



Literacy Plus Newsletter

Issue #55

Fall 2009

Ministry Allocates Extra Dollars

The 2009 Ontario provincial budget provided for an increased investment in literacy and academic upgrading, allowing service providers to increase services, reduce waiting lists and address capacity issues.

Literacy Plus was fortunate to receive some of that additional funding. We will serve an additional 17 clients in 2009/2010, and enhance our services in the following ways:

1. Add two additional computer classes to our current offerings – one daytime class with Terrie Watson and one evening class with Kim Meisel.
2. Offer more stand-alone workshops, such as Smart Serve, WHMIS and Health Literacy.
3. Offer some exciting new short courses from the LOCS project, LESIA (Literacy and Essential Skills in Industrial Arts). LOCS has designed and piloted new curricula in such industrial arts areas as stained glass, tile and mosaic art, blacksmithing, welding, and jewelry making. Through this innovative project, Literacy Plus will reach out to a new client group and partner with new businesses and agencies. The first curriculum available is in stained glass—we plan to offer at least one class before Christmas.
4. Purchase new teaching-learning resources.



We would like to thank our LOCS network facilitator, Lesley Hamilton, and our MTCU field consultant, Nycol Vinette, for their support.

Annual General Meeting

Forty people attended Literacy Plus's Annual General Meeting and potluck supper in June.

Guest speaker Frank Ahern gave a very interesting talk on scientific literacy, outlining the basic things that all of us should know about science to understand the world around us. Frank generously made the Power Point notes from his talk available to Literacy Plus and to post on the [Literacy Plus website](#).

As always, Terrie Watson's students had an impressive display of work they had done over the year. A big project was a 98-page book of *Earth Friendly Home Remedies*. Students also shared PowerPoint presentations on the business blogs they had created, showing their research on the Internet for their own businesses. One student had a presentation on how to transfer VHS movies to DVD.

The business of the meeting included committee reports, presentation of the financial report for 2008/2009, and voting on the budget for 2009/2010. Members also voted to accept the revised Bylaws as presented, and elected a slate of Directors for 2009/2010.

The Board of Directors and officers for 2009-2010 are:

Jennifer Coleman	Chair
Barbara Dubé	Secretary
Michele Joyce	Treasurer
Linda McLaren	Past Chair
Jean Davies	Director
Ross Meadows	Director
Ethel Ryan	Director
Laura Zdyrko	Director

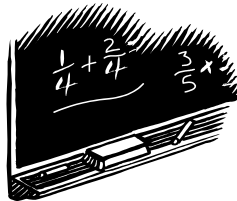
New Teacher

Literacy Plus is very pleased to welcome Gayle Timm as the new teacher of the now three-day -a-week upgrading class. Gayle's qualifications and experience are a great fit for the upgrading program, as students come with varied backgrounds and different skills needs.

Gayle herself brings a variety of knowledge and teaching experience. She has worked both in high schools and with adult students. With the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Gayle taught regular academic subjects, worked as a guidance counsellor and also with special needs students. As a trained diagnostician, she also worked for the special education department, testing students in six high schools and helping to develop programs to meet individual needs. At one time she taught a class of young mothers working on their high school diplomas.

Drawing on both general adult curriculum materials for reading, writing and math, and on curricula developed specifically for job interests a student may have, Gayle helps each student with an individualized program. Students also learn basic computer skills. Through the day they move back and forth between independent and group work, as Gayle finds students often learn a lot from each other as well as from course material.

Each morning students set goals for what they will accomplish that day and then assess their achievements and challenges at the end of the day. At the end of each week, they write a summary of what they have accomplished and what they will carry forward. "I enjoy working with students over a period of time," Gayle says. "I find it very rewarding to get to know them and see their progress."



Gayle and her husband retired to the area four years ago, moving permanently to a home near LaPasse that was their second home for years. They have family connections in the

area. Working for a time as a volunteer tutor for Literacy Plus reinforced her interest in working with adults, and she was pleased to be selected for the upgrading class position.

The upgrading class runs Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 to 4:00. Students can attend full or part time, according to their needs and schedules, and can begin at any time there is room. Anyone interested can call the office for more details.

