



The BEAR Bulletin

Summer 2025

❖❖❖ *"helping children with dyslexia to read"*



Niagara Satellite

Things are really starting to happen at our Niagara Satellite. The building is rented, the internet and phone systems are set up and, most recently, the security and monitoring system was installed and is pictured above.

The Niagara Committee is working to find a tutor trainer for the Centre, plus tutors and reception room volunteers. Finding children needing the services provided is not a problem! Donations made through CanadaHelps, or using our form, can be directed to the Niagara Centre.

If you think you can be of assistance don't hesitate to contact the Niagara group at learningcentreniagara@outlook.com

Message from the President

Here we are at the conclusion of another very successful year at the Learning Centre for Hamilton. We thank all who are involved with and donate to the Learning Centre.

By the time this reaches you we will have held our year end Celebration of Success. We congratulate our newest graduates and wish them well as they tackle life's challenges with new skills and confidence. We also offer our congratulations to the two tutors who are now Orton-Gillingham Certified—an accomplishment to be proud of.

As always we need to recognize that success comes from the determination of tutors and volunteers as well as the families of our children to provide the support and assistance that makes success possible.

Over the summer the Learning Centre for Hamilton will be working diligently to engage additional tutors to tackle the waiting list of children we have. In addition to these efforts for the Hamilton Learning Centre we are also working to have the Niagara Satellite Learning Centre in operation this fall.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Michael Kirk—President

Cooking and Dyslexia

Jamie Oliver, celebrity chef, author and champion for healthy school lunch programs is dyslexic. He has been very open about his struggles, from being undiagnosed, feeling stupid and worthless, and called names by his classmates. He is now using his celebrity to campaign for greater supports in schools, including early screenings for dyslexia and neurodiversity and more teacher training. He has produced a one hour documentary 'Jamie's Dyslexia Revolution' which explores the challenges and issues children with dyslexia face in Britain, and urges the government to fix the education system. In a recent post to Instagram he said 'I can't just sit back and watch this continue...I want every child to have a universal dyslexia screening check within their first two years of school. I want every educator to have the training to teach every child, not just the 75% of kids who fit the current system.'



Celebration of Success 2025



Congratulations to our Graduates!

Alex	Liam
Mason	Ingrid
Gregory	Tevin



Congratulations to our newest
Orton-Gillingham Certified Tutors!

Elsbeth	Jennifer
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From Grateful Parents

148 George Street, Hamilton. What is in an address?

What was your first thought when you walked through the door of such a majestic building of architecture, talented, laser focused volunteers and the magic of unleashing the potential to read?

The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre of Hamilton:

Students, front desk reception, snacks, the wonderfully creaking floor, tutors, the smell of Folger's coffee, lessons, Orton Gillingham, theatrical stairs, volunteers, drop off, parents, shared stories, hugs, forged friendships that care like family, cool handmade mugs, directors, fundraising, resources, smiles, teaching tools, confidence, words of encouragement, sharing of knowledge, perseverance, advancement, shared conversation, donations, and reception dog petting.

Our family will be forever thankful to the Learning Centre for one of the most valuable gifts ever: The gift of our son's superpower of reading. After three years of trips to Hamilton twice a week, he has achieved a skill that will benefit him across every aspect of his life. Recently, he wrote a two-page parable for school. He read it to us, and we were amazed by his seamless ability to read.

When we walked into 148 George Street three years ago, we did not realize how incredibly blessed we were to be able to walk through that door and be part of such an integrated and caring program. A true gift.

On behalf of our family, thank you to the team at the Centre who through teaching, fundraising, leadership, administration, programming, and management do such an unbelievable job in getting our children to graduate.

Congratulations to all the graduates and future graduates. This door is truly magical. Thank you for a life changing gift!

From our Co-directors

2024-2025 has been a very successful year for children receiving Orton Gillingham tutoring at the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre for Hamilton, serving Hamilton, Halton, Brant, and Niagara Regions.

Thank you to many significant people committed and involved from far and near:

Board: President Mike Kirk, Vice President Dale Chapman, Secretary Ian Anderson, Treasurer Don Thornton, Robert Dunne, Mario Kovacevic, and Alex Mouriopoulos.

Bookkeeper, Social Media and Publications: Lee Gowers

Tutor-Trainer and Supervisor: Meredith Hutchings (Ottawa)

Our tutors are from Hamilton, Ancaster, Burlington, Dundas, Grimsby, Hannon, Waterdown and Ottawa, while the children are from Hamilton, Ancaster, Binbrook, Burlington, Caledonia, Hagersville, Mount Hope, Oakville, Stoney Creek, and Vittoria.

Barbara Baxter tutors Anna, Ingrid and Lilly. Michael Baxter tutors Hudson, Liam and Mason. Elspeth Daley tutors Alex and Penelope. Iris Duemm tutors Ari and Quinn. Megan Jukes tutors Deklan. One of our new tutors, Josh Lash tutors Ryan. Barb Leisinger tutors Remy. Jennifer Marshall tutored Gregory and Griffin. Donna McManamy works with Beau while Jodi Northey works with James. Leah Panszczyk tutors Chase. Colleen Reinhart began the year tutoring Tevin in Hamilton and finished the year delivering lessons online as she moved to Ottawa. Claudia Ribeiro tutored Alexis and Jaxon, while Stephanie Shewfelt tutored Sam. Heidi Tadeson tutored Patrick.

Our Reception Room Volunteers hail from Hamilton, Brantford, Dundas, Mount Hope, and Stoney Creek. Co-ordinator Dale Chapman, Al and Arlene Baker, David Gordon, Kathy Hamilton, Brandon Morrison, Brian Muir, Linda Murray, Dean Nazir, Bill Patterson, Bob Phillips, Bob Stewart and Nancy Wood. Fur-baby Maggie is from Hamilton.

