



QUERY

The Saskatchewan Reading Council



In This Issue

- Networking for Professional Growth: Fall 2015 SRC Executive Meeting in Manitou Springs, SK
- Celebrating Literacy Together: Family Literacy Day
- SYRCA Willow Awards 2015-2016 School Book Launch
- Diagnostic Reading Prompts: Second Reading, Shared Reading and Read Aloud
- International Literacy Association Explores the Transformative Power of Literacy: The 2015 Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, USA
- Book Reviews:
Gravesavers
Cousins
That Scatterbrain Booky
Crispin: The Cross of Lead

2015-2016
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Deadline for Submissions
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INVITATION TO WRITERS: You are invited to submit your writing to be considered for publication in the *Query*. Articles, reports and essays are welcome.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Manuscripts and related correspondence should be addressed to the SRC.

SRC MEMBERSHIP is open to anyone having a professional interest in the teaching of Language Arts. *Query* and other communications from SRC are automatically sent to current members. Potential members are encouraged to join one of the nine local councils in Saskatchewan. For no extra cost one can participate in local council activities as well as receive the benefits of an automatic provincial membership. Student memberships are also available.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES: Membership correspondence, changes of address, and requests for back issues should be directed to:

Saskatchewan Reading Council
c/o The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
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A Professional Growth Network of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
A Council of the International Reading Association

CONTENTS

QUERY | VOLUME 45 | NUMBER 1 | FALL/WINTER 2015-16

REPORTS

Editor's Message	1
President's Report	2
Vice President's Report	2
Communication Coordinator's Report	2
Did You Know?	2
Young Saskatchewan Writers Coordinator's Report	3
Read to Me Coordinator's Report	3
International Literacy Association Coordinator's Report	4
Local Council Reports	7
Be Connected	9
Ask the Experts	10

ARTICLES

Networking for Professional Growth: Fall 2015 SRC Executive Meeting in Manitou Springs, SK By Magi McFadden	11
Celebrating Literacy Together: Family Literacy Day By Magi McFadden	13
SYRCA Willow Awards 2015-2016 School Book Launch By Magi McFadden	16
Diagnostic Reading Prompts: Second Reading, Shared Reading and Read Aloud By Miriam Trehearne	18
International Literacy Association Explores the Transformative Power of Literacy: The 2015 Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, USA By Magi McFadden	19

BOOK REVIEWS

<i>Gravesavers</i> Reviewed by Shelly Galloway	21
<i>Cousins</i> Reviewed by Magi McFadden	21
<i>That Scatterbrain Booky</i> Reviewed by Magi McFadden	21
<i>Crispin: The Cross of Lead</i> Reviewed by Magi McFadden	22

INTEREST

What's Happening Around Saskatchewan?	23
Saskatchewan Reading Council Membership Application.	24
School Reading Liaison Form	25
Wanted: Student Writing for the <i>Young Saskatchewan Writers Journal</i> K-12	26
Saskatchewan Young Readers Choice – The Willow Awards	28

AWARDS

Prairie Lily Award	28
International Reading Association Application Deadlines for Awards and Programs	29
Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form.	30
Administrator's Award Nomination Form	32
Exemplary Reading Program Award	34
Local Community Service Award	35

Past Presidents of the Saskatchewan Reading Council	36
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Editor's Message

Magi McFadden



The Saskatchewan Reading Council's (SRC) mission is to promote the development of literacy and the maintenance of quality literacy instruction. *Query*, the official publication of the SRC, welcomes you to a cornucopia of collaborations for literacy! Articles in this issue focus on collaborations for

literacy at family, school, provincial, national and global levels. The Fall/Winter issue of *Query* begins with highlights from the fall executive meeting of the SRC which centered on examination of the new STF policy regarding professional development for members which has resulted in special subject councils transforming into professional growth networks. With a renewed emphasis on partnerships, the SRC is still known as the Saskatchewan Reading Council but is now referred to as a professional growth network of the STF and is no longer referred to as a special subject council of the STF. Read more about this in *Networking for Professional Growth: Fall 2015 SRC Executive Meeting in Manitou Springs, SK*. The importance of family engagement in literacy activities is emphasized in *Celebrating Literacy Together: Family Literacy Day* which documents myriad literacy activities that families in a remote northern village share with one another in recognition of this special day in January. Collaboration within the school and at the provincial level is seen in *SYRCA Willow Awards 2015-2016 School Book Launch* where we are greeted by a delightful character known as Buddy the Book Clown, who invites children to vote for their favourite Willow Awards nominee through classroom read alouds and presentations. The provincial council's roster of featured speakers at the 2015 conference in Regina included the author of the article, *Diagnostic Reading Prompts: Second Reading, Shared Reading and Read Aloud*, Miriam Trehearne. In this article Miriam Trehearne outlines strategies presented to delegates in her keynote address emphasizing completion, recall, open-ended, wh and distancing prompts for effective

reading instruction. International collaboration is apparent in *International Literacy Association Explores the Transformative Power of Literacy: The 2015 Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, USA* where renowned speakers, skilled presenters and enthusiastic vendors drew thousands of teachers together for literacy learning. That collaboration for literacy is occurring at local levels in families and in schools; and at provincial, national and international levels in networks focused on professional development is apparent in this issue of *Query*.

Query readers read, and read some more! They truly exude a love of reading! For *Query* readers searching for good reads for children ages 10-14 years, Shelly Galloway reviews, *Gravesavers*, a historical novel by Sheree Fitch filled with mystery and romance which is sure to capture the curiosity and angst of the intended audience. More yet for tweens and teens, Magi McFadden reviews Virginia Hamilton's, *Cousins*; Bernice Thurman Hunter's, *That Scatterbrain Booky*; and Avi's, *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*. Virginia Hamilton's powerful novel, *Cousins*, delves deeply into the innermost emotions of 11-year-old Cammie who oscillates between feelings of love, envy and grief. This dramatic and heart-wrenching tragedy, is an illuminating read that will be appreciated by readers ages 9-12. *That Scatterbrain Booky*, artfully written by Bernice Thurman Hunter, is yet another novel weighted with problematic themes and harsh societal realities. Hunter takes a hard look at life during the Great Depression, providing devastating description of Booky's childhood years filled with family arguments, desperation and poverty. Themes of poverty and family arguments render this easy read suitable to slightly older children ages 10-12 years. Some of the issues depicted in *That Scatterbrain Booky* will provide lively debate or, at the very least, stimulate questions for lively discussion. In *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*, Avi engineers a plot delivering maximum thrills, skillfully developing a compelling relationship between a 13-year-old orphan boy, Crispin, and a burly travelling juggler called simply, Bear, that provides the heart of this story. A page turner to the very end, this intriguing novel, set in 14th-century England, targets adolescent readers ages 10-14 years but appeals to readers of all ages.

Submissions to Query are welcomed at any time. Readers are encouraged to share this issue with colleagues to inform them of the benefits of an SRC membership.

President's Report

Sherri Sieffert



On September 26, I attended the Professional Growth Network Day in Saskatoon with Pam Foy, our treasurer. Gisele Carlson and Karen Koroluk were also there. There were many other professional growth networks there so it was good to hear what other networks are doing. It seems that many are having the same concerns as us, declining memberships and decreases in conference registrants.

I think that I can safely say that the 2015-2016 year will be one of change. We are now a professional growth network not a special subject council. The International Reading Association is now the International Literacy Association. These changes will affect us. Also we will need to challenge ourselves to look at ways in which we can continue to meet the needs of our members and also reach out to new members. Professional development dollars are precious commodities. We need to look at how we can access the PD needs of our members and promote literacy in our province. To address these issues, we will need to change a few things, while keeping our strong dedication to literacy as a top priority.

It will be exciting to work with the new 2015-2016 executive. We have a great balance of returning and new members.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Saskatchewan Reading Council has a professional library available to its members.

Check out our selection at our website:
www.saskreading.com

To borrow materials contact Jennifer Lundsten
at jennackerman@sasktel.net.

Vice President's Report

Tana Arnott



I am so pleased to be serving the Saskatchewan Reading Council as this year's vice president. I look forward to working with Sherri Sieffert, the current president, who has already taught me so much during my time on the council, as well as the other executive members of the council. I have learned so much from each and every one

of them. I believe that the professional development opportunities and the support I receive from these ladies will benefit me both as a teacher in the classroom and as a literacy advocate in our division and in our community.

Communications Coordinator's Report

Sharon Funk



It was with a bit of trepidation that I took on the communications coordinator role. But now that I am becoming more confident about some of the applications, I am enjoying it. At this time, we have 3 main areas of communication: the website, Twitter and recently, Facebook.

There has been a good response to these – especially Facebook and Twitter. Instagram is next, but will wait for the name change before taking that on.

Please encourage people to look for us on social media and the website so we can gain a greater following. Also, if you come across articles or interesting memes pertaining to us, please forward them to me and I can post them on these sites.

Young Saskatchewan Writers Coordinator's Report

Lori Saigeon



I am excited to be assuming the position of editor of the *Young Saskatchewan Writers* publication this year. We accept writing from all over the province that has been vetted by a coordinator in each local area.

Last year, as every year, we had many entries representing all grade levels, Grade 1 to Grade 12. It's exciting to see our young students strive for excellence and then see their own writing published. If you would like to submit any short stories, poetry, plays, essays, letters or personal narratives, you may do so at any time!

Local councils also host a "Young Authors Night." This is a time to honour all the published writers by giving them the opportunity to read their selections in public. Some of our local councils are beginning to hold writing workshops for all the writers who enter their pieces. What a great way to encourage the development of these young, talented authors!

