

Supporting lifelong learning



June 2025 Literacy News

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

NEWS

Executive Director year-end message

As I recently completed my first year as executive director, I'm reflecting on the successes and highlights of our free programs and events in North Island communities. Working with communities, schools and organizations, our Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society staff, board, volunteers and learners are proud of the accomplishments this year. See the impact we made together below!

Your input matters. We know every North Island community has its own learning goals and priorities. I invite you to take our [Community Learning Survey](#) by **June 7** to help us prioritize your needs.

The Board and I also invite you to attend our [Annual General Meeting](#) on **June 11** to learn more about the Society.

Summer update: In July and August, there will be no newsletter and reduced programming, as the Adult Literacy and Mother Goose programs take a summer break. Please follow our Facebook page for updates and any extra programming this summer.

We look forward to offering continued and new programming, events and support in September, when we'll be back for **Literacy Month** with tips, activities and more free books for kids!

Charity Gillett

Executive Director, Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society



Impact highlights this year

- **35 elementary school students improved their reading skills** in our ONE-to-ONE and Fostering Literacy reading tutor programs.
- **Adult learners improved their skills** at regular biweekly drop-in sessions to practice reading, writing or internet use, monthly conversation clubs, and community workshops on topics from artificial intelligence to financial literacy.
- **Families learned together stories, crafts and connection** in Sointula and Port McNeill Mother Goose On the Go programs.
- **Children made connections and learned new skills** in the Coal Harbour and Sointula United Way School's Out after-school programs.
- **Children received free books.** It's part of our mission to get books into children's hands, so we give free books to kids at our annual Literacy Fair and other community events like the Fall Fair and Easter Festival, and the annual Advent Book Box project tradition.
- **Adults went to college.** For a third time, we stewarded a grant to provide tuition and support for 10 students to attend the North Island College Education Assistant/Community Support Worker program.
- **Teens connected in new programs.** To support local teens, we had our first teen book club and online pizza cooking class. We also hire teen reading tutors in our Fostering Literacy program.
- **We got a new look.** Thanks to District of Port Hardy's Digital Business Enhancement program, this year we refreshed our branding, monthly newsletter, and have a beautiful new website.

Wizard School in Port Hardy!



24 children had a magical day at Wizard School with author and illustrator Lee Edward Födi.

Led by Lee Edward Födi, author and illustrator of *Spell Sweeper*, *The Secret of Zoone*, and *Kendra Kandlestar*, on May 9 at Port Hardy Civic Centre, the young wizards wrote their welcome letter, created a wax seal for that letter, created mini broomsticks, and created potions for a spell.

[See more photos and read the highlights!](#)

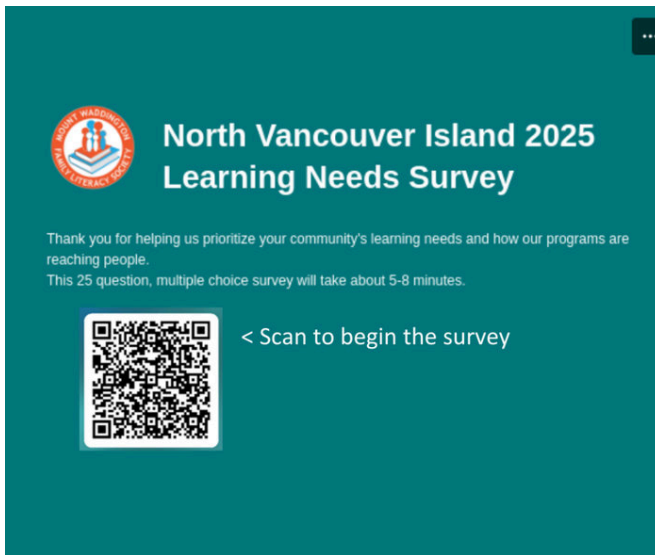




Learning about literacy at the Escape Room Community Forums

About 30 people attended a literacy themed Escape Room and Community Forum in Port Hardy May 27 and Port McNeill May 29. Author Lucy Hemphill read her poetry at the Port Hardy event. See photos and read the highlights!

Survey! Help us prioritize local learning needs



Your input matters!

Who: All residents in Mount Waddington Region Communities.

What: A 25-question, multiple choice online survey that will take about 5-8 minutes to complete.

Why: To help us prioritize your community's learning needs and learn how our programs are reaching people.

When: The survey is open until **June 7, 2025.**

Survey participants can enter a draw for a \$50 grocery package or gift card!