Bonnechere Authors Festival

The 7th Annual Bonnechere Authors Festival returned to Eganville this year, with all four author evenings held at St. James Church Hall. Audiences enjoyed the lively readings and, as always, had many questions to ask the authors about how they find inspiration and approach the writing process. Anthony de Sa is a full-time teacher and the father of small children—his only writing time is late at night. Andrew Pyper treats his writing as a job. He gets up and goes right to work in his basement office—with a self-imposed minimum of 1,000 words a day before he can come out.

The four events netted more than \$3,300 to support Literacy Plus programs. We are grateful to the authors—Anthony De Sa, Andrew Pyper, Glenda Ferguson Tippins and Priscila Uppal—who generously shared their time and talents. Gwen Storie of the Arnprior Book Shop and Deb Adams from the LoonsNest in Deep River kindly ordered and sold copies of the authors' books. Local businesses Frisco's, The Meadows, Serendipity on the River, and the Bonnechere Caves sponsored the rack cards, included Literacy Plus on the Passport to Fun, and generously assisted in other ways. Doayne and Frank Ahern hosted the authors and Frisco's provided the authors' dinners. Sincere thanks to all.

Planning for 2010 has already begun. As soon as the authors are finalized, we'll get the word out so you can start reading.

Swing for Literacy

How do we do it?! After this summer of rain, the sun shone again for the annual Swing for Literacy Golf Tournament, and 81 golfers enjoyed an afternoon of friendly competition and fun.

This year, Jeff and Joan-Marie Wilcox of George's Marine & Sports in Eganville generously put up a 2009 CanAm 400 ATV as a Hole-in-One prize on Hole #8. Sadly for the golfers, no one managed to get that hole-in-one.



The day's winning team was made up of Cyril and Loretta Enright, Wendy McDonald and Daryl Timm, with a score of 63. Three teams tied for second place with scores of 65. The club pro drew to break the tie, giving Dave and Elaine Fisher and Connie and Jim Malloy second place, the four McDonalds third, and Gilles and Irene Doth and George and Sheila Wilcox fourth. The "Most Honest Team" (the one that had the most fun) was Kathy Craig, Theresa McDonald and Carmel Rumleskie.

Many thanks to the Whitetail Golf Club for hosting the tournament and donating to the event. Thanks also to Gilles Doth, Phil Butler, and Rosemary Cammaert, who have organized this tournament from the first year. We also thank the many people and businesses following, who donated prizes and items for the silent auction:

Afelskie's Shoes-Killaloe, Afelskie's Shoes & Clothing-Barry's Bay, Ash Grove Inn, Paul & Lee Armstrong, Balmoral Hotel, Bank of Montreal-Barry's Bay, Eganville & Pembroke, Barry's Bay Esso, Barry's Bay Metro, Barry's Bay Post Office, Barry's Bay This Week, Bayberry Lane Designs, Barry's Bay Benson Auto Parts, Black Water Designs, Board members of Literacy Plus, Bonnechere Caves, Clark Guettel Blown Glass, Cooperators Insurance-Barry's Bay, Dairy Freez, The Delfi Group, Desjardins Credit Union-Pembroke, Gilles & Irene Doth, Eugene's Auto Glass, George's Marine & Sports, G. Kranz Insurance & Real Estate, Grumblin' Granny's, Helen Dixon, Home Hardware-Barry's Bay & Renfrew, Keetch's Lumber & Building Supplies, Killaloe Village Pharmacy, Killaloe Flowers, Lakeside Pavilion, Lorraine's Pharmasave, McDougall Insurance-Barry's Bay, McIntosh Perry, M.V. Satellite Systems, Napa Auto Parts,

Northern Credit Union-Barry's Bay, O'Reilly Funeral Home, Philly Flowers and Arts, Paul Burke & Son Jewellers, Pembroke Honda, Pine Cliff Resort, Red Canoe Café, Remax Country Classics and Brokerage, Royal Lepage-Barry's Bay, The Vintage Gift Shoppe, Timberline Signs, Top of the Mountain ATV Tours, Summers' Bros Motors, V&S Stedman's -Barry's Bay, Wilno Craft Gallery, Wilno Garden Gallery, Wilno Tavern, Yantha & Yantha Solicitors, Yantha Enterprises, Woodbine Entertainment Group

Interactive Literacy Map of Canada

On International Adult Literacy Day, September 8, 2009, the Canadian Council on Learning launched its interactive map of prose literacy in Canada. The online tool allows users to explore profiles of literacy in 52,200 cities, towns and communities across the country. The map uses data from the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (IALSS), which was conducted by Statistics Canada and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and combines it with 2006 Census data. The result is an interactive look at prose literacy across the country, represented by average adult prose literacy scores (on a scale of 0 – 500) or by regions of lower literacy.

