

# Literacy Nanaimo Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor: Christine Norris



Summer 2005

## Staff

**Carolyn McWhinnie**, Executive Director

**Linda Oman**, Administrative Assistant

**Brian O’Rooney**, Computer Technician

**Nicole Liptak**, Book Store Supervisor

**Jane Rose**, Asst. Book Store Supervisor

## Laugh for Literacy

Join us **Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**, at **6:00 pm** on the grounds of the Nanaimo Museum. At this year’s *Literacy Nanaimo* fundraiser you will enjoy a Fine Art Show coordinated by **Liu Jian** of the *Shanghai Emporium*, take part in a Silent Auction with a wide range of items including a hand-made quilt (pictured) by the *Scrappy Bags* quilting group, sample a tea-infused barbecue (fish, chicken or vegetarian), many different iced teas, Mar “tea” nis, and Champagne Tea Cocktails, laugh with a comedian and hear from a local published author, all accompanied by musical entertainment. Tickets will be available in July. You don’t want to miss this unique event.



Our special guest will be tea expert **Miriam Novalle**, the owner of the *T Salon & T Emporium* in New York City. Widely known as New York’s tea guru, she serves tea to everyone from the Dalai Lama to Susan Sarandon. Speaking of tea’s recent upswing she said,

“You don’t see the Dalai Lama drinking cappuccino. Players in the world of enlightenment don’t go to coffee shops. They go to tea bars.”

## 2005 Board of Directors



Pictured are the newly elected members of the **Literacy Nanaimo Board of Directors 2005-06**— Left to right, front row: **Tony Bellavia**, **Christine McAuley**, **Wendy Smitka**, and **Jane Muise**. Back row: **Valerie Fulford**, **Brian Anderson**, **Julie Stewart-Boyle** and **Carol Moffatt**.

## Thank You, BEARS and BEAMS

As we approach the end of the school year, we would like to thank all of our **BEARS (Be Enthusiastic About Reading Success)** and **BEAMS (Be Enthusiastic About Math Success)** volunteers. You are spread out among 21 schools in our school district. We rarely get to see you or communicate with you, but you are important in the lives of many children who need that extra one-to-one attention.

We hope that you have a happy summer holiday and we look forward to hearing from you again in the fall. If you can remember, please give Linda a call in August to let her know if you will or won’t be continuing.

## Scrabble 2005

Our president, **Wendy Smitka**, is pictured with **Dave Bigelow**, winner of the experienced division at our Scrabble Tournament held in March. Dave also raised the most pledges at \$727.15. Way to go Dave!



Also pictured is **Juanita Kristofferson**, winner of the novice division. Juanita raised the next highest amount in pledges at \$181.00.

Scrabble players raised a total of \$4,047.36, had a lot of fun, and won lots of prizes donated by many, many local businesses. Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors and players

## Rotary Daybreak

Pictured with our president **Wendy Smitka** are **Donna Videll** of *Country Club Centre* and **Ron Blank** of *Rotary Daybreak*. The Rotary Club built us a new book donation box that is more in keeping with the newly renovated shopping centre. The box is located near the *Save-On Foods* entrance and has been very busy since its installation.



Thank you to *Rotary Daybreak* and all of its volunteers. Book donations enable our bookstore to be a major source of revenue for *Literacy Nanaimo*.

## He Did It!



**Brian O'Rooney** walked 63.5 km from Gold River to Tahsis in 8 hours and 9 minutes (that's almost 8 km per hour) and raised \$2,240.00 for our literacy programs.

**Congratulations Brian!!!**

This is the 4th time Brian has done the Great Walk. His previous best time was 9 hours and 10 minutes.

## Computer Recycling

We have become a *Microsoft* authorized refurbisher enabling us, for a small fee, to load *Windows 2000 Professional* in the computers we donate to families. This means that families will be able to load or download more current software.

For those of you not familiar with our program, individuals and businesses donate computers to us. Our volunteers clean them up, test them, load them with software and we then donate them along with a printer to families who could not otherwise afford them. We donate them through the elementary schools and other charitable organizations. This is our effort at bridging the Digital Divide.

## United Way Day of Caring.

Our thanks go to the hard working group from *Woodgrove Centre* who volunteered at *Literacy Nanaimo* Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> for the United Way Day of Caring



Pictured are left to right: **Gordon Dyck**, **Darlene Arksey**, **Morley Barr** (*Woodgrove Mall Manager*), front **Doreen Stinson**, back **Gordana Dougan** and **Rod Mayo**. They pulled up all of the carpet on the upstairs floor of the building. What a dirty, hard job!

Malaspina University-College / Literacy Nanaimo

# Literacy Tutoring Program

Jacqueline Webster, Tutor Co-ordinator

Office hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Literacy Nanaimo

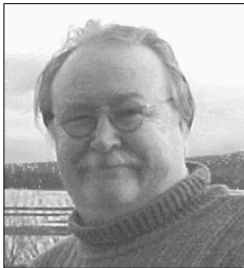
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays at Malaspina U-C, Bldg. 205, Rm. 234

Phone: 754-8988 or 753-3245 local 2822

Email: [websterj@mala.bc.ca](mailto:websterj@mala.bc.ca)



## Workshop: Understanding Dyslexia



Alan McDowell

We are excited to be offering a workshop on dyslexia facilitated by **Alan McDowell**. Alan, from the UK, has dyslexia. He has been on the board of the *British Dyslexia Association* and has chaired the *Association Board of the British Dyslexia Association*, which oversees

135 regional associations. He has been an advisor to the British government on dyslexia and has lectured at universities throughout the British Isles and Europe. For the past 12 years, Alan and his team at *Fulcrum* have helped both industry and education gain a better understanding of dyslexia. Alan views dyslexia not as a problem but as an asset. The mission of his company, *Fulcrum*, is to “enable and empower people with dyslexia to realize their potential.”

