

# NLA News

Fall 2012

## Welcome Message from the Editor

Hi folks, it's newsletter time again. We're wrapping up another year (where did 2012 go?), and gearing up for 2013. As I write this at home, I'm staring at Christmas lights, a small fakey tree that my beloved cats, Felix and Wussy, seem determined to climb and chew, and glad to be inside as the temperatures have plunged here in Cambridge Bay into the -40C range. Brrr!

We've seen a great many changes in the past year. Familiar faces have left us – Shiloa, Ken, Katharine (only temporarily, if you can call 3 years temporary) and Carolyn, but we've welcomed new folks into our small, but busy library community. Joining our ranks are Jocelyn, Tina, Sylvia, and Jeremy.

Our library world may be tiny, population wise, but we're an active group. Conferences have been attended from CLA to OLA; we've spoken at them (kudos to Carol and Yvonne) and danced the night away (me at OLA). We've moved our website to a new home (All hail Tina and Carol!). Collection development policies have been written (a shout out to Jenny!) and that has inspired some movement on my end to take a stab at developing one for Health and Social Services. Our libraries have found new homes (Arctic Bay's relocation and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board). Nunavut won the Literacy Week Challenge, and our rally cries to save the library book rate have been heard by Ottawa! I think that's a pretty good resume.

Here's to another great year and more successes!

Best wishes to you and your families for a wonderful holiday season.

Leigh Ann Cumming, Editor  
Health and Social Services/NAC Kitikmeot Campus  
Cambridge Bay

## Please Welcome....

My name is Sylvia Kalluk. I'm originally from Resolute Bay. I first came to Iqaluit in 2011 for the Legislative Library as a summer student. The second time I was employed at the Legislative Library, I started out as a summer student but as the summer wore on, I made a decision to stay and apply for the indeterminate position as the library assistant.

I first applied for the Summer Student Employment Equity Program (SSEEP) a little late for the season so I was worried there wouldn't be any jobs left. Just before I lost hope for a job in Iqaluit, I receive an email from Yvonne Earle and had an interview the next day. Now, I've never worked in a library in my life. If it weren't for the summer student status I doubt I would have gotten the job so I'm grateful.

My first experience as the library assistant was very different for me. My job preferences were usually associated with company offices where I had to take a lot of calls, watch for mail/faxes, and do a lot of filing. It was just "Go go go!". But the library has a very relaxed atmosphere, except during Session. During Session is where it gets busy. Everyone is running around looking for documents needed in the Chambers before session starts. Afterwards, all these papers and reports from the Session pile into the library waiting to get sorted.

Anyways, the experience is a good change of pace. I like it. Instead of rushing to finish a spreadsheet, I'm learning the process of researching for reference questions I receive through email or phone. It's a small library but there are a lot of places to get the information you need and long trails to follow before you know your answer. The process is time consuming but good practice for looking at the details.

Working here has been great. I'm always learning and the people here are very welcoming. If it weren't for the SSEEP and Yvonne, I would never have gotten the chance to find this job and its aspects. I look forward to learning more about the library and other its aspects.

## We interrupt your regularly scheduled newsletter to bring you this breaking news story....

“After several years of being hosted by the National Adult Literacy Database, NLA has moved its website to a WordPress platform, to make it easier to maintain and to allow blogging and the possible addition of other social media. The web address will still be <http://nunavutlibraryassociation.ca>. The full report sent around by e-mail on the website issues is posted on the new site as well in the Publications section.

Carol Rigby is serving as webmaster for the moment, assisted by Tina Rose as the social media pro. We're always looking for more material, especially now that it is easier to post things, so if you have news or photos you'd like to share with the Nunavut library community, e-mail them to Carol at [cerigby@xplornet.com](mailto:cerigby@xplornet.com) and she will get them posted as quickly as possible. Also, anyone who would like to post a description of their particular library, or links to library sites or projects, is encouraged to pass that on as well.

