



Supporting lifelong learning



## September 2026 Literacy News

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Literacy news, programs, upcoming events, and valuable resources for all ages in Mount Waddington communities on North Vancouver Island.

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## NEWS

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### September is Literacy Month!



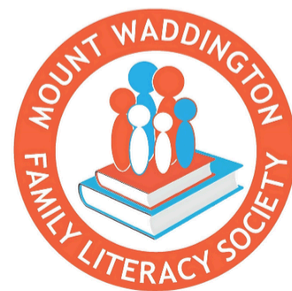
### **Celebrate Literacy Month at the Fall Fair: Free books for children, activities and fundraiser**

This September, Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society (MWFLS) celebrates Literacy Month with a free book for children and fundraising fun at the Mount Waddington Regional Fall Fair.

# September is Literacy Month!

Celebrate  
with us!

- ➔ **Get a free book for children**  
**September 12 & 13, 2026**  
Mount Waddington Regional Fall Fair,  
Port Hardy Recreation Centre
- ➔ **Volunteer**  
as a children's reading tutor or adult learning coach.
- ➔ **Support local literacy**  
at the secure CanadaHelps website:  
[canadahelps.org/en/charities/mwliteracynow](https://canadahelps.org/en/charities/mwliteracynow)



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## Ways to celebrate [Literacy Month](#) ...

 **Get a free book for children at the Fall Fair September 12 & 13, 2026**  
Mount Waddington Regional Fall Fair, Port Hardy Recreation Centre

 **Volunteer** as a children's reading tutor or adult learning coach.

 **Support local literacy with a donation to Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society**  
at the secure CanadaHelps website:  
[canadahelps.org/en/charities/mwliteracynow](https://canadahelps.org/en/charities/mwliteracynow)



### **A Bittersweet Farewell to our Founder, Kathy Martin**

Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society founder, Kathy Martin, has stepped down from our Board of Directors.

For over 16 years, Kathy volunteered as our Board Chair and poured her soul into making sure families across the North Island had access to amazing programs like Mother Goose and the Literacy Bus. In 2024 she stepped down as Board Chair, but remained a board member.

Kathy's passion is truly the heart and history of the Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society. Way back in 2008, she brought together different local literacy programs because she firmly believed that "literacy is the key to building healthy communities".

She paved the way for everything we do today.

[Read more in this message from Executive Director Jessica Brown.](#)

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## **Port McNeill Mother Goose celebrates 10th anniversary!**



Mother Goose Jenn Hogeweide, a teacher at North Island Secondary School, has spent 10 years being a Mother Goose at the Port McNeill library.

She remembers bringing her son with her when he was a toddler, and now, as he has gotten older, he has started to help sometimes.

She is a well loved story time facilitator by Port McNeill families and we are so grateful for her time and talent!

**Congratulations on 10 years, Jenn!**

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**Goodbye Dolly, beloved musician and literacy champion**



***"My daddy just loved it when all the little kids would call me 'The Book Lady.' That meant more to him than the fact that I had become a star and worked my butt off." - Dolly Parton***

In 1995, Dolly Parton launched her [Imagination Library](#), a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income.

***"Inspiring kids to love to read became my mission ... here we are today with a worldwide program that gives a book a month to well over 3 million children." - Dolly Parton***

We're so inspired and grateful for Dolly's commitment to literacy. The beloved musician and philanthropist passed away on August 25, 2026.

This Literacy Month, you can help provide books to local children with a [gift to the Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society](#).

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**In the news this summer ...**

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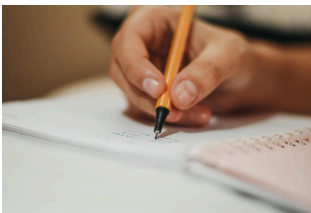
## Literacy in North Island not just about reading

Literacy in North Vancouver Island communities is a critical, multifaceted issue that impacts us every day, and can be a barrier to both personal and economic growth.

*"From seeing 45 elementary students boost their reading skills to running lively, budget-friendly workshops for adults, this year has proven that literacy is fun, connecting, and truly transformative."* - Jessica Brown, Executive Director

[Read the highlights and see photos from this year.](#)

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## Free Summer Programs Help Adults Build Skills and Confidence

This summer, the Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society (MWFLS) is inviting adults (18+) to join a variety of free programs designed to help people learn, connect, and have fun.

*"Learning should feel welcoming, not intimidating. Whether you're figuring out your phone, writing your first story, learning to cook, or working toward a personal goal, we'll help you get there."* - Jeanne James-Hory, Adult Literacy Coordinator

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## EVENTS

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**September 12 & 13: Visit us at the Fall Fair to celebrate Literacy Month!**

# Visit our table at the Mount Waddington Regional Fall Fair

September 12 & 13, 2026

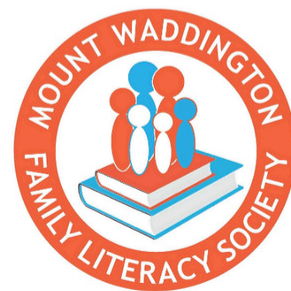
Port Hardy Recreation Centre

**FREE BOOK  
for Children!**



- Children can choose a **new book** to take home!
- Buy our fundraiser Literacy socks!
- Find out about our free learning programs for all ages.
- Learn about volunteer and job opportunities.

