



Newsletter Date
Volume 8 April 2022

The Bear Bulletin

Learning Centre for Hamilton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We now find ourselves entering our third year of uncertainty as COVID-19 ebbs and flows. There were hopes that normal would have returned by now, but it seems evident that there will still be some months of uncertainty with the sixth and most recent wave upon us. Our focus will continue to be to keep all the children, their families and all our volunteers as safe as we possibly can.

While we all wish to shed the precautions in favour of something akin to our old familiar normal, it is not quite time yet and the Learning Centre will be maintaining the current status quo until the end of this school year. This will allow us the summer to train new tutors and have things ready to welcome both new and returning children come September.

Lastly, I wish to restate the Learning Centre's profound thanks to all our continuing donors who have supported us from the beginning and more especially through the last two years. In the absence of any of the traditional large fundraising events it has been your support that has kept our doors open. We greatly appreciate your loyal support and know it will be a big part of what keeps us going. We know that the competition for future fundraised dollars through large grants and fundraising events will be challenging to say the least, but we will meet the challenge.

Mike Kirk

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Farewell to our Newsletter Editor Lee Kools and welcome to our new Editor Kevin Vance
- Thank you to our many Donors
- The Scottish Rite Golf Classic
- Wine Survivor 2022

CO-DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Learning Centre for Hamilton functions with the help and support of many people. We are forever grateful to each individual that is involved.

Thank you to all team members who help make this program a success. Thank you to Board Members President Mike Kirk, Mario Kovacevic, Don Thornton, Ian Anderson, Thomas Lewis, and David Walden. Thank you to this year's donors and donations. Thank you to bookkeeper Leslie Drake. Thank you to Dale Chapman and Lee Gowers volunteer co-ordinators. Thank you to reception volunteers. Thank you and best wishes to outgoing newsletter editor Lee Kools. Thank you to new incoming newsletter editor Kevin Vance. Thank you to Tutor Trainer Meredith Hutchings, past tutors Nikki Brooks and Claudia Ribeiro, and present tutors Sarah McKee, Elspeth Daley, and Donna McManamy. Thank you to all parents, past and new, for their commitment of time getting their children to and from weekly Orton Gillingham sessions.

Thank you to all children who are dedicated to new learning and work hard weekly to improve their reading and spelling skills. We are excited to see the continuous growth in new children Eli, Emily, and Maggie. We are extremely excited and proud of our children, Charlie, Dakota, Dylan, Jake, Lenny, Natalie, Paige, and Sydney, our first graduates from the Orton Gillingham this June. Thank you to all these children for letting us learn and grow as tutors to provide you a valuable program that will change your present and future lives.

The pandemic has made for another interesting year, but as a team we have continued to deliver a successful Orton Gillingham program. Everyone at the Learning Centre for Hamilton is excited to celebrate the first graduation of eight children. Graduates... you have your dreams to inspire you, your heart to guide you, and your family and friends behind you. Believe in how hard you have worked, the progress you have made, and how special you are to all of us at the Learning Centre for Hamilton. Congratulations on your graduation!

Sincerely,

Michael and Barbara Baxter

Co-directors and Tutors Learning Centre for Hamilton

THANK YOU LEE KOOLS

Since 2016 it has been a pleasure and a privilege collaborating with members of the Scottish Rite of Hamilton in various capacities. Since being recruited by Don Thornton I have been involved in so many events it is hard to believe it was seven years ago that I was first introduced to the Learning Centre and the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Happily, I received amazing support from an enthusiastic group of non-theaters who are now able to "tread the boards" anywhere they want. *A Rose Upon the Altar* went so well that they came back and performed *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge* and *Happy Hollandaize*. For the last two plays, a few lovely women from the Eastern Star jumped in and accepted the challenge and, given the reception that all the performances received, it was obvious that they worked extraordinarily well as a cohesive cast. I now have a whole bunch of new friends. In 2018, Mark-Anderson McGaw and I worked as co-chairs of the "Alice in Wonderland Gala" fundraiser. I thought I was organized until I met Mark. The party was amazing, everyone had a wonderful time, and we still have an eight-foot rabbit on our front porch. This is the only fundraiser I have ever been involved with that completely sold out all the auction items.

