

# LiteracyWORDS

A publication for friends of LiteracyWORKS



## LiteracyWORKS

## Greetings from the Office

**SPRING is here...** or is it? At least everyone made it through those long, dreary, cold months of winter and we are on the brighter side of the season called spring!

Spring is a time of re-growth when buds start coming out on the trees and flowers begin to bloom. It is also a time when more students come through our doors in need of tutors.

In February staff held the second workshop “Practice Steps= Reaching Your Goal” with tutors and learners (researchers) taking part in the ALLESP (Adult Learning, Literacy and Essential Skills Program)-funded project. This workshop provided us with some interesting insight into Sherry’s goal of cleaning out her basement. How is that coming **Sherry**? We are still looking for the before and after pictures.

February was also **I Love to Read month**, which is featured in this newsletter. Check out the great books students and tutors are reading.

For the first time in history, people from coast to coast to coast were brought together by videoconference via the Internet for a **Pan-Canadian Literacy Forum**. This high-tech Forum featured speeches by provincial education ministers, dignitaries, prominent community members and literacy practitioners from across the country who were voicing their concerns



L to R: Sherry, Lorraine, Deane, Terry at Pan Canadian Literacy Forum

about literacy. Staff and a Board member took part in the Manitoba part of the event, held at the Convention Centre.

...cont'd

May 2008

### Inside this issue:

<b>Chairperson’s Report</b>	2
<b>The Write Stuff Student Stories</b>	3
<b>Contest Winners “I Love to Read”</b>	4
<b>Learner Speaker Grad</b>	4
<b>Book Review</b>	4
<b>Books Read by...</b>	5
<b>Websites</b>	5
<b>Welcome &amp; Goodbye! Inside Story</b>	5
<b>Victoria Day</b>	6
<b>Mystery Word</b>	6
<b>For the Love of a Good Book</b>	7
<b>Spring Humour</b>	7
<b>Reading—Canadian Content</b>	8
<b>Ideas for Writing</b>	8

## Office Report, continued (We're Having a Party!)

These are promising times with so much interest in the literacy of our country. Literacy in Canada is falling behind other industrialized countries.

Statistics show that it takes only 1% increase in literacy skills to equal **billions** of dollars in economic growth. Canada needs to step up to the plate to make this a reality - make training and education happen for everyone. All adults should have a future and the opportunity to make a future for their children. Let's make literacy universal! This has a huge impact on issues such as health, economy, and justice.

Thank you to all our volunteers who put literacy at the top of your

list and who are helping to make illiteracy a thing of the past. Literacy is everyone's right!

At the same time as the Forum, learners were holding a caucus. Later in the Forum learners were videotaped telling their stories. These stories will become part of the archive on the Canadian Education Ministers website. Add this to one of your lessons: go on line and view the speeches at [www.cmec.ca](http://www.cmec.ca).

Manitoba's Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy, Diane

McGifford, announced, during the Forum, an additional **\$1.1 million for literacy**.



**Happy 30th birthday  
LiteracyWORKS!  
1978-2008**

2008 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Literacy-WORKS, and we're throwing a party! Watch for future information on the party, which will be held at the Park Theatre on the evening of June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dinner and entertainment will be provided.



**Mary Switek**

### Chairperson's Report

So much has been said about the importance of volunteer appreciation.

In this issue I want to

write a little about the volunteers who make up the Board of Directors of LiteracyWORKS, for whom I am personally grateful.

Our Board meets ten times a year. Responding to outside pressures late last year, the Board correctly decided that it was time to undergo an organizational evaluation and a strategic planning session. Along with

LiteracyWORKS staff, the Board members gave up two cold Saturdays over the winter to meet with Gary Loewen, an experienced and effective facilitator. It was an eye-opening experience to look at the organization objectively.

One of the many things we all agreed upon was the necessity to expand and diversify our sources of revenue. We truly need to be a "working" Board to make this happen. We have set up several

new committees to research these alternatives and Board members are spending many hours each month on their chosen tasks. I am amazed at the scope and depth of the reports that are presented to the Board meetings. What makes me even happier is the determination and dedication the Board members bring to their tasks. I know we will be successful.

