



# Books for Me!

NEWSLETTER • SPRING / SUMMER 2015

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*As of June 1st we have placed over 30,000 books with kids since our inception in 2011. This past year alone almost 10,000 books found new homes.*

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## Where do all our books come from?

All the Books for Me! programs have only donated books on their shelves and in their baskets, and we are so grateful to those individuals, schools, community organizations and businesses who hold book drives for us. As well, we continue to receive books brought to children's birthday parties at the request of thoughtful and generous hosts.

We update our website regularly with news and photos! Please visit us at [www.booksforme.vancouver.org](http://www.booksforme.vancouver.org)



Thank you to everyone who collects and donates books for us, including:

- Blueridge Elementary School
- Bowen Island Preschool
- Brockton School
- Canyon Heights Elementary School
- CEFA Early Learning + Junior Kindergarten, Commercial Drive
- Crofton House School, Advisory 8A
- Edith Cavell Elementary School
- Envision Financial
- Girl Guides of Canada: Kahoutek District, West Point Grey and 6th Seymour Guides, 11th Vancouver Sparks, 125th Brownies
- Graham Lizard of Doctor Declutter
- Holy Trinity School
- Hyatt Regency Vancouver
- Kidsbooks
- Maple Ridge, School District #42
- Mulgrave School
- Reading Bear Society
- Sierra Wireless
- Sir Wilfred Laurier Elementary
- SNC-Lavalin Inc.
- Southpointe Academy
- Tradewind Books
- Vancity, Downtown Community Branch
- Vancouver All Stars Cheer
- West Point Grey Academy, Senior School
- Youth Musketeers, Panther Cheer Athletics, Richmond

**And many other generous and anonymous donors!**

**If you would like to host a book drive, or have books to donate, please let us know. We will do everything we can to help!**

## IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO HEAR...

We so enjoy hearing from the venues we work with:

"thank you for all you and your volunteers do"

"caring volunteers"

"this program relieves them [parents and grandparents] of the worry and stress"

"brings them comfort and a sense of ownership"

"a number of parents that have not picked up a book in years are enjoying the stories with their children and are thankful for the time they share together"

"staff...are thrilled to have the Books for Me! program part of school life"

"I would like to thank everyone involved in the Books for Me! program for the amazing work you do"

Thanks for your kind words!

## ***Books for Me! thanks its newest donors:***

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Barbara + Charles Filewych | Taylor Taliesin Foundation |
| Dana + Chris Hirst         | Susan + Tony Pardy         |
| Deborah Snider             | Pia + Mel O'Keeffe         |
| Jennifer + Maurice Bridge  | Nick Smith                 |
| Jim + Carol Mercier        |                            |
| Marla Gale                 | And many other generous    |
| Mary Ann Cummings +        | and anonymous donors!      |
| Jonathan Rubenstein        |                            |



Magnolia  
Regeneration  
SKIN & BODY CLINIC



## ***Volunteers:***

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Colette Massie     | Angela Ang               |
| Dianne Da Vita     | Natalie Wu               |
| Iris Lee           | Janny Tran               |
| Elizabeth Lemke    | Kris Salazar             |
| Ginny Dunnill      | Mallory Tater            |
| Misli Alan         | And numerous other       |
| Stephanie Soebagio | volunteers who prefer to |
| Siu Wong           | remain anonymous.        |
| Susan Scott        |                          |

Jennifer Greenhorn (logo and newsletter design)

Eleanor Radford (volunteer coordinator)

Catherine Intharangsy (website)

Joanna Disher (book sorting supervisor)

Josh Rosenberg, Daniela Basio Da Silva, (book deliveries)

## ***Volunteer Appreciation Brunch***

Each of our remarkable volunteers has been invited to a Volunteer appreciation event at the end of May. It's an opportunity for book sorting, book delivery and program volunteers to meet each other, and a chance for the Board to say thanks in person to those incredible volunteers - without them, Books for Me! wouldn't be the success it is!

## ***Book sorters are a key step***

Once the donated books arrive at the Books for Me! storage locker, they are sorted by volunteers. These key volunteers make sure the books are in great shape, and are placed into categories including reader age group and fiction/nonfiction. Books for Me! has volunteers who do this regularly, and occasionally we have "guest sorters"...most recently a group from Raymond James Canada Foundation spent an afternoon helping with this important job. The Wasabi Warriors Pee Wee Hockey Team also lent a hand getting books ready for the kids!

## ***Dunbar Theatre Contest***

The historic Dunbar Theatre will host the MANY lucky winners of the Books for Me! contest currently running in Vancouver-area schools. The school that collects the most eligible books (on a books-donated-per-student basis) will win a free children's movie for the whole school. The winning school will be announced in the next newsletter. Books for Me! thanks Ken Charko, owner of the Dunbar Theatre, for his generous support.

## ***It Takes an Island...***

Some of our donated books come directly, and others have a sea journey to get to us! The Knick Knack Nook Re-Use-It Centre on Bowen Island gathered more than a dozen boxes of children's books for Books for Me! A number of these came from some very special Bowen Island Preschoolers, who make a yearly walk to the Re-Use-It Centre with gently used toys for other children. This year, they chose to bring books, and Books for Me! has the honour of getting these books to the children in our programs. The books rode the ferry and were delivered by a volunteer from the Re-Use-It Centre.



