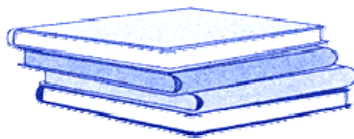


# Literacy Council of South Simcoe



**(SPRING) MAY 2007**

**16 Victoria Street East, Alliston, Ontario L9R 1T4**

[right across from the Alliston Memorial Library]

Phone: 705-435-5624; Fax: 705-435-0069

E-mail: [lcss@bellnet.ca](mailto:lcss@bellnet.ca)

Website: [www.nald.ca/simcoe.htm](http://www.nald.ca/simcoe.htm)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President Marilyn **ARDITO**  
Secretary Mary Ann **WILSON**  
Treasurer Elizabeth **BROWN**  
Director/Bookkeeper June **ROBERTSON**  
Director/Editor William **LYNCH**  
Director at Large Pat **SQUIRE**  
Director at Large Doug **NORMAN**  
Director at Large John **MORRIS**

## **SENIOR STAFF**

Administrative Coordinator  
Naomi **SIMPSON**  
Literacy Program Coordinator  
Eva **MAY**

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Tuesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Wednesday-Thursdays 9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Friday Closed

***Closed Weekends and Holidays***

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***MISSION STATEMENT*** *The Literacy Council of South Simcoe is dedicated to providing and promoting literacy skills in the community.*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DESKS OF

**MARILYN ARDITO, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



***Greetings from the Chairperson of the Board of Directors!***

The time has *flown* by since our last newsletter, but the Literacy Council of South Simcoe has been very busy!

Under the direction and hard work of the new Administrative Coordinator – **Naomi Simpson** and the Program Director, **Eva May**, new satellite literacy programs have been launched in Beeton, Angus and Tottenham. We have welcomed many new Learners and Tutors over the past six months.

Many of our goals have been accomplished such as six computer training classes, a new brochure, and an in-house Tutor Trainer. **Cris Derks-Parsons** provides Tutor training workshops right here in Alliston.

Naomi and Eva make a great team, dedicated to promoting literacy in our community.

Once again we have been fortunate to receive donations from our community groups as well as individual ones. I want to thank everyone for their generous donations. The Literacy Council has been able to upgrade the computers and add another one as well as purchase new, innovative teaching software.

The Literacy Council has more projects planned for this upcoming year to increase our services and make us an active community partner.

Thanks to all the dedicated tutors, our Board of Directors, Naomi, Eva and the community for your ongoing support.

*Yours in learning,*

*Marilyn Ardito  
President  
Board of Directors*

***NAOMI SIMPSON, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR***



Greetings to Everyone!

*Happy Spring!*

It has been a busy couple of months here at the Literacy Council with lots of new initiatives underway to expand our services and ensure that we are reaching as many members of the community as possible.

We are currently in the process of launching services directly in Angus, Beeton and Tottenham. In Angus, we are looking at one-to-one and small group services during late afternoons and evenings in partnership with the Learning Centre. In Beeton and

Tottenham, we are looking at one-to-one tutoring on Thursdays at the local Library Branches in conjunction with the outreach program currently being offered by the FOCUS Employment Resource Centre. If you are interested in helping out with tutoring in any of these locations, please contact us ASAP!

We are very pleased to advise that we have received funding to purchase badly needed resources for our learners. Eva has diligently reviewed our materials and ordered more, some of which have already been added to our library. In addition, we have set up a computer in the front office to assist learners who want to use computer-assisted tools or participate in on-line learning, either with a tutor or on their own time. We are working to make our learning tools more flexible to meet the diverse needs of our community. We would be happy to give you more information on these resources when you drop into the Council.

Our summer fundraising activities will soon be into high gear, beginning with the Alliston Potato Festival Garage Sale in August. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering for the Garage Sale or if you have items which you would like to donate to the sale. This is our most important fundraising initiative of the year and we need your help to make it a success! We are also planning an end of summer BBQ at M&M Meats in early September. More details to follow closer to the date.

Corporate and community fundraising efforts are well underway, and we have many community partners to thank for their support: Honda Manufacturing of Canada, the Township of New Tecumseth, CRIC, the Kin Club of Alliston, The Alliston Lions, and Bell Canada.

Your suggestions for fundraising and public awareness campaigns are always welcome, so please feel free to call, e-mail [lcss@bellnet.ca](mailto:lcss@bellnet.ca) or drop by the office to discuss your ideas!

