

Literacy Nanaimo Newsletter

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Newsletter sponsored by PacificCare



Number 62

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Winter 2005

Staff

Carolyn McWhinnie, Executive Director

Linda Oman, Administrative Assistant

Brian O’Rooney, Computer Technician

Jane Rose, Bookstore Supervisor

Pat Donaldson, Bookstore Supervisor

Provincial Plan for Literacy

We aim to make British Columbia the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.

Premier Gordon Campbell, June 16, 2005

There are going to be changes in the way that education is delivered in B.C., with many new initiatives over the next few years. The government is putting a greater emphasis on early literacy and on collaboration with community programs.

Literacy Nanaimo will be partnering with **Literacy B.C.** to contract for a new position, a Regional Literacy Coordinator to cover the mid-island region. The Coordinator’s task will be to develop regional literacy networks and to strengthen the capacity of the communities to deliver and sustain local literacy programs and services. We are very excited to be a part of this initiative.



Keith Hodgson

December 1944 - September 2005

We regret to announce the passing of our director and bookstore volunteer, Keith Hodgson. Keith believed strongly in community development and in helping those less fortunate than himself. He will be greatly missed.



Bookstore News



Pat Donaldson has joined our staff as a bookstore supervisor. She and **Jane Rose** are job sharing.

During December our Internet-listed and Special Interest books will be on sale for half price. We will also have a table of “new” books at bargain prices.

Books make great Christmas gifts!



Season’s Greetings to all
from the Board and Staff
of Literacy Nanaimo



Community Fund-Raising

The **Pacific Biological Station** held a book drive and sale to raise money for their **United Way** contribution, designated for **Literacy Nanaimo**. Pictured is **Lorena McDonald** who organized the event and brought the excess books to **Literacy Nanaimo**.



Save On Foods book department managers **Erin Race** from **Woodgrove Centre** and **Wendy Saxty** from **Country Club** organize a book drive for **Literacy Nanaimo** every September. This year they collected over 5,000 books for our bookstore.

Esquires Coffee held a book drive for literacy throughout its coffee outlets. The Nanaimo shop is located on Turner Rd. and the Ladysmith shop is in Coronation Mall.

We appreciate the support that our community partners have so generously provided.



Redecorating

Linda Oman is pictured finishing some touch-up on the redecorating of our premises. Linda is excited to add painting to her list of skills.



Thank you, **Home Hardware** and **Colonial Countertops**, for our new cupboards. We're doing some much-needed cleanup.

We have signed a new 6-year lease so we will be staying in place for a while. You should come down and see our new look.

Canada Reads Author

The members of **Literacy Nanaimo Book Club** were honoured to have **Mairuth Sarsfield** attend their October meeting. Mairuth is the author of *No Crystal Stair*, one of the five books selected for the 2005 edition of **CBC's Canada Reads**. *No Crystal Stair*, set in the Little Burgundy district of Montreal in the mid 1940s, is the saga of a young widow and her two daughters in the tightly knit Black community.



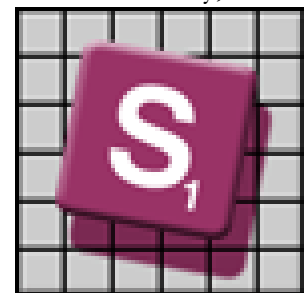
If you are looking for a good read, the book club discussed the following in 2005:

- *Family Matters* by Rohinton Mistry
- *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier
- *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett
- *Mind Games* by William Deverell
- *Monkey Beach* by Eden Robinson
- *Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Glass Palace* by Amitav Ghosh
- *Wolf Willow* by Wallace Stegner
- *No Crystal Stair* by Mairuth Sarsfield
- *The Rain Ascends* by Joy Kogawa

Scrabble

Start practising your Scrabble skills. Our **4th Annual Scrabble Tournament** will be held Saturday, March 10th at **Bowen Park**.

Registration and further information will be available in January.



Our 20th anniversary!

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



Greetings from Jacqueline

Please note that **Literacy Nanaimo** will be closed Mondays, December 26 and January 2.

It is gratifying to see the number of tutor/learner pairs using the rooms at Literacy Nanaimo. Some tutors have already asked which days the centre will be closed over the holidays as they don't want to cancel meetings with their learners. What dedication!

Workshops

We hosted another of our tutor networking sessions in October. The focus was on teaching phonics. We had a good turnout of tutors who suggested useful strategies and resources. These get-togethers provide tutors with an opportunity to discuss topics of common interest and to offer support to one another.

We are planning an expert-led workshop on the use of math manipulatives in the early spring. Please call **Linda** at 754-8988 if you are interested in attending.