Did you know that our membership in The Partnership makes you eligible for car rental and Delta Hotel discounts if you're travelling south? Details on the Partnership page of the site. Check it out—it's your site, and we want you to use it!”

Thank you, Carol. Now back to our regularly scheduled newsletter....

## Dancing Queen – LA Style

OLA 2012's Super Conference wrap up celebration centred around a “Disco” theme. Librarians of all ages learned the Hustle (can we say Saturday Night Fever), got decked out in bell bottoms, sequins and platform heels. Not to be left out of the party, yours truly donned her own glitter, liquid blue eyeshadow (I actually remember wearing it in the 70s), big hoop earrings and danced up a storm to ABBA, the Bee Gees and Blondie!



Leigh Ann (in blue) and long-time library pal, Michelle Alleyne (from Toronto)

## Five Years of YABA: Highlights from the CLA Young Adult Book Awards, 2008 through 2012

By Carol Rigby

In 2007, the Canadian Library Association put out a call for a new member for their Young Adult Book Award Committee, looking for someone from Eastern Ontario, Quebec, or Nunavut. Just for the fun of it I threw my name in the hat—and lo and behold, got asked to serve. Little did I know how much reading that was going to entail!

Reading and evaluating books for literary awards is quite a challenge, and a substantial commitment of time, but also a lot of fun. CLA asks people to serve a 5-year term, and in that cycle, one person leaves and a new person comes on each year. Each represents a different area of this huge and great land of ours—so there is a member for Atlantic Canada, Eastern Central Canada (my seat), the rest of Ontario (mostly Toronto, but the current representative is in Waterloo), Saskatchewan (where the original funding for the award came from) and Western Canada. In the 5th year on the jury, members serve as the chair, and attend the annual CLA conference to present the award and to make a presentation on the year's top ten books (the award shortlist).

A PowerPoint file of my “Notables” presentation at CLA this year is available on the NLA website, or I can e-mail it to you. But I thought NLA members might enjoy a quick survey of what I felt to be the highlights of my reading over the last five years. You can also check out the CLA website, where the winners are posted going back to 1981 and the shortlists and award press releases back to 2002. [http://www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Young\\_Adult\\_Canadian\\_Book\\_Award&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13446](http://www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Young_Adult_Canadian_Book_Award&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13446) – click on the link to past winners.

Some statistics: In 2008, 81 books were submitted and deemed to be eligible—in 2011, that had gone up to 101; over the 5 years, 470 eligible books were read, plus a number of others that had been submitted and had to be reviewed by committee members for eligibility.

Books were judged initially by combining everyone's scores for their top 15 choices, to winnow down to a top ten selection of books for each year's shortlist. But views were certainly not unanimous—in 2008 there were 35 different titles that made it to someone's top 15 list, and an average of 40% of the books read made it to someone's list over the 5 years I served.

I would recommend all of the books that made it to the awards shortlists as posted on the CLA website—those books had to appeal to a wide range of people, with

highly varying tastes, and I think will stand the test of time reasonably well. But I'd also like to recommend some other books that either were favourites of mine that didn't make the final lists, or are good examples of a particular type of fiction that teens enjoy. And many of them would be appreciated by adults, too.