The Learning Centre Grand Opening, the Love of Learning Newsletter, recreating the information brochures about the Learning Centre and dyslexia and any other little administrative projects that I could do from home I was happy to help. None of it could have happened without the support and assistance of my husband, Frank who, with our nephew Ean, created the wonderful "Alice" creatures for the gala; helped with sets, props and anything else I asked him to do.

Finally, I believe that the Learning Centre has more than proven itself as a safe learning haven for children with dyslexia and the graduation this year will confirm that. I hope that all of you will continue (or step up) your support of all the wonderful, dedicated, industrious folks at the Learning Centre to ensure it continues to be a welcoming place that kids with dyslexia can go without fear of judgement so that they may continue their schooling as enthusiastic learners. - Lee Kools

TUTOR TRAINER'S MESSAGE

Since the last training report in December, COVID has played a significant role in the functioning of our Learning Centre. Of course, in January, we closed the Learning Centre down while children attended classes virtually again.

Since we have reopened, (again!), things have been going as smoothly as possible with tutoring while many of the children missed lessons due to quarantining or being ill with COVID themselves. Despite these interruptions, the Baxters and tutors have done a wonderful job of keeping things running. The children continue to be making progress, and our two new tutors are doing a fantastic job of settling in with their new children.

Observations have been completed virtually and we are very lucky to have our new tutors become so proficient and enthusiastic so quickly. Unfortunately, Mary Ellen has had health issues in her family which have taken her away from joining us this year.

As was mentioned in the last report, we have some terrific people interested in becoming OG tutor volunteers. Due to the latest wave of COVID and due to health issues in my personal life, we have scheduled training to happen over the summer. Five new families have requested tutoring services and all five boys have been baseline assessed by me and Barbara Baxter. All seem like perfect candidates for our Orton Gillingham intervention. Once again, these families seem like wonderful additions to our growing Centre community and we look forward to getting the boys started this fall.

A fifth child will begin tutoring with experienced tutor Sarah McKee when she returns after losing her mother and some health concerns. Our deepest condolences go out to Sarah and her family. Once again, we are so lucky that Sarah is enthusiastic and has requested to take on a second child. By doing so she puts herself closer to completing her certification process. Sarah will also receive additional training this spring to prepare her to tutor Maggie with more complex concepts about the structure of English. Wonderful progress all around!

Also this spring, Donna and Elspeth, our new tutors, will be observed and additional training will be scheduled for them in late summer or early fall.

Of course, the Baxters have been holding the Centre together and doing their community bonding magic by delivering items, keeping in touch with all, and scheduling a myriad of details to be completed.

They have also been very busy tutoring and will graduate some of their children shortly. This is a big accomplishment for our maturing Centre. Thank you, Baxters!

Thank you all who make this Centre thrive. We have a terrific team of volunteers, families, children and of course are grateful for the overseeing of the Centre by President Mike Kirk supported by the Board. Thank you all!

Meredith Hutchings

WELCOME KEVIN VANCE

Hello,

There are quite a few people I wish to thank for bringing me on at the Learning Centre. First is Dale Chapman. Dale posted on the Ontario Freemason's Facebook Page that he was looking for volunteers to work for the Learning Centre. I was interested in doing so for quite some time, so when Dale mentioned he was looking for volunteers I jumped at the chance.

Barb and Mike Baxter, I cannot thank enough. They have helped me so much these past few months by advocating for me to get this position as the Newsletter Editor, among other things. Thank you to you both.

Our fearless leader, Mike Kirk. Mike gave me the opportunity to be the editor of the newsletter. When I first started this I told Mike I had never done something to this scale before, but he allowed me to give this a go, so thank you everyone.

And finally, to my wife Jennifer. Jenn has stood behind me during my tenure here at the Learning Centre (although I'm sure she's just happy to have the house to herself for 3 to 4 hours per day). I couldn't have done this without you.

I think this is a wonderful organization, and I hope to continue to be here for many years to come.

Thank you again everyone.

Kevin E. Vance

Newsletter Editor



Lee Kools



Kevin Vance

Wine Survivor—2022 Fundraiser

With much gratitude...



Through Facebook, Greg and Wendy Splan ran a successful fundraiser in 2021. They carried on the tradition this winter with their second fundraiser, Friends of Learning Wine Survivor 2022.

