



**SAANICH PENINSULA  
COMMUNITY LITERACY PLAN**

**2012**

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Bartleman-Horne Family

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The **Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Plan** summarizes the efforts to promote literacy within the communities of the Saanich Peninsula during 2012. Guided by a community vision statement, these ongoing efforts are lead by the **Saanich Literary Task Group** (Task Group) and implemented with direct community involvement.

Providing adequate and accessible literacy services to a population residing in several different communities, scattered over a large geographical area and involving distinctively diverse cultures, continues to offer numerous challenges. These comprise:

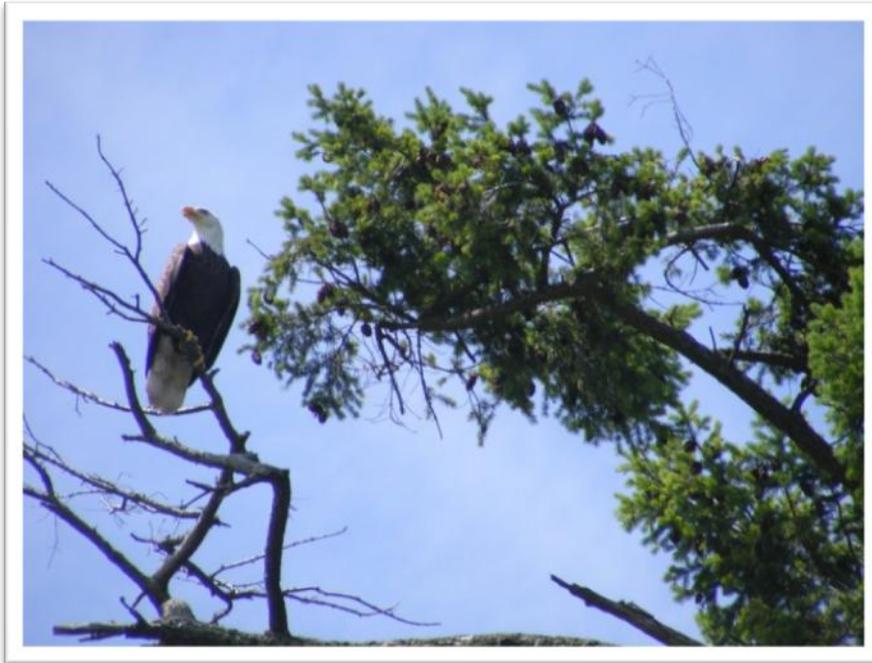
- Affordable transportation
- Access to child care
- Communications with hard-to-reach populations who may not be aware of services or may be prevented from accessing services due to other socio-economic issues, and
- Engaging the community in literacy discussions.

As described in this report, however, much progress has been made during 2012 through the combined efforts of the Task Group and the public to act on priorities identified by the community. Some of the highlights include enhanced communications with the public, new partnerships in support of providing English as a Second Language services and the recognition of special needs for seniors.



## VISION

The Saanich Peninsula is a place where comprehensive literacy services are available for all generations.



## PLANNING PROCESS



Mandated to establish policy, strategic direction, and accountability on the Saanich Peninsula, the **Saanich Literacy Task Group** (Task Group) provides governance to the **Saanich Literacy Now Initiative**. Open to all interested parties, the Task Group meets regularly, guiding the planning and implementation of literacy development in the community.

Over the past years two years, the Task Group members have proven their commitment to raising the literacy profile in the community by finalizing their working terms of reference, hiring a Literacy Outreach Coordinator and hosting several community events. Results of these ongoing efforts include increased communication, fresh partnerships, new skills and a new action plan to deliver comprehensive literacy services for all generations in 2013-2014.

As described in this report, the literacy community on the Peninsula has worked together in difficult times to take action on many priorities. Efforts are regularly made by the Task Group, the School District, Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood and other organizations to implement diverse programs that address the needs of our multi-generation community.

## Task Group Members

- Jill Auchinachie, Camosun College
- Laura Chambers, Community Volunteer and Parent
- Fatima Ferreira, Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL)
- Kelly Glover, Advisory Committee Chair & North Saanich Middle School parent
- Janis Johnson, Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood
- Diane Kirby, Saanich Indian School Board, Adult Education Centre
- Sharon Walker, Sidney / North Saanich Branch, Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)
- Diana Wiseman, School District #63, and
- Claire Rettie, READ Society (steward).

