



Manitoba School Library Association

2021 Annual General Meeting

May 10, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Agenda

1. **Welcome:** Brandi Bartok, President
Land acknowledgement
Declaration of Quorum as per By-Law V, 1.c – Grace Ballard, Secretary
2. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Brandi Bartok, President
3. **Adoption of the 2020 MSLA AGM Minutes:** Brandi Bartok, President
4. **Reports**
 - 4.1 President Brandi Bartok
 - 4.2 Past President Niki Card
 - 4.3 President Elect Sandy Welbergen
 - 4.4 Treasurer Erin Thomas
 - 4.4.1 Motion to accept the Financial Report
 - 4.5 Publications Jonine Bergen/Morgan Arksy
 - 4.6 Membership Alison Bodner
 - 4.7 Website Jo-Anne Gibson
 - 4.8 SAGE Conference 2020 Brandi Bartok
 - 4.9 Advocacy Brandi Bartok
 - 4.10 Professional Learning Jo-Anne Gibson
 - 4.11 Archives Samantha Popowich

Vote on acceptance of reports
5. **Presentation of Slate of Officers for 2021-22:** Niki Card, Past-President

Board of Directors:

President	Sandy Welbergen
Past President	Brandi Bartok
President Elect	(open)
Secretary	Bev Werbuk
Treasurer	Ella Munro

Standing Committees:

Publications	Morgan Arksy
Membership	Alison Bodner
Website	Cheryl Antonio
SAGE Conference 2021	Brandi Bartok
Advocacy/Publicity	Niki Card
Professional Learning	Michelle Barclay
Awards	Brandi Bartok
Archives	Heidi Cromwell
Members-at-Large	Alison Marshall, Katie Williams

Call for nominations from the floor.

Election of Officers. Vote on acceptance of officers.

- 6) **Presentation of Executive members and Standing Committee Chairs who are leaving the board:** Sandy Welbergen, President Elect
- 7) **Video Acknowledgements from 2020 Award Winners:** Brandi Bartok, President
- 8) **Presentation of 2021 Awards:** Niki Card, Past-President
 - a. **Winnipeg Foundation Introduction**
 - b. **MSLA Outstanding Teacher-Librarian of the Year in Memory of Lois Gervais
Jonine Bergen**
Nominated by Joyce Riddell
 - c. **Outstanding Library Support Staff of the Year, in Memory of Lois Gervais
Mikaela Oldenkamp**
Nominated by: Andrea Loepp, Colleen Roberts, Ainsley Scibak, Lauren Friesen
 - d. **MSLA Distinguished Service Award
Jo-Anne Gibson**
Nominated by Mona-Lynne Ayotte
- 9) **Adjournment:** Brandi Bartok, President

Manitoba School Library Association Annual General Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2020 7 p.m.

Virtual

- 1) **Welcome:** Niki Card, President
 - a) Land acknowledgement
 - b) Virtual voting protocol
 - c) Attendance
 - d) Declaration of Quorum: Anne Guld, Secretary

- 2) **Adoption of the Agenda:** Niki Card, President
 - Minor modifications: Niki Card, President to present items 5 & 8, instead of Debbie Smith, Past President

Move to amend the agenda: Niki Card

Second: Erin Thomas

Carried

Motion to adopt amended agenda:

Moved: Niki Card

Seconded: Jon-Anne Gibson

Carried

- 3) **Adoption of the 2019 MSLA AGM Minutes:** Niki Card, President
 - Moved: Jo-Anne Gibson
 - Seconded: Alison Bodner
 - Carried

- 4) **Presentation of Reports:**

4.1 President: Niki Card

4.2 Past President: Debbie Smith

4.3 President Elect: Brandi Bartok

4.4 Treasurer: Erin Thomas

- 4.4.1 Motion to accept the 2020 Treasurer's Report

Moved: Erin Thomas

Seconded: Sandy Welbergen

Carried

Motion to accept all reports.

Moved: Brandi Bartok

Seconded: Leanne Falconer

Carried

5) **Presentation of Slate of Officers for 2020-2021:** Niki Card, President

Board of Directors:

President:	Brandi Bartok
Past President:	Niki Card
President Elect:	Sandy Welbergen
Secretary:	(open)
Treasurer:	Erin Thomas

Standing Committees:

Publications	(open)
Membership	Alison Bodner
Website	Jo-Anne Gibson
SAGE Conference 2020	Brandi Bartok
Advocacy/Publicity	Leanne Falconer
Professional Learning	(open)
Awards	Niki Card
Archives	Samantha Popowich
Members-at-Large	Katie Williams, Karen Surzyshyn

Nomination from the floor: Jo-Anne Gibson nominated Grace Ballard for the position of secretary. Grace Ballard accepted.

