



On the MARC

Midland Area Reading Council Newsletter

May 2011

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Upcoming events

June 9
Ladies Only Golf Tournament

June 12
**Fill-a-Bag Anniversary Sale
MARC Book Store**

July 9
**Midland Library Garden Tour including
a MARC Used Book Sale**

September 10
10th Annual Books for Brunch

Funded in part by

Ministry of Training,
Colleges and Universities



MARC honoured by Chamber Award



Midland Area Reading Council board president Maria Coston, left, and Sue Bannon, executive director, received the Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce's 2011 President's Award. The award was presented at the chamber's annual general meeting in February. The chamber commented that MARC "is known for their dedicated staff and volunteers who organize fundraising events for both publicity, outreach and special needs...they aim to increase awareness of literacy needs and promote a literate society. Publicly known for hosting the Annual Spelling Bee in North Simcoe, this organization believes in people helping themselves and each other."

MARC receives \$50,000 grant from United Way of Greater Simcoe County

The Midland Area Reading Council will be launching a new program thanks to a one-year \$50,000 grant from the United Way of Greater Simcoe County.

The program, North Simcoe Works, aims to help adults increase their education levels and secure employment.

"We are thrilled to be receiving this grant and we are very excited to be able to run this project in our community," said Sue Bannon, MARC Executive Director.

In 2010, MARC worked with 135 adult learners. The students work with a volunteer tutor in a one-to-one or small group (2 to 5 students) setting and all services are provided free of charge.

The funding from the United Way will allow

MARC to expand outreach programs into the communities where students reside.

MARC's programs are not limited to reading and writing and include upgrading in math, spelling, essential skills, along with computer upgrading. MARC also offers resume writing and interview preparation training.

"Our unique learning environment offers the flexibility to help our students achieve their goals," continued Bannon, noting that the opportunity to improve some of the programs and services MARC offers would not have been possible without the support of the United Way.

This investment in literacy and basic skills will prove to be an investment for all Ontarians and especially at our community level.



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President's message

For the avid skier, it is a sad time to see all the snow melt away in exchange for spring rain and warmer temperatures, but for me, I welcome spring with open arms.

With the new season comes new beginnings and this also applies to The Midland Area Reading Council.

In April, an announcement was made from the Ontario Government's 2011-2012 budgets to include an investment in literacy and basic skills in the amount of \$44 Million over the next three years. This funding will help provide the LBS services to those Ontarians needing them most.

This investment in literacy and basic skills will prove to be an investment for all Ontarians and especially at our community level.

The Midland Area Reading Council has also been the successful recipient of a one year grant funded by the United Way of Greater Simcoe County.

With the news of these two funding opportunities, MARC will be able to maintain the services we have been able to provide, and also have the funding support to improve some programming and services we offer.

I would like to welcome MARC's two new employees and say thank you to our existing employees who continue to dedicate their services and expertise to our organization. I would also like to take a moment and thank our dedicated group of volunteers. Without our volunteers, this organization wouldn't be where it is today.

MARC's Used Book Store on Yonge Street Midland had a "fill-a-bag" event on March 27th and we are planning on another "fill-a-bag" for June.

The Literacy Project in partnership with the Midland Public Library and Penetanguishene Library is completed and was very well received. Thank you to the staff and volunteers for such a great event.

The Ladies Only Golf Tournament – hosted by Jill St. Amant TD Waterhouse, will be on June 9. Proceeds from this event will be used to sponsor our Books for Brunch held in September.

I am very proud to be a volunteer with MARC as this organization makes strides to continue to succeed in their initiatives of delivering literacy programming in our community.

I hope that you will join us at the Annual Appreciation Dinner May 19 as a small token of our appreciation to your continued support.

Thank you.
Maria Coston

"I have just three things to teach-simplicity, patience, compassion –these are your greatest treasures."
Lao-Tzu



MARC board president, Maria Coston, was nominated for the Heart and Soul of the Community Award at the Midland and District Business Women of the Year Awards in March for her continued dedication and commitment to this organization.

MARC's staff member to have poem published

This spring, Sharon Corrigan, MARC's current Small Group Instructor, entered a poem for consideration in the CTK Foundation's Heart and Soul Grant Award. Poetic submissions needed to reflect the organization's mission. Unfortunately Sharon's poem did not win a prize, but her poem will be published in a hard cover book including all poem entries. We are waiting for our copy to arrive in the mail.

Literacy

Literacy needs are around us all
The scale can vary from large to small
Challenges in reading, the ability to spell
Mathematics and essential skills, most don't tell
Let's increase the awareness of these literacy needs
Prepare the garden and plant some seeds
It's about our community, the people we know
A literate society, we promote and grow!

Sharon Corrigan

Education News

Tutor Training Workshop scheduled for June

The Midland Area Reading Council relies on volunteer tutors to work with learners on a one-to-one basis.

Before a volunteer tutor is matched with a student, the volunteer is trained in the Laubach method of each one teach one.

A tutor training workshop is being scheduled for June. Tutors must complete a series of on-line courses and then attend a workshop.

For this workshop, the face-to-face component of the training will be taking place on June 14 and 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

There is a \$15 fee to cover the cost of the resource materials.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a tutor, contact Anne Ritzmann, Student/Tutor Coordinator, at 705-527-1522 or aritzmann@csolve.net.

