



# Literacy Central Vancouver Island

(formerly Literacy Nanaimo)

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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**

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**From the desk of: Rebecca Kirk - Executive Director**

Tutor Coordinators: Jacqueline Webster, Margaret Ames

Executive Assistant - Wendy Chapplow

Computer Technician - Brian O’Rooney

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



Wait a minute, that’s not my desk, but then again in some way it is. When providing leadership for an organization an easy trap to fall into is to put your own learning on hold. Learning takes on many forms and one of those forms for me right now is golfing, in particular Texas Scramble. Currently I am the least experienced on the team but the beauty of Texas Scramble for beginners is that everyone plays forward from the best ball. **This creates amazing opportunities for team work and a safe and enjoyable environment for learning.**

Each member of the team has different levels of experience and different strengths. This puts me in the fortunate position of being on the receiving end of very gracious coaching and encouragement; safe to keep trying without the pressure of feeling I am letting the team down. This format does not expose the weakest link, with teamwork the game always moves forward and everyone is successful; once

in awhile I even have the best ball.

When pondering the current economic situation as it relates to the impact on **Social Enterprises** and our sector of the **Not For Profit** world the simple beauty of Texas Scramble comes to mind. Funding and resources although never plentiful are becoming scarcer and as a result creating deeper uncertainty. **Although a common reaction in the past when difficult times overwhelmed us was to “hide and hoard” to sustain the financial integrity of our agencies it was a negative, unhelpful response that created mistrust and silo thinking.** Time has moved on and I believe that we are designing a new era in the NFP and SE world, drawing to it creative possibility thinkers bringing with them a deeper appreciation of the greater good. **Texas Scramble is a model designed for the greater good.**

The more our agency reaches out to form partnerships in the community the more I see the value and witness the need for this model. Some entities are new, many are struggling, some are forced to redefine themselves but instinctively many of us are reaching out to support each other, sharing experience and ideas, resources when we can, coaching others when we have the knowledge and

**learning from others when we don’t.** A different but critical version of **“leave no one behind”**, which applies not only to our agencies but to the people we serve. We all need each other, not just to survive in these more difficult times but to increase our potential to thrive.

**Communities rely heavily on the work of the Not For Profit sector to meet many of the social challenges.** We all know that NFP’s would not survive without the collective support of dedicated volunteers, donations from those in the community that have the ability and will to share, and creative partnerships with business and government. Need I say Texas Scramble again; what’s not to love about this game of golf! **Taking care of those among us that face challenges and have serious needs is a strong indicator of a healthy community. I think we can look around our community and feel good.**

Many thanks to Fairwinds, Island Radio, Nanaimo Daily News and all of the sponsors for Women in Business Networking Golf.

**Now on to the really exciting news!**

[Rebecca@LiteracyCentralVI.org](mailto:Rebecca@LiteracyCentralVI.org)

## Points of Interest

- A **Social Enterprise** is a profit generating business established for the purpose of using its proceeds to support a social need or cause. Profits from **“Well Read Books”**, the new name of our established used bookstore, are used to seek out and address the barriers to literacy in our expanding community.
- **Raise a Reader Day** is coming on Wednesday, **September 23, 2009.** If you would like to help with the campaign to raise money for literacy in our community please call **250-754-8988** and ask for Wendy.

## **Membership**

Our membership continues to grow and has reached an amazing **632**. Please continue to help us spread the word that we are still the agency that was familiar to the public as **Literacy Nanaimo**. We are evolving and growing to meet increased literacy needs and gaps in our community.



## WELL READ BOOKS - BOOKSTORE NEWS

19 Commercial Street  
Main Floor  
Nanaimo BC V9R 5G3

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

Phone: 250-591-BOOK (2665)  
Fax: 250-754-8114  
E-mail: [info@LiteracyCentralVI.org](mailto:info@LiteracyCentralVI.org)

### Where in the World are You from?

#### Guest Book

Prince George: Best bookstore in the Province! Great work!

Taiwan: A very wonderful place for readers to visit.

Melbourne, Australia: Long way to come for a book. Well presented store!

Montreal: Nice friendly staff!

Mexico City: Nice book store!

Ottawa: Always a treat to visit!

San Francisco: Best place on the Island!

Northern Ireland: My first port of call!

England: Brilliant selection of books!

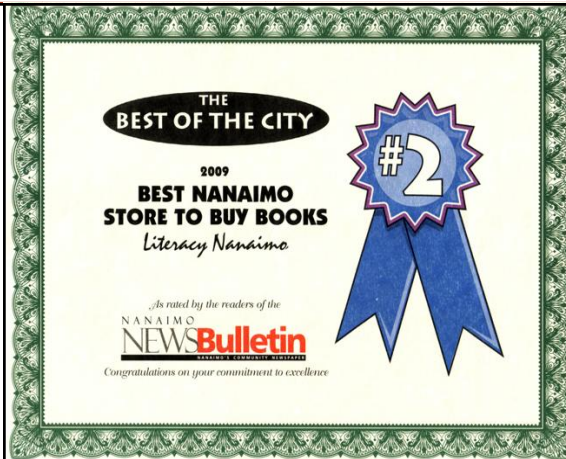
Montana: Got what we came for!

