



The RCCUP Reader

Newsletter of the Renfrew County Community Upgrading Program

Issue #48

December 2006

Lee Leaves Literacy Plus

By now, most of you will know that Program Coordinator Lee Torvi is leaving Literacy Plus. The Board of Directors accepted her resignation, with regret, at their October meeting. Lee has been with Literacy Plus for nine years and through her time with us the program has grown and changed in many ways—we have taken on new programs, a new name and a new location. And we have become more connected with other agencies throughout Renfrew County.

How will we replace Lee? From January through March, Diane Litchfield will act as Interim Coordinator, taking on many of Lee's jobs; Peggy Bridgland and Sue Rupert will take on others. Pam Contant has been hired to teach the upgrading program two days a week. Pam has experience teaching this kind of multi-dimensional program and we are very pleased that she has agreed to join us.

Between January and March, Board and staff will review the administrative jobs and needs, and plan for staffing for the new fiscal year starting April 1.

It's a time of change for Literacy Plus, both a loss and a challenge, but we are looking to the positive things ahead. We'll miss you Lee, but we wish you well in your new teaching job. We look forward to working with you in a new capacity.

Christmas Open House

Join staff and students at the Christmas Open House on Wednesday, December 13, between 11:00 and 2:00 p.m. Enjoy hot cider and snacks, pick up your calendars, wish Lee well, and celebrate the season with us.

Holiday Closing

The Literacy Plus office will close for two weeks over Christmas and New Year's. It will close at the end of the day on December 15 and reopen on Wednesday, January 3. Most classes start again the week of January 8. Happy Holidays!

Merry Christmas



The Staff of Literacy Plus would like to wish all our students, tutors, board members and volunteers a Christmas filled with all the things that make this season special.

Farewell From Lee

Can you believe that the ice storm happened nine years ago in January? The first day of that ice storm was my first day of work as Program Coordinator at Literacy Plus - I didn't make it to work that day. That will be one memory I take with me as I now say goodbye. It's been a grand nine years.

Nine years ago, our program was entirely volunteer-based. We provided almost 2,000 hours of tutoring per year. We had one computer and the office was a converted storage unit. Now, along with one-to-one volunteer tutoring, we offer classes, workshops and even online training to provide about 7,000 hours of training each year. Computers are a basic tool for administration, as well as for teaching and learning. That growth has been exciting and rewarding. I thank everyone who has helped to make it possible.

I have been privileged to work with many wonderful people—students, staff, and volunteers—during my time here. I will miss you. However, I am pleased that Literacy Plus is in good hands, and I look forward to seeing its continued growth.

I am also looking forward to the next stage of my life. In January I will be back in the classroom at Algonquin College, teaching in its new academic upgrading program. That program, College Preparation, is the next level up from the training that Literacy Plus provides. The ACE certificate earned in that program qualifies students for college courses and apprenticeships.

So, I remain a colleague in the literacy field. We will continue working together, although in changed roles. After all, that is the nature of life in Renfrew County.

- Lee Torvi

Calendars

Literacy Plus calendars are now available. Once again, we are grateful to many for their help with this fundraiser: to Xerox for donating a case of paper, Staples for donating the cover stock, and G & K Office Supplies for the spiral bindings. Special thanks go to Helen Dixon, Ethel Ryan, Marie Lehman and Sue Rupert for gathering donations from sponsors and putting the calendar together.



Please thank our sponsors by patronizing their businesses, and make a point of saying thanks to them for supporting literacy and Literacy Plus.

You can pick up a calendar at the following locations:

- Eganville - Literacy Plus
- Renfrew - The Renfrew Book Shop
- Arnprior - The Arnprior Book Shop
- Pembroke - The Pembroke Library
- Deep River - Deep River Library
- Killaloe - Community Resource Centre
- Barry's Bay - Activities Plus

Family Literacy Day

January 27 is Family Literacy Day. ABC Canada's initiative is celebrated at hundreds of literacy themed events coordinated at home and by literacy organizations, schools and libraries. Media across the country recognize the day in magazines and newspapers, TV and radio.

Here in Renfrew County a family reading and story telling event is planned for the Pembroke Mall on January 27, with lots of prizes for children and adults who participate. STAR 96 FM will support the event again this year with radio tags and a scavenger hunt. Watch for information after Christmas, or contact Karen Woods at literacyrenf@parentresource.on.ca.

Grant for Marketing

Getting the word out about Literacy Plus and its programs is a constant challenge. Renfrew is a big county and advertising can be expensive. Creating and circulating effective print materials takes time and effort.

