

SNOWSHOE

NEWSLETTER OF THE N.W.T. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Summer 1984

Vol.1 No.2

BRING ON THE CLOWNS:

A N.W.T.L.A. FIRST!

On Canada Day 1984, the N.W.T.L.A. took part in the parade in our capital city. On Friday evening, before the parade, Dave Booty and I designed the banners with lib. slogans to decorate the float. There were also posters from Dave's vast collection to add a little colour to the whole venture.

But, Sunday was a typical day for this July in Yellowknife, with sun, cloud, rain and more rain. The inevitable downpour caused the colours to run down the painted posters. But, not to be deterred, with a manual pump plugged into the cigarette lighter Margaret Orr and I inflated what seemed to be hundreds of balloons which we tied into bunches as a successful post-rain facelift to our float.

Finally, the grey van, with dripping banners reading, "The N.W.T. Library Association" moved off into the grey mist of the YK. Canada Day parade. Balloons were passed out between the drips to the smiling faced children who lined the parade route. Hundreds of balloons advertising the Association and "Libraries for Information and Recreation"

were given out. Many people lined the route and soon exhausted the blown up supply. It must have been a comical site to behold as the NWTLA president drove and blew up balloons manually. As the parade snailed down main street, Margaret, passed balloons out to eager recipients faster than they could be blown up. At last the parade ended. A fun, lung expanding time!

Not a great Canada Day entry. But, it was a valuable act of publicity. More balloons could have been handed out with more "booky blower uppers". A van of wall to wall balloons was needed. Decorations of a water resistant nature would have been great. But, our first step into the world of advertising was taken and we had a great time doing it. It was definitely more fun to be in the parade than to watch it. If you have a community event coming up and would like to publicize the N.W.T.L.A., just write the association for balloons and book marks to help your float. See you in the parade next year!

Don Albright

N.W.T.L.A. President



MARION PAPE: New Chief of Library Services

An Exclusive Interview!

Several months after Marion Pape's arrival, the editor interviewed the new Chief. Marion is now living and working in Hay River at the headquarters of the N.W.T. Public Library Service.

SNOWSHOE: Marion, you have been living in the N.W.T. for 3 months now. Having worked in the Yukon for 2 years you are not new to the North. What are your first impressions of the N.W.T.?

MARION: Although the climate is not very different from Saskatoon, I am pleased to be living in a forested area and beside a magnificent lake. I have just begun to explore the adjacent areas such as Wood Buffalo Park, and the rivers.

Another obvious impression is how well the various cultural groups are working together and taking charge of their own destiny. There is a positive feeling among the people here that one can accomplish what one sets out to. It is very heartening to see a government that seriously attempts to further the ambitions of the native population.

I see a lot of potential here which can be realised if we put aside some of the old ways of doing things. This is apparent for example in library services where we must ask if the caretaker approach to tending our libraries is what a vibrant information service is all about. Many libraries resist change; they often prefer to dwell on routines, rather than on the population that needs to be served. Routines are essential but they can be streamlined.

With the information revolution upon us, the north cannot isolate itself from the rest of the globe. Our challenge is the greater because of the vast distances, but we must look at making our libraries the cultural exchange centres of the community. My impressions are that we have a long way to go towards linking together a network of information centres for the benefit of all citizens of the Northwest Territories but, there is a growing will to achieve that objective.

SNOWSHOE: International Year of Youth is approaching in 1985. This brings to mind your involvement with youth in Saskatchewan. Would you outline what your youth activities have been and what you envision for N.W.T. youth?

MARION: I was involved in coordinating all services to adolescents aged 12-19 in the Saskatoon area. My work involved experimenting with different approaches to attract this highly critical population. The most successful method of serving teens was involving them at all levels in programming, selection of materials, leadership training and advocacy work. The library was in a position to provide leadership to a large number of uncoordinated community groups serving the same population. With young adults advising, we were often able to produce a total community effort



MARION CONTINUES....

in our information program, whether it was in the area of Young Offenders, Youth Rights or Sexuality.

What to do in the N.W.T.? The process of working with young people did not just happen overnight. A rapport was developed through direct contact with a variety of young people. Our library workers in the NWT will be our front-line people, and as always, some will probably be more successful than others. It is easier to work with existing youth groups and I have already begun to try and isolate them. I have a preliminary contact with other departments of the Territorial Government and will actively promote youth participation projects whenever possible. In my estimate, the movements often come from outside the government and large institutions like education. International Youth Year will provide a catalyst. I hope that a few of our more creative adults will rise to the challenge of looking for alternative ways of involving young people in the problem-solving situations. Through this participation in their own life issues, these young people will be more prepared to make sound leadership decisions tomorrow.

variety of native communities in the N.W.T. They would help us identify issues, raise consciousness about day to day problems and help us problem-solve our service approaches. The needs to better understand how information is accessed and which formats are the most successful are the most critical needs for public library service. We would also need to involve our native young people in this process and perhaps encourage more northerner to train in library information work. This is just another example of giving them ownership of their own services 1985 commemorates both International Youth Year and the centenary of the Riel Rebellion, an interesting link could be forged.

