



# Literacy News

Spring 2010

## LSSM Learners Explore the Science Centre



*Inside the Toronto Science Centre, our learners enjoyed the planetary exhibit—one of the many fascinating exhibits they toured on their recent day trip to the Centre.*

During March Break Donna Roberts, our small group instructor, led a contingent of LSSM learners to the Toronto Science Centre. In this latest in a series of annual jaunts around the province with her group, Donna had this to say about the adventure:

“All the exhibits were terrific. Favourites included the mind and body, rainforest, coral reef and planetary exhibits.”

The Muskoka visitors toured as many of the exhibits as time allowed that day, enjoying a break for lunch.

The afternoon treat for all was viewing the Omniplex theatre movie “Under the Sea”. Visually delightful, the movie showcases plant life, sharks, unusual fish from the ocean’s depths, and sea lions—so close you think you could touch them!

Many thanks to Driver Gary Darlington, from First Student, who graciously donated his time to drive the group of 20 participants by bus to the city that day. Both Gary and Donna are on the LSSM Board of Directors.

### Spring Office Hours

**Monday to Thursday: 9 am—5 pm**

**Closed: Fridays and Easter Monday (April 5), Victoria Day (May 24)**

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.

Deadline to submit articles for the Summer 2010 issue is June 1, 2010.

### Newsletter Highlights

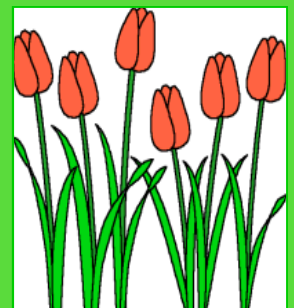
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**Spring has arrived!**

## Board of Directors

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## Since the last Newsletter..

### 2010—A Class Odyssey

Our bus driver was Gary. We saw a lot of things, Under the Sea movie and I really liked the Rain forest. I liked when we saw the planets, earth and the moon. They were so cool! At the pit stop we went to MacDonald's to hold us over until we got to Toronto and we stopped there on the way home too. The mind and body display taught me a lot, also the coral reef was very interesting. Thank you so much, Donna & Gary for the trip. Hope to go soon there is so much more to see. *By Jo Anne*



We took a very exciting trip to Toronto to the Ontario Science Centre. It was very interesting. We saw a movie about the Ocean's Floor. It was about what went on in the bottom of the ocean. It was very frightening when the shark took the life of the crab. You could actually hear the 'crunch' of the poor crab as the shark chewed on it. All in all it was very exciting.

*By Howard*

**Men's Leadership** was held in January and February. The LSSM worked with Muskoka Community Services in Bracebridge; Dave Steeves and Bev VanderJagt facilitated weekly sessions. Nine participants discussed issues affecting home and work relationships from a male perspective with their peers.

**Fenbrook Literacy Classes** were a joint venture between the LSSM and Trillium Lakelands District School Board to bring group English and math instruction to inmates at Febrook Prison. Dave and Jo conducted weekly classes from January to March.

**Ladies' Yoga Class** led by Patricia on Wednesdays from 1 to 2 pm.

**Art Group** is run by Lyn is on Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 pm.

The winter **Tutor Talk** was held on the afternoon of Jan. 14th at the LSSM office. Five tutors participated and were led by Dave and Jo. Through discussions on essential skills, sharing approaches & challenges the participants gained a deeper understanding. New resources were introduced.

**Literacy Family Fun Day** was held at the Gravenhurst Centennial Centre, Feb. 20 where 61 children and 51 adults participated. The LSSM is one of 5 literacy partners to sponsor this event.

**Individual Computer Instruction:** Learn to email, do internet searches, or improve your keyboarding skills. Find out how to save documents and to find the ones you've 'lost'! Upgrade your skills to help you find a job, redo your resume, or learn how your new laptop works...learn how to use Word, Excel or Publisher...call the office to book some one on one tutoring time with one of our computer gurus!

## It's a Literacy Fact...

"The challenge for Ontario and its literacy programs is how to reach the 1.9 million people with the lowest levels of literacy as well as the 2.4 million people who read, but not well enough for today's economy. Currently, Ontario LBS programs are only funded to serve about 50,000 learners each year."

*Literacy in Ontario, 2009*

## Upcoming Events:

**April 1—Society Membership fees are now due.** The cost remains at \$10. Send payment to the office in person or by mail.

**April 22—Tutor Talk** at the LSSM office for all tutors from 2-4 pm. Refreshments supplied.

**Basic Computer Training** is a joint venture with O.W. for individuals with no previous or limited computer skills. It is being held during the month of April at the LSSM office.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** This is the start of our fundraising season. A tag day is scheduled in each town and we need *your* help to make it a success. Contact the office with your availability:

**June 5—Bracebridge Tag Day.**

**June 19—Gravenhurst Tag Day.**

**June 23—Literary Society Open House**, 1-5 pm, followed at 7pm by the **Annual General Meeting, Awards Presentations and Reception** at the Gravenhurst Opera House.

