



The RCCUP Reader

Newsletter of the Renfrew County Community Upgrading Program

Issue #42

June 2005

Literary Tuesdays in July

Don't forget to buy your tickets for Literary Tuesdays in July! Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door—the price of admission includes coffee and desserts provided by local restaurants: Magelly's, Frisco's, Country Rose, and the Granary. Again, this year, we are grateful for the use of the spacious and air-conditioned hall at St. James Church in Eganville. The evening events start at 7:30 p.m. This year's great authors are:

July 5 – Catherine Bush, nominee for Canada First Novel & City of Toronto Book award (*Claire's Head, Rules of Engagement, Minus Time*)

July 12 – Diane Schoemperlen, Governor General's Award for Fiction winner (*Names of the Dead, Our Lady of the Lost and Found, Forms of Devotion*)

July 19 – Alan Cumyn, Giller finalist (*Losing It, The Sojourn, Burrige Unbound*)

July 26 – Rick Mofina, Arthur Ellis Award Winner, 2003 (*The Dying Hour, Cold Fear, Blood of Others*)

On July 26, renowned children's author **Janet Lunn** (*The Story of Canada, The Root Cellar, Amos's Sweater*) will read at 2:00 p.m., with proceeds to go to the Bonnechere Union Library.

Advance tickets are available at: the Bonnechere Public Library, the Eganville

Bakery, the HummDinger in Golden Lake, the Arnprior Book Shop, the Renfrew Book Shop, the Village Pharmacy in Killaloe, Lorraine's IDA in Barry's Bay, and Coles Book Store in Pembroke.

Summer Hours

The Literacy Plus office will close after Thursday, June 30. It will reopen with regular hours Tuesday, September 6. Sue will be in 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 each month.** Sue will need your hours for the statistics reports. Diane will review reports sent by e-mail and try to respond. She will be available until August 15.



Calendar

- July 5 - Catherine Bush reads
- July 12 - Diane Schoemperlen reads
- July 19 - Alan Cumyn reads
- July 26 - Janet Lunn reads, 2 p.m.
- Rick Mofina reads, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 6 - Swing for Literacy
- Sept. 8 - International Literacy Day
- Sept. 12 - computer-based classes start
- Sept. 20 - Fee-for-service class starts
- Sept. 21 - Workshop Wednesdays begin

Annual General Meeting

Thirty-five people attended Literacy Plus's Annual General Meeting and Potluck supper on Wednesday, June 15, 2005, at the St. James Church Hall in Eganville. As always, there was an abundance of delicious food and many requests for recipes.

Before dinner, six of Terrie Watson's students—Joyce Gutzeit, Maxine Golden, Pauline Smerdon, Mary Anne Measor, Maggie O'Reilly and Colleen Yuke—gave a dynamic PowerPoint presentation from the class's Poetry Slam. Students chose or wrote poems to which they added colourful moving graphics and background music. After dinner, guest speaker Chris Hinsperger from the Bonnechere Caves spoke about his life and his business, and the values and skills that are important for jobs.

On behalf of Treasurer Rosemary Cammaert, Peggy Bridgland presented the 2004/2005 Auditor's report. Program expenses continue to exceed Ministry funding. The gap was made up from savings and the very successful fundraising efforts through the year. MacKillican & Associates were appointed auditors for 2005/2006.

Chairperson Doyne Ahern reviewed Board and committee activities. Coordinators Lee Torvi, Peggy Bridgland and Diane Litchfield presented a joint report on program activities using a variety of props for emphasis—a star, an abacus, a heart, a web, a “board” and a “staff.”

Sharon Bond presented the slate of directors nominated for 2005/06. She thanked Linda Buttle, Dave Fisher and Marcia Perryman, who left the Board over the course of the year, for their many

contributions. The membership approved the following Board of Directors:

Doyne Ahern
Sharon Bond
Rosemary Cammaert
Helen Dixon
Barbara Dubé
Reg Gatenby
Charlotte Gebhart
Michele Joyce
Ethel Ryan
Darlene Walker



At a short Board meeting held after the AGM, the following officers were appointed: Doyne Ahern, Chair; Sharon Bond, Vice Chair; Michele Joyce, Treasurer; Barbara Dubé, Secretary.

Next year's AGM will be held on Wednesday, June 14. Copies of this year's annual report are available from the office.

Superior Propane Fundraiser

Superior Propane of Pembroke sponsored the annual barbecue and Fill-Up for Literacy on May 14. The Superior Propane staff again contributed a table of delicious homemade baked goods. Our sale of used books and other items was also successful. Although the rain was unrelenting, the event raised nearly \$1,000. Literacy Plus is very grateful to Superior Propane and its staff for their continued support of our organization and programs. We also thank Ron Nelson's IGA, the Barry's Bay IGA and Moncion Grocers for their donations of drinks, hamburgers and hotdogs for the barbecue.

