

On the MARC

Midland Area Reading Council Newsletter

August 2011

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MARC's ABC (Adult Bee Challenge)
- October 21
Bruce Stanton's Shore Supper Fundraiser for MARC

Funded in part by

Ministry of Training,
Colleges and Universities



Mayors take pies in face for MARC



Simcoe North MP Bruce Stanton, left, tossed a pie in the face of Penetanguishene Mayor Gerry Marshall as Town of Midland Mayor Gord McKay looked on. Mayor McKay and four others also took pies in the face during the Town of Penetanguishene's Canada Day festivities raising more than \$1,000 for youth literacy programs. For more photos see page 6 or visit www.facebook.com/midlandareareadingcouncil. Visit <http://www.nald.ca/marc/funds.htm> for a link to a You Tube video of the event.

New programs being offered to the community

The Midland Area Reading Council is exploring new and extended opportunities to promote and support literacy in North Simcoe. The following are some of the avenues we are exploring:

Breaking the Barriers Daytime – Providing one-on-one assistance to Literacy and Basic Skills students currently in day classes at the Central North Correctional Centre in Penetanguishene.

Homework Club – Providing assistance to at-risk elementary and secondary students through an after-school program.

Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care (formerly the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre) - Providing one on one tutoring for their inpatients.

HOPE (Having Opportunities Present Everywhere) Workshops – Partnering with Out of the Cold to provide life skills workshops and computer workshops for their clients.

ESL (English as a Second Language) – Partnering with other agencies in area, including the school board and settlement agencies, to provide ESL instruction in the Midland area.

If anyone is interested in participating in any of these programs, or would like to help with getting them off the ground, please contact Anne Ritzmann at 705-527-1522 or aritzmann@csolve.net.

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President's message

Summer has arrived and I am sure the BBQ's are getting a good workout. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer.

The Midland Area Reading Council has continued to stay busy throughout the summer months.

The Ladies Only Golf Tournament was held on June 9 and although the turn out was lower than last year, all the ladies had a fun time. Thank you to Jill St. Amant and TD Waterhouse, for hosting this wonderful event. We shall see you all next year!



I would personally like to thank all of the participants and sponsors of the "Pie in the Face" fundraiser held on July 1. Unfortunately, I was away for this event, but it sure looked like a lot of fun.

The Midland Area Reading Council continues to strive to provide the best literacy programming services for our community. We have many programming initiatives that will interest the members of our community who continue to struggle with literacy.

I have been a part of The Midland Area Reading Council for ten years and eight of those years as a board member. This organization has given me the opportunity to experience the satisfaction and joy of seeing some of our learners enter our doors with literacy issues and low self-esteem, and leave our facility confident and better educated

so that they may pursue their goals or objectives.

I will be retiring from the board of directors effective September 2011, but I will remain as a volunteer to help out on committees and events. I also wish to go back to tutoring, which is where I first started 10 years ago.

It has been my pleasure to serve as a volunteer and work along side the MARC staff and Board Members and all of the other volunteers. They inspire me to do my best. I feel humbled and I have learned to appreciate all the blessings that I have. I have also experienced a deeper understanding of the problems that arise from our fellow Canadians who struggle with literacy issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Bannon and the staff at MARC for their dedication and hard work and also thank the Board of Directors for their encouragement and dedication for allowing me the honour of leading this group for the last two years.

I am certain that the next year will bring new challenges and I am confident that the Board Members will continue to meet these challenges with professionalism and care. I hope to see many of you at our upcoming events.

Thank you,
Maria Coston
President



A Ladies Only Golf Tournament was held on June 9 in support of the Midland Area Reading Council. Thank you to Jill St. Amant, Financial Planner at TD Waterhouse, for the great effort she put into organizing this event. Despite the cool weather, the ladies enjoyed nine holes at Brooklea Golf and Country Club, a BBQ supper and prizes. Ladies, mark your calendars the next golf tournament scheduled for June 12, 2012. See you next year!

Education News



Maria Coston, Midland Area Reading Council board president, accepts a \$1,100 grant from Huronia Community Foundation board member Garry McPhail. The grant was used to support tutor training workshops. MARC's programs are unique and effective because tutors create lessons based on individual learning styles and levels.

