

## Winter 2008 – NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE CASLIS PRESIDENT

I would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year in 2008!

As we all know, January is always the time to review accomplishments. The CASLIS Toronto Chapter started its season on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2007. It was a fantastic day, because it was also the Canadian Special Librarians Day. The Arts and Letters Club of Toronto has once again opened its welcoming doors for us. Our guest speaker, Professor Gail de Vos, has guided us through the art of story telling as a major communication tool. It was a wonderful evening, in a great place surrounded by the magic and power of words.

On November 20<sup>th</sup> 2007 our guest speaker Maggie Weaver talked about Making the Business Case. “The Grail of a business case: demonstrate value to the organization to the customer and to the bottom line”.

Our joint Holiday Social with the SLA Toronto Chapter took place on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the Arts & Letters Club. 70 people attended, we had excellent food, good music and the benefit of being in an historical place wonderfully decorated for the evening.

I will stop here, wishing you all a year full of achievements.

I would like to thank all of you who have helped the CASLIS Toronto Chapter tell its story over the years. Thank you to the members, the sponsors, the speakers and to all of those that have supported our events.

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*Daniela Serban has a MLIS from McGill University and  
Master in Chemical Engineering obtained in Romania.  
She is the CASLIS Toronto President 2007-2008. [serbandaniela@hotmail.com](mailto:serbandaniela@hotmail.com)*

## CASLIS Toronto Chapter Celebrates Canadian Library Month:

By Rachel Smeijers

On Thursday, October 25, 2007, the CASLIS Toronto Chapter welcomed Professor Gail de Vos of the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta, for a very special evening at The Arts & Letters Club. With approximately 35 members, new and returning, and other colleagues from the library community in attendance, our first event of the 2007-2008 season was a great success!

With emphasis on the use of storytelling as an essential skill for librarians in all environments, Professor de Vos's presentation, **STORYTELLING AS A MAJOR COMMUNICATION TOOL** provided a comprehensive and entertaining exploration of the use of stories and storytelling as a powerful agent of change in organizations, and as vehicle to impart important values and culture.

Professor de Vos is the author of seven books on the subject of storytelling and delivers educational programs on writing and storytelling across North America. She very graciously provided a subject bibliography for our reference.

*Rachel Smeijer*

*CASLIS Toronto Membership Director*

### STORYTELLING AS A MAJOR COMMUNICATION TOOL CASLIS TORONTO OCTOBER 25, 2007



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**CASLIS@FIS:**

**By Eillen Lewis & Nancy McLean**

The new school year at FIS is in full swing now, and with it the faculty’s largest first –year enrolment ever. Upon arriving at the faculty, this large group of first years was swept up in a whirlwind of activity by the most active Orientation Week to date. To cap off the week of workshops, tours, and activities, FIS Student Council held a “Meet The Clubs and Associations” luncheon on Friday, September 7, 2007. We were happy to be among the booths of students, standing beside the CLA student group, handing out brochures and answering questions about CASLIS and CASLIS Toronto. We met a number of excited first years, and some seasoned second years, and were met with enthusiasm. We also heavily promoted the discounted student fee for this year – let’s hope it shows in the enrolment numbers.

With the semester now underway, we are working on promoting the CASLIS programs for the year, as well as organizing some of our own events. As student liaisons, we will be hosting Brown Bag Lunches inviting professionals from the special library community to share their knowledge and insights with FIS students. We are hoping to create a healthy dialogue that will assist students in bridging the gap between school and the “real world” of work within Special Libraries and Information Services.

We look forward to working with CASLIS over the next year. If you have any questions about CASLIS@ FIS, please email us at [CASLISatFIS@gmail.com](mailto:CASLISatFIS@gmail.com).

*Eillen Lewis & Nancy McLean  
CASLIS Toronto FIS Students Liasion*



To: Film Fans Everywhere  
From: Susan Murray, Consumer Health Information Service (CHIS), Toronto Reference Library  
Send comments to [smurray@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:smurray@torontopubliclibrary.ca)

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I saw 56 films at the Toronto International Film Festival (September 6-15, 2007) and here are my recommendations:

4 luni, 3 săptămâni și 2 zile see 4 months, 3 weeks and 2 days

**4 months, 3 weeks and 2 days (Romania, 2007), Cristian Mungiu**

Taking place over a single day in 1987, the film explores the harrowing journey of a desperate young woman seeking an underground abortion in a bleak Romanian town. (Abortion was not legal in Romania until 1989.) The title refers to the young woman's advanced stage of pregnancy.

