

## From the President's Desk



**Summer 2021**

**Marc Harper**



APLA has made it through another trying year. However, instead of merely keeping our heads above water during our first entire COVID-themed fiscal year, our Association has managed to move forward and accomplish great things.

Our virtual conference, hosted by Acadia University, was a big success as evidenced by the positive feedback and engagement from attendees. As someone who only saw a glimpse of the “behind the scenes” efforts of Acadia and APLA’s information technology personnel and other volunteers, I can say that many things could have gone wrong, but they didn’t, thanks to the efforts of all involved. Our keynote speakers, **Camille Callison** and **Gerald Gloade**, provided moving sessions on the very timely topics of fostering relationships with and respecting the cultures of Indigenous communities.

Although the initiatives and activities we engaged in this past year were limited, we took advantage of these digital times we live in. We formed a working group which networked with other library associations across the country to compare our executive structures, policies & procedures, and initiatives we are considering. This working group sought the opinion of our members via SurveyMonkey; responses were both helpful and appreciated.

With the new fiscal year comes new members to our [Executive Committee](#). This year, APLA welcomes:

- **Cordelia Perry** as VP Membership
- **Chantale Saulnier** as VP New Brunswick
- **Su Cleyle** as VP Newfoundland and Labrador
- **Victoria Volkanova** as Secretary
- **Kate McClintock** as Bulletin Co-Editor
- **Keri McCaffrey** as Technology Coordinator (formerly known as Webmaster)
- **Nicole Rosenow-Redhead** as Advocacy Committee Chair
- **Margaret Vail**, although not new to APLA, is the new VP Nova Scotia after having served as a very efficient Webmaster (now known as Technology Coordinator) for several years.

Although some COVID measures remain in place, we are seeing more face-to-face encounters and I hope to meet as many members in person as possible during my time as President. A big thank you to my two predecessors, **Trecia Schell**, whose year as President was interrupted by COVID, and **Ann Smith**, whose entire 12 months as President were hampered by COVID. Trecia and Ann's dedication, resourcefulness, and creativity kept APLA running through unique and complicated times.

Beyond former presidents, the collaboration of every single volunteer during these trying times has proven that the Atlantic Provinces Library Association truly is greater than the sum of its parts.

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APLA President 2021 – 2022  
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