

Literacy Central Vancouver Island

Literacy For All Individuals...1990

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Help someone learn to read and you open their door to hope...and a lifetime of possibilities! R.K.

THE HOME OF: WELL READ BOOKS & DOG TALES BOOKSTORE

Volume 1 Issue 6 page 1 / 4

Fall 2010

Tutor Coordinators: Jacqueline Webster, Margaret Ames

Executive Assistant - Wendy Chaplow

Computer Technician - Brian O’Rooney

Bookstore Supervisors - Jane Rose, Pat Donaldson,
Bronwen Brice, Louise Hamilton

From the desk of:

Rebecca Kirk - Executive Director



Who says working in Literacy isn't hazardous to your health! I am very thankful for this stretch of sunshine to help me survive days without windows, armed with earplugs and a face mask to combat the grinding, sanding, hammering, papers blown everywhere, yes, but the work must go on. This is all part of the **long planned restoration** of our building so we are very happy it is finally happening!

Where did Summer go? I hope that everyone had time to spend with family and participate in some kind of coastal adventure! All one needs to do is sit by the ocean or at one of our sidewalk cafés to know that **we are blessed to live in one of the most beautiful places on earth!**

I held this issue back and the picture of **Robert Bateman** is a clue to why. Recently we were delighted to have it confirmed that Robert has offered to come to Nanaimo to support our efforts, not only our literacy work but our recycling and sustainability practices. We could not be happier! The event “**An Afternoon with Robert Bateman**” will take place at the **Port Theatre at 2pm on Sunday, November 28th**. Robert, **Artist and Naturalist**, will be showing slides and giving a talk on the environment, sustainability and wildlife. There will be a book signing and refreshments in the lobby immediately after the presentation. Reserved seating tickets are on sale now at the Port Theatre. **Adult including Signed Book: \$65.00, Adult: 25.00, Student: \$20.00.**

Come join us and support so many important causes that make our world a better place to live. **We look forward to seeing you!**

BATEMAN: NEW WORKS

Publication date: September 11, 2010

Hardcover · \$55.00 CDN

ISBN: 978-1-55365-579-4

11.25 x 10.25 in · 176 pages

120 full-colour reproductions, b&w sketches



Planning and growth never really take a holiday at Literacy Central. Even though we see the **positive impact we are having** on lives, we become even more aware of **how much there is still to do**. We are now exploring our response to the very real and challenging issues of those that find themselves with low financial literacy and workplace literacy skills.

On page three you will find a shortened version of Shawn's story, one of our learners. **Shawn** recently won the **Peter Gzowski Provincial Award for Learner Achievement**. We are so proud, not because of what we did but because of what Shawn has accomplished and the **difficult journey he tenaciously continued against all odds**. Discovering what life and circumstances had previously denied him, who he really was inside when he no longer needed to be in survival mode, his personal values and beliefs, what his gifts are, what his story will be moving forward while he uses his experiences and lessons to contribute to a better world. This story is one of the many reasons your support is so important to us. Thank you.

Rebecca@LiteracyCentralVI.org

Membership

Mid Fiscal Total 1066. Thank - you for supporting free Literacy Tutoring in your community!

\$10.00 annual fee provides a 25% discount on book purchases. You can't find a better deal!



WELL READ BOOKS - BOOKSTORE NEWS

One of BC's leading Social Enterprises...when you shop here your dollars change lives!

19 Commercial Street
Main Floor
Nanaimo BC V9R 5G3

Phone: 250-591-BOOK (2665)
Fax: 250-754-8114
E-mail: bookstore@LiteracyCentralVI.org

Where in the World are You from? Guest Book

Peterborough, Ont.: Wow!
Simply Wow
Southampton, England:
Great Store!
Kamloops: Awesome!
Madrid, Spain: Friendly store!
Liverpool, England: Charming!
Seattle: Rad store!
Edmonton: It's paradise
Tyler, Texas: Nice store, good
books
Sweden: Life Saver
Toronto: Awesome store,
cool store, nice books
Calgary: Amazing kids section!
Australia: Good selection!
Guatemala: I love your place!
Prince George: Love your old
books!
New Zealand: Sweet deal!
Ireland: Cool!
California: Very good books!
Nanaimo, Gabriola, Parkeville,
Victoria: Huge, definitely
returning! Totally Awesome,
What a wealth! Fabulous
selection & atmosphere! This
place has every book! Love
the kids section! This store
has exactly what I need even
if I don't know it when I come
in! I love this store!

ATTENTION: Theatre, Arts and Cultural organizations! Due to the unfortunate closing of **Falconer Books** in the Port Place Mall, **Well Read Books** is now offering to sell tickets for your group in the downtown area. Please call **250-591-Book (2665)**

GIFT CERTIFICATES! What a great idea for **Birthday's**, **Thank you gifts** and other **Special Occasions** - We have Gift Certificates available for **Well Read Books, Dog Tales Bookstore** and **Computer Lessons!**

MEMBERSHIPS: Great idea for Birthdays, Thank-you gifts, Grandchildren, appreciating Staff or Volunteers, Gift Baskets, Stocking Stuffers, you name it! A **\$10.00** annual fee allows you to receive **25%** off your book purchases and **50%** during sales. **A great bargain while supporting free literacy tutoring programs!**

Dog Tales Bookstore and Learning Centre

Don't forget to visit our beautiful **children's bookstore** on the lower level. Just follow the paw prints on the floor of **Well Read Books!**

COMPUTER LEARNING CENTRE

Basic Computer Tutoring

1.5 hr. one on one classes
\$25.00 including manual
To schedule call Brian at 250-754-8988

Computer Workshops

Word Publisher	Excel Outlook	Power Point
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If your group, club, family or business would like to schedule a workshop for basic tutoring in any of these software applications please call Wendy at the above number. Up to 6 participants for 3 hours in our lab: \$300.00.



