

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break. Regina, like all of Saskatchewan, was in a deep freeze starting a few days before Christmas and lasting until New Year's Day. I live 2 blocks away from an outdoor skating rink but unfortunately it was too cold to venture outside with my 7 year old daughter.

One piece of news that might be of interest to some is a recent article that discusses the dollar value of [Edmonton Public Library](#) on the city's economy. Similar return on investment studies have been done elsewhere but I'm particularly interested in any done in Saskatchewan. I would love to know if libraries in our province have engaged in similar work in their community. Feel free to contact me at slapres@sasktel.net or call 306.585.5418 if your library will undertake, is in the process, or has completed a return on investment study. SLA can be a resource for collecting and sharing this information. Having these types of figures will support ongoing library advocacy efforts in our province.

Dorothea Warren and I will be attending The Partnership's annual winter retreat and the 2018 Ontario Library Association's (OLA) Super Conference January 31 to February 2 in Toronto. As in the past, all expenses are covered by OLA and SLA and this trip always has great learning opportunities.

On a final note it is with profound sadness that I announce the tragic passing of Jeannie Straub. Jeannie was originally from Regina and had done much graphic design work for SLA beginning with the My Favorite Book contest in 2012. Her other projects included designing logos for Saskatchewan Library Week, Book Spine Poetry contest, diversity, and One Book One Province. Starting in 2014 Jeannie designed logos for the annual Saskatchewan Libraries conference and its prospectus and program. Despite not being a member of SLA, Jeannie's contributions were unique and her visual legacy with the association will continue for many years. Her obituary is at [here](#).

Best,

Michael Shires

President, 2016-2018