SNOWSHOE: For the next NWTLA Conference, what areas of interest would you like to pursue for the benefit of public library service in the N.W.T.?

SNOWSHOE: The days are becoming shorter and warm weather activities are coming to an end. What are you planning to do for recreation during the winter months?

MARION: As the dominant theme, I would suggest an intensive workshop on Library Services to Native People inviting our speakers from a wide

MARION: In the winter, I like to keep my metabolism rate quite active and intend to get out onto the cross-country ski trails around the Western Arctic. Hay River has an active ski group and we will probably participate in the marathon ski outings that are planned. In addition we hope to get our slide collection indexed using a computer database that our son worked out for us this summer. We have thousands of unorganized slides that need to be worked on.

My husband, Manfred tells me that one of his secret desires in coming to Hay River was to do research on the ice worm. He feels that it behooves him to search for this elusive creature on the Great Slave Lake ice mass!!!



MARION CONTINUES.....

Finally, the noble tradition of dinner parties will be reintroduced into a certain segment of Hay River society perhaps with the age-old flair of the Society for Creative Anachronism, popularly noted for medieval food, music and joviality!

SNOWSHOE: I am sure that you have found many pressing issues or directions to address in the public library service. How will you establish your priorities?

MARION: There are so many directions one can take in forging a new change that one must clearly think out how this will be done. Hay River is a very isolated from the needs of our overall population base. If possible within the financial limitations, and my time commitments, I hope to visit each community that presently has library services and meet with representatives of the community to determine their expectations of library services, what commitment to these services the community will make and what the community feels is necessary in order to fulfil these expectations considering funding priorities.

There is a real need for a strong direction to be forged and for a citizen-based Library Development Board to help in setting this direction. This is an enormous task but, I don't think that short cuts are possible here.

In addition, there are already-established priorities identified throughout the Territories. There is a real need to serve our

native populations in their own languages. Further, there is a need for the production of new materials in a variety of formats. Proposals to this end are being developed.

Finally, of overwhelming importance is the need to develop a computerized union catalogue as a working collection for all libraries in the N.W.T. As a part of this process, it would appear eminently logical to network among all types of libraries within the N.W.T., be they public, college or government libraries. If this could all be compatible with the National Library, then we would have accomplished a considerable task. I would envision the formation of a network development task group which would be responsible for advising the government on systems which should be considered. All of the above, of course, would be dependent on a sound funding base.

SNOWSHOE: Thank you Marion, for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk with us. We certainly appreciate some of the problems you are facing and look forward to working with you towards some creative alternatives. As it is our mandate through the N.W.T.L.A. to "promote and facilitate the exchange of ideas" we will be watching your progress with great interest. And, if the N.W.T.L.A. can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact us. See you at the next meeting!





THE FRIVOLOUS
BULLETIN BOARD

Bulletin boards and book displays are often overlooked by lib. staff working outside the schoolroom. It is often felt that there aren't enough hours in the day or money in the budget, to accommodate the frivolous bulletin board!

Not so, library displays and bulletin boards are guaranteed to increase circulation and interest in the valued services your library offers. Bulletin boards and book displays are not just for school libraries, they have a place and function in every library. They can convey information about; library services, coming events or highlight sections of the collection that may not be used to their fullest potential.

The next road block usually refers to the bulletin board or book display as being too expensive! Simply stated, this need not be the case. There are lots

of inexpensive ways to create cost efficient displays. Try using volunteer help, summer students, school classes, or library programs to design and put up book displays. At many libraries the staff all take turns doing the monthly bulletin boards and as a result there are always lots of different ideas. For those staff members stuck behind a typewriter or circulation desk, creating a new bulletin board is a welcome change of pace, a staff morale builder and the results are always positive.

Here are a few ideas to get your displays started.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Arctic Winter Games: try creating a bulletin board with arctic sports gear, posters and books.

Legislative Assembly Session: celebrate the opening with a collection of books and documents from the last session.



The F.B.B.

