



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## OUR PURPOSE

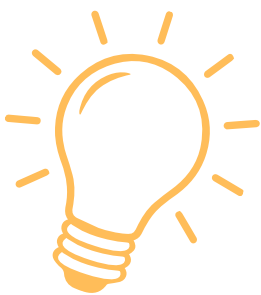
To promote literacy on Salt Spring Island by raising awareness, building partnerships, and providing services across a variety of literacy contexts to enable community members to participate fully in society.

## LITERACY IS

the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, compute, and use printed and written materials associated with varying contexts.

Literacy involves a continuum of learning to enable an individual to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in the wider society.

– UNESCO



**ELMA RUBRIGHT**  
FOUNDER

# OUR VALUES

**COLLABORATIVE**

**SERVICE  
ORIENTATION**

**CARE AND  
COMPASSION**

**RESPECT**

**INCLUSIVE**

**LEARNER-  
CENTRED**



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR IAN BRUNSKILL

Nearly half of British Columbians aged 16–65 struggle with some everyday tasks due to limited literacy and numeracy skills, demonstrating a critical need for the literacy services our organization provides. At Salt Spring Literacy, we are committed to a vision of a Salt Spring community where everyone has the skills to thrive.

Our board plays an important governance role, ensuring that the organization remains focused on our purpose: *“To promote literacy on Salt Spring Island by raising awareness, building partnerships, and providing services across a variety of literacy contexts to enable community members to participate fully in society”*. In 2025, we welcomed Lynn Sackville to the board. At our April AGM, we will also recognize the contributions of Julie van Soeren and Igor Darmokhid as they complete their terms. Our thanks to both for their contributions to the Board over the years.

2025 was another strong year for Salt Spring Literacy. On a personal note, I extend my sincere thanks to my fellow directors, our staff, and our volunteers for their ongoing commitment to advancing literacy in our community.

As reflected in the financial statements, more than 40% of our funding comes from the Books & Bling event. This is an enormous undertaking each year, and I want to express the Board’s thanks to our staff and the more than 200 volunteers who make this happen.

“WE ARE  
COMMITTED  
TO A VISION  
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WHERE  
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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Janet Kellar  
Vice Chair



Karen Clark  
Secretary



Mary Proulx  
Treasurer



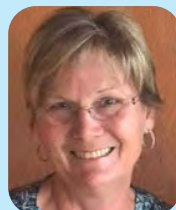
Igor Dormokhid  
Member At Large



Nancy Gerrish  
Member At Large



Lynn Sackville  
Member At Large



Julie van Soeren  
Member At Large

# 2025 SNAPSHOT

**135**

ADULTS  
SERVED

Tutored in English, technology, French, helped with forms, had exams invigilated or used our computer lab.

**1000+**

ADULT  
TUTOR  
HOURS

Some learners are working on an on-going basis, others as drop-ins.

**9**

COUNTRIES

Our learners are from nine countries: Canada, Ukraine, Japan, China, South Korea, Mexico, Cambodia, Turkey, and the Philippines.

**55**

CHILDREN  
TUTORED

In schools in our ONE TO ONE reading program and in our office.

**1600**

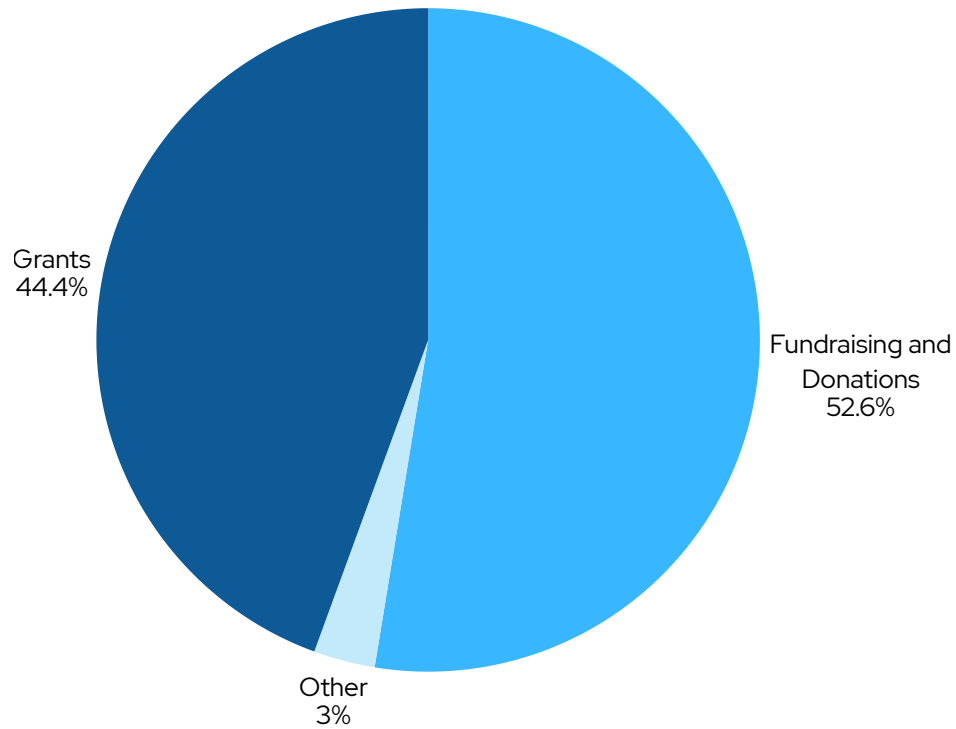
BOOKS  
DONATED

To preschool families through our 1000x5 program and at community events.