Motion to accept the slate of nominees for the year 2020-2021, with the addition of Grace Ballard, be accepted.

Moved:	Niki Card
Seconded:	Jo-Anne Gibson
Carried	

6) **Presentation of Executive Members and Standing Committee Chairs who are leaving the board:** Brandi Bartok, President Elect

Debbie Smith
Jonine Bergen
Anne Guld
Karen Burkett
Joanne Girouard

7) **Presentation of I Love to Read Contest, Kevin Mowat Memorial Seed Grants, and MSLA's 2020 Leading from the Library Grant:** Niki Card, President

- a) I Love to Read contest winner:
Cheryl Antonio, Kelsey Community School, The Pas
- b) Kevin Mowat Memorial Seed Grant winner:
Cheryl Antonio, Kelsey Community School, The Pas
- c) MSLA 2020 Leading from the Library Grant
Cheryl Antonio, Kelsey Community School, The Pas

8) **Presentation of Awards:** Niki Card, President

- a) Winnipeg Foundation Introduction
- b) MSLA Outstanding Teacher-Librarian of the Year in Memory of Lois Gervais
Mona-Lynne Ayotte, nominated by Kaylee Sapoznik
- c) MSLA Distinguished Service Award
Joyce Riddell, nominated Jonine Bergen

9) **Adjournment:** Niki Card, President

Motion to adjourn the Annual General Meeting for 2020.

Moved: Niki Card

Seconded: Erin Thomas

Carried

Adjourned 7:21 p.m.

4.0 Reports

4.1 President

While the last few school years have been extremely challenging due to Covid-19 and all of the disruptions to our regular school routines, Teacher-Librarians have risen to the occasion and demonstrated just how versatile we can be and how valuable we are to the educational ecosystem.

- Teacher-Librarians were called on to teach remotely, to support classroom teachers with remote learning pedagogy and to provide general technology support to students and staff.
- We re-prioritized budgets to offer more electronic learning resources to students and staff members.
- We demonstrated an immense amount of creativity in finding solutions to ensure that students still engaged in high quality literacy experiences and inquiry based learning opportunities even with all the restrictions and distancing requirements.

As our membership adjusted to the pandemic, so did our MSLA executive as we tried to address the learning and advocacy needs of library staff across the province.

- We planned a very successful and entirely virtual MTS PD Day, *Teaching and Learning During a Pandemic: Opportunities, Reflections, and Provocations*.
- We supported provincial and national literacy initiatives, including Manitoba School Library Day, I Love to Read celebrations, and I Read Canadian Day.
- We wrote letters to advocate against school division budget cuts to library staff positions.
- We wrote to the Education Minister, Cliff Cullen, to advocate for province wide procurement of electronic resources for student use.
- We recognized the accomplishments of our members by awarding Jonine Bergen the Teacher Librarian of the Year Award in Memory of Lois Gervais and Jo-Anne Gibson the Distinguished Service Award. Both Jonine and Jo-Anne are long-serving members of MSLA and dedicated professionals. We also recognized Mikaela Oldenkamp as Outstanding Library Support Staff of the Year, in Memory of Lois Gervais.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Manitoba School Library Association president this year. I am very thankful to the rest of the MSLA executive for their support, knowledge and dedication over this past year, and I look forward to serving as past president for 2021-2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandi Bartok, MSLA President

4.2 Past President

It has been a tremendous growth experience and an honour to serve on MSLA's board of executive the past three years.

While I served as President-Elect in 2018-2019, we saw the abrupt closure of the Manitoba Curriculum Support Centre and the beginning of the education review process. Suddenly thrust into action, I took on this advocacy with vigor and passion, but sadly, did not affect noticeable change.

Being President in 2020 meant I also saw the abrupt change that the global pandemic Covid-19 forced. Library staff shone as we adapted our libraries to support learning from home.

And, here we are in 2021, as I finish out my three-year cycle as Past President and we're still conducting business virtually due to Covid. We also still find ourselves in the position of advocating for well-funded, properly staffed libraries as the changing political and economical climate presses in.

This year I also had the honour of chairing the Awards committee. In a year we feared library staff were pulled in too many directions and school staff too busy with the urgent issues that seem to pop up regularly to take the time to nominate library staff, we saw the opposite occur. As a testament to the significant impact teacher-librarians and library support staff have on their schools, we had numerous glowing nominations. Jonine Bergen, Mikaela Oldenkamp, and Jo-Anne Gibson are doing incredible work in their fields and are deserving of the honours awarded, but I would be remiss to not mention the tremendous nominations we received and how that speaks to our collective impact.

