

# VALL REVIEW

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## VALL 1992/93 Executive

Vancouver Association of Law  
Libraries  
P.O. Box 48663, Bentall Centre  
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A1

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Teresa Gleave  
Ladner Downs

Joan Honeywell  
QL Systems Limited

**Desktop Production:**  
Nancy Cotter, Western Legal

## From the Executive of VALL

Carol Williams

The strength of **VALL** is certainly in the continued support of its membership. Another record attendance was set at the December 1992 Christmas luncheon where feature speaker, Noah Stewart of Vancouver's Mystery Merchant Bookstore enlightened and entertained all present with his historical treatment of the mystery novel genre. It was interesting to discover how many of us are fans of this fiction format. The traditional January workshop was divided into two parts. The first session of the Stress Management Workshop, held in the afternoon of January 7th, proved to be fun and instructive to all attendees (myself included). For those not able to participate so early in the new year, Gerrie Waugh from Capilano College held a second session in mid-February. Once again, **VALL** is grateful to Tom Shorthouse, Chief Librarian, U.B.C. Law Library for taking time to be a luncheon speaker. Those present at the February luncheon had the benefit of his well-organized and informative presentation, this time on the topic of finding treaties.

**VALL** executive has been carefully monitoring the problems in the new Canadian Case Citations, and will be sending a letter to Carswell expressing the concerns of the members. It is hoped that the larger voice of our organization will have more of an impact than letters from individual libraries.

Applications for the Peter Bark Memorial Fund Bursary are now being accepted. Thanks to continued contributions in the last few months -- from Peter's parents, his brothers, and from Western Legal Publications -- it is possible to offer the \$500 bursary. It is hoped that **VALL** members will seriously consider taking advantage of this chance to assist their attendance at the **CALL** conference.

It is time again to plan for next year's **VALL** executive. Nomination forms have been distributed and we encourage volunteers. Speaking for this year's executive, I can say that the tasks have not been too time consuming, the meetings fun, and it has been an opportunity to become better acquainted with our colleagues. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

# VALL REVIEW

## CANADIAN CASE CITATIONS

*Editors' note: A copy of this letter was sent to all local law library groups and the Canadian Abridgment Advisory Board February 25th, 1993.*

Carswell  
Thompson Professional Publishing  
One Corporate Plaza  
2075 Kennedy Road  
Scarborough, Ontario  
M1T 3V4

Attention: Ross Inkpen

Dear Sirs:

Re: Consolidated Canadian Case Citations, 1867 - 1990

We wish to express our concern about the content of this new publication. This consolidation purports to give Canadian case citations and case histories for all reported decisions since 1867, and all unreported decisions since 1987. Unfortunately, the consolidation is so full of errors that many librarians have removed it from library shelves.

Several of our members have spoken to the editors of the Abridgment about the errors on numerous occasions. The initial response to our concerns about content resulted in the issuance of a "Research Note" in December. It stated "...we have identified certain cases and cross-references that do not appear in the 10 volumes of Canadian Case Citations..." This statement does not adequately reflect either the volume or the nature of the misinformation in the consolidation. An initial comparison by several librarians of six to ten cases each between the existing case citation volumes and the consolidation, brought to light missing information in the consolidation for 75% of those cases. The error rate has not diminished with subsequent use. The decision in Paletta v. Scherer aptly illustrates the discrepancies between the old case citation volumes and the new consolidation.

Even allowing for editorial discretion in changing the description of the judicial consideration of a case, the error rate is unacceptable. Although the consolidation does contain some information that is not in the case citation volumes, this additional information does not counterbalance the omissions.

The legal profession, librarians, and the public rely on the information contained in the case citations. The Consolidation as it now stands is misleading. Unsuspecting users may find themselves conducting what they believe is thorough legal research only to discover later that the information they have relied on is incomplete. This serves neither the legal profession nor the public. In the absence of information about the problems with the content, users will choose the consolidation because it is easier to use.

We have continued to speak to Carswell about these errors, and have yet to receive a satisfactory response. We have also notified the Canadian Abridgment Advisory Committee of our concerns. In light of the magnitude of the errors in the consolidation and Carswell's silence on the subject, we recommend that Carswell:

1. Recall the Consolidation and reissue it when the information is accurate.
2. Issue an announcement that explains the nature of the problem, and how Carswell intends to remedy it.

We look forward to your response.

Yours very truly,

*Johanne A.C. Blenkin*

*Vancouver Association of Law Libraries*

# VALL REVIEW

## STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Gerrie Waugh took an upbeat and relaxed approach to this important subject which belied the fact this workshop was demanding work for the participants! Each person was asked to briefly and privately list her or his main stress factors; this material was not shared but was used as a personal reference point for the remaining exercises and discussions. This was an important departure from many seminars of this type in that it never degenerated into a gripe session. Instead it focused on practical methods for identifying and coping with stress and striving for a balance in one's life. Ms. Waugh dealt extensively with methods of dealing with negative "self talk" and discussed ignoring, arguing, comforting, identifying distortions, and other positive techniques for managing negative and stressful thoughts. The final exercise concentrated on identifying and discussing a plan of action for the immediate future for dealing with stress. The session was supplemented with an excellent handout which includes exercises and further reading.

*Teresa Gleave*

### NEWS ITEM

During the recent fuss over Kim Campbell's "bare shoulder" portrait, a local (female) banker defended Ms. Campbell saying, "I think that she's feminine. She doesn't look like an old librarian, so why should she act like one?"

