



# Victoria READ Society

September 2005

## READ

## Between

## the

## Lines

Issue 15

### Santa Came Early to READ!



*“Helping children and families in need ...no matter what the need.”*

**C-FAX Santas Anonymous** gave solid evidence of their commitment to the children in our community with a gift to the READ Bursary Fund of \$30,000. These monies are being used in full to provide tuition assistance to a

dozen children who need our help to tackle their learning challenges in reading, writing and math. The generosity of this gift reduced the waitlist for bursary by almost half and many of the children got a head start on learning by being able to attend summer classes at READ.

We would like to acknowledge the C-FAX Santas who presented the cheque on-air to READ board member Wendy Graham: Mel Cooper, Joe Easingwood and Dusty Cunningham. Thank you.



**Soroptimist International of Greater Victoria** has been a vital part of the community for over 70 years, raising over \$100,000 for local programs. The READ Bursary Fund received \$1,000 in June to

help children from lower-income families access our individualized after-school instruction. We are grateful for this continued generosity and support.



The Victoria READ Society is the very grateful recipient of a generous grant

of \$12,500 from the Times Colonist Book Drive Disbursement Fund. This was the eighth year for the TC Book Drive and Sale, which has raised over half a million dollars for education and literacy projects here on the Island.

In recognition of the TC’s commitment to literacy, READ established the **Times Colonist Book Drive Bursary Fund** in 2004. This year, \$10,000 will again be awarded as bursaries to children who need the individualized instruction our professional teachers provide. The teachers are thrilled with the additional \$2500 for the purchase of educational resource materials at all three locations of our Learning Centres. Thank you to Kathy Baan and the TC Book Drive Disbursement Fund committee members!



**Victoria Elks Lodge No. 2** chose to give a gift of \$1,800 to help children learn at READ. We thank the men and women of the Elks who promote and support their communities. They are making a

difference by recognizing the needs of young students and providing a means for them to gain new skills and develop self- confidence.

### Up Front with READ’s Executive Director

The good news just keeps coming this summer! Not only did we receive some very generous donations (see elsewhere in this issue), but we heard from the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services that READ is “the successful proponent for the Greater Victoria Service Area Request for Proposal #ON-000486 to provide English Language Services to Adults.” In plain language, that means – “Hooray!” We will have funding to continue classes for immigrants and refugees who wish to improve their English and learn about Canadian culture. We are thrilled to welcome back our ELSA students this fall.

Julie Holder

### Inside this issue:

Student Ink	2
Donor Thanks	2
Family Literacy	2
Literacy Award	3
Coming Events	3
Literacy Facts	4
Board & Staff	4
Helping Students	4

## Student Ink: Writing at READ

### Planetary Research, Summer Camps 2005



#### Future Tour of Mars

Trip One: Go on a tour of the volcanoes and craters for only \$100. Bring your air tanks and water bottles.

Trip Two: Go on a day trip to the underwater pools for only \$99 plus tax. Bring your goggles.

Matthew's Mars Tours Co.

#### Venus

Venus has a diameter of 6,050 km. A human can't survive on Venus because the temperature is 459° C or 858° F. It's the second planet in the solar system. Venus has no moons and no rings. The surface of Venus is rocky. Venus's name means "love and beauty".

Nicky M.

#### Future Planet X Tours

Welcome to Planet X where everything is relaxing. You can have a tour that costs \$50, \$500, or \$5,000.

For \$50, you can see the craters.

For \$500, you can see the craters and the volcanoes.

For \$5,000, you can explore inside the craters and volcanoes.

You do not need to bring anything with you because you just say what you want and it will come to you. You can say, "I wish I was at Planet X Hotel."

Call today!

100-3218

Cyle's Planet X Tour Co.



#### Mars

I learned about Mars. Mars means "Roman God of War". Mars is the fourth planet in the solar system. Mars has a diameter of 6,757 km. Mars has two moons. Their names are *Phobos* and *Deimos*. Mars is cold. People can't live on Mars.

Matthew

#### Robyn Mor's Excellent Adventure



READ teacher, Robyn Mor, has headed off to Warsaw, Poland. For the next ten months, she will be studying and volunteering with Dr. Svetlana Masgutova in the field of educational kinesiology — how movement can enhance learning, especially for children with learning disabilities.

We wish Robyn well during what is sure to be an exciting and challenging time.

#### Sharing Information ~

#### Family Literacy Programs in Greater Victoria

With funding from the National Literacy Secretariat, READ is undertaking a new project in 2005/2006. We will research and collect information about family literacy projects, programs, activities and services in Greater Victoria. This will be followed by the publication of an on-line directory that can be downloaded from READ's website. Such a directory will increase awareness of, and access to, literacy resources in our community.



for the following donations:

Anonymous  
Terence and Dawn Jones  
Noel C. Richardson  
Michael Torontow

Foresters  
Synetic Inc.  
Van Isle Wallaby Club  
Vancouver Foundation

#### Wedding Bells at READ

Congratulations to teacher Lisa Cartwright on her marriage to Trevor Crosse and also to teacher coordinator Janie Harrison and her husband Brad on the celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary.





