



Victoria READ Society

December 2005

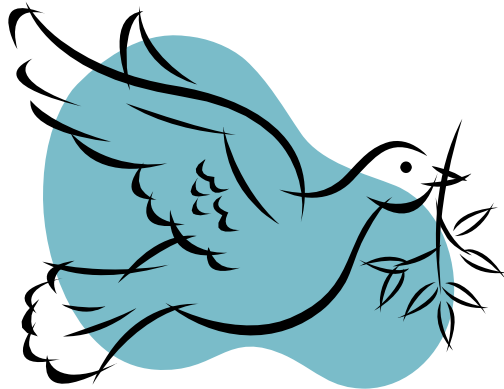
READ

Between

the

Lines

Issue 16



Peace on Earth

*With warmest wishes from the
Staff and Board of Directors
of the
Victoria READ Society*

Up Front with READ's Executive Director ~ Julie Holder

As we approach the season of giving, I'd like to thank everyone who has given generously to READ so that we can give the gift of learning to others. At our Annual General Meeting in October, I was moved and inspired by the reports given by the coordinators of our various programs. While they generally include statistics, outcomes and dollar figures in their accounts, the true "indicators of success" become apparent when our teachers talk about their students, how much they have accomplished, and how their experience at READ has improved their lives in so many ways. **A heartfelt thank you to all our donors, supporters and volunteers!**

I'd like to make special mention of the **Times Colonist** and its support of literacy resources and educational programs on southern Vancouver Island. We were among the 105 organizations receiving cheques (totalling \$256,800!) at an event held at the Art Gallery on November 9th. We are grateful to the Times Colonist and to **WCG International** for sponsoring our full-page International Literacy Day ad on September 8th.

Our thanks to the **Foresters**, who sponsored - and volunteered at - our first ever SCRABBLE Scramble for Literacy. Thanks also to **BC Hydro**, **Tigh-Na-Mara Resort**, **Starbucks** and the **Fairmont Empress** for their invaluable support. All proceeds from this event benefit the READ Bursary Fund for Children.

Bursary recently received a big boost with a very generous grant from the **Victoria Foundation**. We acknowledge once again the tremendous generosity of the folks behind **CFAX Santas Anonymous** for their donation in June.

We thank the **Vancouver Foundation**, **Provincial Employees Community Services Fund**, and **BC Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch** for supporting our bursaries for children throughout the year.

Last, but certainly not least, **a very special thank you to our students** for trusting us with your learning.

Have a wonderful holiday and all the best for the coming year!

**READ will be closed Monday, December 19th, 2005 to
Monday, January 2nd, 2006 inclusive.**

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Stats Canada study shows Jacques Demers is not alone: Millions of Canadians struggle with low literacy

Ottawa: Only days after former NHL Coach Jacques Demers admitted that he has struggled with low literacy all of his life, a Statistics Canada report released today shows that Mr. Demers is one of millions. The International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS), shows that 4 in 10 Canadians don't have the literacy skills that experts say are necessary to meet the demands of today's information-based society and economy. In all, that's 9 million working-age Canadians who could benefit from skills upgrading – more than the total population of Mr. Demers' home province of Quebec.

“This study is another wake-up call for decision-makers,” said Wendy DesBrisay, Executive Director of the Movement for Canadian Literacy. “Literacy barriers are sidelining too many Canadians and this is a challenge that demands our attention.” Here are some of the survey's key findings:

- Four in ten working-age adults don't have the literacy skills that experts say are necessary to meet the escalating demands of today's information-based society. In the 10 years since the last national survey was released, we've seen little progress.
- In every province and territory, too many adults have low literacy skills. Even in the highest performing jurisdictions, 3 out of 10 adults aged 16 and over performed at the lowest literacy levels.
- The situation is very serious for Aboriginal populations, immigrants and linguistic minorities.

“These numbers are not surprising to literacy's front-line workers,” said Ms. DesBrisay. “For too long, our community has been left to address the challenge alone, with insufficient, short-term funding and without the benefit of a coordinated national vision and strategy. This is true even though improving literacy would boost productivity, raise GDP, and address pressing social issues.”

Recently, there has been some progress. The federal government has been working with the literacy field on a desperately needed 10-year-action plan for literacy. Now, there are concerns that political change might put the brakes on this momentum.