**Alexandra (Russia, 2007), Alexander Sokurov**

From the initial difficult journey, this film is told from the viewpoint of Alexandra, a strong-willed grandmother who visits her grandson, a Russian army captain posted in remote Chechnya. Her connection with the soldiers and villagers brings an unusual warmth to what might have been a standard war story.

**The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (USA, 2007), Andrew Dominik**

This retelling of the Jesse James tale features lush cinematography and star turns by Brad Pitt (who won Best Actor at the Venice Film Festival) and Casey Affleck. The film charts the Jesse James legend from the time the James brothers rob trains to the aftermath of Robert Ford's sad and tortured life.

**Battle for Haditha (United Kingdom, 2007) Nick Broomfield**

A fictional recreation of the massacre of twenty-four Iraqi civilians in retribution for the roadside bombing death and wounding of three US Marines. The film gets into the daily routines and feelings of both sides, giving a human face to the tragedy in the Mideast.

**The Band's Visit (Israel, 2007), Eran Kolirin**

A small, snappily-unformed Egyptian police band mistakenly arrives in the wrong town on their way to perform at the opening a cultural centre in rural Israel. Forced to stay the night, the band members are taken in by the voluptuous café proprietress and her two “regulars,” leading to all sorts of complications and humorous situations.

**Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (USA, 2007), Sidney Lumet**

A tortured tale of two brothers’ botched attempt to rob their parents’ jewellery store. Features strong performances by Philip Seymour Hoffman as the mastermind brother whose drug addiction has caught up with him, Ethan Hawke as the sadsack, loser brother, and Albert Finney as the avenging father.

Bikur Hatizmoret see The Band's Visit

**Blind (The Netherlands/Belgium/Bulgaria, 2007), Tamar van den Dop**

Set in the late nineteenth century, this is a dreamy, fairy-tale story of Ruben, a privileged, blind young man who rules the country estate he inhabits with his mother by tantrums and intimidation. Ruben finally meets his match in Marie, an older, strong-willed, physically and emotionally scarred “Snow Queen” hired to read to him. The film explores the nature of true love and sacrifice.

**Cochochi (Mexico/United Kingdom/Canada, 2007), Israel Cárdenas, Laura Amelia Guzmán**

A road trip with a twist: two young Mexican boys on their way to deliver medicine lose the horse that they have taken without their grandfather’s permission. The separate adventures of the boys through the villages of the Sierra in northwest Mexico capture the purity and simplicity of the rural culture and the travails of youth.

**The Counterfeiters (Austria/Germany, 2007), Stefan Ruzowitzky**

A fictional recount of the Nazi plot to destroy foreign economies by flooding the market with counterfeit pounds and dollars. The story focuses on the tensions among the small band of prisoners made to carry out the plot, their Nazi masters, and the other concentration camp inmates.

**Dr. Plonk (Australia, 2007), Rolf de Heer**

With homage to the Keystone Cops, a charming, raucous story set in both the silent filmmaking era of 1907 and present-day Australia. When inventor Dr. Plonk, his overbearing wife, hapless assistant, and crafty canine use the doctor’s time machine to bring back evidence that the world will end in 2008, madness and hilarity ensue.

**Eastern Promises (United Kingdom/Canada, 2007), David Cronenberg**

A Russian mobster film set in London where events are put into motion when a midwife is drawn into the mystery of a young Russian prostitute’s death. Features electrifying performances by Viggo Mortensen (with a much-talked about steam room scene) as the conflicted mobster driver, Armin Mueller-Stahl as the two-faced warlord, and Naomi Watts as the determined midwife.

