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derful new challenge as she embraces motherhood. Sya Van Geest has stepped down as past-president, but will continue to work diligently on the many library initiatives she so passionately supports.

Our 2003 council worked hard together but had many, many laughs. We will miss them all so much.

We now welcome several fresh faces who will be working diligently on your behalf. Sharon Rowlandson will represent the northern region, Peggy Thomas the Toronto area, Jim Neill the Eastern region, and Anne Coleman the Central East. Michael Rossettis, from York Catholic, will be our new Treasurer/Secretary, and Brenda Dillon has accepted the position of editor of *The Teaching Librarian*. With the expertise of Anita Brooks-Kirkland as our vice-president, Esther Rosenfeld as past-president, and Linda Girardo, Terri Lyons and Mark Kaminski (OSLA Web site editor) staying on, our 2004 council is sure to be a productive and dynamic team. As always, we look forward to input from you.

I am very excited to move into the role of president.



Esther Rosenfeld

My intention is to continue to forward our mission of advocacy on as many fronts as possible. Members responded very favourably to the brochure for parents. The brochures for teachers and principals, which were also designed by council members, are now available on our Web site in .pdf format and are included with this mailing. It is critical that these reach the hands of people who can help make change. Although the ministry does not have a new policy document in its plans at the current time, we will continue to work towards that goal. We anticipate a meeting with Education Minister Gerard Kennedy to discuss our proposals for change to the state of our school libraries.

Recently, articles outlining the deplorable situation of our school libraries and questioning the intentions of the new government were featured in the February 2004 *Quill & Quire*; *The Hamilton Spectator* on January 22, 2004; and OSSTF's *Update* on Jan. 13, 2004. This media coverage comes at an excellent time and supports the notion that we are valued, and indeed, indispensable.

Our upcoming year will not be without its challenges, but we are ready, willing, and equipped to face them head on in our effort to increase our presence in our schools. ■

dateline

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in association with the
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See page 6

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