



On the MARC

Midland Area Reading Council Newsletter

November 2011

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Upcoming events

December 9
Christmas Open House/Potluck

February 4
Winterfest Polar Dip

February 5
4th Annual Spelling Bee

Supper serves up funds



Simcoe North MP Bruce Stanton served up a delicious fish fry dinner in support of the Midland Area Reading Council on October 21. The Shore Supper fundraiser raised \$3,000 for community-based literacy programs through the sale of tickets and a silent auction. The Midland Area Reading Council would like to thank Bruce Stanton, his executive assistant Marnie MacDougall and all the volunteers for the work and effort that went into this event and to thank all the local businesses who supported the evening with donations and silent auction items.

Funded in part by
Ministry of Training,
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From our learners...

Learner responses to the statement:
Winter is the Best Season of the Year

I do not agree winter is the best season of the year. I don't believe any season is the best. I think they are all equal. The spring has a fresh smell. The summer sun is nice and hot. The fall colours are very pretty. When winter comes, there's snow, cold weather and Christmas. All the seasons have something I like.

Rob S.

I will have to say it's half and half for me. The cold blowing snow causes me to end up with a cold and feeling sick. This is the negative part for me. But on the positive side I like the Christmas part of winter. I am in a nice warm home with my family and friends. It really doesn't matter if it's cold and blowing snow outside, it's warm inside. But unfortunately when Christmas is over I am waiting for the season to be done. That is why the winter season can be negative or positive for me.

Debbie

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President's message

It is fall and once again, you have a new Board of Directors. We were sad to say goodbye to the outgoing Directors, especially past president, Maria Coston, whose leadership has contributed so much to this organization. However, we are pleased to welcome new Directors Joyce Cramm and Brian Jeffrey and look forward to working with them. With the new season, change has come to MARC and more changes are likely over the next few months. As a source of income and a teaching tool, the bookstore was too remote from our learning center so at the end of September, it was decided to re-locate the bookstore on Yonge Street to the MARC operation on Fourth Street.

Unfortunately, the Fourth Street office has become too crowded to efficiently accommodate all the things we do. With the addition of the bookstore, the scheduled introduction of Financial Literacy, affordable youth and children tutoring services, computer upgrading and other such programs you will understand why it has become urgent to start a search for new premises. We are currently looking for a suitable downtown location. So make sure you stay in contact with us to follow our quest for a new home.

As the Christmas season approaches, please enjoy yourselves and stay safe. Don't forget to visit the MARC **Used Bookstore** at its new location to purchase a book or gift certificate for that special person this Christmas!



Bob Sture
President



The Midland Area Reading Council's Used Book Store received a helping hand when it relocated to 67 Fourth St. on September 29. Orillia's Toromont CAT employees pitched in as part of the United Way of Greater Simcoe County's Day of Caring. Jeff MacDonald, left, Zach McConnell and Britton Buchanan helped MARC volunteers, including board president Bob Sture, pack books and disassemble shelves.

The Used Book Store is now open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering in the store is invited to call Kelly Abell at 705-527-1522.

Donations of books are being accepted, however, because our store is much smaller and we have limited storage, we are looking for books in newer condition. Please no encyclopaedias, Reader's Digest, magazines or textbooks.

Education News

Youth tutoring programs

The Midland Area Reading Council is in the process of organizing after-school homework help and a youth book club with the Midland Boys and Girls Club and we are looking for volunteers to help out.

If you are interested in offering homework assistance to children and youth or organizing a youth book club or if you would like more information, please contact Anne Ritzmann at 705-527-1522 or aritzmann@csolve.net.

The Boys and Girls Club offers valuable programming to children and youth between the ages of 6 and 17.

Tutor Training

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a Midland Area Reading Council tutor? A tutor training workshop is being planned for the New Year.

The course introduces potential tutors to the Laubach tutoring techniques and learning materials. Participants learn how to plan lessons and help adult learners set goals.

Become a tutor and make a difference in someone's life. Please contact Anne Ritzmann at 705-527-1522 or aritzmann@csolve.net for more information.

Student Small Groups

Tutors - 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:

Drop-in Computers

Monday 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Open Class

Tuesday 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Thursday 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Computers

Wednesday 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Math

Wednesday 12:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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

Small Group classes update

I am excited to be submitting a short story about how things are going with Small Groups here at MARC. Things are going great! We have 10 individuals currently attending one or more of our six scheduled classes that run Tuesday through Thursday. These students have literacy goals that range from learning the letters of the alphabet, improving their reading and writing skills, to taking on math one level at a time. They range in age from late teens to sixty something; any age is a great age to make a choice to improve your literacy skills!

In the last month, their individual achievements have included reading a first word, adding fractions for the first time, writing a complete sentence with punctuation, and properly using "there", "their" and "they're". Each of these individual successes is possible because of a desire to improve literacy skills and quality of life. Congratulations to each of them and continued success in their literacy journeys!!