I would like to hear about your needs as a tutor. If you have any requests for professional development, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Computer Tutorials

Are you interested in using the computer with your learner to find literacy websites, to use *Word*, or to use phonics/spelling or math software? **Christine Norris** will provide you and your learner with training adapted to your needs. Phone **Linda** at 754-8988 to set up an appointment.

Christine is filling in for me December 5-15, Mondays and Wednesdays at **Literacy Nanaimo** and Thursdays at **Malaspina**. This will be an opportune time to make an appointment for a tutorial.

A Sense of Determination

Bernice Johnson, shown with her tutor **Alf**

Hackaray, is working to upgrade her English and math skills by taking literacy courses at **Malaspina U-C**.

To help in her studies, she is also working with a tutor at **Literacy Nanaimo**.



Alf Hackaray says:

"It is a struggle for Bernice to make time for her studies as she is a single mom with two children, aged 11 and 13. Finding time to look after her family and to pursue her studies requires a great deal of determination, organization and sacrifice. She is to be commended for her dedication and perseverance in working to improve her potential employment opportunities."

Iris Strong, Bernice's math instructor at **Malaspina** also praises Bernice's determination: "I enjoy working with Bernice. I am most impressed with Bernice's motivation and dedication."

Bernice Johnson adds: "I enjoy my classes at **Malaspina**. It has been a better semester this year. I appreciate the help of my instructors and my tutor. It has been a challenge but one that I have enjoyed and I want to continue my studies."

VI DA (Vancouver Island Dyslexia Association)

The next meeting of **VIDA**, will be Thursday, January 5, 2006 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Harbourfront branch of the **Vancouver Island Regional Library** on Commercial Street.

Tutor Training

Our community continues to provide volunteers committed to the cause of literacy. We are pleased to welcome a new group of enthusiastic tutors who have recently completed the fall session. We hope that tutoring will be a rewarding and worthwhile experience for them.



Front L to R: Bob Thompson, Alan Whittall, Vivian Streader, Marilyn Freeman, Janice Williams.

Back L to R: Hale Yardley, Owen Callaghan, Juanita Miller, Tina Louie, Brad Belchamber, Susan Brooke, Serenity Borrowman, Cheryl Ashley, Tam Green. Missing Gail Waller

We couldn't run the tutor training without volunteers! We appreciate the participation of the following who agreed to be on the learner and tutor panels: **Tracy Belcher, Dave Flynn, Constance Hansey, Donna Kristensen, Cheryl Myers, Byron Panagapka, Heather Porteous, Bernie Proft, and Corinne Simmon.**

New Tutoring Resources

Many of our adult learners benefit from a multi-sensory approach to learning. We have just added three word games to our collection. *Word for Word* uses plastic rods with single and multiple letters, which can be snapped together to build words. *4 Take Four* uses scrabble tiles and has one board per player to build crosswords and develop spelling skills in the process. *Word Play* combines dice rolling with language learning and problem solving. Please try them out with your learner – learning can be fun!

Learning Links

- ★ Check out the website www.writenet.ca for ideas to encourage your learner's writing.
- ★ www.aris.com.au/numeracy/anamol/index.htm is a good resource for tutors looking for day-to-day activities to teach numeracy.

Recognition Ceremony

At the Christmas party, we like to celebrate our volunteers. We will recognize the following tutors who have completed their first six months of tutoring:

Lynne Alton	Janice Patrick
Roger Bailey	Charlene Peterson
Sandra Christensen	Sharon Price
Margaret Dyke	Bernie Proft
Lynette Heasley	Linda Shorting
Norma Hesby	Anne Tanod
Thelma Leaper	Michelle Terry
Audrey McPhail	Deborah Van de Vlugt
Carol Milo	Donald Wright

We will also be acknowledging a very special group of tutors who have passed the 5 and the 10-year mark!

- ★ **10 Years:** Hertha Falk, Nicki Westarp
- ★ **5 Years:** Bob Calderwood, Lorna Calderwood, Valerie Hannan, Pat Jones, Patricia Kirk, Donna-Lee Kuntz, Linda Oman, Kelly Potter, Archie Wilkinson

A Poetic Response to the Tsunami

Blue Graveyard

The huge monster attacks
A coast destroyed
It is sorrowful
It is maddening
It is hurtful
Death
Does not care about color
Does not care about age
Does not care about wealth
Death does not discriminate
Hearts broken all over
Hearts opened all over
Thousands of lost hands
Thousands of helping hands
People
Come together in sorrow
Come together to help
Come together to give
Today, we all are together
It is how it should be.
All together

Ana Vaandering