

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY IN TRANSFORMATIONAL LITERACY



OCLC Symposium on *Transformational Literacy: life stages and libraries,
museums and archives*

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www.beyondthebookproject.org

Guiding Concepts

- readers (print, online, various definitions)
- books (print and electronic)
- information and knowledge (accessible, collaboratively created, managed)
- literacy (traditional, media, new media; cultural; trans)
- community (f2f, virtual, imagined, ephemeral, geographical and physical)



Beyond Words



Source: <http://blissinateacup.blogspot.com/2009/03/disparity.html>

Beverly's Beyond Words

I: What are the materials? When you say “materials” –

B: Well, it's just labels and, um, when I do mailings and things, you know, stamps and things like that. We only had a little bit at the start, but it lasted all that time. And then I get a little bit, um, every six weeks for when we do the book club meeting, but most of it goes to food.

.....

B: No, we pay for the food but we get it catered, and it's awesome because we use the community -- the money goes back into the community. And they're really – it's so awesome because, I mean, life – they know Life Skills and they know me in the community and so, it's not like we're paying an arm and a leg at all. But the fact that we're actually putting the money back into the community is the most important part, and I stick within the community. I switch up all the time.

Beverly's Beyond Words

I: Can I ask, personally, like, why this for *you*?

....

I: But have you always been a reader?

B: No, it's just weird. You'll know what happened: what happened was, I worked on this Outreach Van for a year-and-a-half. And I ended up knowing every – getting to know every woman who was down here because that's what the Outreach Van was, for working women at night. So for a year-and-a-half, well, I had already known people but then that really opened the doors to trust and communication and relationships, and the women don't trust, nor do they want to communicate nor have relationships with, just anybody? But they just knew I okay, *always*. And so I built awesome relationships –

Beverly's Beyond Words

I: It's your hair.

B: [laughing] I just build awesome relationships with the women, and they just love me and they really trust me. And then, I guess when Missing Sarah – when Maggie was doing that – I guess that they just thought I would be the one to recruit and get women to come and it did work awesomely and has done. It fluctuates, each book club, because that's the way it is. But we've never had a bad book club; never, not even once.

...

Beverly's Beyond Words

B: I'm so happy! Because you don't know how busy I've been. What we do is – this is great – when we get down to, like – okay, this was our last book of the three, because we go in threes. This is next book, which we got ahead of time. So this one, this is the third one, and then we're going to revote again. What we do is we vote.

I: Oh, which I think has not been – that's the one after Green Grass, Running Water?

Beverly's Beyond Words

B: Yeah, this is the last one of our three that we selected. We usually choose them a minimum of three at a time; if we can, more, just so we know where we're headed. And what I do is I just – we do flip – like, at the last meeting, when we have this meeting, we do a flipchart to vote.

I: Oh, okay.

B: And what I do is I just do a flipchart and we – I get all the women to tell me all the books they want to read or they'd read or they're heard of, and then we list them all. And then we vote!

Beverly's Beyond Words

I: So it goes on the flipchart paper, and –

B: And then we vote!

....

B: The women choose the books, and then we vote. We vote, hands up.

I: So yeah, so you've done The Lovely Bones, She's Come Undone...

B: Oh, we've done all of these.

I: Oh, you've done them?

Beverly's Beyond Words

B: Well, not all of them: we've done Monkey Beach, She's Come Undone, not that one, not that one –

I: Home at the End of the World...

B: A Fine Balance.

I: A Fine Balance, that's a difficult read!

B: Yeah, that was a really difficult read. Um...and then we've done – oh yeah, we did Dream Life Under Bridges.

Beverly's Beyond Words

I: Dream Life? What – what are the groups – for what other books have you brought in the author, other than Maggie?

B: Oh, we brought in, um, Chrysalis. Chrysalis? She wrote, um, Fire Power; it was a poetry book.

I: Oh! How did that go?

