



# Literacy News

Autumn 2010

## Retirement and Staff Changes



*The Literacy Society is pleased to announce that Shirley Cunningham is the successful candidate for the position of Program Manager. Shirley began her appointment on November 1st, 2010.*

Program manager, Linda Boon retired this summer. Her report for the June 2010 Annual General Meeting summed up the changes she's seen since her start with the Society as a volunteer 18 years ago. Linda has been Program Manager for the past 12 years.

Many thanks to Linda for her dedicated service and her contributions to literacy in south Muskoka over the years. We wish you a long and rewarding retirement as you pursue this next chapter in your life!

Fred Schulz took over the position in an acting capacity until November 1st, when Shirley Cunningham was appointed to the position of Program Manager of the Literacy Society of South Muskoka. Shirley, who has been working at the Society since 2007 in the position of Administrative Assistant, comes into the position with a wealth of experiences and looks forward to taking the Literacy Society into a new and exciting level of service and involvement in the communities of South Muskoka.

### Fall Office Hours

**Monday to Thursday: 9—5 pm; closed from 12:30—1:30pm**  
**Closed: Fridays**

The answering machine is always on...if it picks up before we do, kindly leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible.

**Literacy News** is the quarterly newsletter of the Literacy Society of South Muskoka, Gravenhurst, Ontario, Canada.

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*There's no better time than now to pick up a book to read!*

## Board of Directors

### Executive

**President:**  
Jim Webster

**Past President:**  
Randy Puchala

**Secretary:**  
Donna Roberts

### Directors

Jim Webster  
Randy Puchala  
Donna Roberts  
Betty Latham  
Hanne Smith  
Gary Darlington

### Staff

Program Manager:  
Shirley Cunningham

Student/Tutor Coordinator:  
Jo Cryderman

Clerical Assistant:  
Dave Steeves

Small Group Instructors:  
Donna Roberts; Dave Steeves

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## Message from the President of the Society

Let me introduce myself. I am James Webster, the new President of the South Muskoka Literacy Society. I have been a member of the Society, firstly as a tutor and then as a board member.

I was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and as a family we immigrated to Canada in the 1950's. I previously lived in Toronto and moved to Gravenhurst five years ago. I have been a willing volunteer in both places. I have a daughter, Stacey, and three grandchildren.

My thoughts are positive and I know this organization can help people improve themselves by giving them a bridge to self-confidence. Reading and writing are a gift that some people take for granted while other people are denied this blessing due to circumstances beyond their control, lack of guidance at the moment, or a boost to confidence at the proper time. The opportunity to attain those blessings—of being given the chance to learn to read and write—has no boundary as long as the person has the will and desire to want those gifts.

This Society can give a person this opportunity to feel good about themselves. To make a mark in our society we always need volunteers, so anyone who is interested or knows someone who may be interested, please let us know.

*Sincerely,  
James Webster*

## Since the last Newsletter...

**Tag Day news:** Many thanks to our hard working volunteer taggers and to all those who donated funds to make our two tag days successful. Bracebridge tag day was on June 5th and raised \$ 588.73. During the Gravenhurst tag day on June 19 taggers raised \$953.56.

The **June 23 Open House** was well attended. Presentations were made to our hard working tutors to recognize their volunteer hours. Congratulations to the following...Senior Tutor Status: Linda Morrison, Betty Young, Leslie O'Neil, Jeff Thomas, Suzanne Hopkins, Janet Farr. Advanced Tutor Status: Dave Steeves, Diane Thomson, Patricia Whitfield. Master Tutor Status: Gwyneth Pyne.

The **Annual General Meeting** followed on the evening of June 23 for the membership to approve changes to the by-laws of the Society and to approve the budget for 2010-11. Those present enjoyed refreshments after the meeting adjourned.

This past summer, Jo and Dave were busy conducting group workshops for Ontario Works clients. A new workshop for preparing participants to write their G1 knowledge driving test was conducted with 8 participants. Following the workshop, 5 participants wrote the G1 test. Participants Greg, Kerri-Ann, Bobby, Pauline and Kara are congratulated on passing the written G1 driving test in June, 2010.

OW clients from Gravenhurst participated in the **Ready for Work Program** this past summer. The program continues to be a great success!

The annual **Tee off for Literacy** Golf fundraiser was held on the weekend of Sept 4-6 and realized \$1700. Well done!

**Introduction to Food Service Workers** was a six session course to introduce learners to the various jobs in the food service industry. Presented by Dave it was offered during the last two weeks of September.