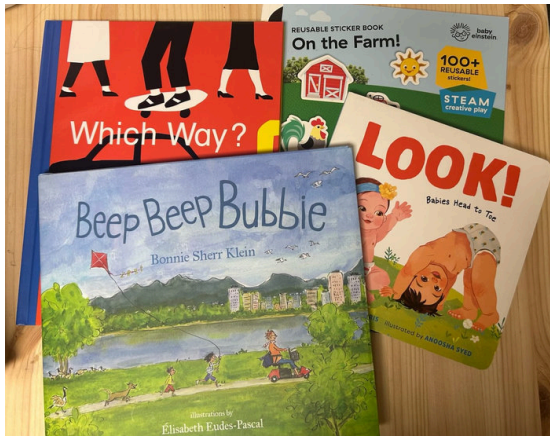
How: [Take the online survey here!](#)

**Your contact information is optional, but needed if you want to enter the draw.*

** The survey data will be aggregated, so your responses will be kept private.*

If you would like a non-digital survey option to print, please contact Trish at: communications@mwfamilyliteracy.org

Books sent to Gilford Island children



Two little bags of books have headed over to Gilford Island to reach the hands of four little ones! We hope they enjoy the books!
Love, the Mother Goose Team.

New MWFLS website!

[Subscribe](#)

**Mount Waddington**
Family Literacy Society

[Log In](#)

[About](#) [Family Literacy](#) [Child & Youth Literacy](#) [Adult & Senior Literacy](#) [Events](#) [Contact](#) [Volunteering/Jobs](#) [Donate](#)



Mt. Waddington Family Literacy

Supporting Lifelong Learning

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

[Contact Us](#)

Our new Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society website mwfamilyliteracy.org has officially launched!

There are sections for Family Literacy, Child and Youth Literacy or Adult & Senior Literacy, where you will find specific programs and resources.

Check out the new program and events calendar on the [home page](#), read our [monthly newsletter](#) and [impact stories](#).

Many thanks to the District of Port Hardy's Digital Business Enhancement Program for support developing the new website!

EVENTS

June is National Indigenous History Month & June 21, 2025: National Indigenous Peoples Day



National
Indigenous
History **Month**

#NIHM2025



National
Indigenous
Peoples
Day

#NIPD2025



In June, we take time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples across Canada.

National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21 is to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of Indigenous peoples.

Join Vancouver Island Regional Library for a Virtual Author Talk with Lynda Gray as she speaks about the second edition of her book *First Nations 101: Tons of Stuff You Need to Know*.

Wednesday, June 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

June 1 - September 1 is Pride Season



2SLGBTQI+ communities and allies come together to spotlight the resilience, celebrate the talent, and recognize the contributions of 2SLGBTQI+ communities.

Join in the [2025 Pride March and Celebration](#) at Carrot Park in Port Hardy with Port Hardy/Tri-Port Pride Society.

March starts at 11:15 at Thunderbird Mall.

Sign up for free food workshops in June!

June Workshops

FREE
Workshops
Port Hardy

- Take-home food kits
- Step-by-step instruction



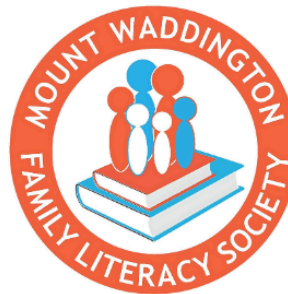
United Way
British Columbia

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

Sign up today!

1. Empanadas
2. Microgreens
3. Four meals
from one chicken

Contact: Jeanne James-Hory,
Food Literacy Coordinator
food.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org



Supporting lifelong learning

Facebook: @mwfamilyliteracy

mwfamilyliteracy.org

Mobile Kitchen

June
2025

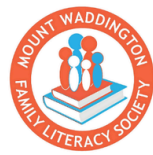
Food lovers, home cooks and curious learners!

Free, hands-on workshops on cooking, foraging, preserving, meal planning, and kitchen skills to help make life easier (and tastier!)

- Workshops include take-home food kits and recipe

Interested in joining a class or
leading one? Let's connect!

Contact Jeanne James-Hory,
Food Literacy Coordinator
food.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org



Supporting lifelong learning

Facebook: @mwfamilyliteracy

mwfamilyliteracy.org

We're offering free, hands-on workshops around cooking, foraging, preserving, meal planning, and kitchen skills to help make life easier (and tastier!) during the workweek. Whether you want to learn, share your skills, or just eat better on a budget — this is for you.

