



READ Saskatoon provides:

- free literacy tutoring to adults;
- free family literacy programs;
- free family literacy support and coordination to schools, community-based organizations and businesses;
- training to groups interested in building their skills in adult and family literacy;
- group adult learning opportunities. Our outreach programming connects adults to further education and skill enhancement programs;
- alternative points of accessing literacy supports. Our *Good Book Bins*, distributed in public waiting areas in Saskatoon, encourage families to choose a book from the box and read it together, take it home, bring it back at the next visit, replace it with another, or keep it;
- *Grow Your Own Training*: an award winning workplace literacy model that supports lifelong learning on the job;
- research to the literacy community.



this issue

- READ Saskatoon PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy P.1
- International Adult Literacy Skills Survey (IALSS) P.2
- 9 Essential Skills for Christmas P.3
- Ned Powers, Here's to My Heroes/Recruiting Tutors P.4
- Interview with Hitachi P.5
- Using Twitter to Learn English P.6
- Interview with TD Canada Trust P.7
- United Way/Upcoming Events P.8

Golf Tournament was a Huge Success!



The 2011 READ Saskatoon PGI Golf Tournament was a huge success! The golfers enjoyed the +30° day at the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club while supporting literacy and the work of READ Saskatoon.



Thanks to Mayor Don Atchison and Minister Rob Norris for greeting the golfers in the morning. Our special guest, Tom Harrington, co-host with CBC's Marketplace was busy all day. He golfed with the Affinity Credit Union team and then acted as MC during the dinner.



The highlight during the dinner was the presentation of the Kinsmen Learner Achievement Award to Nooshin Nouroozi. Nooshin has worked hard to strengthen her literacy skills and is now attending the University. Jeffery Straker, this year's Poet Laureate closed the day with an amazing song!



This year's event raised over \$38,000.00! Thanks again to all the sponsors, golfers and volunteers for making it a great event.



What is the International Adult Literacy Skills Survey (IALSS)?

IALSS was a ground-breaking, trans-national survey of adults



“designed to profile and explore the literacy distributions among participating countries. It was a collaborative effort involving several international organizations, intergovernmental agencies, and national governments.” (Kirsch, 2001). IALSS is not intended to classify people as either illiterate or literate, but rather to conceptualize proficiency along a continuum that denotes “how well adults use information to function in society and the economy” (Statistics Canada, 2005a).

IALSS allows us to understand literacy in a functional way. Because of IALSS we can start to correlate what literacy skills mean in economic and employability terms.

IALSS has become such a common way of understanding literacy skills that often when researchers and other experts talk about “literacy scores”,

what they are referring to is IALSS.

T. Scott Murray and his team of researchers assert that “Literacy is economically and socially important to individuals, with differences in literacy score explaining a significant proportion of social inequality in a range of outcomes.” (Murray, et al., 2009, p. 3).

The 2003 version of IALSS “tested more than 23,000 Canadians on their proficiency in four domains: prose literacy, document literacy, numeracy and problem-solving.”

IALSS offers a breakthrough approach, gives us a way to understand literacy in a broader context. Because of its scope and the fact that it values skills rather than pointing deficiencies, it’s applicability extends beyond literacy itself.

IALSS offers 5 general benchmarks for literacy:

- *Level one* – Basic identification of words and numbers. Basic decoding.
- *Level two* – Identifying words and numbers in a context and being able to respond with simple information e.g. Being able to fill in a form. [\(continued on Page 3\)](#)



“The 2003 International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey found a clear link between proficiency in literacy and an individual’s employability. People with low proficiency in literacy tend to have lower rates of employment, and they tend to work in occupations with lower skill requirements.” (Statistics Canada, 2005b).

(cont. from Page 2)

What is the International Adult Literacy Skills Survey (IALSS)?

