

Change lives. Donate today!



VICTORIA Literacy Connection

Opening the world of learning in our community.

Dear VLC Supporters,

During this quieter than normal festive season, we realize that turning down the level of holiday activity may mean more time to reflect, to take care of ourselves, and to **read!**

While we enjoy digging into our books, let's remember that there are many in the Greater Victoria area for whom reading is a challenge. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to our literacy programming and know that your generosity is improving our learners' lives and opportunities.

Season's Greeting!



Introducing Adult Basic Computer Literacy

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the move to online visits and information gathering and turned computer literacy into an essential skill. But, like reading

and math skills, many in Greater Victoria lack basic computer knowledge.

Imagine the impact low computer literacy has had on many people this past year. Staying connected with loved ones, making online purchases, navigating online learning, conducting job searches, accessing reliable information sources, finding government and charitable supports - all would have been very difficult without core computer skills!



We are pleased to announce the launch of our first free **Adult Basic Computer Literacy** program! These programs will help a wide range of learners, from isolated seniors to unemployed youth, and will launch in early 2021.

We are seeking volunteers to teach basic computer and digital skills online. Training and materials will be provided, and a criminal record check is required of all tutors. If you are comfortable in the digital world and would like to share your knowledge with others, please submit a [Volunteer Application Form](#), or contact admin@victorialiteracyconnection.ca for further information.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from these free lessons please share this information with them.

Introducing Intergenerational PenPal Club

We are thrilled to announce another new program planned for launch early in 2021 - the Intergenerational PenPal Club!

A collaboration between VLC and [Story Studio](#), an award-winning charity that inspires, educates and empowers youth to become great storytellers, transforming lives and strengthening communities. Story Studio and VLC have collaborated in the past



and are looking forward to this new venture!



For the PenPal Club our two organizations are bringing together adults 55+, some feeling quite isolated during these times, with youth aged 10-17 for a lively letter exchange.

If you would like to participate please [contact us](#).



You - Generous and Smart!

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to VLC.

You can donate directly through our website with a credit card by clicking: [Donate Here](#). You can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring monthly donation of any amount. You can also mail cheques made out to [Victoria Literacy Connection](#) to our address at the bottom of this email.

That's you, being generous and smart, and helping your community members gain essential literacy skills!

You can also assign your **Munro's points** to VLC by sending an email to service@munrobooks.com or re-assigning your points at the till. A painless way to contribute!



Contact admin@victorialiteracyconnection.ca to get a **Thrifty Foods Smile**



Card mailed to you. When you load your card with funds, then use it to pay for your groceries, VLC gets a small percentage of the total. And the best thing? It doesn't cost you anything! Another easy way to support literacy in our region!

Turn your book club into Literacy Heroes! VLC's **Toonies for Tutoring** program translates your book club's passion for reading into donations for literacy! Whether you gather virtually for now, or at a location where you can safely distance, it's easy to participate. Every member brings a Toonie to each meeting.

One person collects the Toonies and sends a cheque or makes a donation to VLC for the total amount through our online [donation form](#). Toonies from many book clubs will add up! Be sure to include a contact name and email so we can thank you and invite you to VLC events when we are able to meet in-person again.



Current Online Programs

We developed these programs in response to the pandemic. They have proven so successful that we will continue online programming permanently, while also offering in-person options once restrictions are lifted. You can find more information about all our programs [here](#).

Children and Youth

e-Reading Book Club in English or French (free)

1:1 Tutoring in English or French (free)

Remedial Tutoring with a BC certified teacher (paid)

Adults

1:1 Tutoring (free)

English Language Conversation Groups (free)

Basic Computer Literacy starting early 2021 (free)

Intergenerational PenPal Club starting early 2021 (free)

New Board and Committee Members

Welcomed at November 10 AGM

We are grateful and humbled by the experience and enthusiasm of the volunteers who have stepped forward for the VLC Board and Committees. At our Annual General Meeting on November 10 we welcomed four new Board members: Erin Halma, Dawn Minty, Julie Stewart-Boyle and Holly Kinkaid. We also welcomed Laura Hadwin to the Program Committee.

2020-2021 Board

Barbara Newton (chair), Ian Culbertson (vice-chair), Dana Anderson, Erin Halma, Janine Hannis, Lisa King, Holly Kinkaid, Hank Mathias, Dawn Minty, Sameer Shah, Julie Stewart-Boyle

2020-2021 non-Board Committee Members

Alison Edwards, Laura Hadwin, Anita Nazareth, Rachael Westgate

We thank retired Board Members Patricia Gunton, Carrie Spencer, and Robin Wilmot for their generous contributions of time and effort to VLC in the past year and wish them well.

Build it and they will come!

Perhaps you've seen the Little Free Libraries (LFLs for short) popping up all over our region? There are now more than 350 of them! That's the highest density of



LFLs in Canada! Check out the [GV Placemaking Network website](#) for their history and location map. We thank Teale Phelps-Bondaroff, and his team at GVPN, who recently distributed 3,000 VLC bookmarks to the LFLs around Greater Victoria.

Interested in adding a LFL to your neighbourhood but can't build one from scratch? Teale and his team sometimes have access to old newspaper boxes that lend themselves perfectly to transformation. To be added to the wait list for a newspaper box, send an email to hello@teale.ca.

Check out the makeover of a grungy newspaper box being turned into a source of delight for a community:



Of course, nothing we do would be possible without our fantastic team of dedicated volunteers!



Thank you for all you do for us and for the literacy learners in our region. We appreciate you and wish you a New Year full of joy and books!

Stay safe and have a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year! You can connect with our staff at any time by contacting our executive director, Christine Bossi ed@victorialiteracyconnection.ca

We are always happy to chat if you have questions, wish to volunteer or make a donation.

Stay connected by following us on [Facebook](#).

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