See our current workshops below.

Interested in joining a class or leading one? Let's connect!

Email Jeanne at:

food.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

June 5: Learn to Make Empanadas!

Port Hardy
11:00 a.m.
FREE!

Join us for a fun and hands-on workshop where you'll learn to make delicious, customizable empanadas—perfect for any diet or budget. Whether you're vegan, vegetarian, or a meat-lover, this dish can be adapted to suit what you have on hand.



Special guest instructor and registered dietitian Taylor Hartwig will guide us through each step. You'll gain practical cooking skills, a new go-to recipe, and take home a ready-made meal for your family.

Spaces are limited—come cook, learn, and take home dinner!

To register, email Jeanne at: food.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

June 20: *Grow Your Own Goodness: Microgreens Workshop*

Port Hardy
11:00 a.m.
FREE!

Discover how a handful of seeds can transform into a powerhouse of nutrition and flavor!

Join us for a hands-on **Microgreens Workshop**, where you'll learn how to grow your own mini garden—right on your windowsill. Microgreens are fast-growing, packed with nutrients, and can elevate any meal.

- No experience needed
- Take-home starter kit included
- Grow in tiny spaces!



Spaces are limited. To register, email Jeanne at: food.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

June TBA: *Stretch Your Grocery Budget: Four Meals with One Chicken*

Port Hardy
11:00 a.m.
FREE!

Join us for a smart and satisfying cooking workshop focused on getting the most out of your grocery dollar.

Learn how to turn one whole chicken into four delicious, diverse meals your family will love.



1 chicken, 4 meals
 Clever ways to stretch your budget

FREE Workshop
 Port Hardy

- Free take-home food kits
- Step-by-step instruction

Sign up today!
 Contact: Jeanne James-Hory,
 Food Literacy Coordinator
food.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

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

MOUNT WADDINGTON FAMILY LITERACY SOCIETY
 Supporting lifelong learning

Facebook: @mwfamilyliteracy mwfamilyliteracy.org

Special guest instructor and experienced Seto's Restaurant chef, Kris Huddleston will guide us through each step. Includes techniques for roasting, broth-making, maximizing leftovers, and more!

Participants go home with recipes, new skills, and a bountiful Food Kit.

Ideal for busy families, beginner cooks, or anyone wanting to save time and money

Let's cook smart together.

Spaces are limited. To register, email Jeanne at: food.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

June 8: Cultural Sharing Potluck Series



Join the Immigrant Welcome Centre for a cultural sharing potluck series!

**Sunday, June 8th,
4-6 p.m. at the Port Hardy
Recreation Centre.**

No registration required.
Please bring some food to share.

There will be activities for children,
and a guest speaker who will share
some food and stories from their
culture!

Everyone is welcome!

June 11: Literacy Society Annual General Meeting

**Please join us online on
June 11 for our Annual
General Meeting.**

You'll hear program updates, goals
for next year, a tour of the new
website and Board Executive
nominations and elections.

[Join online at 6:30 p.m. at this link](https://mwfamilyliteracy.org/so/98PRw1s8w?languageTag=en)

PROGRAMS

Fresh Food for Families – Farmers' Market Coupon Program

Looking for a little extra help putting fresh, local food on the table this summer?

The **BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program** is back in Port Hardy!

Eligible participants receive **coupons to spend at the Port Hardy Farmers' Market** on fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat, and more.



Who is this for?

Pregnant individuals, families with young children, seniors, low income — this program is here to support you.

- No cost to join
- One spot per household
- 15 spaces available to start – first come, first served

Come see us on June 8 at the Port Hardy Farmers' Market for a quick orientation, to ask questions, and sign up.

Coupon distribution begins June 22

Spaces are limited—after the first 15 are filled, additional families will be placed on the waiting list.

Feel free to bring a friend and help spread the word!

This is a warm, welcoming opportunity to connect, learn, and nourish your family with local food.

For more information, email Jeanne at: food.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

Mother Goose On-the-Go family program

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.

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.



Port Hardy

Saturdays 10:00 a.m.

Vancouver Island Regional Library,
7110 Market St., Port Hardy

Port McNeill

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.

Vancouver Island Regional Library,
1584 Broughton Blvd.

Sointula

Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.

Preschool Room

Summer Update:

Mother Goose will be on vacation in July and August. See you in September!

Storytime 5 days a week at Vancouver Island Regional Library



[Visit Port Hardy VIRL for family Storytime!](#)

Tuesday – Saturday 10–10:30 a.m.,

7110 Market St., Port Hardy

Free! No need to register.