Information for the Young Saskatchewan Writers program has been sent out to all areas of the province. Please ensure that all students' writing is to your local Saskatchewan Reading Council coordinator before their deadline, usually February 1. For more information, please contact me at lori.saigeon@rbe.sk.ca.

Read to Me Coordinator's Report

Joan Bue



The purpose of the READ to ME project is to raise awareness of the importance of reading to children in the home and to provide parents of pre-kindergarten children with a book and pamphlets full of information concerning the benefits of reading to their children from an early age.

Read-to-Me Bags

The program is designed to address the needs of young children having access to books and literacy activities before they start school.

To be given to children:

- a. **Read-to-Me bags** will include:
 - One book from Scholastic
 - One letter to parents with information about the Saskatchewan Reading Council and reading ideas on how to read to children
 - One bookmark about READING
 - One booklet "For the Love of Reading" from the Saskatchewan Literacy Network
 - Love of Reading bag

- b. Individual councils are encouraged to add any items they wish to their bags.
- c. Each council will take the following number of items:

Council	Bags	Books	Bookmarks	Letter	Booklets
East Central	100	100	100	100	100
Kewetin Nene*	200	200	200	200	200
Moose Jaw	100	100	100	100	100
North Central	100	100	100	100	100
North West	100	100	100	100	100
Saskatoon*	300	300	300	300	300
South East*	200	200	200	200	200
South Sask	100	100	100	100	100
South West*	230	230	230	230	230
Total	1430	1430	1430	1430	1430

* will pay for extra items

This is a very worthwhile program that students love and parents appreciate.

International Literacy Coordinator's Report

Shelly Galloway



Here are a few important items for your review:

1) Recap of ILA Network Sessions in St. Louis:

Thank you to all who attended one of the ILA Network Sessions at ILA 2015, facilitated by ILA's Executive Director, Marcie Craig

Post. During each of these two sessions, information was shared regarding IRA's transformation to ILA, as well as potential changes that will affect the ILA Network. The Council Advisory Team has selected a group of nine council leaders from around the United States that will work closely with the ILA staff and Board to develop a set of comprehensive recommendations on network restructuring issues. The work of this taskforce will be completed by December 2015, and the recommendations will be presented to ILA's Board of Directors at their February meeting.

2) ILA Council Awards Info:

Stay tuned for updated links for the Award of Excellence and Honor Council Award submission forms. Our Membership and Global Operations Departments are in the process of making award updates which will only affect two of the optional criteria and should not have a huge impact on current award submission status. If you have already completed either of these options, your submission will still be considered. Please note that the due dates for all ILA Council Awards will be adjusted to accommodate this delay.

3) International Literacy Day 2015:

International Literacy Day (September 8). Check out the attached flyer for all the ways your council can get involved! On September 8, literacy leaders and communities around the world will celebrate International Literacy Day (ILD), an occasion to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and society.

This year, ILA is asking you to help spread the word together under the theme, "The Power of People: Start a Literacy Movement".

To help celebrate ILD in your classroom, community, or online, the team at ILA has prepared some tools for you:

The ILD Activity Kit is full of classroom ideas focused on the Philippines, a country that inspires us with its commitment to literacy for all.

The Little Free Library Service Project Kit is a special guide that outlines a few simple steps for expanding access to reading resources in your community.

Keep us posted on your ILD plans and activities on social media using #ILD15. You can also e-mail them to us at [social@reading.org](mailto:atsocial@reading.org). We will be sharing your activities with the ILA network throughout the day and on our blog in days following the celebrations.

Thank you for your work and partnership as we continue transforming lives through literacy.

We look forward to seeing how you celebrate ILD on September 8.

4) Have You Seen the New ILA Website?

(Here is an example of what you can find):

Makesure to explore our new homepage: literacyworldwide.org. At the bottom of each page is a link For Councils Leaders to find all of the pertinent information related to councils. The ILA Toolkit is also a new addition that offers some wonderful tools and information that may be useful in your role as a council leader.

August 25, 2015

Be Prepared, Be Inspired

Hello Shelly,

Here it comes—the end of summer, the start of fall, and for many, the beginning of a new school year! ILA is here to help you (and teachers everywhere) get ready, with quality resources to prepare yourself, your lesson plans, and your classroom. Read on!

Plan for Success, Right From the Start

This insightful ILA E-essentials helps set the tone for the school year in the first 20 days with "spotlight lessons" and planning for structures, not just content.

Find Resources in a Snap

Get prepared and excited to head back to your classroom with all the resources you need—in one

convenient place—to make this school year better than ever!

Advocate for Literacy in Your Own Backyard

This year, we've asked you to join the movement on #ILD15 and improve your community by building a Little Free Library. (We're building one, too!) Watch and prepare to be inspired.

Become a Reviewer for ILA 2016

You're invited to participate in the reviewer process for the ILA 2016 Conference in Boston. Your expertise in evaluating proposal submissions is integral to a successful event.

Popular on Literacy Daily

Offsetting the Fear of Digital Applications in the Classroom ...

Until Now, I Was the Riffraff ...

Preliminary ILA Report Finds Wide Differences ...

5) Information on Saskatchewan Reading Council name:

Thank you for reaching out. I am the Council Advisor for Saskatchewan and future inquiries regarding SRC and your role as coordinator can be forwarded on to me. In regards to the question you have posed below we are not currently mandating a name change for any councils. We are also asking councils who may be interested in updating their name to hold tight for the time being as we are in the midst of gathering information through a Network Taskforce that will be working to make suggestions and an action plan together regarding the restructuring of all currently chartered entities of IRA/ILA (this includes name change, charter application and bylaws among other documentation). The hope is to have a recommendations outline out together for approval at our February 2016 ILA Board Meeting and that we can then begin the process of disseminating information to all councils and affiliates in the ILA Network regarding next steps and a timeline for completion of these items. Angela Rivell

6) ILA Council Awards and Guidelines:

Hello Council Coordinators! We are happy to announce that the 2015-2016 ILA Council Awards guidelines and submissions forms are now available on the newly revised ILA Awards & Grants page. The undertaking of updating, not only the award forms as well as the website, has been

a large project. We appreciate your patience while we have worked internally to make these resources available to our councils. Many council leaders have reached out in regards to the due dates of the awards – we have listed these dates below for easy reference:

- Exemplary Reading Program Award – due November 28, 2015
- Local Council Community Service Award – due December 15, 2015
- Advocacy Award – due December 15, 2015
- Council Achievement Awards – Intent to Participate Form – due December 15, 2015
- Award of Excellence – due January 4, 2016
- Honor Council Program Award – due January 4, 2016

We also would like to make you aware that the Council Membership Reports that council presidents, coordinators, and directors of membership development would typically access through the My Account page on the website have been taken down for functionality improvements. We are hopeful that the reports will be made available for accessing through the website by October. In the interim, please contact councils@reading.org and we will run the membership report, from our internal database, for your dedicated state. We will send a communication, along with an updated procedure of how to access the Council Membership Reports, once they are once again accessible through the web.

Please contact councils@reading.org with any questions or concerns.

7) Coordinator Conference Call Agenda Items: Database Report, Officer Reports, Awards, and Questions from Coordinators:

1. Is the database the list of ILA members?
 - a. The ILA database is an area of the ILA website where Council Leaders can access the names and contact information of the ILA members in their states/provinces. Keep in mind the database does not list whether the individuals are members of a particular council. The database is currently being updated along with several other ILA documents and should be available by the middle of October. If you need a list of ILA members in your area, please contact councils@reading.org.

2. Why is ILA Headquarters still asking for Officer Reports?
 - a. The Officer Report provides ILA Headquarters with the most up to date contact information for our councils. Without this information, we have no way of knowing who should be receiving updates, due date notifications or basic information that would be important to our councils. Even though the deadline has passed, the information is still needed and can be sent using a pdf form. If you still have councils that need to submit their Office Report, please contact councils@reading.org in order to obtain the forms.
 - b. When you find that a file is too large to upload, feel free to send the file via email to councils@reading.org and indicate what part of the Officer Report it is satisfying. For example, we ask that you submit a membership roster to us. If the file is too large to upload, simply attach the document to an email with the council name and forward to ILA Headquarters. We will then merge the information into the Officer Report that you have submitted online.
3. Will we get copies of the officer report forms that are submitted?
 - a. These forms are not automatically distributed to Coordinators, but if you are in need of a copy, please contact councils@reading.org.
4. When will the ILA Awards information be updated on the ILA website?
 - a. The award information has been updated and is available on the ILA website under Awards and Grants.
5. Is there one single factor that caused membership to drop so drastically? Or even 3-5 factors and if so what exactly are they? What has ILA determined the cause for their decline in Membership? How about other states?
 - a. This is a very complicated question as there are many factors that contributed to the decline of membership. The internet providing access to material for little or no cost, funding cutbacks and a decline in people coming into the

profession are just a few. We are seeing a decline not only in our association, but also in membership associations across the country.

6. We need to receive a checklist of deadlines to meet at our most hectic time of the year. Is this possible?
 - a. Please be sure to check the ILA website under the Council Leaders section as it contains not only a calendar of due dates but also other important information for Council Leaders.
7. Are most council's changing reading to literacy in some way?
 - a. Since a name change is a legal action, it first must be done through ILA headquarters. Once the ILA Network Taskforce completes their work, we will be in touch in regards to the steps necessary for those councils requesting to change their name.
8. When will LDA's visit our councils?
 - a. The title Leadership Development Associate was changed two years ago to Council Advisor to more align with the work being done with our councils. This work has shifted from focusing on developing leaders within our network, to advising councils on non-profit management, board development and orientation and facilitating strategic planning. If you are interested in requesting a training session with your council, please complete the Council Advisor Visitation Request Form.
9. Is there liability insurance that we can buy for council events for our Canadians?
 - a. Councils can buy just "Special Event" insurance; that is different from the "general liability" policy they should carry for the organization. A business insurance broker could help them.