Literacy Plus gratefully acknowledges its funder, the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Service Statistics for 2004/05

Keeping track of our hours and student numbers is required by our funder. Tracking also helps us adjust our programs and plan for the future. At the end of the year, we can step back and really see what we've done.

- Overall, in 2004/05 Literacy Plus delivered a total of 6,526 hours of service to 209 people.
- Two thirds of those served were women. The majority of students (161) were in their working years, age 25 to 65, although we also served students older and younger.
- In our volunteer program, 79 students spent 1,871 hours working with tutors or volunteer teachers. In all, 52 students worked with 42 tutors for a total of 1,492 hours. Another 18 students spent 204 hours attending two small classes and a workshop taught by volunteers.
- In nine computer-based classes, in Eganville, Beachburg, Barry's Bay and Renfrew, 77 students spent 3,060 hours working on literacy and computer skills.
- In the *Workready* and Essential Skills workshops, 16 students spent 317 hours working on skills important to employment as well as personal life.
- Three students who did volunteer work-and-learning placements gave us 450 hours of much appreciated assistance in the office and the resource library while putting new skills into practice.



Raffle Winner

Marianne Ciphery of Cobden was the lucky winner of the painting donated by Maxine Golden. Congratulations!

Swing for Literacy

September 6th is this year's date to Swing for Literacy at Oaks of Cobden. Experienced and novice golfers are welcome at this fun golf tournament co-sponsored by the Retired Educators and Literacy Plus to raise funds for literacy.

The 18-hole, four-ball scramble starts at 12:00 noon and ends with dinner and the awarding of prizes. 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. The cost for golf and dinner is \$55 (\$35 for members of the Oaks). Dinner only is \$20. A portion of the proceeds will come to Literacy Plus to support our programs.



Prizes will be awarded for every hole and for a variety of achievements, not just lowest score. A hole in one could win you a trip for two to Hawaii!

Please register by August 20th. To book a cart, please call the golf course in advance at 1-800-716-7229. We're still looking for prizes of all kinds, large or small. For more information, to register, or to donate a prize, please call:

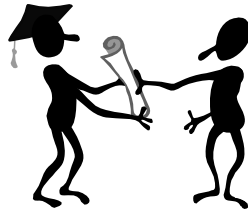
- Phil Butler: 628-2730
- Gilles Doth: 628-1812
- Dave Fisher: 687-6862
- Rosemary Cammaert: 628-3072

 * People are like stained-glass *
 * windows. They sparkle and shine *
 * when the sun is out, but when the *
 * darkness sets in, their true beauty is *
 * revealed only if there is a light from *
 * within. *
 * - Elisabeth Kübler-Ross *

Are You Making Progress?

It is very important for students to know if they are making progress. Students who can see they are making progress are

- motivated to continue learning
- willing to work hard
- proud of their work and have higher self esteem.



What can we do **in each lesson** to help learners evaluate and see their own progress?

1. First of all, we need to make sure that the learning goals are those wanted by the student. As well, the goals have to be small and specific enough to be successfully met. Can the student finish this sentence: “At the end of this lesson, I will be able to _____?” What do you and the student want to be accomplished by the end of the lesson? If the student can successfully accomplish the specific goal of each lesson, then the student (and you) will be able to see progress.
2. Secondly, the lesson materials and activities need to be developed based on the student’s level and personal interest. The materials and activities should not be too easy, nor too hard. They should be “just right”—then they will be geared to student success and progress.
3. Thirdly, we need to make self-evaluation a key part of every lesson. For most students, this is a skill that must be developed over time. Students must be able to see their success and progress and they must be able to describe it. If they can see progress and talk about their successes, they will believe in themselves as learners. Using samples of their work, students should then be able to answer the question: “What evidence is there that you have learned new things and have

made progress?” Some of the issues that might be looked at include:

- **Independence** – Are they working more independently than when they first began? Perhaps they are even reading or doing other activities on their own between lessons!
- **Attitude** – Are they developing a more positive attitude towards learning and towards themselves?
- **Quality of work** – Accuracy, completeness, and complexity are increasing.
- **Quantity of work** – The amount of work done is increasing.

You can see it's essential to keep track of weekly activities so that you and the student can see success and progress. You can keep track in a number of ways.

1. **Daily record of progress** – At the end of each lesson, tutor and student **always** discuss the student’s successes in that lesson and their learning overall: what is being learned and what still needs further work.
2. **Student learning diary** – Ideally, after you discuss the day’s lesson, the students record their learning in a diary.
3. **Portfolio** – Selecting items for their portfolio also becomes a process of measuring success and progress. You might use a list of questions to assist students in self-reflection and selection of portfolio items, for example:
 - ◆ What makes this your best piece?
 - ◆ How did you go about writing / solving it?
 - ◆ What problems did you encounter? How did you solve them?
 - ◆ What goals did you set for yourself? How well did you accomplish them?
 - ◆ Why did you select this piece of work?
 - ◆ What was particularly important to you during the process of creating this work?

