



# Victoria READ Society

## READ Between the Lines

December 2004

Issue 13



With warmest wishes from the Victoria READ Society.

READ offices will close from December 20th to January 3rd.

We will re-open at 8:30 am on January 4th, 2005.

### Joy, Hope and Gratitude

This season is very much about sharing our joy, hope and gratitude. This past month has brought its share of each.

On November 26th, READ's Vice-Chair of the Board, Darlene Bailey, hosted "An Evening That Will Make a Difference" at her home. This fundraising event was held in memory of Darlene's sister-in-law, Laurence Bailey. Close to \$10,500 was raised for the READ Bursary Fund through silent and live auctions of items donated by local businesses, staff and Board members. Thank you to Darlene and auction-master Nigel, and to all the Board members and guests who participated. These funds truly will make a difference to children who are struggling to learn.

On November 3rd, Premier Gordon Campbell hosted the Literacy Summit at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver. The Premier declared his government's commitment to literacy and announced several initiatives that would, in his words, "make British Columbia the most literate society in North America, and the world, by 2010." We hope that some of the additional funds being freed up for literacy will go towards grassroots projects that help children, youth and adults learn to read and write!

On a sad note, the Victoria community recently lost a great friend and champion for literacy and the literary arts. On November 20<sup>th</sup>, CBC radio host David Grierson died of an apparent heart attack while on assignment in Tofino. David was a good friend to READ – co-hosting READ Festival and interviewing us on-air when we had important issues to discuss. We are grateful for the time David shared with this community. He will be greatly missed.

Julie Holder, Executive Director

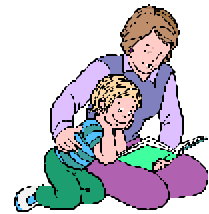
### Family

### Literacy

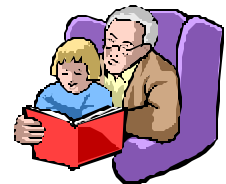
### Day

January 27th

Learning is  
a family affair!



Book family time to  
read with your children  
every day.



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## Student Ink: Writing at READ

### Christmas Traditions

Everyone in my family picks out a tree. We always get a big tree. This year we ordered our tree. Everyone decorates the tree. My dad puts the star on the tree.

My favourite decoration is one that my grandpa gave to me.



All my grandmas and grandpas come over for Christmas dinner. The rest of my family gets together too. I get to see people I haven't seen in awhile.

My favourite part of Christmas is the toys.

Kirk R.

### Christmas

Polar Express comes  
Play with toys at dawn  
Going caroling

Dylan D.

### Snow

It snows, we can sled  
We can make a snowman  
Snow is very fun

Madeline M.

### Christmas

Wolves, snow, food, wind, cats  
Mrs. Claus, hail, Kwaanza, trees  
Thoughtfulness, concerts

Ben T.



### A Day on Amber Ski Hill

The first time I recall skiing with my Dad, I was just a little tike. I can remember sitting on his shoulders and riding up the old rope tows to the top of Amber Ski Hill. Once reaching the top, then down faster and faster to the bottom we'd go. I could not get enough of this. Finally Dad bought me my first pair of skies, poles and boots. Starting on the bunny hill was the best place to learn to ski. After I had learned to ride the tow on my own, I became the terror of the ski hill. Up to the top of the hill I would go and down again, over and over, faster and faster I would go.



After a few months of skiing on my own, I had discovered if you hit a bump hard enough it would throw you up into the air, I had learned to fly, yahoo. This started me into ski jumping. It did not make my Mom very happy that I was in love with ski jumping. She put a stop to it quickly. "You're too young," she said. So to keep me happy they enrolled me into the Nancy Green Ski School. They did not know that this would lead to my love of speed on snow. Downhill racing, slalom and giant slalom were my favorite events. This kept me out of trouble for many years until the ski jump team that would be representing Canada in the Olympic Games started to train in Princeton, B.C., my home town. This got me started in the thirty, sixty and ninety meter ski jumping events. At one time, the Princeton Ski Hill had the largest downhill ski jumps in Canada.

This combined two of my most favorite things, downhill racing and jumping in one event. This made my Dad happy; he had someone to give his old jumping skis to. But it made Mom very, very mad. The ski jumping event scared my mother; she feared that I might break my neck. Although I had made it through the first year without any broken bones, the next year on the bunny hill I came off a small jump that we kids had built and broke my right leg in two places. This put a stop to my ski jumping for the rest of the year.

Glenn Cunliffe, Adult Basic Skills



### Thank you to READ's volunteers!

#### Adult Basic Skills

Mike Brodsky, Linda Difelice, Danda Humphreys, Dave Kesson, Elinor Rhynas, Leland Wong.

#### English Language Services for Adults

Jane Patterson

#### Back to Basics

Catherine Draper, Erika Munoz, Pauline Massa

John Picken dedicated countless volunteer hours updating computers at our Douglas St. and Linden Ave locations.

We are grateful for his expertise  
~ and his patience with us ~  
during the transition.



