

# Jo-Anne LaForty: Teacher-Librarian of the Year, CSLA

Interview by  
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For the series profiling key people in school libraries in Ontario, *The Teaching Librarian* asked the winner of the Canadian School Library Association's 2002 *Teacher-Librarian of the Year Award*, Jo-Anne LaForty, a few questions.



**TL:** How did you get involved in school libraries in the first place?

**JL:** As a child, I remember my elementary school library (Brown Public School in Toronto) vividly and being excited about the rows of books in that room. I also recall being taken to the Deer Park Public Library with my school class; libraries have been my home ever since. After graduating with an honours BA in English, I contemplated a MLS program and even got accepted at Western, but the call to teaching was stronger. I did my Pre-service education at Queen's University Faculty of Education, where I became inspired to become a teacher-librarian by Larry Moore.

**TL:** For how long have you been involved in libraries, and in what capacities?

**JL:** When I graduated, almost 25 years ago, I became Head of the Uxbridge High School Library in my first year of teaching (unusual circumstances) where I insisted on teaching classes in the library much to the surprise of the staff.

After Uxbridge, I was Head of Library at O'Neill Collegiate in Oshawa for over 12 years.