- *Level three* – Identify, understand, synthesize and respond to information. Be able to match given information which corresponds to a question. This level corresponds roughly with high school completion levels.
- *Level four* – Have sufficient skills to decode, comprehend, synthesize and interpret information and respond accordingly. Higher level skills in understanding and interpreting information, responding and problem solving.
- *Level five* – Understand and verify the sufficiency of the information, synthesize, interpret, analyze and discuss the information. Sophisticated skills in handling information.

Extracted from <http://drsaraheaton.wordpress.com/2011/05/01/what-is-the-international-adult-literacy-survey-ials-a-canadian-perspective/>

9 Essential Skills for Christmas



The Canadian government recognizes nine essential skills that are used in nearly every occupation and throughout

daily life in different ways and at different levels of complexity. We use these skills every day, even holidays

1. *Reading Text:* Read *The Twelve Days of Christmas* with your kids, or *The Christmas Carol* to get you in the spirit of the holiday.
2. *Document Use:* Make a list of Christmas shopping and plan where to go first to make your shopping days efficient.
3. *Numeracy:* Calculate the number of small gifts or treats you will have to buy or make to create your own advent calendar for the family.
4. *Writing:* Help your child write a letter to Santa or write a Christmas letter that you plan to send to all of your family and friends.
5. *Oral Communication:* Plan a family, community or work Christmas party, discussing different ideas and options for venue, food, guest list, date and entertainment.
6. *Working with Others:* Assemble and decorate a Christmas tree with family or friends, or build a snowman family with each person having a different task.
7. *Continuous Learning:* Make crafts using craft books for ideas on new and different things to make.
8. *Thinking Skills:* Plan how to decorate the house with a theme from a favourite Christmas story and how you can incorporate the rooms to create the scenes from the story.
9. *Computer Use:* Google Christmas baking recipes to make tasty creative treats.

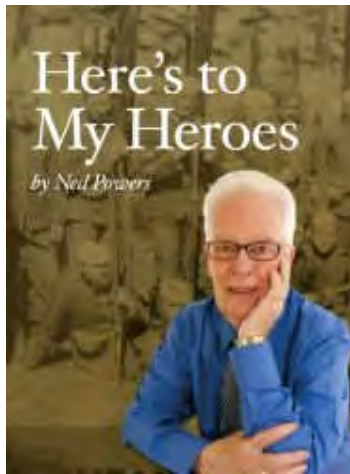
Parents, teachers and caregivers can log on to www.thepowerofreading.ca and access five fun stories to read with children anytime.

For added fun, visitors can select from five one-of-a-kind story builders where they can then customize the story and share their new adventure with other friends and family online.

Visitors will also be able to download and print all the stories and colouring pages to enjoy later.

Here's to My Heroes

Legendary Saskatoonian Ned Powers, recently released his new book, *Here's to My Heroes* in which he tells a series of amazing personal stories. Ned explains that his intention "at all times, was to tell the stories just like the ones I had written mostly for StarPhoenix readers. Thankfully, the StarPhoenix gave me that platform for many years".



He continues by describing that "the book is totally about what I've seen

during what has been a fortunate series of opportunities {...} the sports highlights are ones I personally witnessed. The performances and interviews with both the international and home-grown stars are there as personal connections. As my life unfolded, I grew to recognize what a special community that Saskatoon had become."

To win a copy of Ned Powers' new book, answer the trivia question in the column to the right.

To win a copy of Ned's book, Here's to My Heroes, email the answer to the following trivia question to us at info@readsaskatoon.com

readsaskatoon.com

What world-famous basketball team did Ned promote in Saskatoon during the 1970s?

- A) Harlem Globetrotters
- B) Miami Heat
- C) Los Angeles Lakers
- D) New York Knicks

Recruiting Volunteer Tutors

If you or someone you know is looking for an exciting opportunity to contribute to building a vibrant community, our One-to-One Adult Tutoring Program is now recruiting tutors.

Volunteer tutors will help improve an adult's literacy skills that will make functioning in our society easier. If you are optimistic, adaptive, patient and have an interest in working with adult learners this is a fantastic opportunity for you. Please contact the office early

to register for the mandatory orientation and training session and to receive your orientation package by mail.