I am grateful to be, and very much enjoy, working with each of these amazing individuals and hope they know I too am learning so much from each of them.

Sharon Corrigan
Small Group Instructor

*Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.
-Chinese Proverb*

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 winter, 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 January 16, 2011.

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

Follow us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/midlandareareadingcouncil

facebook

Upcoming Events

Fourth year for Spelling Bee

Children who reside in North Simcoe and who are in Grades 3 to 8 are invited to participate in the Midland Area Reading Council's Fourth Annual Spelling Bee on February 5.

The spelling bee will take place in conjunction with the Town of Midland's Winterfest activities and will be held in the community hall at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre. There is a \$5 registration fee. Categories include Grade 3, Grade 4, Grades 5/6 and Grades 7/8. Prizes of \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 per third place will be awarded in each category. Participants will also have their names included to win some fun door prizes.

The registration deadline is January 30 at 4 p.m. Watch our website at www.nald.ca/marc for registration forms and information.



30-Hour Reading Challenge

There are plans underway to celebrate the Midland Area Reading Council's 30th Anniversary in 2012. One project that has already started is a 30-Hour Reading Challenge for children who reside in North Simcoe and who are in kindergarten to Grade 8.

For every 30 hours that they read, children will have their name entered into a draw to win one of three \$30 gift certificates for Minds Alive.



Reading tracking forms are available at www.nald.ca/marc.

Our Used Book Store and Minds Alive have great selections of books as do our local public libraries.

If you know of a child who needs help with their reading, please contact MARC at 705-527-1522.

MARC's ABC Postponed

The Adult Bee Challenge originally scheduled for September 30, has been postponed to the New Year due to a lack of registrations. The new date and location will be announced shortly.

In the meantime, gather three friends or co-workers to create a team for this fun event. Remember, it's not about how well you spell, but how much money we can raise that night to help those in our community who cannot.

Take the plunge for literacy

Are you brave enough (or maybe that should be crazy enough) to jump into Little Lake in February in support of the Midland Area Reading Council?

Again this year those who participate in the Town of Midland's Winterfest Polar Bear Plunge on February 4 will be doing so in support of the Midland Area Reading Council. Visit www.nald.ca/marc for pledge forms.

If you aren't jumping into the lake, please join us at 2 p.m. to help cheer on those who are.



Moments before the 2011 Polar Bear Plunge.

Great Reads at the MARC Used Book Store

Mitla Pass by Leon Uris – Fiction

This is the story of a young author, Gideon Zadok. Zadok finds himself behind enemy lines on the eve of the Sinai War of 1956. Struggling to come to terms with the war being waged internally and externally, Mitla Pass is a historical and human drama not to be missed!

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski – Fiction

Edgar Sawtelle lives an idyllic life with his parents and the dogs they breed on a farm in northern Wisconsin. Despite being born mute, Edgar learns to speak in sign. The sudden appearance of Edgar's uncle and the untimely death of his father result in Edgar having to flee his home with only three dogs in tow. This riveting family saga will have you glued to the pages!

Sands of Death by Michael Asher – Non-fiction

Written like a novel, Sands of Death is the story of how the French attempted to map out a route across the Sahara Desert for a railway in 1880. Armed with modern weapons, the expedition expected little resistance from the Native West Africans, the Tuareg, who had dominated the Sahara for a thousand years. Instead of a peaceful expedition however, the Tuareg drove the French deep into the Sahara where they were left to die. Four months after their departure, a handful of survivors emerged from the desert to tell their tale.

We also have a wide variety of authors such as V.C. Andrews, John Grisham, Herman Wouk, Stephen King, Maeve Binchy and many, many more!

If you have any book reviews on books that you have purchased through our store submit them to kabell@csolve.net and we will include them in an upcoming newsletter.

Books for Brunch



Families from across North Simcoe joined the Midland Area Reading Council in celebrating the 10th Annual Books for Brunch on September 10. The literacy awareness event was held at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre and the day included children's entertainer Russ, Larry the Juggler, a drumming workshop sponsored by Stellula Music in Schools, Captain Corbin the Magical Pirate and a visit with Clifford the Big Red Dog. Families enjoyed art activities presented by MARC and the Ontario Early Years Centre, free face painting, a penny raffle, a used book sale and displays by the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, Minds Alive, Kidscoop Magazine and Usborne Books. Those who arrived early enjoyed breakfast, compliments of McDonalds, and parents, grandparents and volunteers enjoyed coffee compliments of Tim Hortons. The first 80 children to arrive received a free goodie bag containing a bookmark, pencil and a few tasty treats, partially sponsored by Bulk Barn. Thank you to Jill St. Amant of TD Waterhouse, The Mirror, Raytheon Elcan Optical Technologies and Lorraine Jordan of Royal LePage for their generous sponsorship of this event. Thank you also to Scholastic Canada, Owlkids, Idol Entertainment, Galaxy Cinemas, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and the Rotary Club of Penetanguishene. Thank you to all of the MARC and Katimavik volunteers who contributed greatly to the success of the day. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us on September 15, 2012 for the 11th Annual Books for Brunch.