## Literacy Services Priorities

The Task Group initiated a **Visioning Event** in 2011, where a broad range of community participants identified six priorities for literacy services on the Saanich Peninsula.

This enabled the Task Group to focus the limited resources available to these important areas:

- Sustainable, long-term funding
- An all ages hub for literacy
- Sustainable literacy network
- Poverty-reduction strategy
- Improved public transportation and access, and
- Comprehensive literacy & library services for all generations.

### LITERACY SUCCESS

I want to set a good example for my kids and grandkids and set goals for myself...I've even learned about computers in school and can now use one every day for research and schoolwork.  
(Mature student, Saanich Adult Education Centre, WSANEC School Board)

## COMMUNITY PROFILE



### Saanich Peninsula

The society represented by this literacy plan includes communities located in the traditional territories of the WSA NEC First Nations and within the geographic area represented by School District 63 (SD#63), extending from Royal Oak to Swartz Bay on the Saanich Peninsula on southern Vancouver Island.

The area boasts the Town of Sidney, the rural municipalities of Central Saanich (including the villages of Brentwood Bay and Saanichton) and North Saanich, the northern tip of the urban municipality of Saanich and the four First Nations: Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tseycum, and Tsawout.

These communities, scattered over a large area, are home to a branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library, two branches of the Greater Victoria Public Library, a variety of cultures and a diverse aging populace.

Eighty-seven per cent of the population is older than 15, the median age is 50.9 and approximately 10 per cent speak a language other than English or French.

**SNAPSHOT:  
SAANICH  
EDUCATION  
CENTRE, WSANEC  
SCHOOL BOARD**

I work with adults, who return to school for many reasons.

Imagine not being able to help your eight-year old child with her Grade 3 math. Or being afraid to read out loud to your grandson because you may make mistakes. These are issues some of our students have had.

All types of literacy and numeracy have become major barriers to self-esteem, confidence and success. Parents doing homework are wonderful role models for children and siblings alike.  
(Instructor, Saanich Adult Education Centre, WSANEC School Board)



**WSANEC SCHOOL BOARD**

The local school district #63 (Saanich) includes eight elementary schools, three middle schools, three secondary schools, a children's development centre and an international student program.

Alternative educational programs and services are provided through distance education, two individual learning centres and in collaboration with other community organizations. In particular, literacy programs offer assistance with learning, language, reading and speech challenges, hearing and vision impairment and ESL support. Eighty-five per cent of students will graduate from Grade 12 within six years of starting from Grade 8.

A grad-rate improvement team, consisting of SD#63 teachers, education assistants, principals, vice-principals, assistant superintendants, First Nations teaching staff and students, convenes regularly to develop ways to improve the percentage of high-school graduates.

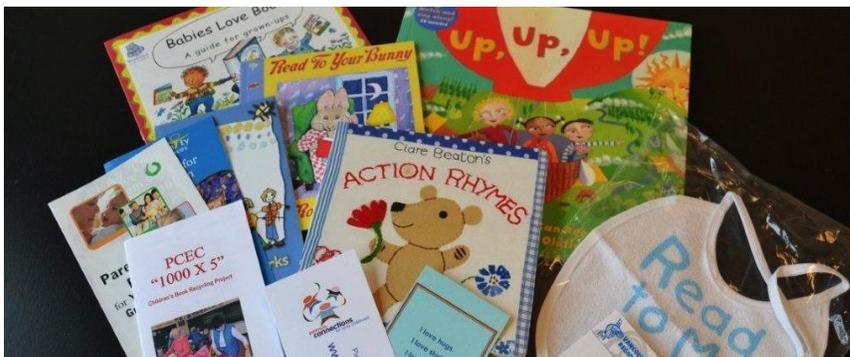
Local First Nations' students are under the auspices of the WSANEC School Board (WSB) and about 200 attend the Tribal (LA'U, WELNEW) and high school (to Grade 11), located in the Tsartlip Village. The WSB also supports an adult education centre and a child development centre, serving the Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout and Tseycum First Nations. The WSB has offered other programs, partnering with the READ Society, Literacy Victoria, Camosun College and the University of Victoria.

**Gaps in Literacy Services**

As previously mentioned, in October, 2011 the Task Group held a Visioning Event, attended by members from Brentwood Bay, Pauquachin and Tsartlip First Nations, Saanichton, Saanich, Sidney and Victoria.

