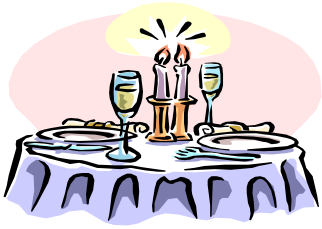
M.A.R.C. SPRING NEWSLETTER—2009

MIDLAND AREA READING COUNCIL

Annual Appreciation & Recognition Dinner



Date: Thursday May 21st, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre

Come help us celebrate our volunteers, students and community partners at this fabulous event!

Please RSVP the MARC office before May 8th, 2009 to reserve your ticket to attend this years event. Tickets are $10.00 each for guests. There is no charge for MARC special guests, students or volunteers.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Message from the President

Spring 2009

This spring the economy is on everybody's mind and here at MARC it is no different. In our case, however, rather than slowing down we are gearing up to assist an unprecedented number of students meet their goals. With that in mind, the board and staff are actively engaged in the search for increased and stable funding so as to insure that our organization can continue to provide the quality of service our communities have come to expect.

The Laubach Literacy of Ontario Social Enterprise Project in which we are one of six pilot sites is moving into its final stages in an attempt to identify some area of business, consistent with our mission, that will give us a revenue stream independent of outside sources. On another front, we are about to engage a full time Fundraising/Volunteer Co-ordinator whose job, in addition to finding steady sources of income, will be to double the number of volunteers over the next two years.

One of the by products of all of this activity, increased enrolment and a growing number of staff and volunteers, is the need for more space to accommodate all of our activities. In this we are faced with the classic "chicken and egg" conundrum. That is, we need the staff and volunteers to provide the service and raise the funds so that we can afford the rent for an appropriate location and so on. Suffice it to say, we are all actively engaged in resolving the issue as quickly as possible.

There is much greater recognition that community based literacy organizations such as ours are key to meeting the demands of the knowledge based economy. The support shown by our community has been overwhelming and it is because of this support that I can confidently say that the future success of MARC is assured. On behalf of all of us, thank you.

Garry C. McPhail

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow. ~Proverb

THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

LA FONDATION TRILLIUM DE L'ONTARIO

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MANY THANKS TO OUR COMMUNTIY PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities

Ontario Trillium Foundation

Dollar Tiff Variety

Midland Rotary Club

Brabant & Kretzschmann Chartered Accountants

Mirror Newspaper

Midland Honda

Midland Printers

Town of Midland

Casino Rama

Laubach Literacy Ontario

Huronia Communities Foundation

Larking Foundation

Kevin Ellis Re/Max Real Estate

Penetang Rotary Club

MTN Communications

CompuSolve Technologies

WE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU!

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 adult literacy and numeracy upgrading since 1982. Our trained volunteers are dedicated to helping adults in our community acquire reading, writing, numeracy, computer and other life skills.

The MARC Speakers' Bureau is available to speak to various organizations in our catchment area. The purpose of this outreach program is to increase awareness of our services.

If your organization would like to have a speaker from MARC, we would be happy to tell you all about us.

Please contact Sue Bannon at 527-1522, or email us at

sbannon@csolve.net.

Thank you for reading this letter; be grateful that you can!

Dorothy Harper, Chair

MISSION STATEMENT

The Midland Area Reading Council aims to increase awareness of Literacy needs and promote a Literate Society!

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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S REPORT

It is nice to see more sun again. Regardless of the weather, things at MARC don't slow down. In the near future we will be having our appreciation dinner. This is an opportunity to honour our tutors, volunteers, Community Partners and most of all our students. It is always a pleasure to see how hard the students work to improve their life. Each student has their own reason for this improvement.

Without volunteers the students would be unable to accomplish their feats.

Congratulations volunteers! You made it possible for them. There is a committee working to find new ways for volunteers to help. If any of you want to help in ways other than tutoring, talk to Janice, we'll put our heads together.

Enjoy the seasonal change. Soon we'll be complaining of the heat.

Ruth Faulkner

Volunteer Coordinator

Huronia Administrators of Volunteers Association (HAVA)

invites you to a celebration of volunteerism in our community

Thursday April 23, 2009

North Simcoe Recreation Centre, Midland

Doors open 7:00pm, Show starts at 7:30pm

Entertainment by Laughter Coach and Personal Growth Trainer,

Jacquie Hermans

who " ...uses the power of humour and play to inspire transformation from the inside out."

Light refreshments will be served

Please RSVP to (Janice Haffey) at (527-1522) by April 16 if you plan to attend.

