

On the MARC

Midland Area Reading Council Newsletter

February 2011

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Upcoming events

February 28
Literacy Awareness Day at Queen's Park

March 17
Bus Trip to Canada Blooms

April 11 to 15
National Volunteer Week

June 9
Ladies Only Golf Tournament

September 10
10th Annual Books for Brunch

Funded by



Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

Ontario Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

Students showcase spelling skills



Congratulations to the winners in the Grade 3/4 category of the Midland Area Reading Council's 3rd Annual Spelling Bee which took place on Feb. 5 as part of the Town of Midland's Winterfest activities. Front row, from left, Canadian Martyrs student AJ Fallows, 9, took third place, second went to Elizabeth Laplante, 8, from St. Ann's and first place went to Emily Duquette, 9, from Canadian Martyrs. The judges for this round were, from left, Gerry Marshall, mayor of Penetanguishene, Gord McKay, mayor of Midland and Bruce Stanton, MP for Simcoe North. For more spelling bee photos see page 4.

Message from MARC executive director

It has been a busy winter at MARC. Many changes have taken place.

We have had some recent staffing changes at MARC. Lance Andrews has been hired to provide technical support in the Student Computer Learning Lab, small group instructing and to coordinate New Skills New Simcoe, one of MARC's social enterprise projects. Terry Bressette has come on board as a volunteer to assist Lance in the starting up of New Skills North Simcoe. Thank you to Terry for sharing her expertise and wisdom with us. Sharon Corrigan has joined the MARC team in the capacity of Administrative Assistant and is also assisting with small group instruction. Welcome to Lance, Sharon and Terry!

In November we said good bye to a very special part of MARC, Jennifer Ellis, our Program Coordinator. Jennifer has moved on to pursue other things in her life. She will be missed by me and everyone else here at MARC. We wish Jennifer well as she moves on to explore new and exciting opportunities. Good luck Jennifer! Don't forget to come back and visit!

Last year Laubach Literacy Ontario planned and organized the first Literacy Awareness Day at Queen's Park. Many of us from MARC attended including students, staff, volunteers and Board Members. We had a very successful day speaking to Ministers, MPP's, press people and anyone else who would listen.

Continues on page 6 (see Literacy Awareness Day)

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Many thanks to the Georgian Bay Snowriders

Words cannot express my sincere gratitude to Pat Murray, the Georgian Bay Snowriders and their volunteers. I am deeply honoured by their decision to support the Midland Area Reading Council with the proceeds of two of the events held by the Georgian Bay Snowriders at Midland's Winterfest February 05, 2011.



MARC board president, Maria Coston, centre, with her co-workers from Raytheon Elcan Optical Technologies, prior to the Winterfest Polar Dip. Marc Lessard, left, raised \$758.25 in pledges and Keith Sullivan raised \$500.

We were privileged to receive the profits from the food and drink sales for the barbecue and the pledge money collected for the Polar Plunge.

Congratulations to Marc Lessard for Most Pledges and Steve Donnon for Best Costume. Thank you to the polar dippers who braved the cold waters to benefit the Midland Area Reading Council in support of our mission to help increase awareness of literacy and to promote a literate society. You are our champions!

I would also like to thank the Midland Area Reading Council and the many volunteers for all their hard work, so that we may all enjoy a very exciting and eventful Winterfest.

Thank you all so very much!

Maria Coston
President

Second Book Store Opens

In November, the Midland Public Library and the Midland Area Reading Council opened a Used Book Store located in the library. This new store has been doing extremely well in sales since it opened its doors and has become a great

partnership. On hand for the official opening are, from left, Scott Warnock, mayor of Tay Township, Jackie Sture, MARC Used Book Store Coordinator, Ruth Hackey, then deputy-mayor of Midland, Maria Coston, president of the MARC board of directors, Gord McKay, mayor of Midland, and Bob Sture, chair of the MARC social enterprise committee.



Fill-a-bag sale popular way to spend a stormy, windy winter Saturday



On Feb. 12, MARC and the Midland Public Library held a Fill-a-Bag with paperbacks for \$5 sale. The sale raised \$570 for the two organizations.

Thank you to our event volunteers and sponsors including Penetanguishene Foodland, M&M Meats, Out of the Cold and Giant Tiger. Watch for details for future fill-a-bag sales.

Education News

Student Small Groups

Please share this information with your students.

Student small groups consist of employability skills, math, grammar, GED and G1 licence prep.

The small group schedule is as follows:

Monday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
1 to 3 p.m.

Thursday 1 to 3 p.m.

Open computer lab for students and/or tutors is Mondays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

For more information and to join a group, please call Anne at 527-1522.

