



Another Year of Personal Successes

**In This Small Room with Lilacs:
ESL on Linden**

I've arrived to read them poems.
I explain the word pomegranate;
Say: red, round, sweet, rubies,
and they smile, nod.
Yes, says Ludmilla,
in the Ukraine, the same.
Osmany, from Cuba says,
sometimes we have them at Christmas.
Yes, he says, rubies.

I move on to starfish,
show them the ones on my bracelet.
Say how they cling to rocks at low tide
in a magenta wash.
Soo Jin says in Korea they are
sometimes the colour of the sun.

Then: red-winged black birds,
I show them a picture;
tell them how I hear their song
like falling water, when I shower outside
each morning.

Outside, even in winter? asks Alexandra,
imagining Russian ice and snowdrift.
Even in winter, I say.

But this spring, there are ravens,
hummingbirds,
the music of blackbirds,
that I hear every morning,
speaking a language
I can't understand.

Wendy Morton



There have been many success stories this year for our students. Every child, youth and adult who comes to READ has taken that important - and often difficult - first step towards improving their reading, writing, math or English language skills. We're proud of all our students for acknowledging that they need some help and for the efforts they have made to overcome their learning challenges. We're honored that they have chosen READ.

A couple of our bright spots this year are highlighted in this issue. This month, Victoria poet Wendy Morton visited our ELSA program and read her poetry to newcomers to Canada – students from 15 different countries. Wendy believes strongly in the power of poetry as a means of written expression and communication. The students were completely captivated and wrote poems of their own. Wendy was moved by the experience to write the poem “In This Small Room with Lilacs” on this page.

Students in our adult literacy classes come from many different backgrounds with different skills and goals in mind. Art Boudreau came to READ after a workplace injury meant he couldn't do the kind of work he was used to anymore. Art needed to develop reading and writing skills in order to find different employment. Art joined a class at the Victoria READ Society seven months ago. At that time, Art was a storyteller, but he was unable to write even a sentence. With the support and encouragement of family, friends, classmates, volunteers and his teacher, Art learned computer, writing and project management skills. He turned one of his wonderful stories into a book.

Everybody in the class had a part to play in the development of his novel, *Elephant Mountain*.

See the enclosed poster for details of Art's book launch. We hope you can make it!

Julie Holder
Executive Director

Inside this issue:

SCRABBLE	2
Congratulations	2
Summer at READ	2
Student Ink	3 & 4
Thank You Notes	5 & 6
Donor Thanks	6
Helping Students	6

SCRABBLE® Scramble for Literacy

Co-sponsored by READ and Foresters*

We're having a "fun-raiser" for READ's Bursary Fund!

Get ready to flex your mental muscles!

Mark your calendars for ~



SCRABBLE® Scramble for Literacy

Saturday, September 24th, 2005

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Garth Homer Society

813 Darwin

Entry fee: a minimum \$40 in pledges

Includes lunch and fabulous prizes!

Enter a team or sign up as an individual.

Stay tuned for more details!

*Foresters is a financial services organization inspired by helping children. It supports and raises funds for children's charities. Foresters Victoria Branch is proud to partner with READ to present the first annual SCRABBLE® Scramble for Literacy.

Congratulations!

ABC CANADA presented **CanWest Global Communications Corp.** (which includes the Times Colonist and CH TV in Victoria) with a national *Literacy Public Awareness Award* for its support of local programs and its own Canada-wide literacy initiatives.

Sarah Anderson and **Camas Woodland** were the winner and runner-up at the regional CanSpell Spelling Bee in Victoria. They both went on to compete in the National Spelling Bee in Ottawa. Sarah is "Speller #32" at the Scripps National Spelling Bee on June 1 & 2 in Washington DC. Best wishes!!

