

English teachers Martz and McCoubrey publish *Lit Parade*

CASSANDRA KERWIN

CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

On May 22 at Cégep de Sainte-Foy, after years of hard work, English teachers Carol Ann Martz and Karen McCoubrey presented their manual and accompanying glossary.

Lit Parade: Short Stories, Poems and Creative Writing is intended as an educational book for CEGEP-level English literature courses.

The book is an engaging read which would make any bookworm eager to answer the questions and complete the exercises. It is divided into seven themed chapters, each opening with either a short story or a poem, followed by questions and writing exercises. For the book, Martz and McCoubrey used excerpts from works by nine Canadian, four American and seven classic authors and poets. All chapters follow the "ABC" format: Analysis and



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

English literature teachers Carol Ann Martz and Karen McCoubrey put their 20 years of experience and research into a CEGEP textbook, *Lit Parade: Short Stories, Poems and Creative Writing*.

comprehension questions, Building connections and Creative writing. In addition, there are numerous examples of various writing styles.

"We wanted to make it for modern-day classes," said McCoubrey. "We designed with our students in mind. It is ideal for the 15-week semester." They also created a four-page laminated glossary for 65 terms, words and categories often used in literary analysis.

Once the book was completed, it needed a title. "We both felt strongly about the

word 'parade' because it [has] a connotation of movement, joy and energy, which is everything that people try to bring in a parade. It is everything we feel about literature and want to share with our students as we teach them," said Martz. "Now that *Lit Parade* and the glossary are published, we are working on the teacher's guidebook." Their objective is to offer this course material to other CEGEPs. If it catches on, it can be used for Grade 12 courses elsewhere in Canada and potentially in the United



Retired English teacher Carol Ann Martz and her former colleague Karen McCoubrey authored the CEGEP English literature textbook *Lit Parade*.

States.

"As I was getting closer to my retirement, I realized that I didn't want to stop working, as much as I wanted to stop

correcting and start creating," said Martz. "Karen and I have been working together for 20 years. I went up to her about this idea of taking our ideas

to the next level. She said, 'Yes.' I went to work two weeks after retirement in 2023, and together we created and wrote *Lit Parade*."