Partnership with the Adult Learning Centre

Anne Ritzmann will be at the Adult Learn Centre on King St. in Midland Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. to assist students who need homework help. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this opportunity to help adults working towards their Grade 12 diploma, please contact Anne at 705-527-1522, or e-mail aritzmann@csolve.net .

Students

Here is your chance to get published in **On the MARC**

Write a short story or poem about
Spring in Huronia

Get your tutor to help you out

Send to Anne Ritzmann at the MARC office or
by e-mail aritzmann@csolve.net by April 18, 2011.

Participants will have the chance to enter a draw
for a \$10 Tim Hortons' card, to be drawn in early May.

Breaking the Barriers

While the rate of low literacy skills in the general population is around 40%, the rate in the prison population is closer to 65%. In response, correctional facilities offer education opportunities to the inmates, improving the possibility for a more productive life in the community. The Midland Area Reading Council partners with the Central North Correctional Centre in Penetanguishene to run a tutoring program on Tuesday evenings. This program is known as "**Breaking the Barriers**".

This program, along with all other volunteer programs run on weekdays, however it is currently on hiatus, as the facility undergoes some maintenance and repair work. It is expected to recommence mid to late March.

If anyone is interested in volunteering in **Breaking the Barriers** when it resumes, please contact Anne Ritzmann at 527-1522 or e-mail aritzmann@csolve.net.

Building Bonds

Building Bonds, a cooperative effort of Ontario Early Years (OEY), the Canadian Action Program for Children (CAP-C), the CNCC, and MARC, teaches an inmate to read a book to his child, 0-6 years of age. The reading is then recorded and sent, with a copy of the book and some activities, to the children's caregiver, for the child to listen to and enjoy.

If anyone is interested in volunteering in **Building Bonds**, please contact Anne Ritzmann at 527-1522 or e-mail aritzmann@csolve.net for more information.

Tutor Training Workshop

If you or someone you know, are interested in becoming a tutor, please contact Anne Ritzmann at 527-1522, or e-mail aritzmann@csolve.net to get information on the next tutor training opportunity.

Dine out and donate to MARC through Boston Pizza

The next time you dine out at the Midland Boston Pizza, write "Midland Area Reading Council" on the back of your receipt and place the receipt in the box on the front counter of the restaurant. Boston Pizza will donate 5% of the food total to MARC.



Spelling Bee spells fun



Sixty-three children from throughout North Simcoe registered for the 3rd Annual Spelling Bee which took place on Feb. 5. Students from 17 different schools in our area participated. Congratulations to all of our winners and all participants. Everyone should be extremely proud of their performance. It takes a lot of courage to get on stage, in front of a large crowd, and the Midland Area Reading Council applauds of each of you.

This event would not have been possible without the contributions of the Spelling Bee committee members Maria Coston, Cathy McKay, Marie Godry Kramp, Leigh Gate, Sue Bannon and Karen Mealing. A special thank you to Tim Mallon for serving as our pronouncer and our judges Gord McKay, Gerry Marshall, Bruce Stanton, Scott Warnock, Stephan Kramp and Leigh Gate.

Thank you to our event sponsors for their generous support - The Mirror, The Dock, KICX, Raytheon Elcan Optical Technologies, Barbara Jones - The Cooperators, Busy Bee Taxi, Shoppers Drug Mart, Elmvalle and District Lions Club, Midland Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Canadian Tire, TIM-BR Mart, Kevin Ellis - Remax, LaserMARK Engraving, Owl Kids, Tim Hortons, McDonalds, Galaxy Cinemas and the MARC Used Book Store.



Spelling Bee winners for Grade 5/6 (top photo), front row, from left, third place went to Noah Carson, 10, from Burkevale, first place went to Owen Mealing, 11, from école publique St. Joseph and second place went to James Keating student, Joshua Kerr, 11.

In Grade 7/8 category, from left, Alannah Cady, 13, from Canadian Martyrs took third place, first place went to Sacred Heart student, Fiona Murton, 12 and second place went to Laura Duquette, 12, from Canadian Martyrs.

The students received congratulations from judges, from left, Stephan Kramp, deputy-mayor of Midland, Scott Warnock, mayor of Tay Township and Leigh Gate, Midland Area Reading Council board member.

MARC volunteers feed hundreds at bbq



While the Spelling Bee was wrapping up inside, the barbecue was just getting underway outside.

D.J. Savoie, far left, and Herb Ritzmann manned the barbecue while Lydia Eberle-Benke handed hot lunches over to the hundreds of hungry people in line.

Thank you to barbecue volunteers Lance Andrews, Kate Barley, Yvonne Beoney, Nancy Boderia and those from Katimavik.

Thank you to barbecue sponsors Piller's Meats, Factory Recreation, Tim Hortons, the Real Canadian Superstore, Meatland and Bestway Rental.



