

Burnaby Reads Day

By Edel Toner-Rogala.

Literacy Now Burnaby and its many partner organizations, including Burnaby Public Library, marked International Literacy Day on September 8 by celebrating Burnaby as a community that reads. Literacy Now Burnaby believes that Burnaby is a community that values reading as a foundation skill for lifelong learning. Members of Literacy Now Burnaby experience Burnaby as a community that reads in many different languages and they wanted to celebrate the many ways people in Burnaby read, everyday.

The community was invited to participate in "Burnaby Reads Day" by dropping by a community read-in on September 8 and taking a minimum of 8 minutes to catch up on personal reading. Community read-ins took place between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm at:

- Bob Prittie Metrotown Branch, Burnaby Public Library
- Brentwood Town Centre
- Eastburn Community Centre
- Lougheed Town Centre

Organizers were pleased with the community's response as nearly 100 people took part in community read-ins across the City. The CBC Radio covered the event and segments of the afternoon drive home show, "On the Coast", were broadcast

from the read-in held at the Bob Prittie Metrotown Branch.

In addition to the community read-ins, Literacy Now Burnaby sponsored a literacy awareness campaign on Translink, in September, promoting reading and a photo contest where images would answer the question what makes Burnaby a special place to read. Judging will take place in late October 2009. Winners' photos will be displayed at the Bob Prittie Metrotown Branch from January 11 to March 22, 2010.

Since 2007, Literacy Now Burnaby, a partnership made up of representatives from community organizations, the public library, the school district, colleges, universities, labour, business, the RCMP and government, has been working to first develop, and then implement, a Community Literacy Plan. Front line workers, educators, adult learners, potential learners and parents have also been involved in creating this plan and moving it forward. In the course of implementing the plan Literacy Now Burnaby has raised awareness of literacy and, with funds provided by Literacy Now, is supporting literacy programs in Burnaby.

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