



# Literacy News

Fall 2011

## 2011 Tee Off for Literacy



*Perfect summer weather and the beautiful Diamond in the Ruff Golf Course were a winning combination for the Literacy Society's premier summer fundraiser, Tee Off for Literacy. LSSM Volunteer Mary Lyn and Golf Course Manager Gord were on hand to display the prize list at the start of the course.*

Labour Day long weekend is Tee Off for Literacy time at Diamond in the Ruff Golf Course. This year's proceeds reached \$2200 from golf hole sponsors and \$830 in Tee Off ticket sales for a total of \$3030! Thanks and congratulations to Board Director, Donna Roberts, who organized this year's event. Well done! Thank you to Mary Lyn Beatty and Jim Webster for taking a shift at the golf course to sell tickets. Turn to page 3 for a list of those businesses who supported this event and to the golf courses in Muskoka who generously donated this year's prizes. Congratulations to the winners of the prizes and thank you to all for participating in our *Tee Off for Literacy* golf event. We hope to see you all next year!

### Fall Office Hours

**Monday to Thursday: 9:30 am—5 pm**

**Closed: Monday Oct 10 for Thanksgiving**

The answering machine is always on...if it picks up before we do, please 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.

### Newsletter Highlights

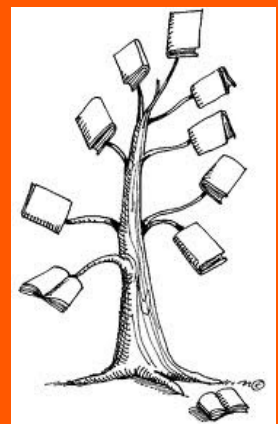
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*Fall into a book today!*

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**Student/Tutor Coordinator:**

Jo Cryderman

**Co-Coordinator's Assistant:**

Dave Steeves

**Small Group Instructors:**

Donna Roberts

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## *A message from the Society's President:*

Hello Everyone!

It is time for another newsletter which gives me the opportunity to pass on my thoughts to our readers.

To me this is the moment, September, when the education system starts afresh. Pupils move from kindergarten to public school, public school to high school and from there to college or university. This is not the case with us; our tutors work 365 days, no set holidays because we know stopping for the summer is not good for our pupils. The tutors know that their students are seeking higher goals: further education, work or to be able to read a book, take a driver's exam, fill out applications. All things of this nature that other people can handle with ease.

You, the tutors, are able to provide so much substance to another person, such as confidence, desire, hope and respect for themselves. Those are the gifts you can supply. Thank you,

*James Webster,  
Board President*

## *Since the last Newsletter...*

**Spelling Club:** was begun over the summer and it met with such success that it will continue on Wednesdays starting at 10:30 a.m.

**Ready for Work:** Dave delivered a successful series to 8 learners in Bracebridge in July and August.

**Art History Group:** completed its mandate in August. Participants will be putting finishing touches on the written descriptions of their art pieces for the Open House event. Many thanks to Lyn who began the group over 2 years ago and to Suzanne who brought it to conclusion at the end of August. The participants learned a lot about the topics presented and very much enjoyed the added dimension of the hands-on creativity.

**Spotlight on Change:** finished up in July with Jo in Gravenhurst. The ladies who attended learned much about themselves and the topics covered in the program.

**Health Literacy Symposium** held August 29 in North Bay was attended by Jo, Shirley and one of our tutors, Margaret. Well worth attending; lots of relevant facts stressed the need for making health information more readable and easier to understand for more Canadians. Well done North Bay Literacy Council!! Visit [www.northbayliteracycouncil.ca](http://www.northbayliteracycouncil.ca) to see their resources.

**Tutor Talks and the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum (OALCF):** Dave delivered an informative workshop for eight tutors on September 7 to bring our tutors up to speed on the basics of the new OALCF. This new curriculum is being introduced across the province to all literacy agencies over this coming year. Tasks will be presented to learners in order for them to increase their level of knowledge and master the 6 competencies. Tutors will use a task-based, practical daily living approach for learners to achieve their goal paths. As additional components of the curriculum are rolled out to the agencies, the Society will conduct further tutor training sessions.

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

**Books for Brunch:** is an annual family literacy promotion event presented jointly by the libraries in Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, our Society, Muskoka Family Focus and the Early Years Program. Held at Bracebridge Public School on Sat. September 24 we attracted over 90 children and 80 adults.