“This study confirms that Jacques Demers' voice is only one among millions. Concrete action on literacy will not only benefit these millions, it will benefit all Canadians,” said DesBrisay. “IALSS shows us that action on literacy is a necessity, not an option. Please don't let politics get in the way of progress.”

~

Reprinted in full with permission from Movement for Canadian Literacy, a national non-profit organization representing literacy coalitions, organizations, and individuals from every province and territory. Their mission is to be a national voice for literacy. For more information, call: (613) 563-2464 or go to www.literacy.ca.

READ's Board of Directors for 2005-2006

We are pleased to welcome three dynamic new directors to READ. **Sonya Emperingham** has been an educator for many years, focusing on literacy and diversity. She is currently a vice-principal and reading recovery teacher. **Marg Rose** was the former Executive Director of Literacy Partners of Manitoba. She has worked in adult education, family literacy, fundraising and second language instruction. Marg is the Recognition and Stewardship officer at the University of Victoria. **Dave Skilling** is the Communications Coordinator for Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific. Prior to that he was a small business owner for many years. He is an avid supporter of the arts, both as a volunteer and as a director on the board of Theatre SKAM in Victoria.

Staff and directors would like to express their appreciation to **Patti Stockton**, who has left the Board after sharing her enthusiasm and expertise with us for four years. In her pre-retirement years, Patti was the Director of Employment Standards.

See page 6 for a full list of READ's Board of Directors for 2005-2006.

Student Ink: Writing by adult students at READ

The Mystery Ladder

by Crystal

The ladder is floating in the air.
You can't tell where it's going to.
It could be somewhere good;
It could be somewhere bad.
Change is always scary.

Do you feel like you are climbing?
And climbing, and climbing?
And you just don't get anywhere.
It's ok.

What will happen when you get to the top?
And when you get to the top will you be stuck there?
Or do you have to climb down the other side?
Or is the top where you want to be?

Why can't you see the top?
Is it different for everybody?
Some people may think that you can't see
the top because everyone's peak will be different.

Take each step slowly.
Just think that each step up
the ladder is your own decision.
Make it your ladder.
You may only have one.



A Recipe for a Good Day

Anonymous

A good sleep
A great breakfast
A big hug from someone who cares
A compliment from a stranger or a friend
A sweet lunch
Give a compliment to someone (friend or stranger)
Have a big dinner
Tell your kids or a relative that you love them
Finally a good sleep with better dreams.



Missing You

by Rachel



Sitting here pining away
For you my dear
Until the last breath I take
I will wait here
With you so far
How I wish you were near
Holding my breath as I ponder
Realizing with you I never had to wonder
Who, what, where, or why
Could we give our love another try?
Missing you brings me to tears
How I wish I could take back these last years
And have you by my side
With you I can survive
Anything life throws my way
Dreaming I could hold you everyday.

(LISA) ZEA

Loyal, friendly, thoughtful
Daughter of PAUL BEAUCHAMP AND RAMONA
Love of movies, pets, friends, and family
Who feels many things,
Who needs a home and car,
Who fears heights and no money to make my way,
Who gives a lot at home with friends,
family and pets,
Who would like to be successful with my dreams
and goals,
Resident of Saanichton,
ZEA BEAUCHAMP



READING in Colwood ~ Our satellite office in Colwood opened its doors on October 4th. We are located in the West Shore Child, Youth and Family Services building at 345 Wale Road. It's a lovely new building and I am starting to feel quite at home. I already have nine students coming after school for individualized instruction in reading, writing and math.

~ Lois Theaker, READ teacher

Random Acts of Poetry 2005 ~ across Canada and across the sea!

This year's Random Acts of Poetry went transAtlantic! A celebration of poetry and literacy, 26 poets in Canada and nine in the United Kingdom and Ireland took poetry to the streets, performing random acts of poetry to people in parks, bus stops, libraries, hair salons, schools, and shops -- everyday places. For more information, go to www.randomactsofpoetry.com.

Random Acts of Poetry is the brainchild of Wendy Morton (READ's designated poet laureate). READ acts as project manager, with generous sponsorship from Abebooks.com. The project purchased books from each poet's publisher so that every person who was "poemed" received a copy of that poet's book.

