

News from MARC

Midland Area Reading Council Newsletter

Fall 2009

Ruth Faulkner honoured by province for her commitment to adult literacy

Ruth Faulkner, a long-time volunteer and supporter of MARC, was presented with the **Francis Lever Memorial Award** on October 2 in Toronto. This award – presented by the Ontario Literacy Council – honours individuals who show ongoing commitment to adult literacy in Ontario.

Her tireless dedication to literacy learning, all the while leading by example, quietly but effectively, and regularly went above and beyond the requirements of the job. Ruth has put in over 8,112 volunteer hours with MARC since she began working with MARC April 22, 1996.

She almost always tutors two students at a time. Ruth participates in various literacy programs such as One on One Tutoring at the Central North Correctional Centre and tutoring students at Community Living



Ruth Faulkner

Hurononia.

She has also been a board member for most of those years. She has held the position of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Volunteer Coordinator. Her ongoing commitment to Adult Literacy is commendable.

Her other community involvement includes Volunteering for Victim Crisis and Referral Services (VCARS) for the past 10 years.

Ruth was recognized in June 2009 by the Honorable, Michael Chen, Minister of Citizen and Immigration, for her commitment and dedication as a volunteer in the Province of Ontario.



A Big Red Thank You!

Clifford the Big Red Dog gets a thank you hug from a youngster who attended the Midland Area Reading Council's **Eighth Annual Books for Brunch** at the Little Lake Park Picnic Shelter on September 12. For the full story and more photos, please go to Page 3.

MARC learning lab is up and running

The new **Student Computer Learning Lab** at MARC is now up and running, and it is being put to good use by students and tutors alike. A huge thank you goes out to the organizations who made its opening possible, including the Midland Rotary Club, whose generous donation of \$10,000.00 was used to purchase new computers, desks and chairs; MTN Communications, whose donation of \$1,500 was applied to wiring the lab and Compu-Solve Technologies for the implementation of the software. MARC is truly blessed with the support and dedication of these community partners. Thank you to everyone who made it happen.

Book sale October 25

The MARC **Halloween Book Sale** will be held on Sunday, **October 25** from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Midland Honda Showroom. Please see Page 2 for all the details.

Literacy Awareness Day happening at Queen's Park Toronto November 23

Laubach Literacy Ontario is putting the spotlight on supporters of literacy at Queen's Park on November 23.

The organization would like to:

- A) recognize the people who worked tirelessly to highlight the importance of increasing funding for literacy
- B) thank the Government of Ontario for providing additional funding for literacy agencies

- C) raise awareness about the need for ongoing, stable funding
- D) share student and volunteer stories about the impact of literacy training on the lives of Ontarians.

For more information on this event, please contact Sue Bannon at the MARC office 527-1522 or email sbannon@csolve.net

Midland Area Reading Council

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Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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Executive Director

Sue Bannon

Program Coordinator/Instructor

Jennifer Ellis

Fundraising/Volunteer

Coordinator

Janice Haffey

Small Group Facilitators

Paul Mallany

&

Doug Jackson

Programming Administrative

Assistant

Anne Ritzmann

Administrative Assistant

Janet Clive

2009-2010

Board of Directors

Maria Coston

Jennifer Frotten

Adrienne Gardner

Dale Lediard

Garry McPhail

Barbara Porth

Bob Sture

Lin Sullivan

Funded by

Ministry of Training, Colleges
and Universities

&

The Ontario Trillium Foundation

Newsletter Team

Bailey Murray

Bruce W. Cole

Janice Haffey

A Message from the President

As this academic year begins, it seems as if the normal summer lull never happened. Our volunteers and staff have been heavily engaged with an ever increasing influx of individuals seeking to upgrade their literacy skills. Fortunately, thanks to a timely increase in our MTCU funding and a very generous Trillium Foundation grant, we have most of the resources necessary to accommodate the majority of those who cross our threshold. However, we still have a shortage of one-on-one tutors.

With a student waiting list of over 15 people, the ongoing importance of volunteers to this organization cannot be over emphasized. The professionalism and dedication of our staff notwithstanding, our core activity, the delivery of free, confidential one-on-one tutoring, is still heavily dependant on the passionate commitment of our volunteer tutors. It is for this reason that I encourage anyone who may be interested or who may know of someone who might be interested to enrol in the upcoming tutor training sessions to be held in November.

In closing; by the time this letter is issued, there will be a new Board of Directors, which was elected at our 23 September AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them every success in the upcoming year

Garry C. McPhail

Sue Bannon honoured at literacy conference

Laubach Literacy Ontario Conference, "Pearls of Wisdom" was held at Georgian College campus in Barrie from June 12 to 14, 2009. The Midland Area Reading



Council was represented by all staff members, students and a tutor. MARC's Sue Bannon was awarded the Lana Faessler Outstanding Service Award. This award is presented for Outstanding Service to the field of Literacy.

Become a volunteer tutor

MARC will be holding a two day Laubach Literacy of Ontario Adult Tutor Training Workshop on **November 14 and 21** from 9 am to 4 pm, both days at Community Living Huronia, 399 Olive Street, Midland. The cost is \$15.00. Please contact Anne Ritzmann at 527-1522 or aritzman@csolve.net.

Two dates to mark on your calendars

MARC Christmas Open House is on Friday, **December 11** from 11 am – 2 pm. We hope you can join us.

Also, our **Second Annual Spelling Bee** will be on Saturday, **February 6, 2010** in conjunction with the Town of Midland Winterfest weekend.