We have also included the attached "Save the Date" notice for ILA 2016 in Boston. We appreciate you sharing this with your council members as well as council leaders at the local level in your state/province. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us. We hope this information is helpful.

Local Council Reports



Kewetin Nene Reading Council

Magi McFadden, President

The school year at Kewetin Nene Reading Council (KNRC) has begun by extending personal invitations to new teachers to select

the Saskatchewan Reading Council as their Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) Professional Growth Network choice. KNRC hosts a Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) information booth in conjunction with Pahnkisimon Nuwe?ah (PNLS) Library System's information booth at the Northern Area Teachers' Association (NATA) Convention in Prince Albert mid-October. At this display booth, KNRC hosts a local council membership drive by providing information about the benefits of SRC membership and holds several draws for books. We also hold our KNRC annual general meeting during the NATA Convention where local council positions are filled and the local council calendar of events is developed. International Literacy day celebrations have consisted of book give-aways to Pinehouse, Sandy Bay, Buffalo Narrows and Stanley Mission. La Ronge Public Library and PNLS helped promote literacy day by handing out books at the "Canada Day redo" in Patterson Park. People came to see the books before and after a parade.

KNRC continues its commitment to seeking membership from all northern communities by sharing information with First Nations Band schools and sponsoring membership of students from the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP). KNRC has initiated registered involvement in the *Little Free Libraries* global initiative and continues active participation in the Read to Me initiative of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. Currently, Minahik Waskahigan School, Pinehouse Lake, and KNRC, La Ronge location, are registered *Little Free Library* sites. Volunteer teachers and parents provide stewardship for Little Free Libraries and NORTEP students and NLSD#113 Literacy Catalyst Teachers distribute books for the SRC Read to Me program to parents of newborns through our community wellness centres, daycares, preschools and kindergarten classroom. With a focus on *Little Free Libraries*, the school year has begun with council members facilitating student participation in a variety of International Literacy Day activities involving the libraries. Family Literacy Day activities in January, will continue to include family

get-togethers including Read Together evenings, Family Literacy Games night, Book Draws, Literacy Fairs, Outdoor Literacy Learning and Elder Storytelling. KNRC continues contributing to Pahnkisimon Nuwe?ah Library System's SaskPower Northern Reading Program which includes a reading challenge to schools to become the "Readingest Community in Northern Saskatchewan", and a tour by a Saskatchewan author, soon to be named. This coming year of 2016 will be the 25th anniversary of the Northern Reading Program. We will be trying to do something special for our 11 different "Readingest Communities of Northern Saskatchewan". In addition to the worldwide *Little Free Library* project, another international project of KNRC participation this school year includes KNRC monetary donation to the Malala Foundation to promote literacy and advocacy for compulsory schooling for all children world-wide (www.malalafund.org). KNRC continues participation in Young Saskatchewan Writers (YSW) and Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – Willow Awards (SYRC).

The month-by-month KNRC itinerary of 2015-16 literacy activities includes the following:

September 2015 – International Literacy Day: Launch of Little Free Libraries in northern communities. Book give-aways to Pinehouse, Sandy Bay, Buffalo Narrows and Stanley Mission. La Ronge Public Library and PNLS helped promote literacy day by handing out books at the "Canada Day redo" in Patterson Park – People came to see the books before and after a parade. Contribution to the Malala Fund.

October – A KNRC/SRC membership drive and information display booth at the NATA convention in Prince Albert. "Good Reads Books" gift draws. Invitation announcements at NATA convention to encourage teachers new to the school division to become an SRC/KNRC member. Membership in KNRC will be also be promoted at the annual NATA convention through our local council poster, brochure and postcards.

KNRC Annual General Meeting held at the Art Hauser Center in Prince Albert. NLSD#113 Literacy- Numeracy Catalyst Teachers /KNRC members, promotion of SRC annual conference.

December – Gift of Reading – book drive and book exchange community service literacy project in northern communities.

January – Family Literacy Day – celebration of family literacy through generation of Family Literacy Activities to increase awareness and participation in family literacy. Northern author tour and Northern Reading Challenge.

February – Young Saskatchewan Writers (YSW) submission of writing samples from students in northern Saskatchewan schools for publication in YSW.

March – NLS#113 Literacy- Numeracy Catalyst Teachers /KNRC members, promotion of SRC annual conference. KNRC local council skype/conference call meeting. Submission of Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards – Willow Awards (SYRC).

April – SRC Read to Me Books community service project through distribution of books to parents of newborns in northern communities.

June - Change of local council officers.

KNRC members enthusiastically look forward to participating in professional development opportunities offered during the school year by the SRC provincial professional growth network and by local network participation. Plans are in the making for a NATA-NORTEP-NLS#113-SPDU collaborative professional development session at NATA convention 2016. Membership in KNRC will be promoted throughout the school year through our local council poster, brochure and allotted space in the SRC website.

Warm welcome is extended to new KNRC members! Welcome is also extended to continuing professional growth network members sustaining their commitment to literacy! Many thanks go to KNRC members I have worked while holding the position of KNRC president. Warmest of welcomes goes to those dedicated individuals who have committed themselves to a 2015-16 local reading council executive position:

President	Deborah Gibson-Dingwall
Vice President	Magi McFadden (past president)
Secretary-Treasurer	Harriet Roy
Membership	Barb Traxel
Young Saskatchewan Writers	Lynda Renaud
Read to Me	Dawn Kuppenbender

We look forward to a most blessed and enjoyable year of professional growth and networking focusing on enthusiastic and energetic promotion of literacy!

Saskatoon and District Reading Council

**Lee Jacobson and Barbara Alberton,
Co-Presidents**

The Saskatoon and District Reading Council supports and promotes literacy by our commitment to carry out the yearly projects of the SRC and of our own. We are working with an expanding executive this year and looking forward to branching out and creating new projects to promote literacy around the city and area. Our AGM will be held October 6.

This year we have decided to continue with projects such as Read to Me and Young Saskatchewan Writers. The SDRC continues to support the province wide Read to Me initiative, the donation of books and literacy information to Ronald McDonald house, Crisis Nursery and YWCA. This project usually takes place in May. We are exploring offering books to older youth at Egads and will be investigating that further this year.

The Young Saskatchewan Writers program promotes writing from all grade levels in and around the city. A committee of executive, members at large and school liaisons meet to choose 16-18 pieces to publish in the *Young Saskatchewan Writers* publication, which comes out in June. The SDRC will then hold a young author's night to celebrate our author's success. The young writers will also have the opportunity to have a writer's workshop with a known local author.

This year our hope is to expand our resources and knowledge to offer professional development to university students in the teaching program. With new members to our executive, we wish to promote literacy, share important instructional strategies and resources that will assist these teachers in their classroom. We plan to offer one professional development session in spring.

This year we will also focus on better ways to expand our membership and promote our council. Postcards have been made illustrating our goals and accomplishments. These postcards have been sent out to the beginning teachers' orientation and to schools around the city. We will look into different forms of advertising and promoting our PD sessions throughout the year.

Our current executive council this year includes:

- Co-President: Lee Jacobson and Barbara Alberton
- Treasurer: Najla Akl
- Secretary: Nikki Welder
- Membership Directors: Paula Klein, Heather Robertson
- Members at Large: Shella Gonzales

We look forward to a new year with creative and new ideas.



Moose Jaw and District Reading Council

Tana Arnott, President

The Moose Jaw and District Reading Council continues to work hard in our schools and community to promote literacy. We have partnered with Moose Jaw Literacy to continue our Read to Me program – all babies born in the Moose Jaw F.H. Wigmore Hospital will receive a package with a new book and information about the importance of literacy and reading to children. A number of our schools are promoting literacy through literary nights and Paper Back Book Exchanges for their students. This is a great way for students to bring in their old books that they are done with and exchange it for a new-to-them book. We will continue our partnership with the Moose Jaw Public Library who helps to provide professional development opportunities for our teachers. They also assist our teachers with reading material from the library, as we well as leveled books for students to read. Family Literacy Day in January will continue to be a focus for us, as well, as we provide our schools with information about how to incorporate celebrating the day in our schools. Our Young Author's Celebration is always a wonderful way to promote writing in our schools with the creative minds of our students being celebrated during our Young Author's Reading.

Thank you to those teachers in our district who work hard to promote literacy within their classrooms, their schools, and our community.

We look forward to an exciting year!

South Saskatchewan Reading Council

Gisele Carlson, President



The SSRC serves teachers in school divisions in and Regina. I'm pleased to report that we have another full executive and exciting program this year. Our program for this coming year includes a Christmas meeting and social, Young Saskatchewan Writers submissions and Young Authors Night, a professional book club discussion, Read to Me, and many others. One of our projects is the Get Well Soon Literacy Kits. We offer these kits to students who need to stay at home from school for extended periods of time because of illness. Teachers can request a kit for a deserving student and parents really appreciate the support when they have a sick child.

For more information on our council, please email me at gisele.carlson@gmail.com, visit our website <http://saskreading.com/local-councils/south-saskatchewan/>, or follow us on Facebook at South Saskatchewan Reading Council.

Be Connected!