Barbara & Michael Baxter

From our Tutor-Trainer

The year is coming to a close and we look back proudly to report that the Learning Centre for Hamilton has once again run smoothly resulting in excellent progress with our children's literacy development and our tutors' Orton-Gillingham (OG) skills.

One of the reasons that the OG intervention technique is so powerful and effective is that it actually rewires the brain. The brain is such an amazing organ and scientists are increasingly finding how its characteristic of plasticity allows for such major changes to occur.

Regular, intense lessons are critical to this rewiring process, but the 'secret sauce' is the OG technique itself. The Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators have recently revised their principles of OG. These nine principles are: Diagnostic and Prescriptive; Individualized; Language-Based and Alphabetic/Phonetic; Simultaneous Multisensory; Direct and Explicit; Structured, Sequential, and Cumulative, but Flexible; Synthetic and Analytic; Cognitive, and Emotionally Sound.

Helping tutors to thoughtfully craft and deliver their OG lessons, keeping these principles in mind takes such precision and expertise. We really do have a dedicated, thoughtful, and creative group of volunteer tutors to whom we are truly grateful. Our families are also deserving of praise as it can be challenging to keep up this twice a week schedule.

At our upcoming national conference there will be discussions around a variety of overarching topics of importance to all nine Learning Centres across Canada. I will introduce the possibility of changing how we assess our children's progress annually. An expert from the US was consulted and has helped to identify some potential new standardized tests and assessment tools that are more closely aligned with our Orton-Gillingham intervention technique and that may provide us with improved meaningful data. Stay tuned!

Cheers to all who helped our wonderful Learning Centre for Hamilton have such a great year!

Meredith Hutchings

With Sincere Gratitude

The Learning Centre for Hamilton and the Satellite Centre in Niagara are financed completely by donations. The funds are used to train the dedicated, volunteer tutors, physically maintain and secure the buildings and cover the costs of administering the program. We are indebted to the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation, the Masonic Lodges and concordant bodies, chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star, corporations and individuals who support the Learning Centres. We are deeply touched by and appreciative of donations made in honour or memory of individuals.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the following who donated during the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

Ken Adamson	David Amis	Ian Anderson	Roger & Diane Bain
Al & Arlene Baker	Barbara Baxter	Michael Baxter	David Bennett
George Benton	Kenneth Brisbois	Ken Christofferson	Amy Collard
Lorraine Cooper	Audrey Culp	Scott Drummond	Peter Ewen
Gregory Faraday	Tom Fiddes	Thomas Forbes	Allison Gowling
Dan Graham	Beverly Gray	Jack Hanna	Lynda Heath
Alana Henderson	Ingo Hirt	McAllister Horne	Dr. F. Arthur B. Inch
Paul Johnson	Brent Julian	David Kemp	Michael Leisinger
Michael Kirk	William Lofts	Theresa MacKay	Kelly Mackey
Jennifer Marshall	Tom Marshall	Paul Mizzi	Blain Moffat
Malcolm Murray	Charles Niza	Karen Pinchin	Todd & Jill Robinson
Herb Schroeder	Patrick Selnes	George Stapleton	Anca Sudac
Tariq Qurashi	Matt Taggart	Don Thornton	John Williams
Tom Wills	Leigh H. Winfield	Gokcen & Kelly Yikilmaz	

Brenda and Dave Walden Family Foundation

CGC Charitable Foundation

Bentley Canada

Form & Build Supply

Bob's Bunch (Past DDGMs of Toronto District)

Elgin Lodge of Perfection

Masonic Beef & Corn Roast

Murton Lodge of Perfection

OES Edgemount Chapter No. 127

Past Masters & Wardens Association

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario

Valley of Toronto

Enbridge Gas

Milicorp Project Management Ltd.

Brantford Scottish Rite Association

Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654

Moore Sovereign Consistory

Niagara Chapter of the Rose Croix

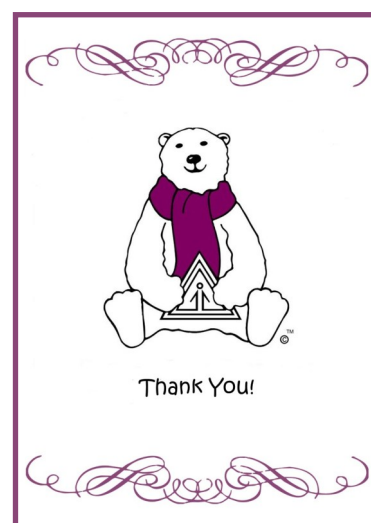
OES Lakeview Chapter No. 79

Seymour Lodge No. 272

Valley of Peterborough

The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation

And to those donors who wish to remain anonymous.





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 _____

Direct Donation to: Learning Centre for Hamilton ☐ Niagara Satellite ☐

Payment Options

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

E-transfer: office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com

Credit Card: Card # _____

Security Code (3 numbers on back of card) _____ Expiry (MM/YY) _____

Name on Card _____

Amount of donation _____ One time ☐ Monthly ☐

Donation is in memory or honour of _____

Acknowledgement to be sent to: _____



Donations (one time or monthly) may also be made through **CanadaHelps** and directed to either the Learning Centre for Hamilton or the Niagara satellite.
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.

Donors names will be printed in our newsletter.
Please let us know how you would like to be recognized.

Donor Name: _____

Anonymous

If donating by cheque please complete this form and mail it and your cheque to:

SRCF Learning Centre for Hamilton
148 George Street
Hamilton ON L8P 1E5

If donating by credit card complete this form and email to: **office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com**



905.522.5003



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