# 2025 REVENUES AND EXPENSES

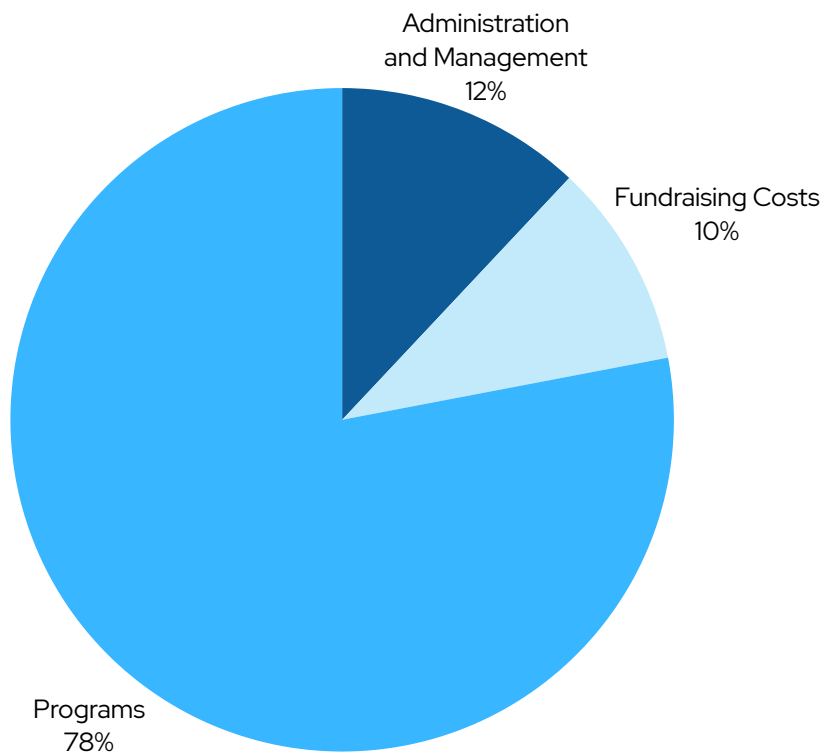
## REVENUE

\$149,750



## EXPENSES

\$152,546





## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STELLA WEINERT

These new contexts have been varied and inspiring:

- A session was held with women residents of IWAV's second stage housing. Accountant Bret Webb led the women in a financial literacy workshop, focusing on their concerns. Financial literacy is a critical life skill, and for women rebuilding their independence, understanding how to manage money can be transformative.
- We presented a workshop by a local teacher to introduce interested islanders to AI. The session was well-attended, and participants found it informative and have asked for more. As artificial intelligence becomes part of everyday life, helping community members understand and engage with these tools ensures no one is left behind in a rapidly changing digital world is critical.
- Math tutors went into Salt Spring Elementary School to pilot a math games program. Children played games to increase their conceptual understanding of the operations and their mental arithmetic skills. By bringing engaging, hands-on math activities directly into the school, we help children build numerical confidence early – skills that underpin everything from everyday problem-solving to future academic success.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on sustaining high-quality programs, exploring new ways to provide literacy support, and nurturing the partnerships that make our work possible – all with the goal of supporting the literacy skills of every community member who needs us. Plans are underway to launch an AI speakers' series and to train AI tutors, as well as to develop a program for parents to enable them to support their children's reading effectively. Salt Spring Island is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and engaged learners. It is a privilege to work alongside all of you.

### STAFF



Keiko Taylor  
*Children's Programs  
Coordinator*



Skye Larmour  
*Administrative  
Assistant*



Breann Pollock  
*Bookkeeper*

# OUR PROGRAMS

Our core programs deliver literacy services on Salt Spring Island at our office, local elementary schools, cafes, and the library and seniors' centre.

## ADULTS



### Adult One-on-One Tutoring

This year we were busier than ever providing ongoing tutoring to 30 adults. Tutoring is learner-centred guided by each adult learner's goals. Support is offered in learning English, French, reading, & writing, math, technology and course work. Tutoring by phone or Zoom is available.

"I'm very glad to have learning English opportunities here on Salt Spring Island with dedicated staff members and experienced tutors. I couldn't read an English book before I attended Salt Spring Literacy also I did not have a passion to do that. But now I'm enjoying it very much because our tutor is helping me to keep reading. Now learning English is part of my life and I would like to improve my writing in the future."