- ◆ If you could work further on this piece, what would you do?
- ◆ How does this relate to what you have learned before?
- ◆ Of the work we've done recently, what do you feel most confident about?

For each portfolio item, you might have the student prepare a cover sheet.

Cover Sheet
Portfolio Item: _____
Date placed in Portfolio: _____
1. I selected this because:
2. This is what I learned:
3. I would like you to notice:
4. One thing I would improve next time:
5. Other...

Golden Oak Author Reads

On May 11, author Barbara Hehner came to the Pembroke Public Library to read from her book, *The Tunnel King: The True Story of Wally Floody and the Great Escape*. About 35 students, tutors and staff from the three Renfrew County literacy programs attended the event.

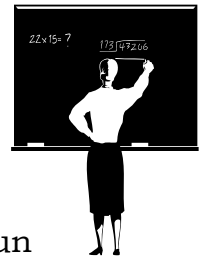
After the reading, Barbara answered the audience's many questions about what it is like to write a book. She was surprised and pleased by the willingness of the men and families of the men who were POWs to share their memories and memorabilia with her. Wally's wife kept scrapbooks about his life and experiences as an advisor/consultant for the movie



The Great Escape. She lent those materials to Barbara for her research.

Barbara did not know about the Golden Oak reading program until she was contacted and told that *The Tunnel King* had been selected as one of this year's book choices. She was very pleased to be part of the Golden Oak project.

We hope that an author visit will become a regular part of the Golden Oak reading program. The students really enjoyed it, and it was a good experience for libraries and the three LBS programs to work together on this project.



Fall Classes

- Fall **computer-based classes** will start again the week of September 12 and run for 12 weeks in Eganville and Renfrew.
- The **Workready workshops** will be available online in the fall. Through our website, students can work from home on learning activities and skills needed for jobs and their personal lives.
- **Wednesday workshops**. Starting September 21, Literacy Plus will offer a series of fun and informative workshops on Wednesday afternoons. Diane will give single sessions on popular topics like stress and time management, and assertive communication. Other topics may include crafts, cooking, and telling your life story. The afternoons will start with a brown bag lunch at 12:00; workshops follow from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- If we can fill an **evening computer-based class**, we will run it.
- Literacy Plus will also offer another 8-week **Fee-for-Service** evening computer class, starting September 20; this class will focus on word processing. If there is enough interest, Sue will offer the Introduction to Computers again.

Student Writing

My Christmas Story

I was second youngest of seven children. I lived in Pembroke. I remember my parents were good to my family.

I remember my fourth Christmas. I was bad. I did something I shouldn't.

Mom and Dad bought me a pram. My oldest sisters, Vivian and Bernice, bought me a doll. They had the two gifts in my sisters' room.



I went into my sisters' room when they were at work. I came out with the pram and the doll.

My mom told me to put that back.

- Shirley

New Experience in Canada

The time flew. Four years have passed since I came to Canada. I have met many people and have had many experiences. One of them was to make Canadian food which I had never had before. My Canadian friends have taught me kindly how to make the foods. Sometimes I used to find some unfamiliar vegetables at groceries. Actually, I was curious about them.

Last fall, I moved to a new house. Fortunately there was a larger garden than I expected, including vegetables. It was wonderful to me who had lived on the 12th floor of an apartment in Korea and I had never grown any plants.



This spring some rhubarb is coming from my garden and many raspberries are also budding in the back yard. I am so excited seeing them because I have never seen them before I came here. I am going to grow some vegetables besides rhubarb and raspberries. I will have one more new experience this spring.

- Hye-Bong

Reflections of Madawaska

The Madawaska Computer Class has successfully completed a two-year project to trace and document the history of the town of Madawaska. Entitled *Reflections of Madawaska 1940 – 2004*, the 127-page spiral bound book is based on information and stories gathered from families, friends and other publications about the "good old days" in Madawaska. There are many wonderful pictures. Pam Aleck, Brendia Drew, Cindy Hilderbrandt and Thelma Villeneuve directed the project. Literacy Plus instructor Rocco Losole assisted the group in the early stages, teaching computer and research skills. Good work!

A good pun is its own reward...

- ☺ Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.
- ☺ Acupuncture is a jab well done.
- ☺ He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
- ☺ He had a photographic memory though it was never developed.
- ☺ The man who fell into the upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- ☺ You feel stuck with your debt when you can't budge it.
- ☺ When you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.
- ☺ Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.



Newsletter Production

Editor:

Peggy Bridgland

Layout & Design:

Sue Rupert & Peggy Bridgland

Contributors:

Peggy Bridgland, Diane Litchfield,
Lee Torvi, Hye-Bong, Shirley