Visit the Saskatchewan Reading Council online at:
www.saskreading.com



Southwest Reading Council

Jennifer Lundsten, President

Another school year has started and is flying by. Teachers and students are planning the future with excitement. The executive of the South West Reading Council is very excited to get started on our projects this year as well. We have made it our goal to put as many books into the hands of young readers as possible.

For the 2015-16 year, we are planning:

- To participate in the Read to Me program by providing books to PreK students in our area;
- To participate in the Young Saskatchewan Writers' contest and publication;
- To donate more books to early learning centres in our local council area;

- To organize reading readiness book bags for Hutterian children as they prepare to enter kindergarten; and
- To help schools in our local council area provide their students with literacy events or celebrations.

We are hoping to reach more children this year, provide more books and give teachers and parents the tools to promote literacy at home and school. If you have any ideas to improve literacy in your school please share them with us. We are continually looking for ways to help teachers and students throughout the southwest. We can be contacted through our email at swrc@hotmail.ca. Or contact the following executive members who represent your school divisions:

Amber Thompson – Sun West School Division
Jennifer Lundsten – Chinook School Division
Yvonne Fidelak – Holy Trinity Catholic School Division

Have a great school year!

Ask the Experts

The Saskatchewan Reading Council is made up of individuals committed to quality literacy education. These individuals are teachers, administrators, literacy specialists, learning resource teachers, librarians and consultants. Let these “experts” help you!

If you have a question about literacy or about the council we would love to hear from you. Please email questions to saskatchewanreadingcouncil@gmail.com

Networking for Professional Growth:

Fall 2015 SRC Executive Meeting in Manitou Springs, SK

Magi McFadden

Leadership development at the Fall Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) business meeting chaired by SRC president Sherri Sieffert focused on examination of new policy recently adopted by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) that has resulted in a name change from special subject councils to professional growth networks. The name change from special subject councils to professional growth networks emphasizes the intent of the networks to strengthen teachers' capacity to advocate for school divisions and the provincial government through membership in professional growth networks providing opportunities for lifelong learning of teachers. The networks support professional growth for teachers through networking, communications, innovative professional growth opportunities, sharing of promising professional practices and resources related to a specialized area or interest in education, and opportunities to engage in research that contributes to improvement of teaching and learning. Professional growth networks are defined by the STF as organizations supported by the STF and established by teachers to inform professional practice in support of students' education. The Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) is included among twenty-nine professional growth networks currently supported by the STF.

From Special Subject Councils to Professional Growth Networks

A recent policy review conducted by the Special Subject Councils Coordinating Committee and Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) has resulted in a name change from "special subject councils to professional growth networks" (Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, 2015, p. i). The name change from special subject councils to professional growth networks emphasizes the intent of the networks to strengthen teachers' capacity to advocate for school divisions and

the provincial government through membership in professional growth networks providing opportunities for lifelong learning of teachers. The networks support professional growth for teachers through networking, communications, innovative professional growth opportunities, sharing of promising professional practices and resources related to a specialized area or interest in education, opportunities to engage in research that contribute to improvement of teaching and learning; and opportunities for participation in leadership roles in education in Saskatchewan.

Professional growth networks are defined by the STF as organizations supported by the STF and established by teachers to inform professional practice in support of student education. Affiliation of the professional growth networks with the Federation provides members with several important benefits including: financial assistance, membership services, printing and publication services, and services available through the Stewart Resources Centre and the Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit. Membership in professional growth networks is not limited to teachers, but includes any person with professional interest in the activities of the networks.

Membership in Professional Growth Networks

Membership in professional growth networks provides opportunities to gain insight and enhance skills. It keeps members on the leading edge of thinking and experiences in their area of interest through access to publications and journals. It offers an opportunity to play a leadership role in education in Saskatchewan by being part of a group of organizations that: address challenges facing schools today; raise awareness and facilitate discussion through submission of resolutions to the Federation's annual meeting of council; develop policies in areas such as evaluation; shape implementation of renewed curriculum; enable research and facilitate projects of benefit to students, teachers and the community; and recognize excellence through awards and programs.

Benefits of Membership in the Saskatchewan Reading Council

With a mission to promote the development of literacy and the maintenance of quality literacy instruction, membership in the Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) provides opportunities for members to gain insight and enhance skills related to literacy. Opportunities for professional development and leadership in literacy abound through membership in the SRC and occur through conferences and workshops; literacy events hosted by local councils such as family literacy nights, author visits, book circles and literacy carnivals; articles, awards, book reviews and program connections found in *Query*, the official publication of the SRC; Read to Me books for babies distributed to parents/guardians of newborns in our province; submission of student writing to Young Saskatchewan Writers annual publication; and nominations for awards of excellence in literacy to Saskatchewan teachers, administrators and exemplary programs. These opportunities alone make membership in the SRC professional growth network worthwhile,

however, SRC membership brings with it so much more. It also provides connections with global networks affiliated with the International Literacy Association (ILA) including conferences/workshops, presenters/speakers/authors, publications, Little Free Libraries, student learning activity packages and E-pals for student learning networks (Little Free Libraries, 2015, p. 1; International Literacy Association, 2015, p. 1) .

References

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Celebrating Literacy Together: Family Literacy Day

Magi McFadden

Magi McFadden is a literacy numeracy catalyst teacher at Minahik Waskahigan School in Pinehouse Lake Saskatchewan with Northern Lights School Division 113 and vice president and past president of Kewetin Nene local council of the Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC). Magi is editor of Query, the official publication of the Saskatchewan Reading Council, an affiliate of the International Literacy Association and a professional growth network of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. The Family Literacy Activity Checklist, accomplished through efforts of volunteer teachers, librarians, educational assistants, parents, students and significant others in the Minahik Waskahigan School community, brought children together with family members in shared literacy activities in the comfort of their own homes while strengthening the home and school literacy connection. The initiative, aimed at raising awareness of the impact of literacy in our daily lives, was greeted with sheer delight by participants as they celebrated literacy with loved ones and significant others during Family Literacy Day in January in a remote northern community in Saskatchewan. Special thanks goes to participants who sent in photos: Leona Lariviere and her daughter, Carlie Lariviere; Sean Molloy, Jennifer O'Connor and their daughter, Emmery Molloy; Dianne Natomagan and her daughter Joy Natomagan; and Wade Wakelin and his family pet, Tika. Enjoy the accompanying photos of families happily participating in literacy activities - from our home to yours!

What Family Literacy Is



Tweeting God is Good. Left to right: Carlie & Leona Lariviere.

Family literacy refers to all the ways in which family members communicate, interact and learn together (Saskatchewan Education, 2015). By taking part in literacy activities, families acquire and develop lifelong and life-wide literacy skills and practices for use in the home, in school, at work and in the community. Family literacy is the myriad ways families develop and

use literacy skills from enjoying a storybook together at bedtime, playing word games, singing, reciting prayers, blogging, tweeting, e-mailing, writing letters, or sending postcards to sharing day-to-day tasks of writing a grocery list, using a recipe, playing video games, or surfing the Internet for interesting sites (ABC Life Literacy Canada, 2015a; Saskatchewan Literacy Network, 2014; Saskatchewan Reading Council, 2014a, b). Each year in the month of January a day is designated as Family Literacy Day in Canada. National Family Literacy Day was created by ABC Life Literacy to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. ABC Life literacy envisions a Canada where everyone has the literacy skills they need to live a fully engaged life. Given this vision, this non-profit organization aspires to increase literacy skills of Canadians through connections with business, unions, government, communities and individuals to support lifelong learning by providing leadership in literacy programs, communications and partnerships. Find out more at FamilyLiteracyDay.ca

Benefits of Family Literacy Activities

According to ABC Life Literacy Canada (2015a, b), it is beyond dispute that children's achievements in school improves with increased parental involvement in education. Simple things like reading and telling



Read Aloud to Baby. Left to right: Sean Molloy with Emmerly & Jennifer O'Connor.

stories to a child at 18 months are powerful stimuli for brain development in the early years. Reading to preschool children everyday has a positive impact on their future academic skill development. Children receiving early exposure to books and reading are better at performing mathematical tasks. Children aged two



Dog Obedience Training. Left to right: Tika with Wade Wakelin.

to three who are read aloud to several times a day do substantially better in kindergarten at the age of four and five than children who are read to only a few times a week or less. Children raised in literate households are likely to enter Grade 1 with several thousand hours of one-to-one pre-reading background experience. For children, the more time spent with a parent reading aloud increases their personal level of attachment,

enhances a sense of security, and imparts the knowledge that their parent feels they are worthwhile people with whom to spend time. Having a parent or significant other read aloud with their children helps children acquire listening skills, develop vocabulary, enhance imagination and stimulate creativity. Literacy activities shared with family members which emphasize functionality and actively engage children such as: baking/cooking, watching movies, playing sports, playing board games, completing puzzles, Bible study or texting/tweeting

messages can inspire young children and adolescents to set and achieve personal improvement goals, develop career interests, and facilitate healthy lifestyle choices.

Increased literacy levels among parents means more reading and literacy-building activities in the home which prepares their children for success in school and encourages lifelong love of learning. Establishing a culture of learning encourages an exchange of ideas, enriches family relationships, strengthens confidence and develops independent thinking. Seventy-four percent of Canadians graduating from high school have strong literacy skills. The remaining percentage are capable of simple reading and writing tasks. Those who leave school before graduation generally have lower literacy skills. Connections between parental levels of educational attainment and socio-economic status and children's academic success have been established. Quality of life for families, including income levels and employment status, is directly related to the literacy levels of parents (ABC Life Literacy Canada, 2015a, b).

