

OCLA Bursary Report – By Betty Dykstra

I was the recipient of the OCLA Bursary for 2019. Before I embark on my report, I would like to thank the Committee and especially Irwin Law. As I was the only recipient, Irwin Law increased the amount to \$1000 and therefore I had some additional funds. Receiving the bursary is important as York sends 2 of us to the conference as per our employment policy. I encourage everyone to apply for the bursaries from both LibraryCo and OCLA as we all know; the 2% increase doesn't go too far.

The theme for the 2019 Conference in Edmonton was Get Informed, Be Inspired, Innovate.

It had been about 12 years since the CALL Conference was in Edmonton at the same hotel but since there had been some flooding earlier that year, the conference was held at the Convention Centre a few blocks away.

The Opening Reception was held at the Art Gallery of Alberta where we were welcomed and entertained by singers, dancers and our incoming President.

Ontario Courthouse Libraries Association (OCLA) Meeting

We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to meet while at CALL. We heard reports and made upcoming plans which are outlined in the minutes so they will not be repeated here.

Plenaries and Sessions

I learned so much from the conference about issues that are happening across the country. From BC we had an informative session on the acquisition of the Trans Mountain Pipeline last year by the Canadian Government. Miles Pittman, who represented the Government of Canada with the acquisition, gave us an outline of the proceedings and the outlook for the future

I attended both sessions on “The Role of Legal Information Providers and Public Libraries in Promoting Access to Justice: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges” as this is a personal interest of mine. The speakers are interested in creating a nationwide Trusted Intermediaries – Legal Information Network (TI-LI Network) and followed up by email to the attendees. York has declined to be part of this network but have contributed a number of resources that we have gathered for our members of the public.

“How Will Artificial Intelligence Reformulate Legal Information Processing” was another topic that is always so interesting....the good, the bad and the future of technology and how we can embrace it to empower ourselves.

My favourite session was the demonstration of the CRT Civil Resolution Tribunal. It was amazing. For those that did not attend the conference, there are youtube videos showing the system. When the Attorney General was looking for ideas to streamline courts, this was one of the ideas our Association forwarded for consideration.

The Lightning Topics are short and sweet and allow Conference Attendees the opportunity to share in some of the projects that are happening in their world. They are practical and informative.

Benefits of Attending

Besides the benefit of learning, there are other benefits to attending. The opportunity to see my Ontario OCLA friends is important but I have also developed friendships across the country and across the world. I got a taste of a Proper English Tea at the Fairmont, and also a taste of culture from Edmonton. I am on the conference planning committee for 2020 in Hamilton and I encourage you all to attend as we have some great speakers lined up and some wonderful events.