Beverly's Beyond Words

B: Oh, that was cool. We brought in, um –

I: Did you bring in [____?] –

B: The Dream Life – the lady with the Dream Life; she lived in Strathcona. It was about her daughter, and her daughter committed suicide, and so because she lived so close – and that was an *awesome* author! She was an awesome – she wrote the book A Dream Life of Bridges?

Beverly's Beyond Words

...

B: A Dream Life Under the Bridge: Addiction and Survival. Yeah, the lady's daughter passed away – anyway, she lives over here so she came for that, and that was awesome! Bringing her there was just awesome! Um...we've had – and of course Maggie's been here. We've had a few. We try to get B.C. authors if we can, but sometimes we can't.

I: And why would you do that?

B: Because we want to keep it in the community. It's all about community. It's all about community.

Beverly's Beyond Words

I: Yeah. And it obviously – with Maggie, she sort of set the kind of *tone* for it, didn't she?

B: Yeah, well Mary and Maggie, I think, have both set the tone. It's also – it's what the women *want*. Like –

...

B: That's what's so great. Well, whatever the women want, we try to accommodate. Because, see, we get so much – you know, there's a lot of shit that goes on down here and everybody comes in and invades our community, and try to take it over or try to run it, and it's like, "No! It's our community, so we get to choose what we want with our book club," and that's how it's done.

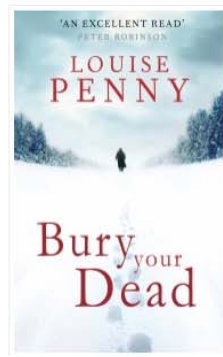


one BOOK one COMMUNITY

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The 2011 book is *Bury Your Dead* by Louise Penny! Explore the [author](#), [book](#), [online resources](#) here. Get involved with [events](#) and [discussion](#).

Our Region Reads!



Keep reading with OBOC – check out our [past years](#) for some great titles and resources.



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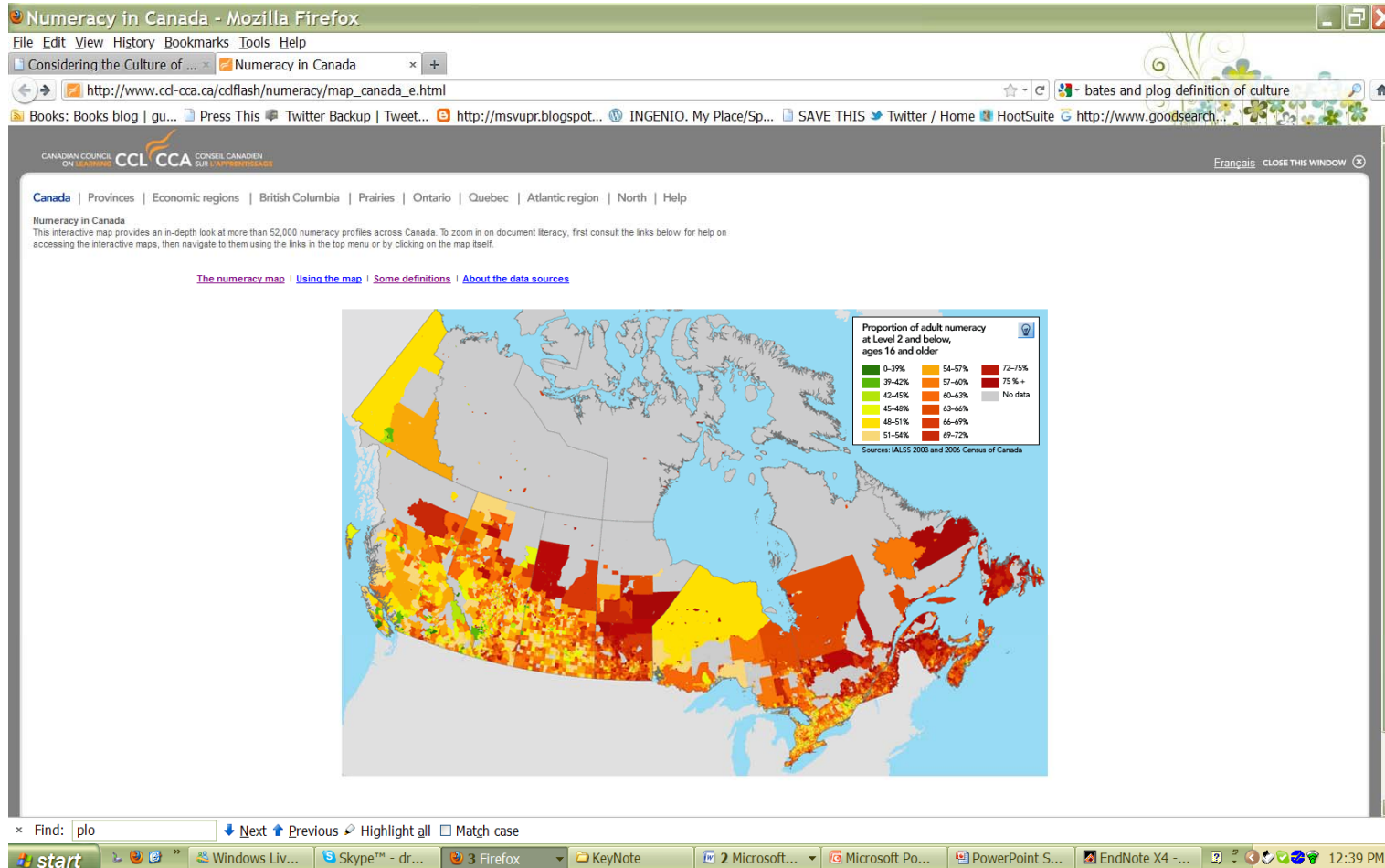