**Elizabeth: The Golden Age (United Kingdom, 2007), Shekhar Kapur**

Following her depiction of the young Elizabeth in 1998, Cate Blanchett returns to portray the mature Elizabeth and the time of her greatest challenges: the attempted overthrow of Protestant England and attack of the Spanish Armada, determining the fate of her cousin Mary Queen of Scots, and the wrenching realization that a Virgin Queen cannot pursue romantic entanglements.

**Fados (Spain/Portugal, 2007), Carlos Saura**

With **Fados**, Saura completes his dance and music trilogy (**Flamenco, Tango**) and delivers an intimate portrait of this Portuguese tradition. **Fados** features performances of legendary and emerging fado singers, musicians, as well as electrifying dance performances.

Die Fälscher **see** The Counterfeiters

**La Fille coupée en deux (France, 2007), Claude Chabrol**

Chabrol is back with an examination of love and desire among the French bourgeoisie. A young, beautiful woman is torn between her attraction to a married, mature, established writer and a young, spoiled and wealthy pharmaceutical heir who relentlessly pursues her with tragic consequences.

Flight of the Red Balloon **see** Le Voyage du ballon rouge

Free Rainer – Dein Fernseher Lügt **see** Reclaim Your Brain

A Girl Cut in Two **see** La Fille coupée en deux

Hjemve **see** Just Like Home

**I'm Not There (USA, 2007), Todd Haynes**

A somewhat strange re-creation of iconic folksinger Bob Dylan's life. Dylan is played by a young black boy (calling himself Woody Guthrie), and actors Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Richard Gere and Cate Blanchett. Funniest cameo is Julianne Moore as Joan Baez.

**In the Valley of Elah (USA, 2007), Paul Haggis**

This is based on actual events surrounding the disappearance of a young American soldier who goes AWOL after returning from duty in Iraq. Haggis (**Crash**) explores the effect of post-traumatic stress on returning Iraq war veterans and their families. Features a strong cast led by Tommy Lee Jones and Susan Sarandon as the parents desperate to learn the fate of their son, and Charlize Theron as a police detective who, at first reluctantly, joins the hunt.

Intimate Enemies **see** L'Ennemi intime

**Into the Wild (USA, 2007), Sean Penn**

A romantic exploration of the life and death of Christopher McCandless, a young man who sought to escape the materialism of 1980's America by living off the land in Alaska. The characters that he meets on his journey stay in the mind, such as a hippie couple (Catherin Keener and Brian Dierker), and Hal Holbrook as a lonely, elderly man aching to replace the son he lost.

**Just Like Home (Denmark, 2007), Lone Scherfig**

From the director of the charming **Italian for Beginners**, this offbeat comedy looks at the repressed and neurotic inhabitants of a small Danish town whose tedium is shattered by a male stalker. The citizens' attempts to uncover the identity of the stalker leads to the breakdown of polite conventions and a surprising solidarity.

Klopka **see** The Trap

**L'Ennemi intime (France, 2007), Florent-Emilio Siri**

Following last year's excellent film **Mon Colonel**, **L'Ennemi intime** focuses on a young Lieutenant who attempts to retain his professionalism and humanity in the face of the brutality of the Algerian war.

**L'Orca di punta (Italy, 2007), Vincenzo Marra**

A young, ambitious tax policeman takes a bribe and sets on a course to move up in Roman society with the aid of a wealthy influential older woman (portrayed by the marvelous Fanny Ardant).

**Lust, Caution (Taiwan, 2007), Ang Lee**

Set in glamorous and gritty pre-Revolution Shanghai, the film follows a band of freedom fighters who meet in university and determine to infiltrate the collaborationist government by having one of their members become the mistress of a rising diplomat. Their relationship pushes the boundaries of desire and love.

**Margot at the Wedding (USA, 2007), Noah Baumbach**

Baumbach, director of **The Squid and the Whale**, excels in exploring twisted, complex family dynamics. **Margot at the Wedding** examines the tensions and aggression in the relationship of two estranged sisters and their circle with surprising humour and insight. Features strong performances by Nicole Kidman as the judgmental, passive-aggressive older sister/successful writer; Jennifer Jason Leigh as the sweet and naïve younger about-to-be-married sister, and Jack Black as the directionless, groom.