Abebooks.com proudly celebrated its 9th birthday in May. Based in Victoria, Abebooks is the world's largest online marketplace for new, used, rare and out-of-print books. Abebooks is a major sponsor of READ's across Canada *Random Acts of Poetry* event. (Visit www.randomactsofpoetry.com)

Wendy Morton, friend of READ and tireless promoter of literacy and poetry, was nominated for a Woman of Distinction Award (sponsored by YM-YWCA of Greater Victoria) in the category of Arts, Culture and Heritage. Wendy is the founder and driving force behind *Random Acts of Poetry*,



Summer at READ



Summer Classes

for children and youth

Dates: Session 1 (10 Classes) July 4 - July 15
Session 2 (9 Classes) July 25 - Aug 5
Session 3 (10 Classes) Aug 15 - Aug 26

Locations: Victoria ... 720 Linden Ave.
Saanich ... 201-3440 Douglas Street

Costs: Assessment \$65.00 per area
Tuition \$40.00 per hour

- Classes are made up of two students per teacher
- Classes are one (1) hour each day, for two (2) weeks
- Class times are between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm
- Assessments are in Language Arts or Mathematics
- Progress Reports are written after each session

Flexible schedules may be available. Just ask us!
Call 388 - 7225 to register.

Summer Camps

for children aged 7 to 13

Dates: Session 1 (5 day Camp) July 18 - July 22
Session 2 (5 day Camp) Aug 8 - Aug 12
Session 3 (5 day Camp) Aug 29 - Sept 2

Location: All camps at 720 Linden Avenue

Costs: \$195.00

- Camps consist of 4 - 6 students per class
- Camps run from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm Monday to Friday
- Skill-based activities in reading, writing, spelling and mathematics include games, projects and some physical activity.
- Students should bring a snack.

Camps are designed to make learning fun.
Call 388 - 7225 to register.

Student Ink: Writing at READ

Just Because I'm Smaller

I'm not stupid.
I'm not a runt.
So,
Don't make fun of me.
Don't talk behind my back,
Just because I'm smaller,
Let me be me.

by Angel M

Soft
Plum blossoms
Rough weather
Incomplete
Nice weather
Good time of the year.

by Josh M

A Math Problem

Lissa had 900 million dollars (cha ching!). She gave all her money to Nikolai (just because she felt generous) and he bought Nicole a ring for 2.5 million dollars. How much money does Nikolai have left to spend on Lissa's wedding ring?

by Nicole C.

The Missing Cat



One day there was a girl named Amber and she was walking. On her way to school, she saw a cat. Amber said, "I wonder where this cat came from." Then Amber said, "Oh, it's a beautiful cat. I wonder who it belongs to." So she picked it up. Then she put the cat in her bag and went off to school. When she finished school she went to the pound and told them the story about how she found the cat on the street. Then a couple of days later they phoned back and said, "We can't find the owner." Then they said, "Why don't you come and get the cat?" She said, "Sure, I will come and get the cat."

When she got there, she saw a person already there. The pound said, "This is the real owner of this cat and she has come to claim the cat." Amber said, "You're lucky that you got here in time or else I would have claimed that cat." Then the lady said, "Thanks for the comment. Then Amber said, "You're welcome."

by Emily B

Hifive Stands Up for Herself

There once was a girl named Hifive. She was always getting bugged because she had a weird name and so no one liked her. Her pet monkey was her only friend. In any case, even if no one liked her, her pet monkey was the best friend she ever had. No one realized that she had a gift, a very cool gift. No one believed that she even had a gift, but the gift was that she could see dead people, like spirits. One night, she saw them playing on her lap and Hifive giggled in a very weird voice.

At school she was not allowed to play soccer and baseball and those were the only cool things to play. No one played tetherball, so she played by herself. One day, after many weeks, she realized that it was time to stand up for herself, so she did. One girl said, "What are you doing, weirdo?" "I am going to play," Hifive answered. Just then she said to the girl, "There is a spirit behind you." The mean girl jumped and at the same time said, "There's no such thing, Hifive!" "Well, I can see them," answered Hifive. "Oh, OK, whatever," the mean girl said.

Hifive took the ball from the soccer game. "Here," she said. "I'll put the ball in the middle of the field. I will let the spirit move it so you know I am telling the truth." "All right, weirdo," said the girl. Hifive did what she said and walked back from the ball. The spirit moved the ball all the way to the other end of the field. The mean girl said, "Fine, I believe you." She was a little freaked out, but thought it was cool that Hifive had this gift. After that, Hifive was popular and never had to play by herself, unless she wanted to.

by Kysha W.