HAVA includes the following organizations

Alzheimer's Society of Greater Simcoe

Askennonia Seniors Centre

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Central North Correction Centre

Community Link North Simcoe

Community Living Huronia

Habitat for Humanity

Hillcrest Village Care Centre

Hospice Huronia

Mental Hearth Centre Penetanguishene

Midland Area Reading Council

North Simcoe Hospital Alliance

Ontario Early Years Centre

Red Cross

Salvation Army

Township of Tay

Township of Tiny

VCARS

Villa Care Centre

Wye Marsh

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MIDLAND AREA READING COUNCIL

Each One Teach One

Phone: 705-527-1522
Fax: 705-527-0693
E-mail:
marc@csolve.net
Website:
www.nald.ca/marc

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday to Thursday
9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Garry McPhail	President
Maria Coston	Vice President/Treasurer
Lin Sullivan	Secretary
Adrienne Gardner	Director
Ruth Faulkner	Director
Kristina Ketelaar	Director
Claude Prezeau	Director
Bob Sture	Director

STAFF

Sue Bannon	Executive Director	sbannon@csolve.net
Jennifer Ellis	Program Coordinator/Instructor	jellis@csolve.net
Ruth Quesnelle	Small Group Facilitator	ruthques@csolve.net
Roz Jones	Administrative Assistant	marc@csolve.net
Janice Haffey	Fundraising/Volunteer Coordinator	jhaffey@csolve.net
	Social Enterprise Coordinator	

STUDENT WRITING

I feel that I am getting better at reading and spelling. I like coming to MARC because I have noticed it is helping me with everything. I also like my tutor Ruth and she seems to understand me. I hope I can be more independent and improve my math skills. By Alicia Marion

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Recognition & Appreciation Dinner May 21th, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

NSSRC—Hall upstairs—RSVP by May 8th, 2009

Midland Honda Book Sale Sunday April 26th, 2009 At Midland Honda Showroom

Laubach Literacy Ontario Conference—Barrie—June 12 & 13th, 2009

Please call the MARC office for more information on any upcoming events!

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 $10.00

Donation Amount:_____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

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Programming Report

by Jennifer Ellis

Why does your student need a Learning Plan?

1. Prioritize what you will work on first
2. Find activities and learning materials which will help the Student develop the needed skills
3. Identify the evidence which will demonstrate achievement
4. Set time lines
5. Identify obstacles and supports
6. Review progress and revise goals as needed

Please submit a copy of your student's Learning Plan to Jennifer

What are Demonstrations?

Emphasis on "real-life task"

Related to student's goal

Integrate several skills - read, write, comprehend, think, math.... or whatever

Demonstration itself cannot be one of the lessons or activities you used to teach the skill ... has to be a new application or use of the skills

Small Group Workshops Available at

Literacy Basic Skills

English – Tuesday's 9:30-11:30am
Math – Wednesday's and Thursday's 9:30-11:30am
Homework Club – Tuesday's 2:00-5:00pm
Computer Drop-In – Monday's and Thursday's 9:30-11:30am

Employability Skills:

Job Search
Research – self evaluation (skills, likes, dislikes), occupations, potential employers
Documentation – resume, cover letter, references
Filling Out Forms
Applying for Positions (Volunteer and Paid)
Interviews
Follow-up
Networking
Skill specific as requested

Skill Specific

CPR/1st Aid Preparation
Ontario Driver's G1 Preparation
Smart Serve (Certificate)
WHMIS Preparation
Getting Your ID
Pleasure Craft Card Preparation
Computers – Basic, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Email, File Management
Ready For Work – Forms, Pay Cheques, Time Management, Interpersonal Skills, etc
Sector Specific – Janitorial, Retail, Clerical, Kitchen Help, Grounds Maintenance
As requested

Life Skills

Consumer Issues
Emergency Preparedness
Menopause
Income Tax
Will Writing
Creative Writing

Community Partnerships

Community Living Huronia

Reading / Writing and Computer Groups

Central North Correction Centre

Breaking The Barriers

Ontario Works

Ready For Work

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Spelling Bee Update

By Janice Haffey

The Midland Area Reading Council 1st Annual Spelling Bee was held on Saturday March 7th, 2009. Eighteen participants took part in the event. Andrew Duquette placed first in the Grades 3 and 4 category. Andrea Schmitz earned first place in the Grades 5 and 6 and this was the most exciting round, as our two participants (Andrea Schmitz and Curtis Tolmie) took 21 rounds of words to finally get a winner. Michael Foster took first in the Grades 7 and 8 category.

These students were from the Mundy's Bay Elementary Public School, Wyevale Central Public School and Huron Park Public School. Winners received a cash prize, medal and certificate.

This event was a resounding success by all accounts due to the ever increasing dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated by our community partners, volunteers and most of all, our participating students.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt "Thank You" .

We can make a difference in someone's life and your support is making it happen.

Thank you for caring!

Part-time Position Available

Programming – Administrative Assistant

Work with the Program Coordinator to manage general office / administrative duties, including but not limited to:

- Filing, Photocopying, Correspondence
- Meeting coordination
- Organize files and maintain confidential documents and reports
- Assist in the creation of presentations and documents
- Support additional projects and tasks as requested with minimum supervision

Intermediate Microsoft Office skills are required

(Outlook, Word, Excel and Power Point)

Full job description is posted on: www.nald.marc.ca

Please apply by forwarding your resume before May 1st., 2009 in Microsoft Word only

via email to: jellis@csolve.net

Drop-ins and faxes will not be accepted.

Only those being considered for an interview will be contacted.

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