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# The RCCUP Reader

## Newsletter of the Renfrew County Community Upgrading Program

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Issue #43

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### International Literacy Day & Adult Learners' Week

International Literacy Day, September 8, was the first day of International Adult Learners' Week, September 8-14. The theme of this year's celebration was *Building Sustainable Communities*.

UNESCO proclaims that "education is a fundamental human right and is closely tied to the empowerment of all peoples of the world. Yet today, close to 800 million adults have not had the opportunity to learn to read or write. Literacy, education, social development, and environmental protection are essential elements of a society where all people can play active roles in the lives of their communities."

IALW focuses on learning throughout life for all adults, based on four pillars: Learning to know, Learning to do, Learning to live together, and Learning to be. Adult learning opens doors, explores new frontiers and points the way to becoming full and active citizens. Learning empowers us all as members of society.



Whether we are working to upgrade basic skills, pursuing advanced education, or seeking new horizons through informal learning, we are all lifelong learners—learning is a journey, not a destination.

### Literacy Action Day

Literacy Action Day is Thursday October 27, 2005, a day when literacy students, volunteer tutors, literacy practitioners and advocates from across the country gather on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to raise awareness of literacy.

The focus of this year's Literacy Action Day is a 10-year Literacy Action Plan to be advanced by Minister Claudette Bradshaw. Minister Bradshaw spent the summer traveling across Canada speaking to literacy groups and students. Her goal was to collect the community's input on literacy challenges and solutions, to help her in designing a comprehensive federal literacy strategy. Wherever Minister Bradshaw went, she asked that the community follow up the discussions by sending letters or briefs.

Seven national literacy organizations have been working hard to provide the Minister with a concrete plan for literacy that she can use to formulate a Memorandum to Cabinet. She will deliver her plan to the federal cabinet in early November.

If you want to help, you can write a letter to our MP Cheryl Gallant, asking her to support this plan. For key ideas to include, you can e-mail "Debra Huron" [dhuron@laubach.ca](mailto:dhuron@laubach.ca), Laubach's Communications and Liaison Officer.

## Fundraising

Fundraising has become an essential support for Literacy Plus. Our LBS funding has been frozen since 1998. Meanwhile, expenses have risen and our programming has expanded from its volunteer-based, one-to-one roots to include computer-based learning, online learning and workshops. These programs are essential to meeting our mandate to help learners meet their goals of finding good jobs, getting more education, and dealing with the demands of their lives.

In the last few years, the Literacy Plus Board of Directors, assisted by staff, volunteers and community sponsors, has done an exceptional job of planning and carrying out several fundraisers each year. We thank them for the energy and the many hours they devote to this cause.

## Literary Tuesdays

Once again, Literary Tuesdays in July were a great success. Over \$3,000 was raised to support our programs. We thank the Eganville community for its support, with particular thanks to St. James Church; the Country Rose, Frisco's, the Granary, and Magelly's restaurants; Serendipity on the River; the Bonnechere Public Library; and Vicki Fletcher Photography. Special thanks as well to the HummDinger in Golden Lake for making books by our authors available each evening. Last but certainly not least, thanks to the authors, Catherine Bush, Diane Schoemperlen, Alan Cumyn, Rick Mofina, and Janet Lunn, for travelling to us to read and talk about their books.



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*A closed mind is like a closed book—just a block of wood.*

- Chinese Proverb

## Swing for Literacy



Over ninety golfers signed up to Swing for Literacy on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The weather was beautiful and golfers had a fine day, ending with a delicious turkey dinner. Alas, no one got a hole in one to win the Air Canada trip for two—better luck next year! Again, Oaks of Cobden staff worked hard to make everything run smoothly. More than 30 sponsors donated prizes large and small, and a draw was held for donated art work. The day raised about \$2,400 for Literacy Plus programs. Thanks to all—players, sponsors, volunteers and Oaks of Cobden Golf Club. See you again next year!

## Literacy Plus Calendar

Board members are busy collecting cards and donations for Literacy Plus's 2006 calendar. The calendars will be out in late November. Please support the people and businesses who support us.

## Fall Art Show

Serendipity on the River is holding a Fall Art Show from Friday, October 7 to Sunday, October 16. Several of the artists donated prizes for our golf tournament. Artists featured are: Barbara Blackstein, Sheila Cosentino, Jerome Coulas, Graeme Leonard, Mary Olsen and Donna Vangool.

Serendipity on the River is located at 291 Bridge Street, Eganville, and is open every day 9:00 to 6:00, Fridays to 8:00 p.m.

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

## Online Learning

**Workready** online will be ready to go in late October. The course will continue to the end of March. Through this course students will learn important personal skills, such as how to:

- manage personal stress
- set goals
- make changes in their lives
- think critically
- be self-confident
- communicate effectively & assertively
- manage time.