Family Literacy Activities

With children off school and parents home from work, the winter holidays are perfect for creating family time to play and learn together. Figure 1 – *Family Literacy Day Activity Checklist* offers holiday family literacy tips to warm your heart, nourish your soul and stimulate your mind. The list, generated by volunteer teachers, librarians, educational assistants, parents, children and significant others in the Minahik Waskahigan School community, represents activities that brought students together with family members in shared engagement in activities having a strong literacy focus, activities enjoyed in the comfort of their own home and community while strengthening the home and school literacy connection. The photos depict families happily engaged in literacy activities, celebrating Family Literacy Day.



Visiting the library. Left to right: Joy & Dianne Natomagan.

Figure 1. Family Literacy Day Activity Checklist

Name _____ Grade _____

- Read a cereal box label aloud to our family during breakfast
- Bake together with your family using a favourite recipe
- Say a prayer with your family
- Play a board game with your family ie. Scrabble, Monopoly
- Read a book aloud to a younger sibling, to your Mom or Dad, or to your Grandma or Grandpa
- Read a book silently and tell Mom or Dad about the book
- Watch a TV show with your family
- Plan a cruise to a Caribbean island with family members
- Play a game of charades with your family
- Listen to a radio program with your family
- Draw a family picture and discuss it with your parents
- Snap photos of family activities
- Keep a diary of your activities for a day and discuss your day with your Mom or Dad
- Go skating outdoors or at the rink with your family
- Shop for groceries with your family
- Scrapbook with your family i.e., Family Christmas Scrapbook
- Write a story about an adventure with your family that you have had or want to have
- Do a puzzle with a family member i.e., Word Search, Crossword, Picture
- Telephone a family member (ie. uncle, aunt, cousin) who lives far away
- Watch a sports game on TV with your brother ie. Hockey, Football
- Text a message to a family member on your iPhone
- Use social media to send text or video to a family member
- Make a birthday card for a family member
- Go for a skidoo ride, snaring or ice fishing with a family member
- Walk your family pet being sure to explore the outdoors
- Plan a scavenger hunt, write up your plan and carry out your plan with your family
- Strategize a game plan for your favourite sport ie. basketball, hockey
- Orally rehearse reading of the first or second Bible verse in your Sunday Missal as our family listens to you read
- Listen attentively during grace at family mealtime
- Telephone order a pizza for the whole family
- Cook dinner for the whole family using your favourite recipes
- Recite The Lord's Prayer for our family
- Make popcorn for the family evening snack
- Shop on-line at eBay for a birthday gift for a family member
- Read aloud a passage from The Bible to your family
- Do the family laundry
- Sing a favourite song to your family
- Keep a journal of daily literacy activities
- Watch a TV cartoon show with your family
- Play a learning video game with a family member ie. Papas Pancakeria
- Write a song and sing it for your family
- Create an inspirational message with your family in the morning and Tweet the inspiration on GodisGood
- Paint your face, take a selfie and post it on Facebook to a family member
- Tell knock-knock jokes to your family during dinner
- Attend a church service with your family
- Visit a library with your family and check out a good: CD, DVD, magazine, newspaper or book
- Dress up and act-out your favourite storybook with your brothers and sisters
- Visit an art gallery, museum, zoo with your family
- Paint a portrait, landscape or abstract and discuss it with your family
- Watch the TV news channel and discuss an event with family members
- List your New Year's resolutions and share your commitments with family
- Leave a colourful "I Love You" note on your Mom or Dad's pillow
- Have a bedtime family book snuggle

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SYRCA Willow Awards 2015-2016 School Book Launch

Magi McFadden

Magi McFadden is a literacy numeracy catalyst teacher at Minahik Waskahigan School in Pinehouse Lake Saskatchewan with Northern Lights School Division 113 and vice president and past president of Kewetin Nene local council of the Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC). Magi is editor of Query, the official publication of the Saskatchewan Reading Council, an affiliate of the International Literacy Association and a professional growth network of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. The Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Award – Willow Awards book launch at Minahik Waskahigan School was a resounding success. Students were treated to a surprise visit from Buddy the Book Clown who wetted appetites of beginning readers for the pleasures received through reading experiences offered by the Willow Awards nominees. Middle years students learned of the voting process and were introduced to the Willow Awards books, ballots and ballot box. Enthusiastic students are ready to read and vote for their favourite title.

The Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards (SYRCA) – Willow Awards book launch at Minahik Waskahigan School was a fun filled day of lively conversations about the 2015-2016 nominees (Willow Awards, 2015).

Shining Willow Book Launch

Following a read aloud from one of the Shining Willow Awards nominees, *Fox and Squirrel Make a Friend*, kindergarten and Grade one students received good listener prizes and colouring sheets featuring main characters in the nominated book (Ohi, 2014). Happily occupied with colouring red Fox and purple Squirrel, children enthusiastically discussed the theme of "friendship" while sharing crayons and admiring prizes. Smiles and laughter continued long after the read aloud through which the children sat attentively mesmerized by the cheerful and caring book clown, Buddy. Cheers of enthusiasm rang out as plans for read alouds of the remaining Shining Willow Awards nominees were collectively developed by the teacher with the students.

Diamond Willow Book Launch

Following a presentation from Buddy the Book Clown which included information about the SYRCA Willow Awards, overview of the Diamond Willow Awards nominees, ballots, ballot box and voting procedure, Grade six students received prizes and colouring sheets. Eager to begin reading the nominated books



Buddy the Book Clown.

so that they could be among the 15,000 participating Saskatchewan children who are given a voice in choosing the award-winning titles, the Grade six students began deliberating which book jacket looked the most interesting. A set of Diamond Willow Awards nominees was readily available to the enthusiastic readers.

Snow Willow Book Launch

Grade seven students were off to an independent start during the day set for the SYRCA Willow Awards book launch. Equipped with a set of 2015-2016 Snow Willow Awards nominated books, ballots and ballot box, Grade seven students already familiar with the

process of the Willow Awards following several years of school membership and participation in SYRCA Willow Awards were eagerly choosing their first Snow Willow Awards nominated book to read.

Off to an enthusiastic start at Minahik Waskahigan School, the SYRCA Willow Awards book launch has paved the way for some great student reading experiences. Students at Minahik Waskahigan School are looking forward to active participation in shaping the results of the 2015-2016 Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards in March. Our thanks goes to SYRCA Willow Awards for these wonderful opportunities for reading!

References

Ohi, R. (2014). *Fox and squirrel make a friend*. Scholastic, Toronto: ON

Willow Awards (2015). Saskatchewan Young Readers Choice - Willow Awards Nominees. www.willowawards.ca



Tamika Smith with Buddy the Book Clown.

Submit articles, lessons, units, in-services plans, book reviews, local council updates, pictures, and reviews of programs to *Query*, YOUR journal for the Saskatchewan Reading Council.

mcfaddenm@hotmail.com

Diagnostic Reading Prompts:

Second Reading, Shared Reading and Read Aloud

Miriam Trehearne

Miriam Trehearne delivered the keynote presentation at the Saskatchewan Reading Council's annual conference in Regina in April 24, 2015. Miriam has authored award-winning student resources and is senior author of The Language Arts Kindergarten Teacher's Resource Book (Nelson Learning Ltd), Comprehensive Literacy Resource for Grades 1-2 Teachers, The Comprehensive Literacy Resource for Preschool Teachers and The Comprehensive Literacy Resource for Grade 3-6 Teachers. Her latest book, Learning to Write and Loving It! Preschool-Kindergarten was published by Corwin Press in August 2011. In this article, Miriam focuses on closing the literacy gap outlining five diagnostic reading prompts for use during second readings, shared reading or read alouds. Inquire about availability of Miriam's new book, Multiple Paths to Literacy, at miriam.trehearne@telus.net.

Completion Prompts

As you read, leave a blank at the end of a sentence to be filled in. Example: The birds ate one _____.

Recall Prompts

Ask questions or provide prompts that encourage children to remember what happened in the book/on the page. Example: Tell me what happened in the book/ on the page.

Open-Ended Prompts

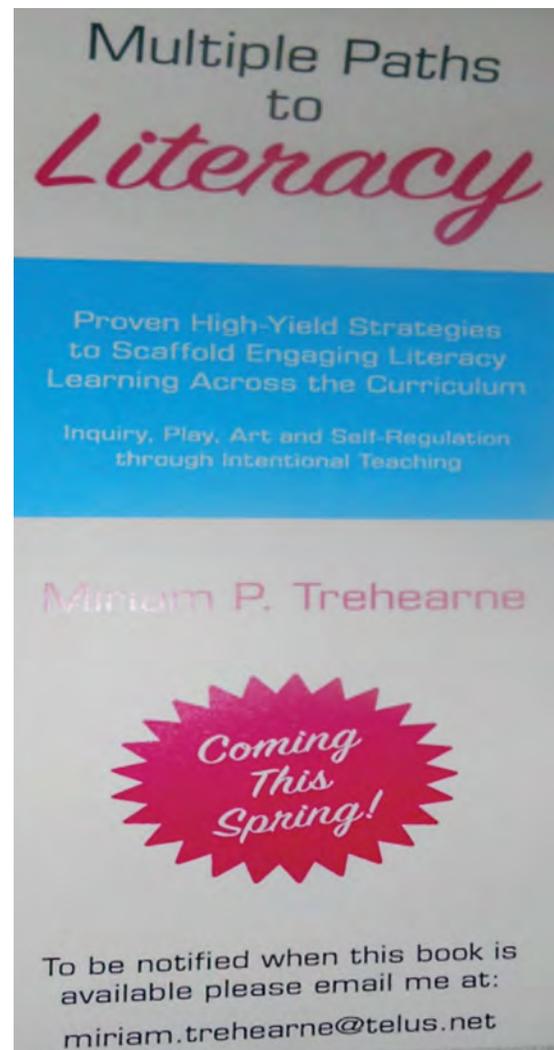
Use open-ended prompts to draw children's attention to details such as in illustrations. Example: Tell me about this page.