Winterfest Weekend



Eighteen people participated in the Polar Dip during Winterfest in support of MARC. Thank you to Jennifer Bodera, Jeff Clarke, Rob Desjardins, Steve Donnon (left, who was awarded the trophy for craziest costume), Jamie and Jonas Hadfield (bottom left), Glen and Jill Hancock, Miranda Hughes, Marc Lesnard, Bill Murray, Patrick Murray, Travis Murray, Glenn Peabody, Keith Sullivan, Peter Vyvyan, Tyler West and Steve Zeitel for taking the plunge.

Thank you to the Midland Fire Department for being on hand during the plunge.

Through the Winterfest barbecue and Polar Plunge, the Georgian Bay Snowriders were able to donate \$4,900 to the MARC. Officer Dave Young, front left, provided a police escort to Nancy Bodera and Patrick Murray, right, of the Georgian Bay Snowriders when they presented the cheque to MARC Executive Director Sue Bannon.

It was a great weekend and thank you to everyone who supported MARC through pledges, attending the barbecue and by volunteering.



photo courtesy of The Mirror



MARC board member shaves head for local cancer fundraiser

MARC board member and general manager of the Mirror, Leigh Gate, participated in the Cops for Cancer head-shaving event on Feb. 5.

Leigh raised \$1,675 for the local Canadian Cancer Society branch and the Mirror team (Overexposed!) raised more than \$3,800.

They had their heads shaved along with members of the local police detachments and staff from the Central North Correctional Centre. Looking good, Leigh!



MARC staff member to take plunge into icy waters

On Saturday, Feb. 19, Midland Area Reading Council staff member Lance Andrews will be participating in the Rotary Club of Penetanguishene's Polar Plunge in support of the MARC.

Sixty percent of Lance's pledges will come to MARC and the other 40% will benefit the Rotary Club.

Support Lance and MARC by making a pledge today. Call 705-527-1522 or e-mail landrews@csolve.net.

If you are interested in participating in the dip in support of MARC, contact Brian Angus at brian.angus@strathex.com or 705-527-6500.

Join us at 11 a.m. behind the Penetanguishene Curling Club to cheer Lance and all the other Polar Dippers on.

Literacy Awareness Day is February 28

(Executive director's message) continuing from page 1


Thank you to all of you that took time out of your busy schedules to attend Queen's Park and speak on the importance of Literacy and Basic Skills programs. We were very encouraged by the strong support we received for this event and as a result are attending Queen's Park once again on Monday, February 28, 2011 to hold our 2nd Annual Literacy Awareness Day. Once again, our sponsoring MPP will be Garfield Dunlop. If anyone is interested in participating in or helping to organize this event, please contact me at the MARC office. Stay tuned for more details.

Once again, we must not forget to recognize all our amazing volunteers at MARC. The countless hours they put in tutoring, fundraising, on the board of directors, committees, providing office support as well as our new social enterprise projects...we couldn't do it without you. Special thanks go out to all our volunteers, staff and community members that helped to make this past weekend's events at Winterfest a smashing success! THANK YOU!

Enjoy the rest of the winter, stay safe...and let's hope for an early spring! ☺

Sue Bannon
Executive Director

If you don't like something, change it; if you can't change it,
change the way you think about it.
~ Mary Engelbreit ~



**Escape Winter
and Enjoy a Day
at
Canada
Blooms**

*Canada's largest
and most prestigious
flower and garden festival*

Bus Trip
Tickets \$65

Does not include lunch or workshops

**Register by contacting Karen
at 705-527-1522 or
kmealing@csolve.net**

Registrations received after Feb. 16 will
only be accepted if space permits

Spread the word about essential skills programs in North Simcoe

Many people in our community do not have the literacy skills they need to function fully in our society. At least 15% to 20% of adults in North Simcoe have serious difficulties dealing with printed materials. An additional 25% can only deal with materials that are simple to understand. They can read but not well.

The Midland Area Reading Council (MARC) has been providing free, confidential tutoring since 1982. Our trained volunteers are dedicated to helping adults in our community acquire reading, writing, math, computer, job search and other life skills.

The MARC Outreach Committee is available to speak to various organizations in our catchment area about the programs we offer. The purpose of this outreach program is to increase awareness of our services. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to speak to various organizations about the work we do. If you are a member of an organization that would welcome a speaker from MARC, we would be happy to give a presentation to your group.

Please contact 705-527-1522 or marc@csolve.net for more information.

Please support the Midland Area Reading Council

Although the Midland Area Reading Council receives some government funding, we are always in need of financial support to assist us in running our free programs to the community. All financial donations of \$10 or more will received a charitable tax receipt. Any amount you can give is greatly appreciated.

My donation is: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Donations may be mailed or delivered to:
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