#### Science fiction/Fantasy:

- \* Carrie Mac: *The Droughtlanders*, *Retribution* (2007), *Storm* (2008) (Triskelia series)—solidly written dystopian SF; what if one group in society could control the weather? What would that do to society? *Retribution* was an honour book the first year I was on the committee—I had to go back and read *The Droughtlanders*, I enjoyed it so much.
- \* K.V. Johansen: *Nightwalker* (2007) is the start of a good standard fantasy series that got better as it went along, about a world where some people are Nightwalkers and can slip through dimensions. Strong central female heroine who develops as the series goes along: *Treason in Eswy* (2008), *Warden of Greyrock* (2009), *The Shadow Road* (2010)
- \* Paul Marlowe, *Sporeville* (2007) Quirky fantasy, gothic flavour with humor, set in the Maritimes.
- \* David Jones, *Baboon* (2007) Interesting premise--do we lose our humanity in the body of an animal?
- \* Kristyn Dunnion: *Big Big Sky* (2008) Hardcore SF: Real alternate Earth view, complex language & characterization. She convincingly works up an evolution of English into a particular dialect—and of humans into other things.
- \* Jaclyn Moriarty: *The spell book of Listen Taylor* (2008) Story of a very quirky family... Amazingly complex plot, points of view, characters in delightfully improbable plot. A favourite with all the jurors but ineligible because it had been published in the US first.
- \* Max Turner: *Night Runner* (2008) Vampires on the Otonabee River! I loved a vampire novel set in Peterborough—and it's tricky figuring out who are the bad guys—or not. Lots of action. Sequel: *End of Days* (2010)
- \* Séan Cullen: *The Prince of Neither Here nor There* (2009) Faerie world in modern Toronto; plucky hero, vivid portrayal. Besides, there's a troll in the Toronto subway wearing a Leafs jersey.... Some really good, funny Canadian stuff. Sequel: *The Prince of Two Tribes* (2010)

\* Jo Treggiari: *Ashes, Ashes* (2011) Tough teen survives plague in post-apocalyptic NYCity. The plotting has some loose ends, but the characters are very strong and the eco-disaster convincing.

Historical fiction:

\* Mary Woodbury: *Flight of the Tiger Moth* (2007)—interesting story about RAF fighter pilot training on the Prairies in WWII. Guys would probably like this, and the characters are sympathetic & interesting enough for female readers.

\* Jean Rae Baxter: *The way lies north* (2007) Story of the hardships faced by Loyalists leaving the US for Canada; adventure, a nice touch of romance for the gals. Sequel written in 2011 about a Loyalist boy raised by Oneida Indians and struggling with being caught between two cultures, *Broken Trail*.

\* Roger Maunder: *Mundy Pond* (2007) Excellent characters and depiction of 1970s Newfoundland. The characters are young, but the story is very mature & deals with serious social issues.

\* John Wilson: *The Alchemist's Dream* (2007) historical nove about Robert Bylot, Henry Hudson & the exploration of Hudson's Bay.

\* Susan Young de Biagi: *Cibou* (2008) 17th century Mi'kmaq life convincingly portrayed

\* Joan Thomas: *Reading by Lightning* (2008) Subtle examination of life on the prairies & in England at the end of the Depression

\* Mary Sheppard: *One for sorrow* (2008) The Tales from Cook's Cove (NL) series, very well written depictions of life in Newfoundland outports. This one is a sensitive description of a girl who has an undiagnosed handicap, causing her difficulties in school. Another in the series is *Three for a Wedding* (2010), in which a rich American cousin lands in a teen's family and causes havoc until events bring the girls to rely on each other.

\* Cathy Marie Buchanan: *The Day the Falls Stood Still* (2009) I loved this—turn of the century Niagara Falls, its social and environmental milieu wonderfully conveyed

\* Steve Pitt: *Faster than Wind* (2009) Amusing and vivid depiction of iceboating as a sport in turn-of-the-century Toronto. Good laughs, one that guys would enjoy too.

\* Martha Brooks: *Queen of Hearts* (2010) This one just missed the top ten in its year, and it was my number one pick. Novel of the WWII TB epidemic hitting a Manitoba Francophone family, and dealing with life in the sanatorium. It's all about the human heart: family, friendship, love. Masterful.

\* Margaret Buffie: *Winter Shadows* (2010) Two eras overlap in an old prairie house; a thinking romance with Métis history

\* Pamela Porter: *I'll Be Watching* (2011) Heartwrenching but ultimately positive story of orphan kids surviving in WWII Sask. Told in free verse; every word perfectly chosen for each of the various voices. Another one that was my top choice that year and didn't quite make it to the final ten...

#### Social Issues:

\* Meg Tilly: *Porcupine* (2007) girls who have lost their father in Afghanistan are dumped on their grandmother and have to get to know her. A resourceful main character, beautifully written.