ADULT LEARNING CENTRE

20th Annual Peter Gzowski Invitation Golf Tournament and Gala Dinner

Congratulations! Shawn Richards, one of Literacy Central VI's Learners recently won the **Peter Gzowski 2010 Learner Achievement Award** presented by **Lieutenant Governor Steven Point**. This is an amazing achievement and well deserved. **Shawn will be a valuable contributor and ambassador for building social strength and capacity in Nanaimo.** Here is a brief rendition of his story that contains valuable awareness for our community. His story is not uncommon.

From grades 1 to 6 I was held back twice, then put into grade 8 with no introduction into high school. I really hated my first year of high school with all the learning disabilities. I lived in fear I would be centered out in the large class. Eventually I found myself so far behind soon I quit going all together. **I started to follow other students who were lost like me and we suppressed all feelings with drugs and alcohol.**

The rest of my life was spent doing manual labor; this was all I could do with limited knowledge and skills. My suppression of how my life was turning out frustrated me and **I gave up on the mainstream of life. I felt there was no one in my corner. My addiction to drugs was the band-aid to my fears.** My problems only got worse. **I was homeless for years and incarcerated for a while. There seemed to be no bottom to my life.**

Early in 2008 I finally asked a street nurse to help me get into a treatment centre. During the intake **they asked me if I could read and write. I was scared to tell them I was unable to do either very well. When they found out, I was treated in a way that demoralized me and I left.**

After I left the center **I stayed clean and sober**, but did not know what to do or where to turn. **Luckily that street nurse, a close friend to this day, told me he believed in me and found me a John Howard Society safe house.** They showed me I could learn to cope with my addiction problems and start to repair my life from the ground up.

The John Howard counselor lent me his personal recovery books on tapes. They were easy to listen to instead of struggling with reading and things got a bit easier. **The counselor also suggested I go to Literacy Nanaimo.** I was **like a nervous child** waiting to talk to a total stranger and ask for help reading books that **I hoped would help save my life.** I told the tutor coordinator at Literacy Nanaimo I was looking for **help reading a book on recovering from alcoholism.** She was so interested in me, **I will never forget her for the kindness she showed me that day.** I was assessed and then assigned my first of two tutors. **Working on the basics, things were coming back out of nowhere. I was starting to remember what I was reading.**

Then my tutor coordinator asked me about finishing school up at V.I.U. Once again I felt my eyes heavy with water and thought **wow they believe in me.** Most of my life I did not believe in myself. And with their help I got a good start in a great program up at V.I.U. Today I'm challenging myself in school, took an introduction course in counseling, and have been **blessed with a part time job with Canadian Mental Health.** I really like my work, because I work with people who I know from the streets of Nanaimo.

I will end with saying that **I got a second chance because people took the time to believe in me**, and for that **I am grateful** and today **I believe that I can make a difference by helping others help themselves.**

You will make a difference Shawn, you have shown great courage. Once again we thank our dedicated, caring tutors, you give so much more than your tutoring skills you are mentors and role models!



Shawn with Lieutenant Governor Steven Point



Shawn with Peter Gzowski Jr.

Volunteer Appreciation



Will Frankling is one of our treasured **volunteer tutors**. Here he is seen on the far right joined in the middle by our **MP Jean Crowder** and **MP Bruce Hyer** from the Thunder Bay region, with Rebecca on the left.

In support of our military troupes serving in Afghanistan, Will organized an amazing campaign to have **books with messages of support** along with our **Nanaimo flag** signed by people from all walks of life in our region. These were then delivered overseas to the men and women in our Canadian Forces. News came back that they were deeply touched by such a personal gesture. **Thank you Will** for everything you do for Literacy Central VI and for our community!

Jean was gracious enough to visit us again a short time later to learn more about our agency and the programs and services we deliver. We appreciate her interest, her support and willingness to help in anyway that she can.

Get ready for some fun! Silent Auction starting November 1st.

To help support our **Outreach Program** one of our tutors that volunteers in the **Nanaimo Correctional Centre** has donated his collection of original **Rolling Stone** vinyl's that he began collecting in the 60's. **Auction details and album viewings** will be at the front counter of Literacy Central's bookstore "**Well Read Books**" 19 Commercial Street starting Nov.1st. There will be a reserved bid on each lot.



Their Satanic Majesties Request, (1967)
(hologram edition)



Point of Interest

Meet Tia, our new office wellness manager! Sadly dear old Jack passed away, like Jack, Tia is also a rescue dog and she has happily adjusted to life up-stairs in our Learning Centre.

Tia does a good job of putting new learners at ease and helping them feel at home. Her presence helps reduce the stress of working in a busy agency and she loves to greet customers



Our many thanks to **Ron** and his crew from our local Home Depot. They **volunteered their time, resources and supplies** to come downtown to Literacy Central VI and help us update our wash-room. We were chosen as one of their "**giving back to community**" projects. All of the women in the agency in particular were very grateful.

THANK YOU HOME DEPOT!