We recently hosted a Tutor Appreciation Dinner and Workshop which was well attended and enjoyed by all. We would like to host more frequent meetings with tutors to ensure that you are receiving the support needed to meet your learners' needs. Look for upcoming details on Tutor Pizza Lunches; we'll use this

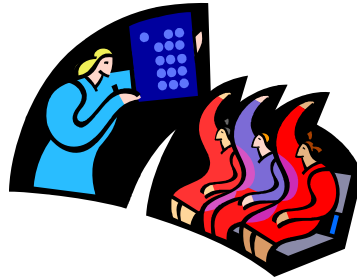
format to provide updates on topics of interest around tutoring and challenges facing literacy practitioners, while also providing tutors with an opportunity to share experiences and get to know one another!

Best wishes to everyone for a summer filled of sun and fun! Enjoy the good weather and stay healthy and happy.

*Yours in learning,*

*Naomi Simpson  
Administrative Coordinator*

**EVA MAY, PROGRAMME COORDINATOR**



*Greetings All*

She was a good mother to her three children and wife to her husband. When the two oldest children brought home work from school, she sat down with them to give assistance. The oldest of the children age 8, at the time, the other child age 6. She said “*explain what you have to do*” and they did. They went through with printing and writing their lessons, all the time showing her what they were doing. The short sentences, she copied down as well. These events occurred all through their school years. If they required extra assistance, the mother would hire a tutor. The next door neighbour and accountant for math, and the history teacher, from their school. She paid the tutors with her tip money from waitressing.

While they were in High School she was ever present to assist. The oldest liked to study for exams early in the morning (5:00 a.m.) also there was her mother helping to memorize the maps

for the Geography exam or the dates for the History exam. You see, all through the years of schooling, her children were her tutors, of course they never knew this at the time.

My mother was born in Austria, her first language was Ukrainian, but she spoke English. I never knew till I was much older, my mother struggled to read and write English. My mother was my first Learner.....

Don't let some one you love struggle to read and write.

*Happy Spring to Everyone!!!!*

*Yours in Learning,*

*Eva May  
Program Coordinator*



**SHARING “THE SECRET”**

A Proposal from Kevan WOOD – Tutor

The Literacy Council of South Simcoe will be sponsoring a number of workshops at the end of **MAY** and early **JUNE** entitled Sharing “The Secret” – making it work for you and your family. Tutor Kevan Wood will be conducting the workshops.

Kevan is a Life Skills Instructor who founded a company called Beyond Dragons Life Training. Hundred of years ago, cartographers of old world maps would inscribe on them “Beyond Here Be Dragons” to tell sailors to be wary of going into uncharted waters. Kevan has used the Dragons as a metaphor for our fears. If we can get past our fears (the dragons) we can discover wonderful new worlds and adventures.

The techniques in “The Secret” can help anyone achieve their goals and dreams in life, but they can have a direct benefit to our students as a valuable tool in their quest for literacy.

The workshops will be open to the public free of charge but donations will be accepted with all proceeds going to the Literacy Council of South Simcoe. All students and tutors are invited to attend.

This event is designed to raise the profile of the Literacy Council in our surrounding communities. If interested please contact the Literacy Council (435-5624) for exact dates, times and locations of these most worthwhile events.

\* \* \* \* \*

# LEARNER ACHIEVEMENTS



*Submitted by Learner Jamie*

Hello

My name is Jamie. I come to the Literacy Council to improve my reading and writing. My Tutor Eva helps me with my writing. I like to come to the Council every week.

I also like to play soccer. My team won and tournament in Windsor, we had fun. *Jamie*

*Do you know of anyone who would be interested in joining The Literacy Council of South Simcoe as a Board Member or as a Volunteer? Maybe you alone are interested. I guarantee whom ever joins will find it very rewarding. Helping the Community is Great.*

QUOTABLE QUOTES

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

The crisis of yesterday is the joke of tomorrow. *H.G. Wells*

Holiness consists of doing the will of God with a smile.  
*Mother Teresa*

They deem me mad because I will not sell my days for gold; and I deem them mad because they think my days have a price.  
*Kahlil Gibran*

\* \* \* \* \*



**POSITIVELY SPEAKING**

*Forgetting and Remembering*

When it comes to our personal life, we humans, have a tendency to remember the wrong things and forget the right things.