\* Wendy A. Lewis *Free fall* (2008) Coming to grips with incest through poetry and skydiving. Powerful, very strong main character

\* Edeet Ravel: *The Saver* (2008) Set in Montreal. Girl with an aboriginal mother has to survive on her own when her mom dies suddenly. A story of grit, hope in hard times--very likeable, unsentimental main character.

\* Cathleen With: *Having Faith in the Polar Girls Prison* (2009) Harrowing and powerful story told in the voice of a girl from Tuk incarcerated in the Polar Girls Prison near Inuvik—the northern voice is captured perfectly, and the story is totally believable. And yes, she is pregnant and has her daughter, Faith, while in the prison...

\* Heather Waldorf: *Leftovers* (2009) Sensitive & amusing handling of recovery from abuse—not as heavy as some similar tales.

\* Jennifer Cowan: *Earthgirl* (2009) Strong study of the ethics of the "green" movement, from positive action to monkeywrenching

\* Sarah Harvey: *Death Benefits* (2010). Teen looks after famous and eccentric grandfather as he is dying; right mix of grouchy & sensitive

\* Yvonne Prinz: *The Vinyl Princess* (2010) Quirky teen with encyclopedic knowledge of music on vinyl copes with robbery & relatives—humorous.

\* Ted Staunton: *Acting up* (2010) Eleventh grade guy tries to figure out what being mature means. Funny and horrible—some good teenage male grossness!

\* Dawn Dumont: *Nobody Cries at Bingo* (2011) Life on a Saskatchewan rez portrayed in amusing anecdotes. It's more a memoir than a novel, but the

descriptions of events like community bingo sure ring true. And it's nice to see stories told with humour.

Thriller:

\* Anita Daher: *Spidersong* (2007) A thriller set in Yellowknife, very accurately portrayed; a girl's unknown past comes back to haunt her.

\* Nicole Luiken: *Frost* (2007) Fantasy thriller set in Iqaluit; good research, although some improbabilities (she's made the FOL base a residential one, for example). Another good supernatural thriller by her is *Dreamline* (2011), in which a teen guards her community's dreams to keep away evil spirits.

\* Drew Haydon Taylor: *Nightwalker* (2007) Indian vampire; thriller, myth, aboriginal legend

\* Kelley Armstrong: *The Summoning* (2008), Good supernatural thriller—kids in a group home discover they're there because there is something unusual about them.... Conspiracy and adventure abound. Followed by *The Awakening* (2009), *The Reckoning* (2010). Bestsellers—well written, convincing characters.

\* Maureen Garvie: *Amy by Any Other Name* (2009) A gripper--what happens when you find yourself in someone else's body & life, after an accident?

## Birthday Girl

Carol celebrated her birthday at the summer Partnership meeting in Ontario this past August. Belated birthday greetings from us, Carol!



## Hallowe'en Treats at NLA Fall Meet



These “eye” catching treats were provided by Tina Rose at the fall NLA meeting/teleconference in October. Hope they wormed their way into hearts of the attendees. Thanks, Tina!

## Libraries and Archives Canada

As we get the news that Library and Archives Canada has moved its cancellation of interlibrary loan services from February 2013 to December 2012 (I hope no one wants to do any more genealogy research in Nunavut using archival photos or microfilm reels), that they are no longer accepting legal deposit copies (print or electronic) of any provincial or territorial government publications and that only a fraction of their collection is currently digitized and accessible, I thought you might be interested in this editorial.

Kindly reprinted with Michael Ridley's permission  
*Yvonne Earle, President Nunavut Library Association*

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### Library & Archives Canada

*Michael Ridley, Editor-in-Chief, OLA Access*

Slowly but surely we are watching a train wreck. It is a derailment of national proportions and implications. The debacle at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) arising from their budget reductions and policies changes is devastating.

LAC will restrict collecting, deaccession material, end funding for partners, cut staff, and eliminate services. As the centre piece of their “modernization”

program, they will advance digitization as the solution for just about everything. And mostly tellingly, they will label anyone who challenges these directions as Luddites.

