



The Valley Council of the International Reading Association (VCIRA) is pleased to announce that we recently received our official charter. We have joined more than 1200 affiliates of the International Reading Association already active in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, Oceania and North America. This achievement represents about two years of groundwork from a dedicated group of Chilliwack educators.

On Tuesday, April 26 author Ben Gadd was the guest speaker at our second VCIRA AGM held at Sardis South Campus. A renowned naturalist, Ben read from the book “Raven’s End: A Tale of the Canadian Rockies”. This excellent children’s book blends the natural world with the fantastic and the teachers in attendance found his folksy speaking style to be both relaxing and entertaining. In addition, a “new” council was elected which includes all current officers from the 2004 Executive plus newcomers Patricia Kennedy and Angela Norris as Members at Large.

Meredyth Kezar, the provincial coordinator of the IRA, was in attendance at the meeting and offered words of congratulations and encouragement to the newly chartered council. Meredyth, along with VCIRA president Greg Nelmes and Ben Gadd, were interviewed by a reporter from the Chilliwack Times newspaper. An article about our new council appeared in the May 17 issue of the local paper.

Future goals include building the membership base and improving our internal and external communication links. Presently, the majority of our members are based out of Chilliwack but we are hoping to attract more members from Abbotsford, Mission, Agassiz-Harrison and Hope. The annual fee for a VCIRA membership is \$10 and more information regarding the benefits of belonging to VCIRA can be obtained by contacting gnelmes@shaw.ca.

2004 - 2005 Executive

President	Greg Nelmes
Vice-President	David Wellingham
Secretary//Communications	Wade Gemmell,
Treasurer	Alexa Wandl
Membership Chairperson	Richard Quiring
Members at Large	Victor Froese.
	Angela Norris
	Patricia Kennedy