

President's Report

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2014 kind of crept up on me. I was busy focusing on the polar vortex, commonly known as winter, when I realized that we were well into January and Super Conference would soon be upon me! This year's theme, "A Universe of Possibilities," was aptly chosen. I attended as incoming president of the OSLA.

The past year as vice president made me very aware of the role and responsibilities of the job, but now I've got it! So as I attended sessions as Convener, Presenter and Delegate, I was indeed considering the possibilities.

The OSLA council is a busy group, as Isabelle detailed in her year-end report in the recent *The Teaching Librarian*. We have a dedicated volunteer council who are passionate about school library programs and the impact our programs have upon student success. As I begin my journey as president this year, I understand that although we do have a universe of possibilities, we must also continue working as advocates for the power of teacher-librarians and effectively staffed school libraries.

I was thrilled by the outstanding attendance by members at our Annual General Meeting. Liz Sandals, Minister of Education, attended our awards ceremony and her speech certainly made me feel that we were indeed making headway in our advocacy efforts with the Ministry. It was also wonderful that we had such exemplary leaders to celebrate while the Minister was in attendance. My congratulations to all of our 2014 Awards recipients.

Throughout the conference, I was struck by how we are all so connected by the stories we share, be it our frustrations as we advocate for our library programs, to the successes and challenges as we work in aboriginal communities. From the musings about evolving urban centres for the future, to the ideas of creativity and "outside of the box" thinking in

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Makerspaces, it was apparent to me that school library staff and the programs that they offer are connected by the diverse and varied threads of story.

My job as president is to pick up these threads, knit them together and endeavour to connect people, their experiences and their expertise with decision makers in our province and, of course, with each other. Advocating for effective school library programs has never been more important than it is now. We have made some great gains this year and will continue to build upon those successes.

Other interesting challenges for the upcoming year will be to ensure that we continue to align all of the work that we do with the updated strategic plan for the Ontario Library Association. Under the guidance of Shelagh Paterson, our