



ONTARIO SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

President's Report

Marilyn Willis

Despite the increase in planning time responsibilities and the myriad of curriculum areas to support, the teacher-librarian is there ready to meet the needs of students, staff, and extended communities. You are always willing to share and support each other and, more importantly, do it with a smile and with good nature.

Lisa Weaver is a good example of such an educational leader. Her year as president of the OSLA has been full of ups and downs and yet she never lost her optimism and her clarity of vision. In the upcoming year, I hope to fill the big shoes that she has left me and continue with the goal to help teacher-librarians and library support staff to do the best job they can under optimized working conditions. A huge thank you goes to Lisa in recognition of her efforts to ensure that teacher-librarians and all school library staff have had a voice and that it was heard.

Together with the OSLA council I hope to maintain that strong voice. It's important that as OSLA members we keep each other informed and continue to collaborate. For collaboration, as we all know, is the key to accomplishing even the hardest task.

Thanks to the wonderful staff and volunteers from OLA, we had yet another successful Super Conference where everyone had an opportunity to speak "librarianese." It was wonderful to see so many people wearing their "I support School Libraries" buttons and to watch attendees talking excitedly about a presentation they had just been to or a keynote speaker they had been inspired by.

I anticipate that many opportunities will arise in the near future for us to promote school libraries. The recent study *Exemplary School Libraries in Ontario*, a joint effort between OLA, People For Education, and Queen's University, reinforces the idea that the people in the libraries are just as important, if not more so, than the things on the shelves. You will be receiving a copy of this important report with this issue of *The Teaching Librarian*.

As you carry out all your daily activities, do remember to take time for yourself and your family. The entire school community is enriched because of your work. As Mattie Stepanek says, "Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." ■



2009 OSLA Council

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