**Attention All Tutors:** please work with your learners to provide demonstrations of their achievements to display at the June 2010 *Open House*. Start NOW to create and save those demonstrations. Writing pieces are welcome for future issues of the newsletter!

**June 25-27—Laubach Literacy Ontario Conference** in Waterloo. Contact the office if you would like to attend or to find out more information. This is a great opportunity for tutors, students, board members to learn from experts in our province and share information.

## Find it on the Internet

**LSSM has launched it's long awaited website!** Now you can keep up with all the latest news and events at the Literacy Society. Find it at [www.literacysocietysouthmuskoka.org](http://www.literacysocietysouthmuskoka.org)

## Featured Resources for Students and Tutors:

**Mavis Beacon Typing Tutor, Platinum edition** is a great computer tool for those wanting to develop or improve on their keyboarding skills. This program is available for use at the office.

**Smart Solutions** is a mathematics workbook series that teaches real-life applications, sharpens computation skills, develops problem solving abilities. Our library has 'Whole Numbers and Money' and 'Decimals, Fractions, Ratios and Percents'.

**Need copies of worksheets for a learner?** Come to the office to browse through the collection of materials on the small table next to the copier. Help yourself and take home what you can use!



**Get the word out...** *New members welcome!* Volunteers serve on the board of directors, tutor, help with fundraising and public relations. Membership fees are \$10 per year. Membership benefits include: access to resource materials from our library; subscription to the Society's newsletter *Literacy News*; invitations to Society functions such as the annual Christmas dinner, tutor talks, membership in Laubach Literacy Ontario (for discounts to attend the annual provincial conference, purchase of books and other resources); *and* voting privileges at the Society's Annual General Meeting in June. If you know of someone who would share their love of reading, writing or math with another adult please encourage them to contact us at 687-9323.



## ***In the Students' Words...***

My favourite moments of the Vancouver Winter Olympics were that they were in my country. It was a very nice feeling during the games. The women's hockey were rough and tumble and putting a good effort to gain a gold medal. There were many athletes from some countries and only a few from some others. Hopefully, more will join in. The games teach me to strive harder. When the Olympians are training they are also young and it teaches us to look for more challenges and strive to do better. *By Shelly*

My favourite moments of the Vancouver 2010 Winter games were the figure skating. The women's skating was excellent. It was very sad for the girl who's mother died. They are very good people and are good team worker. They work very hard together. I enjoyed everything about the Olympic games in Vancouver.

*By Betty Anne*

The Canadians were playing the USA for the Gold medal. I was getting real ansey and so were the fans. It was a nail biting situation and then Sydney Crosby scored the winning goal. Sydney Crosby is Canadian but plays for the Pittsburg Penguins. Wayne Gretsky, then great one, held the flaming Olympic torch and lit the Olympic Cauldron. *by Danny Stillar*

I think watching the opening of the games was the most joyous, spiritual, adventurous, breath taking and talented thing I have ever watched on T.V. The snow boarder through the rings, the Indians dancing and the singing it was phenomenal. It looked like the best party I have ever seen. I felt like I was there. I wished I really was but at least I watched and felt the most adventurous thing ever. I hope you felt the spirit too!  
*By Martyn*

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

## ***The Last Word....for all you chocoholics!***

### **Chocolate Almond Biscotti**

¾ cup sliced or slivered almonds	¾ tsp baking soda
1 1/3 cup all-purpose flour	½ tsp baking power
1 cup white sugar	1 tsp vanilla
½ cup cocoa	½ cup butter
	2 eggs

#### ***METHOD:***

Toast slivered almonds – about 4-5 minutes.

Combine all dry ingredients (including the toasted almond slices)

Cut in butter (as if you are making pastry)

Add eggs and vanilla

Work with your hands until dough is well combined. If too sticky shake on a little more flour and work it into the dough.

*NOTE:* Should not be as dry as if you are making bread – should be more like a cookie dough.

Set dough onto parchment paper lined baking sheet – form into a log.

BAKE: 325 oven, 35-40 minutes

Let cool – about 15 minutes – carefully slice width-wise into ‘fingers’ – return to baking sheet setting each ‘finger’ on its side.

Bake another 10 minutes or until ‘fingers’ are toasty.

Let cool completely before handling.

*NOTE:* I usually add chocolate chips to this – but then there can never be too much chocolate in them for me. Serve with cappuccino . . . and enjoy. It just doesn't get any better than this!!

*Submitted by: Lynda Kerckhoff, Tutor*