WH Prompts

Use what, where, when and why questions to draw attention to details such as in the illustrations and to teach new vocabulary. Example: Why does the boy look so surprised? What does surprised mean?

Distancing Prompts

Help children relate pictures or words to real-life experiences. Example: Tell me about a garden you have planted or seen.

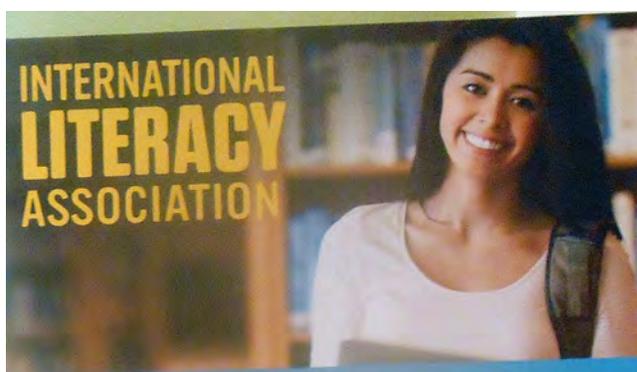


International Literacy Association Explores the Transformative Power of Literacy: The 2015 Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Magi McFadden

The Saskatchewan Reading Council is an affiliate of the International Literacy Association (ILA) and a professional growth network of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. The 2015 ILA conference, "Transforming Lives through Literacy", brought together more than 6,000 literacy educators and experts from around the world to explore ideas, best practices and resources for literacy education and advocacy. Among the celebrated speakers participating in the conference, were basketball legend and author Shaquille O'Neal and inspirational actress, Octavia Spencer. The conference featured more than 300 sessions on key topics affecting literacy educators today and exhibits from more than 120 companies. Held in the beautiful city of St. Louis, Missouri, USA, conference participants enjoyed local sunshine and southern hospitality while basking in professional development. Snapshots of conference highlights are featured in the summary of events. Learn more about the ILA on their newly designed website (www.literacyworldwide.org).

Surprise, surprise – no jet lag! How I love to fly! A full-body stretch and a few hundred abdominal crunches after a good night of sleep at the hospitable St. Louis Renaissance Grand Hotel and I'm off and running! If ever there was a time I wished I could be in several places at once, it was during the International Literacy Association (ILA) 2015 conference in St. Louis, MO July 18-21! With so many opportunities for professional development occurring during concurrent sessions within the vast America's Center in downtown St. Louis, advance plans were quickly set aside in favour of spontaneous decision-making. It seemed there was something captivatingly interesting around every corner. The International Literacy Association (ILA), a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all, hosted its 2015 Annual Conference July 18-20 in sunny St. Louis, Missouri, USA. With the theme "Transforming Lives through Literacy," the conference brought together more than 6,000 literacy



Ferrara Theatre

Saturday, July 18, 2015

11:00am – 12:00pm

TE01 : A Project-Based Place: Supporting Project-Based Instruction at the School Level

1:00pm – 2:00pm

TE02 : The Writing Thief: Using Mentor Texts to Teach the Craft of Writing

3:00pm – 4:00pm

FS01 : In Defense of Read-Aloud

Sunday, July 19, 2015

9:00am – 10:00am

TE04 : Powerful Partners for Empowering Readers: Close Reading Workouts with Comprehension, Fluency, and Paired Texts

11:00am – 12:00pm

TE03 : Complex, Rigorous, and Social: Fostering Readerly Lives

educators and experts from around the world to explore ideas, best practices and resources for literacy education and advocacy. Among the celebrated speakers participating in the conference, basketball legend and author Shaquille O'Neal spoke about how his passion for learning transformed his own life and inspired him to become



an author. In addition, Octavia Spencer, best known for her critically acclaimed performance as the character Minny in the feature length movie based on the book of the same title, *The Help*, shared the story of her struggle with dyslexia and how her love of reading mystery novels encouraged her to read and inspire others to do the same. This year, the conference marked a turning point for this global advocacy organization comprising a membership network of more than 300,000 literacy educators and experts across 75 countries. The ILA emphasized forging ahead in its recently declared commitment to advancing literacy as a whole, not just reading. Literacy educators and leaders attending the annual conference provided testament to the foundation of this transformative vision. With a focus on advancing dialogue on literacy and in an effort to make a broadened conception of literacy accessible to all, the conference featured more than 300 sessions on key topics affecting literacy educators today, including: professional development, children's literature, content literacy, classroom engagement, innovation and international literacy instruction. Delegates also had the opportunity to explore new tools and technologies from more than 120 companies in the ILA 2015 Exhibit Hall in the St. Louis convention center.

The whirlwind of activities concluded as it had begun – packed like a sanguine sardine on a Boeing 747 amidst weary but friendly flight passengers, but with one significant difference. During travel back to Saskatoon, I was delightfully surprised to meet Stephanie Rutley, a consultant from North East School Division 200 who is also a jewellery stylist/sales representative for My Color by Amber ([\[mycolorbyamber.com\]\(http://mycolorbyamber.com\)\), a subsidiary company of 3Form. To make a long story short, Stephanie eagerly presented the story of culture, company, sustainability and social responsibility behind her product line and energetically tossed me her business card while offering to present a video of her company story, display her eco-friendly jewellery and demonstrate her fashion-forward stylist talents at our next SRC conference. Looking forward to the professional development opportunities offered during the upcoming Saskatchewan Reading Council annual conference, I have now contemplated participation in personal jewellery styling to my professional growth plans.](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Now ..., what time is *The Help* airing on Bravo tonight? Based on the wildly popular book of the same title written by American novelist Kathryn Stockett, this button-pushing good read turned feature movie is bound to be thought-provoking as well as madly entertaining. Since I missed attending the ILA's featured speakers' presentations due to flight scheduling, including Octavia Spencer's presentation, I don't want to miss her acclaimed performance as feisty Minny Jackson in this period drama about a handful of extraordinary women in Mississippi during the 1960s who weave an unlikely friendship around a secret writing project that defies social mores, putting them at risk and instilling in each of them the courage to transcend the boundaries that define them. Feeling emancipated, refreshed and brimming with ideas to enrich literacy learning for students, I am bursting with enthusiasm and looking forward to a great 2015-2016 school year. Until next summer, happy reading and all the best in literacy!

The Gravesavers

Reviewed by Shelly Galloway

Author: Sheree Fitch
 Format: Paperback
 Publisher: Doubleday
 Publisher Location: Toronto, ON, Canada
 Publication Date: 20015
 ISBN: 978-0385660730

Winner of the Snow Willow Award 2006. Sheree Fitch was the Keynote Speaker at the 2015 Reading Conference. Sheree is a Canadian Author, educator, literacy activist and award winning poetry, picture books, non-fiction, plays and novels for all ages. She lives in River John, Nova Scotia.

Twelve year old Minn is sent to spend the summer in Boulder Basin with the grandmother she resents. When Minn realizes that the graves from a shipping disaster (the SSAtlantic in 1873)are being destroyed she finds a cause. Through her fight comes to a new understanding of her grandmother and of her own life. Lots of twists and turns, a thrilling mystery. Loved the book. An Historical Fiction mystery that young and old adults will really enjoy.

Cousins

Reviewed by Magi McFadden

Author: Virginia Hamilton
 Format: Paperback
 Publisher: Scholastic
 Publisher Location: Toronto, ON, Canada
 Publication Date: 2005
 ISBN: 9780590454360

In this rollercoaster of a read, Virginia Hamilton writes a book for young adults that provides insight into the innermost thoughts and emotions of an eleven-year-old girl. In this tapestry of extended family life featuring eleven year old Cammy, her Gram Tut, mother Maylene, and 16-year-old brother, Andrew, Cammie realizes a realm of loving feelings. When it comes to gorgeous, intelligent and indulged cousin Patty Ann, however, Cammie is overcome with envy. Cammie even wishes Patty Ann would disappear from the face of the earth. What Cammie does not anticipate is that her wish is

about to come true. Tragic events during a camping trip result in a fatal drowning. The tragedy forces Cammie to confront her ambivalent feelings toward Patty Ann. Powerful, dramatic and heart wrenching, *Cousins* is an illuminating read that will be appreciated by readers ages 9 to 12.

That Scatterbrain Booky

Reviewed by Magi McFadden

Author: Bernice Thurman Hunter
 Format: Paperback
 Publisher: Scholastic
 Publisher Location: Toronto, ON, Canada
 Publication Date: 1981
 ISBN: 978-0-545-98618-2

First published by Scholastic, Canada in 1981, *That Scatterbrain Booky* by Bernice Thurman Hunter is the first novel of a historical fiction trilogy featuring young Beatrice Thomson and her family's life and struggles during the Great Depression in Toronto, Canada in the 1930s. The other books of the trilogy are *With Love From Booky* and *As Ever, Booky*. The entire trilogy has recently been rereleased as *Booky: A Trilogy*. One speculates whether some of the story is autobiographical in that the young Beatrice Thomson's narrative very closely mimics the struggles faced by the author, Bernice Thurman Hunter, during much of her own childhood.