Source: *The Province*, Thursday, January 7, 1993, p. A12

Thanks to Yoko Beriault

### INFOBITS

- VALL**
- April 8, 1993. Statistics Canada Information Services.
  - May 13, 1993. Ken Haycock, Director of U.B.C. Library School.
  - June 10, 1993. Round table discussion.
- CALL**
- May 17-19, 1993. "Making Waves," **CALL '93!** The Canadian Association of Law Libraries is holding its Annual Conference at the Halifax Sheraton. Program highlights include sessions on the Criminal Justice System, on Crown Copyright, and on Health Law. Social events include a harbour cruise and a lobster feast on the historic Halifax waterfront. For further information contact: Margaret Murphy, **CALL** 1993 CPC Chair, c/o Legislative Library of Nova Scotia, P.O. Box 396, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2P8. Tel: (902) 424-5932. Fax: (902) 424-0574.
- BCLA**
- April 22-25, 1993. "Bridging the Gap - building bases for library lobbying and marketing." Several preconference workshops and sessions support this year's conference held at the Penticton Convention Centre. Hubert White is the keynote speaker. Contact: **BCLA**. Tel: 430-9633. Fax: 430-8595.

### VOLUG

- March 18, 1993. Two new online services useful for document delivery are: *UNCOVER*, speaker Lisa Jane Watson (CANEBSO) and *EPIC*, speaker Brad McGuigan (H.A. Simons). Contact: Susan Huber. Tel: 988-5072.
- April 14, 1993. Carmen Miller will speak on the topic *Virtual Reality* at a dinner meeting at the Coast Plaza Hotel. Contact: Barbara Holder (Forintek). Tel: 222-5688.

### CARSWELL

- March 23, 1993. A reception will be hosted by Carswell at the Pan Pacific Hotel, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. to mark the first anniversary of the launch of *Canadian Law Online*. Look for your invitation in the mail.

### BIBLIO NOTES

*Recent items of interest from library and legal literature.*

AIDS information: a tool for living. By Maria C. Barry. In *Specialist: The Newsletter of the Special Libraries Association*, February 1993, Vol. 16, No. 2, pp. 1, 3.

Describes the origin, development, and current services of the AIDS Information Network in Philadelphia. This is a major special collection of 3,000 books, 130 journals, 80,000 articles and brochures plus extensive non-print sources. The Network is open six days a week; telephone (215) 922-5120 or fax (215) 922-6762.

Cancelling serials in academic law libraries: keeping the collection lean and mean in good times and bad. By Dan J. Freehling. In *Law Library Journal*, Fall 1992, Vol. 84, No. 4, pp. 707-724.

*Continued on page 4*

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## BIBLIO NOTES, continued...

Most libraries look at cancelling serials as part of budget cutbacks, or as a means of coping with serials price increases and relatively stable budgets. This article offers an excellent primer for serials management as an integral part of collection development irrespective of economic considerations. Although the audience is large academic law libraries, most of the principles are applicable to other libraries.

INMAGIC still has the magic. In *Computer Counsel: the Journal of Law Office Productivity*, January 1993, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 7-8.

As the title indicates, INMAGIC Plus receives high marks in this software review. This is the original "one-stop-shop" software for law firms because of its multiple applications for litigation support, library, marketing, and client management, to name a few. INMAGIC's limitations, particularly the lack of ability to connect data from more than one database (i.e. it is not relational) are more than offset by its exceptional qualities: potential for customizing, quality of support (training and documentation), and screen clarity and report comprehension. Their Legal Guide receives special mention as a valuable primer on using databases for paralegals and associates.

What I learned working in a bookstore. By Dave Strickler. In *Library Journal*, June 15, 1992, Vol. 117, No. 11, pp. 47-48.

A librarian takes an evening job in a large bookstore. He is curious as to why bookstores seem friendlier and easier to use than libraries, and what lessons librarians could learn from this (and he admittedly wants to make a few extra bucks). His findings? The simplified classification scheme in a bookstore depends on well-trained staff to provide access to the materials; bookstores could adopt technical methods of cataloguing and organization from libraries, and provide better subject access to titles in the store. Most importantly, libraries could focus more on the bookstore's commitment to user service by providing extended hours, well-trained, knowledgeable, and friendly employees and an emphasis on personalized service.

## BOOKSTORE

*Western Weekly Reports* 1911-1988. \$10/vol. Will ship collect. Contact: Mel Annand, Annand Law Office, P.O. Box 69, Melfort, Sask. S0E 1A0. Tel: (306) 752-2707. Fax: (306) 752-4484.

Forms and Corporations looseleaf reporters available. Statutes - R.S.B.C. and federal both looseleaf and annual volumes. *Martins*. 1980-1992 (incomplete)  
*Halsbury's 3d*.  
*Canadian Abridgment 2d*.  
Contact: Kareen Sheppard, Westar Group Ltd. Tel: 685-2452.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### *New Faces*

Ann Rae, Bora Laskin Library, University of Toronto  
Alexander Carrea, North Vancouver  
Gregory Wurzer, Librarian, Policing in B.C.  
Commission of Inquiry

### *New Places*

Joan Honeywell, Marketing Manager, QL Systems Limited, Vancouver, B.C.

# VALL REVIEW

## VANCOUVER ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

### NOMINATION FORM

I hereby consent to let my name stand for the following office:

Position: (Please check one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ President (1 year term and then 1 year Past President ex officio)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer (1 year term)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary (1 year term)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Membership Secretary (1 year term)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Program Coordinator (1 year term)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter Editor (two positions) (1 year term)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I have renewed my membership to the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries for \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The deadline for nominations is March 31st of this year. Please return this form by March 31st to the Nominations Chair:

Carol Williams  
Nominations Chair  
B.C. Securities Commission  
865 Hornby Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2H4