Board members, I'm a pretty quiet person, but please be assured, I appreciate each one of you.

**"I'm a pretty quiet person, but please be assured, I appreciate each one of you."**

## THE WRITE STUFF

### Things My Grandson and I Enjoy Doing Together

I have three grandchildren. My grandson is six and one-half years old; my granddaughter is one and half years old; and the newest grandson is twelve days old. What a sweetheart!

The older grandson sleeps over every second Friday. We set up a menu during the week. Last Friday, we had french fries, baby raw carrots, perogies and farmer's sausage. We had banana milk shakes and popcorn for dessert.

My grandson and I are not big fan of T.V. or movies. We have a love of board games. He's played chess, checkers, Snakes and Ladders, Risk, Stratego and Monopoly. These are just some of the games he knows and he is

only six and a half.

We are the "bestest buddies". We live for each other and trust each other one hundred percent. Last week he told me that he was stressed out. He had too much on his plate. At first I thought he was joking. At his age what can he know about stress? We went over his routine.

"We live for each other and trust each other one hundred percent."

OK. First year he went to an all-French school. He had to have an extra forty-five minutes with a French tutor. His homework was reading, writing and speak-

ing all in French. Then swimming lessons (for six years) half-hour a week and also half-hour piano lessons once a week. Yes, he was stressed because he was extremely emotional.

His parents and teachers were informed right away.

He is now himself while we were walking home from his piano lesson. He said, "When I am sixty-one years old, I will have grandkids and I will be just like you".

Wow! I've been blessed!

Gilbert Allard  
February 14, 2008

### Reading and Writing

One day my boss called me into the office. I sat down on the chair. We talked about my reading and writing. I got very scared. My boss said to me "you could get a better job". I said to my boss "maybe".

One day a job came up it was a fulltime job. I applied for the job. My boss said to me No!!! We talked about my reading and writing. Three years later a second job came up. I applied for the job again. My boss called me

into the office and we talked about my reading and writing. He said to me "you can get the fulltime job if you take a reading and writing course". I said to my boss, "yes! I'd like to take a reading and writing course". My boss said to me, "you got the full-time job." I was very happy.

Scott Friesen

### Poem

Winter coming and going  
Summer coming and going  
I am waiting and hoping

Mallika



## Winners of “I Love to Read Month” Contest

February was “I Love to Read” month and we found out all of you love to read! Congratulations to the following tutors and students who read the most during February.

### Tutors

Chris Lavigne with 13

Joan Honsberger-Siemens with 10

### Students

Kenny Paddison with 5

Cha Cha 35 flyers, 2 newsletters and a volunteer manual

### Prize

Mug with chocolates

Assorted prize package

### Prize

Mug with chocolates

Assorted prize package



“I Love to Read”

## Book Review—Leading the Way: Black Women in Canada

*Leading the Way: Black Women in Canada* by Rosemary Sadlier, Umbrella Press, Toronto, Ontario, 1994 – on our shelf.

The major part of the book contains extensive biographies of five black women either born in Canada or important to the progress of black socio-cultural development and political development in Canada.

Of continuing interest are the sidebar capsule histories of the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century social cultural and political history. This pro-

vides a background for what life was like at a particular time.

I learned from the first portrait of Harriet Tubman that she lived in St. Catherines, Ontario, in the first half of the 1800’s. I lived only seven miles away and I did not know until my daughter was in grade seven, here in Winnipeg, and had to read *Underground to Canada* for English class. The end point for the “underground railroad” was St. Catherines.

There are 35 short biographies of

other black women in Canada both living and dead. There is also a list of accomplishments “firsts” achieved by black women, including two Winnipeggers.

This is not a lengthy book (72 pages) and of moderate reading difficulty. It would be of interest to those with an interest in history or biographies.

Joan Honsberger-Siemens



L-R: Tutor Pat Knudsen, Terry Smith, Hwa Suk You

## Learner Speaker Graduate

Hwa Suk You shared her story with her fellow graduates, tutor and guests on April 11, 2008. Every year Literacy Partners of Manitoba holds workshops to teach interested literacy students how to tell their personal story. Graduates can then decide if they want to talk at public events, but they don’t have to. This training is called the Learners Speakers Bureau. Students: if you are inter-

ested in learning how to write and tell your story, let us know and you can take the training next spring.