The group conducted an analysis of gaps in existing literacy services, then discussed options and priorities and then developed preliminary recommendations for actions. The members of the Visioning Event identified the following gaps in literacy services on the Saanich Peninsula:

- Inconsistent funding, results in lack of continuity & poor relationships
- Limited support for summer programs
- Poor transportation around the Saanich Peninsula
- Lack of youth centres
- Inaccessible materials
- Limited English as a Second Language (ESL) services, and
- Lack of services for seniors.



Peninsula Books for Babies Gift Package

**SNAPSHOT:  
LITERACY  
ASSETS**

**Loss of First  
Nations' Services**

Two essential training & employment skills programs for Coast Salish First Nations **ARE NO LONGER OFFERED.**



## ACTION PLAN: 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Task Group completed a Terms of Reference for its own governance and decision-making and established criteria and decision-making processes for allocation of funds to enhance literacy work on the Saanich Peninsula.

The Task Group chose to lay the foundation for extending and developing literacy in four areas of need for 2012:

1. Better Communications
2. Seniors' Needs
3. English as a Second Language, and
4. Funding.

Resulting accomplishments and actions included:

- A new website
- A literacy tagline and logo
- ESL opportunities for domestic workers
- Research and information collected related to seniors' literacy and learning needs
- Emerging partnerships with distance education organizations and the Food Skills for Families Program, and
- Initial research into the creation of a local, multi-generational literacy information hub.

### SNAPSHOT: LITERACY ASSETS

#### GVPL: New Teen Services

**Tech Buddies** - teens helping seniors with computers;

**Teen Advisory Council** - youth input into program planning; and

**Teen Zones** - a place to hang.





## Community Action Plan - Goals & Accomplishments

### Goal: Better Communication

Raise awareness of the resources available and determine how to offer them on the Peninsula in a creative and accessible way, thus making the connection between literacy and lifelong learning.

#### Accomplishment: Website

For years, discovering local literacy resources and links has been difficult. No single hub existed and the information was scattered among many organizations. With the imminent launch of our new website, this wealth of initiatives and services will be easily accessible from one location: [www.learningforlifeinsaanich.ca](http://www.learningforlifeinsaanich.ca).

Initially, this hub will highlight accomplishments and lessons learned from our outreach work, efforts in the Food Skills for Families Program and seniors' literacy.

#### Accomplishment: Family Literacy Day

To celebrate Family Literacy Day, the Task Group distributed a mixture of communications, including brochures, posters and buttons.

#### Accomplishment: Newsletter

In the past, the Literacy Outreach Coordinator prepared and distributed a quarterly newsletter. Content included information on literacy programs, actions and accomplishments. In 2013, this information will be provided through a new literacy website.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

School District 63 has over **7500 full-time students** & **4000 students** attending from a distance.



Existing contacts are encouraged to watch their emails for the website launch and for new ways to contribute stories.

Accomplishment: Brand and Tagline

We have a new logo and tagline, which visually reflects our dedication to local literacy:



Accomplishment: Initial Research - Multi-generational Hub

As part of an earlier community-planning event, participants identified a need for a central focus or literacy hub, beyond just a website, on the Saanich Peninsula. Though still undefined, the suggestion was for a place which offers support to all generations on a variety of literacy issues, such as finances, health and computer use. Other ideas included special library programs, ESL and seniors' literacy services and a youth 'hang out'.

The Task Group began researching 'hub' models to determine the best fit and to name possible partners from business, community, media and First Nations. This work is at a very early stage.

Much more research and discussion is needed, especially in developing a terms of reference, identifying members, determining criteria, scope, costs and funding sources, as well as developing a stakeholder engagement process.

**SNAPSHOT:  
LITERACY  
ASSETS**

**Loss of Seniors'  
Programs**

Unfortunately, the community lost several programs for seniors.

***Learners for Life***, which provided help on health & technology literacy, **IS NO LONGER OFFERED.**

The **Host Program**, matching immigrants to Canadian volunteers, **HAS ENDED.**

**Goal: Seniors' Needs**

Given its aging population (15,000 people over the age of 65), the issue of seniors' literacy is important to the community of the Saanich Peninsula.

As a result, a Senior Literacy Subcommittee examined this issue by chatting with a targeted senior audience. The subcommittee discovered confusion over the definition of literacy, the requirement for better access to health information, a great demand for computer and technology training and a need for courses and support tailored for elderly learners.