– Hiro, learner

### Tech Help

Tech tutoring is offered by appointment at the literacy centre. Help is available for cell phones, tablets, and laptops, mac or pc. We also tutor at Meadowbrook and the SS Seniors Centre.

### New! Learn to Do Your Taxes Online

Learners with simple returns are guided with tutor support to complete their own taxes using an online program.

"I am so impressed with my tutor's help with filing my tax returns. I can now do the filing on my own. This is a wonderful service. Many thanks to the literacy centre."

– Frances H, learner



### Collective Kitchen

Sessions are offered for those on low incomes on planning healthy meals and ways to save money on food costs. Last year sessions were held for seniors and for food bank clients.

"For me this adventure has not only been about creating healthy meals. The program has been beneficial in so many unexpected ways. I have had fun learning new skills, sharing tasks, trying new foods and making new friends while learning about nutrition and how to make better food choices."

– Kathy W, participant

## OTHER SERVICES

### Forms

Help with forms and resumes is available by appointment.

### Exam Invigilation

We provide in-person invigilation or a private room for online invigilation with a computer and internet if required.

### Computer Lab

Three computers are available for use free by the public during office hours, Monday-Thursday 12:00-4:00.

# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

"At the end of the scholastic year when I ask the tutors to reflect on their experience of reading with the children, they invariably beam and go into an anecdote about how wonderful their experience was. When we ask the children, we usually get a similar response."

– Keiko Taylor, Children's Programs Coordinator

## 1000 x 5

Our 1000 x 5 program continued to support daycares and the three ELF programs with books for preschool families. The price of children's books has increased but because of fundraising and the generosity of the Raffi Foundation, we were able to continue to buy quality books. Also, we are lucky that our community supports us by returning gently used books to be redistributed to the programs.

## ONE TO ONE Reading Program

As it has been approximately 10 years since its inception, the ONE TO ONE reading program is changing to reflect current trends in reading education. Besides buying new reading materials, we have added more games to our training sessions that align with the school district focus on phonics.

"One memory that sticks with me is the surprise and excitement in a young boy's face when he realized he had read through a book he hadn't been able to read before. This is just one of many happy and fulfilling experiences I have had working with this program."

– Robyn, tutor

## Family Literacy Themed Workshops & Events

Themed workshops and events are held throughout the year, often in partnership with the Salt Spring Island Public Library. Here families enjoy an interactive performance by Tangles the clown.



## New! Math games tutoring

A math games pilot program was run at Salt Spring Elementary. Our tutors played math games with students that increased their understanding and skills.

"Working one on one doing games was very effective. Could see ease and confidence improving. I'm in if you do this again..."

– Sylvia, tutor

## Individual tutoring

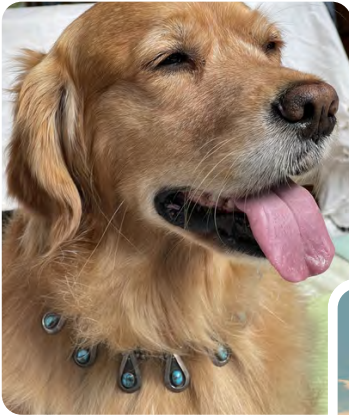
We provide tutors to families requesting support. This year we supported children with math in both the high school and elementary school, others in learning English, and with reading.



# BOOKS & BLING



The Books & Bling sale, a community institution, is eagerly anticipated by many. Last year was another successful year. Not only does Books & Bling raise needed funds for our programs, it sends thousands of books into our community and adds a whole lot of bling sparkle to people's lives. Truly a literacy tsunami!



**\$65,000**  
raised



**200+**  
volunteers

**2,173**  
attended



**11**  
years and  
counting!

**2,723**  
volunteer  
hours





# THANK YOU TO...

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## OUR FUNDERS

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## OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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- Country Grocer
- CRD
- Island Savings
- IWAV
- Mouats Trading Co.
- PARC
- School District 64
- SS Library
- SS Seniors' Centre
- SSI Community Services

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## OUR BOOKS & BLING SPONSORS

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- Premier Catering Sponsors: Country Grocer and Thrifty Foods
- Volunteer Food & Beverage Sponsors: Barb's Bakery & Bistro, Embe Bakery, Francis Bread, Salt Spring Coffee, Saltspring Water Co. and the Woodshed
- Preview Night Sponsors: Country Grocer, the GISS Culinary Program and DJ David Jacquest
- Venue Sponsors: Windsor Plywood and Pacific Paint Salt Spring Island
- Media and Marketing Sponsors: Gulf Islands Driftwood, Salt Spring Exchange and Contour Graftix
- Barry and his team at the Farmers' Institute

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## OUR FRIENDS

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- The many individuals who donate books or jewelry to Books & Bling
- Our generous financial donors
- The uncountable volunteers who make Salt Spring Literacy a success!