Chicago's Humboldt Park Branch Library Book Club invite us to think about the communities that "One Book" programs may create as we participate in their book discussion.

Culture, defined

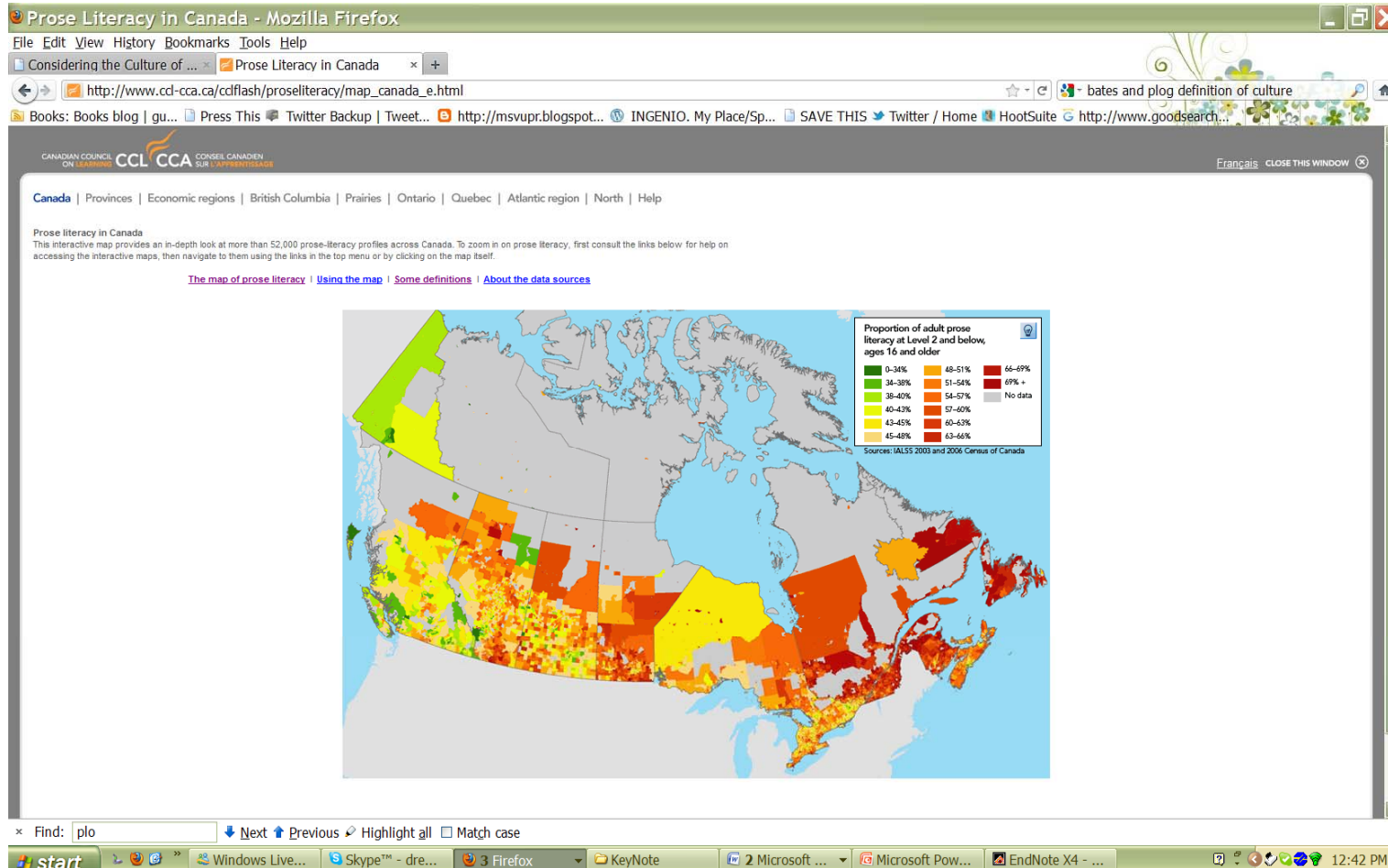
“The system of shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours, and artifacts that the members of society use to cope with their world and with one another, and that are transmitted from generation to generation through learning” (Bates and Plog, 1991, p. 4).

Numeracy Literacy



http://www.ccl-cca.ca/cclflash/numeracy/map_canada_e.html

Prose Literacy



http://www.ccl-cca.ca/cclflash/proseliteracy/map_canada_e.html

Not as literate as we might think

DOCUMENT LITERACY

Health Literacy

"Skills to enable access, understanding and use of information for health."

(http://www.ccl-cca.ca/cclflash/healthliteracy/map_help_e.html)

Densmore's *Information Valet*

....will compete across geographic and topical spheres with search, advice, community, research, linking, hosting, data storage and other services. They will compete to be best at meeting the consumer's diverse information needs within communities defined by individual users. Information resources will not typically be owned by the valet. Rather, the valet will be compensated for finding, shaping and referring them to the consumer, much as a retailer aggregates and merchandises for wholesalers.

<http://informationvalet.org/>


New Media Literacies

Henry Jenkins and his New Media Literacies team at USC Annenberg.

- Create, circulate, connect, collaborate

Transliterations

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Libraries and Transliteracy Like

Education



Basic Information

Founded 2009

About A place to discuss and share information about libraries and transliteracy <http://librariesandtransliteracy.wordpress.com/>

Company Overview How it all began, the meeting of libraries and transliteracy.

As more people join the group I thought it would be useful to provide an overview of how the idea of libraries and transliteracy all began.

The definition of transliteracy comes from the people at <http://www.transliteracy.com> "Transliteracy is the ability to read, write and interact across a range of platforms, tools and media from signing and orality through handwriting, print, TV, radio and film, to digital social networks." They consider it a working definition.

