

# LiteracyWORDS



## Mark Your Calendars:

- > AGM & Christmas Party  
Monday, November 30, 2009
- > Office closed  
December 18 through January 1



## Greetings from the Office

During my short time at LiteracyWORKS, I have been privileged to meet quite a number of students and listen to their stories. I've been humbled and touched by their determination and perseverance in the face of their literacy challenges.

I've heard students say such things as... *"I felt sad because I didn't know how to read. If you don't know how to read, you can't have a good job. You have to get the dirty job. That's what you have to get, cleaning floors, just being a janitor";* and, *"Many people think you're stupid. If we could get rid of the prejudices, life would be a lot easier."* Never before had I even considered how difficult it could be for someone to fill out a job application or to sign a document.

These past few months have also allowed me the opportunity to hear some of the success stories of our students that had a whole new world open to them as they developed their ability to read and write. Stories such as... *"I feel a lot better talking to my grown children now. I am doing something special and they are proud of me. I have some goals and we talk about them";* and, *"No longer do I fear filling out job applications and things now. I have a better outlook on life. Now my mind has a clearer point of view."* I feel very honoured to play a small part in helping our students discover what it means to feel the joy and freedom of reading and writing.

I have had some very large shoes to try and fill when **Lorraine Kaczor** retired in June. She had made an amazing contribution throughout the course of her time at

LiteracyWORKS. Countless people have been impacted by her dedication and hard work. Her love for the students and genuine desire to help is unparalleled. I am honoured to be sitting at what was her desk and humbled to try to carry on her legacy of helping. Lorraine...I salute you!!

As for our current office team... **Deane** and his wife **Lorenna** are planning to make an exciting trip this Christmas to Toronto and New York City. Hopefully he'll bring back a lot of pictures for us to enjoy. **Sherry** plans to stay close to home for the holidays and enjoy a much deserved break for a couple weeks with family and friends.

I am excited about the future of LiteracyWORKS! We are embarking on a new era and have set some lofty goals to try and achieve. That being said, our desire to display warmth and acceptance to each and every individual who walks through our doors continues to be our primary focus. Organizational goals are great, we need them, but more important is the goal of the student who sits beside us as we strive to open their world to literacy.

I'd like to leave you with one more quote from one of our students who was reading at a Stage One level, but eventually got his GED and is now enrolled in a community college... *"We all have downfalls in our life, certain things we can't do that others can do and things we can do others can't. I don't think there's that many people out there that don't want to know how to read and write, it's just finding that right door to walk through."*

- Rob Pollett  
Executive Director

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### Chairperson's Corner—Happy New Year ... Already!

Don't you hate to see Christmas decorations in the stores even before the kids have finished the last of their Halloween candy? I know I do. And yet, here I am wishing you a Happy New Year in mid-November. But there is a good reason.

For everyone at Literacy-*WORKS*, we're well on our way into a brand new year. Our Annual General Meeting (Nov. 30th at 6 pm) will see a new Board elected and that means new people with new ideas. Several of them have come to us as a result of our ads on the "Volunteer Manitoba" website. And they've come at a critical time for our little organization.

2008-2009 was a "turning point" year for us -

with our long-time Program Manager Lorraine Kaczor handing over the reins to Rob Pollett, and the earlier departure of Terry Smith. It was also a year in which we lost our key fundraiser, Erin Romeo.

So the Board had to do some soul-searching including a development workshop, after which we redesigned ourselves, tightening up our bylaws, and setting some new goals. Now that Rob has settled in, taken in several literacy courses, and with a mandate from the Board to increase our student numbers, 2010 will be a year of renewal for us as he develops strategies to make that happen.

On the fundraising front, we have had to revise our

budget due to the cancellation of our November Gala. That said, there is some good news. Portage Place has invited us to take part in a community Book Sale in February. This event should help us replenish the coffers - so expect a phone call as we get our book-sorting crews up and running again early in January.

Speaking of replenishing - here's wishing you and yours a wonderful Christmas season, one that will leave you replenished and rarin' to go in the New Year.

Happy Holidays everyone.

— Diane Lonergan



### Make Your Student a Star!

Please submit student stories or any exercises you both found helpful for the Write Stuff. Send them to [sfunk@litworks.ca](mailto:sfunk@litworks.ca) or drop them off at the office!



## The Write Stuff – Gala 2009 Student Speech

*Mike was to have spoken at the LiteracyWORKS Gala this year and had prepared this speech to read. Unfortunately the Gala had to be cancelled, but we wanted you to have a chance to read it nonetheless.*

1 in 5 Manitobans have some kind of literacy problem, and I am one of them! I've spent all of my life embarrassed and lacking the confidence to ask for help or where to find it!

I created a wall around me, so no one would see the problems I've had. I graduated Grant Park High School in 1978 with very little knowledge of the English language or math skills. I couldn't sound out words; I couldn't tell you what a quarter of an inch was. I couldn't do percentages. I was one of the many who had slipped through the cracks!

