



Literacy News

Spring/Summer 2011

Taking Time for Tea



The Blue Willow Tea Room was the venue for the Society's 2011 Volunteer Appreciation Awards. Above are some of the candid shots taken during the evening's festivities.

June is our traditional month to celebrate the efforts of and thank our valuable volunteers. A strawberry social brought a record number of volunteers together to the Blue Willow Tea Room on June 28.

Board President Jim Webster welcomed everyone and gave a short greeting to the group.

Program Manager Shirley Cunningham presented a certificate to Rob McIsaac for his efforts to support literacy with the Muskoka Touring Company's May Opera House Performance, "Resort to Muskoka". Rob was unable to be present that

evening, so Gail Newstead, accepted on his behalf.

Jo Cryderman proudly presented tutors with certificates. Senior Tutor Awards for 40+ hours of tutoring were presented to Melissa Church, Libby Hudswell, George Rector, Peggy Steeves and Lyn Gillespie.

Advanced Tutor Awards are given to those who tutor 175+ hours. Anne Brown, Marg McLaren, Kim Nguyen, Graham Scott and Lyn Gillespie were recipients.

One Master Tutor Award was presented this year to Lyn Gillespie for giving 300+ hours of service.

Many thanks to all of you!

Summer Office Hours

Monday to Thursday: 9:30 am—4:30 pm

Closed: Fridays, Aug. 1, and Sept 5, 2011

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

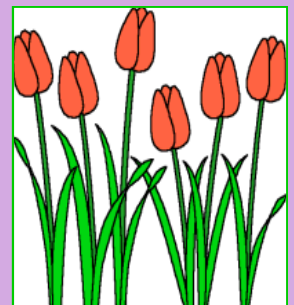
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Reading grows!

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Dave Steeves

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A message from the Society's President:

July 26, 2011

This time of year is usually, I thought, a quiet period. Not really! The Society held its appreciation night which thanks and honours you, our excellent volunteers, who are the foundation of this Society. The evening was a success with Jo presenting the honours. Jo, as you all know, does this very well with grace and class and, of course, the homely touch. Thank you, Jo. Shirley kept things moving, taking pictures and of course chatting her way through the room. Last, but not least, we got Donna to address all with the closing remarks. Thanks, Donna, for organizing the night. It was great with thirty guests attending.

Our night at the Opera House on May 7, a musical comedy, "resort to Muskoka", was a success on the stage; not so in the stands. Remember a present failure can be a future success.

Those are my views of some of the few projects we, as a Society, do and do well. Aside from educating, we must also try to raise money and as a Board continue, always, to show how grateful we are of everyone's help and how you all make this society a social, friendly place to belong to.

*Jim Webster,
Board President*

Since the last Newsletter...

May 9 Opera House Performance: 'Resort to Muskoka' was a co-operative fundraising venture with the Gravenhurst Early Years Program. The audience enjoyed the many musical numbers and gave it two thumbs up for entertainment value and audience participation. The Society realized \$127.83 on this project.

May 24 Tag Day: Bracebridge had 10 volunteers who raised \$468.85. Gravenhurst had 17 volunteers who raised \$1264.06. Our tag day proceeds are up \$190.62 over last year. *Thank you volunteers and well done!*

S.M.A.R.T. workshops: This employment related series was delivered in March in Gravenhurst. Topics included speaking effectively, marketing yourself, attitudes, resolving conflict and time management.

Positive Work Skills: was conducted from April to June in Bracebridge to meet the needs of individual learners.

G1 Exam Prep: was offered in both Bracebridge and Gravenhurst from March to April. This is one of our most popular courses.

Spotlight on Change: was offered throughout May and June in Gravenhurst. It was a women's employment course.

Speechcraft: This 5 session series focused on public speaking presentation skills using a Toastmaster-styled approach. It was held in Gravenhurst and facilitated by Dave.

It's a Literacy Fact....

"The ability to understand a spreadsheet or calculate a tip at a restaurant might not seem like crucial survival skills but, in fact, numeracy is critical to Canada's future productivity and the prosperity of its citizens." *From: The Globe and Mail, March 5, 2011.*

Upcoming Events:

August 29: Health Literacy Symposium presented by the North Bay Literacy Council. General registration \$50, (students \$25). Call the office (705-687-9323) if you need more info.