Volunteer Orientation :

- Tuesday, Jan 24, 2011 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan 25, 2011 1-3:30 p.m.

Tutor Training:

- Saturday, Jan 28, 2011 9:30-4:45 p.m.



Hitachi Canadian Industries

Interview with Carolyn Boychuck, Community Action Committee Chairperson

HITACHI Inspire the Next

The Hitachi Foundation's vision is that:

"Hitachi employees throughout North America will work hand-in-hand with community organizations to make a difference. Active involvement in strengthening local communities is a fundamental quality of a good corporate citizen and will remain a defining characteristic of Hitachi companies in North America."

Hitachi Canadian Industries is a manufacturing plant, making energy-related products for power generation, wind tower components, pressure vessels for oil sands, etc.

Nearly every Hitachi across North America has a Community Action Committee (CAC), run by employees. The CAC works in partnership with the Hitachi Foundation.

The Hitachi Foundation is an independent non-profit philanthropic organization established by Hitachi Ltd. in 1985.

The Hitachi Foundation matches the donations that the CAC makes, so the amount of every donation is doubled, with half of the money coming from HCI and half from the Hitachi Foundation.

Hitachi Canadian Industries has a CAC which supports organizations in Saskatoon and area; they survey their employees and see which issues they

"We really feel that READ Saskatoon is a perfect organization for us to support because of how closely our priorities align, and we were glad to be given the opportunity to donate."

want to focus their donations on.

The results of the CAC survey suggested

that the employees wanted to focus their support on children and education. READ Saskatoon is an organization which does both those things which is why supporting READ was a great fit.

CAC supports organizations with a ripple effect - something where helping one person helps their family, which helps the community, which helps everyone.

Reading provides a great example of this, because teaching one person to read benefits not only them but also their family, their community and their workplace. Hitachi supports being a diverse workplace, and READ Saskatoon helps a lot of different people.

Hitachi feels that "every person has unlimited potential, but if someone cannot read, this potential can remain undiscovered. If you teach that person to read, then they can do more, can be more involved in their community, and this benefits everyone. And who knows, maybe that person would be perfect for a job at Hitachi, but their literacy is holding them back."



From left top right: Sheryl Harrow of READ Saskatoon, Carolyn & Brad Gibey of Hitachi

Did you know...

As part of Family Literacy Day, Canadians can now download a Journey to Learning Passport at www.abclifeliteracy.ca.

This activity encourages families to complete at least five activities in the weeks leading up to Family Literacy Day on January 27, 2012 to see how easy learning can be.

Learning happens everywhere, which makes it easy to include learning activities as a part of your daily life. Once you realize how the things you do on a daily basis already involve learning, it's easy to make everyday activities learning opportunities.

Using Twitter to Learn English



Twitter has exploded across the Internet and more and more English learners are taking advantage of Twitter to practice their English. Learning English on Twitter is ideal because Twitter's 140 character limit ensures that English is practiced in bite-sized bits. The time investment required is minimal allowing students to slowly get used to practicing English on a regular basis.

Aim: Twitter lesson to practice English taking advantage of Twitter

Activity: Introduction and continuing Twitter communication activity to help learner use Twitter on a regular basis to improve English communication skills

Level: Low-intermediate to advanced

Outline: Get up to speed on Twitter if you are not familiar with the service. If you don't have a Twitter account, sign up and start experimenting by using some of the ideas outlined in in this Twitter lesson plan.

- Provide computer access either via a computer learning lab, or by asking learner to bring in their smart phone.
- Find a few Twitter streams to examine by using the search function at Twitter. It's especially helpful to use Twitter to search on popular culture. Watch the funny comments role in. Soon you'll be helping your learner learn a wide variety of idiomatic phrases.
- Create an account for your learner to get the ball rolling. This account can then be used in follow-up activities.
- Choose a few favourite topics to compose and post some tweets.
- Ask learner to discover a few interesting tweets by looking for famous people they would like to follow. Have your learner discover three to four tweets they especially like to read and explain why.