## *Since the last Newsletter...continued*

Many thanks to Libby Hudswell who facilitated a new program, **Healthy Eating on a Budget** in September and October for learners at Gagnon's in Bracebridge. Participants prepared a different recipe each session in the Community Room, learning about budget saving tips and strategies and enjoying the results of their cooking efforts! Libby introduced the learners to a number of delicious recipes.

**A** fall bus tour led by Donna Roberts took students and tutors on a FREE Museum and Art Gallery Tour in Algonquin Park on Saturday, October 23, 2010. Read the comments from one of our learners on page 4 about the day.

## *Upcoming Events:*

**Attention Tutors:** LSSM is required to provide the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities with extensive statistical data every month. We need the number of monthly tutoring hours by student. It would be greatly appreciated if each tutor supply Jo Cryderman with the information **before day 3 of the following month**. For ease of reporting this information, please complete the Monthly Tutoring Hours Report for each of your students. A supply of these forms is available from the office or on our website at: [www.literacysocietysouthmuskoka.org](http://www.literacysocietysouthmuskoka.org) at the bottom of our home page—under “Common forms”.

**Driver's Ed:** Jo will facilitate another round of training starting in November for those interested in preparing for the G1 driving test. Contact the office to register.

**Christmas Potluck:** mark your calendar for Tuesday, Dec. 14 at the Salvation Army Church in Gravenhurst. Meet and Greet at 6 p.m.; dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. RSVP 687-9323. All members, tutors, learners, Board of Directors are invited to attend.

## *It's a Literacy Fact...*

“The International Adult Literacy Survey reveals that literacy skills can be lost if they are not used throughout life.” *From: Gaining and Losing Literacy Skills Over the Lifecourse, 1994-2003*  
By: [J. Douglas Willms](#), [T. Scott Murray](#)

## *Find it on the Internet*

Have you ever taken a Moodle course? Ever hear of Plato? Centra? Learners who are interested in the internet and computers can take **free** online courses through “The Learning Hub”. There are a growing number of courses to choose from. Course descriptions and ability levels are shown for each course. Register for a course by filling in the online registration form at [www.thelearninghub.ca](http://www.thelearninghub.ca) or contact the office to register.

Tutors: access tutor and Exchange of Information Authorization forms on our website:  
[www.literacysocietysouthmuskoks.org](http://www.literacysocietysouthmuskoks.org)

## *Featured Resources for Students and Tutors:*

Come visit our resource library at the office. There are over 1,000 items to choose from...videos, magazines, newspapers, books, cd's, manuals, dictionaries, workbooks, and textbooks to help your learners with spelling, reading, writing, math, survival skills, parenting, grammar, phonics, or computers.

## In the Students' Words...

My trip to Algonquin Park on Saturday was nice. The exhibits were nice. The group got to see the film on how the park was made. The leaves were nice; it was a little cold. I would go again.

We went by bus. There were five people that went from Gravenhurst and there were five people that went from Bracebridge. Altogether there were ten people that went. We didn't go to the logging museum because it was closed. We went to the Visitor's Centre. We went to the art gallery and they had nice paintings on the wall. We brought our lunch and ate in the cafeteria, then we went through the gift shop. It was a really nice trip. I enjoyed it very much. Then we came home.

*By Diana Saddington*

### Peace

Peace on our planet,  
That would be great I think!  
Love and understanding,  
Could bring us to the brink!  
Talking, caring and sharing,  
So what do you think?

*By M. T.*

*We thank all those who submitted articles for this issue of the newsletter. We will publish those submissions in future issues, so stay tuned!*

## Tools for Success....qualified tutors



**Graduation Day!** October 18 marked the last day of tutor training for seven newly qualified tutors for the Literacy Society. The course involved 15 hours of intensive training covering topics such as learning styles, Society expectations for tutors, required forms, resources, motivating learners, and teaching strategies.

Dave Steeves and Jo Cryderman were the trainers (back row at either end) and the proud certificate grads, from left to right were: Peggy Steeves, Suzanne Hopkins, Lynne Schryer, George Rector and Larry Babineau. Missing are Emily Magee and Leone Babineau.

## The Last Word....

Muskoka has a growing population of newly retired individuals who are searching for ways to enrich their lives by giving their personal time and expertise to the community. Many are joining various community groups and organizations offering a wealth of skills and experiences along with countless volunteer hours. The Literacy Society of South Muskoka continues to welcome volunteers in a variety of areas including serve on the board of directors, tutor, help with fundraising and public relations, reception desk duty, and Ad Hoc Committees.

Getting involved with the Literacy Society promises to be a fulfilling and rewarding experience for yourself, while at the same time helping others.

*Fred Schulz*