Check out his website: [www.fulcrumonline.com](http://www.fulcrumonline.com)

 **Workshop: Understanding Dyslexia**

Monday, June 20, 2005

Vancouver Island Regional Library,  
Harbourfront Branch, 90 Commercial St.

1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

RSVP Linda, 754-8988

## VIDA

*Vancouver Island Dyslexia Association (VIDA)* has now been registered as an association in Nanaimo, a first for VI. **Alan McDowell** and others are inviting interested members of the public to attend a formation meeting at 6 p.m. on September 13, 2005 at the Harbourfront branch of the VIRL. This is an opportunity for adults, parents, and their children to come together to establish their needs and discuss their vision for this association. Call 753-5644 for more information.

## Tutor Networking

Thanks to **Christine Norris**, our Tutor Networking sessions have been a great success. We will continue to provide professional development opportunities for tutors in the fall. Please let me know of any requests you have for workshops, or alternatively, any resource people you can suggest for these events. I am eager to hear your ideas and suggestions.

## Computer Resources

Our last tutor networking session, on May 9, focused on computer resources.

**Brian O'Rooney, Christine Norris, and Jacqueline Webster** demonstrated some of the educational software and websites. Brian and Christine are available for tutorials. Just ask us!



Rob Freiberg and Paul McKinley working on phonics software.

### ✓ Literacy and Math

**Software:** In every tutoring room there is a blue binder with descriptions of the software either loaded on the computer in that room or available from Brian. There is a summary page that lists the reading or math level to help you decide which software is appropriate for your learner.

✓ **Internet Sites:** When you open the browser on one of the tutoring computers, you will find some annotated literacy/math links on the homepage. These links will be attached to the [www.literacynanaimo.org](http://www.literacynanaimo.org) site sometime before September. In the meantime, if you want to access the sites from home, Linda can email you a Word file with the links.

## Learner Profile

**David Gagnon** has been working with us since September 2003. In order to continue receiving government funding, he had been told he must upgrade his basic literacy skills. He was in his early fifties and did not see the benefit of tutoring. In spite of this, once he enrolled his attendance was excellent and he was content to work on upgrading his reading and writing skills.



David Gagnon, with tutor Tracy Belcher, receiving recognition for his achievement.

David's participation is now voluntary. His words recently were: "I was bored. I picked up a book, even though I could have watched TV. Can you believe that??" He is proud of his achievements, as are we, and has set his sights on attending Literacy classes at *Malaspina University-College* in the fall. His tutor **Tracy Belcher** comments: "I'm really proud of all the work that David has done during our time together. He has come an incredibly long way and his willingness to try almost anything will take him even further."

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## Achievement Awards

We have been recognizing our learners' accomplishments with the presentation of certificates. We celebrate their achievements with a photo of the tutor and learner, which is prominently displayed at Literacy Nanaimo.

These achievements can include:

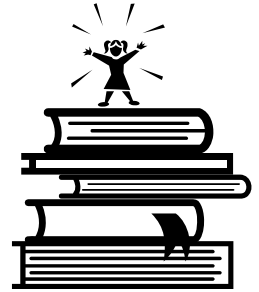
- ★ specific workbooks completed;
- ★ skills mastered;
- ★ excellent/improved work habits.



Many of our learners have never received any positive feedback about their learning. This small tribute can be very meaningful. One student had tears in his eyes when he was told of his accomplishments. Let us know if your learner deserves recognition and we will be happy to make up a certificate.

## New Literacy Resources

We believe our learners are entitled to the latest materials on the market aimed at adult learners. Thanks to funding from Malaspina University College, we have been able to keep up-to-date with some of the most current offerings from Canadian publishers. Please check out the exciting recent additions to our collection. Here is a sample of some of the math and life skills resources:



- ✓ ***Kitchen Math*** – involves real-life situations including the selection, purchase and preparation of food, and gives practice in basic math operations. It comes with pre-tests and post-tests.
- ✓ ***Clock and Calendar Skills*** – helps to demystify these skills.
- ✓ ***Math for all Ages*** – uses examples of Canadian history, government, and geography to practise whole number operations.
- ✓ ***Living on a Shoestring Budget*** – gives easy, simple ways to save money. It also has recipes.
- ✓ ***Control Your Money*** – has helpful sections on debt, credit cards and loans, complete with worksheets.
- ✓ ***The Road Ahead*** – helps beginning drivers learn the rules of the road and safe driving practices
- ✓ PLUS we now have **skill-building writing exercises** and **puzzle books** for the **Challenger** series!

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## Tutor Reports

It is very encouraging to receive monthly or bi-monthly reports from so many of our tutors now. Thank you to all of you who keep me up to date on your activities. As the summer approaches, many of you will be taking some time off. Please let me know your tutoring plans over the summer months. You will find tutor calendars enclosed. Your own format or emails are always welcome! I will be away on holidays from July 25-August 24; however, Literacy Nanaimo will be open all summer. There will always be someone to answer your questions or concerns. Best wishes for a relaxing summer!"