## Books Read by Tutors

**Mary G.:** Atonement, Dreaming Water by Tsukiyama, The Toothpick by Henry Petroski, Night of Many Dream by Tsukiyama, The Faith Club by Rayna Idliby, Susan Oliver, Pricilla Warner.

**Brigit:** Where Children Run by David Pischke.

**Jan:** Late nights on Air by

Elizabeth Hay.

**Gail:** Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, What Came He Shot Her by Elizabeth George, Dead Hour by Denise Mina.

**Lynn:** Time Traveller's Wife, Sigma Code by Robert Ludlum, Bones and Ashes by Kathy Reichs, October by Robert B

Wright, 5<sup>th</sup> Horseman by James Patterson.

**Irene:** Quinn Brothers, by Nora Roberts, Three Fates by Infidel Hurseali, Deception Point by Dan Brown, Night Smoke by Nora Roberts, Midnight Warrior by Iris Johanssen.

## Books Read by Students

**Kurt:** Louis Riel by Rosemary Nearing.

**Aysel:** Secrets by Leslie Pearce (on pg 260 of 548!)



## Websites

<http://www.dailygrammar.com/archive.shtml>

This is a great site that gives definitions and exercises. (reprinted from 2006 newsletter)

[www.bbc.co.uk/raw](http://www.bbc.co.uk/raw)

These are quick reads that let the reader listen to or read the first chapters of 10 of the Quick Read books.

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

The International Dyslexia Association.

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

The US Learning Disabilities Association.

## Welcome to LiteracyWORKS and Some Goodbyes, too!

### New Learners

Rofina, John, Seymour, Joshua, Rick, Catherine, Robert, ChaCha, Erlinda, Amber, Diane, Andrea, Ana, Sean, Grace, Angela



### New Tutors

Lesley, Shannon, Cathy, Nancy

### Farewell to...

Carol, Jezebel, Liz, Melanie

# Victoria Day—The Queen's Birthday

The Queen's birthday has been celebrated in Canada since the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901).

May 24, Queen Victoria's birthday, was declared a holiday by the Legislature of the Province of Canada in 1845.

After Confederation, the Queen's birthday was celebrated every year on May 24 unless that date was a Sunday, in which case a proclamation was issued providing for the celebration on May 25.

After the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, an Act was passed by the Parliament of Canada establishing a legal holiday on May 24 in each year (or May 25 if May 24 fell on a Sunday) under the name Victoria Day.

An amendment to the Statutes of Canada in 1952 established the celebration of Victoria Day on the Monday preceding May 25.

From 1953 to 1956, the Queen's birthday

was celebrated in Canada on Victoria Day, by proclamation of the Governor General, with Her Majesty's approval. In 1957, Victoria Day was permanently appointed as the Queen's birthday in Canada. In the United Kingdom, the Queen's birthday is celebrated in June.

taken from the Canadian Heritage site, Government of Canada: [http://www.pch.gc.ca/PROGS/CPSC-CCSP/JFA-HA/victoria\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/PROGS/CPSC-CCSP/JFA-HA/victoria_e.cfm)



## Mystery Word

Fill in the blank spaces with the missing letter of the word.

The mystery word you make in the blank spaces is a stream of water falling down from a high place.

		s		e	a	t	
	s	w		l	l	o	w
	p	o		a	t	o	
	s	p		l	l		
	p	a		e	n	t	
l	e	a					
		l		z	y		
		f		o	o	r	
	f	o		d			

## For the Love of a Good Book...

**Can't resist a good book?** If so, why not help out at our Summer Reading Used Book Sale at Kildonan Place from June 13 through 15. To sign up for your preferred shift phone Terry at 784-5502.

**Website design your "thing"?** We are looking for a volunteer to update our look and manage the content on a regular basis. Phone Lorraine at 784-5503.

**A whiz at MS Publisher?** We need a volunteer to do the newsletter layout about 3 to 4 times

per year. Call Terry at 784-5502.

