

Thunder Bay Law Association Newsletter

The Integration Task Force with respect to libraries has now provided a copy of the survey results at <http://www.libraryco.ca/Publications/documents/Survey-FinalReport-2006.02.pdf>. A printed copy of the complete report can be found in the Association Library. The response from the Northwest Region was quite good. The results seem to indicate that although people do use the electronic services provided, no one is in favour of reducing the size and scope of the services provided by the libraries located throughout the province.

Paralegal Legislation has now receive second reading, and there is now a concern being raised by the OBA concerning the legislation. Both the OBA and CDLPA have put out information positions and everyone is urged to investigate the issue.

There is a provincial committee looking at the issue of access to justice for those who suffer from disabilities of every nature. If you have any comments from the perspective of lawyers, clients or users of the system, please contact the Association and you will be advised where to direct your comments.

News from the Law Society; as everyone must be aware by now, we have a new Treasurer, Gavin McKenzie. As a result of his election the resulting vacancy as chair of the LibraryCo will have to be filled. Since the views of the chair will have a definite impact on the library question we will keep you updated.

Career Fair will be held on May 11 & 12th at the hanger at Lakehead University. Please contact Bill Covello 624-6464 or Mandy Fricot 628-0700 to volunteer an hour or two of your time to help students by answering their questions about a career in law.

Notices of life events of our members including illnesses, births, marriages and deaths should be directed to our Librarian, [Catherine Walsh](#). Please let us know if something is going on with our members so they can be properly recognised in these important times.

Law Day is quickly approaching and mock trials will be conducted on April 21st. Please come out to watch the events and if you have some time to volunteer please contact [Mike Harris](#). There will be criminal trials conducted in English and French. Last year was a huge success, and a great way to help inform the public of at least a part of what we do.

TBLA Committees have been struck for the coming year. Each committee needs volunteers to participate. If you are interested, please contact the chair of the committee for more information.

Archives-George Joseph and Mike Harris

Civil Liaison-Greg Birston and Mike Harris

Court House-Steve Wojciechowski and Frank Valente

CLE-Joanna Maki and Kristie Burns

Criminal Liaison-Davis Dubinsky and Frank Valente

Family Liaison-Martha Petryshyn

Gender Issues-Lydia Stam and Mary Catherine Chambers

Law Day-Collin McKinnon and Mike Harris

Library-Many Fricot and Lydia Stam

Newsletter-Martha Petryshyn

Nominating Committee-Martha Petryshyn

Personnel-Fred Bickford, Mary Catherine Chambers and Janice Vauthier

Public Relations-Steve Wojciechowski and Kevin Brothers

Real Estate-Joanna Maki and Nick Pustina

Social-Gord Fillmore

Website-Roy Karlstedt

Public Service Awards-Janice Vauthier and John Atwood

Mentoring-Randall Johns and Mary Catherine Chambers

Career Fair-Mandy Fricot

TBLA Annual General meeting took place on February 21st . Your new executive is President: Janice Vauthier, Vice-President: Michael Harris, Treasurer: Stephen Wojciechowski, Secretary: Randall Johns.

Law Fest took place on February 25th and a good time was had by all, or so it seemed.

We recently had training in the Library on the electronic products we have from CCH Canadian. If anyone wants to do telephone training on these products they can sign up <http://www.libraryco.ca/NewsAndEvents/documents/LibraryCoCCHTrainingSeminarsApriltoJune2006.pdf> for any session from April to June.

A young woman who is finishing the law clerk program at Canadore College in North Bay is looking for a practicum placement for the period of April 10 - 28, 2006. Her name is Jessica McDermott. She was born and raised in Thunder Bay and can provide local references if needed for her placement. She can be contacted locally at 807-767-7420 or in North Bay at 705-474-4792. Her instructor at Canadore is Suzanne Louiseize and further information about the requirements of the placement can be obtained by phoning one of those numbers or e-mailing cocoa@tbaytel.net or Jessica_H_McDermott@hotmail.com

The Thunder Bay Law Association is hosting a dinner in honour of Madam Joyce Pelletier on Friday, April 7th at the Valhalla. The cost is \$35. per person and you can reserve a spot by calling or emailing Catherine Walsh at 344-3481 tbla@tbaytel.net

The photo of the Bar commemorating our 100th year that was taken after Justice Shaw's swearing in is available to purchase from Alan Dickson, 345-6704. 8x10 \$35. 11x14 \$100. Larger sizes are also available.

Last month at our AGM two of our members were honoured with **Annual TBLA Service Awards.**

David Shannon was given the award for service above and beyond usual or normal expectations or standards, all for the benefit of the citizens of Thunder Bay. David was called to the Bar in 1996. He received his undergraduate degree from Lakehead U and his law degree from Dalhousie University, Halifax. He later attended LL.M. studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where his principal area of inquiry was advancing second generation human rights norms. Prior to entering private practice, he took his wheelchair 9,000km across Canada to promote empowerment for disenfranchised communities and greater social inclusion for all Canadians. He then opened David Shannon Law Offices in Thunder Bay. His primary area of practice was in the area of administrative law, although he also divided his time as a member of the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Council of Ontario and lectureships with the Aboriginal Law and Advocacy program at Negahnewin College, and Lakehead University. During this time, David's advocacy and academic interests centred on civil rights mechanisms that promote freedoms which are in contradistinction to medical/legal forms of

incarceration in an environment where there is an absence of community-based supports. This brought him to the Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio, Department of Justice Canada, where he has advised on the Administration of Justice components of Self-Government negotiations, and many community-based justice contribution agreements and treaties. He has recently returned to private practice where he continues to blend legal and public advocacy through individual representation and scholarship. David has been a recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. He has been on the Board of Directors of the Thunder Bay Regional Arts Council. The TBLA congratulates David on this award and wishes him well in the future. Read more about David at <http://www.enablelink.org/MakeADif/shannon/shannon.html>

Kristen Bucci was given the award for service above and beyond usual or normal expectations or standards, all for the benefit of the members of the Thunder Bay Law Association. Kristen has been enthusiastically committed to the TBLA for several years. She has been a Board member since 1995 and an executive member from 2000 – 2004. Kristen chaired CLE for several years and is now co-chair of the Family Law program. She is involved in a number of TBLA Committees and was instrumental in developing Law Day activities. She has had a big hand in organizing social events especially Law Fest and the Children's Christmas party. Kristen is heavily involved with CDLPA and is currently on the executive and is Chair of Communications. She sits as a Deputy Judge, has taught in the Bar Admissions Course, developed the Adopt-A-School program. Her dedication to the TBLA is quiet impressive; it seems that when something needs to be done for our Association, Kristen is always there to offer her help. The TBLA congratulates Kristen on this award and wishes her well in the future.