**Accomplishment: Specialized Programming Plans**

The Task Group wishes to encourage senior participation in literacy programming. It recognizes that any community programs should address seniors' specific needs, including understanding any barriers, such as negative memories of school, insecurities about attending with younger adults, believing that they are too old to learn, as well as the lack of transportation and learning materials. Also, the use of a checklist to be distributed to senior service providers will be considered.

**Goal: ESL for Immigrant Populations**

Establish partnership and parameters with Bayanihan Cultural Center and Immigrant Society, as well as Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Center Society (VIRCS). Determine extent of need/goals for ESL project and funding.

**FAST FACTS 2012**

**VIRL Sidney /  
North Saanich  
Library**

Items Borrowed:  
267,562

Library Visits:  
176,197

Computer Sessions:  
19,892

Programs:  
162

Program Attendance:  
4,437

**A PLACE TO  
LEARN**

I regularly take my grandsons to the StrongStart Program.

As the boys play with the others, they develop important social, language, musical & fine-motor skills & our nearby conversations enrich their learning.

My personal favorite is the science centre, where the little ones use mirrors and flashlights to watch light reflect off surfaces!  
(Local grandmother)

Accomplishment: Partnerships & Relationships

Meetings with South Island Distant Education and other organizations identified a need to offer ESL and conversational English classes for domestic workers in a relaxed environment, ideally accompanied by food.

As a result, the Task Group initiated exploratory discussions with VIRCS regarding the development and delivery of an ESL program on the Saanich Peninsula. In addition, the Task Group began discussions with the Food Skills for Families Program to consider initiating this program in our area.

**Goal: Funding**

The Task Group developed a list of funding grants from a broad variety of organizations, focused on the Peninsula's key literacy priorities of communications, ESL services, issues affecting multi-generations and comprehensive literacy problems (financial, health, computer). The Task Group completed its own process and criteria for allocating Community Literacy Implementation funds.

Accomplishment: Funds Allocated

Funding was allocated to varied programs, including support to: Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood for Books for Breakfast program for family literacy; Sidney Elementary School for the Chocolate Lily Reading program; and Family Literacy Day for promotional materials for agencies, businesses and institutions involved in and promoting literacy work on the Saanich Peninsula.

## READING FOR LIFE

Visually-impaired customers greatly appreciate our personalized service, where we offer them suggestions from our extensive collection of books, books on CD & downloadable electronic & audio books.

Not only are these customers able to continue their passion for 'reading'; for many, coming to the library is a valued outing.

They love the interaction with our friendly staff & we benefit from their enthusiastic feedback, which helps us to tailor their reading needs.  
(VIRL manager, Sidney/North Saanich)

## Saanich Schools



### Saanich School District #63 - Accomplishments

The Community/District Literacy Plan provides a way for school districts to work with community partners to support literacy learning for all. Through the process of developing the community literacy plan, members gain stronger understanding of the various aspects of literacy within the community.

District Literacy Plans are not intended to duplicate information already contained in the Saanich School District Achievement Contract, 2012-2015, and WSANEC (Saanich) First Nation, other First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Enhancement Agreement. These documents are located at <http://www.sd63.bc.ca>.

#### Accomplishments: Early Learning

- Saanich School District has strong connections with Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood Community (PCEC) Table
- Members of PCEC are:
  - VIHA - Public Health
  - School District #63 - Early Years Coordinator
  - School District #63 - Speech and Language Pathologist
  - MCFD - Social Worker
  - READ Society - Executive Director

- Beacon Community Services - Director, Counseling & Children and Youth Programs
- Beacon Community Services - Coordinator, Family Resource Programs
- Panorama Recreation Centre - Recreation Coordinator
- NIL T'UO Children and Family Services - Family Support Worker
- Victoria Child Care Resource & Referral - Director
- Vancouver Island Regional Library - Manager
- 'Success by 6' South Vancouver Island - Coordinator
- Community Members: Retired administrators, Retired teachers, Parents, Private Business members, Camosun College - Early Childhood Education Instructor (retired), University Women's Club Representative, and PCEC Coordinator
- Saanich School District has three StrongStart Centers located at Brentwood School, Lochside School & Sidney School
- PCEC monthly meetings with community partners are held at the Saanich School Board Office
- '1000 x 5 Children's Book Recycling Project'
- Visit to Reggio Exhibit by team of PCEC Community Members, SD#63 teachers and administrators and SD#63 Early Learning Coordinator
- 'Ready Set Learn' Open House events take place at each elementary school. Information resources provided by community partners (VIHA, Libraries, PCEC, Success By 6)