June

Sunny, Delightful
Eating ice cold popsicles
Humid, Fun
June

by Kate-lynn

The Best Trip

Next year I am going to a Nextel Cup race. The race is in Arizona. My mom and I are taking a plane. The event takes two days and we are watching Busch and Nextel events on the same track. The best things about the races are the crashes and burnouts. The Cup race is in November. I will have to miss school to go, but it will be fun.

by Ryan V.

Summer Plans

This summer I am going to the waterslides with my family and I think we should go camping, even though they might not want to. I'll probably go to Salt Spring Island for a bit too.
I THINK.



by Isaac C.

A Story

Once upon a time there was a young girl. She would go down to the lake and get fresh water. Her little brother was sick and she did his chores for him. One day when her mother sent her back to the lake, guess what she saw? A fairy godmother! The fairy godmother said that she could have three wishes. One of them was that her brother would not be sick, the other one was that her house was not so mashed up, and the last most best one was that her family would always have enough food!

by Jennifer M.

Lost Nuke

One night flying over the northern Pacific Ocean, there was a US bomber crew. They had orders not to go over Canadian air space because they were carrying a nuclear bomb. One of the plane's indicator lights started flashing. The pilot checked it and saw something that was not supposed to be flashing; the number 1 engine was on fire. Within a few minutes the number 2 engine caught fire. The plane began losing altitude quite fast, and the pilot said to everybody on board, "Get ready to jump 'cause our engines are on fire!" So all the crew jumped, except the pilot, who stayed with the plane and probably dropped the bomb into the ocean. Minutes later the plane crashed into the Skeena Mountains in northern BC. Just before he crashed, the pilot sent out a mayday and that was the last time anyone heard from him.



Days later a group of 6 people from the US military hired a guide from Smithers to help them find the crash site, but the guide only helped them locate the crash site from the helicopter. A few days later the military found the crash on the side of the mountain. Some of the plane was still intact, so they blew it up into smaller pieces so no one would use or take any parts to build their own bomb. They said there was no sign of the pilot and none was ever found.

A few years later a group of scientists went to the crash site. They saw only fused pieces of metal. They went looking for pieces of the plane to tell what really happened that night the plane crashed. Two hundred metres away from the site they found a propeller from one of the engines. The scientists say that the pilot must have died in the crash, but they couldn't explain why the plane had been destroyed. That secret will stay with the US Air Force and remain a mystery for the rest of us.

by Kyle P.

Alexandra Novikova is a student in READ's English Language Services for Adults. Her story about coming to Victoria from Russia was in December's *Between the Lines*. It was presented as the Story of the Week on the website of NALD (National Adult Literacy Database) from May 9th to 13th. Well done, Alexandra!



**RBC
Foundation™**



We are grateful to the **RBC Foundation** for demonstrating its commitment to literacy with a \$3,000 grant to the READ Bursary Fund.

Thank you to Literacy BC for the \$500 grant from the **Paul Gallagher Community Access Fund** to assist adult students with emergency needs.

Our thanks to the **Ministry of Advanced Education** for a grant of \$600 for a Learner event. READ's adult literacy students are hosting the book launch for Art Boudreau's novel, *Elephant Mountain*, as their special event in 2005!

Volunteer Appreciation

We have the best of the best at READ! Our volunteers truly make a difference.



Teacher assistants ~

Adult Basic Skills (ABS) and
Basic Academic Skills for Employment (BASE)

Mike Brodsky	Linda DiFelice
Danda Humphrey	Dave Kesson
Julius Maslovat	Elinor Rhynas

English Language Services for Adults (ELSA)
Jane Patterson

Back to Basics: Bridging Barriers to Learning
Patti Kallio

Computer Guru ~ John Picken

Board of Directors ~ check out our hard-working volunteer Directors on page 6.

We are grateful for the wonderful volunteers from the **Garth Homer Society**. Keith McPhail, Tawnya Jones, Terri Carelius, Betty Tse, Dolores Wilkinson, George Tse, Sharon Sinclair and Margaret McCarthy helped with our huge mail-out of information packages for READ's summer camps and classes.

