

# Literacy Nanaimo Newsletter

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Editor: Christine Norris



Summer 2006

## Staff

**Carolyn McWhinnie**, Executive Director


**Wendy Chapplow**, Admin. Asst.

**Brian O’Rooney**, Computer Technician

**Jane Rose, Pat Donaldson, Bronwen Brice:**

Bookstore Supervisors

## Annual General Meeting

 Our AGM will be held **Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**,  
at **6:00 pm** at the **Coast Bastion Hotel**.

We will have guest speakers, election of our board, and annual reports. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.



**RSVP *Literacy Nanaimo*, 754-8988**

## United Way

We are very grateful to the *United Way* for approving two applications this year. It will be supporting both the **Volunteer Tutor Program** and, for the first time, our **Computer Recycling Program**. It has been shown that there is a strong association between literacy, the use of computers and the Internet, and income. Our computer recycling program helps to address the Digital Divide. Last year, thanks to the work of our volunteers, **Frank Hughes** and **Frank Marsden**, we donated 90 computers to families who could not otherwise afford them. Since we are a licensed *Microsoft* refurbisher, these computers are loaded with *Windows 2000* and *Works 7*.

## New Tutor Coordinator

We welcome **Marilyn Guttman**, who has joined us as **Volunteer Tutor**

**Coordinator** for this year. Marilyn has many years of experience working with adults who have learning difficulties. She has been busy meeting tutors and learners and has just completed training a new group of volunteers.



## Farewell to Linda

We are sorry to see **Linda Oman** leave. Linda was our Administrative Assistant for three and a half years. She was the familiar face at the top of the stairs and always had a warm greeting for everyone. Linda continues to be involved with literacy as a tutor and as a book club member. We wish her the best.

## Chess Fest

We thank **Port Place Shopping Centre** for donating the returns from its first **Chess Fest** to **Literacy Nanaimo**. The event was held April 27th and 28th at **Port Place**. **Chess Grand Master Jonathan Berry** simultaneously played 12 opponents throughout the day. Challengers donated \$5.00 for the privilege and **Port Place** matched the donations.

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## Scrabble for Literacy

Another successful **Scrabble** tournament was held March 11th at **Bowen Park**. There were 24 players in all who raised \$3,934.25 for our literacy programs. **Dave Bigelow** won the experienced division and **Anne Judson** won the novice division. Anne also raised the most money in pledges of \$550.00. We thank our sponsor, **Nanaimo Honda**, for its support. Special thanks go to the volunteers from **Coastal Community Credit Union** for all their help.



Anne Judson with  
Vice President, Val  
Fulford

Dave Bigelow  
with  
Executive  
Director,  
Carolyn  
McWhinnie



thank **Oliver's Pet Supplies** for providing us with supplies.

## Bookstore

Many of you may not realize that our bookstore is our primary source of revenue, thanks to the many book donations and the hard work of our bookstore volunteers. We could not operate without them.

In addition to selling books to generate revenue, we donate books to many community organizations; some have even travelled to other parts of B.C. and to impoverished countries. Most recently, we donated several boxes of children's books to the **Army Reserve** to be shipped to Afghanistan. Volunteers went through the books to determine their suitability before packing them up for their trip. We also donate books on a regular basis to the **Snuneymuxw First Nation's Head Start Daycare Programs**.



Our bookstore athlete, **Ginger Meers**, with her latest winning ribbons. Ginger competes in **Special Olympics** both summer and winter and always brings back ribbons. These were from her latest track and field competition in Kelowna.

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## CAP Site

Our **Public Access Internet Site** has a new twist for the summer. We are testing a **Voice Over Internet Phone (VOIP)**. You can call anywhere in the world to a regular telephone number for free. You don't always get through--circuits can be busy--but it seems to be working quite well. The system is provided by the **Pacific Community Networks Association** and supported by the **Victoria Free-Net Association**. The actual service is provided by the **Free World Dialup (FWD)** network. Our thanks again go to **Industry Canada** for providing funding for **CAP** sites all across Canada.

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## Tarzan and Cheetah

We have adopted two cats, **Tarzan** and **Cheetah**, from the **S.P.C.A.** They are brother and sister, 10 years old, and very friendly. They prefer to live in our basement. **Tarzan** comes upstairs to visit. If you are lucky, **Cheetah** might come out to see you in the basement. We would like to



Malaspina University-College / Literacy Nanaimo

# Literacy Tutoring Program

Marilyn Guttman, Tutor Coordinator



Office hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at Literacy Nanaimo

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays at Malaspina U-C, Bldg. 205, Rm. 234

Phone: 754-8988 or 753-3245 local 2822

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

## Greetings from Marilyn

My name is **Marilyn Guttman**, and I am replacing **Jacqueline Webster** as **Volunteer Tutor Coordinator** for a year. Before coming to *Literacy Nanaimo/Malaspina U-C*, I was privileged to work with adult learners in Quebec, Manitoba, and British Columbia as a teacher, school psychologist, and learning specialist. I received diplomas in **Education and Special Education** and a **Masters in Educational Psychology** from *McGill University* in Montreal.


Although I have only been at *Literacy Nanaimo* for a short time, I have met with many of our dedicated and hard working tutors and have observed how learners are supported in their efforts to improve their basic skills in reading, writing, and math. The work you do is valuable and can make a difference in a person's life.