Over the years and through all of these significant events, Manitoba School Libraries Association and all of the library personnel around the province continue to highlight the importance and influence of school libraries.

Thank you to the MSLA executive I have worked with over the past three years. I have enjoyed working hard, learning, and growing professionally alongside you and being a part of this amazing team.

Respectfully submitted,
Niki Card, Past President

4.3 President Elect

This year, I attended the 3 Special Area Groups of Educators (SAGE) Council Meetings at Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS). These meetings were an opportunity to connect with other SAGE groups, find out about their different PD offerings, and to share the work of the MSLA.

In addition to attending our regular board meetings, as President Elect I also assisted as needed throughout the year, including with our virtual MTS PD Day in October of 2020.

It has been an interesting year with difficult decisions made and I anticipate big changes ahead. Libraries and Teacher Librarians are more essential than ever in this changing landscape. I look forward to continuing to work with such a dedicated group of educators.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Welbergen, MSLA President Elect

4.4 Treasurer

It has been my pleasure to serve as Treasurer of MSLA for the past two years. Admittedly, it's been an interesting two years, unlike any others. The logistics of managing bank deposits and writing cheques that required two signatures at a time when we were maintaining our distance from one another has necessitated some adaptations! Revenues were down over 2019-2020 given that we were unable to hold any in person events, however expenses were also down.

This will be my last year as treasurer and I have to say I've very much enjoyed working with the executive of MSLA and the wider membership.

Please find attached the budget and expenses for MSLA to April 30, 2021.

MSLA 2020 -2021 Budget

	2018-19 Approved	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Approved	2019-20 Actual	2020-2021 Approved	2020-2021 Actual as of April 30, 2021
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REVENUE

SAGE Conference Revenue:						
SAGE Conference Fees	\$5,866.55	\$6,014.70	\$11,563.78	\$11,563.78	\$1,360.00	\$1,360.00
SAGE Lunch/Food Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			--
SAGE Publisher Display Fees	\$1,313.79		\$2,001.21	\$2,001.21		--
SAGE Other Fees		\$1,245.43	\$0.00			--
Total SAGE Revenue	\$7,180.34	\$7,260.13	\$13,564.99	\$13,564.99	\$1,360.00	\$1,360.00

Operating Revenue:

MSLA Membership Fees	\$1,820.00	\$1,945.00	\$2,670.00	\$2,695.00	\$880.00	\$855.00
Grants	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		--
MTS Contribution	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$3,754.00
Interest	\$0.00	\$1.62	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$29.08
MSLA Event Fees (LIT Forum / AGM)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	\$0.00		--
T-Shirts / Merchandise	\$385.00	\$385.00	\$398.30	\$398.30		--
Total Operating Revenue:	\$2,205.00	\$4,331.62	\$4,668.30	\$3,093.30	\$880.00	\$4,638.08
TOTAL REVENUE	\$9,385.34	\$11,591.75	\$18,233.29	\$16,658.29	\$2,240.00	\$5,998.08

Transfer from Savings				\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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EXPENSE

SAGE Conference Expense:

SAGE Facility (rentals, fees, set-up)	\$247.90	\$247.90	\$0.00	\$0.00		--
SAGE Presenters Fees & Honorariums	\$4,904.71	\$4,904.71	\$3,550.00	\$3,550.00	\$850.00	\$850.00
SAGE Lunch/Food Costs	\$2,243.81	\$2,243.81	\$2,441.25	\$2,441.25		--
SAGE Other Expenses	\$100.55	\$100.55	\$523.14	\$523.14	\$400.00	\$281.57
Total SAGE Conference Expense:	\$7,496.97	\$7,496.97	\$6,514.39	\$6,514.39	\$1,250.00	\$1,131.57

Operating Expense:

MTS Expenses (journal, mbrship database)	\$0.00	\$11.22	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Postage & Mail	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Supplies & Stationery	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	--
Filing Fees & Other Fees	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Service & Interest Charges	\$120.00	\$66.25	\$100.00	\$3.05	\$10.00	--
Executive Meetings and AGM	\$1,000.00	\$1,893.37	\$2,000.00	\$104.76	\$400.00	\$169.91
Training (sub for MTS Training)	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Conferences	\$2,000.00	\$1,881.87	\$2,500.00	\$1,958.70	\$300.00	\$280.00
Insurance	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$460.00	\$481.50	\$500.00	--
Donations & Gifts	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	--
MSLA Expenses - Journal	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
MSLA Events (LIT Forum)	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Memberships & Dues	\$300.00	\$281.73	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	--
Professional Fees (audit + CRA filing)	\$400.00	\$384.20	\$400.00	\$380.80	\$380.80	\$380.80
Website	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$290.00	\$288.21	\$60.00	--
Public Relations (advocacy)	\$200.00	\$175.12	\$600.00	\$596.76	\$0.00	--
Archive Project	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	--
Bursaries					\$100.00	\$100.00
Grants to support "I Love to Read"	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Grants - Seed Grant	\$700.00	\$990.00	\$990.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$2,972.50