Through *Booky's* narrative voice, we come to understand the devastating hardship faced by working-class families like the Thomsons during the Depression era as they are unable to pay the rent, are dependent on social welfare, do not have enough food for the family, and even consider whether it might not be better to put an expected baby up for adoption. In many ways, this novel is weighted with problematic themes and a hard and devastating description of life during the Great Depression. However, *Booky's* narration of her childhood years tells a story of how love and a strong sense of family togetherness help to mitigate desperation and poverty. Themes of poverty and family arguments render this easy read suitable to slightly older children ages 10-12 years. Some of the issues depicted in *That Scatterbrain Booky* will provide lively debate or, at the very least stimulate questions for lively discussion.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead

Reviewed by Magi McFadden

Author: Avi

Format: Paperback

Publisher: Scholastic

Publisher Location: Toronto, ON, Canada

Publication Date: 2004

ISBN: 9780439574886

Set in 14th-century England, Avi's 50th book, an action-packed historical narrative, begins with the funeral of a village outcast whose past is shrouded in mystery and whose teenage son is known only as "Asta's son". Deep in grief for his mother, the boy learns his given name, Crispin, from the village priest, although his presumably dead father's identity remains obscure. The words etched on his mother's treasured lead cross may provide some

clue, but the priest is murdered before he can tell the illiterate 13-year-old boy what they say. Worse, Crispin is declared a "wolf's head" by his manor's corrupt steward for a crime he didn't commit. Declared a "wolf's head", Crispin is wanted dead or alive, preferably dead. Crispin flees the tiny village that is the only world he's ever known and falls in with a traveling juggler called simply, Bear. "I have no name," Crispin tells Bear, whose rugged manners and massive appearance mask a charitable heart. With no home, no family and no possessions, Crispin - Asta's son, learns his true identity as that of illegitimate son of the lord of the manor. Providing plenty of period detail and an abundance of suspense, Avi engineers a plot comprising maximum thrills, but it is the compellingly relationship that develops between Crispin and Bear that provides the heart of this story. A page turner to the very end, this compelling novel targets adolescent readers ages 10-14 years but appeals to readers of all ages.

Calling all Language Arts and English Teachers

Contribute to *Query* your favourite lesson plan
involving any aspect of literacy.

Send all submissions to:
Query Editor
mcfaddenm@hotmail.com

What's Happening Around Saskatchewan

November 2015

- 5 SRC Executive Meeting Conference
Call 9:00 - 10:00 am
- 28 Deadline for Exemplary Reading
Program Application
- 30 Deadline for SRC Lifetime
Achievement Nomination

December 2015

- 1 Honour Council Application Forms
Due
- 5 SRC Executive Meeting Conference
Call 9:00 - 10:00 am

January 2016

- 4 Honour Council Achievement Award
- 9 SRC Executive Meeting Conference
Call 9:00 - 10:00 am
- 15 Deadline for SRC Administrators
Award Nomination
- 27 Family Literacy Day

February 2016

- 1 Young Writers Deadline
- 6 SRC Executive Meeting in Regina or
SRC Executive Meeting Conference
Call 9:00 - 10:00 am

March 2016

- 1 Deadline for Prairie Lily Award
- 1 SRC Yearly Membership Expires
- 5 SRC Executive Meeting Conference
Call 9:00 - 10:00 am
- 15 SRC Annual Reports Due

April 2016

- 23 Annual General Meeting
- 30 Deadline for Spring Issue of *Query*
– All local council presidents and
provincial executive members must
submit a report

June 2016

- 1 Submit current membership list to
STF
- 30 Deadline for submission of officers to
ILA and STF

July 2016

- 1 Change of Officers
- 9-11 ILA Annual Conference in Boston, MA

Membership Application

Saskatchewan Reading Council

Invites you to renew before March 1 (To receive a full year of benefits!)

Benefits of SRC membership includes:

- Professional journal *Query*, featuring many literacy articles and bonuses
- Opportunities for Professional Development
- *Young Saskatchewan Writers'* publication of K-12 writings
- Literacy programs such as "Read to Me" and other local programs
- Informative speakers and exciting author visits
- Additional savings in SRC conference fees



Please check your choice

- Regular \$25.00
- Student \$10.00
- Institution \$20.00

Send Your Membership Application/Renewal Form Today

The following information is required to register as a member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. The information will be used to contact members for renewal and membership drive purposes, to send out newsletters and to forward conference and professional development opportunities information. The information will be kept on file for a period of two years past expiration date.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Teacher's Certificate #: _____ First Time Member Renewal Membership

If renewal, any information changes (eg. address): _____

School Division: _____ Local Council (if known): _____

Type of Membership: Regular \$25.00 Student \$10.00 Institution \$20.00 Amount Paid: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make cheques payable to: Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) Please return your form along with payment to:

SRC Membership
Sherry Shumay
s.shumay@rcsd.ca

School Reading Liaison Form

The SRC invites each school to select one enthusiastic literacy teacher on staff to receive a FREE Saskatchewan Reading Council membership for the school year. This teacher will become the School Liaison for the SRC and local council.



Forms must be received by the SRC Membership Director by October 30

The SRC is an awesome professional growth opportunity for teachers interested in the areas of language arts, reading instruction, and the promotion of effective literacy in schools. Become a member today!

Your Yearly Membership Benefits include:

- Professional journal *Query* featuring many literacy articles and bonuses Opportunities for Professional Development
- *Young Saskatchewan Writers'* Publication of K-12 writings
- Literacy programs such as "Read to Me" and other local programs
- Informative speakers and exciting author visits as well as additional savings in SRC conference fees.

We ask that the teacher who receives this membership be a literacy leader in your school by displaying local council promotional posters and literacy information.

The following information is required to register as a member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. The information will be used to contact members for renewal and membership drive purposes, to send out journals or newsletters and to forward conference and professional development opportunities information. This information will be kept on file for a period of two years past expiration date.

School Name and Principal: **(REQUIRED!)** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Teacher's Certificate #: _____ First Time Member Renewal

School Division: _____ Local Council (if known): _____

Membership: Regular Student

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make cheques payable to: Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) Please return your form along with payment to:

SRC Membership
c/o Sherry Shumay
s.shumay@rcsd.ca

Short
Stories

Poetry

Plays

WANTED!

Student Writing

- Select your best!
 - Grades K-12!
 - Any language!
- Info: lori.saigeon@rbe.sk.ca
- Deadline Feb. 1

Essays

Letters

Personal
Narratives

Saskatchewan Reading Council

Young Saskatchewan Writers Criteria

1. The Saskatchewan Reading Council accepts writing in any language, from **Pre-K to Grade 12 students**. Genres include **poetry, short stories, plays, essays and personal narratives**. (Writing from February 2015-February 2016 may be submitted). **Not all writing submitted will be published.**
2. All selections must be **proofread and typed** when submitted. (Arial font/size 12/single space)
3. **Whole classroom submissions of the same title will not be accepted.** Please select the **best** writing selections to be considered. Please consider the audience to which the book will be going out to (**Pre-K-12**) and select accordingly. Longer pieces must include an excerpt. (Please keep the excerpt to one page or less)
4. Please e-mail student writing to tlori.saigeon@rbe.sk.ca. (word documents only please) Make sure to include the information at the bottom of this poster.
5. **Illustrations** may accompany written selections but should be placed on a separate sheet (8 ½ x 11). A **Photograph** of the writer may be added to the writing (**scanned or inserted onto the piece of writing**).
6. Each **published author** and his/her resource center will receive a complimentary copy of the Young Saskatchewan Writers publication.
7. Each piece of writing **must be submitted to your local council by February 1.**
8. Please identify each piece of writing with the following information:

Student Name: _____

Title of Writing: _____

Grade: _____ School: _____

School Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Teacher: _____ Phone/Fax: _____

Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards

Support SYRCA with your membership donation. Choose your level of support!



Make cheques payable to:

SYRCA – Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc

Mail to: 2832 WASCANA ST., REGINA SK S4S 2G8

Please indicate amount enclosed. A tax receipt will be issued.

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$100 other: \$ _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone (h.): _____ Phone (w.): _____

Email Address: _____

SRC Prairie Lily Award

The Prairie Lily Award will be presented annually to local councils who choose to participate, and fulfill all requirements of the award prior to the Annual General Meeting. A certificate and a monetary award, to be determined by the yearly budget, will be presented to all eligible councils at the year-end meeting or the Fall Leadership meeting. Please submit this form to the SRC President by March 1.



Council: _____ Date Submitted: _____

President: _____ Email: _____

Requirements:

- Promotion of membership: (minimum of 3)
 - Postcard/brochure
 - Posters
 - Conference promotion
 - School liaisons
 - Social Media
 - Other: _____
- Fulfill Conference Committee responsibilities
- Provide representation at a minimum of 50% of SRC meetings/conference calls
- Participate in the Read to Me Program
- Contribution of local council news in *Query*

AND at least five of the following:

- A professional development event
- A community service event
- A special event for students
- Participation in an International Project
- An Image Brochure (please attach)
- Honor Council participation
- International Literacy Day Project
- Submit contributions to *Young Saskatchewan Writers' Publication*
- Other: _____

International Literacy Association Application Deadlines for Awards & Programs

Information about these awards is carried each year in an issue of *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, *Lectura y vida*, *Reading Research Quarterly*, *The Reading Teacher*, and/or *Reading Today*. Also, see the IRA website at www.reading.org for further information.