We are grateful to Abebooks for their support. We also wish to acknowledge the exceptional generosity of a philanthropic donor who wishes to remain anonymous each year.

We thank WestJet for donating the prize of a round trip ticket to anywhere WestJet flies in Canada for the winner of the on-line Random Acts contest.



Laurie McKay, owner of Better Gnomes & Gardens, gets "poemed" in the workplace by Wendy Morton.



The Victoria Foundation is a registered charity dedicated to building capacity in communities throughout Southern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands.

Founded in 1936 with a donation of \$20, the Victoria Foundation is the second oldest community foundation in Canada. It manages an endowment fund worth approximately \$43 million. In 2004, the Foundation distributed over \$10.5 million in the form of 270 grants to charities.

In November 2005, READ received a grant of \$12,000 for our Bursary Fund. Thanks to the **Victoria Foundation's Community Fund** and the **Hugh and Helen Mogensen Fund**, this donation will reduce our waitlist for bursary assistance. Children who are struggling in school can get the help they need in reading, writing and math from READ.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and commitment to the community from the Victoria Foundation.

CBC ~ Plugged into READ

Our thanks to the locked out CBC employees who held a benefit for READ on September 15th. An enthusiastic crowd showed up at Floyd's Diner for an evening of poetry, prose, song, improvisational comedy and a silent auction. The event was co-hosted by Paul Vasey (On the Island) and Joanne Roberts (All Points West). Featured performers included Lorna Crozier, M.A.C. Farrant and the inimitable Les Leyne. Over \$1,800 was raised for READ bursaries for children.



CBC "Unplugged" also entered a team of four players in SCRABBLE Scramble for Literacy.

Score a Hat Trick for Literacy with the Salmon Kings

Read your way to a Salmon Kings Game!



The Victoria Salmon Kings Hockey Club wants to reward children under the age of 12 who read three books and write three short book reports with a free ticket to a Salmon Kings hockey game against the Alaska Aces on February 25, 2006. For information on how to enter, visit www.salmonkings.com or call 220-2612.

There's more ... Volunteers from Victoria READ Society, Project Literacy Victoria and the Greater Victoria Public Library will be selling 50/50 tickets during Salmon Kings games over the next few months. All three organizations will share in the proceeds of the 50/50 draws on the following nights: December 19th ~ January 27th ~ February 3rd ~ February 25th ~ March 8th ~ April 8th. Hope to see you there!

Thank you to all the great volunteers from Garth Homer Society who help us get *Between the Lines* into the mail. They fill our READ house on Linden with laughter and good cheer while working hard to get the job done!

SCRABBLE® Scramble for Literacy 2005

READ's first ever SCRABBLE® Scramble for Literacy was a rousing success! Thank you to all 32 enthusiastic players of various levels (and ages) of experience. You were great sports! The total raised was \$5,674.79. All proceeds benefit children on the waitlist for tuition assistance through the READ Bursary Fund.

Jim Brackenbury had the highest individual score over three games of 1,110. He was delighted to win a \$200 gift certificate for dinner for two donated by the Fairmont Empress. **Christine Seaville** took second place for an individual score of 1040 and **Lina Farrar** placed third with a total of 1008.

Highest team score: **Mother & Daughter - 927 points**
Joan and Susan Ingram
(Susan was visiting from St. John's, Newfoundland)

Highest word score: **Lin Gallacher - 122 points**

Spirit of Play Award: **Kirstie Hudson**
Team: CBC Unplugged

Gillian Hobbs raised the highest amount in pledges and received a gift package from Tigh-na-Mara Resort for two nights in which to "rest, relax and rejuvenate".

We thank all our hard-working volunteers from READ, Foresters and Starbucks.

A special note of thanks to **Hank Mathias**, Tournament Director and to **Krysia Strawczynski**, Word Judge.

Thank you to the following recent donors and sponsors, including those who chose to remain anonymous.