MARC book sale takes place October 25 at Midland Honda

The MARC Halloween Book Sale will be held on Sunday, **October 25** from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Honda Showroom. Donation of used books will be accepted at Midland Honda from October 17 to 24. There will be ballots for door prizes if you attend in costume (for both children and adults). Don't forget to "Pitch your Pennies" into the Penny Pot. We will put them to good use.



Annual “Books For Brunch” a hit at Little Lake Park

On Saturday September 12, the Midland Area Reading Council hosted its **eighth annual Books for Brunch** at the Little Lake Park Picnic Shelter. After enjoying breakfast and browsing the book sale tables, guests were welcomed by opening ceremony speakers including MPP Garfield Dunlop, Mayor of Midland Jim Downer, Mayor of Tay Scott W arnock and Mayor of

Penetanguishene Anita Dubeau. Guests were then entertained by a variety of performers and furry friends including children’s entertainer Russ, Sparky the Fire Dog, and special guest Clifford the Big Red Dog who made an extra special grand entrance and wowed the crowd. The kids were also invited to enjoy crafts and face painting hosted by the

Ontario Early Years Centre and were able to read with a therapy dog from Paws to Read, an organization that specializes in helping children overcome literacy issues by reading to trained dogs. A fun time was had by all who participated this year in making Books for Brunch another successful event.

Community partners and funders make MARC efforts possible

We would like to express our gratitude to the following Community Partners and Funders for their continued support.

- Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Midland Honda
- Dollar Tiff Variety
- Midland Rotary Club
- Brabant & Kretzschmann, CA
- The Mirror
- Midland Printers
- Town of Midland
- Casino Rama
- Laubach Literacy Ontario
- The Larkins Family Foundation
- Huronia Communities Foundation
- Penetanguishene Rotary Club
- MTN Communications
- CompuSolve Technologies
- Elcan
- Staples

Their renewed commitment is a boost to the Midland Area Reading Council and vote of confidence in our future.

Three new members join MARC board of directors

MARC has welcomed three newly elected members to its Board of Directors. Barbara Porth, Dale Lediard and Jennifer Frotten were elected at MARC’s Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, September 23rd at Midland Honda. We wish them every success in the upcoming

year. During the meeting, the MARC board also thanked outgoing board members Claude Prezeau, Ruth Faulkner and Kristina Ketelaar for their dedication and time on the Board of Directors. They will both continue to tutor volunteer for the council.

Volunteer opportunities available at MARC

Volunteers are always needed at MARC. Come and join the growing team of volunteers. Anyone with time and enthusiasm is welcome to help for any period or time...either long and short.

- Listed below are a few of the opportunities to enrich your life.
- Website design
- Speakers Bureau Committee

- Information Tables
 - Newsletter
 - Committee Work
 - Computer Support
 - Spelling Bee committee
 - Tutoring
 - Board of Directors
- To volunteer, please call us at 705-527-1522 or email us at: jhaffey@csolve.ne

“At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each one of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”

Albert Schweitzer

Volunteers, partners honoured at MARC appreciation dinner

The **Annual Appreciation & Recognition dinner** was held on Thursday, May 21 at the North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre. This was a great opportunity for us to recognize Students, Tutors, Volunteers and Community Partners for all their hard work, dedication and support.

Honda spring book sale generates over \$2,000

The Midland **Honda Spring Book Sale** was held on Sunday, April 26. The turnout was great and we raised \$2,186.12, a record high. Our new "Pitch your Pennies into the Penny Pot. We will put them to good use!" accounted for \$185.50. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this fundraising event a huge success.



We are currently running the following small group workshops:

Monday and Tuesday

9:30am-11:30am –

English (reading, writing, spelling)

Wednesday and Thursday

9:30am-11:30am – Math

Monday and Thursday

9:30am-11:30am

Computer Drop-In

Monday – Thursday

1:30pm-3:30pm

Homework Help

For more information, please call Paul at 527-1522.

For Employability Skills help, please call Jennifer at 527-1522 to book a personal appointment.

New Offering: MARC office and an Instructor will be available two evenings a week and Saturday morning. To reserve your spot, please call Doug at 527-1522.

Resource/ Learning Centre Showcase

Novel Scenes



Novel Scenes is a four-book series where each book tells the story of a single character in a situation where events unfold chapter by chapter. Chapters include exercises that build comprehension, vocabulary, speaking, and listening skills. Themes include work, family, money, housing, and so on. The Teacher's Guide that accompanies each book includes an audio CD. Recordings of the story, dialog, and listening exercises facilitate fluency, listening, and pronunciation practice. The Teacher's Guide itself offers teaching suggestions and an answer key.

City Dreams

Introductory Level

Joe decides to move to New York City to live and work. He moves into a tiny apartment with his brother and then the fun begins. (96 pages)

In A Tight Spot

Low - Beginning Level

Min-Jee finds a job, and then discovers that her co-worker is breaking the rules. What should she do? (96 pages)

Holding the Bag

High - Beginning Level

Negasi is a taxi driver from Ethiopia who has been in the U.S. for many years and has a family. He accidentally becomes involved in a robbery and faces a moral issue. (96 pages)

Rooms with a View

Low - Intermediate Level

Amelia needs a job. She accepts one she doesn't want, but does it so well that she is offered a position perfectly aligned to her skills and interests. (96 pages)

All tutors and students are welcome to come browse through our resources – just stop by or book a tour with Anne by calling 527-1522.

Midland Area Reading Council Fundraising Campaign

We truly value and appreciate all the volunteer hours, contributions and all the support that you generously give to the Midland Area Reading Council: however, we are always in need of financial support. Any amount you can give will be accepted with much appreciation. Income Tax Receipts will be issued for amounts over \$20.00

Donation Amount: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____