocentre  
Naylor Publication (Canada)  
EDU Reference and Partners  
Electric Library Canada  
Saunders Book Company  
Library Services Centre  
Pearson PTR Canada

Board and *Mary Kebaloplasta*, Halton District School Board.

**Administrator(s) of the Year:**  
*Sandy Jones*, Principal, Greater Essex County District School Board and *Phil Gagnon*, Principal, Media Services Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board.

### NOT A MEMBER OF THE OLA?

Be a smartie and Save 50% off a new membership. Visit Trevor Balla, membership co-ordinator at the booth before the exhibit closes to save!

**Offer expires by 2:30 pm today!**