Prose literacy refers to the knowledge and skills needed to understand and use information from text, such as news stories, editorials, poems and fiction. It is the most commonly understood definition of literacy. According to the 2003 IALSS, 48% of adults in Canada had low literacy levels, at, or below, IALS Level 2.

To see this impressive map, visit:
www.ccl-cca.ca/cclflash/proseliteracy/map_canada_e.html

Thank You KI

Literacy Plus is grateful to KI for another generous donation of office furniture in June. The large filing cabinets have helped us better organize the office to track our ever-increasing files of all kinds. Thank you!



Tutor Training

Literacy Plus offered two tutor training workshops this past spring, and Trainer Diane Litchfield pioneered a new technology—PowerPoint presentations.

On May 9, the focus was on the importance of setting and achieving learning goals in order to demonstrate that the student has made progress. Most students have two kinds of goals: more academic learning goals and learning goals related to their career choice. An excellent website to visit for career goal information is www.mygates.ca/jobmaster_v1.html Explore this site. It's a great one!

As well, tutors were encouraged to assist their learners in developing Essential Skills. These links will give you lots of information about Essential Skills information:

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/essential_skills/general/understanding_es.shtml provides a list of the 9 Essential Skills that you can review

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/essential_skills/pdfs/awareness/what_are_es.pdf provides a colourful pdf file outlining the Essential Skills.

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/essential_skills/general/toolkit.shtml provides a toolkit for exploring Essential Skills.

On May 30, we revisited the importance of demonstrating student learning and student success, and discussed selecting materials appropriate to the learner's goal. If the learner wants to go on to further education, then you might be encouraging a more traditional curriculum of "reading, writing, and arithmetic." If the learner's goal is employment, then you need to be using curriculum suited to their chosen employment field. Literacy Plus now has some of the materials offered at www.skillplan.ca/.

This *Employment Ontario* program is funded by the Ontario Government.

Publish Your Writing

ProLiteracy, as a partner in the National Gallery of Writing, has created a site where adult literacy and ESL students and teachers can publish their writings and share their experiences about teaching, learning, or any other topic.

Writers at all levels are invited to submit their work. The writing possibilities are unlimited:

- descriptions of how learning a new skill has changed one's life
- stories about someone you admire
- letters to friends or relatives
- poems
- recipes
- lists of steps to make or do something
- descriptions of jobs or hobbies
- the writer's hopes for his or her future
- anything of interest to the writer

Be sure to visit the Contribute My Writing and Guidelines pages for all the information you'll need to know about submitting your writing.

The writings in all of the galleries will be available for public viewing starting October 20, the National Day of Writing. People may post their writings until June 2010. To submit a piece of writing to the ProLiteracy gallery, go to the website www.galleryofwriting.org.

The National Gallery of Writing is sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English with funding support from Verizon and Verizon Thinkfinity.

Story of the Week



Student writings are also posted on the National Adult Literacy Database website, www.nald.ca. The Story of the Week page on this Canadian site allows adult learners to share their original stories. A new story is put on-line every Monday morning. The NALD website is also a great resource for information about teaching and all things related to literacy in Canada and beyond.

Computer Class News

Terrie reports that the computer classes' big project this year will be the creation of a student newsletter, to be published next June. A student editor and assistant editor will collect writings, poems and articles throughout the year from students in all classes, including the upgrading class. They will hold a contest with prizes for the best story, best poem, etc. Winners will be announced in the newsletter.

Last year, students created a 98-page book of *Earth Friendly Home Remedies*, including sections on Cleaning & Housekeeping, Gardens & Environment, Health & Beauty, Kitchen, and Pets. They hope to reprint it this year.

Students have also organized a draw to raise money for extra computer supplies for their projects. The prize is a basket of handmade items: a watercolour painting, a hand-knitted scarf and hat, 3 painted sleighs, and more. Tickets are 99 cents. The draw will be held at the Christmas potluck in December.

