



# Parksville Qualicum Adult Literacy Society (PQALS)

## March 2021 Newsletter

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### **Introduction**

Dear PQALS Members – This is our second newsletter. This year we will endeavour to produce three newsletters. If you have any comments about the newsletter or ideas about fundraising or how to improve the newsletter or anything else discussed here, please contact [susan@parksvilleadulthoodliteracy.ca](mailto:susan@parksvilleadulthoodliteracy.ca).

### **Message from the President**

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our retiring PQALS Board members for their hard work. They, along with remaining Board members, established the Board and had it formally designated as a not-for-profit organization by CRA. They established bylaws for the Society. They also produced a brochure and marketing folder with a view to securing longer-term funding. Thank you to Bronwyn Brown and Martha Grier! Already, you both are deeply missed.

### Working in a COVID Environment

Any non-profit organization in any part of Canada will likely say that they are experiencing tremendous challenges seeking funding donations during the COVID pandemic. It is difficult to meet with donors. Several businesses are themselves struggling and significant fund-raising events such as the Parksville Beach Festival (where we provided Gate Ambassadors) are not being held for the second year in a row. The Board is now seized with developing both a short- and longer-term funding strategy post-COVID. We are doing this in cooperation with the Tutoring Program, setting priorities and identifying possible sources of funds. The Board is also looking at how other literacy groups are organized and have raised funds. As a starting point, the Board has worked with the Tutoring Program to develop protocols on how we will work together and share resources.

## **Current Board Membership**

The following people were voted in as PQALS board members at the September 18, 2020 Annual General Meeting. We are truly fortunate in that the board members bring a variety of experiences and expertise to the board discussions. While we are currently embarked on a steep learning curve, the board members are already working together effectively, demonstrating considerable enthusiasm, patience and good humour. The Board generally meets four times a year, but we have convened a number extra meetings to help us “catch up” and prepare more fully for the challenges ahead.

Valery Gunn, <i>President</i>	<a href="mailto:president@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca">president@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca</a>
Pamela Petrie, <i>Vice-President</i>	<a href="mailto:vice-president@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca">vice-president@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca</a>
Jim Lewis, <i>Treasurer</i>	<a href="mailto:treasurer@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca">treasurer@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca</a>
Jody Schneider, <i>Secretary</i>	<a href="mailto:secretary@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca">secretary@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca</a>
Sam Frketich, <i>Director-at-Large</i>	<a href="mailto:sam@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca">sam@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca</a>
Susan Kelly, <i>Director-at-Large</i>	<a href="mailto:susan@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca">susan@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca</a>

## **PQALS Memberships**

PQALS currently has 28 members. One of the goals of our new funding strategy will be to look at ways of expanding our membership. Membership costs either \$20.00 per year or \$100.00 for a life-time membership. If you know somebody who would like to be a member, please encourage them to contact Sam Frketich or to send their membership fee either by cheque to the mailing address listed below or by e-transfer to [treasurer@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca](mailto:treasurer@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca). (Donations can also be made through these channels and on the PQALS website through the Canada Helps charitable donation service).

## **Donors**

Despite all the challenges listed above, PQALS has continued to receive donations from people in our community. We are so thankful for those able to help with

improving literacy. At the moment, these funds and memberships represent the principal sources of funding for PQALS.

Did you know that you can give a donation to PQALS as a birthday gift? When searching for a gift that is a little different and which will mean so much to others, please consider this for a friend or family member who is so hard to buy for.

We gratefully acknowledge the donations made by Claire Tallman, Valerie Gunn, Carmen Larsen and an anonymous donor in the last year. And of course, we are thankful for the many tutors who contribute to the Tutoring Program daily. Currently, there are 30 tutors working with students. Without them, none of this would be possible.

### **City of Parksville Grant-in-Aid Program**

PQALS applied to this grant in 2020 and received \$1,000 to purchase a laptop computer for tutors and students use in the Tutoring Program office. The computer will provide access to anyone lacking video-conferencing technology for their tutoring sessions. PQALS is also planning to add various ESL language programs and teaching resources. We are extremely thankful for this grant as it will enhance the online capabilities of the Program.

### **Remaining Board Meetings 2021**

- April 28, 1:00-2:00 pm Zoom
- May 19, 1:00-2:00 pm Zoom
- September 22 noon to 2:00 pm. **Annual General Meeting** and you are welcome to join us by Zoom. For more information, please contact Jody Schneider at [secretary@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca](mailto:secretary@parksvilleadultliteracy.ca)
- November 17 1:00-2:00 pm

### **Our Addresses**

*Mailing Address:* Parksville Qualicum Adult Literacy Society, Box 1005, Parksville BC V9P 2H1;

*Web Address:* <https://parksvilleadultliteracy.ca/>