



# The BEAR Bulletin

❖❖❖ *“helping children with dyslexia to read”*



## Meet our bear!

Late last fall a parent spotted this bear at the Fortinos on Dundurn Street. The manager of the store was contacted and told about the Centre and the great work being done there. Just before Christmas Manager Dan Dove delivered the bear to the Centre—what a wonderfully, generous donation! Bear came with a grey scarf, so parents undertook to perform some ‘cosmetic surgery’ and apply the proper purple. The bear will travel to presentations about the Centre as its mascot.

## Message from the President

We are well into 2023 and on the way to another banner year. The Learning Centre for Hamilton has been in the media lately, with some very encouraging results. For those of you who missed Michael Baxter’s excellent interview on Cable14 last October, as part of Dyslexia Awareness Month, go to our Facebook page and follow the link to watch it. Also on the Facebook page you will find a link to the article that appeared on the front page of the Hamilton Spectator, featuring an interview with Lenny and their parents. And while you are surfing the net have a peek at our updated website. Please let us know what you think and be sure to let us know what improvements you would like to see.

The recent positive media exposure we have enjoyed has also translated into more parents seeking out our services as well as a number of people wanting to engage as tutors. We will be working hard to train new tutors and reduce our wait list for children as we plan for a very ambitious 2023-2024 school year. As always volunteers are welcome and encouraged to help fill an expanded schedule. Your donations are also welcome as without them we could not continue to provide free tutoring to those children who need it.

*Michael Kirk—President*

## From our Tutor-Trainer

The 2023 year is well underway at the Learning Centre for Hamilton. We are lucky to have our four new tutors well established with their children and progress can be seen by tutors, families, and the children! The expertise brought by our new tutors is extensive. We now have a Speech Language Therapist, two Literacy Specialists and a new tutor with extensive ‘science of reading’ experience! Lucky us! Lucky children!

The media article and interview with Michael Baxter have created some wonderful interest in the Centre. We have a lovely group of new tutors to start training, likely this summer. Additional families have also reached out for our services, so I will be busy this spring doing baseline assessments to best match these children with a tutor. These new pairs will start next fall.

I will continue training our skilled tutors as required, as some are nearing their completion of the certification process. Exciting! It is so rewarding to see the Centre growing so successfully with the guidance of such a devoted team. Thanks to all involved!

*Meredith Hutchings*

## From our Co-directors

Five years ago, in April 2018, an initial spring opening of the Learning Centre for Hamilton happened. Five years later, this spring, everyone involved with the Learning Centre for Hamilton can celebrate continuous and good growth through providing the Orton-Gillingham program to children which gives them hope and success in overcoming their dyslexia.

Since the new year we are back on track with more regular attendance and lessons. It is exciting for the children, their families, and everyone at the Centre to see growth in the self-esteem and skills of each child as their reading and spelling skills are

strengthened. Great thanks to the Centre's knowledgeable tutor trainer Meredith Hutchings and dedicated tutors for giving children the gift of reading.

Presently, an awareness of the Learning Centre of Hamilton for children with dyslexia is growing. Thank you to Mike Fortune of Cable 14 Hamilton who interviewed Michael Baxter in October. Thank you to Kate McCullough of the Hamilton Spectator for an informative article about the Learning Centre for Hamilton and a family who has benefitted from the program. Thank you to child Lenny and parents

Debbie and Dean Nazir who agreed to being interviewed for the news article. Because of this media coverage we have received more inquiries about tutoring and tutor training. More awareness of the Centre will be established through presentations at lodges, groups, and meetings in March and April.

Thank you to everyone at or involved with the Learning Centre for Hamilton for your continuous hard work, help, and support.

*Barbara & Michael Baxter*

## Dyslexia as a Gift

There are amazing people in our world who are very successful and have dyslexia. They succeeded not despite their dyslexia, but because of it. Rather than dyslexia being seen as a disability it can be seen as a gift. What does this mean?

Dyslexia was first identified in the 1880s as a condition or learning disability that interfered with the ability to read, spell, and write fluently. Historically, dyslexia has been thought as a deficit, but through a large body of research dyslexia is associated with several cognitive strengths. Often those with dyslexia share these common strengths: higher-than-normal intelligence, use the brain to alter and create perceptions, are highly aware of the environment, more curious than average, think in pictures instead of words, highly intuitive and insightful, use all the senses, have vivid imaginations, can see the big picture, divergent thinkers, can come up with multiple solutions, extraordinary creative abilities, so often excel in fields like art, architecture, and engineering.