Special Event	\$0.00	\$444.40	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Operating Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Operating Expense:	\$7,495.00	\$7,368.16	\$11,500.00	\$7,073.78	\$2,040.80	\$4,093.21
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$14,991.97	\$14,865.13	\$18,014.39	\$13,588.17	\$3,290.80	\$5,224.78
NET INCOME	-\$5,606.63	-\$3,273.38	\$218.90	\$3,070.12	-\$1,050.80	\$773.30

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Thomas, Treasurer

4.5 Publications

Thanks to the wide range of individuals who have submitted and added to the MSLA journal this year. It has been a year unlike any other, and the journal continues to represent the excellent programs occurring in school libraries across the province. We are proud and grateful for the support we received that enabled a fall publication. While many of our programs have looked quite different this year, it is through our shared experience and expertise that we can continue to best support the critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity in our communities.

Special thanks go out to Matthew Kehler at MTS for his work in layout and production of the journal.

Fall and spring editions of the journal are released annually. The spring edition should be released in early June.

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgan Arksey and Jonine Bergen, MSLA Publications

4.6 Membership

Membership Report for 2021 May MSLA AGM Meeting

9.2 Membership

Here is our current membership total for 2021 based on the information from MTS.

Full Memberships	46
Student Memberships	3
Honourary Memberships	23
Complimentary Membership	2
Subscription memberships	0
Total	74

This brings our current MSLA membership number to: 74 members.

Our membership is down this year but that was not unexpected as many aspects of our lives have been greatly impacted by COVID.

Here is a compilation of our MSLA membership numbers over the past 10 years.

MSLA Membership Compilation From 2011 - 2021

MSLA Membership Compilation From 2011-2020	Sept 2020 To April 2021	Sept 2019 To April 2020	Sept 2018 To April 2019	Sept 2017 To April 2018	Sept. 2016 To April 2017	Sept. 2015 To April 2016	Sept. 2014 To April 2015	Sept 2013 To April 2014	Sept 2012 To April 2013	Sept 2011 To April 2012
Life/Honorary	23	23	23	24	23	22	22	23	23	23
Institutional	0	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	6	7
Student	3	7	3	4	1	5	20	0	2	5
Full	46	108	77	102	90	116	69	130	135	170
Complimentary	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	74	141	107	134	118	147	115	158	166	205

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Bodner, Membership Chair

4.7 Website

The MSLA continues to use the Wix platform to host its website. The MSLA subscribes to the Wix Combo Plan which is renewed every second year. It's next renewal date is September, 2021. Users can find the website by using the following domains which are renewed annually through easyDSN Technologies Inc. in June:

<https://www.manitobaschoollibraries.ca/> or <https://www.manitobaschoollibraries.com> Wix provides numerous analytics and reports which are reviewed and shared by the MSLA Webmaster at monthly MSLA Executive meetings. Highest usage of the website generally occurs during the month of the MSLA SAGE Conference. The most popular pages viewed are the Home Page, Library Education, Awards, Grants, Journal and Contacts. Analytics for the MSLA website for 2020-21 include:

	Aug 6-Sept 4	Sept 4 - Oct 4	Oct 3 - Nov 3	Nov 4 - Dec 4	Dec 4- Jan 4	Jan 4-Feb 4	Feb 4-Mar 4	Mar 4-Apr 4
Site Sessions	99	245	297	170	65	111	244	129
Unique Visitors	86	196	229	102	56	92	223	22
Page Views	n/a	334	400	137	106	158	420	263
Avg. Session Duration	n/a	2:32	1:28	1:46	1:23	1:42	1:15	1:16

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, the MSLA website was regularly updated to reflect various school-library related events, professional learning opportunities and news items of the MSLA and other pertinent school library organizations. This year, website posts included information regarding the 2020 MSLA SAGE Conference, a link to join the MSLA, the 2019-20 MSLA award recipients, MYRCA, proclamations in French and English to promote Manitoba School Library Day, the MSLA Drop Everything and Read Challenge, Canadian School Library Day, information from Canadian School Libraries on how school libraries can support education during Covid, Read Canadian Day, the MSLA Awards and Executive positions and various letters of support to two school divisions facing cuts to school library staffing.