At the end of the 2010-2011 fiscal year, 60% of learners had achieved one or more goals that they had set when they came to us and another 27% were going on to further education and training or employment. This success would not be possible without our volunteer tutors.

The next tutor training workshop will take place this fall. Contact Anne Ritzmann, Student/Tutor Coordinator, at 705-527-1522 or aritzmann@csolve.net for more information.

The Central North Correctional Centre honoured the Midland Area Reading Council at their annual volunteer recognition dinner in June with the Community Service Award in acknowledgement of the programs MARC offers at the jail. From left, Bill Johnston, deputy superintendent of programs at CNCC, Anne Ritzmann, student/tutor co-ordinator for MARC and volunteer tutors Claude Prezeau, Nicolette Smith, Elaine Endanawas and Barb Porth.

In a letter Bill Johnston states that "the sincerity displayed in the weekly pilgrimage to the facility is appreciated and does not go unnoticed. Without the integration of community volunteers many offenders experiencing literacy deficits would not get the unique one-on-one help they receive through your agency."

Training available to tutor at CNCC

The Midland Area Reading Council partners with the Central North Correctional Centre (CNCC) in Penetanguishene to run a tutoring program on Tuesday evenings. This program is known as "Breaking the Barriers."

Volunteers involved in this program require additional security training provided by the CNCC. The next Volunteer Non-Security

Training and Orientation for new volunteers will be held on Saturday, September 10 starting at 9 a.m. to approximately 3 p.m. This includes training about the facility and a facility tour.

If anyone is interested in volunteering in Breaking the Barriers, please contact Anne Ritzmann at 705-527-1522 or e-mail aritzmann@csolve.net.

Students

Be published in *On the MARC*

Write a short story or poem for the newsletter.

Get your tutor to help you out.

Share your story, what you enjoy about fall, what you are learning at MARC or any topic that interests you.

See student stories on page 4.

Send to Anne Ritzmann at the MARC office or by e-mail aritzmann@csolve.net by October 14, 2011.

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

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:

Tuesday (open class):	9:30 to 11:30 a.m. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday (Math):	9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Thursday (open class):	9:30 to 11:30 a.m. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

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

For more information and to join a group, please call Anne at 705-527-1522.

From our learners

Laubach Literacy Ontario Conference 2011 Wilfrid Laurier University

Hi people. It's another year at conference 2011. It was their 30th anniversary, for LLO. I saw old friends and I met two new friends, their names are Ashley and Lauren. I found out on that day I lost someone who was a part of my family, she will be missed.

We went to our workshops. One of the workshops was named "You get what you ask for". It was run by Jennifer Ellis. It was pretty good, and we learned what is out there for us.

On Saturday morning I went to a workshop about online game for workskill, the name is Smallywood it for young Adults.

After lunch, we had another workshop, for all Student meeting. We talked about what was going on around us and what was out there for us to learn about the world and what step to do next for in our studies.

The food was good, and our room was pretty cool, the guest was great.

After dinner, we people Partied on down and sing some song. MARC won at Karaoke. And we danced to midnight.

On Sunday Morning, we said our goodbye, for a other year... ☺

By Audrey M. Charlebois



Audrey Charlebois, front row, left, with MARC staff at the Laubach Literacy Conference in June - Anne Ritzmann, Sue Bannon, Kelly Abell. Back row from left Lance Andrews, Karen Mealing and James Pilon.

Community Living Huronia

Community Living Huronia has good helpers. We come here every day. We do exercise in the morning. We do sewing, play games, do singing, learn reading, and have fun. We learn things. We have indoor activity and play on computers. They give us two snacks and lunch. At the end of the day we go home. Some people write in books called Journals. Community Living Huronia is a nice place to come every day. Welcome to Community Living Huronia!

Written by the Rockin Readers Group:

Mary D.	Jane H.	Jenny L.	Michelle L.
Jerry M.	Mary M.	Tanya P.	
Mary P.	Karen S.	Margaret T.	

The Rockin Readers Group won the Tim Hortons' gift card for this newsletter. Congratulations!

Future author

I am thinking of writing a children's book. I knew I needed to get some help. So I came to MARC.