Angel Tree

Terrie's computer classes are planning to have an Angel Tree again this year. Last year's was a great success, with three pick-ups of donated gifts for children going to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy families. The tree with angels will be set up in the classroom at the beginning of November.

Just a reminder about how it works: you choose an angel with the age and gender of the child for whom you'd like to buy a gift. Gifts can be of any value—all are appreciated, but no guns or war toys please. Gifts are needed for all ages, from babies to age 14. Gifts are put under the Angel Tree, unwrapped and with the angel you chose, by the beginning of December.

Gifts are welcome from anyone: students, staff, Board members and volunteers, or community members.

Web Resources

CLO's Members E-Communiqué notes the following teaching/learning resources available on the Internet.

Literacy and Health

The North Bay Literacy Council has produced some extremely helpful resources for adult students on health and literacy. These resources are available on their website at:

www.northbayliteracycouncil.ca/

(click on the "Health and Literacy" tab). Topics include: Talking to Your Doctor; Health Words; Health Problems; Mental Health; Community Resources; Student Resources; Lessons Plans; and Making a Binder about You. This resource is highly recommended!



Practical Money Skills for Life is a website provided by VISA. It has a number of tools, games and information about managing money responsibly. It promotes financial literacy with free educational and consumer resources for all ages. An excellent teaching tool can be found in the "Resources" tab "Classroom." Next go to "Students with Special Needs." Here you will find a free ten-module curriculum covering: Making Decisions, Making Money, Budgeting Your Money, Shopping Wisely, Living on Your Own, Using Banking Services, Understanding Credit, Cars & Loans, Protecting Your Money, and Savings & Investments. You will have to register (no cost) before downloading materials. They also offer a free newsletter with ideas to teach financial management. Visit this website at: www.practicalmoneyskills.com.

"You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try."

– Beverly Sills

Answers to the rebus puzzle, page 6:

read between the lines; eggs over easy; scotch on the rocks; slow down; keep in touch; big bad wolf; backward glance

Student Writing

This letter to the editor written by a student was printed in the October 7th edition of the Eganville Leader.

Who Stands Behind Our Troops?

Dear Editor:

I am writing you to tell a story that happened to me, or should I say it happened to one of our troops. I was at a gas station when two army trucks pulled in. I put gas in my car and went in to pay for it and there were about six to eight troops there. One of them had a coke and he took out his debit card to pay for it. The sales clerk told him, "Sorry sir, it's a \$5 minimum." Then he asked if he could use his MasterCard. She said, "Sorry, it's the same." He put his cards back in his wallet and said thank you and walked out. It was a hot and muggy day and the lady was going to take the coke and put it to one side. I took the coke and said that I would pay for it along with my gas. So I did. Then I went outside and walked over to the soldier and gave him the coke and said have nice day. He thanked me and I went on my way.

I think what the sales clerk did was so unfair. Who stands behind our troops these days? I do and other people should too! If it was my store, I would have given the coke to him and said, "Keep up the good work!"

Perhaps if you put this in your paper, people who see this will remember to respect our troops more. They are the ones who are fighting for our freedom.

Terry
Foymount

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H1N1 Protection

We don't know yet how hard the H1N1 virus will hit Canada this winter, but like other offices and schools, Literacy Plus is taking extra steps to prevent or minimize the spread of all flu germs.

Common sense procedures can have a big effect on prevention. We remind students, staff and visitors to:

1. Wash hands thoroughly in warm, soapy water or use hand sanitizer. Please do this before class and, of course, after using the washroom and before using the kitchen.
2. Keep common surfaces and items clean and disinfected—desks, computer keyboards, doorknobs, telephones, washroom and kitchen surfaces.
3. Bring your own cups and cutlery from home if you wish, for lunches and coffee breaks. Shared utensils could be a source of infection—for now, we have put away the Literacy Plus cups and cutlery.
4. Sneeze and cough into your elbow or sleeve, or use a tissue. Throw away the tissue after use and remember to wash your hands again.
5. Stay home if you're sick. Remember to call in and let us know you won't be coming.

Rebus Puzzles



Each word combination below represents a common phrase. Can you figure them out?

R / E / A / D

EGGS
EASY

SCOTCH
ROCKS

TOUKEEPCH

S
L
O
W

BAD wolf

ECNALG

Answers on page 5.