
Multilingual Association of Regina

APRIL – JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER



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President's Message



I am writing this President's message a few days after the Canada 150 celebrations and it is very apparent that summer is here!

As I walked through Wascana Park, I was greeted by many of the members of the MLAR community. It is very heartening that many of the newcomers to Canada were embracing Canada's 150th birthday.

Reflecting upon MLAR's past three months, it has been relatively quiet except for the Volunteer Heritage Language Teacher Award night which was held on Monday, May 1st. It was a pleasure to emcee the proceedings once again. We had a full slate of welcomes from a number of dignitaries, a wonderful meal, and two colorful entertainment groups from the German and Ukrainian community.

Vice President, Bob Friedrich assisted me in presenting service pins to a number of deserving individuals and Past President, Indu Jaiswal and long-time MLAR board member, Mary Kolitsas presented our very own Office Co-ordinator, Emile Carignan with the 2017 MLAR Honorary Life Membership Award. Emile, at the age of 84, has finally decided to retire from MLAR after 9 plus years of dedicated service to spend more time with his wife. We wish Emile all the best in his second retirement!

To fill the vacancy in the office co-ordinator position, the MLAR Board has filled the position with an individual who is very cognizant with the Heritage Language community. Gord Zakreski, the SOHL Executive Director, has agreed to work half time as the MLAR Office Co-ordinator. Due to the funding cut to SOHL and in an attempt to trim administrative costs, MLAR will be sharing administrative duties with SOHL by having Gord take over the duties that Emile was carrying out. It is important to note that MLAR and SOHL remain distinctive organizations.

Please mark two dates on your calendars, **August 28th** and **November 18th**. The Heritage Language School Kickoff Meeting will be held on August 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the Travelodge on South Albert. It is important that every school have a member present especially Heritage Language Schools who have classrooms in Balfour or Campbell Collegiate, as this is **MANDATORY** for your schools. **NO** show at the meeting means **NO** classrooms in Balfour or Campbell Collegiate! The MLAR workshop is scheduled for November 18th and will be held at the George Bothwell Library located at the Southland Mall. More details will be sent out as they are confirmed.

In the meantime, enjoy your summer in Saskatchewan!

Sincerely submitted,

Dr. Jim Leskun

President MLAR

Heritage Language Teachers Award Night May 01, 2017

EMCEE President Jim Leskun welcomed everyone to this year's Award Night following which he introduced the following special guests.



MLA David Buckingham was the first to address the meeting. He brought greetings from the Government of Saskatchewan. Part of his message included reference to languages such as Dakota, Cree and Saulteaux which are languages native to North America, not spoken on any other continent, so if not supported in Saskatchewan would be the first to disappear.



MLA Trent Wotherspoon spoke of the importance of supporting the teaching of Heritage Languages in Saskatchewan as newcomers to the province add to the diversity and strength of our province and our economy.



Mayor Michael Fougere brought greetings from the City of Regina and stated that City Council is in full support of the work of MLAR and of SOHL and of the help these two organizations give as Regina welcomes a growing number of people from other countries, Regina ranking 4th in terms of population growth in Canada.



Mike Walter brought greetings on behalf of the Regina Public School Board. He mentioned that the first language of 20% of students attending Regina Public Schools is other than either English or French so the work that MLAR does to support Heritage Languages in

the Regina area is something that the Regina Public School Board fully supports, a message that MLAR President Jim Leskun later said was most welcome as the majority of MLAR's 30 Heritage Language Schools teach their languages either at Balfour or at Campbell Collegiates which are under the jurisdiction of the Regina Public School Board.



Joanne McDonald, President of SaskCulture, also brought greetings from SaskCulture which she identified as a non-profit organization that provides funding to a wide variety of cultural non-profit corporations in Saskatchewan, including funding to both SOHL and to MLAR.



Chanchal Sethi, Vice President of SOHL, the Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages, was the last to bring greetings. Part of her message was that in spite of funding cuts that occurred effective school year 2016-2017, SOHL will continue its financial support to Heritage Language Schools here in

Regina as well as to Heritage Language Schools in other parts of the province.