*Advocacy Award	October 15	IRA Presidential Award for Reading & Technology	November 15
Albert J. Harris Award	September 15	Jeanne S.Chall Research Fellowship	January 15
Arbuthnot Award	October 15	Leen Bennett Hopkins Promising Poet Award	December 1
*Award of Excellence	March 1	Local Council Community Service Award	October 31
Broadcast Media Awards for Television	January 7	Nila Banton Smith Award	November 15
Constance McCullough Award	October 1	Nila Banton Smith Research Dissemination Support Grant	January 15
Developing Country Literacy Project Support Fund Grant	October 1	Officer Report Form for Councils	April 15
Dina Feitelson Research Award	September 15	Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award	October 1
Eleanor M. Johnson Award	November 15	Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award	October 15
Elva Knight Research Grant	January 15	Paul A. Witty Short Story Award	December 1
*Exemplary Reading Program Award	November 15	Print Media Award	January 15
*Exemplary Reading Program Intent to Participate Form	June 1	Reading/Literacy Research Fellowship	January 15
Gertrude Whipple Professional Development Program	Open	Regie Routman Teacher Recognition Award	November 1
Helen M. Robinson Grant	January 15	Special Institutes, Seminars and Conference Proposals	Open
Honor Council Award	March 1	Special Service Award	October 15
Honor Council Intent to Participate Form	October 15	Teacher as Researcher Grant	January 15
International Citation of Merit Award	October 15	William S. Gray Citation of Merit	October 15
IRA Children's Book Awards	November 1		
IRA John Chorlton Manning Public Service Award	December 15		

***Provincial Council Only**

Saskatchewan Reading Council

Lifetime Achievement Award

Purpose: The purpose of this award is to honour an individual who has made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the Saskatchewan Reading Council.

1. Qualifications

- Nominee must have been an active member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the Saskatchewan Reading Council and/or literacy development in Saskatchewan and/or Canada through active participation or innovative ideas and/or directive organization.

2. Nominations

- Nominations will be received until November 30.
- Nominations from local councils or the provincial executive will be accepted.
- Two Saskatchewan Reading Council members must support nominations.
- A concise written presentation about the nominee will accompany the nomination form.
- A committee, chaired by the past president, will be formed to examine the nominations.
- Nominations will be brought before the provincial executive at the January meeting and be voted on only by the provincial executive board.

3. Presentation of Award

- The recipient of the lifetime achievement award will publicly receive a plaque and corsage as well as a free lifetime membership to the SRC. All arrangements are to be made by the past president.
- The award will be presented at the annual reading conference at a time and place to be decided upon by the conference chairperson and past president.
- The recipient's family will be invited to attend.

4. Follow-Up

- The name of the recipient, picture and a short biography will be published in *Query*, the *Saskatchewan Bulletin* and the SRC website.
- The past president will confirm with the membership director that the STF maintains an up-to-date membership list of lifetime achievement award recipients.

5. General Considerations

- The entire management and presentation of the award will be the responsibility of the past president.
- There is no obligation to present the award each year.
- The past president will invite lifetime members to the conference each year. They will receive a free conference registration.

Saskatchewan Reading Council Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

Phone Number of Nominee: _____

Fax Number of Nominee: _____

Please provide a written rationale as to why the above stated person should be considered for the Saskatchewan Reading Council Lifetime Achievement Award. Rationale should not exceed one page in length.

Name of Nominators: 1) _____ 2) _____

Address of Nominators: _____

Phone Number of Nominators: _____

Fax Number of Nominators: _____

Applications must be received on or before November 30 and should be sent to:

Karen Koroluk
SRC Past President
k.koroluk@rcsd.ca

The above information will only be used for the stated purposes of the Saskatchewan Reading Council and will follow the guidelines of the Saskatchewan Reading Council's Privacy Policy as stated on our website (www.saskreading.com).

Saskatchewan Reading Council

Administrator's Award

Purpose: The purpose of this award is to recognize and foster school based, professional and academic literacy support given by a Saskatchewan educational administrator.

1. Qualifications

- Nominee must have made a significant contribution to the growth, support and development of school-based literacy in Saskatchewan through active participation or innovative ideas and/or directive organization in an administrative role.

2. Nominations

- Nominations will be received until January 15.
- Two nominators must be current SRC members and the nomination must be supported by the local reading council.
- A concise written presentation about the nominee will accompany the nomination form.
- Nominations will be brought before the provincial executive at the January meeting and be voted on only by the provincial executive board.
- A nomination form will be displayed in *Query*, and will be available on the SRC website. Forms are also available by contacting a Local Council President or an Executive Member of the SRC.
- All those nominated will receive recognition of their nomination.

3. Presentation of Award

- The recipient of the Administrator's Award will be awarded a plaque at the annual SRC conference. They will also receive a free conference registration and one year SRC membership.

4. Follow-Up

- The name of the recipient, a picture and a short biography will be published in *Query*, the *Saskatchewan Bulletin* and the SRC website.

5. General Considerations

- The entire management and presentation of the award will be the responsibility of the president.
- The Award recipient will be notified by the President of the SRC.
- There is no obligation to present the award each year.

Saskatchewan Reading Council Administrator's Award Nomination Form

The purpose of this award is to recognize and foster school based, professional and academic literacy support given by a Saskatchewan educational administrator.

Name of Nominee: _____

Academic Institution Information

Name of Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Please provide a written rationale as to why the above stated person should be considered for the Saskatchewan Reading Council's Administrator's Award. Rationale should not exceed one page in length.

Nominator Information (2 persons)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Applications must be received on or before January 15 and should be sent to:

Karen Koroluk
SRC Past President
k.koroluk@rcsd.ca

The above information will only be used for the stated purposes of the Saskatchewan Reading Council and will follow the guidelines of the Saskatchewan Reading Council's Privacy Policy as stated on our website (www.saskreading.com).

Does Your School Receive the Recognition It Deserves?

Do These Statements Describe Your School
and Its Reading/Language Arts Program?

Exemplary Reading Program Award

- The reading program is consistent with sound theory, research, and practice
- The reading program facilitates student learning.
- Students have access to a wide variety of reading materials.
- Students demonstrate success in reading.
- Comprehension strategies are taught and applied across the curriculum.
- Listening, speaking, viewing, and writing are being integrated into the reading program.
- Administrators provide leadership and vision for the building and/or district reading program.
- The school and/or district offers support services to the program.
- Literacy activities occur outside of school.
- The community is involved in the reading program.

Through its Exemplary Reading Program Award, in cooperation with state/provincial councils, the INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION honors schools for outstanding service to reading and literacy education.

**Call 302-731-1600, extension 236,
for more information.**

Recognizing Excellence in Education

Have you applied for the Local Council Community Service Award?

You should if you can say “yes” to these questions about your community service project.

Local Council Community Service Award

- Is it unique and creative?
- Does it have impact on your community?
- Are your council members involved?
- Could it be replicated by others?

Help Your Council Receive the Recognition It Deserves

The INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION, through its Local Council Community Service Award program, will honour councils for outstanding service to their communities and to literacy. Monetary prizes are sponsored by SCHOLASTIC, INC.

Call 302-731-1600, extension 236, for more information.

Recognizing Excellence in Education

Past Presidents of the Saskatchewan Reading Council

1969	R.E. Stephenson	1993	Marilyn Keerak
1970	David Lockerbie	1994	Connie Tenaski
1971	Karen Holm	1995	Ramona Stillar
1972	Sr. Juliana Heisler	1996	Connie Watson
1973	Marie B. Spate	1997	Dianne McLeod
1974	Howard Klein	1998	Gloria Antifaiff
1975	Carol Caswell	1999	Leslie Widdifield-Konkin
1976	Ron Gruending	2000	Adele Oway
1977	Joan Ball	2001	Kim Stewart
1978	Dennis Strauss	2002	Donna Humbert
1979	Bill Prentice	2003	Andrea Hnatiuk
1980	Ken Holliday	2004	Karen Lind
1981	Lee Warkentin	2005	Pat Selvig
1982	Lynn Taylor	2006	Pam Foy
1983	Louisa Kozey	2007	Sharon Conner
1984	Shirley Magdalin	2008	Tammie Latimer
1985	Joanne McCabe	2009	Shelly Galloway
1986	Agnes Rolheiser	2010	Nicole Lefebvre
1987	Eleanor Vogeli	2011	Lynda Gellner
1988	Neville Hosking	2012	Gisèle Carlson
1990	Amber McLeod	2013	Gisèle Carlson
1991	Norm Waters	2014	Karen Koroluk
1992	Leona Burkhart		

SRC Provincial Executive 2015-2016

Pam Foy – Treasurer

Sherri Sieffert – President

Tana Arnott – Vice President

Karen Koroluk – Past President

Emilie Wolfe – Secretary

Sheri Shumay – Membership Director

Magi McFadden – *Query* Editor

Shelly Galloway – International Literacy Association Coordinator

Joan Bue – Read to Me Coordinator

Tana Arnott – Conference Chair

Lori Saigeon – *Young Saskatchewan Writers* Coordinator

Sharon Funk – Communications Coordinator

Saskatchewan Reading Council

2015-2016 Provincial Executive



Sherri Sieffert
President



Karen Koroluk
Past President



Tana Arnott
Vice President
Conference
Chair



**Jennifer
Lundsten**
Secretary



Pam Foy
Treasurer



Sheri Shumay
Membership
Director



Sharon Funk
Communications
Coordinator



Lori Saigeon
Young
Saskatchewan
Writers
Coordinator



Joan Bue
Read to Me
Coordinator



Shelly Galloway
ILA Coordinator



**Magi
McFadden**
Query Editor

Please visit www.saskreading.com
for more information about the Saskatchewan Reading Council.
A Professional Growth Network of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.
A Council of the International Literacy Association.