Photo taken at Trafford Publishing of Art Boudreau with Julie Holder, READ's Executive Director.

### How do You Spell Success?

After the successful launch of Art Boudreau's first novel, *Elephant Mountain*, in June 2005, the news just keeps getting better. Nominated by his teacher at READ, Art is the newest recipient of the Canada Post 2005 Literacy Award for Individual Achievement in British Columbia. His award will be presented to him on September 8th ~ International Literacy Day ~ at a special event in Courtenay, BC.

Art is more than deserving of this honour. We are proud of him and wish him well as he gets to work on the sequel to *Elephant Mountain*. Well done!!

"The Canada Post Literacy Awards were established more than a decade ago to discover and acknowledge the achievements of Canadians who have made a special effort or an important contribution to literacy. Today, the awards have become Canada's only national honour dedicated to recognizing grassroots literacy initiatives and celebrating the achievements of both learners and those who have helped them learn to read and write."



### Celebrate International Literacy Day September 8th

"Literacy, especially functional literacy, and quality of education represent a lifelong necessity for all and serve as an investment in human and social capital and a major tool for the empowerment of people."

*United Nations General Assembly, January 2000*

Check out READ's full page ad for International Literacy Day in the Times Colonist on September 8th.

Logo provided courtesy of NALD (National Adult Literacy Database) Canada's adult literacy information network.

<http://www.nald.ca>

### Coming Events ~ Mark your Calendars!

#### SCRABBLE® Scramble Saturday, September 24th

Shake your tile bags and put your thinking caps on for three "fun-raising" games of SCRABBLE®.



All proceeds benefit the READ Bursary Fund for Children.

See flyer insert in this newsletter for registration details.

#### Raise a Reader Day Thursday, September 29th



Buy the Times Colonist newspaper from one of the volunteers and celebrities (including READ staff and board members!) downtown during the morning of the 29th. The TC Book Drive is part of the nation-wide CanWest Global Raise a Reader Campaign.

In Victoria, proceeds go to the Times Colonist Book Drive Fund which supports literacy and educational programs in our community. Victoria READ Society is a grateful beneficiary.

#### Random Acts of Poetry 2005 October 3rd to 9th

Acclaimed poets will once again perform random acts of poetry all across Canada AND in the United Kingdom! You may be "poemed" on the street, at a bus stop, hair salon, construction site or your favourite hardware store.

Spearheaded by READ's honorary poet laureate, Wendy Morton, and sponsored by Abebooks, Random Acts of Poetry received international attention in 2004. Articles were published about the week long event in Britain and in Poland.

Let us know if you get poemed! Call 388-7225 or email us at [info@readsociety.bc.ca](mailto:info@readsociety.bc.ca). Enter to win great prizes at [www.randomactsofpoetry.com](http://www.randomactsofpoetry.com).

#### READ's Annual General Meeting Tuesday, October 4th at 7:30 pm 720 Linden Avenue



All members are invited to attend.

Please RSVP to 388-7225

## Victoria READ Society

*Helping Students Learn*

720 Linden Avenue  
Victoria BC V8V 4G7

Phone 250.388-7225

Fax 250.386-8330

[info@readsociety.bc.ca](mailto:info@readsociety.bc.ca)

[www.readsociety.bc.ca](http://www.readsociety.bc.ca)

## Family Literacy Facts



Family Literacy refers to the many ways families develop and use literacy skills to accomplish day-to-day tasks and activities, such as writing a note to a child's teacher, sharing a bedtime story, making a shopping list or using a recipe.

*(Family Literacy in Canada: Profiles of Effective Practices, 1998)*



The time a parent spends reading aloud with his or her children will result in a higher level of attachment, a sense of security, and knowledge by children that their parent feels they are worthwhile people with whom to spend time.

*(How to Raise a Reader, 1987)*



Reading to children more than once a day has a substantial positive impact on their future academic skills. In addition, research indicates children with early exposure to books and reading are better at performing mathematical tasks.

*(National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Statistics Canada, 1996-1997)*

For more information on Family Literacy, go to [abc-canada.org](http://abc-canada.org)

## 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, *Chair*

Darlene Bailey, *Vice Chair*

JoAnn Zelen, *Treasurer*

Wendy Graham

Susan Link

Patti Stockton

Barbara Walman

## Administrative Staff

Executive Director

Financial Officer

Administrative Assistant

Bursary Manager

Accounts Receivable

Fund Development Manager

Julie Holder

Linda McConnan

Diane Carson

Vicky Austin

Yvonne Blair

Donna Randall

## Program Coordinators

English Language Services for Adults

Adult Literacy Programs

Children and Youth Programs

Cindy Vaartnou

Helen Thomas

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](http://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.



Registered Federal Charity # 119285179RR0001