Miryang see Secret Sunshine

**My Enemy's Enemy (France/United Kingdom, 2007), Kevin Macdonald**

This is a terrific documentary about Klaus Barbie, "The Butcher of Lyon," who had a major role in carrying out the Nazi Final Solution in World War II, but escaped justice until 1987 when he was sentenced to life imprisonment for his crimes against humanity. Director Macdonald includes amazing interviews, such as with Barbie's daughter who is still in denial about her father's true nature, and exposes the hypocrisy of the Western democracies that used and protected Barbie from justice for so many years.

**Nightwatching (Canada/United Kingdom/Poland/The Netherlands, 2007), Peter Greenaway**

Greenaway looks at Rembrandt's personal and professional life, tracing the events leading up to and after the unveiling of his famous work *Nightwatching*. This famous painting - with Rembrandt's hidden messages - exposed the corruption and murder conspiracies of the Amsterdam Musketeer Militia.

**No Country for Old Men (USA, 2007), Joel Coen, Ethan Coen**

The Coen brothers return with a winning recipe of greed, revenge, violence and evil, liberally sprinkled with irony and humor. Beginning with a botched drug deal in the desert, the film relentlessly follows a cat and mouse game of pursuit by a surreal villain (reminiscent of a James Bond nemesis and portrayed by the notable Spanish actor, Javier Bardem ) and small-time hunter (Josh Brolin), with a parallel story of pursuit by the local sheriff (the always interesting Tommy Lee Jones, who has some of the best lines) and a bounty hunter (Woody Harrelson).

**Persepolis (France, 2007), Vincent Paronnaud, Marjane Satrapi**

An animated adaptation of Marjane Satrapi's autobiographical and humorous graphic novel, **Persepolis** charts Satrapi's spirited coming of age in Tehran during the rule of the Shah, the Islamic Revolution and the Iran-Iraq War.

**Reclaim Your Brain (Germany, 2007), Hans Weingartner**

After a serious car accident, a coke-addicted television mogul's life is irrevocably changed. With the aid of a disparate band of outsiders, they gleefully alter German television viewing habits and spark a cultural revolution.

**Redacted (USA, 2007), Brian De Palma**

The film focuses on the Rashomon-like points of view of a squad of American soldiers, the foreign media, and the local Iraqis caught in the middle of a civil war in Samarra. Building to a depiction of the real rape and murder of a young Iraqi girl and her family, DePalma explores the tedium of everyday military life and questions the purpose of being in Iraq.

**Rendition (USA, 2007), Gavin Hood**

Rendition is a policy by which alleged terrorists can be extradited to foreign prisons and tortured without their country of origin's legal constraints getting in the way. The film follows the nightmare of a young pregnant woman whose Egyptian-American husband "disappears" on his way back from a business trip and is sent to a secret detention facility in the Middle East. Features strong performances by Reese Witherspoon as the wife determined to find her husband, and Meryl Streep as the stonewalling, covert defender of the Bush administration's policy.

**Secret Sunshine (South Korea, 2007), Lee Chang-dong**

Misfortune stalks a young widow when she moves to the small town of her late husband, and her son is kidnapped and murdered. Most friends and neighbors turn against her, and she grasps at religion to fend off her despair. **Secret Sunshine**, essentially an essay on bereavement, features a wrenching, tour-de-force performance by Jeon Do-yeon who won the best actress award at the Cannes Film Festival..

**The Stone Angel (Canada, 2007), Kari Skogland**

Based on Margaret Laurence's landmark Canadian novel, this is the recollection of the proud and defiant Hagar Shipley on her deathbed. Features Ellen Burstyn in a tour-de-force performance as Hagar.

**The Trap (Serbia/Germany/Hungary, 2007), Srđan Golubović**

Reminiscent of Wim Wenders **An American Friend (1977)**, **The Trap** examines ethical dilemma faced by a father to save his dying son.

**Le Voyage du ballon rouge (France, 2007), Hou Hsiao-hsien**

Paying homage to the 1950's film **Le Ballon Rouge** about a young boy and his runaway red balloon in Paris, this film by Hou Hsiao-hsien explores the meeting of East and West and the connections between art and life. Features a strong performance by Juliette Binoche as Suzanne, a mother and puppeteer in a Chinese puppet theatre.

