

# My Name Is Stephen... and I Am a Librarian!

by Stephen Abram

Mimes and buskers and the live orchestra entertained everyone on four stages and in the aisles during a fabulous buffet that led up to the segment on the present – a video presentation on huge screens of delegates at events throughout the conference days.

After dessert, there was an ad hoc tribute to Larry Moore. As School Library Division President twice, OLA President, creator of Ideashop, the OSLA publications *Revolting Librarian* and *Reviewing Librarian*, the OLA publications *Focus*, *Expression*, *InsideOLA* and *Access*, and for the last 16 years, OLA's Executive Director, Larry has been witness to some thirty years of the Association's history. He received a gift from the twenty OLA Presidents taking part and a personal message from each of the 800 people celebrating the occasion.

The finale of finales was a toast by 1963 OLA President and Librarian of Parliament Emeritus Erik Spicer. As the senior OLA President present, and on behalf of the past leadership of the Association and all its parts, he toasted all the new professionals at the event – our Association's future leadership. It made a moving climax to a class event.

This closing gala was the dream child of a number of librarians whom we had seen all through the conference wearing top hats and tails. The ideas that this phenomenal group brought to this wonderfully decorated party cannot be done justice in these pages. Suffice one example to demonstrate the detail lavished on this event – at every one of the 800 place settings there was a hand-crafted “rose” made from candy kisses that looked so wonderful, you hated to break it open. OLA Treasurer Cathi Gibson-Gates from the Toronto District School Board was Co-Co-ordinator of the 100th Anniversary Super Conference and a member of this planning team – one of the people who made the roses, blew up the balloons, played the kazoo, wore the tuxedos, marshalled all the people, kept everything glowing.

Kudos to everyone involved! ■■■

*At the opening breakfast, OLA President-Elect Stephen Abram did this version of the Molson rant...*

Hey – I'm not a person who likes to read all the time. I don't just love print; I haven't always got a bun in my hair; and I don't go SHHHHH!

I have and can use more classification systems than you can name; more computer interfaces than you'll see in a lifetime; and media from playdough to film. I outdo Dewey!

And, frankly, it's still an index, even if some Geek calls it a lexicon; It's still cataloguing and subject analysis – whether you call it taxonomic metadata or not. I never metadata I didn't like. And, I did it first and I did it better.

Don't challenge me to Trivial Pursuit. You'll lose. I know lots and I share – openly and often. I can answer any question.

You won't find me in just libraries anymore. I practice my profession everywhere. My influence is felt whether you see me or not; I'm proud to put my credentials after my name. I matter.

Only fools believe that everything is free on the web and only idiots bet their organization's decisions and futures on the web alone. I know how to make information sing – in tune and in harmony.

Librarianship is the profession of the future, the Information Literati; keepers of the foundations of a free society and players in the development of a global, knowledge-based ecology.

My name is Stephen...  
and I AM A LIBRARIAN! ■■■