I have a little dog and a lot of ideas to write about. I am looking forward to getting started on work on the spelling and all that goes with it.

Debbie

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.



Canada Day

July 1, is Canada Day, 144 years old this year. On Canada Day we celebrate Canada's birthday. It is a holiday. Everyone likes Canada because it is a free country. The children are happy to be off school for the summer. There will be fireworks and many flags waving. In Ottawa William and Kate will be here from the Royal Family in England. This is very special because they just got married April 29, and they are now the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

They chose Canada for their first Royal visit.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA

Vivien B.

The Telephone City

Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, was born in Brantford Ontario. The first phone call was from Brantford, Ontario to Paris, Ontario. The very same house where Alexander Graham Bell lived as a child, and later invented the telephone, is still available to visit. The city of Brantford, and the county of Brant, have turned the "Bell house" into a museum. I found this out when I was looking to move to Brantford.

Jason

Looking for a new job

I am looking for a new job as a baker or cleaner. My work experience includes many successful years as both. As a baker, I enjoy the work very much. To me baking does not feel like work. As a cleaner, I enjoy working on my own and take pride in my work. I have proven to be trustworthy and reliable. I look forward to starting a new job for a new employer and showing them all that I can do.

Robert

Annual Dinner



The Annual Appreciation and Recognition evening was held on May 19 at Restaurant Sainte Marie.

Above, student/tutor coordinator Anne Ritzmann, left, and MARC board member Adrienne Gardner present Claude Prezeau and Doug Jackson with certificates recognizing their 600+ hours of tutoring with MARC.

Top right, MARC board president Maria Coston, Marnie MacDougall representing MP Bruce Stanton and MPP Garfield Dunlop award Jackie Sture with the MARC Volunteer of the Year Award for her contributions in establishing the used book store on Yonge Street and used book store at the Midland Public Library.

Bottom right, Anne Ritzmann and MARC board member Gunter Kuch present Alicia Marion, Cherise Campbell and Brian Jeffery with Further Education Certificates. Each of these students hopes to either achieve their Grade 12 or attend college or participate in an apprenticeship. These three students also courageously stood in front of those in attendance and shared their stories.



Volunteers recognized by province

Six MARC volunteers were recognized for their contributions to this organization by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration with Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. The awards were presented in June to Maria Coston, Garry McPhail, Bob Sture, Jackie Sture, Lin Sullivan and Lois Williamson. Thank you for your continued dedication to MARC.

Student help at MARC office

Thanks to a grant from the federal government's Canada Summer Jobs program, the Midland Area Reading Council was able to hire a student for 10 weeks this summer.

Kassandra Robinson-Godkin joined the MARC staff in early June as administrative assistant and helped at many events.

MARC also had a cooperative education student, James Pilon, from Penetanguishene Secondary School from February to June. James spent most of his time with MARC assisting with New Skills North Simcoe.

We wish both Kassandra and James much success in their future studies.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Midland Area Reading Council's Annual General Meeting will be held on
Thursday, September 22, 2011
at 7 p.m.

in the Assembly Room at the
Midland Public Library
320 King Street, Midland

Everyone is welcome to attend.
Light refreshments will be served.

Nominations for board members should be made to
Gunter Kuch at gunter@rogers.com.

Follow us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/midlandareareadingcouncil

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MARC in the community



More Pie in the Face Fundraiser photos from July 1. Clockwise from left: Mirror editor Travis Mealing takes a pie in the face from his son, MARC board vice president Bob Sture, Burkevale Protestant Separate School principal Tim Mallon, MARC administrative assistant Kelly Abell and Midland Deputy-Mayor Stephan Kramp "pie-ing" Mayor Gord McKay. Thank you to everyone who participated and who made a donation.



MARC participated in the Downtown Midland BIA's Second Annual Street Sale and Community Market Day on June 18 selling used books and promoting the services offered by New Skills North Simcoe.



MARC staff enjoyed the lovely weather and lunch out during the Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce's Celebration of Summer BBQ on June 17. From left: Liz Springall, Kassandra Robinson-Godkin, Kelly Abell, Sharon Corrigan, Karen Mealing and Anne Ritzmann.