When I stumbled across it a light clicked on in my head, you can read my initial post on it here <http://librarianbyday.net/2009/09/libraries-need-to-focus-on-transliteracy/>

Shortly there after I created this slideshow which helped the idea spread <http://librarianbyday.net/2009/10/libraries-and-transliteracy-slideshow/> (read less)

Mission Promote the focus on transliteracy in libraries


Products <http://connect.ala.org/node/109153>
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Likes and Interests

Likes Digital Democracy, Knight Soul of the Community, Knight Arts Challenge, Partnership for 21st Century Skills, National Center for Family Literacy, News Literacy, Library Renewal, ALA OITP, Save Libraries, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, T is for Training, 23 Things Kansas, Librarian by Day, Transliteracy


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 Donna Bourne-Tyson and Denyse Rodrigues like this.

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Chat (35)

Transformational Literacy

YOUR TURN

Communities obvious in One Book, One City projects

- Imagined
- Ephemeral
- Geographical/Physical

The Great Reading Adventure: Bristol's Imagined Community

P2: Well that's one of the important things with the paper actually. 'Cause people who **if all they do is read the book and read the paper**, on their forms **they felt part of something bigger** and that's sort of comes into why the school children like it cause they see things about it in the paper that feels, that... (over talk).

P1: **There's a real feel of being part of the big thing.**
People have said things to me like oh yes well our reading group's just read the Siege cause we had to read the Bristol book.

(Bristol Producers, 20 April 2005)

One Book, One Vancouver (imagined and real)

Janice: I'd... say there's an aspect of community *building* about the whole process. You know, I see the library as a – you know, a place that helps build community and, you know, just the feeling of everybody reading this one book together: “We’re this community; we’re Vancouver.” (OBOV producers, 13 June 2006)

Ephemeral Community

COREY: I find that books are a really great way to talk to that person on the bus that's just sitting beside you, you don't know them, but they're reading a book, and you're like, "Wow, I read that book, I wonder what that person thinks about that book." They're is this girl on the bus today, and we were walking down the street and each holding books, and we were like, "What's your book?" I think that's one of the things I like about books, just seeing books in places that aren't the library or somebody curled up and reading. Just out in the open, just books. I like people talking about books.

(CR FG 2, 26 April 2006)

Memories: Bikes and Books

I always read as a child, I was a big reader, I was always, you know, pedalling to the library on my bicycle. I would check out...my parents were, that was one good thing, my parents would let me free rein, you know, whatever I wanted to read, I read. They didn't censor me, which was good. (Big Read FG 1 Non part 3 May 2007)

I just loved it! I had a basket on the front of my bike and I would ride down the library and get as many books as I could cram into the basket, and then I'd juggle it home and then I'd sit and I'd read my books. And I just – it was wonderful! I could escape to all these new places and...(OBOV FG 4 participants 11 June 2006)

Wrong Message











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DEC 09 **2011One Book, One Calgary**

Posted in: One Book One Calgary Articles | Date: 2010-12-09 | Author: One Book Admin

Thanks to everyone who participated in Calgary Public Library's first One Book One Calgary. Help us choose the next title and make your recommendation today! What book would you suggest that all Calgarians read during the 2011 One Book, One Calgary? Why is this a gr... [More](#)

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NOV 30 **Maverick Calgary Waymarking Challenge**

Posted in: One Book One Calgary Articles | Date: 2010-11-30 | Author: One Book Admin

Thank you to everyone who participated in One Book, One Calgary's waymarking challenge. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to explore our city's story with your family and friends. The contest is now closed and we will contact the winners of Mavericks: An Incorrigible H.....[More](#)

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NOV 26 **Maveri-city: Calgary**

Posted in: One Book One Calgary Articles | Date: 2010-11-26 | Author: One Book Admin

How are they going to keep us home on the range, Calgary Mavericks? Once we discover we're free of all the definitions and destinations, after we kick the traces, no brand on these little dogies, unorthodox, independent, firebrands and free-thinkers, suffragettes and protesters... [More](#)

