

## 4<sup>th</sup> International Toy Library Conference – Canada

Toronto, 24 – 29 August 1987  
**Main Theme : Sharing through Play**



Joanna von Levetzow of the Canadian Association of Toy libraries welcomed 200 people from 20 countries. The programme was mainly in English with some presentations in French. Themes of previous conferences were developed.

Mike Ayres in "Development of play and equipment for special needs people; design methodology & future trends" showed the progress that had been made since Brussels conference delegates had seen multi-sensory play environments on their visits. ESAR had been developed as a tool for toy librarians. Greater awareness of computer play and toy modification & adaptation was demonstrated by speakers alongside the re-affirmation of the value of ephemeral and household objects for play. Play for those in remote and underdeveloped situations, prisons and in multicultural settings was addressed.

There was a display of mobile toy library vehicles and a series of fascinating visits. There was a story telling evening, a reception by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and a memorable banquet with many delegates in national costume.

In his farewell summary, Roy Mc Conkey suggested that although toy libraries are an artifact of developed, affluent societies, this should not be the case because toy libraries offer much more than toys. Above all, toy libraries promote the attitude that play is a way to enhance communication & cooperation, and helps the growing generation to work for peace and a harmonious world. Play is a moderator of the child's development and there is a great need for play for children with disabilities.

During the conference, at a general meeting, the **International Association of Toy Libraries** was formally voted into existence and a committee set up

- **Chairman** Jean Pierre Cornelissen, Belgium
- **Treasurer** Greta Hellberg, Sweden
- **Vice-chairs** Annetine Forell, Australia and Virginia Taylor, Canada
- **Newsletter Editor** Virginia Taylor, Canada

- **Secretary** Glenys Carter, Great Britain
- Mary Sinker USA

Tasks were set to be completed by the next conference.

- Preparation of a constitution, **Belgium, USA**
- Conference **UK, Australia, Belgium, USA, Sweden, Canada**
- Development of links with other relevant international associations **Sweden, Canada**
- Fostering links between "link persons" **UK, Australia**
- Newsletter **Australia**
- The International secretariat is to be established in Turin Italy. **Belgium, UK**

(Compiled by Pat Atkinson)