HOT TOPICS

Breakdancing: a poster of Michael Jackson saying "I read....." does wonders for the circulation of your young adult books.
The Young Offenders Act: is a hot topic in government circles, how about a display of information sources.

LIBRARY SERVICES

For the N.W.T.L.A. how about an information display? There are balloons and book marks included in this issue of "Snowshoe" so go to it (we'd love to see the results!)
Or, how about a display showing all the great and wonderful items you've found in returned library books..(ie. money, jelly sandwiches nail files, puppies, etc.)The possibilities are endless.

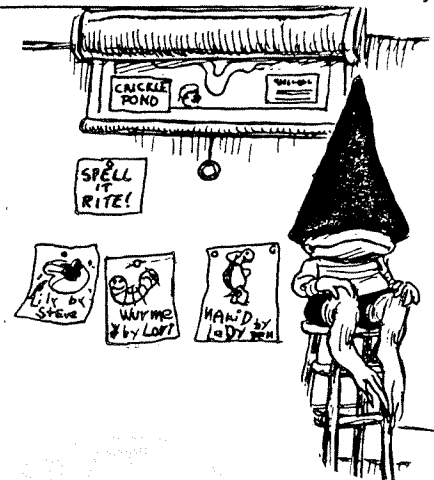
When making a display, remember our business is to sell books. So, use lots of them in the display and include books that patrons can remove from the arrangement and take home. After all that's what we are here for! Keep the bulletin board simple, with just a few words. Often it is the very simple design that is the most memorable. (Remember the great tv commercial "Mr. Christie, you make..!") Simple, but very effective. Think in terms of the library's ergonomics and use bright colours and unusual artifacts to augment the monographs. The colour and change of scenery will have an amazing effect on patrons and the staff as well.

For more information and ideas about bulletin boards and displays

tap into the NWTPLS professional collection via ILL-there are lots of good ideas there.

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ALL ABOUT THE DENE LANGUAGE

PROJECT AT FORT GOOD HOPE

The Fort Good Hope Dene Community Council has established the Dene Language Project as one of their special programs to help collect and assemble relevant material to be eventually made available to the general public. Present-day researchers and linguists will be provided with an information showcase of the Dene culture. The project works with the school system to ensure the continued preservation of the Dene language, customs and history - three very important links with the distinct Dene identity as a re-emerging people. The work includes a three-year program with the Dept. of Education to develop training units in Slavey for use in the schools.

At Fort Good Hope, the team gathers and catalogues written material in the form of teaching units, books on Indians, newspapers studies and reports. They are also very busy making a collection of taped material in the form of life histories of the elders and photographs of the traditional way of life.

As an integral part of this overall mandate, Antoine Mountain, Curator of the Dene Museum/Library at Fort Good Hope, is contacting libraries and any other organizations for information to help the project create and sustain a dialogue on matters of history, linguistics and native education. Any assistance

which our readers can give or suggestions which the Association can offer will be gratefully received.

To correspond with the Dene Language Project contact;

Antoine Mountain,
Dene Language Project,
Fort Good Hope,
N.W.T. XOE OHO 1-410-598-2383

Editor's Note:

A description of Jo-Anne Allison's work on the catalogue at the Dene Language Project is to be found on page 7 in the NWTLA Newsletter, Vol.1 No.2, April/83.

RENOVATIONS & INNOVATIONS:

The Yellowknife Public Library received a "face lift" (foot lift!) with a new beige and brown carpet. The library staff, and anyone they could drag off the street, were busy for one weekend shifting the 14.5 tons of books housed on the main floor of the library. What a sight, books, wall to wall!!!! But, the staff, volunteers and books survived the trauma and the library is brighter and more comfortable than ever.

P.S. a special thanks to all the NWTLA members who "just happened to be in the area" and pitched in.



DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS A:

NWT TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY RESOURCE COUNCIL?

The NWTTA Library Resource Council is an association for teacher-librarians. Annual meetings by the Council are held as part of the NWTTA annual meeting. In Yellowknife, where more school libraries are concentrated, monthly meetings are held. The Council produces a newsletter three times a year featuring library news of interest to teacher-librarians and is chucked full of great program ideas. Eileen Fizer, President, is responsible for issuing the bulletin and would appreciate feedback and contributions from all members of the Council and the NWTLA. Eileen can be reached at; Mildred Hall School, Bag Service 4444, Yellowknife, NWT., X1A 2R3 or: P.O. Box 746, Yellowknife, NWT. X1A 2N5

INNOVATIONS AT THE HEALTH

RESOURCE CENTRE:

The Dr. Otto Schaefer Health Resource Centre is closed for the months of July through September. The purpose of the closure is to catch up with the backlog of small and not so small jobs which had to be left undone during the busy season. These include sending out overdue notices for films and books, weeding the collection and even ordering new material!