Extracted from <http://rsaraheaton.wordpress.com/2011/05/01/what-is-the-international-adult-literacy-survey-ials-a-canadian-perspective/>

TD Canada Trust

Interview with Ian Toms, District Vice President for Commercial Banking

Headquartered in Toronto, Canada, with offices around



the world, TD Bank Group offers financial products and services.

Ian Toms, District Vice President for Commercial Banking in Saskatchewan, is responsible for managing staff in Saskatchewan that provide credit and non credit

services to businesses in the province. In short, they lend money to businesses and also assist businesses in managing their money through cash management products.

Everyone at TD has a corporate responsibility to support community initiatives. Local Saskatchewan employees

like Ian have support through their head office in Toronto and regional centres across the country.

In 2011, TD's community giving targeted three broad areas: improving educational and financial literacy, creating opportunities for young people and reinforcing TD's commitment to the environment.

With respect to educational and financial literacy, TD hopes to increase accessibility to

postsecondary education for everyone through

donations and scholarships at educational institutions of all types.

They also fund programs which increase financial literacy in the communities and try to focus on communities that are underserved in this area.

« READ fits perfectly in our giving strategy through the promotion of children's literacy which creates a foundation for future success. You couldn't find a better fit! »

TD tries to focus on improving opportunities for young people. This is a broad area that strives to increase access to the arts, culture and education.

TD receives a large number of funding applications and typically funds organizations that show an area of focus that ties in well with its corporate responsibility

strategy. Most corporate giving tends to stem from an employee's initiative in their locality. These grassroots initiatives can come from any branch in the country.

One of TD's corporate giving areas of focus aims to help create opportunities for young people. This includes funding activities that can help young people in small and underserved communities (both rural and urban).

If you missed

Barry

MacDonald's

Boy Smarts

conference ...

His book is

available for sale

at the office for

the special

conference price

of 21 \$.

Look for Barry's

upcoming

conference in

March 2012.

Please see his

website to register

for the event.

Are you a United Way supporter?

Did you know that your United Way donation does not necessarily need to be directed to a United Way funded organization?. Donations can be directed to any charitable organization including READ Saskatoon.

If you donate by way of Payroll Deduction you can indicate on the back of the payroll deduction form that you would like to direct your donation to READ Saskatoon (charitable number 119111862RR0001). Direct donations can be designated the same way. Charitable receipts are provided by United Way.

Upcoming Events at READ Saskatoon

November 2011

- Grow Your Own Training “Effective Communication”, November 9, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Grow Your Own Training “Great Meetings”, November 16, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- National Child Day & Universal Children’s Day, November 20
- Saskatchewan Literacy Network Conference, November 16 & 17
- Glitter Fundraising Event, November 29, 7:00-10:00 p.m., The Mall at Lawson Heights

December 2011

- World AIDS Day, December 1
- 10th Anniversary of International Day of Volunteers
- Annual Learner, Volunteer and Sponsor Appreciation Night, December 5, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Human Rights Day, December 10
- Christmas, December 25

January 2012

- New Year’s Day, January 1
- Facilitation Skills Workshop, Friday January 13, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Family Literacy Day Festival, Saturday, January 21, 1:00-4:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 29 1:00-3:00 p.m. Frances Morrison Branch Library
- Tutor Orientation, Tuesday, January 24, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Park Town Hotel
- Tutor Orientation, Wednesday, January 25, 1:00-3:30 p.m., Park Town Hotel
- Tutor Training and Introduction to Family Literacy Certificate Training, Saturday January 28, 2011, 9:30-4:45 p.m., Park Town Hotel

February 2012

- Groundhog Day, February 2
- Valentine’s Day, February 14
- Family Day, February 21
- Freedom to Read Week, February 20-26
- Legal Follies, February 10 & 11