READ's English Language Services for Adults (ELSA) classes currently have students from 14 different countries. Here, some of them share memories of their **First Day in Canada**.

On October 2nd last year, my family and I first landed in Calgary, Canada. The sun was very strong, sky was clear and cool. My family stayed on Simcoe Street. I saw many beautiful houses and quiet streets. That night, in the Calgary Tower, I saw a night view of the city. It was a fine view.

Soojin Baik, from Korea



When I went to the airport in Vancouver I felt myself like at home. Then I was speaking with custom's officer I could hear the fountain. It was beautiful sound and I thought why is everybody smiling. Maybe something happened really wonderful and now I know the answer because everybody is just friendly. Of course maybe for two seconds I felt myself a little nervous but the officers who interviewed me were very careful of my nerves, they were very patient and funny people, perfect representatives of their country.

When I was on the ferry from Vancouver to Victoria I saw the ocean for the first time in my life. I lived near the sea in Russia but it is not as big as the ocean. The ocean is great, perfect, dark and deep. I am very happy to be here in one of the best countries in the world and of course Victoria is the warmest and nicest city in Canada. I am a very lucky girl.

Alexandra Novikova, from Russia

I arrived in Canada on November 4, 2002. This was my first time in Canada. I arrived in Vancouver at noon. My husband picked me up. Then we went to the hotel. I was weary because I had jet-lag. So I slept all afternoon.

In the evening, we went to a Chinese restaurant for dinner. Because I had jet-lag, I didn't feel like eating. Then we walked on the street. We saw many people and many stores. At 10:00 pm we were tired. So we went to a pub. We called a waitress and ordered some drinks. Then she looked at me and said, "Are you 19 years old?" We were very surprised. My husband said. "Of course, she is an adult." Then I told my husband in Chinese, "Why? I don't look like 19 years old?"

Finally, we drank some juice then we went back to the hotel.

Wenli Liu, from China

On my first day in Canada, I didn't speak English. All my conversation was in body language. I remember that day. It was very embarrassing, but many Canadian people were very kind. I don't know if they understood me. I decided to study English but it is very difficult.

Han Hye Eun, from Korea



I first arrived in Canada on November 5, 2003. Our trip went without a hitch and we were very happy after we arrived at the airport.

My friend picked us up at 3:00 pm at Vancouver Airport. At our first dinner at my friend's house, we ate noodles. It was like my hometown. After dinner my friend drove us to our new home. It was my friend who rented the apartment for us.

Hong Qi Lu, from China

My first day in Canada was in 1997. Summer. The weather was good. The sky was clear. The people were so nice.

The houses are large in Canada. We need to spend a lot of money to buy a big house in Hong Kong. I want to know more about Canada's culture.

Ann Lai, from Hong Kong

### U.F.O.



When we were kids we would play tricks on the people in our town. We would go in the woods at night in the rain about three miles with our bows. Then tie a small piece of rag on the tip of the arrows. Then soak the tips in gas and light them and shoot them in the air. People in the town would see the fire in the sky and think it was a U.F.O. My dad would do this when he was a kid and people would say they had seen a U.F.O. in the sky. Then two or three days later we would go to the mud flats late at night behind the marsh banks and shoot the arrows in the sky. People would talk about the lights in the sky. They said it had to be a U.F.O. It was good for a laugh for a week or two. Ha! Ha! What fools.

Art Boudreau

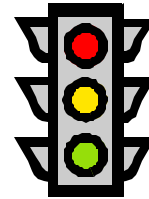
### Sombrio



One day at Sombrio Beach we went out fishing for ling cod in a canoe. The fog was thick. We went outside the kelp bed. We caught some cod and sea bass. Then we could hear a boat coming at us in the fog. When they saw us, they came over to talk with us. They were lost and asked us where they were. We said you're in Alaska. They looked at us with a stupid look on their faces. We laughed. They said we're not in Alaska are we? No, you are off Sombrio Beach. They asked us how to get to Port Renfrew. We said you should not be on the water if you can't read a map or a compass. They were not happy with us when they left. We laughed until we hooked on to something big. The fish started to pull the canoe around. It dragged us for about one hour. We knew it had to be a halibut. When we got that halibut to the side of the canoe, we hogtied him and paddled back to the beach. It was a very good day of fishing on the west coast of the island with a good friend.

Art Boudreau

### Traffic Lights



Improvements to the city traffic lights are necessary nowadays with the high volume of pedestrians and vehicles.

1. The lights at intersections should be more pedestrian friendly.
2. There should be a sensor to allow left hand turns at all intersections.
3. The flashing green lights in B.C. are for pedestrian crossings.

The flashing green light should be a concern to B.C. drivers and pedestrians.

The lengthening of this light will allow people in wheelchairs and the elderly who need more time to cross in safety. The flashing amber pedestrian lights going through its sequence at intersections will allow early warning to the drivers that a green light is about to change to red.

