

BCLA Awards Reception

By Lynne Jordon, Past President, BCLA.

Presiding over the awards ceremony is one of the best parts of being BCLA President as it is a time when we recognize those among us who have made outstanding contributions to the BCLA community. The sponsor was Micromedia Proquest, and the company representative was Anne Marie Freeman, Account Manager.

BCLA Merit Awards

Merit Awards are given to institutions in two categories. The first recognizes programs and services that are deemed to have significant benefit to the community served, and that also serve as exemplars to the entire BCLA community. The second category recognizes outstanding library building projects.

In Category A: Program and Services, five projects were nominated:

- BC Teacher Librarians' Association, Drop Everything and Read
- Coquitlam Public Library, Baby Storytimes at Seniors Centers
- Fraser Valley Regional Library, Aboriginal Outreach Services
- West Vancouver Public Library, Booktopia
- Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UBC, BC Digitization Project.

And the winners in Category A: Programs or Services that are sharing the spotlight this year are:

- Fraser Valley Regional Library for Aboriginal Outreach Services



Mayor Peter Fassbinnder and Ada Con, Fraser Valley Regional Library accepted the award. Photo by Miriam Moses.

- Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, University of BC for BC History Digitization Project.



Sandra Singh accepted the award on behalf of the University of British Columbia. Photo by Miriam Moses.

In Category B: Building Projects three projects were nominated:

- North Vancouver City Library (NVCL)
- UBC for the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
- University of Victoria for the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning

And the winner in Category B is the **North Vancouver City Library**. Accepting the awards for NVCL were Lois Taylor, Vice Chair of the NVCL Board, and the two architectural companies that designed the library: Diamond & Schmitt and CIE Architecture.



Sid Johnson, CIE Architecture, Breck McFarlane for Diamond and Schmitt, pictured with Alane Wilson and Jane Watkins, Chief Librarian NVCL. Photo by Miriam Moses.

Academic Librarians in Public Service Award for Outstanding Service

The BCLA section Academic Librarians in Public Service Award for Outstanding Service is presented to one or more academic librarians whose service has made a real difference to students, faculty or colleagues in BC. Making the presentation on behalf of ALPS was Ken Cooley, Associate University Librarian at U Vic, and incoming BCLA President.



Ryan Vernon and Stephen Blaeser. Photo by Miriam Moses.

And the winners are **Stephen Blaeser** and **Ryan Vernon** of the BC College and Institute Library Services (CILS), located at Langara College, a provincially funded library information services program for post-secondary students with print disabilities. In making their selection, the ALPS Award Committee noted Stephen and Ryan's innovative approach to supporting print-disabled clients. The committee was particularly impressed by these librarians' commitment to the principles of service, collaboration, teaching and training, and information

sharing across institutions and sectors, within and beyond the library community. Stephen and Ryan were both present to accept their awards.

Honorary Life Membership Award

The Honorary Life Membership Award is given to a BCLA member who is at or within five years of retirement. Individuals must have made substantial and recognizable long standing contributions to BCLA and to library service in the Province. And the winner this year is **Mary Anne Epp**, Director of Contract Services, Langara College. Mary Anne is also the Chair of the BCLA Copyright Committee. Mary Anne has spent her career acting as an advocate on issues related to copyright and access to information. She has provided copyright advice to college librarians and the provincial Ministry of Advanced Education. She has provided extensive support and worked diligently to promote Services to People with Print Disabilities. She has served as Chair of the Canadian Association of Educational Resource Centres for Alternate Format Materials and manages the Advanced Education media acquisitions program supporting the post-secondary system in BC. She is the manager of the College and Institute Library Services at Langara College. In her career, Mary Anne has contributed extensively to many publications, mentored colleagues, and presented numerous workshops. She is a strong and eloquent spokesperson for college libraries and librarianship in Canada and an outstanding BCLA member.



Mary Anne Epp accepts the honorary life membership award from Lynne Jordon. Photo by Sandra Wong.

Thank you to Mary Anne for her years of dedication and her impending retirement for which she so richly deserves.

Keith Sacre Library Champion Award

The Keith Sacré Library Champion Award is presented to an individual, organization or business that has a record of support of libraries, literacy, public access to information and the overall aims and objectives of libraries. The award is intended for non-library personnel.

Carla Graebner, Simon Fraser University and Barbara Jo May, Burnaby Public Library members of the BCLA Information Policy Committee presented the award to this year's winner, **Darrell Evans, Executive Director, of BC Freedom of Information Policy Association.**

Thank you to Darrell for all his work in support of access to government information.



Darrell Evans accepts the Keith Sacre Library Champion award. Photo by Sandra Wong.

Helen Gordon Stewart Award

The Helen Gordon Stewart Award is given to recognize an outstanding career in librarianship involving visible or readily identifiable achievements that bring honour to the entire profession. The award also includes honorary life membership in BCLA. This year's winner is **Greg Buss**, Chief Librarian, Richmond Public Library. Greg is well known for leading and fostering innovation in his own library system for more

than 20 years. With the opening of the Ironwood Branch in 1998, the Cambie Branch in 2004 and a renovated Brighthouse Branch in 2006, Greg's leadership enabled him to carry out the innovative vision of the RPL service model. Greg is not afraid to try new ideas and take risks that result in improved customer service and new efficiencies.



Lynne Jordon presents the Helen Gordon Stewart award to Greg Buss, Richmond Public Library. Photo by Miriam Moses.

BCLA President's Award

The President's Awards are determined by the current President and this year two awards are presented:

The first award is presented to **Mary Anne Epp**, Director of Contract Services, Langara College for all the reasons previously given.

The second award is presented to: **Michael Burris**, Executive Director, Public Library InterLINK for all the reasons it is unnecessary to give, but in recognition of

his 10 years of ongoing contributions to BCLA as its Executive Director.



Mary Anne Epp accepts her second award of the evening from Lynne Jordon. Photo by Miriam Moses.



Michael Burris at the podium accepting the President's award. Photo by Miriam Moses.

Thank you to both Mary Anne and Michael for your years of service in support of libraries and librarians, and the work of BCLA!

Outstanding Service in a Field of Excellence Award

It is with great pleasure that I announce a new BCLA award being established this year. BCLA has a number of award categories so it is the rare individual who wins awards in most of the categories, and then, continues to contribute and be indispensable to the association. The new Award created will recognize, from now forward, the few individuals without whom BCLA would be a shadow of the association it is. With a great deal of gratitude and fondness, the Award for Outstanding Service in a Field of Excellence (Simpsons fans, you will recognize this tongue in cheek award title) is presented to the inaugural winner. **Jim Looney receives the first ever, Looney Award for Outstanding Service in a Field of Excellence.**



Jim Looney accepting the inaugural award named after himself. Photo by Sandra Wong.

*Lynne Jordon, President BCLA, 2008-09, Deputy CEO
Greater Victoria Public Library.*