**Looking to help out wherever you are needed?** The committee arranging our first ever Gala fundraising event, to be held in November, is looking for assistance. Phone Lorraine at 784-5503 for information.

### **Volunteer Program Coordinator Assistant**

We will be in need of an assistant Coordinator to help out the Program Coordinator with various tasks that could include: contacting volunteers, helping out



with volunteer appreciation, staffing displays at events, etc. Valid driver's license and a car would be helpful.

**Volunteer needed to help with occasional office work**, such as newsletter mailings, etc. Please call Terry at 784-5502.



## Dates to put on your calendar

- **Summer Reading Used Book Sale**  
Kildonan Place  
June 13, 14, 15
- **30th Anniversary Party**  
Park Theatre  
dinner, entertainment  
Mon, June 23
- **Volunteer & Learner Appreciation**  
Mon, June 23
- **Gala Fundraiser**  
Inn at the Forks  
Thurs, Nov 6

## Spring Humour

**What season is it when you are on a trampoline?**  
Spring-time!

**When do monkeys fall from the sky?**  
Ape-ril showers!

**Can February March?**  
No but April May!

**What flowers grow on faces?**  
Tulips (Two-lips)!

**Why is the letter A like a flower?**  
Because a bee (B) comes after it!

*Taken from The Zen-tai Wellness Newsletter -Funnies Spring 2008*



**Why is the letter A like a flower?**



## LiteracyWORKS

Room 230—500 Portage Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3X1  
Phone: 786-1212  
Fax: 786-1289  
info@litworks.ca  
www.litworks.ca

OFFICE HOURS  
Mon & Wed 1-8 pm  
Tues & Thurs 9-4pm  
Fridays CLOSED

**TUTORS—Remember to  
share this newsletter  
with your student!**

### LiteracyWORKS Who's Who

#### BOARD

**Mary Switek**, Chairperson  
**Eliude Cavalcante**, Vice Chair  
**Leslie Eskra**, Past Chairperson  
**Eva Whitmore**, Treasurer  
**Marion Fulcher**, Secretary  
**Diane Lonergan**, Funding Officer  
Vacant, Publicity Officer  
**Avril Chartrand**, Student Rep.  
**Andrew Quarry**, Member at Large  
**Susan Wakeman**, Member at Large  
**Anita Ens**, Member at Large  
**Erin Romeo**, Member at Large  
**Karen Emberley**, Member at Large

#### STAFF

**Lorraine Kaczor**, Program Manager  
**Terry Smith**, Program Coordinator  
**Sherry Funk**, Program Coordinator  
**Deane McDonald**, Admin Assistant/  
Bookkeeper

## Reading for Learners – Canadian Content

Looking for Canadian Content? Check out our bookshelf for:

**Tapping The Gift: Manitoba's First People**, Pemmican Publications Inc.

**Winners, Two: Ten Canadian Award-Winning Athletes**, Laubach Literacy of Canada

**Her Story: Women from Canada's Past**, Susan E. Merritt  
**Canadian Disasters**, Rene Schmidt

**Voices from Canada's Past, Books 1, 2, 3**, Laubach Literacy of Canada

**Bonanza Gold: Canada Under Siege, The Klondike Stampede, Revenge of Tribes**, all by Pierre Burton

**Ste. Madeleine: Community Without a Town**, Metis Elders in Interview, Ken Zeilig & Victoria Zeilig

**James McKay: A Metis Builder of Canada**, Agnes Grant

**Made in Canada: We Got There First**, Laubach Literacy of Canada

**In the Line of Duty: Stories of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police**, Laubach Literacy of Canada

## Need Ideas For Writing?

Stuck for writing exercises?  
Here's an idea:

Fill a bag with various small objects, everyday items like thread, seeds, ornaments, and ribbon. A variety of things is good.

Have your student put their hand in the bag and pull out an item.

Ask the student to describe the item they hold - size, colour, shape, use.

Once the student describes the item, ask the question

"How are you like or not like this object?" Be creative, and help your student along.

You can have your student write this down or dictate it to you to write down and have them read it back to you. Have fun. Tutors can join in.