## ***Fundraiser at Renew***

Many Books for Me! supporters gathered at the beautiful Renew Period Lighting and Decorative Arts Gallery for the successful fundraiser "Shine a Light on Books". Proceeds from the evening, including the Silent Auction, helped fund Books for Me! programs through the year. We thanks the donors, guests and our gracious hosts, Eric, Judith and Louisa Cohen.



## ***Books for Me! is pleased to profile volunteer Eleanor Radford.***

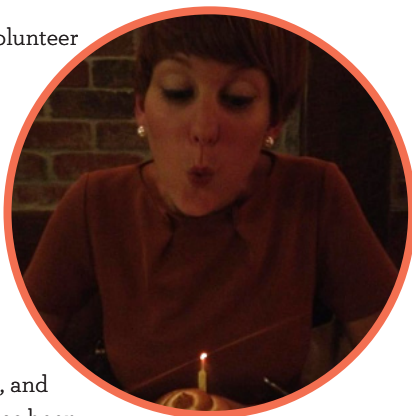
Eleanor Radford has been the volunteer coordinator for Books for Me! for the past year, ensuring all our programs have enough volunteers for each session, and making sure our valuable volunteers are kept up to date on schedules and information.

Eleanor was a staff volunteer coordinator at The Kettle

Friendship Society in past years, and her career for the past decade has been

in the mental health field, currently as a support worker in a group home. She was introduced to that job through a volunteer connection when she was a one-on-one buddy volunteer.

Eleanor always tries “to have something going in the volunteer area”. She was researching volunteer opportunities on behalf of a client when she saw the Books for Me! position, and thought it might be a good fit.



Eleanor also volunteers at one of the programs, so she can see what it looks like from the volunteers’ and children’s perspectives. She describes herself as a “big reader” who always loved books. She counts herself lucky that her Mom read to her a lot as a child, and she’s excited to be involved in giving kids an opportunity to be exposed to books. She remembers a parent from Collingwood Neighbourhood House saying her daughter has a special shelf for her Books for Me! library, and she likes that the programs she helps coordinate are getting books into the hands of kids.

When asked what she would say to a potential Books for Me! volunteer, Eleanor emphasizes it’s fun, it’s well organized, you’re appreciated, and people are always happy to see you...and the kids are excited that you are there!

***Books for me! programs can’t work without our terrific program volunteers. We currently have 28 fantastic volunteers, and they are always ready to help children find a forever book, or deliver some amazing books to refill the baskets at our venues! If you know of someone who would like to help, we would appreciate hearing from them. Thanks to all our volunteers!***

## ***Books for Me! and CWILL BC Society: partnering again***

2015 marks the second year that a partnership with CWILL BC(Children’s Writers and Illustrators of BC) allows Books for Me! to bring author presentations to program schools. These events are warmly welcomed by the students and teachers in each school, and are an important part of promoting children’s literacy directly with the students. More presentations are planned for the balance of the year.

### ***Message from CWILL BC Society***

It is with immense gratitude that the Children’s Writers and Illustrators of BC Society (CWILL BC) acknowledge and celebrate the support of the Books For Me program. This program not only inspires, encourages and excites young readers, it helps them to develop a life long love of reading and books. Every year Books For Me fundraises so that a number of CWILL’s authors and illustrators can make personal appearances at local schools, providing the opportunity for readers to meet with their favourite authors, experience them presenting various live presentations, engage with their books in interactive ways and to inquire about the inspiration and process of becoming a published author. The impact that these visits have on students and teachers is immense and far reaching. I have experienced first hand the shine in a child’s eye and the excitement they exude when authors introduce themselves and open the pages of their book in front of the crowd. Books For Me school presentations bring that extra level of magic to reading and readers and is helping to encourage a new generation of children to appreciate, celebrate and share their passion for everything literary.

*Lori Sherritt-Fleming*

President, CWILL BC Society





***Ainslie Manson  
presents at  
Admiral  
Seymour  
Elementary***

The Grade 2 and 3 students at Admiral Seymour Elementary had a wonderful chance recently to hear author Ainslie Manson talk about some of the ways she comes up with the great ideas for her books (13 books so far!) She read from two of her books "A Giraffe Called Geranium" and "Just Like New".



***Lori Sherritt-Fleming brings dragons  
and more to Champlain Heights  
Annex***

Lori Sherritt-Fleming got all the students involved in her presentation at Champlain Heights Annex...some were dragons, some were chefs, one was even a rock star! Her newest book, just released this spring, is "Hungry for Math: Poems to Munch On". It's full of fun poems about math, with hidden hats and MANY mischievous dragons. Lori has won many awards for her writing, acting and playwriting, and the students really enjoyed her contagious energy and enthusiasm.



***Author/Illustrator Dianna Bonder  
thrills Tillicum Annex School students***

Three classes at Tillicum were excited to hear about how ideas and sketches get turned into books by Dianna Bonder, who writes and illustrates her own books. She also creates artwork for other writers' books. Her detailed and whimsical art has won many awards, and her presentation at Tillicum Annex won her the appreciation of the children, who got to keep some of her drawings for their classrooms.



***Lord Roberts Annex welcomes  
Illustrator Elizabeth Shefrin***

The squeals of laughter and excitement could be heard down the halls of Lord Roberts Annex as CWILL BC member Elizabeth Shefrin showed the students how to create artwork for a book. The noted illustrator read from "Abby's Birds", then led a workshop for the class. The resulting mural for their school featured cut-out images of the children and balloon captions. Teachers happily grabbed scissors, glue and pens to design their own images. Books for Me! was thrilled to sponsor this presentation and would like to thank Elizabeth for her participation in this program.

