

# President's Column: February 2009

By Lynne Jordon.

It is hard to imagine that the last time I wrote a column I mentioned a freak April snowstorm at the 2008 BC Libraries Conference. Well, some of you will still be seeing snow on the ground, but in Victoria, the rain has now washed away the last of the dirty snow banks. The weather appears to be the least of our worries in this disconcerting economic time!

## Changes for BCLA

2008 brought a large number of changes to our Association. A new Executive Director was hired at the end of June (see Alane's column), and *The BCLA Reporter* ceased publication in June/July (last issue was Vol. 52, no. 8). Numerous other changes have taken place in the office and at the Board level. BCLA's Office Assistant, Allie Douglas, had her job reviewed by the new ED; in September, the Board approved a new job description that more accurately reflects her role. We are pleased that Allie continues to offer her services to the Association as our new Office Manager. As Sandra Wong outlines in her editor's column, our new newsletter is a bold step forward for our association and was prompted by the feedback received in the strategic planning process. As most of you know, a small task group has been formed to work with me on updating the BCLA Constitution and By-Laws in time for approvals at the AGM, and that work is progressing well.

## What will 2009 bring for BCLA?

The outlook for this year is affirmative and productive...

- Positive responses and appreciation given to the editorial board for their work on the new official newsletter of BCLA, the *BCLA Browser: Linking the Library Landscape*;
- Full attendance at the 2<sup>nd</sup> President's Program Feb 5/6 in Victoria, "Being an Effective Leader" with Ken Roberts, Chief Librarian, Hamilton Public Library and CLA President, and Daphne Woods, Manager of Communications and Community Development, Hamilton Public Library;

- Effective involvement in the issues of interest to librarians and library workers including, among others: ongoing participation with issues arising from the Human Resources Summit held in Ottawa in October 2008; TILMA, Copyright legislation, Public Libraries Act Review, etc.;
- Exciting 2009 BC Libraries conference program with the theme "Be Curious: Think, Share and Discover" in Burnaby, April 16 -19, 2009;
- Approval of the housekeeping revisions to and updating of the BCLA Constitution and By-laws at the AGM in April;
- Keen new Board members (see the nomination information recently sent out) and an opportunity for the BCLA Board to receive Board Orientation training in May.

## What can you bring to BCLA?

Please consider whether you might contribute to the library profession in a new or expanded way: What leadership role could you take on? BCLA Board member? Committee member or chair/vice chair position? Organizing a conference session or workshop? Assisting with a task or interest group? Attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> President's Program, "Being an Effective Leader" with Ken and Daphne? All of the above?

As always, it is You, the members of the Association who fill many leadership roles. I appreciate your support, as well as that of the Executive Director, Office Manager, Board members, Sections, Committees and Interest Groups. With you, we advance the role of libraries in our society—a worthy goal in these challenging economic times.

*Lynne Jordon is the BCLA President, 2008-09.*