I have enjoyed receiving monthly reports from many of our tutors. A **gentle reminder** to those who may have fallen behind in reporting: Please send in a summary using one of our forms or, if preferred, one of your own formats. As summer approaches, many of you will be taking some time off. Please let me know your tutoring plans for the summer months. Best wishes for a relaxing summer!!!!

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## Communication Skills Workshop

**K. Susan Shaw, Acting Coordinator, Human Rights Office, Malaspina U-C**, will lead a session on developing a positive learning relationship between tutors and learners of different abilities, cultures, and incomes. **RSVP Literacy Nanaimo, 754-8988**

 **Communication Skills Workshop**  
Malaspina U-C, Bldg. 255, Room 170  
Wednesday, June 21, 2006, 1:00 to 3:30

## Tutoring: A Two-Way Street

**Daniel** knows all about the need for confidence.

Eight years ago she had a traumatic life-changing experience, which left her fearful of other people and everything



around her. She joined *Literacy Nanaimo* so she could refine her English language skills but found there was more than learning to be had.

The experience has boosted her self-confidence and has helped her overcome her fear of other people.

**Tam Green**, Daniel's tutor, said she has found friendship and inspiration from her tutoring experience with Daniel.

"(Tutoring) was something I always wanted to do and felt whatever I could do to help someone, I would also get back. Daniel has been a great help to me," said Tam, whose experiences with *Literacy Nanaimo* have opened up a new career focus. She hopes to start the **Special Education Assistant/Community Support Worker program** at *Malaspina* in September 2006.

Daniel has had several tutors, all of whom she's enjoyed getting to know. "I've met some good tutors and have had great support from them," said Daniel. "I have kept in touch with them. They are volunteers and they enjoy what they do. I think they're all great and I really enjoy it."

Photo by Erin Fletcher, Malaspina U-C, Media Relations  
Story was abridged from Erin Fletcher's original.

## Spring 2006 Tutor Training

I am pleased to introduce a new group of enthusiastic tutors who have recently completed the **Volunteer Tutor Training Course** at *Malaspina University-College*. We are impressed by the calibre and dedication of these new volunteers. They have already begun their work helping new learners advance their literacy skills. We welcome and thank the following new tutors:

Donna Anthony	Russell Leblanc
Wanda Erikson	Mary Ann Moore
Janice Graham-Andrews	June Parnell-Parmley
Rhona Johnston	Judy Patterson
Jacqueline Kirkham	Melina Snyder

A highlight of the **Tutor Training Program** occurred during two training sessions when the following tutors and learners shared their tutoring stories and experiences:



Bill Boagey	Donna Kristensen
Daniel Bourbonnais	Lynda Thomas
Tam Green	Richard Thompson
Joyce Hedges	Archie Wilkinson

An orientation to *Literacy Nanaimo* proved to be another highlight of the training course. **Carolyn McWhinnie** provided a tour of *Literacy Nanaimo*, **Marilyn Guttman**, a look at our resource materials, **Christine Norris**, an overview of our educational software, and **Brian O’Rooney**, an introduction to our computer support and to *WRAP, Word Recognition and Phonics* software.

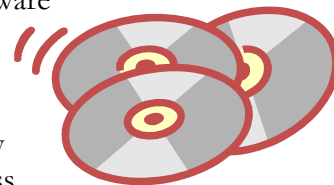


Orientation to *Literacy Nanaimo*: Rhona Johnston, Donna Anthony, Janice Graham-Andrews, Christine Norris, Judy Patterson, Wanda Erikson, and Marilyn Guttman

## Adaptive Technology

*Literacy Nanaimo* offers learners and tutors a diverse selection of learning materials. Our resources include educational software, such as the spelling program, *Starspell*, and *Literacy Nanaimo’s* own *WRAP* program.

We are pleased to be building resources in the area of adaptive technology, i.e., software programs that assist learners with a variety of learning needs to maximize their abilities. Adaptive technology enables adult learners to access information and overcome learning challenges in areas such as word recognition and writing. The use of adaptive technology has helped adult learners experience enhanced self-esteem and independence. Below are brief descriptions of three programs that we now have at *Literacy Nanaimo*:



### Inspiration 8

This graphic organizer software uses visual learning techniques to help individuals organize their thoughts and ideas on paper. It is excellent for individuals who think in pictures rather than words. It can be used to brainstorm, create concept maps, semantic maps, and flowcharts.

### Word Q

This popular word prediction program is highly recommended for adults with basic literacy difficulties. It is useful for people who type slowly, have difficulty with word retrieval, have learning disabilities, or minor visual impairments. It is easy to use and works well with *Microsoft Word* and with email. It predicts the current and next word using previous word knowledge and reads words aloud as the writer types. Its word prediction options are highly accurate and adapt to each user quickly.

### Speak Q

This simplified speech recognition program can be used without having to learn and memorize speech commands. Used in combination with *WordQ*, it provides an integrated approach to writing and assists learners with their spelling, proofreading and editing activities. It supports two styles of dictation: direct dictation and speech-enabled word prediction.



**We will have a workshop in September to introduce the use of these programs.**