

From the President's Desk



July 2017

Include. Imagine. Inspire. Three words that describe what we do. And we are needed more than ever. In a period brimming with divisive politics, libraries stand out. We bring people together, create community, and encourage greatness to happen. Yet we still find ourselves fighting for our existence, threatened with budget cuts, staff reductions, and loss of physical space. In the fight against these forces, we need to remember that we are important. We are valued by our community members, and we have something to offer that no one else can. With our incredible Advocacy team, APLA will continue to promote library services in the Region, so that Atlantic Canadians can continue to experience inclusion, imagination, and inspiration in our communities.

Each year, our Association is able to accomplish as much as it does because of our volunteers. We have an abundance of great people who make this Association possible, and I'd like to extend my sincerest thanks for their time, expertise and contagious energy. The following individuals have concluded their terms on the executive:

- Lynn Somers, Past President
- Laurinda Matheson, Secretary
- Mathieu Lanteigne, Vice-President, New Brunswick
- Carolyn Delorey, Vice-President, Nova Scotia
- Becky Smith, Vice-President, Newfoundland and Labrador
- Melissa Anez, Webmaster
- Alison Ambi, Bulletin Co-Editor

Welcome to our new Executive members:

- Patricia Doucette, Vice-President/President Elect
- Becky Smith, Secretary

- Carolyn Delorey, Vice-President- Membership
- Courtney Boudreau, Vice-President, New Brunswick
- Bill Slauenwhite, Vice-President, Nova Scotia
- Amanda Tiller-Hackett, Vice-President, Newfoundland and Labrador
- Kat Felix, Bulletin Co-Editor
- Margaret Vail, Webmaster

We are also grateful to have the continued involvement of the following executive members:

- Suzanne van den Hoogen, Past President
- Grace Dawson, Vice-President, Prince Edward Island
- Kristel Fleuren-Hunter, Communications Coordinator
- Marc Harper, Bulletin Co-Editor
- Maggie Neilson, Treasurer

I would also like to add a very special thank you to Peter Glenister for his continued work as APLA's Financial Examiner.

Our 2016-2017 year wrapped up with a fabulous conference in Charlottetown, organized by the Conference Chair and the incoming Vice President/President-Elect, Patricia Doucette, and her team, that included Grace Dawson, Jennifer Howard, Trina O'Brien Leggott, Sarah Fisher, Ann Smith, Wendy Collett, Cindy McKenna, Susan Harris, Leslie Holt-Dalziel, and Gillian Mahen.

The Conference is a fantastic opportunity for the membership to get together, network, and hear how others are enhancing their services. Planning the Conference takes a lot of work, and the members of the Association are grateful for the time and energy each committee commits to the event. Hats off to the conference team for hosting the Association. While I wasn't able to make it this year, the reports all indicate that it was a fantastic time, tremendous program, and beautiful location. Congratulations!

Now that 2017 Conference is in the books, it's time to start planning for 2018 in Fredericton, New Brunswick! Next year is a big year for APLA – 2018 marks our centenary. One hundred years of supporting libraries and library workers across the region! You won't want to miss it. Details on the venue and dates will be forthcoming.

Since our conference in Charlottetown, APLA has lost one of its shining stars. On June 25th, Mr. Lou Duggan passed away. He was long standing member of APLA, a Past-President and most recently, the University Librarian at St. Francis Xavier. He was a tremendous leader and mentor. His passion for libraries, and his contagious bright smile, will be missed dearly by the Canadian library community.

This year is a historic one for APLA, and I am grateful to be a part of the action. We will continue the policy renewal initiated by Past President, Suzanne van den Hoogen, to ensure the policies and structure of the Association are responsive to the needs of our members and of the current library environment. We will also look at ways of expanding our membership, continuing our advocacy efforts across the

Region with our strengthened Advocacy Committee, and seeking out additional and enhanced benefits for our valued members.

Wishing all of you a safe, happy, and warm summer!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathryn Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathryn" being more prominent than the last name "Rose".

Kathryn Rose

