



THE BUZZ ON LITERACY

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For more information on any of the items in this month's newsletter or any questions about literacy services, please contact Naomi Ludington at literacynowso@gmail.com or 250-462-0636.

International Literacy Day

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its partners promote International Literacy Day every year on September 8th to underline the significance of literacy for healthy societies.

The Power of Literacy

This year, International Literacy Day will put the spotlight on the empowering role of literacy and its importance for participation, citizenship and social development.

In countries all over the world the day raises people's awareness of and concern for literacy problems within their own communities.

Activities such as letters to the editor in newspapers, as well as news reports about the concerns for low literacy levels, have occurred as a result of this increased awareness. Literacy projects and events have been established to mark the occasion of International Literacy Day.

According to UNESCO, about 774 million adults lack the minimum literacy skills. One in five adults is still not literate and two-thirds of them are women. About 75 million children are out-of-

school and many more attend irregularly or drop out.

However, literacy is also a cause for celebration on the day because there are nearly billion literate people in the world.

The UN General Assembly pro-

claimed the ten-year period beginning on January 1, 2003, as the United Nations Literacy Decade.

On International Literacy Day each

year, UNESCO reminds the international community of the status of literacy and adult learning globally. This day was first celebrated on September 8, 1966.

The Literacy Directory

Literacy Now SO-S is marking the occasion of International Literacy Day with the launch of The Literacy Directory for ten communities in the South Okanagan-Similkameen region: Summerland, Naramata, Penticton, Kaleden, Okanagan Falls, Oliver, Osoyoos, Keremeos, Cawston and Hedley.

This directory provides many resources and services linked to literacy. It's all in one booklet — services for infants, children, youth, families, adults and seniors. Daycares, StrongStarts, schools, libraries, specialized youth services, literacy tutoring services, English as an additional language, employment services, seniors' programs, and much, much more.

During the first 2 weeks of September, as the kids are heading back to school, The Literacy Directory will be available for pick up in a library near you. Cherry Campbell, the Directory Coordinator and Naomi Ludington, the Literacy Now Coordinator will be on hand to distribute directories and answer any questions about literacy services.

Please keep an eye open in your local newspaper for more information on dates, times, and locations to pick up your copy. We hope you enjoy the new 2009 edition of The Literacy Directory.



Literacy is the best remedy

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

How will you celebrate International Literacy Day on September 8th?





BOOK REVIEW —

Daylight's Burning, by OK Falls' Jack Frost

Naomi Ludington, Literacy Now Coordinator

On Canada Day in Gyro Park in Penticton, the most amazing man and author walked into my literacy life. Literacy Now had a display table set up in the park and Cherry, our directory coordinator, and I were promoting — well yes, literacy. Literacy tends to be a good conversation piece and it proved to be that day too.

How timely and inspiring that Jack Frost (and if you don't believe that's his name, get this: one of his best friends is named Peter Rabbit!) and his wife Audrey walked up to the table and told us that Frost, at age 70, had recently written his first book. He'd never touched a computer before and he wrote the book, *Daylight's Burning*, with one finger tapping on the key board until all 236 pages were written and his story was told.

The story is captivating, simple, and real. It's a cowboy story set in the Okanagan about life on a ranch near Kelowna in the '40s — Jack Frost's life experiences until he was 15 years old. Frost's wife Audrey says that the spirited boy in the book is still there in the man and I'll vouch to say that he definitely still has a twinkle in his eye.

The book is full of vivid memories, endearing stories, and great black and white photos, and it is written in such a natural story-telling manner (just like Frost speaks) that you have no choice but to keep reading to find out what comes next. You can't put it down — it's the perfect summer book.

Frost never had any formal training in writing. He says though that anyone can do this; everyone has their story to tell if you just allow yourself the chance. He says once he got started, "everything fell into place and I could remember everything."

However, he says, "what was hard was that I told people a lot in the book that I'd never said to anybody before," like when he watched his brother drown. After the funeral when he was crying with grief, his father came over. "He sat down beside me, put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Well son, dying is like when you spill a glass of milk. It goes into the ground. You can't bring it back, so you may as well get on with life." There are many light-hearted tales too.

"Daylight's burning" is what Frost's father used to say to him and his siblings when he woke them up early in the morning to begin their ranch chores. It is a beautiful book and I highly recommend it. It motivates you to read, and to write! *Daylight's Burning* is in its second printing. It can be purchased directly from Frost at 250-498-5479 or jfrost67@hotmail.com.

Thank you, Jack Frost. It was a pleasure to meet you and read your book!

He wrote the book
with one finger
tapping on the
keyboard until
all 236 pages were written....

Inspired to Write?

The 2009 CBC Literary Awards Competition is now open! Are you wild about words? Send us your unpublished poetry, short stories or creative nonfiction.

The deadline for submissions is November 1st, 2009.

What are the awards?

The CBC Literary Awards competition is the only literary competition that celebrates original, unpublished works, in Canada's two official languages.

There are three categories: short story, poetry, and creative nonfiction. These awards are presented in partnership with the Canada Council for the Arts and *enRoute* magazine.

The Canada Council supports the prizes with \$60,000 so that the 12 winners (6 in each official language) can garner \$6,000 for the first prize and \$4,000 for the second prize in the three categories. Publishing the works in *enRoute* magazine guarantees a pool of one million readers per month for the winners, and visibility is offered to the winners and their winning entries by CBC. ***This is your chance. Start writing!***

The Oliver Chronicle's Kids' Corner promotes literacy in their newspaper with activities and reading material for children and youth in the Oliver area. Literacy Now is the contributing sponsor for August and September. Check out the weekly publications! Here is a sneak preview of a fun one to play with the whole family:

Camping Trip

You need at least two people who already know how to play the game. Play begins with one person saying:

"I'm going on a camping trip, and I'm going to bring..."



At this point the person talking picks anything s/he would like to bring on the trip, for example, "... a sleeping bag."

The second person says: *"I'm going on a camping trip, and I'm going to bring..."* Again the player

picks anything s/he would like to bring on the trip, but this time it must begin with the letter G, since that is the last letter of *sleeping bag*.

If, for example, the second player says: *"...a gerbil,"* everyone else says, *"Okay, you can bring that on our camping trip."*

If the third person has not yet caught on to the game and says, *"I'm going on a camping trip, and I'm going to bring hot dogs,"* everyone should say, *"No, you can't bring hot dogs."* Play then continues to the next player until everyone has caught on to the game.
