



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 5 page 1 / 3

Spring 2010

From the desk of: Rebecca Kirk - Executive Director

Tutor Coordinators: Jacqueline Webster, Margaret Ames



Rebecca with our new Dog Tales greeter! What will his name be?

I recently had occasion to spend a few days on the west coast of the Island storm watching. Anyone that has been fortunate enough to enjoy this experience will probably join me in saying there are no real words adequate enough to describe the feelings that are stirred. More than that, it leads one to become contemplative as life is quickly and powerfully **put back into perspective.**

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

Our lives can tend to feel bigger than they really are when we go about our day to day living with involvement in busy careers, busy families and busy commitments. It’s so easy to forget to look up, step back and see that our own world fits into a much larger world that is constantly evolving around us, asking us to participate in it’s wellness. The experience also wildly demonstrates **how important every aspect of the natural world is,** and the beautiful, dramatic power when it all comes together. **Nature is our first University,** one that everyone can afford with **24/7 intakes.**

It draws me to think about community. I see it every time I walk through the doors of Literacy Central. Volunteers **investing in the wellness of their community** for nothing more than a smile and a thank you. I have spent my entire career working alongside genuine, caring, gifted volunteers. When we look around we see that the **most challenging, heart wrenching, discouraging issues** we face as a community, such as **poverty, unemployment, hunger, homelessness, illness, domestic violence, child abuse** to name a few, we will find volunteers working on the front lines trying to make life better for someone else. Many of those that we at Literacy Central work hard **to give help and hope to have faced or are facing such challenges.** Low literacy skills **severely impair the ability to cope, fully participate in and enjoy life.** Courageous people wanting to improve their situation walk through our doors here and at our outreach locations everyday.

I was stunned recently when reading the latest literacy projections released by the Canadian Council on Learning. The one that threw me the most **“The proportion of Canadian adults with low literacy skills will remain virtually unchanged through 2031”**, that number being **48%.** They reference research, demographic shifts and population growth which may satisfy the intellect but **knowledge is cold** without allowing it to penetrate heart and soul where it can stir a response. It’s not a secret **when children go to school hungry or traumatized** in some way they cannot learn or they robotically learn facts but are blocked to the social, cultural learning. Nor is it a secret that people struggling with poverty, illness, fear or violence need to **focus on daily survival not learning.** What about the **beautiful, dramatic power of a community** coming together.?

I call it the 5% investment. (My5) In these times of reduced funding, cuts to grant money, elimination of all kinds of programs and services to which we have become accustom, we can grumble, complain and blame which might feel good at first but accomplishes nothing. We are **progressing** back to a time when **neighbour helped neighbour** and community looked after community, looking within to address challenges instead of looking externally. If we each look a little beyond our own needs and decided to share 5% of our talents, gifts and available time for the **greater good** of our community **something amazing will happen.**

Rebecca@LiteracyCentralVI.org

Point of Interest

Do you have any special or valuable books in your library that you would like protected? For an average fee of \$3 to \$4 per book we offer a clear jacket cover service. Brodart is the leading industry product for protecting books, you will see it used on most of our Internet listed books. We can usually do one or two books in a few minutes or leave several with us for a day.

Membership

We did it!

We reached a total of

1064

Members last fiscal.

Just imagine this year...

Thank - you!

\$10.00 annual / 25% discount on book purchases.



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

Korea: Classical! Lovely

Kamloops: Awesome Books;
Perfect!

Ucluelet: We love this store!

Victoria: Fantastic Place,
Love the Atmosphere here !

Mt. Forest, Ontario: Cool
store; Love your store!

Haida Gwaii: Love the books

Calgary: Rather a pleasant
spot for Nanaimo

Scotland: Good aye!

Japan: 1st visit, good smell!

Pemberton: Awesome store.

Coldstream, BC: Outstanding!

Newlands, BC: Interesting!

Byron Bay, Australia: Thank
You!!

La Rochelle, France: Nice
place!

London, England: Great books!

Nanaimo: Simply fabulous!;
The savior of the literacy ex-
perience in a digital age; Love
how cheap!; Come here every
other day; Wonderful place,
great, cheerful, knowledgeable
people; Great books, great
prices, love this store! My
new favorite place! This place
is amazing. Simply fabulous!

ATTENTION all 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 **Mother's Day** and
Father's Day - We have Gift Certificates available for **Well Read
Books, Dog Tales Bookstore** and **Computer Lessons!**

Dog Tales Bookstore and Learning Centre

Coming
This
Summer!

Dog Tales
Bookstore
19 Commercial St.
(Downtown)
Beautiful
Downtown
Nanaimo



Dog Tales Reading Club

Literacy Central Vancouver Island

For further
information call:
[250-754-8988](tel:250-754-8988)

Sessions:

Saturdays:
July/August

9:30 - 10:15
10:30 - 11:15
11:30 - 12:15

Literacy Central Vancouver
Island will be offering free
one on one sessions with a
child friendly, Reading
Assistance Dog for children
that are experiencing some
difficulties reading and would
like to have a little extra help
from a great reading buddy!
Parents, Grandparents,
Guardians are welcome to call.

- Increased comfort reading aloud
- Increased empathy and social skills
- Improved confidence and less shyness
- Achievement of higher reading skills



ADULT LEARNING CENTRE

SPRING LEARNER EVENT

Currently we have 65 active learner/tutor pairs working on language and math upgrading. Twice each year we plan a combined social and educational event for our learners. In March this year forty two learners from Literacy Central and those enrolled at Vancouver Island University joined together for a fun, eventful day. It started at Literacy Central with muffins, coffee and a meet and greet. Two learners from Literacy Central gave tours of our facility which included the tutoring rooms, the resource library, the computer learning centre, the bookstore and the new children's bookstore Dog Tales.

From there the group moved to the Nanaimo Museum and were given clipboards and question sheets then sent on a self guided tour, one of our L C learners is also a volunteer at the Museum and was on hand to assist when needed. After a catered lunch VIU student Joel Good shared his expertise on the making of Bentwood Boxes. It was fascinating as Joel showed how he created these boxes from raw wood through to the finished product (shown here).



The group then moved to the Library where they were divided into 2 groups. The first received a full library tour offered by a library volunteer and the second group took part in the "Brain Gym" a workshop offered by a volunteer tutor. It was a very successful, busy day that ended with door prizes of new books donated by Literacy Central and the completion of evaluations. The comments were very positive. The best part of the day for many was the Brain Gym, the tour of Literacy Central, learning so much at the museum tour and most of all meeting so many new people.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

COMPUTER LEARNING CENTRE



We are privileged to have so many volunteers enriching our agency that we need to start taking group pictures to try and capture most over time. Here is the Wed. afternoon gang enjoying "tea time" which is becoming popular with our customers also! Volunteers having fun.

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 Brian at the above number. Up to 6 participants for 3 hours in our lab: \$300.00.