Bruce Stanton organizes 'Shore Supper' Fundraiser for MARC

October 21, 2011

Community Hall, North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre
5 to 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Meal includes fish, chips, beans, coleslaw and light dessert

There will be a silent auction table and the sale of 50/50 tickets for \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Volunteers are needed. Please contact Karen Mealing at 705-527-1522 or kmealing@csolve.net if you can help.

Tickets will be available for sale by September at Bruce Stanton's Midland office at 504 Dominion Ave, the Midland Area Reading Council at 67 Fourth Street, Midland and the Mirror office at 488 Dominion Ave, Midland.

MARC news and events



MARC summer student Kassandra Robinson-Godkin, left, and administrative assistant Kelly Abell were busy selling books and handing out cupcakes on June 12 when the used book store celebrated one year in business.

Used book store relocating this fall

In June, the Midland Area Reading Council's Used Book Store at 756 Yonge Street celebrated its first year in business. Unfortunately we have discovered this is not the ideal location for our used book store and sales have not covered the cost of the rent. While we search for a better location, the store will be temporarily re-located to the MARC administrative offices at 67 Fourth Street.

Watch for blow-out sales happening at the Yonge Street location in September. The new location will be open for business as of October 3. New hours will be Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We are looking to borrow a truck or van toward the end of September to move shelves and unsold books. If you can help, contact Kelly Abell at 705-527-1522.

Bee part of MARC's ABC

A unique event is coming to North Simcoe on September 30 - MARC's ABC (Adult Bee Challenge).

You read that correctly, a spelling bee for adults.

This is a team event and the spelling of each word is done as a team. Gather four co-workers, friends and/or family members and register for this fun event. The winning team will have community bragging rights for one year.

Don't know how to spell a word? You can pre-purchase pardons so you will receive a new word.

The evening will include refreshments, a cash bar, 50/50 ticket sales and a silent auction table.

The team entry fee is \$120 and the registration deadline is September 26. Visit www.nald.ca/marc for the registration form and rules.

MARC's ABC will take place at the Midland Legion at 196 Queen Street beginning at 7 p.m. Registered teams are asked to start arriving at 6:30 p.m.

Spectator tickets are available for \$10 for those who don't want to spell, but who would like to cheer on a team.

Money raised will be used for adult, youth and family literacy programs.

Thank you to our sponsors for their support of this inaugural event: The Mirror, The Dock, KICX, Casino Rama and the Midland Legion.

Hope to see you there - it promises to be a grate event!



10th Annual Books for Brunch

Join the Midland Area Reading Council on September 10 for the 10th Annual Books for Brunch. It promises to be a fun-filled day. This free, family-oriented literacy awareness event will take place

between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Community Hall at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre in Midland.

The day will feature performances by children's entertainer Russ, Stellula Music in Schools and Captain Corbin The Magical Pirate. The event will also include free face painting, crafts, a used book sale, a penny raffle and a visit with Clifford the Big Red Dog.

Visit www.nald.ca/marc for more information and details. An event schedule will be posted by September 1.

Thank you to our sponsors who help make this event possible: TD Waterhouse



Captain Corbin the Magical Pirate will take the stage at Books for Brunch

- Jill St. Amant, Raytheon Elcan Optical Technologies, The Mirror and Royal LePage - Lorraine Jordan.

MARC is turning 30!

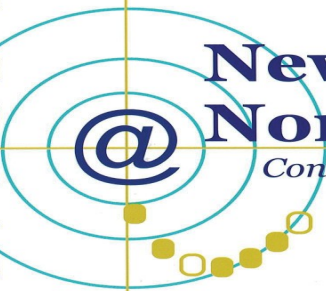
In 2012 the Midland Area Reading Council will be celebrating 30 years of offering literacy and essential skills programs in North Simcoe.

Watch for details of upcoming programs and events such as a 30 Hour Reading Challenge for elementary school children, a community open house and more.





705.527.1522



New Skills North Simcoe

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New Skills North Simcoe is a new service of the Midland Area Reading Council offering fee-for-service courses and workshops for people of all ages. Profits generated from this initiative help fund reading, writing, math, and other programs offered by the Midland Area Reading Council in our community.



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