

# Renowned children's author addresses literacy

By Rick Fralick  
Staff writer

The joy of reading has been a constant in Janet Lunn's life for as long as she can remember.

"I've always been a reader — even before I could read, my older sister used to read to me," the award-winning children's author told a group of about 35 parents attending the first-ever literacy workshop Feb. 12 at Pinecrest Memorial School in Bloomfield.

"I never got over the joy of learning to read," she added. "The thought that I could lift those black letters off the page and make them into something filled me with wonder."

Unlike television, Lunn theorizes that reading a story forces

children to use their imaginations, by leading them to envision plot lines beyond what the author has written on the page.

"People get stories from TV, but they don't get to add their own ideas and vision."

"Everyone who reads, learns how to use their imagination," she said, adding that any writer works in co-operation with the reader, in that, anyone who reads a book will have their own version of the story, as distinct from other readers of the same story.

Lunn cautions parents that it is up to them provide rich literature and foster a love of reading in their children.

"TV is so seductive, it's a great babysitter, but think about language such as one finds in the

Bible. Where will our children get this language if we don't give them the books?" Lunn asked.

"But don't fall into the Hardy Boys trap," she entreated. "YOU pick something wonderful — something they'll remember all their lives, and your children will have a sense of language they would not otherwise have had."

Lunn recalled that reading to each other was a popular pastime within her family, especially when her five children were young. When her husband was dying six or seven years ago, they maintained the tradition of reading to each other right up to the time of his death.

"It's not a bad way to end your life; it's not a bad way to spend your life," she said of the enriching

power of the written word.

Janet Lunn was born in Dallas, Texas and came to Canada at the age of 17 to study at Queen's University in Kingston. While there, she met and eventually married Richard Lunn and never did return to the United States to live. Since 1968 she has lived in an old farm house on Pleasant Bay in Hillier Township.

Earlier, Pinecrest principal Dave MacKay referred to Lunn as one of the natural resources of Prince Edward County, especially where the promotion of reading with children is involved.

Of the Parents as Partners — Encouraging Literacy Development at Home project, MacKay describes it as an extension of what is being accomplished in the schools' peer tutoring programs, where older students help younger students improve their literacy skills.

Peer tutoring co-ordinator

Rhonda Martinussen now head of the schools in the Prince Edward public system or with peer tutoring after development and implementing pilot projects last year at Pinecrest and Marysburgh schools.

"The parents have been pleased with peer tutoring through the Parents' Advisory Council. Pinecrest asked me to put something for the whole county," MacKay said, adding that the workshop was sponsored by Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, the Ontario School Teachers' Federation and the Parents' Advisory Council both Pinecrest and Kente schools.

"I liked the idea because of the nice partnership between the parents and the teachers," he said.

This is the first time Pinecrest has tried a project of this nature and based on response from participants, MacKay says he will hold another next year.



Roger Lenney, a trustee with the Prince Edward County Board of Education, chats with Janet Lunn following her keynote address at the literacy workshop Feb. 12 at Pinecrest School.

## Retail outlet may come to Belleville

THE INTELLIGENCER, Tuesday, December 13, 1994

# White Rose to open growing station in Hillier

By Jack Evans  
The Intelligencer

HILLIER — The Huycks Point Road in this township will soon become the location of Prince Edward County's newest industry. The giant gardening and crafts retailer, White Rose, is in the final stages of purchasing a 130-acre farm site destined to become the company's second growing station in Ontario.

Marlene Oilgisser, the company's vice president of finance,

said in a telephone interview Monday that the company expects to close the transaction in March. "Then we'll start getting greenhouses up right away and hope to harvest our first crop there in August."

She said the Hillier Township property, about 25 kilometres south of Belleville, represents both an expansion and a re-allocation of growing space for White Rose, specifically for flowering shrubs and perennials.

"We're looking forward to the extra space and to expanding

into the Quinte area," she said.

She added that Belleville is "on the list" as a future White Rose retail location, and could be included in one of the several new stores targeted to open in 1996.

Potential new jobs is the most exciting aspect of the project for Hillier Township officials. "We were told they might need up to 50 or more workers," said Hillier clerk-treasurer Brian Quibell.

Oilgisser confirmed that number, but cautioned that it

would mean a staff of mostly seasonal workers.

Quibell said he could see no unusual problems in completing the transaction in zoning, as the

land is already zoned for agriculture. "I think the only holdup condition is the provincial permit to pipe water from Huyck Bay," he said.

Oilgisser said she sees no reason for any delay in completing the purchase and getting the new growing area on stream.