
Multilingual Association of Regina

APRIL-JUNE 2011 NEWSLETTER



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Indu Jaiswal: President's Message



We are approaching the end of another successful Heritage Language school year for 2010-2011. While it was marked by a variety of events, I will only mention a few as more details can be

found in the following sections of this Newsletter.

As in past years, no doubt the event of the year was MLAR's Annual Teacher Award Night and AGM which was held on May 9th, 2011 at the Travelodge. Organizing this event, as well as organizing the two Teacher Workshops and the Principals' Meeting held during this school year required a lot of work by the MLAR Board and its Committees, in particular the Regina Multilingual School Committee, and the Professional Development Committee.

While the Principals Meeting in 2010, the Teacher Workshops held in November 2010 and on March 5 2011 were reported on in previous Newsletters, this Newsletter will especially highlight the Teacher Award Night. At this time I would like to thank the following who were instrumental in making that event a real success.

This was thanks to the hard work of Ved Arora as Chairman of the Regina Multilingual School Committee with the cooperation of his committee composed of Raphael Hwang, Faith Ene, Rebecca Otitoju, Subrato Ghosh and Jim Leskun. I also want to thank Mary Kolitsas who agreed to share the M.C. duties with Jim Leskun, to Manju Leskun for her help with Door Prizes, and to Maria Kotsetas for taking care of registration duties. Without your voluntary work, MLAR could not accomplish its stated mission

Highlights of the Teacher Award Night 2011

MLAR is thankful that the following were able to bring greetings from their respective organizations at the Teacher Award Night held on May 9th, 2011.



Thanks to Senator Pana Merchant for bringing greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada, and for words of encouragement with regard to the MLAR's work in fostering and promoting the teaching of Heritage Languages.



Sharon Yuzdepski who is well known to MLAR brought welcome and good wishes from the Ministry of Education, Saskatchewan, in her capacity as Director of the Humanities Unit and E-Learning Branch which is in charge of the Heritage Language program, Saskatchewan



John Findura brought welcome and greetings from the City of Regina as Councilor of Ward 5. He also stressed the importance of being able to maintain one's mother language, as he himself fairly recently came to Canada and to

Regina as an Immigrant from Poland, and is clearly in full support of the work done by MLAR in Regina and area.



Welcome and Greetings were also received from Reggie Newkirk who is the current President of SaskCulture, one of the main sources of funding for MLAR. His strong encouragement for MLAR to continue its Heritage Language work was much appreciated.



Jim Leskun and Mary Kolitsas shared the Master of Ceremonies duties at the May 9th Teacher Award Night and both did a wonderful job of it. They kept the program moving along smoothly.



The Award Night also features MLAR's semi-annual AGM at which time MLAR Treasurer Ved Arora presented his Financial Report for fiscal year 2010-2011, and also brought Greetings on behalf of SOHL as its current President.



Welcome and Greetings were also given by Indu Jaiswal as President of MLAR. She also used the occasion to give thanks to a number of volunteers for their help with this year's Award Night functions.

A fine Buffet then followed during which time entertainment was provided by groups representing the following Heritage Language Schools: the Greek Language School group who provided two dances, the Regina School of Chinese Studies, and the ICA Hindi Language School, as represented by the photos that follow on the right.

Entertainment during the Evening Buffet



Two lively dances were presented by the Elpitha dancing group (Hope) representing the Greek Orthodox Heritage Language School, introduced by Principal Petros Aiginitis.



The Regina School of Chinese Studies sponsored a dance group known as "Best Friends", and one of the dancers was Michelle Geng who was later to receive the New Teacher Award for 2010-2011.



A final item of entertainment in the form of a dance sponsored by the ICA Hindi Language School group identified as a Natya Sudha Dance "Des Rangila" (referring to "Colourful Country") preceded the presentation of awards. The above photo from left to right also shows MC Mary Kolitsas beside Arnay Jatukaran who is a Youth Teacher who later received the special Youth Teacher Award as part of a new category of Awards for 2010-2011.

