

# John G. Wright Distinguished Service Award

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## Nature of Contribution

### Reason for Nomination

Joanne Beltramini exemplifies the role of school division information and library services coordinator, she was a leader as teacher-librarian in her school and in her school division. She is a leader, a role model, and a contributor to best practice for school libraries. Joanne has received recognition for other areas of library service but this award will “recognize [her as an ] individual who throughout their careers have made outstanding contributions to school library service in Saskatchewan.

### Biographical

Joanne has worked in the school library field for over three decades—17 years as a teacher-librarian in Esterhazy and in the former Buffalo Plains School Division and 14 years coordinating library services for Regina Catholic Schools. She is one of the few in our province who have spent their entire career working with school libraries. Joanne’s experiences and demonstration of leadership is a model of one who consistently, competently, and eagerly has served the school library sector in Saskatchewan.

## Words of Support for this Nomination

### Provincial Contributions

- Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board (2007-2011)
- Saskatchewan Multitype Database Licensing Program Committee (2000-present)
- Executive of the SSLA from (1991-1993) and (2013-present)
- Ministry of Education Working Group for the development of *Accessing Information: Cataloguing Guidelines for Manitoba and Saskatchewan School Libraries (2011)*
- Panel on Student Achievement provided the Minister of Education with 10-20 recommendations for improving Pre-K-12 student achievement. Joanne Beltramini, a Board member from Regina Catholic Schools representing school libraries, sat on the panel to represent libraries.
- As a participant and presenter at the Ministry of Education bi-annual Networking meeting for all the province’s school divisions

In her role with the Multitype Library Board (MLB), she has been a conduit for information both to the school divisions as well as back to the MLB, and has always represented the concerns of school libraries well. Informally Joanne has always been a source of information to the Ministry of Education when we were working on *Connections*, at networking meeting as a participant and presenter, with the new copyright legislation, and in informing the SILS survey process in the fall of 2012.

Joanne has also been involved with the SSLA as an executive member (listed above) as a conference participant, and as a co-chair to the 2004 conference in Regina. She also has been a keen supporter of the Willow Awards and was involved in successful galas.

Joanne has also been involved in several collaborative projects; the following are a few:

- Teacher-librarians Supporting Student Achievement – collaboration with Prairie Valley School Division – creating a professional development website for teacher-librarians
- Teacher-librarians Constructing Understanding through Inquiry – working group member on a partnership project with Ministry of Education and the SSLA
- Partnership with Regina Public Schools and Regina Public Library to support pre-school literacy engagement

**Judy Nicholson,  
former SSLA Executive, Ministry of Education, and Inquiry Project  
Coordinator**

### **As a Provincial Colleague**

Over three decades Joanne Beltamini has been a steadfast advocate for school libraries within her own division and throughout the province. The other co-nominators have lauded the formal roles she has played so I would like to acknowledge the support and encouragement she has given me as a colleague.

I had the good fortune to work with Joanne in the early '90s on the SSLA Executive. It was during this time that I came to know Joanne as a colleague, who over nearly 30 years has willingly responded to questions, provided information, located resources and shared her own knowledge, experiences and expertise.

Even today I can pick up the phone or send an email and within a very short time I will have a detailed response to any question I might have with regards to copyright, cataloging, library technicians, weeding, facilities, library programs....the list could go on and on.

Joanne's leadership has forwarded many school library initiatives in Saskatchewan from her work on the SSLA Executive to her role on the Multi-type Library Board to the SSLA Inquiry project, *Teacher-librarians Constructing Understanding through Inquiry*. However, it is her quiet, low-key support of her provincial colleagues that has, in many cases, led to stronger school library programs across the province.

I acknowledge without hesitation that there is no better candidate for the John G. Wright Distinguished Service Award than Joanne Beltramini.

**Donna DesRoches  
Learning Consultant:  
School Libraries & Instructional Technology  
Living Sky School Division**

### **School Division Coordinator**

*Joanne would easily be identified as a master teacher and a curriculum leader. She strongly supports all of our learning initiatives both at the division level and within our schools. She provides amazing support to not only our teacher librarians, but our teachers and her colleagues within the consultant/coordinator group. She is also a lifelong learner and rises to the many challenges, including her understanding and implementation of technology and best practices.*

**Michelle Braun, Superintendent**

## **Regina Catholic Schools**

Joanne B. an excellent support for our staffs in our schools. Every month information and support materials, resources and technology sites are sent in an e-journal, providing teachers with superb resources to access in a variety of subject or grade areas. Joanne supports our administrators in their Resource Centre needs, being an advocate and backer of the many initiatives schools bring to her and senior administration to support their schools. She strongly supports all of our learning initiatives and creates others that focus and are beneficial to the system's schools. She provides exceptional support to not only our teacher librarians, but our teachers and her colleagues. She understands curriculum and curricular needs and supports these in a variety of ways to provide the means to achieve best practice when it comes to instructional and assessment strategies. Most importantly, Joanne can always be approached and always has a friendly smile and warm approach when being asked to help. She does what it takes to get things done to support our school and system's Resource Centers so that teachers, consultants, and students gain the most from the resources made available, whether that be created kits to support a unit, professional reading materials, or curricular resources. Joanne does this for the betterment of all involved and to support student achievement at its best.