Greg and Wendy moved to Cape Breton in May last year and have maintained in contact with many Brethren in the Barton Lodge and the Scottish Rite. With the move this year's Survivor was just like last years, but they didn't award wine, they gave away "loot." This year 114 castaways, participated in 2-week daily eliminations, and the opportunity to buy back immunity and stay in the game. The Final Tribal Council was

on February 12th and held live on Zoom. The winning tribe was the Thirsty Stragglers. The daily fun resulted in \$4204 for the Learning Centre for Hamilton.

"This has been an amazing display of our Brethren, friends, family, co-workers, acquaintances, and their respective connections generosity towards the great work done at the Learning Centre. Each castaway deserves a huge "Thank you" for their support." Greg and Wendy

Great thanks to Greg and Wendy and all others who supported last years and this this year's fundraising event. Sincerely, Learning Centre for Hamilton

THANK YOU STRICT OBSERVANCE NO. 27 G.R.C.

The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre for Hamilton expresses much thanks to the Lodge of Strict Observance A.F. & A.M., No. 27, G.R.C. for their donation of \$4000 that completes their pledge of \$31,000 to the Learning Centre. The Learning Centre is very grateful for the initial donation of \$15 000 followed by four \$4000 donations.

"We very much appreciate the generous support of Lodges such as yours and for the continuing support of many concordant bodies. Benevolence in all its iterations has, and continues to be, the hallmark of Masonry. We will continue to proudly display the tutoring room plaques (in memory of Richard G. Skinner and David Cartwright, and the Lodge of Strict Observance No. 27), recognising your lodge's most generous assistance in recognition of your foundational contributions."

President Michael Kirk and Learning Centre Board of Directors

SCOTTISH RITE GOLF CLASSIC — 2022

The Scottish Rite Valley of Hamilton is finally getting back to their Annual Golf Tournament from which they donate the proceeds to the Hamilton Learning Centre and the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation.

Here is what they have raised in the past for the Hamilton Learning Centre:

\$5,000 in 2019

\$5,750 in 2018

\$10,500 in 2017 (all proceeds went to the Learning Centre this year)

\$4,750 in 2016

\$3,450 in 2015

The committee is looking for sponsors and door prizes to be donated. If you can sponsor, have a door prize, or have questions or concerns, please contact committee member Leslie Drake. Thank you. leslie@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com

The Learning Centre thanks everyone for the wonderful donations

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

David Amis
Barbara Baxter
Michael Baxter
George Benton
Brenda and Dave Walden Family Foundation
Les Brown
Stewart C. Bruce
Cambridge and North Dumfries Community Foundation
Canada Helps
Dale Chapman
Wah Chung
Amy Collard
Lorraine Cooper
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Alana Henderson
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James Hilgendorff
McAllister Horne
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Robert Kerr
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Kelly Mackey
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Grant Parnell
Tariq Qurashi
RBC
Leah Solsky
George Stapleton
Ronald Stinson
The Lodge of Strict Observance AF & AM No.27 GRC
Donald D. Thornton
United Way of Greater Toronto
Valley of Peterborough

IDA ONTARIO



Consider looking up or joining International Dyslexia Association Ontario at idaontario.com. IDA promotes literacy through research, education, and advocacy. Anyone with an interest in dyslexia can join this site. Learning Centre for Hamilton tutor trainer and tutors are interested members and encourage masons, Board members, parents, volunteers, and others to consider joining.

On this site you can... learn about dyslexia, neurobiology of dyslexia, use of the term "dyslexia", dyslexia in other countries, personal stories, dyslexia resources, signs of dyslexia, early screening, and formal assessments for dyslexia.

On this site you can... find out more about the science of reading, structured literacy instruction and training, and the use of decodable readers. Last year IDA Ontario started working with the public libraries of Ontario and this year grants are available for libraries to purchase decodable books.

On this site you can... learn about supporting your child at school and home, hiring a professional, and assistant technologies.

On this site you can... learn about upcoming and community events and attend very informative webinars and training courses.

On this site you can... read about the newly released OHRC Right to Read Inquiry (Ontario Human Rights Commission) and view The Right to Read Symposium - breaking down barriers to education equity (March 25/2022).