Recipients of Awards for 2010-2011 School Year



It is customary for MLAR to include presentation of an Honorary Life Membership Award along with the Teacher Awards at this annual event. This year's recipient of this award was Sharon Yuzdepski who was recognized for her strong support for the Heritage Language Program.



This year MLAR decided to give recognition to the Youth Teachers who help in the delivery of their Heritage Language School Program. Pictured above is Arnav Jatukaran who is the first recipient of the Youth Teacher

Award. Arnav has helped with the ICA Hindi Language Program for more than 4 years and will be going to Waterloo University to take on the prestigious Engineering Program offered by that University. He is pictured above with Paul Gingras from SaskCulture, a strong supporter of MLAR and of the Heritage Language Program.



Pictured above (white dress) is Yali Michelle Geng of the Regina School of Chinese Studies, recipient of the New Teacher Award presented by MLAR President Indu Jaiswal, with Raphael Hwang, Principal of the Regina School of Chinese Studies and Vice President of MLAR to her right, and from left to right, Ved Arora, Mary Kolitsas and Jim Leskun.

Honorary (Long Term) Teacher Award



This year for the second time, MLAR has included a special award referred to as the Honorary (Long Term) Teacher Award presented to Anita Drobot (pictured on the right) who has been teaching the Ukrainian Language for more than 40 years. Anita is a previous recipient of the Nation Builders and Community Recognition Awards (2006) as a tireless volunteer, teacher, and organizer, in the areas of Ukrainian culture, language and traditions.

OTHER 2011 Award Night Events



Madoka Otani, Principal of the Japanese School held a Silent Auction to collect money in support of the Japan Relief Fund to help with recovery from the recent sunami and earthquake that devastated parts of Japan.



Madoka reported that the Silent Auction raised \$560 for the Relief Fund and thanked MLAR for giving her the opportunity to hold the Silent Auction as part of the Annual Teacher Award Night. Thanks also to those who supported this fund raising event.

Recognition of Other Award Night Volunteers



Above, President Indu Jaiswal presented Flowers to Manju Leskun, wife of Board Member Jim Leskun. Manju has helped with Award Night functions for a number of years now and this year helped with the handling of door prizes.



The Teacher Award Night event of May 9 2011 was very well attended as can be seen from the photo above: including guests and entertainers the total attendance was close to 100.

Please take note of Important ANNOUNCEMENTS that Follow

Heritage Language Student Certificates are available from MLAR Office. Principals who have not yet done so should request copies for students and identify the school each student attends. Deadline to submit them to MLAR for Indu's Signature is JUNE 13 2011 to allow time to distribute to regular schools for their year-end award function.

MLAR MEMBERSHIPS 2011-2012

A reminder that to qualify for services from MLAR, Heritage Language Schools must **renew their MLAR Membership each year** by submitting the completed Membership Form for 2011-2012 and submit payment of the \$ 20 annual Membership Fee by September.

The Annual **Principals' Meeting** is planned for **Monday August 29th, 2011 7:00 pm** to be held at the Travelodge Hotel, South Albert Street- an important meeting to finalize classroom allocations at Balfour / Campbell and deal with other planning for the upcoming school year.

COLLEGIATES NOT AVAILABLE

A reminder that **Balfour Collegiate** will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for Heritage Language School Functions during the Summer Holidays:

The Last Day of School

June 16, 2011.

FIRST DAY for New School Year
SATURDAY September 10, 2011

COLLEGIATES NOT AVAILABLE

A reminder that **Campbell Collegiate** will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for Heritage Language School Usage during the Summer Holidays

The Last Day of School

June 18, 2011.

FIRST DAY for New School Year
SATURDAY September 10, 2011

The Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) gratefully acknowledges **funding assistance** from the following:
SaskCulture Inc., Saskatchewan Lotteries, Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages, (SOHL)
Saskatchewan Education.



**Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Education**