We are also planning to computerize the audiovisual collection with the help and expertise of staff from

Health and Welfare in Ottawa. In preparation for this we are re-cataloguing and reclassifying the audiovisual collection - approximately 650 titles. This involves previewing each item and writing a new precis for it - a very timeconsuming task. In addition we have 50 new titles to catalogue and classify. With the assistance of a summer student more than half of the collection has already been done. The computerization of the collection will not take place until late fall or early winter as I will be away on annual leave from August 20 until September 30.

The book collection at the HRC will also receive some attention I hope, before the summer is out. Since I do not have the time to catalogue and classify properly, I plan to improvise by creating an author and title card, skip classifying but replace it with a shelf location identifier. I hope this system will work. At least it will be better than the present system where I have to search through piles of material stashed wherever there is space. This of course does not apply to the materials which were catalogued in the "good old days" when there were more staff in the Health Resource Centre.

Margaret McClintock,
Health Librarian,
Government of the Northwest
Territories.



BOOK



LIVRE

OTTAWA, August 11, 1984 -

Since the National Book Festival began 6 years ago, the number of communities taking part has nearly doubled annually. During the 1984 National Book Festival more than 1,000 communities took part in activities aimed at developing interest in Canadian books and magazines.

Fort Smith poet Jim Green was in Yellowknife for last years activities, opening the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre with a public reading from his new collection of northern poems. In Pangnirtung there was a book exchange between the grade 4 class and a grade 4 class in British Columbia.

National Book Festival 1985 is a program of the Canada Council and will spend over \$350,000. to promote Canadian literature and authors. They will distribute over 3,000,000 posters, bookmarks and balloons to libraries, book stores and schools involved in the celebrations.

NOW is the time to start planning to get involved. NOW is the time to request an application and more details about the resources available in the N.W.T.

Do you want Alice Munro or Ernie Lyall to visit your library? It will take a little work, but it could happen if you plan NOW.

For more information write:

Kitty Pope,
National Book Festival,
P.O. Box 694,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N5 1-403-873-5980

NWTLA CONFERENCE FEEDBACK:

Thanks to all the people who responded to our survey of attendees to the February NWTLA Conference.

The majority of respondents were most enthusiastic about the first conference and wanted more information and details about the next gala event. Suggestions for workshop topics included: more on the basic computer and library services, grantmanship and library promotion ideas. Your comments will be kept on file at Association headquarters to help planners for the next NWTLA conference.



"Got any books with nice, big, colored pictures in them, suitable for framing?"



QUERIES AND QUANDARIES

The Editor recieved two marvelous responses to the quandary in the last issue of 'Snowshoe'. Needless to say we would all like to know who were the quick witted library staff who came up with these great solutions to the time honoured problem:

QUANDARY: " I am always losing pens to library patrons. The pencils always seem to migrate away from the circulation desk to staff desks! This is a small but aggravating one, any suggestions?"

SOLUTIONS:

From mystery Librarian #1:.....

How to keep pens and pencils from migrating in 5 easy lessons:

1. Take 3.5 meters of fishing line and attach to each pen/pencil. patron walking more than 3.5 m. from the desk trips a laughing box that says"PUT THE PEN BACK!"
2. Run your library like a bank,- a ball and chain on each pen.
3. Put a box at the doorway for the P&P Fund. Donations could be made in the form of stolen pens or \$. Don't be fussy.
4. Play the tape you just recorded to the tune "Here comes Peter Cottontail..."
"Don't steal the pens off my desk
Don't steal the pens off my desk
Don't steal the pens off my desk"
repeat, repeat.....
5. Don't supply pens and pencils

If none of the above work, feel free to call upon the armed forces.

(thanks LT)

From mystery librarian #2 comes:

Dear Editor:

In response to the Q&Q column. Here are a few ideas.

1. to deter pen thefts; weld writing equipment to your desk.
2. install a pen alert and retrieval system.
3. hire a "gaggle" of guard dogs specially trained to sniff out stylus stealers.
4. get a computer

OR

adopt the attitude that it's less frustrating for a patron to "borrow" a pencil and jot down the information than to pull a card out of the catalogue and go looking for the material.

A box of pencils cost about \$4.00 and takes about 8 minutes to sharpen and place in a bin at the desk.

Q&Q is a great idea-it's a real inspiration-- keep up the good work.