Another tutor training workshop will be considered for the fall.



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**".

If anyone is interested in volunteering in **Breaking the Barriers** when it resumes, please contact Anne Ritzmann at 705-527-1522 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 705-527-1522 or e-mail aritzmann@csolve.net for more information.

The Midland Area Reading Council is looking to start family and youth literacy programs in North Simcoe. If you are interested in tutoring children and teens in our community, please call Anne Ritzmann at 705-527-1522 or e-mail aritzmann@csolve.net.

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.

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

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 summer, what you are learning at MARC or any topic that interests you.

Send to Anne Ritzmann at the MARC office or by e-mail aritzmann@csolve.net by July 15, 2011.

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

Literacy Project



In March and April, Midland Area Reading Council and the Midland and Penetanguishene Public Libraries partnered to hold eight free excellent educational shows. The shows were made possible through a \$5,000 grant from the Huronia Community



Foundations. More than 300 people enjoyed the presentations which included The Amazing Universe with the University of Toronto, The SPLASH Water Magic Workshop Show with the Amazing Corbin, A Soldier's Story - The War of 1812 with David Brunelle and Stories of Ste. Marie Among the Hurons with author Jennifer Maruno.

The mass appeal of the presentations drew children as young as three years of age to seniors. Those who attended these shows all indicated that they would like to see such educational programs continue. The Midland Area Reading Council would like to thank the Huronia Community Foundation for supporting this project and Bill Molesworth at the Midland Public Library and Cyndy Cote at the Penetanguishene Public Library for their contributions to this successful program. We would also like to thank the presenters for sharing their knowledge with our community.



Photos, top left, Dr. John Percy from the University of Toronto points out sunspots using a special Sun Spotter. Left and below, children participate in a British drill with historical re-enactor David Brunelle Bottom left, Jennifer Maruno talks with a young guest after her book presentation and author reading.



In the community

From our learners...

Students at the Midland Area Reading Council were invited to have a story or poem published in On the MARC. The theme for this newsletter was Spring in Huronia. Those who entered a submission would have their name entered into a draw to win a \$10 Tim Hortons' gift card. Congratulations to Vivian B. whose name was drawn for the prize.

Springtime in Huronia

Soon it will be Spring.
In the Spring days you will see the birds in the blue sky, flying around. The Red Robin might have babies up on the tree.
You will see people walking their dogs on the waterfront.
I hope it will be a nice spring day, so you can sit in the garden.
Thank goodness the winter is over.

Vivian B.

Springtime in Huronia

Springtime days are getting warmer
Sap is flowing in Maple trees
I like pancakes with Maple syrup!
May I have another please?

Soon the gardens will have lots of flowers
Like roses, tulips and a begonia
With birds and lots of butterflies
I like springtime in Huronia!

Tanya P.
Rockin' Readers
Community Living Huronia

Springtime in Huronia

It's springtime in Huronia
The snow is melting now
The sun is getting brighter
Spring's days are getting warmer
Sap is flowing in the Maple trees
We like pancakes with Maple syrup
Soon the gardens will have flowers
We like Springtime in Huronia!

Group Poem
By

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

Rockin' Readers
Community Living Huronia



Simcoe North MPP Garfield Dunlop chats with MARC board member Gunter Kuch at the Second Annual Literacy Awareness Day at Queen's Park in Toronto on February 28. Meetings were held throughout the day with MPPs, students, literacy practitioners and volunteers to raise awareness of the important role community-based literacy organizations play in our society and how students have benefited.

Book Store anniversary approaching in June

The Used Book Store is fast approaching its one year anniversary.

This would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers who staff the store to make sure the doors have been open this past year.

And we thank everyone who has donated books to keep our shelves, and storage room, well stocked with a great selection for our customers.

On March 27, the store held a fill-a-bag for \$15 sale and we made \$465 in four hours and cleared out quite a few books. Future fill-a-bag sales are planned including one to mark the one-year anniversary. The sale, and other festivities, will take place on June 12.

Watch for more details to be announced.

The store, located at 756 Yonge Street in Midland, is open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community event thanked volunteers

In recognition of National Volunteer Week from April 11 to 15, the Midland Area Reading Council and the 13 other community organizations who make up the Southern Georgian Bay Administrators of Volunteer Resources honoured their volunteers.

On April 14, a community event was held at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre in Midland with refreshments and entertainment.

In 2010, MARC had approximately 90 volunteers who contributed 5,701 hours to the organization. Thank you! We could not do what we do without your help.

MARC staff member plunged into icy waters

On Saturday, Feb. 19, Midland Area Reading Council staff member Lance Andrews participated in the Rotary Club of Penetanguishene's Polar Plunge in support of the MARC. Lance has already said he will take the plunge again in 2012.



Learn more about your computer
with
New Skills North Simcoe

We are currently conducting classes
in Microsoft Office Suite 2007
Tuesday to Thursday
from 4-6 p.m.

For information or to register please contact
Lance Andrews at 705-527-1522
or by email at landrews@csolve.net

TD Waterhouse/MARC Ladies Only Charity Golf Tournament

June 9, 2011

Brooklea Golf and Country Club

**4 p.m. Shotgun Start
9 holes, West course**

To register contact Jill St. Amant
at 526-7338 or jill.stamant@td.com.

Fee: \$70, includes dinner



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.



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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