We tend to hold a special place inside us that stores all the hurts, pains and wrongs we have endured in our life, whilst at the same time we push the victories, the good things, the happy times into the background.

We remember the bad and forget the good, when it should be the other way around.

We need to go back in our lives and focus on the good that has happened. When we remember one we need to plant a marker in our memory, Joel Osteen calls these “*Life’s Memorial Stones.*” Anytime we come across a hurt, forget it, and bury it where it happened, without a marker.

As we train ourselves to remember the good and forget the bad, we will start to develop a more positive outlook, we will feel less bitterness, hold less grudges, our personality will become more gentle and outgoing.

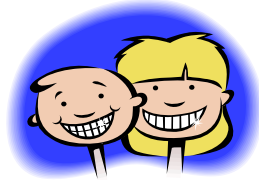
Our ability to cope with life's challenges will increase, because our minds are filled with all the good we encountered on our journey to this point.

We will no longer feel that "*Life's a drag,*" a weight will have lifted from our shoulders and we will face life with confidence. Remembering all that hurt keeps us in a negative frame of mind, we give out a negative image, not necessarily intentionally. As a result we receive more negative back.

Free yourself from the burdens you have carried, start today,

**Remember the good things, start planting  
your life's "*Memorial Stones.*"**

\* \* \* \* \*



# HUMOUR

## THAT WON'T HELP

*"I'm ashamed of you,"* the mother said. *"Fighting with your best friend is a terrible thing to do."* *"He threw a rock at me!"* the boy said. *"So I threw one at him."* *"When he threw a rock at you, you should have come to me."* *"What good would that have done? My aim is much better than yours."*



**LEARNERS WANTED:** *Are you interested in participating in a small group to upgrade your Computer, Math or English Skills once a week?? If so, contact the Office to register.*

# FROM THE RECIPE CORNER

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## IRISH COFFEE BROWNIES

<b>1¼ cups</b>	granulated sugar
<b>¾ cup</b>	butter
<b>½ cup</b>	unsweetened cocoa powder
<b>2</b>	eggs
<b>1 tsp</b>	vanilla
<b>1½ cups</b>	all-purpose flour
<b>1 tsp</b>	baking powder
<b>¼ tsp</b>	baking soda
<b>¾ cup</b>	milk
<b>¼ cup</b>	Irish Whiskey
<b>2 tbsp</b>	instant coffee crystals
<b>1 cup</b>	chopped walnuts
<b>2½ cups</b>	sifted powdered sugar
<b>2 tbsp</b>	unsweetened cocoa powder
<b>1 tbsp</b>	Irish Whiskey
<b>1¼ tsp</b>	vanilla
<b>3 to 4 tbsp</b>	brewed coffee
	chopped walnuts (optional)

Heat granulated sugar, butter or margarine, and ½ cup cocoa powder in a large saucepan over medium heat until butter or margarine melts, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Add eggs and 1 teaspoon vanilla; beat lightly just until combined. Stir together flour, baking powder, and baking soda in a bowl; set aside. Stir together milk and ¼ cup whiskey; stir in coffee crystals. Add flour mixture and milk mixture alternately to the chocolate mixture, beating by hand after each addition. Stir in nuts. Pour into a greased **15x10x1**-inch baking pan. Bake in a **350** degree **F** oven for **15** to **20** minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the centre comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack. Meanwhile, for the Irish Coffee Glaze, stir together sifted

powdered sugar, 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder, 1 tablespoon Irish Whiskey, and 1¼ teaspoons vanilla. Stir in 3 to 4 tablespoons brewed coffee until drizzling consistency. If desired, sprinkle with additional chopped nuts. Makes 36 brownies.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **LADIES FIRST**

Pamela Purse yelled, "*Ladies first,*"  
Pushing in front of the ice cream line.  
Pamela Purse yelled, "*Ladies first,*"  
Grabbing the ketchup at dinnertime.  
Climbing on the morning bus  
She'd shove right by all of us  
And there'd be a tiff or a fight or a fuss  
When Pamela Purse yelled, "*Ladies first,*"

Pamela Purse screamed, "*Ladies first,*"  
When we went off on our jungle trip.  
Pamela Purse said her thirst was worse  
And guzzled our water, every sip.  
And when we got grabbed by that wild savage band,  
Who tied us together and made us all stand  
In a long line in front of the King of the land –  
A cannibal known as Fry-'Em-Up Dan,  
Who sat on his throne in a bib so grand  
With a lick on his lips and a fork in his hand,  
As he tried to decide who'd be first in the pan –  
From back of the line, in that shrill voice of hers,  
Pamela Purse yelled, "*Ladies first,*"



## ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR TUTORS

The following is a list of websites which include on-line resources for our learners. Tutors are encouraged to check these out before referring learners to the sites. Learners are free to use the computers at the Council during office hours to work on their literacy objectives as well as improving their computer skills and should be encouraged to do so!