Staff and board members helped with collection and sale days for the **Times Colonist Book Sale** ~ Vicky Austin, Yvonne Blair, Lisa Cartwright, Wendy Graham, Janie Harrison, Julie Holder, Susan Link, Elinor Rhynas, Patti Stockton, Jenn Strachota, Krysia Strawczynski, Helen Thomas, JoAnn Zelen, Peter Zelen and Evan Cikaluk.

Darlene Bailey is Vice-Chair of READ's Board of Directors. Last November, Darlene hosted an *Evening to Make a Difference* in memory of her sister-in-law, Laurent Bailey. All proceeds (over \$10,000!) were donated to the READ Bursary Fund.

Darlene joins us in thanking friends and colleagues for their generous in kind donations to the live and silent auctions.

Angela Bailey
Magaila Bailey
Darlene Bailey
Nigel Bailey
Dr. Roger Bailey
Tracey Clark
Barb Clement
Cathy Denny
Foxglove Flowers
Wendy Graham

Myrna Hall
Judith Huntley
Ann Huculak
Brenda Parkinson
Myfanwy Pavelic
Marion Polston
Barb Shaw
Krysia Strawczynski
JoAnn Zelen

Prince of Whales
Willow King Spa
YM/YWCA of Greater Victoria

Special guests for the evening ~ Ellen Szita and Wendy Morton.

Thank you Darlene and Nigel Bailey for hosting this extraordinary event in support of helping students learn at the Victoria READ Society.

Trapeze Communications Inc.



Trapeze Communications is an award-winning, full-service Branding and Marketing Communications firm. Trapeze has developed and produced the new brochures and print ads promoting READ's programs. Trapeze recently donated their services and expertise to create new materials for READ's display board for public awareness and special events.

Sincere thanks to Kim Wams for helping us out by carrying out READ's duties at the **Langford Drop-In Bingo** in April.

Thanks to Tracey Burnett and Louise Neve for volunteering on READ's behalf at the **Education Fair** held at Hillside Mall in February. Our thanks also goes out to Diane Roche and Yvonne Blair for helping out at **Family Fest 2004**.

Elinor Rhynas, Vicky and Keith Austin were volunteers at the regional **CanSpell Spelling Bee** in March. Melanie Austin, READ's former Executive Director (and no relation to Vicky or Keith!), was senior judge on the judging panel.



Victoria READ Society

Helping Students Learn

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Literacy Facts

Over 10 million Canadians are working at marginal or modest levels of literacy. This represents a massive loss of productivity for individuals, for society and for our economy as we enter a future where knowledge and adaptability will be essential.

Literacy is for Life!
Movement for Canadian Literacy

For more information, check out the Fact Sheets available at www.literacy.ca

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

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JoAnn Zelen, *Treasurer*

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Children and Youth Programs

Janie Harrison



Donors



We thank the following as well as those who chose to remain anonymous.

Darlene Bailey

Barb Shaw

Julie Holder

Audrey M Thomas

Dr. Brenda Derjanecz

Michael Torontow

Sydney Freize

Joan de Turberville

Mary Gordon In Memoriam

Gillian P Wallace

Stuart Knittelfelder

Barbara Walman

Tony & Isabel Lloyd

JoAnn Zelen

Elizabeth Riehm

Foresters

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Vancouver Foundation

Victoria Foundation

West Coast Editorial Associates

Zonta Club of Victoria

Helping Students Learn

A READ bursary provides ten months of one-to-one instruction in basic reading, writing, math and study skills for a child in financial need who is struggling to learn. Forty six students have received READ bursaries this year. However, we still have a lengthy waitlist. Some of the children have been waiting for a year!

Please consider donating to the READ Bursary Fund. **Your gift of \$40 will buy one hour of one-to-one instruction** for a student receiving bursary assistance. **A gift of \$320 will provide one month of individualized instruction.** You can help a child get a head start on learning! Thank you.

Three ways to donate:

- 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 over the phone. (We take VISA and MasterCard.)

Registered Federal Charity # 119285179RR0001

Your donation is tax deductible.