The website was updated to include the names of the 2021-21 Executive, the MSLA Grants Page and changes to library education programming at Red River College. To reduce the

number of static pages in the website (was 69;now 24 pages), the past award recipients and journals were condensed to one page each.

Recommendations for the MSLA website: In 2020, Wix changed how its websites are created. As a result, they now limit the number of static pages on all websites using the old construction method to 100 pages. Although, as seen above, the number of static pages the website now has is quite low, to avoid any future difficulties associated with reaching this limit, future webmasters might consider shifting the website to the new construction format. It is certainly a possibility that this new method might be forced upon all Wix website users in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo-Anne Gibson, MSLA Webmaster

4.8 SAGE Conference 2020

Teaching and Learning During a Pandemic: Opportunities, Reflections, and Provocations.

Virtual Event, Winnipeg, MB October 23, 2020

Covid-19 restrictions presented a challenge for our MTS PD Day planning, causing us to change plans a few times and to finally settle on an entirely virtual event due to the uncertainty of the situation. It was a different kind of planning experience and we didn't have any vendors, but we covered our costs and the Microsoft Teams platform ran very smoothly. Our keynote speaker, Diana Maliszewski was wonderful and we had a number of solid online sessions. As an added bonus, we were able to record all the sessions so that attendees could re-watch a session or enjoy a session that they were not able to attend.

We had 39 participants attend MTS PD Day, and given that not all school divisions supported teacher attendance, we were pleased with this number.

Income	
Total Membership Fees Collected	\$855.00
Total Conference Fees Collected	\$1,360.00
Expenses	
Keynote: Diana Maliszewski	\$750.00
Sub Coverage Costs for Presenters	\$281.57
Honorariums:	\$100.00
Total Expenses:	\$1,131.57

We had a great committee who not only created one great vision for the day, but re-visioned the entire day to go virtual and worked to find great presenters. Thank you to Alison Bodner, Jo-Anne Gibson, Niki Card and Bev Werbuk.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandi Bartok, 2020 MSLA Conference Chair

4.9 Advocacy

Manitoba School Library Day was proclaimed by the province on October 26th, 2020. To coincide with this date, the annual Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R) challenge was issued. We had 34 schools registered for the challenge representing 10,878 students. As with everything this year, the D.E.A.R challenge was impacted by all of the Covid-19 restrictions and the fact that many Teacher-Librarians were re-assigned to teach online or assist with other classrooms.

It is also worth noting that a number of letters were written this year to advocate on behalf of school libraries:

- Two letters have been sent to Mr. Cullen, Education Minister, advocating for the procurement of electronic learning resources that were promised after the closing of the Curriculum Support Center.
- A letter was written to Red River College in protest of the suspension of the full time Library and Information Technology (LIT) program.
- A letter was sent to the Pembina Trails School Division to protest against the reduction/elimination of Middle Years and Senior Years Teacher-Librarian positions as proposed by the board. An in person presentation was also made by Niki Card during the budget board meeting.
- A letter was sent to the Interlake School Division to protest against proposed cuts to library staffing positions in that division.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandi Bartok, MSLA President

4.10 Professional Learning

Although not the official Professional Learning Chair for the MSLA, in the 2020-21 school year, I performed several duties associated with this role. Throughout the year, I monitored and provided content for MSLA's three social media networks: Facebook (Manitoba School Library Association page), Twitter (@_MSLA_), and Instagram (@mbschoollibrary). These networks continue to be effective ways to connect with our membership.

It was my pleasure to sit on the 2020 MSLA SAGE conference planning committee which had to pivot many times during the pandemic to provide pertinent professional learning for our membership in a way they could all access.

The MSLA now announces its important events and information through Manitoba Education's Maple Forum. This includes the sharing of information of MSLA liaison organizations such as the Winnipeg Public Library.

In 2020-21, I continued to serve as the Canadian School Libraries liaison with MSLA. Sharing information between our two organizations helps to highlight the work of the MSLA

on a national level and provides timely information and professional learning opportunities for the MSLA membership. Of particular note is the CSL's online journal which gives our membership complete digital access to fully indexed current and past editions of the journal. Along with CSL Board member Judith Sykes, Alison Bodner and myself also chair the CSL Liaison Committee. The mandate of this committee is to bring school library associations from across Canada together to share information and support each other in issues related to school libraries. The power of this liaison was felt in Manitoba when the CSL responded to cuts to library staffing in Manitoba this spring. The members of the MSLA are encouraged to join the mailing list of the CSL and if possible, consider a tax-deductible donation. This organization has no membership fees and exists solely on the basis of donations.