This year's Heritage Language Teachers' Award Night was attended by a total of 76 including MLAR Board Members and Committee Members, Heritage Language School Teachers and Principals and special guests.

Following the above greetings from special guests, a dinner buffet was enjoyed by all, and prior to the presentation of awards, entertainment was provided by the following:



Male members of the Regina German Club performed a rather spectacular dance described as intended to make an impression on members of the opposite sex, a dance which included some kicking and falling. Fortunately no one was hurt.



Members of the Tavria Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble then performed 2 fantastic dances. Needless to say, still photos of the group cannot do justice to the quality of their performance, and the same can be said of the performance by the Regina German Club.

Heritage Language Teacher Awards



Bronze Pin Awards this year were presented to nine teachers who completed 3 years of teaching. This included the following: from the MCNA Arabic Language school, Sidra Adil, Taranum Fatma, Farzana Anwaar, Shahla Anwaar; from the Chinese School of Regina, Joy Chong Yi Zhang; from the Das Schulhaus German School, Romana Lindmeir; from the ICA Hindi School, Shivali Sood; from the Regina German Language School, Jennifer Weigandt and Christina Voronin.



Silver Pins were awarded to the following for completion of from 5 to 9 years of language teaching: from the MCNA Arabic School, Taiyeba Javed; from St Paul's Greek School, Sophia and Panayiota Tompoulidou and Kelly Tasselos; from the Salvador Allende Spanish School: Marco Fuentes and Maria Loyola.



The sole recipient of the Gold Pin Award this year was Jeannette Kuiper of the Regina German Language School with 10 years of teaching experience. President Jim Leskun and Vice President Bob Friedrich made the above Award presentations.

Honorary Life Membership Award



This year's award was presented by Mary Kolitsas and Indu Jaiswal to 84 year old MLAR Office Coordinator Emile Carignan, marking 9 plus years as Office Coordinator and scheduled to retire at the end of June this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MLAR'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MLAR's Interim Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on May 1, 2017 just prior to the Award Night presentations. This AGM is held shortly after the end of MLAR's fiscal year so that MLAR's audited Financial Statement can be presented to the membership. The Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Iftekher Kahn who presented the Summary of Revenues and of Expenditures as well as the Balance Sheet all of which were included in the printed Annual Report that was handed out and referenced

2017-18 Principals "Kickoff" Meeting

This important meeting that deals with a wide variety of matters as part of the planning for the start of the 2017-2018 school year will again be held at the Travelodge Hotel on Albert Street South on **August 28**.

Registration is from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm with the meeting to start at **7:00 pm**. Teachers and parents are also welcome to attend.

The MLAR Board is considering making attendance at this meeting by Principals of any language school that wants access to either Balfour or Campbell Collegiate classrooms a **requirement**. This is in part because MLAR continues to receive complaints from both Balfour and Campbell teachers about the unacceptable condition of some of their classrooms following their use by some of the Heritage Language Schools.

The conditions under which use of Collegiate classrooms is permitted will be discussed at this kickoff meeting with the hope that this will reduce the complaints from these 2 Collegiates.

The Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) gratefully acknowledges **funding assistance** from **SaskCulture Inc., Saskatchewan Lotteries, Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages, (SOHL)**
FCC Regina Spirit Fund 2017 \$ 5,000 Donation

Dates CAMPBELL NOT AVAILABLE

A reminder that **Campbell Collegiate** will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for Heritage Language School Usage for the balance of the 2016-2017 school year as follows:

Thursday May 4 (School dance)
May 22, 2017 (Victoria Day holiday)
LAST SCHOOL DAY: June 28, 2017
Campbell not available during Summer Holidays

Dates BALFOUR NOT AVAILABLE

A reminder that **Balfour Collegiate** will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for Heritage classes as follows for the balance of the 2016-2017 school year as follows:

May 22, 2017 (Victoria Day holiday)
LAST SCHOOL DAY: June 28, 2017
Balfour not available during Summer Holidays



FCC Regina Spirit Fund

\$5,000

presented to

Multilingual Association of Regina

2017