I've been working at the City Of Winnipeg for the last 24 years and hiding my problems from many people. I didn't apply for any instruction or supervisory position within my department because there was no room behind the beautiful wall that I had created for myself.

I was so good at hiding my problems that my parents didn't know until only a few years ago. My wife Estelle knew I had difficulties, but didn't know how bad they were for me. I survived by being the funny man in the crowd. No one was allowed behind my wall.

In 2006, I made a decision that would change my life forever. I made

a phone call to a place called Literacy Works. A face to face meeting was scheduled. As I got off that elevator and walked through their doors, it was the most embarrassing day of my life! Three beautiful faces met me that day and I knew that they would be looking over that wall at me. Many tests were done and it was determined that I had a grade 7 or 8 reading level. A song by James Morrison would become a favorite of mine that year. The lyrics would inspire me, they were; "I'm not lost, I'm just undiscovered".

In the beginning of 2007, I received a call from a man, who would become my tutor, his name was **Bob Tapscot**. We would talk about my goals for the next year and he would spend countless hours creating a plan for us. We would meet for 1 hour at the library each Wednesday afternoon and I'm sure these were the longest hours of his life. So, I created a plan, that I would supply him with two chocolate chip cookies each Wednesday just to keep him going. The year progressed, and we would slowly increase our time together from 1 hour to three hours each Wednesday with the man I now call "The professor".

One of my goals was to apply to the Winnipeg Police Service to fulfill a life long dream of becoming a Police Officer for the City of Winnipeg. The professor kindly told me that it could be a challenge, but we would work on it. The following summer, I

applied for W.P.S. The first step was a written examination which would last for 4 hours. I've been told that a mark of 75% was considered outstanding by the recruiting department for W.P.S. Later that week I received my mark and I had scored an impressive 79%! The professor was on cloud nine!!! I completed the next 6 stages for the recruitment class and had gotten to the final stage, "The Panel". They would now determine who would be in the next recruiting class. I had made it to the last 50 recruits for 44 positions. But, I had fallen short of my dream.

We had come so far together, and with the help from Literacy Works staff, Lorraine, Terry and Sherry and the many volunteer's, my dream almost become a reality. They had created a place that Adults can come and achieve not only small dreams, but can try to follow life long dreams.

To date, I have successfully written and passed the R.C.M.P test and I am in the process of taking my first class at Red River College "Addiction and Violence".

I would like to thank the many people here tonight that have donated their time and money to help tear down the wall that had surrounded me for all of these years! At this time I would like to introduce my tutor and friend for life, the "Professor", Bob Tapscot. – Mike Moore

**"I created a wall around me, so no one would see the problems I've had."**

**"In 2006, I made a decision that would change my life forever."**

**Welcome and Farewell**

Thank you **Karen Emberly** for serving as a Member at Large on the Literacy-*WORKS* board and for volunteering at events.

Many thanks also to **Erin Romeo** for her very generous donation of time serving as Funding Officer on the board and as Co-Chair of the Gala Committee.

We wish both of you well as you go on to other ventures.

Welcome new tutors!

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Greta</b> | <b>Greg</b>    |
| <b>Fran</b>  | <b>Manfred</b> |
| <b>Carol</b> | <b>Helen</b>   |
| <b>Sarah</b> |                |

We look forward to working with you.

Welcome also to **Lorraine Kaczor**, as our newsletter designer and editor.



**What's New in the Literacy *WORKS* Library?**

Thank you to **Chris Lavigne** for her donation of books to the library.

If you have an interest in Science or the Medieval times, these new books have lots of great pictures, diagrams and activities. Once you read them you will keep coming back to search the shelves for the rest of them to check out.



**Free Tutor Workshops by Adult Learning and Literacy**

The new schedule with workshop titles, descriptions, and dates have not been posted yet but check out the AL&L website, [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ael/all/prof\\_dev/schedule.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ael/all/prof_dev/schedule.html), starting in late November for updates

including how to register. You can also call our office for more information if you don't have access to a computer. Or better yet stop in and enjoy using a computer in your new multi-purpose room.



**Donations**

THANKS to:  
**City of Winnipeg Employees'- Retirees' Charitable Fund** - \$2,925  
**D&S Industrial** - \$500  
**St. Ignatius School – Grade 1 Class** for their Tea Fundraiser for Literacy-**WORKS** - \$342

**Wawanesa Insurance** - \$1,500  
**Councillor Gord Steeves**  
 Erin Romeo  
 Lorraine Kaczor  
 Terry Smith  
 David Fontaine

**Grants**

**Adult Learning & Literacy, Province of Manitoba**  
**The Winnipeg Foundation**  
**Manitoba Community Services Council**  
**Youth In Philanthropy : St. John's -Ravenscourt School & Kelvin High School**

**Thank you Donors**

**Elman's Food Products Ltd.**, 647 Jarvis Ave., pickles

**Extreme Pita**, 503-491 Portage Ave., platter of mixed wraps

**Costco Wholesale**, 1315 St. James St., hamburger and hot dog buns, pop, water and condiments

**FoodFare Store**, 905 Portage Ave., hot dogs, hot dog buns, produce

**Real Canadian Superstore**, 3193 Portage Ave., hamburger patties, chips

Thanks to all who helped with the set up and take down. Special thanks go out to **Alissa Sorensen** and

**Karen Emberly** for prepping all of the produce for the party and to **Ron McMillan, Grant Kaczor** and **Roger Prince** for their supreme culinary skills demonstrated at the barbecue.