Due to ongoing challenges provided by the Covid-19 pandemic, unfortunately, the 2021 L.I.T. Forum was cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo-Anne Gibson

4.11 Archives

No report.

6.0 Executive Presentation

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following Executive members who have volunteered their time and talents on the MSLA Executive and are now leaving the Association:

- Jonine Bergen (who graciously continued in the Publications role with Morgan Arksy this year after attempting to step away last year):
 - MSLA SAGE Conference Co-chair 2012-2013 & 2013-2014 & 2018-2019
 - MSLA SAGE Sub Committee Chair 2015-2016
 - MSLA President Elect 2013-2014
 - MSLA President 2014-2015 & 2015-2016
 - MSLA Past President 2016-2017
 - MSLA Secretary 2017-2018
 - MSLA Editor of Publications 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021
 - MLCI and AIMSL liaison for MSLA 2018-2019
- Grace Ballard:
 - Secretary 2020-2021
- Karen Surzyshyn:
 - Member-At-Large 2019-2021
- Jo-Anne Gibson:
 - Website & Professional Learning Chair 2020-2021
 - Professional Learning Chair 2018-2020
 - Past President/SAGE Chair 2017-2018
 - President/SAGE Chair 2016-2017
 - President Elect 2015-2016
 - Past President/Advocacy Chair 2011-2012
 - President 2009-2011
- Leanne Falconer:
 - Publicity/Advocacy 2018-2021
- Erin Thomas:
 - Treasurer 2019-2021
- Samantha Popowich:
 - Archives 2019-2021

8.0 MSLA 2020-2021 Awards

In Memory of Lois Gervais



Beginning in 2018, due to the tremendous generosity of Mr. Charles Gervais, two of MSLA's annual awards, *Outstanding Teacher-Librarian of the Year* and *Outstanding Library Support Staff of the Year* are awarded "in memory of Lois Gervais" and be accompanied by a significant monetary prize. The name and monetary prize is Mr. Gervais' way of honouring his late wife, Lois Gervais (nee Peterson) who was an exemplary teacher-librarian in the previous Fort Garry and River East school divisions in the 1980s.

Before her passing, Lois often spoke fondly to Charles about her work as a teacher-librarian, her love for school libraries and her belief in the importance of "giving back" to the school library community as a whole so that all school libraries in Manitoba could flourish. To honour Lois legacy as an exemplary

teacher-librarian and her work in the greater school library community, Mr. Gervais approached *The Winnipeg Foundation* in the fall of 2017 to explore the idea of creating an award in Lois' memory. Shortly thereafter, Jennifer Aarhus and Cathy Auld from *The Winnipeg Foundation* contacted the MSLA Awards Committee to help make Charles' wish a reality.

Who was Lois Gervais? Lois was a well-educated, exemplary teacher-librarian who was on the cutting edge of the relatively new role of a teacher-librarian in the 1980s. She held degrees from the University of Manitoba and Luther College in the U.S. As such, she was the perfect choice to write a "Dear Donna" advice column for MSLAVA Journal from 1986 to 1989 which she called "T-L Talk." Her advice included:

- The importance of attending professional development sessions such as the "Canadian Images Conference" (1986)
- How to advocate for the role of teacher-librarian (1987)
- Understanding the difference between public and school libraries (1987)
- What competencies teacher-librarians should expect from students in the research process (1987)
- Viewing the school library as a "A Food for Thought Restaurant" (1987)
- How to incorporate and teach new technologies including video cameras and storyboards (1988)
- How teacher-librarians can manage their time more effectively in the library (1988)
- The importance of those in the Faculty of Education knowing what a teacher-librarian brings to a school and imparting this knowledge to teacher candidates (1988)

- The importance of developing a School Library Selection Policy (1988)
- The importance of teacher-librarians participating in the work of professional organizations (1989)



M.R.C.

Mrs. Peterson
Librarian
Mrs. McGillivray
Library Clerk
Mrs. Morris
Library Technician

Lois received a lot of feedback on her column about the importance of those in the Faculty of Education knowing the role of the teacher-librarian and passing this knowledge on to teacher candidates. At least one member of the faculty was critical that Lois stated in her advice column her shock that a faculty member she recently met at a S.A.G. conference did not know that one of the roles of the teacher-librarian was to plan cooperatively with teachers.

