



# 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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May / June 2009

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

Tutor Coordinators: Jacqueline Webster, Margaret Ames

Executive Assistant - Wendy Chaplow  
Computer Technician - Brian O'Rooney  
Bookstore Supervisors - Jane Rose, Pat Donaldson, Bronwen Brice



As we move through the first half of 2009 together I continue to be amazed by the talent, knowledge and dedication of the staff and **over 200 volunteers that support this organization.** There are days when I work in my office that I become aware of the sound of learning all around me in the tutoring rooms and I stop for a moment and just appreciate the hum. Feelings of gratefulness come over me knowing I have the opportunity to be a part of people demonstrating courage and determination to change their lives.

In this edition you will read about some of the changes taking place, including our

new agency name. This change was made to better reflect the growing geographical area for which we provide services.

We had fun holding friendly in house "name the bookstore" brainstorming sessions. Many great ideas came forward but the one that seemed to capture the essence of our bookstore is "Well Read Books". We hope you like it!

Brian our computer technician is now hard at work developing **our own web presence.** In years past we used a free hosting agency in Nova Scotia, but had little ability to control the look and feel of the site. We hope to launch in the fall as part of our overall new branding and marketing strategy.

Very soon you will see scaffolding appear as we begin the **restoration of our build-**

**ing.** Our landlord Jack Pagan is having a crew begin in May to restore the façade, front and back, to the original Art Deco. Jack graciously allowed us generous input and has been a real partner in accommodating our needs and wishes.

With all the projects we are currently managing and the ones waiting for life, I am thankful for the years invested in learning project management.

Our newsletters will now be distributed through e-mail, and available on our website and in our store.

Enjoy this edition, stay tuned and know as members, you are a part of something really good in this world.

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

## Points of Interest

- We are a dog friendly organization. When strolling on the waterfront or downtown with your leashed dog, stop by and browse through the bookstore. A water dish will be outside.
- Watch for exciting news to come about dogs and reading!



Meet Jack our resident dog that was rescued by Wendy our Executive Assistant

## **Membership - Benefits and Opportunities**

Membership has increased steadily since the beginning of the year. The community is responding in a positive way to the work that we do and our vision for the future. Of course it doesn't hurt for the price of a **\$10.00 membership** to be given a 25% discount on the purchase of every book and 50% during a sale! At the end of April

our membership numbered **401.** This is remarkable considering we did not send out a notice for membership renewal. **A gentle reminder that memberships expired at the end of February for those still needing to renew.** We are calling on all members to be **ambassadors.** Research revealed that our members and loyal

customers are aware that we operate a used bookstore but our larger community is not. Our programs depend on bookstore sales so we need to continuously strengthen sales to meet the increased need for our free tutoring programs. **So spread the word about our bookstore and the important work it supports.**

**Your voice will help us make a difference in people's lives and increase the desirability of our community.** Our AGM is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. June 22 at the Departure Bay Kin Hut. The Board will be honoring Volunteers with a barbecue celebration at 6p.m. Space is limited so if you wish to attend please RSVP to Wendy.



## WELL READ BOOKS - BOOKSTORE NEWS

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

### Where in the World are You from?

#### Guest Book

**Sambro, Nova Scotia:** All the best books reside here!  
**Yellowknife, NWT:** Excellent - Magic!  
**NSW, Australia:** Great way to spend a snowy morning!  
**Vancouver:** Fascinating  
**Qualicum Beach:** Love your French books  
**Port Alberni:** Too many books - Too little time  
**Gabriola:** Great selection; Very Clean!; Love it!  
**Nanaimo:** My favorite bookstore; Great selection, Great prices; Every time our son visits this is his first stop!; I come here once a week; Amazing books.  
**Merritt:** Stop every time we go through - my favorite bookstore!  
**Calgary:** Excellent bookstore, good cause!; Awesome books!  
**Turku, Finland:** I've never heard of a place like this, we should absolutely have one in Finland, this is wonderful!  
**Norderstedt, Germany:** Soooo many books!