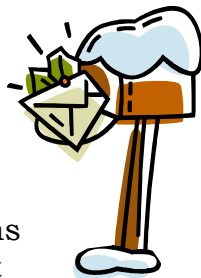
Literacy Plus was very pleased to receive approval in October for a non-repayable contribution from the Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation and FedNor to help us mount a marketing campaign. The campaign is intended to recruit students, recruit tutors, and create more awareness in the community of Literacy Plus and the services it provides.

RCCFDC's contribution has allowed us to consult with experts in marketing, Alain Pauzé Consulting, to develop a marketing plan. It also allows us to try radio and television advertising for the first time ever, and to have posters and brochures professionally produced.

Though the campaign will officially launch the week of January 22, the radio spots start in December. Listen to Star 96 on the 5th, 16th and 27th of each month, December through March, to hear Literacy Plus's ad sponsoring the weather at the top of each hour throughout the day. Watch for the TV spots on A-Channel starting in late January, and keep an eye out for our new posters and brochures around the county.

Calendar

December 13	– Open House
December 18	– office closed
January 3	– office reopens
January 8	– classes start
January 17	– Board meeting
January 27	– Family Literacy Day



Labour Market Forum

On November 2, a panel representing five county businesses (AECL, the Pembroke Mall, a Pembroke call centre, the manufacturer KI and the Pembroke Regional Hospital) gave a valuable presentation about the labour market. They reinforced several important messages:

- Employability skills (time management, reliability, teamwork, etc.) are crucially important at all levels.
- Many employers in Renfrew County find these skills lacking among job seekers.
- Renfrew County is facing a labour shortage in several areas, including entry level jobs in retail, call centres and other service areas. These are areas where our learners are finding employment.

These messages show that the training we offer at Literacy Plus serves employers who are seeking capable staff as much as it serves learners who are seeking jobs. Learners can develop these other essential job skills while they work on communications, math, or computer skills. **Workready Online** teaches such skills as how to manage stress, manage time, and set and meet goals. Workready will be offered again starting in February. Call the office for more information.



Prize Winner

Terrie Watson was pleased to hear from AlphaPlus recently that she had won a \$100 gift certificate for filling out a survey about using computers in the classroom. Her certificate is good for purchases at the AlphaPlus Catalogue store till the end of March 2007. She plans to spend her winnings on materials for the computer classes to use. Congratulations Terrie!

Resources

LLEO Occupational Curricula

Literacy Plus recently received four new curricula on CD focused on the reading, writing, math and other skills needed for specific entry-level jobs. Students can work through the modules in their field of interest and become familiar with related vocabulary and tasks.

The series now has 10 different topics. The new ones are Food Processing, Food Counter Attendant, Health Care, and Landscape and Grounds Maintenance. The original modules include Retail, Hospitality, Call Centre, Helpers & Labourers, Skilled Trades, and Supported Job Search.

Websites

Tutors present at the tutor training on November 25 enjoyed an afternoon exploring websites for teaching and learning. Some of the popular sites were:

- <http://school.discovery.com/> This is an excellent site with lots to explore and discover. Of particular interest was the link to a puzzle making site, www.puzzlemaker.com
- <http://teacher.scholastic.com/> Another excellent site with lots of links and resources.
- <http://www.world-english.org/> An excellent British site with lots of activities, some interactive, for all areas of English language skills.
- <http://www.math.com/> This is a great website! It even has an online calculator for finding square roots.
- <http://www1.sympatico.ca/cgi-bin/onthistday> A site for Canadian history.

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

Golden Oak Books



The Golden Oak Book

Club has six great titles this year: *Shattered* by Eric Walters, about peacekeeping in Rwanda; *Terry Fox: A Story of Hope*, Maxine Trottier; *Paul Moves Out*, a graphic novel by Michel Rabagliati; *My Childhood Under Fire: A Sarajevo Diary 1992-95*, by Nadja Halilbegovich; *The Crazy Man*, by Pamela Porter; and *Earth Magic*, poems by Dionne Brand. Literacy Plus has copies available, on loan from LOCS.

Bonnechere Authors Festival

Summer 2007 seems far away, but it's time to get reading. Literacy Plus's successful author reading nights, *Literary Tuesdays in July*, are coming back with a new name and on a new day.

The new name is the **Bonnechere Authors Festival**. In 2007, the four readings will be held on **Wednesday** evenings. Three evenings will be held at St. James Church in Eganville, as in the past. The July 18th evening will be held in **Arnprior**, location to be announced.

Two great authors are already confirmed. Elisabeth Harvor lives in Ottawa and is well known for her prize-winning short stories, poetry and novels. Her 2005 novel *All Times Have Been Modern* was a finalist for the Ottawa Book Award.

Writer Kristen den Hartog is originally from Deep River. Her novels *Water Wings* (2001), *The Perpetual Ending* (2003) and *Origin of Haloes* (2005) have received wide praise for the skill with which she depicts small town life and family relationships.