Changes need to be made within the Ontario education system to address the needs of children with dyslexia, as it is the most common learning disability. Dyslexia is NOT related to intelligence or lack of desire to learn. Dyslexia is neurologically based. Reading and spelling skills can be strengthened through structured literacy and scientific-based Orton Gillingham instruction.

One-on-one, individualized sessions are delivered to children with dyslexia by trained tutors at the Learning Centre for Hamilton. "Learning to read is not a privilege, but a basic and essential human right." Thanks to the support of the Scottish Rite Foundation, masons, and donors, we are giving children the gifts and lifelong skills of reading and spelling.

Hamilton Learning Centre
148 George Street
Hamilton Ontario
L8P 1E5

Phone: 905 228-1236

Email: office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com





Learning Centre for Hamilton Donation Form
"Helping children with dyslexia to read"

Please consider one of the following:

I will contribute:

_____ A one-time gift _____ A monthly donation

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$300 _____ \$500 _____ Other \$ _____

_____ Cheque _____ VISA _____ Mastercard _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expiry Date: _____ CVD _____

Signature: _____

(Anyone donating \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt)
(Anyone donating \$500 or more will receive a certificate of thanks and a pin)

One-time donation considerations:

- CANADA HELPS https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn_31689
- E-Transfer: office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com
- Credit Card: Please send card #, expiry date, CVD code, and Postal Code to office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com
- Cheques: Payable to The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre for Hamilton

Monthly donation considerations:

- Please specify amount
- Please send to Centre office card #, expiry date, CVD code, and Postal Code to: office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com

Bequests:

- Please consider a donation to the Learning Centre for Hamilton when updating your will

Name:

Address:

City/Province/Postal Code:

Thank you. We are grateful for your support.
The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre for Hamilton
Charitable Tax Number # BN75398 4192 RR0001



Scottish Rite Golf Classic

Valley Of Hamilton



THE 93RD EDITION OF THE
"RED APPLE TROPHY"

PRESENTED TO THE LOW SCORE FOURSOM FROM ONE LODGE

FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH, 2022.

IN CASE OF COVID RESTRICTIONS A BACK UP DATE WILL BE PLANNED



PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT
ARE IN SUPPORT OF
SCOTTISH RITE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
AND THE LEARNING CENTRE
FOR CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA, HAMILTON

SOUTHBROOK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

4349 REGIONAL RD. 56 (HWY 56) BINBROOK, ONTARIO. L0R 1C0

HOLE IN ONE PRIZE \$ 10,000

AND

MENS AND LADIES LONGEST DRIVE & CLOSEST TO THE PIN

CHECK -IN	11:00 a.m.
LUNCH	11:45 a.m.
SHOTGUN TEE OFF	1:30 p.m.
CASH BAR	5:30 p.m.
DINNER	7:00 p.m.
PRESENTATIONS	7:00 p.m.

ENTRY FEE \$180
PER GOLFER

INCLUDES

GIFT
18 HOLE SCRAMBLE WITH CART
LUNCH
DINNER (PRIME RIB)
PRIZE TABLE
SILENT AUCTION

DINNER GUESTS \$70

REGISTER YOUR TEAM OR AS AN INDIVIDUAL BY FRIDAY JUNE 10TH 2022 BY CONTACTING
KEN ADAMSON 905 522-1622 Ext. 22 or hamiltonvalleygolf@gmail.com

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO : HAMILTON VALLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Scottish Rite Golf Classic

Valley Of Hamilton



Individual and Team Entry Form

REGISTER YOUR TEAM OR AS AN INDIVIDUAL BY FRIDAY JUNE 10TH 2022 BY CONTACTING
KEN ADAMSON 905 522-1622 Ext. 22 or hamiltonvalleygolf@gmail.com

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

*This form can be mailed to Ken Adamson, 4 Queen St. S. Hamilton L8V 1B2
or emailed to hamiltonvalleygolf@gmail.com*

MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: HAMILTON VALLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Challenge Trophy

The Barton Lodge Golf Challenge Trophy will be given to the lowest scramble score to a Lodge Foursome consisting of all lodge members.

\$180 per Golfer

Gift
Lunch

18 Hole Scramble with Golf Cart
Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin (Men and Women)
Hole In One Contest \$10 000

Dinner
Prize Table
(Dinner Only \$70)

