



The RCCUP Reader

Newsletter of the Renfrew County Community Upgrading Program

Issue #38

June 2004

Annual General Meeting

Forty people attended RCCUP's Annual General Meeting and Potluck supper on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at the St. James Church Hall in Eganville. Once again, the food was outstanding and nobody went away hungry. Between dinner and the meeting, students Helen Townley and Wayne Porte read poems they had written.

The business of the meeting included the 2003/2004 Auditor's report, presented by Treasurer Rosemary Cammaert. Again this year, program costs above the Ministry funding RCCUP receives were covered through fundraising events and funds held in reserve. MacKillican & Associates were appointed auditors for 2004/2005.

Chairperson Betty Studd reviewed some of the year's many Board and committee activities, including an active program of fundraising. Betty is retiring from the Board after serving since the early days of the program. Lee presented her with a flowering plant and expressed warm thanks on behalf of Literacy Plus for all she has done for us.

Coordinators Lee Torvi, Peggy Bridgland and Diane Litchfield then dramatized their joint report as a skit. One by one, they pulled from a box various props—a hammer, a map, a big red heart, a

discarded book, and binoculars—to symbolize events from the past year.

On behalf of the Nominating and Board Membership Committee, Sharon Bond presented the slate of directors nominated for 2004/05. The membership approved the following Board of Directors:

Doyne Ahern
Rosemary Cammaert
Sharon Bond
Helen Dixon
Dave Fisher
Reg Gatenby
Michele Joyce
Marcia Perryman
Ethel Ryan
Darlene Walker



Linda Buttle will continue to attend as an ex-officio member. Our thanks again to Betty Studd, and thanks as well to Sheila Hass and Debra Leech, who left the Board during the year.

At a short Board meeting held after the AGM, the following appointments were made: Doyne Ahern, Chairperson; Sharon Bond, Vice Chairperson; Michele Joyce, Secretary; Rosemary Cammaert, Treasurer.

Next year's AGM will be held on Wednesday, June 15. Copies of this year's annual report are available from the office.

Summer Hours

RCCUP's office will be closed as of Monday, June 28, and will reopen with regular hours Monday, August 30. Computer-based classes will start again the week of September 20. Sue will be in regularly through the summer to pick up mail and messages and to file our required statistics reports.

Tutors and students who are meeting in July and August, **please continue to send in your tutor reports right after your last meeting in each month.** Sue will need your hours for the statistics reports. Diane will review those sent by e-mail and try to respond to concerns you may have. She will be away July 26 - August 16.

Calendar



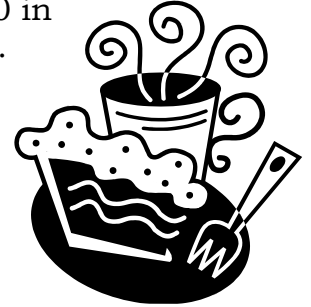
- July 6 - Mary Cook reads
- July 13 - Marilyn Simonds reads
- July 20 - Helen Humphreys reads
- July 21 - M.G. Vassanji reads
- Sept. 7 - Swing for Literacy
- Sept. 8 - International Literacy Day
- Sept. 20 - computer-based classes start
- Oct. 8 - workshops start:
Getting & Keeping a Job

Superior Propane Fundraiser

The Superior Propane Fill-Up for Literacy was held May 1. In spite of the rain that threatened all day, the event raised more than \$900. RCCUP offers sincere thanks to the staff at Superior Propane for their continued support of literacy and RCCUP. We are also very grateful to Ron Nelson's IGA, the Barry's Bay IGA, Pembroke Foodliner and Super-C for their donations of drinks, hamburgers and hotdogs for the barbecue.

Literary Tuesdays in July

Tickets are now on sale for Literary Tuesdays in July. After playing to capacity crowds last year at Frisco's restaurant, readings this year will be held in the more spacious hall at St. James Church in Eganville. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Once again, the price of admission will include coffee and dessert. The evening events will start at 7:30 p.m. This year's wonderful authors are:



July 6 - Mary Cook, well-known CBC contributor, storyteller, and author of many books including *Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire* and *Another Place at the Table*

July 13 - Marilyn Simonds, author of *The Convict Lover*, *The Lion in the Room* *Next Door* and the new and highly praised *The Holding*

July 20 - Helen Humphreys, author of *Leaving Earth*, *Afterimage* and *The Lost Garden*

July 27 - M. G. Vassanji, winner of the Giller Prize in 2003 for *The In-Between* *World of Vikram Lall* and in 1999 for *The Book of Secrets*.

Please note that the dates for Mary Cook and Helen Humphreys have changed since the March newsletter.