Lois never backed down from this opinion. She went on to chair MSLAVA's "School Library

Media Program Curriculum Committee." Her committee sent a letter to the Manitoba Minister of

Education at the time encouraging him to take steps to develop policies and guidelines outlining quality library programming in the province. Lois pushed for the development of a resource-based learning document that teacher-librarians could use to guide their work in the library. In 1988, the Manitoba Department of Education released *Selection of Learning resources Policies and Procedures for Manitoba Schools*. It was sent to all MAST, MASS, MTS, MAP and MSLAVA members. It was the quintessential document for all teacher-librarians and schools in the province for many years.

The MSLA would like to thank Mr. Gervais and *The Winnipeg Foundation* for entrusting the Association to manage such a significant legacy. The criteria and selection for both awards will continue as they have in the past through the MSLA Awards Committee. Please see the MSLA website under the Awards tab for more information about these and other awards the MSLA presents each year at their AGM.

Image Credits:

The private collection of Charles Gervais.
Chief Peguis Junior High School Yearbook, 1985

2021 MSLA Outstanding Teacher-Librarian of the Year Award in Memory of Lois Gervais

Jonine Bergen

St. John's-Ravenscourt School
Independent



Jonine Bergen is the teacher librarian for the Middle and Senior Schools at St. John's-Ravenscourt School in Winnipeg. The word most used to describe Jonine is "friend", followed very quickly by the words "professional" and "collegial". She is someone who shares, is kind, builds connections where-ever she goes, delves into the needs of a situation, and digs in to help.

After starting her career teaching in a classroom, Jonine took some time to look after her family. When she was ready to head back to work, she thought she would love to try the library setting. She completed her course work in the Red River Library program with great accomplishment. She started working at St. Paul's High School in 2009 as the library technician while taking her School Librarianship graduate level course work through San Jose University.

Jonine's sense of professionalism leads her to help in the profession when she sees a need. She has participated on various boards, such as MALT, MYRCA, and MSLA, and helped found the Association for Independent Manitoba School Libraries. She has done book reviews for various outlets, including CM and continues to help with reading books for MYRCA nomination. She has taught classes for the Red River Library Technician distance program. Within MSLA she has held positions of President Elect, President, Past President, Journal Editor, and SAGE/MTS PD Day Chair twice. She has helped liaise with various groups, such as the new iteration of the Manitoba Library Association on behalf of MSLA.

Not to get ahead of ourselves, Jonine is first and foremost a teacher. Her work leads her to help students and teachers alike. Excerpts from the glowing letters sent in on behalf of her nomination give excellent testimony. One teacher said, "To call Jonine a librarian would be reductive; indeed, she is also a teacher, collaborator, student advisor, role model, and friend."

"Jonine goes above and beyond to provide students with reading materials; nothing prevents her from finding just the right book and delivering it as soon as possible! Jonine builds solid relationships with students to discover what they need to succeed academically and ensures that the School offers the best learning resources possible for students to improve their skills and reach their goals. She does not simply provide a boring, stiff, or obsolete presentation on what the library has to offer once a Term; Jonine creates customized "choice boards" and interactive lessons to invite students to see all of the opportunities they have at their fingertips."

From another co-worker:

“The majority of my time working in libraries has been with Jonine, and from her I have learned exactly how far reaching, how much of an impact a library can have for its community. I’ve had the opportunity to begin my library career under her guidance and mentorship, and I’m so lucky for this. Jonine expands the very idea of what a library is, and is capable of, and her students, colleagues and her community are the better for it. Our library program has flourished due to her hard work and endless passion.”

From another teacher:

“Jonine has been a source of support, encouragement, and inspiration for me as I look to diversify the books that I teach in my classroom. She listens to my concerns and ideas, and she always suggests specific possibilities for me to read. I have started to modify my curriculum based on her suggested resources. I know that she will continue to support me throughout this ongoing process. Jonine has been eager to help find the best databases and resources for staff to support their teaching in any subject matter.”

From a former co-worker:

“The first thing I noticed about Jonine was how dedicated she was to her work in the Library. She often came early and stayed late, balancing between teaching a Library Research/Computer Skills course, delivering various programming for the Library itself, providing tech support for teachers, as well as visiting classrooms to provide further instruction regarding research and using databases. Her days were always full, but she still managed to find time to interact with students, whether to help them find a book to read or to ask how their day was going.

“Since I’ve known Jonine I have also known her to be involved in various Library organizations outside of her Teacher Librarian school duties. She has held numerous positions within MSLA, as well as being an integral member of AIMSL (Association of Independent Manitoba School Libraries). Jonine brings a quiet confidence and wisdom with her wherever she goes and has been an invaluable member of these organizations.”