Signed.....Penless

NEW QUANDARY: My library files are a real mess now that they extend over two file drawers. How can I reorganize them so they can be more easily used?

Send your solutions/suggestions or problems to the Editor,(she has all the answers!)



PROGRAM NOTES:

THE GOVERNMENT LIBRARY

The Government Library (located on the main floor of the Laing Building in Yellowknife) has been holding its monthly "Noontime Talks" since May, with very positive results. Crowds of up to forty people have enjoyed the presentations on a wide range of subjects. They included talks on recreation facilities around the capital, cabin building, Yellowknife's past and a poetry reading by Jim Green and Pat Buckna. The resources required for such a program are enthusiastic speakers, time to plan, the facility, some advertising and a few friends to fill up any vacant seats! We have found that the effort that goes into the preparation for such a program is well worth the valuable promotional results. The programs also have contributed to the communities activities, as well as boosting staff morale.

The Noontime Talks begin at 12:00 and run until 1:00 on the first Wednesday of the month. The public is cordially invited to attend and the library supplies the coffee and garbage tins for lunch bags.

Here is a sampling of what is lined up for the fall season:

SEPT.5 DENE FAMILY

This film is about the Marlowes; a Dene family from Snow-drift. Their everyday life is depicted by a daughter of the family. Joan and John Goldi lived in Snow-drift and produced the film. Joan will describe the making of the film and life in this Dene community.

OCT.10 An Introduction to Computerized Info.Retrieval

Need to find out what has been written in your field? Access to hundreds of databases storing information on many subjects is available through the DIALOG Information Retrieval System. It is available to anyone with a dial-up terminal or through the Government Library. A slide show will describe DIALOG and other search services used by the library will be described.

NOV.7 The Living Stone

This film speculates on the inspiration behind the carving of Inuit sculptures, suggesting that the carver's approach is to release the image he sees imprisoned in the rough stone. The film centres around an old legend about the carving of an image of the sea spirit bringing food to a hungry camp.

Dave Sutherland, Arts and Crafts Development Officer for the GNWT will lead a discussion about the film and the Inuit art of carving.

DEC.5 The White Man Comes North: Blessing or Disaster?

The Right Reverend J.R. Sperry, Bishop of the Arctic, will draw on his many years living in Canada's north to discuss this controversial topic. Plan to attend.

Margaret Orr
Government Library



GRAPEVINE: -- bringing you all the latest in library gossip!

Who has produced more potential librarians for the NWT than anyone you know? If you guessed Edwin and Monica Welch, you're right. Both the Welch girls are working in Yellowknife libraries this summer- Carolyn at the YPL on summer reading programs and Alison in the Government Library with Margaret and Sheila. A new library dynasty for the NWT.

A very warm congratulations to Majella Atkinson, at the NWT Wild-Tife Library, who has just been assigned her first teaching position in Tuk. Majella will be teaching grades 4-9. Good luck with all those Home Ec. classes!

Margaret Orr, our NWTLA 'Snowshoe' editor and her husband Patrick have just returned from a fabulous two week visit to the Netherlands. From all the stories, it sounds like they had a great holiday.

Oh, where, oh where can Jo-Anne Allison be?

Oh, where, oh where can she be? Well, Jo-Anne Allison has just shifted gears a little and is now at the NWT Public Service Assoc. offices in Yellowknife. She is working as a research officer and is very happy with the new challenges her position offers. Her phone number is 403-873-5668.

Congratulations and best wishes go out to Carolynn Kabelka, a recent MLS grad. from UBC. Carolynn left the north 2 years ago for the wilds of library school and now has returned to join the staff of the Northern Heritage Centre. Congrats. and welcome to the crowd!

And, Sue Baer, of the NWT Court Library will be following in CK's footsteps as she heads to UBC Library School in the fall. Our best wishes go with you, Sue and we look forward to your return in the Spring.

Janet Clarke's new address? Yup, here it is.....

7 Nafthal Drive,
Apt.#9
Bridgewater ,Nova Scotia.
B4Y 3C4 1-902-543-7365

Congratulations to Norma Christie, who is now permanent staff at St. Pat's Elementary School-YK., as their Library Technican. Good luck with the coming school year Norma!

It was great to see Shirley Morrison, who was a Library clerk at the Government Library from 1979-81. Shirley came in to visit while holidaying in Yellowknife. She will be moving to Winnipeg this fall.

And, finally who is that tall, dark and handsome new man at NWTPLS? Well, all I know so far is that it's Ernst Vitovec, Headquarters Librarian. As more details become available, I'll keep you informed.

That's all from the vine this time-if you hear any good gossip, be sure and pass it along.