Advance tickets are available at the Bonnechere Public Library, the Eganville Bakery, the Hummdinger (Golden Lake), the Arnprior Book Shop, the Renfrew Book Shop, the Village Pharmacy (Killaloe), Lorraine's IDA (Barry's Bay), and Coles Book Store (Pembroke).

If you are unable to buy tickets at these locations, you may be able to reserve them by phoning Doyne Ahern at 754-2112.

Swing for Literacy

Golfers and would-be golfers, circle September 7 on your calendars and plan to come out to the Oaks of Cobden and swing for literacy. The Retired Educational Open tournament is open to all golfers, novice and experienced. The 18-hole, four-ball scramble starts at 12:00 noon and ends with dinner and the awarding of prizes. There will be prizes for all kinds of achievement—closest to the hole, most honest team—and prize draws as well.

Play is in teams of four. Form your own team or sign up as a single or a pair and meet other golfers and literacy supporters. It's all about having fun. Can our students outplay our tutors? What about board members?

The cost for golf and dinner is \$55 (\$25 for members of the Oaks). A portion of the proceeds will come to Literacy Plus to support our programs.

For more information, to register, or to donate a prize, call either Gilles Doth at 628-1812 or Dave Fisher at 687-6862.

Please register by August 20. To book a cart, call the golf course at 1-800-716-7229 before September 7.

Thanks to Jean and Tish

Jean Lopushanski and Tish Smith are still cataloguing our resources. They have given countless hours to the project and our shelves look wonderful. We can't thank them enough.

Service Statistics for 2003/034

Literacy Plus had another active year in 2003/04. Overall, we delivered 6,242 hours of service to 185 people. Fifty students worked individually with tutors for a total of 1,457 hours. In nine different classes in Eganville, Beachburg, Barry's Bay and Madawaska, 54 students spent 3,389 hours working on literacy and computer skills.

In our new location in Eganville, we also have more scope for offering other classes and workshops. Diane delivered an 8-part series on personal and job skills such as goal setting, time management, problem solving and self esteem. We will offer this series again in the fall. Lee offered three workshops on communications, and also did an intensive workshop on clear language and business writing skills with a group at Base Petawawa. Altogether, these workshops served 23 people for 474 hours. And once again, we were fortunate to have three volunteer work and learning placements who gave us 228 hours of assistance in the office while learning office skills. It was another busy and productive year.



Tutor Training

A full day of orientation and training for new tutors will be scheduled in the fall. A new series of 1/2 day workshops will begin in late October. Topics planned include:

- motivating yourself and your student
- working with students for whom English is a second language
- teaching real life math
- working with students with learning disabilities

More information will be available in the September newsletter.

Fall Classes

Fall computer classes will start again the week of September 21 and run for 12 weeks to the first week in December. We will offer classes in Beachburg, Eganville and Barry's Bay. The Madawaska group will continue work on a local history as a volunteer-based class.

A new 8-week course called Getting and Keeping a Job will run on Wednesday afternoons in Eganville from 1-4 p.m., beginning on Wednesday, October 6. It will cover topics such as goal setting, problem solving, time management, assertive communication, how to behave at work, and how to handle job interviews.

Resources



Literacy Plus has a number of new (to us) books on writing for beginning and more advanced students.

Write Ideas: A Beginning Writing Text focuses on writing as a learnable and exciting process of creation for students at all levels of English. It guides beginning level students through the steps of gathering ideas, forming a main idea, drafting, revising and editing.

The Ready Reference Handbook: Writing, Revising, Editing, for more advanced students, addresses the writing process, research and critical thinking skills in a user-friendly manner. How-to boxes contain concise help on specific topics.

Becoming a Master Student, 2nd Canadian edition, contains "hundreds of strategies for school and for life." It would be particularly helpful for small groups and for students planning to go on to other education.

Punctuation

Does punctuation really matter? Or is it just a set of arbitrary and confusing rules? Read the paired examples below, each with exactly the same words, to see how punctuation can affect meaning.

A woman, without her man, is nothing.
A woman: without her, man is nothing.

And then there's the following:

Dear Jack,
I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind, thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me for other men. I yearn for you. I have no feelings whatsoever when we're apart. I can be forever happy—will you let me be yours?



Jill

Dear Jack,
I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind, thoughtful people, who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me. For other men I yearn! For you I have no feelings whatsoever. When we're apart I can be forever happy. Will you let me be?



Yours,
Jill

From **Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation** by Lynne Truss.



The seven-letter word "therein" contains nine other words without rearranging any letters. Can you find all nine?