[www.alpharoute.org](http://www.alpharoute.org)

<http://measureup.towes.com/english/index.asp>

<http://skills.edu.gov.on.ca>

[www.awal.ca](http://www.awal.ca)

[www.skillplan.ca](http://www.skillplan.ca)

[http://srv108.services.gc.ca/english/general/equalizer\\_e.shtml](http://srv108.services.gc.ca/english/general/equalizer_e.shtml)

In addition, the website link below includes on-line training for tutors looking to improve their skills. The on-line courses are flexible and full of a variety of information and resources.

LITERACY BASICS PLUS: SOMETHING NEW IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD!

[www.nald.ca/literacybasics](http://www.nald.ca/literacybasics)

*Do you know someone who struggles with reading, writing, math or computer skills? If the answer is **YES**, tell them about our free, confidential one-to-one or small group tutoring (days or evenings).*



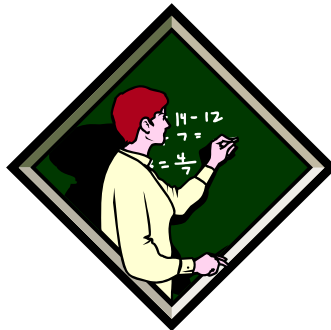
## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

**Volunteers are always required and A L W A Y S appreciated. If you have skills you wish to share with the Literacy Council, contact the Office to discuss what you can do for us and we can do for you.**

### LEARNING HOW TO READ

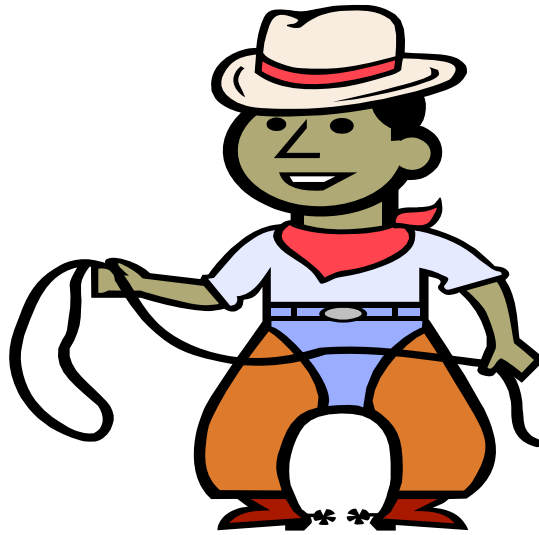


### LEARNING MATH



### LEARNING COMPUTERS





**WANTED!!!**

**YOUR EMPTY  
PRINTER CARTRIDGES**

 **INK JET CARTRIDGES**

 **LASER TONER CARTRIDGES**

***KEEP THEM OUT OF  
OUR LANDFILLS AND  
SUPPORT LITERACY IN  
OUR COMMUNITY***

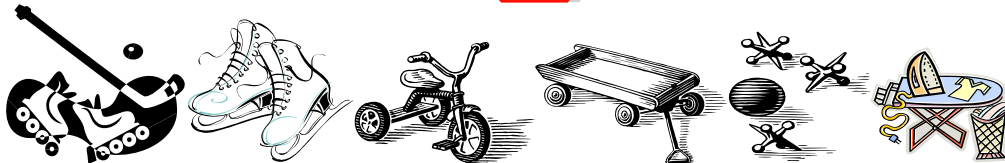
**USED CARTRIDGES  
COLLECTED HERE!**

# WANTED



## GARAGE SALE ITEMS

annual garage sale for literacy  
AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup> AND 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007



If you have items too large or just unable to transport them to our Office, phone the Literacy Office {435-5624} and arrangements will be made to have them picked up.

To make this a very successful event, we need your cooperation and participation.