

## NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARY SYSTEM

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### HIGHLIGHTS

## “HISTORY OF LIBRARIES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE”

The Northern Lights Library System held their 15th annual conference. Between speakers, presenters and delegates, we had 130 people in attendance.

On Thursday afternoon, delegates were treated to informative sessions on online databases and ergonomics. That evening, the conference kicked off with a wine and cheese opening reception. NLLS was honored to have Linda Cook, Edmonton Public Library's Director, as the opening keynote address. Linda's inspirational speech focused on sustainability of library services. She spoke of how important it is to make connections within your community. Linda stressed that you must first get to know your potential investors and share with them your services and successes before financial requests are made.

This is one of the first and most important steps in securing any type of financial partnership.



Dan Brisbois & Vicki Brooker  
Partnerships with your local newspaper

Friday's sessions were full of valuable ideas such as fundraising, partnering with your local newspaper and events planning to name a few. At lunch the delegates were treated to the plenary address from author Lanny Boutin. Lanny spoke of her experience of writing and the publishing industry. However, it was when she spoke of the importance of preserving the past that her passion truly came to the forefront. She suggested that people should preserve their local history by talking to their local pioneers and recording their stories so that future generations do not forget where they came from.

Friday evening, NLLS welcomed Canadian Geographic Magazine's editor-in-chief, Rick Boychuk. Rick, having grown up in the St. Paul area, was excited to have the opportunity to speak at our conference. He spoke about his time spent as a child in his local library and about the impact that had on his life. Rick stressed how everyone should strive for excellence through education, literacy and culture and how libraries are the place to go to find these crucial ingredients to success.

Friday evening also brought the premiere of the Library Cart Precision Drill Championship. Three teams participated, the Cold Lake Chicks and their Token Rooster, the Vivacious Vendors and the NLLS Bibliomaniacs. The crowd was treated to a rousing display of theatre, music and entertainment. After the numbers were tallied, the Cold Lake Chicks placed third, the Vivacious Vendors placed second and the NLLS Bibliomaniacs took first. We challenge our partner libraries to enter a team next year, so start planning now!

On Saturday NLLS welcomed the Honourable Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Minister Danyluk emphasized the importance of library sustainability. He stressed that local politicians don't know what libraries offer. It is up to us to show our local politicians what we do, who we are and where we are going. He asked, "how do you want us to support you?" It is our responsibility to keep our elected officials both interested and informed in our libraries and what we can contribute to our communities. Minister Danyluk suggested libraries could read the biographies of their MLA's and customize any tokens or small gifts to that person's interests. Remember...communication creates bonds.

This year's conference was a great success and we thank everyone for attending. We look forward to next year's conference, when NLLS presents "Hooked for Life!"



Brigitte Sakaluk & Linda Patterson,  
Fundraising



Touring the NLLS Building

## SPEAKERS



Linda Cook, EPL Director



Keynote by Rick Boychuk



Plenary Address by  
Lanny Boutin



Honourable Ray Danyluk,  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
and Housing

## LIBRARY CART PRECISION DRILL CHAMPIONSHIP



Cold Lake Chicks & Their Token  
Rooster! - 3rd Place



Vivacious Vendors—2nd Place



This Year's Contestants!



Our Guest Judges  
Lorraine and Ray Danyluk and Rick  
Boychuk



NLLS Bibliomaniacs—1st Place

**Start Getting  
Ready for  
Next Year!**