Dorothea Carr	Dorothy Clark
Kathryn Mulders	Elizabeth Riehm
Krysia Strawczynski	Planet Organic Health Corp.
West Coast Group International	

In September, READ received \$300 from the **Paul Gallagher Community Access Fund**. As a former President of Literacy BC, the fund was established in his memory to provide community based learning centres with financial resources to help adult students with emergency needs. Bus fare, daycare, clothing, gas money or other costs that would make a difference between attending and not attending a literacy/ABE (Adult Basic Education) program are covered by the fund. We use this grant to provide our adult students with lunch and snacks - crackers, cheese, milk, oatmeal, hot chocolate - as well as bus passes.

We are especially pleased to acknowledge our generous SCRABBLE® Scramble sponsors, donors and supporters:

BC Hydro
Times Colonist

Foresters
Tigh-na-Mara Resort

BC Transit
Better Gnomes & Gardens
Cadboro Bay Book Company
Curious Comics
DTI Computers
Eye for Art Custom Picture Framing
Fairmont Empress
Golf Plus
Happy Hands Helping Mommies
Helga & Colin Williams
Island Parent Magazine
Market on Yates
Munro's Books
National Geographic/ IMAX Theatre
Planet Organic Market
Safeway Ltd
Skyhaven Games
Starbucks
Thrifty Foods
Timeless Toys
Wal-Mart



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Watch for news of **SCRABBLE Scramble 2006!**
October 14th at the Garth Homer Centre.

Mark your Calendar ~ The play's the thing !

Under Milk Wood, by Dylan Thomas
Langham Court Theatre
Thursday, February 23, 2006 at 8:00 pm
Cost: \$37.50 (Tax receipt will be issued for \$17.50)

READ will be selling tickets to this Opening Night Performance with all proceeds benefiting the READ Bursary Fund. The performance will be followed by a reception, including a wee dram of scotch or a glass of wine, with cast members. The reception will be hosted by READ's Board of Directors.

For tickets and information,
please call READ at 388-7225.



Congratulations ...

... to the Times Colonist and the 160 rain-drenched volunteers who helped to raise \$58,620 on Raise a Reader Day, September 29th. With matching funds from the Provincial government, the total comes to \$117,240 for literacy programs on the Island.

Special thanks to READ staff and board members who donated their time and energy to sell papers downtown for this wonderful initiative for literacy.



... to Mike Brodsky, recipient of a VERA (Valued Elder Recognition Award) from the University of Victoria, Centre on Aging. His volunteer activities span forty years, beginning shortly after he became blind in 1973. He has been a treasured volunteer in READ's adult classes for the last 15 years. A former student at READ claims that Mike "is a walking dictionary and there's not much he doesn't know".



... to Ellen Szita, former student and board member at READ. In 2004, Canada's Premier created a special award to recognize achievements in literacy across the country. The Council of the Federation Literacy Award acknowledges outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy. This award will be given annually, one in each province. The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy is the first recipient in British Columbia. Ellen Szita is one of three recipients in BC who received "Honourable Mention".

READ's Mission

To help students of all ages in the Greater Victoria area learn basic academic skills through small classes, individualized help and a supportive, caring environment.



Board of Directors

Myrna Hall, <i>Chair</i>	Sonya Emperingham
Darlene Bailey, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Wendy Graham
Jo-Ann Zelen, <i>Treasurer</i>	Susan Link
Krysia Strawczynski, <i>Secretary</i>	Marg Rose
	Dave Skilling
<i>Honorary Director</i> ~ Ellen Szita	Barbara Walman

Administrative Staff

Executive Director	Julie Holder
Financial Officer	Linda McConnan
Administrative Assistant	Diane Carson
Bursary Manager	Vicky Austin
Accounts Receivable	Yvonne Blair

Program Coordinators

English Language Services for Adults	Cindy Vaartnou
Adult Literacy Programs	Helen Thomas
Children and Youth Programs	Janie Harrison

Helping Students Learn

A READ bursary provides ten months of individualized instruction in basic reading, writing, math and study skills for a child who is struggling to learn.

Your gift of **\$40** to the READ Bursary Fund for Children will buy one hour of classes for a student receiving bursary assistance. A gift of **\$320** will provide one month of individualized instruction.

Making a donation is easy ~

- Visit www.readsociety.bc.ca and click on the *Donate Now* button to donate on-line.
- Download a donation form and send it to us at 720 Linden Avenue, Victoria BC V8V 4G7.
- Call 388-7225 and make a donation using your VISA or MasterCard.

Your donation is tax deductible.

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