Jane, Rebecca

Wendy, Sue, Bronwen, Bea

Anticipating great things to come and a desire to freshen up our bookstore, a road trip to stimulate the imagination seemed in order! We borrowed a van from VI Condos through the generosity of Gordon Halkett and headed to Sidney and Victoria on a fun and fabulous book store tour. We came back with validation that we were already on the right track and that our dream of becoming a **destination bookstore** was well within reach.

Since that adventure the bookstore supervisors and volunteer staff have been working very hard to reorganize, defrag and realign our main level bookstore. New signage has been placed on our front windows; flower boxes, tables and chairs and a pet water dish are now a part of our welcoming entrance. The outside restoration is beginning soon. We hope once again our customers will be generous with their patience and continue to support us throughout the project. Your loyalty does not go unnoticed. **A big announcement about the lower level is coming soon! We are forming many new exciting and valued partnerships. These partnerships will add depth and richness to our community literacy services and give a whole new meaning to the understanding of Bookstore. Stay tuned!**

New donated titles arrive each day and you just never know what you are going to find. Our bookstore has all the categories of any regular book store and perhaps some unique to us. **The proceeds from the sale of books supports our free volunteer tutoring programs and our computer refurbishing/donation program.**

#### We sell on the web:

[www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)  
[www.antiqubook.com](http://www.antiqubook.com)  
[www.biblio.com](http://www.biblio.com)  
[www.biblion.co.uk](http://www.biblion.co.uk)  
[www.booklovers.co.uk](http://www.booklovers.co.uk)  
[www.booksandcollectables.com.au](http://www.booksandcollectables.com.au)



### Volunteer Appreciation

We are honored to feature Glenys, the meticulous master of mysteries and more. Glenys has many talents and has been a faithful volunteer with our organization for 11 years!



## COMPUTER RECYCLING / REFURBISHING PROGRAM



### This might look like a disaster to you but look what comes out the other end!

These photos represent only a small snapshot of what the computer refurbishing area contains. Two retired military technicians "our Franks" together volunteer a full time position managing our computer refurbishing section. Their meticulous attention to detail and organization is awe inspiring. As a result of their hard work, knowledge and dedication we are currently able to **donate full computer packages to about 100 families each year.**

The need for this program is also growing with current economic circumstances and we hope to be able to expand.

We work closely with many agencies in the community that identify families and individuals that are struggling and unable to afford computers. Our inventory is carefully documented, we supply the identifying agency with a complete computer package and they see that it is delivered.

**Microsoft supports our program** and

at minimal cost we receive licenses to install Windows XP Professional, Microsoft Office 2003 and a variety of learning games.

**We thank** all of the agencies, businesses and individuals that donate used computers to our program so that we can provide this valuable service to the less fortunate in our community and increase their chances for success.

To Frank M. and Frank H. **Thank you!**

## ADULT LEARNING CENTRE



**Jacqueline**

Jacqueline has championed this program since its inception and continues to believe in it with passion to this day.

The need for our adult tutoring program continues to increase, our challenge is to find new and innovative ways to meet that need. A rapidly changing world and economic conditions result in many people feeling left behind and unprepared. We immediately feel the impact and fallout. We have learned to adapt quickly and respond with an accommodating, supportive flexibility.

Through the creative efforts of Margaret, we now have a very strong community outreach program that

gives us the ability to provide for the comfort of some learners in a more familiar environment to them. This also helps with our onsite space challenges. We have developed ongoing relationships with:

- John Howard Society**
- McSeeds Society**
- BC Corrections**
- Snumeymuxw First nations**
- Bill's Place**
- Haven House**
- Women's Resource Centre**
- Ladysmith Resource Centre**
- Nanaimo Youth Housing**
- Salvation Army**
- CVI Multicultural Society**
- Loaves and Fishes**
- Open Minds Open Windows**

Through our **partnership with Vancouver Island University** our Tutor Coordinators recently completed teaching a certified training course which brings our current volunteer tutor staff

up to **95.**

This past fiscal over **10,000** hours of volunteer time was given by tutors working with **154** matches.

### Learner Quote:

*I have now been at VIU for a few years and besides getting a few A's my poetry has been printed in seven books. Tell your students not to give up, I didn't and look what I've managed to do **but not without the help of my tutors***



**Margaret**