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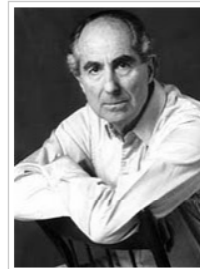
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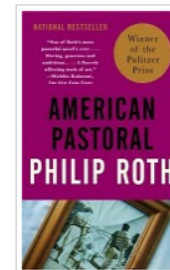
Philip Roth wins Man Booker Prize

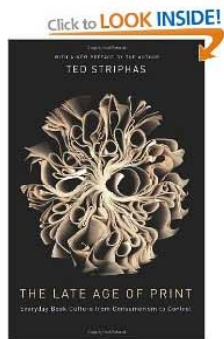


Philip Roth has won the 2011 Man Booker Prize for his overall contribution to literature.

Born in 1933 in New Jersey, Roth has had an enduring and most successful literary career. He has been nominated for and has won many literary awards including the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for **American Pastoral**.

"As the American century draws to an uneasy close, Philip Roth gives us a novel of unqualified greatness that is an elegy for all our century's promises of prosperity, civic order, and domestic bliss. Roth's protagonist is Swede Levov, a legendary athlete at his Newark high school, who grows up in the booming postwar years to marry a former Miss New Jersey, inherit his father's glove factory, and move into a stone house in the idyllic hamlet of Old Rimrock. And then one day in 1968, Swede's beautiful American luck deserts





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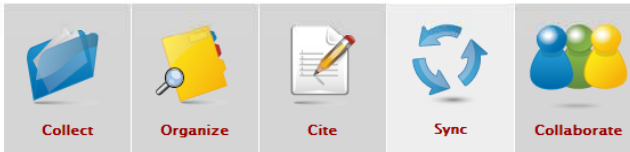
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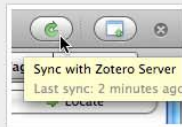


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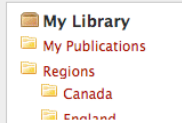
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Librarians fight for a role in a digital world

KATE HAMMER EDUCATION REPORTER— From Monday's Globe and Mail Published Monday, May. 16, 2011 1:00AM EDT Last updated Monday, May. 16, 2011 8:23AM EDT

86 comments

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In a time before the internet, children gathered among stacks of books arranged according to letters and numbers taped to their spines. There, a wise person known as a teacher-librarian would guide students' imaginations to far off places through the pages of atlases, encyclopedias and other rare texts.

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Beverly's Beyond Words

B: This is what we do, but we're not even finished. But this was a – you should've seen this library before, man! You would've found nothing! But we did everything from boxes. We put everything in boxes first and they categorized them and labeled them, and then put them on the shelves. And this is just the beginning because now that the books are up, we're doing all the furniture: we're gonna have lighting; we're gonna have plants; we're gonna have a computer; we're gonna have little separate tables so people can read in their own spaces.

....

Beverly's Beyond Words

B: Beth is how I did the library – Beth and Heather.

I: Oh, did they do that?

B: Yeah, Beth and Heather got the contract through Life Skills, and Heather was her assistant from [_____] through UBC who I worked with for a month here. And we just – we kicked it off, we did this even under – earlier than we anticipated on the time budget.

I: Oh, really?

Beverly's Beyond Words

B: We had so much fun, but we worked together as a team. She's a wonderful lady and so is Beth.

I: So Heather was – is she doing library school? Is that --

B: She's actually looking for a permanent job. She's on interviews right now. She wants to be a librarian, but that – this was her practicum for her finishing at UBC.

I: Really?!

Beverly's Beyond Words

B: And she loved it! And you know, I even asked her when it was ending, I really wanted honest answers because that's the way I am: so I got – I asked her, like, “Was she scared to come down here?” I honestly did, because I really wanted honest – and she goes, “No.” And I go, “well, did you ever think that maybe – like, all the shit you hear and now you come down and see it for yourself. What do you think?” She honestly answered me. And just things I always wanted to know, because obviously it's really important – because you'd be amazed at what people think when they come down here. They're, like, so ignorant.

I welcome your feedback. Contact me at:

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