September 2, 3, 4: Tee Off for Literacy golf event at Diamond in the Ruff Golf Club, 1137 Old Parry Sound Road, Raymond, ON, This is our annual summer fundraiser event. Call the office to find out how you can help out...Volunteers needed!

Spelling Club: If spelling is your challenge, then this is the place for you! Iris Lamb facilitates this small group on Wednesdays starting at 10:30 am at the office. Call the office to register.

Math Club: This new small group is geared to help learners apply numeracy skills that they can use in everyday tasks. Call the office if you are interested in participating. Date and time to be announced. Location: the office. Math tutor needed.

Sept/Oct 2011: Tutor Talk, date to be determined. Topic: the essentials that tutors need to know regarding the new Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF).

Attention All Tutors: please work with your learners to provide demonstrations of their achievements to display at our fall *Open House*. Thank you to those who have submitted samples already. Submissions are due by the first week of September. Writing pieces are welcome for future issues of the newsletter as well.

Come Join Us on Tuesday September 27...

"Literacy...More than Words" Open House
from 2 to 5 pm

Literacy Society Annual General Meeting
from 5 to 6 pm

Chamber of Commerce Open House Event
from 6 to 8 pm

Location:
Literacy Society of South Muskoka
690 Muskoka Road South, Gravenhurst

Reminder: Annual Membership Fees for 2011-12

membership year are now past due!

Cost is \$10 from May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012

Fees must be paid to vote at the AGM in September

In the Students' Words...

Tai Chi

In the park
It was dark
People moved.
Dips and bends
Slicing the air;
Arms spread
Legs aloft
People wondered
As they watched,
What could this be?
This is the art of Tai Chi.

By Sandy

How I Help in the Community

I go to Beachgrove Public School twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I volunteer in Room 9 for Mrs. Heather Martin.

I help the children with crafts. The crafts help the children to learn their colours. Also, I help the children to write sentences.

I have enjoyed working at Beachgrove for the last ten years.

By Jennifer Collins

I 'm a student at the Literacy Centre and I tutor in English. We are studying homophones which are words that sound the same but are spelled differently.

By Debbie

The High Points of Ottawa

We went on a bus trip to Ottawa. When we arrived we got out of the bus and went into the hotel to book in. The group went to their rooms by elevator. Some got off on the fourth floor and others on the fifth. There were four to a room. We unpacked, washed up and went down for dinner.

After dinner we went out to the bus to go to Scotiabank Place to watch the hockey game between New York Rangers and the Ottawa Senators. I was pleased to note that the area was well secured. Rangers won 4 to 1! We went back to the hotel for the night. The next morning we got up, showered, had coffee and a muffin in our room. We went to the main floor, met up with the group and left by a revolving door out into the street. We started to walk up to the corner and we crossed to the other side where we walked down to a fast food place to eat. After our breakfast we walked to Parliament Hill. When we arrived we went through a security check, just like it happens at an airport. No beeps, we all passed! We went to look around. One huge hall with large pictures, a very large library which we could only look at. We also saw the meeting rooms which also had security guards milling about. Some of our group went to the Peace Tower, others enjoyed walking and shopping around.

Then we went to the Canadian War Museum. We looked around and discovered a hall that had slanted walls and the light was very bright because of all the windows high up on the wall. We saw tanks and other military vehicles from the First and Second World Wars. Then we boarded our bus to travel to Hull, Quebec, for lunch. After our meal we went to the Canadian Museum of Civilization. A big building, we saw lots. My favourite was the Imax show which had large fish and big sharks! After, we went back to the hotel. The next day we booked out and headed for home. It was a good trip. I look forward to the next.

By Richard

The Last Word....

If you like video games, here is one that is available on the internet for free: www.summerinsmallywood.ca funded by the Government of Canada's Office of Literacy and Essential Skills. It contains 3 games that allow players to practice their essential skills. Highly entertaining and engaging.