

## ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

A review of our goals for this year indicate that the West Island **le goût de lire / born to read** is growing and developing.

### Goals for 2009-2010

- **Continue to pursue the steps to become incorporated and registered as a not-for-profit organization with a charitable number.**

The submission has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and will be revisited in the coming year.

- **Lobby for library services in eastern Pierrefonds in collaboration with 1,2,3,Go.**

A program of reading events was developed in the community centre, and we continue our involvement on the steering committee.

- **Research alternate sources of funding for the Mother Goose program and/or other possible programs for the Born-to-Read Resource and Stimulation Centre at Riverdale Community Learning Centre (CLC).**

Parents and children from more than 25 families were regular attendees of the popular **Mother Goose Rhyme Time Sessions** which were held on Monday and Wednesday mornings each week beginning in September 2009 and running through to the end of June 2010. Since it is an expensive program and originally supported by the CLC, the possibility of an outside sponsor (as happens elsewhere) is desirable, but efforts to date have not met with success.

An *ad hoc* committee was established to develop a once-a-week drop-in program for parents and children in the Born to Read room. Plans are well underway for “Books and Play”, with a format established and materials being acquired.

- **Develop a relationship with and a program at “Our Place” in the Delmar area of Pointe-Claire.**

“Our Place”, a drop-in place operated by AMCAL and open three times a week welcomes young mothers with their babies to get together for conversation, relaxation and lunch. Different activities are offered on different days. Born to Read attended the Monday session, at which time the volunteers would casually interact and then take an opportunity to read to the children. Attendance by the families was erratic which created a challenge to provide the types of books needed. During this first year, we distributed 5 English book bags and 1 French. The mothers also enjoyed having gently used books to take home and keep.

- **Maintain and expand the browsing/lending library for parents and children 0-8 years in the Born-to-Read room in the Riverdale CLC.**

The Teddy Bears Book Club in the Born to Read Room at Riverdale CLC has been a popular activity, again this year. At the end of each Mother Goose session, the mothers choose up to 3 books to take home. It is encouraging to hear them

recommending books to each other. They are asked to return the books the following week, and have been quite faithful in that respect. Their individual library cards are well used! Much energy and time has been spent on processing used books which have been donated by St. John Fisher Home and School. To this end we have enlisted the help of the "Riverdale High School Leadership Team". They volunteered the equivalent of two full days of hard work, processing well over 400 books this past winter. Their support is very much appreciated. We now have a functioning library with more than 2,000 books on the shelves. We have also received many boxes of used books [for children 5-8 yrs.] as well as the much needed book shelves from a closing neighbourhood elementary school, Purcell Academy.

- **Sustain and enrich our relationships with A Ma Baie clinic, Cloverdale Multi-Ressources, Duff Court, and Pierrefonds Community Project (PCP).**

Bilingual volunteers continue to visit the CLSC Well-Baby Clinic in A Ma Baie on the second Thursday of each month. They distribute red canvas Born to Read bags of four age-appropriate board books in either French or English to the parents of newborns. They discuss the importance of reading to babies and model reading with older toddlers. Each time the parent returns to the clinic with their child, the parent or child may choose another individual book. 73 (39 French and 34 English) bags of books and 146 (101 French and 45 English) sibling books were distributed this year.

Each year the Born to Read volunteers confer with Cloverdale's six staff members about ideas on how Born to Read can support their work. In 2009, the volunteers took the teachers to Babar's Children's Bookstore where each teacher was supplied with a budget to purchase books to accompany the themes they had identified.

These books formed the basis of themed boxes the staff prepared for use in all the classrooms. Two visits to the Pierrefonds Library were carried out.

The Duff Court project unfortunately has been discontinued for the time being. The centre is in a state of flux, making it difficult for Born to Read to function in the setting. We will be looking into other ways to meet the family literacy needs in the area.

We continued to be a presence at the PCP monthly community luncheons. PCP staff, parents and tots really appreciate our involvement and look forward to storytime and the distribution of books. Over the course of 8 luncheons we distributed 103 English books and 17 French books, for a total of 120 books plus 2 book bags. Three joint activities took place with Isabelle, the pre-school teacher: we sponsored a visit to Babar Books to choose \$150 worth of books for her classroom; we were responsible for animating one of the mothers' weekly scrapbooking activities; and we arranged for transportation and a visit to the Pierrefonds library for the 4/5 year-old group.

## Highlights

This year a total of 82 bags of books were presented at our various sites; since our inception in 2001 we have distributed more than 720 bags of books to young parents.

Again this year, at the request of the Pierrefonds CLSC staff, we presented a reading workshop to clients who are parents of infants.

Our enthusiastic team, Board members and volunteers, are proud that our efforts are making a difference in developing and supporting family literacy in our community.

## **Fundraising**

Individuals, community groups and businesses have been creative and generous in providing us with the means to meet our goals this past year. We are most grateful to the following people and organizations for this support:

- the Pointe-Claire *Oldtimers* for their continued and increased monetary support this year,
- St John Fisher Elementary School for their continued donation of gently-used books that are a boon to us in providing books for the pre-school siblings of our **le goût de lire / born to read** babies,
- Breakwater Resources for their generous monetary donation again this year,
- Dorval Hockey *Oldtimers* for remembering us again with a donation from the proceeds of their successful tournament,
- our **le goût de lire / born to read** friends, including LARSE members who continue to faithfully support us with their individual donations.
- and last, but not least, the Estate of Elizabeth Stewart for an outstanding second donation to **le goût de lire / born to read** once again this year.

## **Goals for 2010-2011**

- **Continue involvement with 1,2,3,Go to develop library services in eastern Pierrefonds.**
- **Research alternate sources of funding for the Mother Goose program.**
- **Expand the “Books and Play” program for the Born-to-Read Resource and Stimulation Centre at Riverdale Community Learning Centre (CLC).**
- **Research possibilities for a family literacy program in the Duff Court area of Lachine.**
- **Continue to maintain and expand the browsing/lending library for parents and children 0-8 years in the Born-to-Read room in the Riverdale CLC.**
- **Sustain and enrich our relationships with and continue to provide books for A Ma Baie clinic, Cloverdale Multi-Ressources, Delmar, and Pierrefonds**

**Community Project (PCP).**

- **Continue to recruit and orient new volunteers**