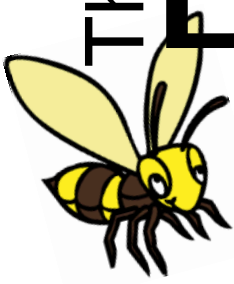


# The BUZZ on Literacy

Literacy Now, South Okanagan--Similkameen



March  
2011  
Volume 4, Issue 3

## Dates to Note:

- **Task Group Meeting** (discussion of community literacy plan and funding requests received): **April 28, 1:00**, at the SD53 Annex in Oliver. Join us!
- **Connecting Generations: Grand Times at the Museum**, Wednesdays in April & May, from 11:30am-1:30pm
- **Adult Spelling Bee Challenge** Tues. **May 3, 7-9am**, PG&CC

## Committee Meetings:

### Conference

**Planning:** Mar 10

**Adult /Workplace:** Mar 10

**Health:** April 7

**Family:** April 14

*Interested in joining one of our committees?*

*Contact us!*

250.462.0636 or  
literacynowsos@gmail.com

## Going mainstream:

### Getting literacy issues out from under the rug

It's no longer one of our best kept secrets: 42 per cent of Canadian adults struggle to understand what they need to read each day. This impacts their ability to work, their health, and their social lives. As a society, we need to change how we think about literacy.

One of Literacy Now's goals in partnering with other organizations is simply to get people comfortable talking about it. "If we're going to help the many people who struggle with literacy, the first step is raising awareness," says

outreach coordinator Naomi Ludington. "We need to let people know about all the different programs they can access. And because those who need these programs most aren't likely to read about them, the only way to do this is to get literacy talked about—in the media, on the street, and around the dinner table."

That's why Literacy Now helps provide programs

for parents with infants and toddlers; offers plain language workshops, workplace audits, information and assistance to employers, health care providers and patients; funds programs for groups and individuals; and hosts book drives, spelling bees and celebrations. Recently, they've added another major project to this lineup: the **2012 Regional Literacy Conference**.

"By hosting this regional  
(Continued on page 2)

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## It's back:

### The Adult Spelling Bee Challenge

It's time to get a team together for the second annual Literacy Now SO-S **Adult Spelling Bee Challenge**, Tuesday May 3 from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Penticton Golf & Country Club.



Registration is by donation (\$10 min. per person) and includes a hot buffet breakfast; pledge sheets are available.

Unlike traditional bees, the team gets to discuss and agree on the correct spelling of each word, then

submit it to the judges. Teams can include up to eight members; team names and appropriate theme-related attire are encouraged. Contact Naomi Ludington at Literacy Now (see box, left) for details. ❖



For information about items in this newsletter or literacy programs & services, or to apply for funding for literacy projects, please contact: Naomi Ludington 250.462.0636 [literacynowsos@gmail.com](mailto:literacynowsos@gmail.com).

(Continued from page 1)

literacy conference right here, we hope to engage people from throughout our communities,” says Ludington.

“Planning for this major conference is just getting underway, and we invite people from education, health, business, service organizations, and government agencies to get involved.”

If you’d like to join the planning committee, or for more information, contact Ludington at Literacy Now (see green box, left). ❖

## Getting the word out

At Literacy Now SO-S, we’re not just talking about plain language. We’ve updated our own materials to make them more reader-friendly.

Now, we need to get this information into the hands of people who need it!

If you can help, please give us a call. We’ll drop off some of our rack cards, directories, or Ask Me 3 cards for health care providers, along with holders if you need them.

Thank you for helping us connect people with the programs they need. ❖



### Partners In Literacy:

## Penticton Museum & Archives

*In the South Okanagan and Similkameen, organizations and individuals are working together to support literacy. Literacy Now helps coordinate and support their efforts.*

Peter Ord is the curator of the Penticton Museum and Archives. “Museums and art galleries are really trying to expand who their audiences are,” says Ord. Literacy Now is creating new opportunities for the museum to interact with community partner groups, and this is helping to bring a wider variety of people into the building.

Ord says that while the way historical material is presented can be a little dry,

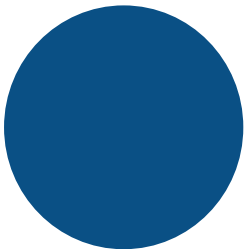
museums try to make it more engaging. The exhibits are designed to bring the past to life, and photographs help people understand how the objects they’re looking at were used. Volunteers are often able to explain the exhibits and can assist those who struggle with the labels, including those who don’t read English.

Involvement with Literacy Now also helps the museum reach out to groups that it has never focused on before: those that can use the museum to help in their own literacy development.

The museum is at 785 Main Street, in the same building as the public library. ❖

WE’RE ON THE WEB!

[literacynowsos.ca](http://literacynowsos.ca)



## Connecting Generations: Grand Times at the Museum

This is a new program for grandparents and any other next-generation care providers of preschool children. Both generations are invited to spend time together from 11:30 to 1:30 each Wednesday in April and May. Lunch is provided. There’s no charge, but space is limited. Contact Naomi Ludington (green box, left) to register. ❖