Your delicious work was enjoyed by everyone!

*"Thanks to all these businesses that donated. Your contribution helped make our Student and Volunteer Barbecue and Retirement Party a huge success."*

**Thank You Literacy WORKS All-Star Volunteers**

Your willingness to pitch in wherever help is needed is greatly appreciated by each person who is a part of this organization. What a great team!

**Summer Reading Book Sale**

**Alissa Sorensen**  
**Andrew Quarry**  
**Anita Martens**  
**Avril Chartrand**  
**Barb Webb**  
**Bright Morrigan**

**Chris Bellamy**  
**Chris Lavigne**  
**Dawn Moniz**  
**Deane McDonald**  
**Deb Cooney**  
**Diane Lonergan**  
**Dustin Bales & friend Andrew**  
**Eliude, Uvaldo, & Gabriel Cavalcante**  
**Esther Sorensen**  
**Eva Whitmore**  
**Heather Sawatzky**  
**Judy Baker**

**Karen Emberly**  
**Leslie Eskra**  
**Liz Lalman**  
**Lorraine Kaczor**  
**Mary Giesbrecht**  
**Mary Switek**  
**Mike & Estelle Moore**  
**Rob Pollett**  
**Ron McMillan**  
**Rudy & Sherry Funk**  
**Susan Wakeman**  
**Zach Bales**

(See "All Star" next page)





### All-Star Volunteers (continued)

Thank you to **Kildonan Place** for their continued support in providing the venue for our used book sale.

Thank you to **Lorena McDonald** for her work on the Gala Committee.

This year there have been a few people that we would like to acknowledge for their extraordinary generosity of spirit in giving of their time and talents to LiteracyWORKS over the summer:

Thanks to **Ken Korolyk** for saving us thousands of dollars as he spent countless hours setting up and working out the glitches in the new computers for the multi-purpose room and staff offices as well as training Sherry (LOL).

Our many thanks go out to **Diane Lonergan** and **Eva Whitmore** for the countless phone calls made, emails sent, face to face meetings and contacts made for the Gala.

A huge thank you to both **Andrew Quarry** and **Diane Lonergan** for their talent and time spent working out the details for the book store that we are hoping to open in the near future.

Thank you to the **Pollett family** for the “sweat equity”, carpentry talents, organizational skills, and decorating talents that they invested in LiteracyWORKS over the summer as they set up the storage area and the back room. Rob’s parents, **Weldon** and **Alice**, and his son, **Nicholas**, turned the back room into a multi-purpose area that can now be used for training, board meetings, and most importantly, a comfortable space for our students and tutors to meet in.

And a special thank you to any of you who volunteered that we may have missed!

## Wind! Water! Wow! Wasn't that a Wild Party!

Thanks to the students and volunteers for making the wind-up "Beach Party" and Lorraine's retirement party such a roaring success. The food, follies and fun were enjoyed by all and even the mini tornado that roared across the patio didn't completely blow us away.

We hope you enjoy a few action shots of the event... before the winds!



Ron getting the burgers ready



Diane Lonergan and Lorraine— A moment full of admiration, memories and best wishes for a sweet retirement



"What say we stop for a McDonald's apple pie on the way home?"



Enjoying the burgers and each others' company



Lorraine presenting Mallika with her certificate





## Literacy**WORKS**

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Visit us on the web

[www.litworks.ca](http://www.litworks.ca)

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon & Wed 2 - 9 pm

Tues & Thurs 9-4pm

Fridays CLOSED

**Literacy**WORKS** provides people with essential literacy skills to enhance self-sufficiency and quality of life.**



## Who's Who

### BOARD

**Diane Lonergan**, Chairperson

**Eliude Cavalcante**, Vice Chair

**Mary Switek**, Past Chairperson

**Eva Whitmore**, Treasurer

**Elizabeth Lalman** Secretary

**Vacant**, Funding Officer

**Chris Bellamy**, Publicity Officer

**Avril Chartrand**, Student Rep.

**Eva Whitmore & Diane Lonergan**,  
Co-Chairs Gala Committee

**Leslie Eskra**, Member at Large

**Andrew Quarry**, Member at Large

**Susan Wakeman**, Member at Large

### STAFF

**Rob Pollett**, Executive Director

**Shery Funk**, Program Coordinator

**Deane McDonald**, Admin Assistant/ Bookkeeper

## The Last Word

Please remember to...

- Share the Christmas party invitation with your student
- Reply by November 23, 2009, to your Christmas party invitation
- Read this newsletter with your student