These skills are important in everyday life. As well, many employers think these skills are more important than other work skills that can be taught on the job. Students will also improve reading, writing, computer and Internet skills.

To participate, students need access to a computer and printer; access to the Internet and the ability to find a website; an e-mail account and the ability to send/receive e-mails with attachments. Students can expect to spend 1– 2 hours per week.

For more information and to register, call the office at 628-1720.

This course has been developed for an online format thanks to a grant from the Ottawa Citizen Literacy Foundation.

## Christmas Open House

Mark December 14 on your calendar now for the Literacy Plus Christmas Open House, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We'll have a potluck lunch (finger foods preferred!) with tea and coffee provided. Everyone is welcome: students, tutors, board members, staff.

## Free Wednesday Workshops

Students are invited to lunch and learn this fall at a series of free Wednesday Workshops. Come to one workshop or to all. Bring your lunch at noon—we supply coffee, learning and fun! Workshops will run from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

- Understanding and Managing Your Stress: 2-part workshop, October 5 & October 12
- Cancer Prevention—Practical Tips: October 19
- Fire Safety: October 26
- How to Be More Assertive: 2-part workshop, November 2 & November 9
- Making Your Own Christmas Decorations: 2-part workshop, November 16 & November 23
- Get Yourself Organized: 2-part workshop, November 30 & December 7

Call Sue at 628-1720 for more information and to sign up. Call soon, space is limited.

## Fee-For-Service Computer Class

Sue Rupert is offering a special computer class Tuesday evenings, starting September 20. This class is focusing on wordprocessing and how to create a newsletter in Word. The fee-for-service classes are open to the community. The Introduction to Computers course will be held again when there is enough demand.

## Thank You



Warm thanks to the Petawawa Rotary Club, now an organizational member of Literacy Plus, for their second generous donation in support of our programs. We appreciate their sponsorship.

## The Tech Team



Literacy Plus welcomes two new teachers to the computer-based program. Inez McQuirter and Shawn Schroeder join Terrie Watson on the "Tech Team" to offer a total of eight classes. All will work from the basic curriculum developed by Terrie, adapting it to the specific needs of particular classes and students. New this fall is an evening class for students who aren't available during the day.

Inez McQuirter will teach Mondays and Thursday evenings in Eganville. Inez has a diverse background in business, administration and teaching. She has trained hospital employees and executive managers on systems and software, and has taught computer skills for the Board of Education. Inez also has run a floral business. She has a particular interest in writing.

Shawn Schroeder will teach the Renfrew class Wednesday mornings at Employment Networks. Shawn runs a computer services business in Renfrew called Viking Enterprises. He provides support and offers custom computer instruction to businesses and individuals in wordprocessing, Internet and e-mail, and website creation. He is an energetic and enthusiastic "people person."

Terrie Watson, our long-time computer-based instructor and developer of the program, will teach four classes in Eganville, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Over the summer, Terrie has put her lesson plans and other information about Literacy Plus and adult learning into a comprehensive manual. The manual will be the basis for all our computer classes. This will ensure consistency and the same high standard for all classes.

## Computer Class Schedule

### Eganville:

- Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 - 4 p.m.
- Thursday evenings, 6 - 9 p.m.
- Tuesday evenings, Fee-for-Service, 6 - 8 p.m.

### Renfrew:

- Wednesday mornings 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Call the office to register.



## E-mail Etiquette

How's your e-mail etiquette?

### Are you a Spammer?

Don't assume everybody wants to get those jokes, chain letters or funny pictures. Check with your recipients first. If you do forward a message to another group of people, copy and paste it into a new e-mail—don't forward it with a huge list of names.

### Use the subject line effectively

People receiving e-mail use the subject line to screen e-mail for importance or to get rid of spam. Try to make your subject line specific and brief.

### Do you commit CAPITAL OFFENSES?

Using all capital letters in writing is like shouting. It also makes it hard to read. Save capitals for special emphasis.

### Emoticons

Occasional use of "smileys" or "emoticons" are a fun way to personalize your e-mails. Just don't overdo it! A few popular ones are:

:-)	Happy	:-(	Sad
:-o	Surprised	:-@	Screaming
:-I	Indifferent	;-)	Wink

- from: V & S Report on Living

## Tutor Tip

### Tutoring as Scrapbooking

What is scrapbooking? Today's scrapbook is "different from a photo album because it preserves something more than just the photos. A scrapbook includes journaling (telling the story behind the photos) as well as memorabilia (tickets, certificates, letters, etc.)." (From:

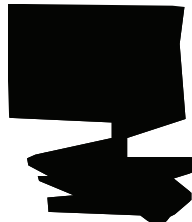
[www.scrapbooking101.net/articles/whatisascrapbook.html](http://www.scrapbooking101.net/articles/whatisascrapbook.html))

Scrapbooks are full of colours, textures, writings, drawings, recordings...indeed anything which can be pasted, taped, or inserted into a binder or box. Scrapbooks are interesting and fun. Tutors can design their lessons with scrapbooks in mind, making their lessons **multisensory** and fun. You can also help students draw from the craft of scrapbooking to create a history of their learning experiences.