(the, there, he, in, rein, here, ere, here, her, here, herein)

The Monday Afternoon Class

Five students who had already developed good basic computer skills met this spring for a new class with a varied and fun curriculum. The group decided their focus would be to write and publish stories for children of elementary age. To get their brains going for the writing sessions, each three-hour class started with 45 minutes of mental and oral numeracy. Students revisited aspects of math that had previously confused them. They quickly moved from reviewing basic operations to fractions, decimals and percentages and on to ratio and proportion. They found the fun and interactive methods also gave them useful tools to use with their own children.



Using computer programs to work on their individual writing projects, students were able to develop specific skills. To improve their use of imaginative language and use more complex sentence structure, students tried writing in various genres. When they matched their adjectives and adverbs to a given genre and read them aloud, they all got to feel success as writers.

Other activities included designing invitations in order to learn to use Microsoft Word and clip art, as well as tab and margin settings. To make storyboards for drafting the first versions of their stories, they had to learn how to include a table in a Word document. The finished books will be donated to Bernadette McCann House women's shelter. Producing a finished product was a real spur to stamina—knowing that someone was actually going to read what they had worked so hard on gave students a real sense of achievement.

The class's final task was to make personal portfolios to store all draft and completed work. An art session taught students a variety of wax resist and rubbing techniques to decorate their portfolios. Over the weeks together, the group gelled into a supportive band of friends, keen to meet each week and work together to improve their learning.

Student Writing Contest

Literacy Link of Eastern Ontario has announced the 3rd Annual Frances Lever Memorial Writing Contest. The contest honours Frances Lever, the late Executive Director of LLEO, who was a great champion of literacy learners and their abilities.



The contest is open to student writers. There are five categories, one for each of the five Literacy and Basic Skills levels. A \$50 prize will be awarded to the winner in each category. Once again, the writing is to be based on a picture provided by LLEO. This year it is a painting by Canadian artist Alex Colville.

The writing must be done in class. The contest asks level one writers to write a five-line poem, levels two to four writers to write descriptions or stories of different kinds (200 –500 words) and level five students to write the first chapter (300-600 words) of a novel.

The contest closes November 1, 2004. For more details, including how to submit your stories, go to the LLEO website at www.lleo.ca and click on Newslink.

The Literacy and Basic Skills Program is funded by the Government of Ontario.

Student Writing

Helen read this poem to great applause at the Annual General Meeting.

Life in a Hamster Wheel

Out of bed at the crack of dawn
Into the shower I go
Screaming in pain after stubbing my toe
Such is life in a hamster wheel

Toast burned, eggs overcooked
Wake the kids
Husband overlooked
Such is life in a hamster wheel

Books, jackets and shoes to find
Lunches to pack
Get husband out of the sack
Such is life in a hamster wheel

Finally everyone is gone
Dishes to do, beds to make
Floors to scrub, mats to shake
Hurry, hurry before it's too late

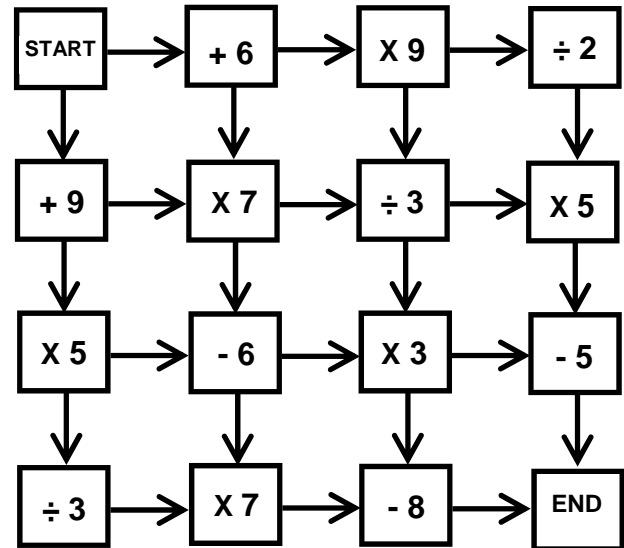
That's it for today, exhausted to bed I go
Soon the alarm will go off
To do it all over again tomorrow
So stay single if you don't want this life
Don't even think about becoming a wife

- Helen Townley



Maze

Start with zero. Find a route from 'Start' to 'End' that totals 100 exactly.



Which route has the highest total?
Which has the lowest total?

“Should Be” Words

You won't find these words in your dictionary but you already know what they mean.

lactomangulation (lak' to man gyu lay' shun) n. Manhandling the “open here” spout on a milk container so badly that one has to resort to the “illegal” side.

phonesia (fo nee' zhuh) n. The affliction of dialing a phone number and forgetting whom you were calling just as they answer.

pupkus (pup' kus) n. The moist residue left on a window after a dog presses its nose to it.

telecrastination (tel e kras tin ay' shun) n. The act of always letting the phone ring at least twice before you pick it up, even when you're only six inches away.

- from The North Bay Literacy Council

Newsletter Production

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