**The Wild Horse Redemption (Canada, 2007), John Zaritsky**

Looks at the innovative Wild Horse Inmate Program initiative where prisoners are trained to tame some of the 40,000 wild horses that roam public land in the American Southwest. The film follows several inmates who have varying levels of aptitude and comfort with the program from the arduous and dangerous training to their release to start a new life outside. Beautifully photographed, **The Wild Horse Redemption** goes beyond the obvious parallels between the wild horses and inmates to reveal deeper connections and lessons.

## CASLIS TORONTO CHAPTER – NEW MEMBERS

**The CASLIS Toronto Chapter welcomes the following new members**

Corinne Abba  
Heather Brunstad  
Vennese Croasdaile  
Leigh Cunningham  
Heather Foulkes  
Jamianne Fournier  
Jessica Green  
Kate Guay  
Ayesha Kariem  
Eileen Lewis  
Pamela Bakker  
Allison Pedler

Debra Majer  
Sarah McBain  
Nancy McLean  
Bernard Musoni  
Rebecka Sheffield  
Sheena So  
Solaiman Talut  
Melissa Troemel  
Amanda White  
Amber Wilde  
Sue MCGillivray

We look forward to seeing all of our new members often!

## CASLIS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2008 – MEMBERS' PROFILE

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### Astrid Lange,

Astrid Lange has been working as a Library and Research Specialist at the Toronto Star for 7 years. In addition to providing research services to the Star's newsroom, Astrid trains the newsroom on investigative research tools and recently spoke at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Toronto on that topic. She also maintains the library's intranet which serves as the Star newsroom's research portal. Astrid has a Master of Information Studies, a Master of History and an Honours BA in International Relations, all from the University of Toronto. Before joining the Star, Astrid was an intern at a corporate law firm and worked as a researcher for the CBC Newsworld program Face-Off and in the entertainment department at CTV. Astrid has been a CASLIS Toronto executive member since 2000, holding the positions of Web site administrator and Publicity/Listserv

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### Daniela Serban

Since October 2006 Daniela Serban is working in the Document Management Group at Bantrel an engineering consulting company. Prior to joining Bantrel she worked for 8 years at Micromedia ProQuest as an indexer and then as an Assistant Editor for the Canadian Business and Current Affairs Database. Daniela has a Master of Library and Information Studies from McGill University and a Master of Engineering obtained in Romania. She has joined CASLIS Toronto Executive in 2005. Daniela is now in her second term as CASLIS Toronto President and she find her volunteering experience very rewarding.

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### Lily Mac

Lily Mac is a recent graduate (2006) of the Faculty of Information Studies (FIS) from the University of Toronto, and currently works at the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) as the Community Information Librarian. Her responsibilities include: cataloguing, and providing library support, as well as managing volunteers, the poster and brochure archives, referral tools and the distribution of resources created by ACT. In addition to her Master of Information Studies (MIS) degree from FIS, she holds an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from York University. Her interests are in the environment and health. Lily holds the position of Treasurer for the CASLIS Toronto Chapter.

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Michele Melady

Michele Melady is Manager of the CBC Reference & Image Research Libraries. Prior to joining the CBC in 1998, she worked as a lexicographer on the first edition of The Canadian Oxford Dictionary, published by Oxford University Press Canada.

In addition to her Master of Information Studies from University of Toronto, she has Master and Bachelor degrees in English Literature. Michele is a member of Special Libraries Association and Canadian Library Association. She has hosted SLA and CASLIS members for behind-the-scenes tours of the CBC libraries and newsrooms. Michele is currently serving her first term as Registrar for CASLIS Toronto.

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Rachel Smeijers

On the threshold of her next professional post, Rachel Smeijers was most recently Manager of Collections for CNIB Library in Toronto, where she administered the selection and acquisition of accessible format materials, managed staff, secured licenses for digital content, and participated in strategic planning and projects. As veteran Acquisitions Manager for Micromedia ProQuest, she managed serials workflow for full text and microfilm production of the company's *Canadian Business & Current Affairs* product lines, supervised staff, and administered publisher royalties programs. With a Library Techniques diploma from Lakehead University, a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language & Literature and an MLIS from the University of Western Ontario, Rachel specializes in staff supervision and unit management, training and research, and advancing all aspects of communication and the building and maintenance of vital business relationships. Membership Director for CASLIS Toronto since 2006, Rachel looks forward to welcoming all new and returning members and a great year of programming.

