



...continued from page 9

school libraries face, especially in terms of funding. The OSLA wants budget money specifically directed to school libraries, and not at the discretion of individual school boards.

As I mentioned in the last report, there is a large inequity with the school libraries services provided by different school boards. The People for Education (<http://www.peopleforeducation.com>) commissioned a study titled “School Library Report: The state of school libraries in Ontario” (peopleforeducation.com/schoollibrary2011) which clearly outlines the inequity, especially between rural and urban boards.

OSLA Video Contest

The OSLA ran a competition, called “School Libraries Matter Video Contest” where schools from K to 12 submitted videos showing the value of their school library. The contest was a great success. Videos including winning entries will be posted online soon.

The contest was a great way for schools to advocate for their libraries. For more information see tinyurl.com/oslavidео.

OTF Library Summer Camp

This year’s OTF Library Summer Camp ran in July 2011 in Toronto and was very successful with almost 50 participants from around the province (see tinyurl.com/otfcamp). The OTF camps are a great professional development opportunity and are run in a fun and collaborative atmosphere. Please

consider attending next summer. A registration fee of \$50 covers workshop materials, on-site meals and two nights of shared accommodation. You should receive information early spring next year on the listserv.

In Conclusion

The pressure for more school library cuts will increase across the province with declining enrolments over the next few years. We have to work together to advocate for school libraries. New technologies such as web pages, Twitter, online videos, podcasts, etc. can help us collaborate on this important issue. Please contact me or any OSLA council member with your concerns or comments (tinyurl.com/3h8exrq).

The OSLA is a very rewarding opportunity for educators who want to join the council. We are always looking for new OSLA councillors with different ideas and perspectives on our issues. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

My term as President ends at the end of this year and the current Vice-President, Elizabeth Gordon will take over as President. I will continue during 2012 as Past President/ Treasurer on the council.

I personally want to thank Ruth Hall, former President and current Past President/Treasurer, who continues to do an outstanding job in her current role. The council really appreciates her hard work and her passionate strong advocacy for school libraries. She will leave the council after the Super Conference. ■