Community Adult Literacy Programs (CALP)



June Adult Reading-Writing-Internet Practice Drop-in

Everyone is welcome to drop in to practice your skills with Steph.
Free! No registering!

Port Hardy: Mondays, 4:35-6:05 p.m., Wednesdays, 4:35-6:05 p.m.

St. Columba Church, 9190 Granville Street (across from the hospital)

*Last day is June 25.

Port McNeill: Tuesdays 4:15-5:45 pm & Thursdays, 4:15-5:45 p.m.

A-Frame Church, 175 Cedar Street, Port McNeill

*Last day is June 26.

Anyone needing assistance with their reading, writing, and online needs, please email
adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org.

Summer Update:

No Adult Literacy Drop-in in July and August. See you in September!

Literacy and Plain Language Self-Audit Workshops for local organizations

Reading comprehension was identified as a problem with 42% of Canadian adults, and literacy was ranked third in a list of barriers to accessing health services.

Sign up for a FREE literacy audit workshop that will give you the tools you need to assess your organization's reading accessibility and communication strategies.

Who is a Literacy Audit for?

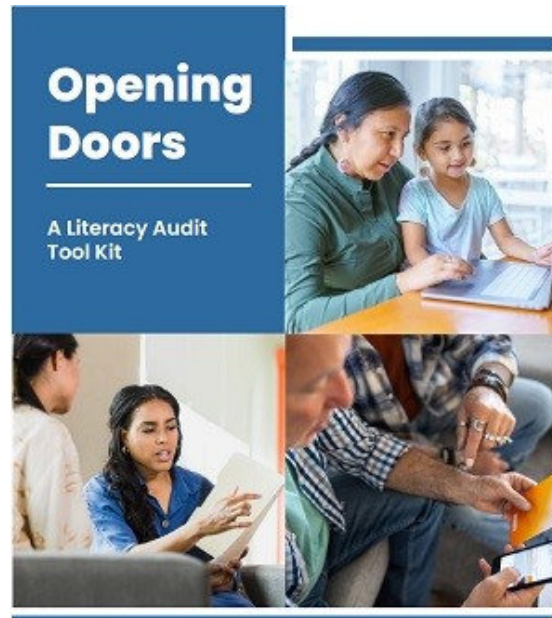
- Community Adult Learning Programs
- social service agencies
- community organizations
- businesses
- government departments
- someone who works with the general public

Opening Doors: A Literacy Audit Tool Kit

gives you practical suggestions and strategies to communicate effectively with staff and people seeking your services.

A literacy audit will help your organization identify barriers that the general public may face when accessing your services, assess your strengths and identify areas where you can improve your:

- advertising
- print materials
- verbal communication
- overall service delivery
- training for staff and volunteers



Contact Steph at adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org to book your workshop.

RESOURCES



Free Online English Classes!

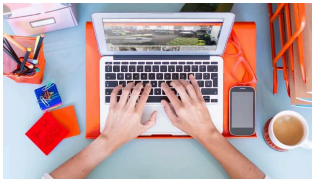
Gain English skills and confidence for work and life.

- Live classes with real teachers.
- Flexible times.
- Canadian Language Benchmark Levels Literacy to 8.

Free from Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy!

[Register today](https://cba1.org/linonline/)

or email linonline@cba1.org



Media Literacy

Find and share resources to help students learn to analyze, evaluate, and communicate in a world with countless media sources and constant access to powerful computers.

ABOUT US

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.

Contact us

Please note our new email addresses and *add mwfamilyliteracy.org to your contacts* so you don't miss anything from us. Emails to our former addresses will be automatically forwarded.

Executive Director,

Charity Gillett

ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org**Food Literacy Coordinator**

Jeanne James-Hory

food.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org**Literacy Outreach Coordinator**

Kelly Anderson

literacy.outreach@mwfamilyliteracy.org**Communications Coordinator**

Trish Weatherall

communications@mwfamilyliteracy.org**Mother Goose on the Go Coordinator**

Kelly Anderson

mother.goose@mwfamilyliteracy.org

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

Community Adult Literacy Program Coordinator

Steph Coe

adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

Thank you to our supporters



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](https://secure.canadahelps.org) webpage

Or contact Executive Director Charity Gillett at

ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org


Get our latest updates

Add your email...

Subscribe

Visit our social accounts



Check out our site 

This email was created with Wix. [Discover More](#)