Jonine, your co-workers, colleagues, and friends were all delighted to help nominate you for the Teacher Librarian of the Year Award. We see how you work to lift us up. We are thrilled to lift you in nomination, and we are ecstatic that you have been selected to represent the best of what we can be. You support us and challenge us. You are most worthy of the Teacher Librarian of the Year in Honour of Lois Gervais for 2021.

2021 Outstanding Library Support Staff of the Year Award, in Memory of Lois Gervais

Mikaela Oldenkamp

Ralph Maybank and General Byng Schools
Pembina Trails School Division



Mikaela Oldenkamp has made outstanding contributions to General Byng School and Ralph Maybank School libraries. Typically, Mikaela works closely with the Teacher Librarians to maintain and enhance the library resources and materials for school staff, offering a story time and advise on book selection. She communicates the availability of resources to staff, students and parents, through written communication as well as classroom presentations. Mikaela provides support/instruction for professional development days, growth and enhancement of both library spaces with classroom visits, book readings, and extending to the larger school community by hosting Prairie Children's Centre, Parent/Child Drop-In Program: Fort Garry Healthy Child Coalition, I Love to Read Month, and the Scholastic Book Fair. Mikaela looks for every opportunity to bring the joy of reading to all students. When the school learning was

disrupted in 2020 due to Covid-19, Mikaela was remarkable for both schools continuing to support student learning by posting videos of her reading books on Seesaw so students could stay connected. She stepped up to assist with Learning From Home as well as technology support to staff, students and parents, including platform access, library links on portal, OverDrive eBooks, audio books, new student accounts, new book orders, and on-line library resources. She relocated her entire classroom presentation to 'take it on the road' with a cart moving from cohort to cohort at General Byng School. At Maybank School she continued to offer the library as a place where students could still have library class, but it would become a secondary home for Physical Education classes when the weather was too cold to allow for outdoor recess. Mikaela did this with grace and flexibility fluidly changing up the day plan first thing in the morning.

Mikaela shines with her technology skills and is always willing to help with tech issues, to create YouTube links, post a video or support a staff with a challenge on issues related to videos. Mikaela is a talented, caring, intelligent and hardworking young woman! Mikaela is a valuable member of our school communities, and her initiative and strong work ethic are appreciated by our entire community. She has a unique ability to find the perfect book for someone, even if they don't know the title or author, with simply a description of the book and Mikaela will be able to point them in the right direction

In a challenging year, Mikaela has managed to keep the love of reading alive with grace, a positive attitude and infectious energy. She is highly valued and appreciated for everything that she contributes at both schools as she goes above and beyond in everything that she does. She is quite simply, the heart of the library.

2021 MSLA Distinguished Service Award

Jo-Anne Gibson

Pembina Trails School Division



Jo-Anne Gibson, current Library Learning Commons Consultant with the Pembina Trails School Division, has worked as a Teacher-Librarian since 2005 at the Middle Years and Senior Years level. She received her Diploma in Teacher-Librarianship in 2009 from the University of Alberta and also earned a Master of Education from the University of Manitoba in 1993. As a tireless activist and supporter locally, provincially and nationally of school libraries, Jo-Anne has substantially influenced the profession through her collegial approach and deep knowledge base.

As a committed educator, Jo-Anne became an integral member of the Manitoba School Library Association serving in many roles including President, past president, chair of SAGE and PD regional and metro chair with the Manitoba Teachers' Society. Throughout her career, Jo-Anne has served on several committees with the most recent (2020-2021) being as National School Library Liaison Chair for Canadian School Libraries. As an advocate promoting libraries and professional learning, Jo-Anne has served on multiple committees for the Pembina Trails School Division, Fort Richmond Collegiate, Acadia Junior High, Pembina Trails Teachers' Association, and the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

Jo-Anne has written many articles for a number of publications and was a co-author of the Leading Learning Document (Canadian School Libraries) and a contributing author of *Conducting Action Research to Evaluate Your School Library*. Jo-Anne has also been a presenter at numerous provincial and national conferences, including the Ontario Library Association's super conference. In 2013, Jo-Anne received the Angela Thacker Memorial Award from the Canadian Library Association and in 2014, she received the Teacher-Librarian of the Year award from MSLA; two awards she was very proud to receive. During her tenure as LLC Consultant for Pembina Trails, the division was awarded the 2020 Canadian School Libraries Leading Learning Implementation.

Jo-Anne is highly deserving of this award given her service with MSLA and multiple contributions to libraries, classrooms, teachers, divisional staff, and library learning commons. As she retires this year, we will miss her tenacity, devotion and tireless efforts to raise the profile of Teacher-Librarianship and the importance of Library Learning Commons in the education system.