

# Centre Page

## Family Literacy Day

This year, the Centre for Family Literacy marked National Family Literacy Day with celebratory breakfasts in both Edmonton and Calgary.

First declared by ABC Canada and celebrated nationally in 1999, National Family Literacy Day is a day to promote awareness of the importance of families reading and learning together. This year, in partnership with the Alberta Association for Adult Literacy and the Literacy Coordinators of Alberta, and with funding from the National Literacy Secretariat and Alberta Learning, the Centre for Family Literacy held breakfast events at the Hotel MacDonald in Edmonton and the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Calgary. Attendees included people from all levels of government, community leaders, and literacy friends, supporters and practitioners. Everyone got a great breakfast and some food for thought.

In Edmonton, the Centre's new Chair, Jason Randhawa, welcomed guests and provided information on the history of family literacy and

of the Centre for Family Literacy. Opening remarks were given by the Centre's own Honourary Patron, the Honourable Lois Hole, Lieutenant



*Her Honour, Lois Hole, with CFL's new Board Chair, Jason Randhawa*

Governor of Alberta. Bob Maskell, MLA for Edmonton-Meadowlark delivered greetings from the province, and Councilor Michael Phair presented the Proclamation

from the City of Edmonton. Moms and toddlers from the Rhymes That Bind group from Terra Association entertained and illustrated early language activities that help with literacy development.

Dr. Lionel Dibden, Director of General Pediatrics, University of Alberta, gave the keynote address, highlighting the importance of a child's early environment and nurturing to her social, physical, brain, and literacy development.

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How many parents read the fine print on their parenting agreement, he asked, and understand their roles as “brain potters”?



Thanks to Paul Mennier from A-Channel for his wonderful job MC'ing for this event.

In Calgary, Sharon Skage from the Centre for Family Literacy and Marnie Schaetti

of the Alberta Association for Adult Literacy welcomed guests and had Deputy Mayor Gord Lowe read the Proclamation from the City of Calgary. Senator Joyce Fairbairn, a passionate supporter of literacy in Canada, gave opening remarks, and MLA Wayne Cao (Calgary Fort) gave greetings from the Province of Alberta. A group of moms and tots

from the Further Education Society/ Bow Valley College LAPS group gave a program demonstration, and Dr. Ruth Hayden from the University of Alberta gave the keynote address, explaining with wonderful clarity the “how” and “why” of family literacy.

Cynthia Roebuck from CFCN Television did a great job as Master of Ceremonies, and Global Television broadcast their morning show live on location, interviewing a number of the organizers and speakers.

We look forward to seeing similar National Family Literacy Day events over the next few years that help build support for family literacy across the province. This year was certainly a big step in raising awareness of the day and of the issues, so thanks to all who organized – with special mention to Sharon Skage, the Centre's Provincial Services Manager -- and to all who attended.

*The Rhymes That Bind group from Terra Association entertained and illustrated early language activities that help with literacy development.*

## New Student Coordinator

Our new Student Coordinator is Debbie Severinsen. Debbie has a Bachelor of Education and taught for two years with the County of Beaver. After having two children Debbie stayed home to raise her girls and ran a family dayhome. Once her children started school she began substitute teaching in Edmonton, and continued her studies at home focusing on nutrition. In 1998 Debbie was hired by K.A.R.A. Family Support Centre where she worked as a nutritionist for four years. Wanting to get back into the education field, Debbie joined the Centre for Family Literacy and is quite enjoying her new position as Student Coordinator.

## Centre Receives Award

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002, the Centre for Family Literacy was presented with the Alberta School Boards Association's Friends of Education award. The Centre was nominated by Edmonton Public Schools for its significant contribution to the improvement of education in Alberta.

The award presentation took place during the ASBA's annual general meeting at the Westin Hotel in Edmonton, with four hundred and forty-seven delegates, representing 62 school boards, in attendance.