Ticket prices for 2007 will remain at \$15 per single evening and \$50 for the series of four evenings. Happy reading.

Our Students Write...

Outdoor Adventure Job Report

There are many things that can make a job perfect. A job that suits me would include, a pleasing physical environment, working with a team, and something that is adventurous and may contain dangerous elements. I want to be able to work outdoors and have the freedom to be creative in my own job and to be able to express my own ideas. The job that I decided has everything I would want has to be outdoor adventure.

In order to be involved in outdoor adventure camp you need to be equipped with many different skills. To pack up food, gear, first aid kits and fuel for the tour group you must have planning skills. To review the basics of what adventure you are about to start with the tour group you need communication skills. Guiding a three hour hiking or kayaking trip also takes physical strength so you need to be physically fit. Preparing meals for the group is also a necessity so you require some cooking skills also. And to lead a group of inexperienced outdoor adventurers you must be educated in survival and first aid and CPR. While outdoor adventure can be fun and exciting, there are dangerous elements involved.

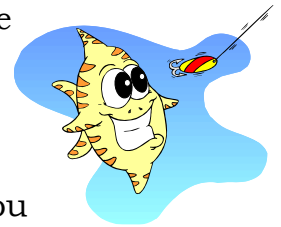
Outdoor adventure is a great way to enjoy yourself but working as a tour guide can have disadvantages also. Taking a hike or going on a kayaking trip is a great and obvious advantage, having the freedom of the outdoors all around you, but that can quickly turn into a disadvantage when the weather changes into a thunderstorm in the middle of a trip. You also get to meet a lot of new and exciting people. Every new tour group you guide is a new set of people. For some people that is an

advantage but for me not getting to know the people you are working with would be a disadvantage. In the end it is all about being adventurous and if you are up for an adventure as I am, outdoor adventure would be a great opportunity.

- Bruce Marshall

Homemade Lures and Jigs

My grandfather used to make his own lures and his own jigs for fishing back when I was little. I used to go down to the basement where he was making them and I just sat there and watched him take his jack knife with a light piece of wood and carve it in to a jig and tie the line on to the jig. Making the lures wasn't that easy. He made little minnows for which you needed a little piece of wood about the size of your hand and you had to carve it into a little minnow. Then you had to cut a little out for where the fins would go, that means right behind the gills on the back and on its tail. Then you have to cut a little piece of tin for each place that the fins would go. Then you can paint them or you can just leave them the way they are. Then you can attach the line from the jig to the lure.



- Catherine Leduc

A Cat



My sister has a cat. She is an orange and white tabby cat. She is a nice cat. She likes to play with her toys and run around the kitchen and she likes to go outside and play in the grass. She loves to sleep in my room on the rug beside my bed. In the morning, she likes to jump on my bed.

- Wendy

Christmas Tree a Winner



Beautiful decorated Christmas trees were on display Friday evening, November 3, at the Cobden Agricultural Society. Literacy Plus computer students entered a tree and received a plaque for the tree with the most decorations.

All students from Terrie Watson's computer classes participated. Their project was to research and/or generate decorations using the computer. The students chose search engines to do their research; one of their favourites was Dogpile.com. They created folders in My Favourites and saved all of the sites that they visited. They then explained in a report what new things they had learnt about the decorations they were making.

The students included in their report all the supplies they would need. With a limited budget, they needed to be very creative and to recycle material, which they did with a lot of imagination. The Christmas tree is now on display at the front of the office and will remain up until after the Christmas Open House.

- Terrie Watson, Computer Instructor

Craft Workshops



Students enjoyed three craft workshops this fall under the capable guidance of Maxine Golden. In September they made harvest wreaths; in October they made pinecone ornaments; and in November they made wreaths for Christmas. Samples will be on display at the Open House. We'll have more workshops after Christmas—watch for notices.

May peace be your gift at Christmas & your blessing all year through.

Granny's Fudge

Joyce's recipe is treat any time of year, including Christmas.

1 cup white sugar
1 cup brown sugar
½ cup Carnation milk
¼ cup soft butter
¼ cup corn syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla



Combine all ingredients, except the vanilla, in a medium pan and boil for exactly 8 minutes, stirring constantly while cooking. Take from stove and let stand for 4 minutes, then add vanilla and beat until creamy and opaque. Pour in buttered pan, let set, then cut.

- Joyce Gutzeit

Raffle

Maxine Golden has donated another lovely painting to be raffled for Literacy Plus, this time featuring trilliums. It is displayed by the front door of the office. Tickets are 99 cents. The draw will be held at next year's Annual General Meeting.



*A tutor who tooted the flute
Tried to tutor two tooters to toot
Said the two to the tutor,
"Is it harder to toot or
to tutor two tooters to toot?"*

- Thanks to Helen Dixon

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