- Professional Learning Evenings for Early Childhood Educators, StrongStart facilitators, Kindergarten and Grade One Teachers. The most current session was held in the fall 'Journeying into Critically Reflective Practice'. ECE's and StrongStart facilitators from the South Island attended
- SD#63 Documentation Project – connecting ECE and Primary Teachers through collaboration and conversation
- Island Early Years Network – Connection of Early Years on Vancouver Island. The Network jointly planned and hosted a fall conference, 'Dynamic Learning Environments', attended by over 225 teachers and Early Childhood Educators
- 'Children Count' Fair (PCEC, School District and Community Partners) took place on April 6, 2013. This was an opportunity for parents/caregivers and children living within the Saanich School District to learn about community resources as well as School District services and for children to participate in singing, story time, crafts and other activities
- Child Care is offered at each elementary school. The Child Care programs are operated by non-profit, fully licensed organizations independent of the school district
- 'Little Spartans' Child Care Program is located at Claremont High School and continues to support staff requiring child care. This partnership with Kids Klub serves up to eight children

### A PLACE TO CONNECT

The **Strong Start Program** fosters relationships among adults & children. Parents, caregivers & grandparents share news & admire newborns, while drinking tea & coffee.

Little ones enjoy crackers & sliced peppers at snack time. They exchange toys & join in role-playing activities.

Even clean up time can be fun, when we work together.  
(Local mother)

### SUMMER FUN

The GVPL and the VIRL offer a free **Children's Summer Reading Club**.

This includes two programs for different reading abilities: the **Summer Reading Club** for independent readers in Kindergarten to Grade 7 and the **Read to Me** program for pre-schoolers & emerging readers.

- Teen Education and Motherhood (T.E.A.M.) Day Care at Stelly's Secondary and Individual Learning Center (Saanichton) continue in partnership with Beacon Community Services and the school community, and
- Roots of Empathy programs are offered at all elementary schools in collaboration with PCEC / Beacon Community Services.

#### Accomplishments: K - Grade 12

Saanich schools perform well in literacy. Early development of reading is a strong indicator of school success. Many school plans have a focus on literacy. Goal Two of the Saanich School District Achievement Contract is to improve literacy achievement. Specific goals and objectives are addressed in the District Achievement Contract. This document may be found at <http://www.sd63.bc.ca>.

#### Literacy Initiatives

- Changing Results for Young Readers Project – Teams of teachers are working with the Ministry of Education to increase the number of students who are engaged, successful readers
- Reading Recovery – a short term early literacy intervention for children in grade one
- Family Read In – family members are invited to come to school and read with students
- Author visits supported by parent groups

### **FAMILY BOOK BAGS**

PCEC volunteers for the '1000 X 5 Children's Book Recycling Project' meet weekly to sort and package donated books.

These will be distributed to families throughout the Saanich Peninsula.

Between **300 - 500 families** receive book bags per month.

**Last year, the project placed 12,000 books into the hands of young children.**

- Red Cedar Book Club supported by parent groups and Times Colonist Raise a Reader
- Guys Read Poetry – community guest readers are invited to the school to read poetry
- Family Literacy Day brings community members into the schools to share stories with students
- The Momentum Program provides literacy and numeracy intervention for high school students through outdoor and experiential experiences
- Volunteers from the community listen to children read and read to children
- Individual Learning Center offers a personalized approach for student success
- ILC offers Career Programs – Partnership programs with Camosun College and Vancouver Island University
- Stelly's Secondary School Apprenticeship Program

#### Accomplishments: Beyond Grade 12

- Individual Learning Center – Adult Hairdressing Program
- Flexible programming for adult learners is provided through South Island Distance Education (SIDES)
- Continuing Education Parkland Cooking Class

## LITERACY HIGHLIGHT:

### Educational Outing to the Victoria Law Courts

On March 28, 2013, the Fundamental English class at Camosun College visited the Victoria Law Courts.

Prior to the visit, the class watched a video by the Justice Education Society on the structure of the Canadian legal system. Many students were surprised that the public could attend trials.

Upon arrival at the Law Courts, the Justice Education Society Regional Coordinator provided a brief overview of the Federal, Provincial and Municipal court systems.

The students learned the difference between criminal and civil court cases and the roles of court officials. Next, they received an orientation to the building and learned the types of case proceedings happening that day.