**Dale Reed  
Principal**

**Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School**

Joanne is an excellent leader for teacher-librarians in so many ways. The following items explain her commitment and vision for school libraries – both demonstrated by her efforts for excellence and best practice.

- Professional development
  - Urging administration to try to hire qualified teacher-librarians
  - Arranging an annual conference with Regina Public and Prairie Valley School divisions for teacher-librarians
  - Meets regularly with the high school teacher-librarian group and the elementary teacher-librarian group
  - In collaboration with Prairie Valley School Division developed and delivered a set of workshops for teachers new to the role of teacher-librarians
  - Regular involvement as presenter and participant in conferences, webinars, workshops and other learning events
  - Leadership as described in this example. In advance of the controversy around inclusion of *The Golden Compass* in school libraries, she took all the high school t-ls to the movie and armed them to make informed comments about the book and movie. There were no challenges.
  - Constantly reads the materials that go into the libraries (adult reading is for holiday time)
- Communication
  - Ongoing presence at administration meetings, providing information and understanding of the services and resources available

- Regular newsletters for all staff about new resources, which engages teachers in requests to their own teacher-librarians
- Sits on other central office committees and meetings to profile the ILS in the school division at the administrative level
- Management
  - Collection development policy and processes including annual book displays, book talks, and working with vendors
  - Negotiates licensing agreements for the school divisions and works with other consortia
  - Manages the central staff and collection
  - Provided leadership for the inclusion of graphic novels in the collections
  - Knowledgeable about changes in copyright legislation in order to apply it to the work in the school division and provide leadership to staff and students
- Projects
  - Is encouraging, supportive, and backs up her teacher-librarians as they take on projects
  - Kobo and Kindle projects, Battle of the Books, Willow initiatives and gala

**Ann Gagnon**  
**Teacher-librarian**  
**Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School**

I have worked as a teacher-librarian in Regina Catholic schools under Joanne's leadership for 13 years. Joanne B. is deeply committed to developing a strong library program in the elementary schools. Her dedication and strong leadership for the teacher-librarians is evidence of this. Therefore, I highly recommend Joanne for the Art Forgay Award.

- Joanne has also developed extensive workshops providing information to new teacher-librarians that will guide and assist in their own school library.
- Joanne is a team builder. Monthly teacher-librarian meetings not only provide new strategies, current trends, philosophies and concepts but also allow teacher-librarians to share ideas, successes and challenges.
- Regular newsletters are sent to staff and administration within the school division providing new resources and library information.
- Joanne is an advocate and supports TL and the school library program when communicating and meeting with school and senior administration.
- Joanne is definitely a motivator. Joanne assists and encourages TL with new initiatives. She is available to help during the planning, implementing and culminating stages of collaborative projects within the schools. Her support is truly appreciated along the journey.

We are very fortunate to have Joanne at the lead of teacher-librarians in Regina Catholic Schools. She has truly been the force behind the strong library program that has been developed.

**Mary Scott,  
Retired Elementary Teacher-librarian**

Joanne is an exemplary supervisor, providing leadership and support to the employees of the department she manages. Leading by example, focused, and compassionate, Joanne provides the basis for a cohesive and productive workplace.

- Professional Development
  - International library cataloguing standards changed to RDA in 2013. Joanne attended conferences and webinars over the last few years to determine the extent of the changes and training that staff would require to meet the new standard. Training and all necessary tools were provided. Support is ongoing as the new standard was implemented at Information and Library Services in January 2014.
  - Joanne instructs her staff on curriculum changes, delivery of instruction, and learning initiatives, ensuring that the work of the department supports the teachers and enhances student learning.
  - Information on technology changes and electronic/online instructional resources is ongoing and stressed to her colleagues. The learning commons environment is evolving with technology which will directly affects the work done by all library and information workers.
  - Joanne provides updated information on copyright to ensure that staff is complying with recent changes to the Copyright Act.
- Management
  - Joanne led the elementary through a guided collection development process that included de-selection, identifying areas for improvement, and collection mapping showing the status of the learning commons' collections. She followed the same practices to provide a relevant and current collection for professional staff.
  - Over the years as the workload at ILS has increased, Joanne has been successful in adding sufficient staff to complete the work in a reasonable time.
  - Joanne completed 2 Occupational Health and Safety courses and advocates for the safety of the staff.
- Team Building
  - When communication was identified as a problem area in her very busy department, Joanne effectively resolved this with weekly staff meetings.
  - Joanne is very involved with her staff and is aware of any challenges that a staff member may be facing, both professional and personal. She effectively provides support when required.
  - The department has split lunch hours to ensure ready access for professional staff. Joanne arranged for the staff to have lunch together once a week to provide more opportunity for informal socialization.

**Val Gerrard**  
**Library Technical Services Manager**  
**Information and Library Services**

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