### Multisensory Lessons

It is important to help learners by providing information through all of their senses. **Always provide an item of information using at least 2 different modalities:** visual, and/or auditory, and/or tactile. For example:

- Always provide documentation to support what you are saying—such as notes, a diagram, or a tape recording.
- Use other visual stimuli such as pictures, drawings, or charts.
- Use different colours to highlight important points.
- Use a tape recorder to record parts of your work together.
- Create poems or musical jingles to aid memorization.
- Have the student use different writing tools: pencils, pens, markers, chalk.
- Have the student use blackboards, flip chart paper on which to write or draw.



### A Scrapbook of My Learning

We know that both self-confidence and learning build on success, much as a colony of coral grows into a reef. Helping adults see and appreciate what they have learned is essential. Encourage your students to keep a **learning scrapbook** in which they save samples of their work and write what they have learned, lists of what they want to learn, new words, new ideas, questions they have, and so on. The process will help them focus on their own learning and they will see, as time goes by, that their learning builds and grows. Have them use different colours, pictures, drawings, diagrams, charts, tape recordings, and so on...anything to make their learning scrapbooks fun and memorable.



Here are some websites you might like to check out to learn more about the fun art of scrapbooking. They will give you some ideas about a multisensory approach to learning and recording learning.

[www.scrapbooking101.net/](http://www.scrapbooking101.net/)  
[www.scrapbooking.about.com/](http://www.scrapbooking.about.com/)  
[www.suite101.com/article.cfm/scrapbooking/110821](http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/scrapbooking/110821)

## Student Writing Contest

LLEO is holding its 4th Annual Frances Lever Memorial Writing Contest for students.

Prizes of \$50 will be awarded for winning entries at each of the five literacy levels. The writing is to be done in class (or tutoring session), based on a picture provided by LLEO.

The contest closes November 1, 2005. For details and to see the picture, go to [www.lleo.ca](http://www.lleo.ca) and click on Newslink.

## Student Writing

### What I Did This Summer

Well there is not much to say about this summer besides the weather has been very satisfying. We have gone swimming, and took children to visit a friend before they moved away. Then we celebrated three birthdays.



We really didn't do a lot but we have been always on the go with different things happening. We did attend the Renfrew Fair finally after promising the children to go for a few years. They really enjoyed themselves which made the trip very satisfying to both the children and me.

- Lucy

### What I Did This Summer

I planted a garden, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, green peppers, cabbage, potatoes. I have been pickling for over a month now. I now have 150 quarts of pickles. I went to my sister-in-law's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party in July, my sister's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in July, my sister-in-law's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday party in August; I have entertained family six different Sundays; we went to see my brothers at the cottage. Last weekend we went to Trenton to see our daughter and family. I did not like this summer, it was too hot and humid. I did my work in the morning and quilt in the afternoon. I'm glad summer is over. It was too busy, too much company and too many parties, and too hot and humid, and it's still too hot and humid. We put 12 single cords of wood in the house for the winter last month so we're ready for winter. I'm looking forward for cool weather.



- Joyce

## National Contest

Beloved Canadian children's author Robert Munsch will make a special visit to one lucky Canadian family this January, thanks to a contest sponsored by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation.

Robert Munsch is honorary chair of ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day held January 27, which encourages parents and their children to read and learn together. This contest gives any family in the country the chance to have him visit their own Family Literacy Day (FLD) party on Monday, January 23, 2006, to kick off a week of FLD activities.

To enter the contest, families only need to fill out a form describing what creative activities they are planning for their FLD party. Entry forms are available on the ABC CANADA website, [www.abc-canada.org](http://www.abc-canada.org), and must be received by ABC CANADA by 5:00 p.m. EST, December 9, 2005. The winner will be announced the first week of January, 2006.

For more details, and for entry forms, the public can visit the website: [www.abc-canada.org](http://www.abc-canada.org), or contact ABC CANADA at: **416-442-2998** or **1-800-303-1004**; [info@abc-canada.org](mailto:info@abc-canada.org).

*Special thanks to Maxine Golden for her donation of two boxes of 3 1/2 inch floppy disks.*

### Newsletter Production

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