The Coordinator suggested a variety of civil and criminal cases to observe, including a medical malpractice suit, an attempted murder trial, a drug-related admission of evidence and remand court proceedings.

The Coordinator also answered all questions, clarified some misconceptions and explained the protocols for attending trials, such as: standing when the judge or master enters and leaves the courtroom, allowing no cameras and no discussion of the proceedings in the hallways.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The **Pauquachin Homework Club** offers tutoring and learning support to First Nations' students.

The instructors are volunteers from the University of Victoria and Camosun College.

The students were interested in issues connected to: workplace rights, libel and defamation of character laws, civil rights regarding police action and fighting traffic violations. Most felt they would like to learn more and many mentioned a desire to attend again.

At the end, we received pamphlets and business cards with links to online, video and print self-help educational materials.

(Professors, Academic & Career Foundations Department,  
Camosun College)

**BOOKS FOR  
BABIES**

The VIHA Nurses distribute PCEC gift packages of books & information to families of new babies on the Saanich Peninsula.

## ACTION PLAN - 2013

### TASK GROUP DIRECTIONS

The Task Group has determined that the priorities of poverty reduction and improved transportation and access fall beyond its capacity and funding.

The Group recognizes that literacy is directly linked to poverty and improving literacy is one way to reduce poverty. On the Saanich Peninsula, the following programs are samples of those having some relationship to poverty reduction and literacy:

- Best Babies
- StrongStart
- Lions Food Bank
- Mother Goose
- Springboard to Success
- 1000 X 5

In addition, the Group noted that frequent, local public transportation has an impact on individuals wanting to pursue literacy and learning development. Task Group members identified various municipal governments and BC Transit as the key groups linked to transportation change, and the Community Social Planning Council and municipal governments as important in the poverty-reduction conversation.



**STORY TIME**  
PCEC 'Children  
Count' Resource Fair

Unable to pursue these two priorities in a lead capacity, the Task Group will make sure the community perspective is communicated to leaders in both these areas.

### TASK GROUP PRIORITIES

After examining the remaining four priorities, the Task Group refocused and established the following actions per priority for 2013-2014:

Sustainable long-term funding:

- Look for funding partnerships to address identified literacy needs & gaps

Comprehensive Library Services for All Generations

- Consult with library staff to determine community gaps and to establish common needs
- Establish partnership and connections that will allow the Task Group to address these needs
- Review and develop programs in 2013-2014 related to seniors and ESL domestic workers, and
- Expand connections and discussions related to adult literacy.

All Ages Hub for Literacy

- Explore partnerships for service-delivery
- Explore the concept, costs, delivery, booking and staffing of a story-tent program, and
- Access to existing programs for the entire community.



**MAKING NEW  
FRIENDS**  
PCEC Books for  
Breakfast Event

### A Sustainable Literacy Network

- Enable cross-community connections and communications (consider shorter, more frequent information 'blasts')
- Develop and convene community literacy table; facilitate and enable discussion and trust
- Ensure Task Group members bring new members from diverse backgrounds and activities to the community literacy table
- Discontinue the newsletter, and
- Clean-up and expand contact list; populate with new partners and community connections.

The Task Group also agreed to hire a new Literacy Outreach Coordinator by the fall of 2013.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Multimedia Approach to Intergenerational Relations (MAIR) project uses photography to engage seniors from the 55Plus Association & Grade 5 students at Cordova Bay Elementary School in conversations around a common interest.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**READ Society**  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
**Saanich LOC Initiative**

**From: 01/08/2011**

**To: 04/30/2013**

Funds for LOC	\$65,000	
Less Contractors and stewardship fees 10%	(50,987)	
		14,013
		<b>LOC Funds Remaining</b>
Funds for Implementation	40,982	
Implementation Expenses		
Choc. Lily, Books for breakfast	1,327	
Family Lit. Day - Promotion Material	510	
Family Lit. Training (Westshore)	200	
Food for Meetings and Events	1,135	
Postage/Photocopiers	265	
Professional Development for LOC	231	
Professional Fees (legal)	509	
Rent Meeting Spaces	264	
Telephone - conference call	127	
Transportation and Travel	35	
Web design	4,734	
Writer (Literacy Plan)	2,000	
Stewardship admin fee (10%)	4,000	
Less Implementation expenses and stewardship fee 9.76%	(15,337)	
		<b>Implementation Funds Remaining</b>
		<u>\$25,645</u>
		<b>Total Funds remaining</b>
		<u><u>39,658</u></u>