

2006 OSLA COUNCIL

Michael Rosettis

President

St. Augustine Catholic High School
York Catholic District School Board
michael.rosettis@ycdsb.ca

Peggy Thomas

Vice-President

Toronto District School Board
peggy.thomas@tel.tdsb.on.ca

Anita Brooks Kirkland

Past President

Waterloo Region District School Board
anita_brooks-kirkland@wrdsb.on.ca

Petra Smith

Secretary-Treasurer

Our Lady of the Lake High School
York Catholic District School Board
petra.smith@ycdsb.ca

Sharon Armstrong

Waterford District High School
Grand Erie District School Board
sarmstro@fc.gedsb.net

Anne Coleman

Durham District School Board
anne_coleman@durham.edu.on.ca

Jim Neill

Gananoque High School
Upper Canada District School Board
jim.neill@sympatico.ca

Sharon Rowlandson

Rainbow District School Board
rowlans@rainbow.edu.on.ca

Deborah Kitchener

Bayview Secondary School
York Region District School Board
girardl@learn.ycdsb.edu.on.ca

Deborah Braithwaite

Oakridge Junior Public School
Toronto District School Board
dbraithw8@rogers.com

Linda White

Glendale High School
Thames Valley District School Board
lwhite@tvdsb.on.ca

will be presented at our Annual General Meeting in February for approval by our membership. Additionally, our OSLA Council members have worked to create a Mission Statement that articulates the vision and direction for our association of professionals.

Changes to The Education Institute

A major source of professional development for our members, The Education Institute, continues to grow in variety and content, and now offers increased sessions to address the needs of our membership. Liz Kerr has been appointed as the Education Director for OLA, leading the development of The Education Institute as part of her portfolio. She brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the position, and extensive experience in the field of teacher-librarianship. OSLA has helped to facilitate an improvement to the structure of the OLA Continuing Education Committee, so that it now includes the presence of 3 designated OSLA representatives. Such a structure should help ensure the continued delivery of future sessions that address our member's needs.

Modifications to the Forest of Reading® Program

This year featured the addition of Silver Birch Express to the Forest of Reading®. It was introduced to address the needs of students in the transition between Blue Spruce and Silver Birch, and provides evidence of the dynamic nature of our library community. Details on Silver Birch Express and the other reading programs are available on the OLA Web site www.accessola.com under the 'Reading Programs' link. There has also been a refinement to program timelines to allow for an earlier announcement of the reading program nominees. This has

provided participating schools and students with additional time to maximize reading opportunities. Other exciting news for the Forest of Reading® includes an official launch during Super Conference, allowing students an opportunity to celebrate literacy and meet some of the authors. Likewise, a change in the format of the culminating activities is in development, with plans for a gathering at Harbourfront in the spring of 2007, so that all of the Forest of Reading® program venues can be integrated into one large celebration.

The Establishment of Knowledge Ontario

The great news about Knowledge Ontario is that it will provide access to a wealth of digital resources, including components such as Resource Ontario and Our Ontario. Further details about this initiative are available on-line at www.knowledgeontario.ca. Access to these digital resources will contribute to the renewal of the library's role in our society. These on-line subscription products will provide a better degree of equity to regions of the province that were previously under-served. On a personal note, I believe that *Knowledge Ontario* can be a key component in helping to alter public perceptions of school libraries. Knowledge Ontario requires people in schools to facilitate the effective use of this resource with students. Teacher-librarians are in an instrumental position to become experts in promoting access to this rich source of quality information. Teacher-librarians can act as agents of change and renewal in promoting equitable access to information and digital services throughout the province. As Nelson Mandela has eloquently stated, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can