Ontario: A place of contentment.

Monterey, California: Eureka! Found the book I sought.

Granada, Spain: Nice bookstore. We are here re-searching family history.

Panama: Thank God for books!



### Thank- you Nanaimo and readers of the News Bulletin!

This was such a huge surprise for us and we feel very honoured. Sometimes when we are busy working hard to improve the overall experience for our customers we forget to look up and see what we are accomplishing as a team. Our primary goal is to be **a relaxed, happy, comfortable place to come and browse for books.** We hope you feel that way when you come into the store. Another step we took to improve service was to assign

the bookstore its own phone number. Our lines are often very busy and we were hearing that it was difficult to get through. **The new phone number for Well Read Books is 250-591-BOOK (2665). Book donations are always needed and provide us with the funds to support our volunteer programs.**

## Dog Tales Bookstore and Learning Centre

**Big News! Opening in September.** One of the reasons we have been working so diligently realigning and naming the main floor bookstore is to accommodate the development of a **separate children's bookstore on the lower level.** The children's area on the main floor that has been lovingly cared for and beautifully decorated by **Joyce** over the years had become too small. We were unable to display books properly or increase the space. To serve children and families better we have chosen to dedicate the lower level for those needs.



The name "Dog Tales" was a natural. One of the programs we will be implementing in the fall is children reading to **Reading Assistance Dogs** through our **Dog Tales Reading Club. Miracles happen when children read to dogs.** More details will be coming in the next newsletter about the program.

The Club will partner certified dogs with children wanting after-school help with reading. Each child will read to a dog one on one for 30 minutes onsite at the bookstore. If you are interested in volunteering, your dog must have its **Canine Good**

**Neighbour/Canine Good Citizen** certificate and you must be able to commit to approximately 1¼ hours (2 sessions with a break) one afternoon a week (Monday - Thursday) during the school year. For further information please call **Lynn at 250-722-3921 or Joyce at 250-245-8418.**



## ADULT LEARNING CENTRE



Another class of Volunteer Adult Tutors has completed training and most are already busy with learners. We are so proud of this program and **our partnership with Vancouver Island University**. The courage and good news success stories that emerge as a result of the relationships that build between tutor and learner **tug at the heart-strings. Hope for a meaningful future is often renewed.** We will feature some stories in future newsletters. Tutoring is offered in **Reading, Writing, Numeracy and Basic Computer Skills**.

We now have a volunteer, June F., certified to do screenings for **Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome** (reading through colors) or often referred to as **Irlen Syndrome**. This is another barrier to learning that is becoming more widely known and affects a significant number of our learners. A quick description is that it is a **perceptual disorder caused by a sensitivity to light**. Certain wavelengths of light can interfere with the visual pathway between the eye and the brain. Filter out these wavelengths and the pathway can function normally, sending visual information to the brain, free of distortions. Referrals for screenings are assessed by **Jacqueline and Margaret our Tutor Coordinators**.

We are also discussing ways that we can partner with and support the **Vancouver Island Dyslexia Association** in its efforts to provide support and resources for families that have a member facing **the challenge of learning and processing differently**. Dyslexia includes a range of learning challenges causing **a person of normal and often above normal intelligence** to have persistent and significant problems with reading, writing, spelling and sometimes mathematics as a result of neurological anomalies in the brain that **require them to learn differently**.

We are also very excited about our developing partnership with the **Nanaimo Correctional Centre**. We tutor onsite at the Correctional Facility as one of our **Outreach Programs**. There are dedicated staff at the facility that truly care about

**Corrections Canada 2003 Research**  
**Offenders without a high school diploma - 79%**  
**Offenders who tested lower than grade 10 - 82%**  
**Offenders who tested lower than grade 8 - 65%**

the future success and wellbeing of inmates and therefore our communities. Knowing that **low literacy levels are common among those that become incarcerated and contributes to recidivism**, the Centre is proactively making decisions to provide for and support literacy tutoring. Plans are underway to **enhance this program** in the fall, working together to create an even better supportive

learning environment that draws inmates and gives them a desire to follow through.

We cannot go into summer without extending a huge Thank You to our **BEARs** (Be Enthusiastic About Reading) and **BEAMs** (Be Enthusiastic About Math) volunteers. Each week these reading and math buddies go into over **18 schools in SD 68** to give elementary students that extra bit of help to be successful in school. These volunteers are **"unsung heroes"** and a very important part of the work we do at Literacy Central Vancouver Island. Thank You!



### He's done it again!

Brian, our Computer Technician completed the Great Walk from Gold River to Tahsis for the 8th time. Not a feat for the faint of heart! This year Brian raised \$1200.00 for Literacy Central programs and as a Raise a Reader event it will double to \$2400.00! Our deep appreciation Brian.



### Volunteer Appreciation

We are honored to feature Dave F. a volunteer tutor with our organization for **7 years!** Never seeking the limelight it takes an ambush to get a picture. Dave retired from his everyday career working as an Engineer. He not only tutors but spends many hours helping with carpentry and maintenance projects most recently building a long awaited new tutoring room. Dave we enjoy your time with us, your students thrive, and you're a big part of helping our building evolve as we grow. Thank you!