"What if dyslexia is not a disorder at all but a unique cognitive style that helps humanity thrive?" ... It may be time to ask what the brains of people with dyslexia are built to do."  
*Justin Garson, Ph.D.*

Some successful (and famous) people with dyslexia:

Hans Christian Andersen	Princess Beatrice	Harry Belafonte	Alexander Graham Bell
Stephen J. Cannell	Cher	Sir Winston Churchill	Leonardo DaVinci
Walt Disney	Tie Domi	Albert Einstein	Danny Glover
Whoopi Goldberg	Stephen Hawking	Steve Jobs	Jay Leno
Greg Louganis	Jamie Oliver	General George Patton	Keanu Reeves
Jackie Stewart	Nelson Rockefeller	Quentin Tarantino	W.B. Yeats

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## Dyslexia Prayer

**Change the things**

**you can,**

**find peace**

**and**

**acceptance**

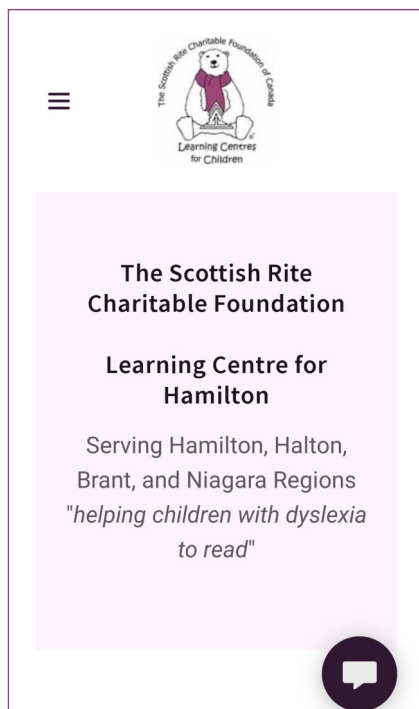
**of your dyslexia,**

**cherish strengths,**

**accept differences.**

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## The Learning Centre for Hamilton on the Web



The website for the Learning Centre for Hamilton has been overhauled, and it looks great. Clean, bright, with fewer words and more pictures, the updated site is inviting and easy to navigate.

The site was designed to be viewed on a desktop computer, a tablet, or a phone. On it you can read about the Centre, dyslexia and the program used at the Learning Centre for Hamilton. In addition there are testimonials from children who have been tutored at the Centre, and their parents. There are links to sites of interest and resources, application forms for children, volunteers and tutors, and copies of The Bear Bulletin, the newsletter for the Learning Centre for Hamilton. There is also a page of information for donors.

Our sincere gratitude goes to Andrew Kovacevic, son of Board member Mario Kovacevic, for his work on the design of the site and to Mario for his technical assistance.

Please visit the site and take a tour. The address is: [dyslexiacentrehamilton.com](http://dyslexiacentrehamilton.com).

And remember to Like and Follow the Centre on Facebook!



## Help Needed!

With the increased interest in the Learning Centre there is now the need to open tutoring up to four days each week meaning more volunteers are needed to staff the reception area. The desk will be staffed Monday through Thursday from approximately 3 pm to 7:30 pm. The time slots can be split into shifts if necessary.

Volunteers welcome the children and families to the Centre, take care of the sign-in sheets and monitor lessons and activities in the building.

Application forms are available on our website under the **Apply Today** tab.

*One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time.*

## Thank you to our Donors

**With the support of the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation and generous donors we are giving children the gifts and lifelong skills of reading and spelling.**

*With gratitude to*

Hiram Chapter No. 2 on the occasion of the Official Visit of the Grand Superintendent

Zeljko Haramic in memory of Joe Haramic

The J.D. Walden Family Fund

The Moore Sovereign Consistory in honour of Tom Wills

Ian and Linda Anderson

Olavi and Catherine Neimi

Stephen and Lorraine Cooper of Red Deer, Alberta

Dimitrios Papavramidis in memory of Costas Pigatsiotis

Jim Stewart of Binbrook

Members of the Murton Lodge of Perfection, Hamilton Sovereign Chapter of the Rose Croix and the Moore Sovereign Consistory at their Fall Reunion

Edgemount Chapter No. 127 of the Order of the Eastern Star

June Soper of St. Catharines

Kevin and Amy Collard of Burlington

Seymour Lodge No. 272

David S. Amis of Woodbridge

Gregory and Denise Faraday of Fort Erie

Scott Drummond of Campbellford

FB Form and Build Management Inc of London

Steve Zissopoulos in memory of Marion DeKruyf

Gerald I. Leroy of Stoney Creek

Gokcen and Kelly Yikilmaz of Binbrook



The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation  
Learning Centre for Hamilton  
"helping children with dyslexia to read"

# Donation Form

## Donor Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ PC \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Options

**Cheque:** Please make cheque payable to: *The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre for Hamilton*

**E-transfer:** office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com

Please send an e-mail to office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com with your name, address and phone number so an official receipt for income tax purposes can be issued to you.

**Credit Card**      VISA       MasterCard   
Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Security Code (3 numbers on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of donation \_\_\_\_\_      One time       Monthly



Donations (one time or monthly) may also be made through **CanadaHelps**.  
Visit CanadaHelps.org and search for Learning Centre for Hamilton.  
Official receipts for income tax purposes will be issued by CanadaHelps.

Donations of \$20 or more will be acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

Those donating \$500 or more will receive a certificate of appreciation and a pin.

If donating by cheque please fill out this form and mail it with your cheque to:

**Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation  
Learning Centre for Hamilton  
148 George Street  
Hamilton ON L8P 1E5**



905.522.5003



office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com

Charitable No. 75398 4129 RR0001