## September is Literacy Month!



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**September 8: International Literacy Day**

[International Literacy Day](#) (ILD) marks its 60th anniversary. It was proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966.

This year's theme is **“Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity.”**

Literacy is a fundamental human right for all. It opens the door to the enjoyment of other human rights, greater freedoms, and global citizenship.

Literacy is a foundation for people to acquire broader knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, and behaviours to foster a culture of lasting peace based on respect for equality and non-discrimination, the rule of law, solidarity, justice, diversity, and tolerance and to build harmonious relations with oneself, other people and the planet.

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## September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30, Orange Shirt Day, now also known as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR) is a day for all Canadians to commemorate and learn more about the history and legacy of the residential school system.

It's a day to honour the strength, dignity and advocacy of survivors and intergenerational survivors, by learning and talking about Indian Residential Schools and remembering the children who never came home. It's a chance to engage and educate more British Columbians about the history of colonialism and how it has and continues to impact First Nations, Métis and Inuit today.

**Websites for more information:**

[National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)

[Orange Shirt Society](#)

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## PROGRAMS

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### Mother Goose On-the-Go family program



**Mother Goose returns in mid-September to Port Hardy, Port McNeill and Sointula. Watch our [Facebook page](#) for updates.**

Mother Goose On-the-Go fosters early literacy and is an experience for the whole family!

A trained 'Mother Goose' leads a group of parents and children in fun and engaging rhymes, songs, stories, and crafts. Free!

Children have fun and parents learn how to sing, rhyme, and read with their child, and weave those skills into their day-to-day routines. These basic activities with children provide the building blocks for early attachment and literacy.

## Storytime 5 days a week at Vancouver Island Regional Library



Visit Port Hardy VIRL for family Storytime!

**Tuesday – Saturday 11–11:30 a.m.**  
7110 Market St., Port Hardy

Free! No need to register.

## Literacy Lounge Adult Drop-In

**Free drop-ins begin with a fun mini-workshop, creative activity, or board games**, followed by optional one-on-one support for English skills, forms, writing, job preparation, technology and personal goals.

A space for community and connection.



**Port McNeill**  
**First and third Monday in September**  
**4:00-6:00 p.m.**  
A-Frame Bookstore

**Port Hardy**  
**First and third Tuesday, September**  
**4:00-6:00 p.m.**  
Port Hardy Civic Centre

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## **Story Circle: An Introduction to Creative Writing**

Free  
Adult  
Program

# Story Circle:

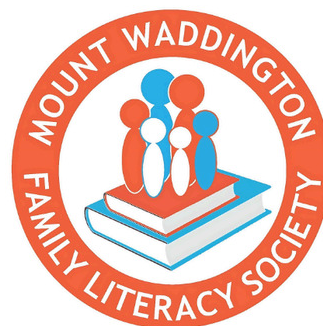
## Intro to Creative Writing

Wednesdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Port Hardy Civic Centre

- No experience necessary
- Free!

Learn to build and tell engaging stories in a supportive small group setting with instructor Garth Holden.

Contact: Jeanne James-Hory,  
Adult Literacy Coordinator  
[adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org)



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Facebook: @mwfamilyliteracy

## **Join in the fun for the last three story circle sessions!**

\*You don't need to have attended previous workshops, you just join the story circle group on September 2, 9 and 16.

"New writers... people that have never tried writing before have expressed the creativity and have had a lot of enjoyment and breaking barriers that fear can bring. This group is so supportive!" said Adult Literacy Coordinator Jeanne James-Hory.

"For those who missed it, we practiced with prompts, and participants had the opportunity to share their writing with the group, receive feedback, and participate in fun conversations. Lots of laughs and bright eyes!"

All attendees receive a free writing kit that included: pen, pencil, eraser, white-out tape, beautiful pencil holder, sticky notes, notebook, and fancy journal in a beautiful zippered net pouch.

Healthy refreshments and tea included.



**Port Hardy**  
**September 2, 9, 16**  
**5:00-7:00 p.m.**  
Port Hardy Civic Centre

**FREE!**

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## **Adult one-on-one support**

Free one-on-one support for adults is available. Get assistance with reading, numeracy and more.

Personal coaching is available to help you reach your goals!

Contact Jeanne James-Hory at [adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

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## **JOBS & VOLUNTEER POSITIONS**

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### **Hiring Teens!**

We are looking for teens in Port McNeill and Port Hardy who are interested in reading with elementary school children in our [Fostering Literacy Tutor-Mentor Program](#)!

Fostering Literacy programs in North Vancouver Island communities support school-age children who struggle with reading and provide a paid work experience for teens. Children practice and grow their reading skills with a trained tutor in a one-on-one setting, with the emphasis on making reading fun.