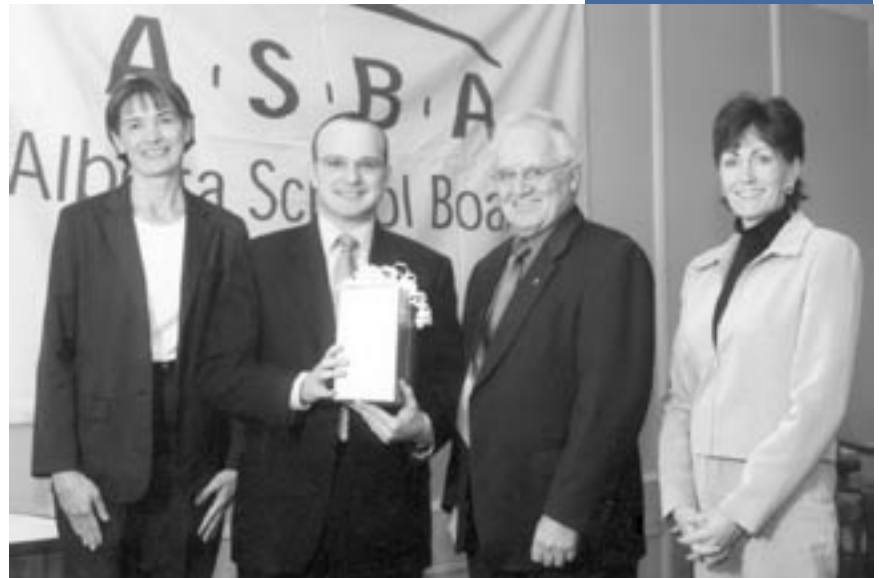
The Centre for Family Literacy was also a runner-up for the Capital Health Authority Prevention Power Community Award of Distinction in 2002. This is the first year that the awards have been presented in recognition of groups and individuals working to make the region a healthier place to live, especially for children and families. The awards focus on health issues ranging from smoking and bike helmets to literacy and job skills.

"It's wonderful to see how people in this region are working to help others, especially kids," says Dr. Gerry Predy, Medical Officer of Health. "As a community, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the award recipients and all 66 nominees.

Capital Health is proud to recognize them, and everyone who works to make our communities healthier and better places to live."

Maureen Sanders and Randy Boissonnault attended the award ceremony at the Winspear Centre on November 26<sup>th</sup>. The Award of Distinction was presented to Dr. Robert Stollery for a lifetime of philanthropy, including his work with Success By 6<sup>®</sup>, school lunches, and other initiatives. Our sincere congratulations to Dr. Stollery.

*Sharon Skage and Randy Boissonnault of the Centre for Family Literacy with Svend Hansen, Vice-Chairman of Edmonton Public School Board and Michele Mulder, President of Alberta School Boards Association*



## Patron

Lieutenant Governor  
The Honourable  
Lois Hole

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## Programs

Theone Adachi,  
B.O.O.K.S./Help Your  
Child To Read and Write  
Christina Arnold,  
Rhymes That Bind  
Colleen Crozier,  
B.O.O.K.S.  
Debbie Severinsen,  
Student Coordinator  
June Hughes,  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Wendy Peverett,  
Books for Babies  
Joanne Morgan,  
Librarian  
Darrell Giraldeau,  
C.O.W. (Classroom on  
Wheels)  
Fran Marion,  
Learning Together

# Upcoming Training Sessions

## Foundational Training in Family Literacy

March 24 – 28, 2003 – Edmonton.

A training that lays the foundations for increased growth and professionalism in family literacy. Some of the covered topics: the dynamics of working with parents/adults; understanding emergent literacy; administering a family literacy project; evaluation.

Register by February 21, 2003. Fees are \$100 for individuals from not-for-profits; \$200 for other individuals and organizations.

## Models Training

August 25 – 29, 2003 – Edmonton.

Your opportunity to receive training in a number of family literacy program models such as Rhymes that Bind, Books for Babies, Help Your Child to Read and Write, Books Offer Our Kids Success (B.O.O.K.S.) Fees are \$75 for individuals from not-for-profits; \$150 for other individuals and organization.

For more information on these trainings, contact Sharon Skage, Provincial Services Manager.

# Volunteer Cornerstone

The next volunteer training session for adult tutors will be held in late May. If you would like to attend this training please call JUNE at 421-7323

If you like to make crafts, sew, paint, cutout, or colour - we need you once a week to help us to make book bags for our new "Story Sacks" program. Call June 421-7323

Look for details of a Speakers Bureau Workshop coming August 15-16, 2003.