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Rachel's Recommendations

Looking for your next winter evening, curl-up-with-a-good-book novel? If you enjoy historical fiction that deftly combines a coming-of-age story with the high adventure of Arctic exploration, and a bit of romance for good measure, *The Navigator of New York*, by Wayne Johnston, is definitely worth considering. On catching a passing recommendation from a friend, and later spying this gem at the fabulous Friends of The Warton Public Library book sale last summer, I quickly snatched this one up for my bookbag before any of my fellow bibliophiles even noticed.

Having recently enjoyed this wonderful story, I hope I may stimulate your interest in this great Canadian writer by providing a brief review.

In *The Navigator of New York*, Johnston skillfully weaves fact and fiction in a tale that sends Devlin Stead, a young boy in 19<sup>th</sup> century St. John's, on a hero's quest to New York to discover his true parentage -- and more besides. Uncovering tragic family secrets along the way, including the mysterious circumstances surrounding his mother's death, and, after a harrowing and surreal journey to the top of the world with his true father, Devlin returns to the bustling neighborhoods of New York a changed man.

With Devlin's guardian uncle acting as go-between, the catalyst that begins the process of transformation is a series of letters from a man claiming to be Devlin's real father. Coming to grips with the information contained in the letters, and what that information will come to mean, as well as the necessity to keep the letters secret until the story can be revealed in the fullness of time, provides the fertile ground in which the seeds of adventure are planted and nourished in Devlin... and later sullied and destroyed. At the end of childhood, having completed the critical preparation for his quest, Devlin knows his passion and is ready. With nothing more than a few necessities tucked into a doctor's bag, he leaves the ancient rock and ice of his Newfoundland home, and sails to New York to find his father.

What follows is an exhilarating story that transports the reader into the heady world of 19<sup>th</sup> century New York society, where Arctic explorers were the superstars of their age, and then into the freezing, dark and brutal wastes of northern Greenland before returning to a place that is no longer recognizable. The contrasts of locale are extraordinary, and Devlin's haunting Arctic journey at the heart of the novel will keep you reading -- and guessing about the truth-- until the very end. Coleridge's "willing suspension of disbelief", but with a twist. And as in all hero tales, there is a girl in the middle of all this, with an old and surprising connection that brings all of the threads together as the story concludes.

The names of Frederick A. Cook and Robert Peary, central players in this epic story, will be familiar to readers who know their history of Arctic exploration. These men, and the controversy that surrounded their intersecting lives, continuing even to this day, loom very large in our hero's life.

But before searching for the historical facts as they have come down to us, let the author tell you the story first, it will pique your curiosity to make a journey of discovery of your own.

Wayne Johnston, with a BA in English from Memorial University, and an MA in Creative Writing from the University of New Brunswick, is a native Newfoundlander who divides his time between Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia, and his home in Toronto. He has received high critical praise for his work, including *The Story of Bobby O'Malley*, *The Divine Ryans*, and most notably his monumental masterwork, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, a novel based on the life of Joey Smallwood.

**Call for contribution**

**Dear Members, the CASLIS Toronto newsletter needs you!**

The newsletter is distributed to all our members from the GTA special library community. It is a wonderful occasion to share your experience on issues as varied as **training and professional development, job-hunting and recruiting, book reviews**, or any matter you know will interest our readers. You can become a regular contributor or send articles on a one-time basis.

So don't hesitate and contact Rachel Smeijers [r.smeijers@sympatico.ca](mailto:r.smeijers@sympatico.ca)

**We'd love to hear from you!**

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Calendar for contributions:

Summer 2008: June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Fall 2008: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

May 21 - 24, 2007: 63<sup>th</sup> CLA Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia

**CASLIS TORONTO EXECUTIVE BOARD 2007-2008**

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