Learn about your computer

New Skills North Simcoe, a social enterprise of the Midland Area Reading Council, will be offering a variety of computer classes in 2012 including Introduction to Computers, Introduction to Word, Introduction to Excel, Facebook 101 and Family Internet Safety in the New Year.

These affordable classes are open to everyone looking to increase their computer skills either for work or personal goals. All proceeds from the fees support the free literacy programs offered by MARC.

Introduction to Computers

Dates: January 17, 24 and 31, 2012

Times: 1 to 3 p.m.

or

Dates: February 7, 14 and 21, 2012

Times: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Cost \$120

This six-hour course is designed specifically for beginners with little or no previous computer experience. The course will discuss the parts of a computer, the basics of Windows, how to use a mouse, basic keyboard functions and basic programs.

Facebook 101

Dates: January 19, 2012

Times: 1 to 3 p.m. or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m

or

February 23, 2012

Times: 1 to 3 p.m. or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m

Cost \$25

This tutorial was created to get you up to speed on how to create, use and maintain a Facebook page of your own, including understanding the complex Facebook privacy policies and settings.

Introduction to Word

Dates: February 14, 21 and 28, 2012

Times: 1 to 3 p.m.

Cost \$120

This six-hour course is perfect for the new or self-taught MS Word user. The course covers all topics required to produce documents that not only look good, but are well-structured.

New Skills North Simcoe will also be offering Introduction to Excel, Family Internet Safety and a computer camp during the March break for children ages 8 to 12. Watch for more details.

Space in each class is limited so register early to avoid disappointment.

For more information about New Skills North Simcoe call Lance Andrews at 705-527-1522 or e-mail him at landrews@csolve.net.

Tech Corner

How can I protect myself while online?

Use caution when accepting or agreeing to prompts. When prompted to install any program or add-on make sure to read and understand the agreement before clicking on the OK button. If you do not understand the agreement or feel it is not necessary to install the program cancel or close the window.

Additionally, when installing any program watch for any check box that asks if it's ok to install a third-party program, toolbar, etc. These are never required and often cause more issues than good. Leave these boxes unchecked.

If you have a tech question, submit it to landrews@csolve.net and we will feature as many as we can in upcoming newsletters.

Personal Computer Services


705.527.1522



**New Skills
@
North Simcoe**
Continuum of Learning

Personalized workshops and courses for everyone. We provide the essentials for success.

- \$49/hr Computer Repair
- \$39 for a Diagnostic
- \$50 for a Windows Upgrade
- \$50 to Reinstall Windows
- \$40 for Antivirus
- \$10 to Upgrade Anti Virus
- \$70 for a Tune Up



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Photos generated from this website help fund reading, writing, math and other programs offered by the Midland Area Reading Council.

Books for Brunch Penny Raffle Prize List

1	"Country Kitchen" framed reproduction	Nicole Halt	15	collection of books - Scholastic	Jessica Crowe
2	"Alphabet" framed reproduction	Don Perry	16	collection of books - Scholastic	Sarah McGaughey
3	"Five Bears" framed reproduction	Betty Coyne-Dubeau	17	collection of books - Scholastic	Shelly Moreau
4	Angel photo album	Sarah McGaughey	18	collection of books - Scholastic	Alexa Quesnelle
5	Victorian Mother's album	Alexa Quesnelle	19	collection of books - Scholastic	Laurie Marchildon
6	Paint Your Own Soccer Ball Kit	Daniel & Sarah Laurin	20	collection of books - Scholastic	Holly Norris
7	Chia Herb Garden	Jennifer Bolton	21	collection of books - Scholastic	Jack Stewart
8	Fire Alarm	Brooklyn Currie	22	Nana Needs a Nap book	Holly Norris
9	Fire Alarm	Brooklyn Currie	23	Ballerina Barbie	Don Perry
10	5 matted reproductions of Midland	Betty Coyne-Dubeau	24	Lego Hero Factory Set	Amy Robitaille
11	collection of books - Scholastic	Shelly Moreau	25	Boxes of Smarties	Jenny Black
12	collection of books - Scholastic	Brooklyn Currie	26	Polly Pocket Puzzle	Don Perry
13	collection of books - Scholastic	Brooklynn Currie	27	Hot Wheels Puzzle	Jack Stewart
14	collection of books - Scholastic	Karina Monaghan			