**Training provided!**

Contact Kelly Anderson at: [literacy.outreach@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:literacy.outreach@mwfamilyliteracy.org) or text 250-858-2782

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## Volunteer as an Adult Learning Coach

Join our volunteer team!

As an adult learning coach, you can help someone confidently manage everyday things—banking, shopping, health decisions—and strengthen our entire region's future.

You can help learners with reading and numeracy, or test preparation, computer basics, financial literacy, with how to use cell phone or fill out forms.

**Training provided!**

For more information, contact Jeanne James-Hory at [adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

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## Volunteer as a children's Reading Tutor

**ONE TO ONE Literacy Society**

Chris L



Watch on

We are looking for adults who would like to volunteer time to read with elementary school kids.

**You can make a difference in a local child's life.**

Help build the confidence and reading skills that will last a lifetime by volunteering as a ONE-TO-ONE reading tutor for 2 or 3 hours a week at a school in your community.

[Learn more](#)

**Training provided!**

Contact Kelly Anderson at: [literacy.outreach@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:literacy.outreach@mwfamilyliteracy.org) or call 250-858-2782

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## RESOURCES

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### Literacy Month Activity Calendar

| September is Literacy Month. Learning happens every day.                           |                                                                                    |                                                            |                                                               |                                                             |                                                         |                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | Write one goal for September.<br><div>1</div>              | Read the weather report.<br><div>2</div>                      | Fall leaves have many colours. Name three.<br><div>3</div>  | Read a bus or train schedule.<br><div>4</div>           | Write down one good thing from your day.<br><div>5</div> |
| Look at a map of your community.<br><div>6</div>                                   | Thank someone for the work they do.<br><div>7</div>                                | Celebrate International Literacy Day.<br><div>8</div>      | Read a food label.<br><div>9</div>                            | Write a note to yourself.<br><div>10</div>                  | Learn one word in another language.<br><div>11</div>    | Read a sign in your neighbourhood.<br><div>12</div>      |
| Find a free event near you.<br><div>13</div>                                       | Make a list of things you need this week.<br><div>14</div>                         | Read a short poem.<br><div>15</div>                        | Ask someone about a book they like.<br><div>16</div>          | Read instructions before you start a task.<br><div>17</div> | Learn the meaning of one new word.<br><div>18</div>     | Count the change in your wallet.<br><div>19</div>        |
| Walk, run or move for Terry Fox.<br><div>20</div>                                  | Read about a person who helped others.<br><div>21</div>                            | Look up the hours for your local library.<br><div>22</div> | Write a thank-you message.<br><div>23</div>                   | Read a recipe, even if you do not cook it.<br><div>24</div> | Learn one fact about British Columbia.<br><div>25</div> | Read a caption under a photo.<br><div>26</div>           |
| Tell someone a true story from your life.<br><div>27</div>                         | Read something out loud for one minute.<br><div>28</div>                           | Learn about a place in Canada.<br><div>29</div>            | Wear orange. Listen, learn and show respect.<br><div>30</div> | Try one small learning activity each day this month.        |                                                         |                                                          |
| Read, write, listen, speak and share                                               |                                                                                    |                                                            |                                                               |                                                             |                                                         |                                                          |

**Try one small learning activity each day this Literacy Month.**

Download the [Literacy Month Activity Calendar](#) from Decoda Literacy Solutions.

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## ABOUT US

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## We're here to help.

The Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society works with communities, schools and organizations to support literacy and learning for all ages on North Vancouver Island. We offer free programs, events and resources.

We can also help with your literacy projects and program ideas through fund finding, letters of support and by connecting you with our many resources.

Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society is a non-profit support system servicing the literacy needs of the School District 85/Mount Waddington region of Vancouver Island, BC, traditional territory of the Kwakwaka'wakw Peoples.

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## Contact us

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Contact us for information about our programs, resources or to share your needs and ideas.

### **Executive Director**

Jessica Brown

[ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

### **Adult Literacy Coordinator**

Jeanne James-Hory

[adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

### **Literacy Outreach Coordinator**

Kelly Anderson

[literacy.outreach@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:literacy.outreach@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

### **Communications Coordinator**

Trish Weatherall

[communications@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:communications@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

### **Mother Goose On-the-Go Coordinator**

Kelly Anderson

[mother.goose@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:mother.goose@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

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## Follow Us



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## Thank you to our supporters



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**United Way**  
British Columbia

Working with communities in BC's  
Interior, Lower Mainland, Central  
& Northern Vancouver Island

**BHP**

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## SUPPORT LOCAL LITERACY



**Your support makes a difference in our communities!**

Your donation will help provide books, literacy programming and other supports that directly benefit our North Vancouver Island communities.

**Ways to give:**

Donate on our [secure Canadahelps.org webpage](https://secure.Canadahelps.org/webpage)

Or contact Executive Director Jessica Brown at [ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org](mailto:ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org)

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