OK. I'm a Luddite.

The keynote address of Dr. Caron, the National Librarian and Archivist, to the annual conference of the Canadian Library Association in Ottawa was appalling. Speaking to the assembled library community from across the country was his opportunity to engage the audience in a collaborative vision of a progressive memory and research institution. It was his chance to turn all the negatives around the cuts at LAC into a compelling and inclusive vision for the future.

He didn't do that. He did the opposite. He insulted us. Why?

To a digitally savvy audience with extensive experience in social media, community engagement, and stewardship of all information formats, Dr. Caron delivered a technology focused speech which one commentator said would have been interesting "if it was 1997."

I am not chastising LAC for making budget cuts; they were required to do their bit. I understand; I've had to manage fiscal constraints. I am criticizing LAC, and doing so in the strongest possible terms, for not collaborating with other libraries, archives, and museums to achieve those reductions while still sustaining (even growing) a national capacity for Canadians. Writing in the *Globe and Mail*, the esteemed historian J. L. Granatstein called the LAC actions "vandalism." To that I would add an arrogance and a failure of vision.

The proposed Pan-Canadian Documentary Heritage Network (PCDHN) is presented by LAC as a solution that would create a distributed cooperative model. However, despite the rhetoric of working together, the LAC position seems to be: we believe in collaboration as long as we are in the driver's seat. Epic fail. So 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Library and Archives Canada is not like any other department of the government. LAC serves Canadians not the government. Big difference.

Transport Canada does what it needs to do to run its business; if it wants to reduce its library and staff, so be it. I might express disappointment but not moral outrage. LAC is different. It belongs to me.

When memory institutions become tools of ideology alarm bells should go off big time.

What to do?

We can write outraged letters and emails. We can march on Ottawa. We can promise to vote appropriately at the next election. Won't make a difference. The next government will not reverse these cuts nor these policies, no matter what their stripe. Such is the nature of politics; other issues will dominate the day.

We need another strategy.

[David Lankes](#), author of the brilliant [Atlas of New Librarianship](#), has written a new book about libraries and librarians called [Expect More](#). The audience for the book is not those who work in libraries but those who use them or perhaps don't use them: the general public.

The message is simple and clear: expect more. Libraries, librarians, library workers can do more than they currently do to support and transform your lives. Lankes is brutal in his analysis: "Bad libraries build collections. Good libraries build services (of which a collection is only one). Great libraries build communities."

We want and need great libraries in this country. This is our responsibility. The defense against the vandalism at LAC (and in any of our libraries) is to demonstrate in our daily involvement with libraries, archives, and museums that these institutions matter because they build community, because they develop human capacity.

Shame on LAC for turning their backs on Canadians. Don't let us do the same.

## On the Move....

### The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Library Has Moved! From Tina Rose

The collection of materials at the NWMB was organized and put into a database beginning in 1998. It was a big step forward and people could find things on the shelves. However, the library was also the Board room so when meetings happened (a lot) the librarian couldn't work at the library computer and people could not go in to borrow things. It was also pretty hard to find things on the bottom shelf working around the sides of a big table.

This summer NWMB moved to a new building and the library has its own room with beautiful shelving. Dan Galway and Tina Rose were the library workers who did all the boxing and unboxing. Now Tina has taken over and really got things arranged well in the new space. She is also adding to the catalogue [www.nwmb-lib.com](http://www.nwmb-lib.com) and is available to answer questions at [librarian@nwmb.com](mailto:librarian@nwmb.com)

You can find a list of NWMB publications on the website [www.nwmb.com](http://www.nwmb.com) and Tina has extra copies of some available.



Tina can provide copies of NWMB items.