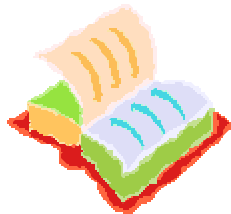
There should be a sensor to allow left turns at all intersections. This will allow vehicles to advance through the intersection instead of idling and wasting gas and shorting tempers. Another thing that would help is a turning light with sensors to indicate the flow of traffic so in the case of no oncoming traffic the turning vehicle can turn. If you just missed that turning signal, you will soon get your chance to turn, instead of waiting for the light to go through its sequence, which seems to take forever. This little change will improve traffic flow.

The flashing green lights should be known by all drivers in B.C. Crosswalks are for pedestrians who want to cross the busy street. Most drivers do not think that pedestrians have the right to cross at these crossings or at any intersection. In B.C. the flashing green light indicates pedestrians have the right of way at this control intersection. Standing at a crosswalk with no control light, the pedestrian should point their arm in the direction in which they want to go. Then wait for a Good Samaritan to stop and allow them to cross with caution.

I hope we can all agree that the city lights needs to be upgraded to be more pedestrian friendly. For traffic, we should not be wasting time and gas at non-sensor intersections. A sensor control intersection will keep traffic flowing. The flashing green light is very important to pedestrians. These lights should have a sign to allow both drivers of vehicles and pedestrians to know how to use these lights.

Adam Gladu

## Saying Thanks



"To read is to empower  
To empower is to write  
To write is to influence  
To influence is to change  
To change is to live."

~ Jane Evershed ~  
*More than a Tea Party*

## T.L.C. Fund for Kids

An initiative of the OK Radio Group (100.3 The Q!), the T.L.C. Fund for Kids has raised and donated funds to improve the quality of life for young people in the Capital District since 1998.

READ is the proud and grateful recipient of a recent grant of \$3,505 to fund one session of our *Back to Basics: Bridging Barriers to Learning* program for six children who are on the lengthy waitlist for a READ bursary.

**"The T.L.C. Fund for Kids!**  
...because every child needs a little T.L.C."

## Times Colonist Book Drive Bursary Fund



READ students are the beneficiaries of a generous grant of \$10,000 from the Times Colonist. In recognition of their commitment to literacy, we have named this grant the **Times Colonist Book Drive Bursary Fund** for 2004-2005.

In March the Times Colonist Book Drive raised \$151,000 for literacy programs on the Island. In September, the second annual TC Raise a Reader Day raised an additional \$56,000. The Raise a Reader fund helps organizations like the Victoria READ Society, Project Literacy Victoria, and the Greater Victoria Public Library.

Hats off to all the local celebrities and volunteers who sold newspapers downtown on Raise a Reader Day. Thanks to READ volunteers: Yvonne Blair, Tracey Burnett, Janie Harrison, Julie Holder, Helen Thomas, and board members Myrna Hall, Susan Link, Patti Stockton, and JoAnn Zelen. They donated their time and loads of enthusiasm. READ's Executive Director, Julie Holder, captained the team that raised the second highest amount of money out of 16 teams!



## Promoting Poets, Poetry and Literacy

During the week of October 25th to 31st, almost 1500 *Random Acts of Poetry* were "committed" on people from all walks of life in cities all across Canada from Victoria to St. John's, Newfoundland.

Inspired by local poet and enthusiastic READ supporter, Wendy Morton, 27 poets raised awareness of literacy and poetry by reading their poems in everyday places ~ hair salons, fire halls, construction sites, banks and bus stops. In addition, each poet gave away a free copy of their published poems to each recipient of a random reading.

The publicity for this event was remarkable, with coverage in print, radio and television in each community. Internet searches revealed that this news item was picked up by the BBC in Britain as well as a news magazine in Poland!

*Random Acts of Poetry* was sponsored by [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com) and an anonymous donor in association with the Victoria READ Society. We are grateful to [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com) for their support and expertise in launching this inaugural event.

Our kudos to the poets who participated so enthusiastically and creatively across Canada ~

Victoria: Wendy Morton, Susan Stenson, Isa Milman  
Vancouver: Billeh Nickerson, Fiona Lam  
Kelowna: Nancy Holmes  
Edmonton: Wendy McGrath, Janine Edwards  
Calgary: Ian Samuel, Sheri D Wilson  
Saskatoon: Glen Sorestad  
Moose Jaw: Gary Hyland  
Winnipeg: Chandra Mayor  
Toronto: Andrea Thompson, Sheila Stewart  
Hamilton: Marilyn Gear Pilling  
Ottawa: Ronnie Brown, Sue McMaster  
Owen Sound: Liz Zetlin  
Montreal: Fernand Durepros, Jose Acquelin, Carolyn Souaid  
Charlottetown: Hugh MacDonald  
Fredericton: Kathy Mac  
Halifax: Lorri Neilson Glenn  
St. John's, Nfld: Marian Frances White, Mary Dalton

Thanks also to the independent publishers who provided the poets' books at cost. WestJet, Prairie Naturals and Abebooks donated prizes for the *Random Acts of Poetry* on-line contest.

You can read more about *Random Acts of Poetry* at [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com) or [www.randomactsofpoetry.com](http://www.randomactsofpoetry.com).

