

British Columbia Library Association 2010 Awards

By Ken Cooley.

Before beginning with the formal BCLA awards, there is an award to be made to one of BCLA's most successful programs, the **Summer Reading Club**. Every year since 2000, SRC has applied for and received a generous grant from the Royal Bank of Canada Foundation. This year is no exception, and we have with us Shirley Anne Yip, from the RBC here in Penticton who will present the giant cheque for \$20,000 to Els Kushner, the able coordinator of the SRC. Thank you—and I hope the relationship between RBC and SRC continues.



Ken Cooley with Els Kushner, SRC Coordinator and Shirley Yip of RBC Penticton.

Awards in Support of Attendance at the Annual Conference

At this time I would like to introduce to you the winners of the awards made to support attendance at the annual conference. Would the winners please stand as their names are announced and remain standing. I would also like to ask you to please hold your applause until all winners are announced.

The **Ken Haycock Student Conference Award** is named for Dr Ken Haycock, director of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies from 1992-2002. The awards are made to current SLAIS students. This year's winners are **Naomi Schemm** and **Lindsay Willson**.

The **Alice Bacon Continuing Education Scholarship** is named in honour of Alice Bacon who, for many years, both organized and lobbied for improved continuing education opportunities for library staff. This year's winners are: **Emily Tufts, Galina Durant, Jon Scop, Callie Joyce Perry** and **Tamarack Hockin**.

The **Harry Newsom Memorial Prize** was established in memory of **Harry Newsom**, Director of the Cariboo Thompson Nicola Library. This year's winners are **Amy Dawley, Christina Nilsen** and **Joanne Plesman**.

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, but that also serve as exemplars to the entire BCLA community. The second category recognizes outstanding library building projects.

Category A: Programs or Services



Greg Buss accepts on behalf of Richmond Public Library.

This year, two winners will share this award as it has been the practice to make more than one award when the quality of the entrants warrants. They are:

- Richmond Public Library for the Richmond Health Literacy Project.
- Surrey Public Library for Story times to Help Learn English.

Both programs engaged previously underserved parts of the libraries' communities and both do indeed serve as examples for others to emulate.

The Awards Committee has recommended a third Merit award category be instituted: that of **Marketing & Promotion**. An unsuccessful yet meritorious submission from **Prince George Public Library** for their ad campaign, "What card can...?" made it clear to the committee that the Services or Programs category was inadequate to consider efforts that really were neither services or programs. As more libraries undertake advocacy and promotional campaigns, we feel it is time to add this award category, to recognize efforts in this area. It's hoped that the first award in this category will be made in 2011.

Category B: Building Projects

This year the following library building projects were nominated:

- Burnaby Public Library for the Tommy Douglas Library
- Vancouver Public Library for the Mount Pleasant Library.

The Awards Committee found this a very difficult decision, since both buildings were beautiful and functionally so well suited to their purpose. However, the winner is **Burnaby Public Library** for the **Tommy Douglas Library**. Iqbal Dhanani, Chair of the BPL Board of Trustees, Iqbal Dhanani, will accept the award.

Outstanding Service in Academic Librarianship

This award is given by the Academic Librarians in Public Service Section of BCLA. The award is given in recognition of outstanding service and is presented to one or more academic librarians whose work has made a real difference to students, faculty or colleagues in BC. Making the presentation on behalf of ALPS is Katherine Miller, ALPS Past-Chair. This year's winner is **Todd Mundle** of Simon Fraser University.



Keith Sacré Library Champion Award

This 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 this year is made to the **Law Foundation of BC** in recognition of the long-term support for providing public legal information to the residents of BC, and in particular for the Courthouse Libraries BC project, LawMatters. Nominated by Surrey Public Library, the citation reads: "Over their 40 year history in BC, the Law Foundation of BC mandate recognized the important principles of free public access to information. During this period they have funded numerous publications, web sites and legal information initiatives which have been heavily used by public libraries for their patrons [...] By nominating the Law Foundation of BC for this award we want to acknowledge once again, in the spirit of Keith Sacré, that we work best in collaboration, by recognizing all the contributors to our shared goals. The Law Foundation of BC is very deserving of this award..."



Mary Moutat, Chair of the Law Foundation accepted the award.

Achievement in Library Service

This award recognizes an individual who has made a substantial contribution to librarianship in British Columbia and has moved library service forward in the Province. I am very pleased to make this award to **Rhian Piprell, Director, Coquitlam Public Library** for the development of the **Books for BC Babies** program which began in November 2004. In making the nomination, the Books for Babies Steering Committee wrote, "Months of discussion and successful lobbying of BC MLAs and Cabinet Members resulted in three-year funding for a full-blown provincial program providing board books, CDs and information about public library resources and programs to the parents of 42,000 new British Columbians born each year. The program continued to receive funding from

provincial and corporate partners through 2009. Although hard economic times resulted in the program losing full funding, Rhian has not given up. She continues to advocate for the program at every opportunity, motivating the program's steering committee to think of new ways to resurrect the program, and badgering her library colleagues to support the goals of the program within local service borders.



Helen Gordon Stewart Award

This award is given to recognize an outstanding career in librarianship involving visible or readily identifiable achievements that bring honour to the entire profession. It also includes Honorary Life Membership in the Association. I am very pleased to make this award to **Lynn Copeland, Dean of Libraries, Simon Fraser University**. In nominating Lynn, her colleagues Brian Owen, Gwen Bird, Todd Mundle and Elaine Fairey, wrote, "Over the past thirty years as a librarian in British Columbia, Lynn has helped first to imagine and then to create the exciting new digital frontier for BC libraries. Her achievements are the result of a rare combination of vision, creativity, technical expertise, political know-how, and collaborative leadership. Without her contributions, the BC library scene would be less vibrant, less connected, less nimble. On many occasions, Lynn has had the foresight to move ahead with innovations that were widely adopted later by others. The fruit of her work is not only infrastructure, digitals tools and collections, but an expanded vision of what libraries can be and can contribute to society.[...] As the highest honour of the BCLA, the Helen Gordon Stewart award would be a fitting capstone to recognize Lynn's enduring work—creative, collaborative, technical and political."



The BCLA President's Award

This award is made to individuals whom the President of BCLA would like to recognize and thank. I am very pleased then to confer my President's Award on **Deborah Thomas, Burnaby Public Library**. Deb was President when I came onto the Board as VP/President Elect and continues to this day to provide an abundance of informed and level headed advice on issues that the Board has had to deal with over the past two years. She was a dedicated and invaluable member of the BCLA Executive Deb and I am very pleased to present this award to her.



The Awards Committee

In ending I would like to thank **Lynne Jordon**, Chair of the Awards Committee, and **Sylvia Crooks**, retired from UBC SLAIS but not from her involvement with the Association, for making the difficult award decisions among deserving candidates and for our Executive Director, Alane Wilson, for facilitating the work of the committee.

Photos are courtesy of Hal Whyte.

Ken Cooley is Past President of BCLA and librarian at the University of Victoria.