**Unexpected Grant Received:** Thank you to one of our tutors, Lynne S. who applied on behalf of the Society for a Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP) grant this summer to Imperial Oil Foundation. What a wonderful surprise when the office was informed in writing that the application was approved. The \$1000 grant is for the purchase of material and computer training. The Society wishes to express sincere thanks to **Imperial Oil Foundation** for this generous grant and for encouraging its employees, annuitants and spouses to support community volunteer work.

**Sincere thanks to all of our Golf Event Supporters:** To those businesses who sponsored signage at the various holes: *Artisan's Gallery, BDO Dunwoody LLP, Cavalcade Ford, Clear Case Computers, Chamberlain's Timbr Mart, DTA & Associates, Evergreen Tree Services, John Greer Plumbing, Johnston's Insurance, Kimberley Hearing Centre, Knapp's Gravenhurst Furniture, Leisureworld Muskoka, Muskoka Chrysler, Muskoka Insurance, Muskoka Pro Auto, New Leaf Landscaping, Peace of Mind ElderCare, Ratcliff Auto Body, Walker's Point Marina, Wayne's Tire Sales, Wine Not (Wine making Est.), Gravenhurst Chamber of Commerce.* Other valuable business supporters include: *Muskoka Springs, Muskoka Signs, and Watt's Printing.* To the golf courses in Muskoka who generously donated the prizes, our thanks is extended to: *Bigwin Island, Bracebridge Golf Course, Diamond in the Ruff, Fairways of Kirrie Glen, Muskoka Woodlands, Lake Joseph Club and North Granite Ridge.*

## *Upcoming Events:*

*You are invited to attend ...*

### ***Literacy...More than Words Open House***

***Wednesday, October 26***

***6 to 8 pm***

at the Literacy Society office, 690 Muskoka road South, Gravenhurst

Showcasing our students' achievements over the past year

- Join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our learners
- Meet our learners, tutors, staff and Board of Directors members

### ***Encourage Others to Invest in Our Community***

Do you know of someone who would enjoy spending their time helping another adult to improve their skills?

Invite a friend to join the Literacy Society as a volunteer tutor.

We have new learners who need a tutor. The time you spend as a tutor is time well spent. It's an investment in our community.

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

*Writings from the August Fairy Tales Workshop...*

### **Bullfrog Prince and the Frog**

Kilden the bullfrog prince for several years watched the frog from afar in his kingdom in the bottom of the pond. One day he met Christina the frog and after a long courtship they fell in love. She became Princess Christina and went to live with Kilden the Bullfrog Prince in his tin can palace at the bottom of the pond.

After a couple of years they adopted three tadpoles and they became a family. It was not always smooth sailing, but they stayed together till the end of time. The tadpoles, Tom, Dick and Harry, grew up and moved on. Kilden the Bullfrog Prince and Christina the Princess frog grew old together and stayed in the tin can palace at the bottom of the pond. The end.

*By Diane R.*

### **Sleeping Prince**

Long ago there lived a king and queen who said every day "if only we had a child!" But for a long time they had none.

One day as the queen was bathing in the spring and dreaming of a child, a frog crept out of the water and said to her "your wish shall be fulfilled. Before a year has passed you shall bring a son into the world."

Since frogs are such magical creatures it was no surprise that before a year had passed the queen had a baby boy. The child was so handsome and sweet that the king could not contain himself for joy. He prepared a great feast and invited all his friends, family and neighbours.

He invited the fairies too, in order that might be kind and good to the child. There were thirteen of them in his kingdom, but as the king only had twelve golden plates for them to eat from, one of the fairies had to be left out. None of the guests was saddened by this as the thirteenth was known to be cruel and spiteful.

An amazing feast was held and when it came to an end, each of the fairies presented the child with a magic gift. One fairy gave him virtue, another beauty, a third riches and so on with everything in the world that anyone could wish for.

*By Susan*

*For the rest of this tale, come to our open house and look for the writing display!*

## *The Last Word....*

The Health Literacy Symposium held in North Bay on August 30 was sponsored by the North Bay Literacy Council. It was an outstanding event. Statistics show that 90% of health information is via print. Over 60% of the population has trouble with health information because of the high level of vocabulary and the terminology. Most health information is written beyond a grade 12 level. Well organized with a distinguished array of speakers and panelists, presenters made clear that there is a gap between the levels that the general public is able to read and understand in relation to health information, and the level at which the materials are written. This presents an opportunity for us to assist others in our community. Are you up to the challenge?

*Shirley Cunningham  
Program Manager*