## From the Legislative Librarian's Desk Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada (APLIC)

We had our conference in Toronto in September, at Queen's Park (the Ontario Legislature building). The library was celebrating 100 years in the "new" north wing. The previous library was destroyed in 1909 in the old west wing fire so when the new space was constructed everyone was very conscious of making it as fireproof as possible. We saw some of the few items saved, which are charred and water stained but they are still readable. There were legislative library staff and researchers from all across Canada and we were given an *extra special* tour which included a steep climb up narrow stairs to the attic over the legislative chamber where we peered down (the Assembly wasn't sitting) and out to one of the towers giving us a great view towards the lake. Someone mentioned bats but we didn't see any evidence.

Our sessions focussed around legislative research issues: how MLAs are relying on Twitter and mobile phones to receive info-on-the-go; how important our unbiased research is to decision making; and one very interesting panel of journalists talking about how hard it is to get information as governments tell citizens less and become more and more secretive. One Ontario legislative librarian plays roller derby and gave a great illustrated talk about teamwork lessons learned which she applies to work.

The APLIC portal of Canadian federal, provincial and territorial e-publications was publically launched. This portal will become more important now that Library and Archives Canada has stopped collecting provincial and territorial government publications. We have not uploaded any from Nunavut yet but that will come. It is searchable by key word in English and French and you can find it here <http://aplicportal.ola.org/>

I am in my second year of a two year term as APLIC President and it's been a learning experience chairing national teleconference meetings, writing letters and keeping up with issues in parliamentary libraries in Canada and around the world. I learned that in Finland they have a sauna in the parliament building and even hold committee meetings there.

Our Nunavut legislative library may be small and "remote" but we are a player!

Yvonne Earle, MLS  
Nunavut Legislative Librarian

## A Peek at Arctic Bay's New Library, Thanks, Dan!



## OLA Super Conference 2013

Planning on attending OLA's Super Conference in Toronto? Set aside January 30 to February 2, 2013 for "The Ultimate Library Experience – Educate, Entertain, Empower".

Featured speakers include Steven Page (of Barenaked Ladies fame), futurist Thomas Frey, and Miriam Toews (winner of a Governor General's Literary Award for "A Complicated Kindness").

Closing festivities on Friday night will culminate with a "CIRC D'OLA" theme.

## Freedom to Read Week

"Freedom to Read Week is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed them under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms." – [www.freedomtoread.ca](http://www.freedomtoread.ca)

Freedom to Read Week will be held February 24 – March 2, 2013. Kits are available from their website. An online event calendar is available for submissions and viewing.

## TD Canadian Children's Book Week

The dates for the next TD Canadian Children's Book Week are out, so "Join the Fun". The annual tour will run from May 4 – 11, 2013. Children's authors and illustrators will be touring schools and libraries across the country. The list of authors and illustrators is available at <http://www.bookweek.ca/>.

Author Sarah Tsiang will be touring Nunavut.

## CLA Conference 2013

CLA's National Conference and Trade Show will be held May 29 – June 1, 2013 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. For more information regarding the conference, please check <http://www.cla.ca/conference/2013/>.

### Up and Coming 2012-2013

#### December

Hanukah (begins sundown)	8
Winter Solstice	21
Christmas	25
Boxing Day	26
Kwanzaa	26
New Year's Eve	31

#### January

New Year's Day	1
Sir John A. Macdonald Day	11
Family Literacy Day	27
Partnership Meeting, Toronto	30
OLA Super Conference, Toronto	30 – February 2

#### February

Ground Hog Day	2
Valentine's Day	14
National Flag Day of Canada	15
Freedom to Read Week	24 – March 2

#### March

St. Patrick's Day	17
World Poetry Day	21
Passover (begins at sundown)	26
Good Friday	29
Easter	31

#### April

April Fool's Day	1
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May

TD Children's Book Week	4 -11
Mother's Day	12
Victoria Day	20
CLA Conference (Winnipeg)	29 – June 1

June

Father's Day	16
National Aboriginal Day	21
Summer Solstice	21

July

Canada Day	1
Nunavut Day	9

August

Civic Holiday	5
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Share your news, a favourite website, a special program with your library colleagues for the next issue of the newsletter. E-mail Leigh Ann at [leighcumming@hotmail.com](mailto:leighcumming@hotmail.com).