



Literacy Plus Newsletter

Issue #58

Fall 2010

New Program Director

This fall, Literacy Plus welcomed new Program Director, David Henstock. David was hired at the end of June, spent some time over the summer becoming familiar with Literacy Plus and the literacy field, then dove in when the office reopened in September.

Originally from England, David has experience in managing small organizations and teaching adults, along with a lot of technological expertise. Work with local municipalities and volunteer groups over the past four years has helped him understand some of the social and economic challenges in Renfrew County. However, the field of literacy is new to him and he has been very busy since the beginning of September learning the ropes.

The theme of his recent life, says David, is change: the change of emigrating to Canada, a change in his work focus, and joining the literacy community at a time of change as our funder, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, moves to integrate literacy agencies with other training and employment services under its management. This also presents the opportunity, David observes, for Literacy Plus to review and perhaps make changes in its role in this new landscape.

David has found other staff, students and board members to be welcoming and supportive as he settles into the job. Staff and teachers are finding that David's computer knowledge is a big asset for both technical glitches and streamlining our record keeping processes. Welcome, David.

Terrie Retires

Come December, our longtime Computer Instructor, Terrie Watson, will retire after more than 12 years with Literacy Plus. Terrie started as a tutor and also acted as an Outreach Tutor, a local contact and coordinator for other tutors. Starting in September 2000, when we were still located at Foymount Road, Terrie joined volunteer Tammy Foster to teach our first computer literacy program, with Tammy in Eganville and Terrie teaching in Cobden. Students came in for one-hour lessons (later two), one day a week, and worked on refurbished, donated computers.

In 2001, Terrie took over the program in Eganville and for the last several years she has been teaching six half-day classes a week. She developed a comprehensive and flexible program that teaches the basics—word-processing, spreadsheets, presentations, Internet and e-mail—as students work on material and projects to develop their skills and move towards employment or other goals. The results of these classes have been shown at Annual Meetings: small business portfolios, PowerPoint presentations and the *Environment Friendly Home Remedies* book are three examples.

The students have always appreciated Terrie's friendly, encouraging manner and her patience as they struggle with new skills. Her departure will leave a big gap. We'll be thinking about her this winter as she enjoys the climate of Florida while we scrape our windshields and shovel snow....



Board of Directors for 2010/2011

Three new members were elected to the Literacy Plus Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting in June, while five others continue their term. Officers were appointed by the board at its September meeting. Past Chair Jennifer Coleman-Davidson is taking a leave of absence—she and her husband are anticipating the birth of their first child in early November. We are still looking for one or two additional directors.

Directors and officers for the 2010-2011 year :

Bill Lavery	Chair		
Jennifer Coleman-Davidson		Past Chair	
Cathy Hunt	Vice-Ch		air
Barbara Dubé		Secretary	
Cathy Lyons	Treasurer		
Jean Davies	Director		
Heather Saar	Director		
Christine Thompson	Director		
Laura Zydrko	Director		

Spotlight on Change

Literacy Plus is excited about the pilot of a new program called Spotlight on Change. Developed by Project Read Network Waterloo-Wellington, the program focuses on unemployed women over 40 who want to explore their options for work and upgrade their essential skills.

The program is designed in modules, with the entire program running for 150 hours. Participants will focus on the essential skills they already have, the type of work they want and the steps they need to take to get there. Literacy Plus will offer a one-day introductory workshop in early December and, depending on the interest, will offer additional modules after Christmas. Upgrading teacher Gayle Timm will facilitate the course.

The program is free. For information about the 1-day introduction (date, time, location) and to reserve a space, please call the office.



Bonnechere Authors Festival 2010

The 8th Annual Bonnechere Authors Festival was one of our most successful to date. Our author line-up offered something for every taste: literary fiction (and poetry) from Steven Heighton, entertaining memoir with Catherine Gildiner, history and mystery with Maggie Wheeler, and social justice and international activism with Ben Hoffman. The discussions each evening were stimulating, entertaining and insightful. 357 people attended over the four July evenings and the event netted over \$5,000 to support Literacy Plus programs.



Many thanks are due: to the four authors, who generously gave to us their time and talents. Local businesses Frisco's, The Meadows, Serendipity on the River, and the Bonnechere Caves sponsored the rack cards. Two book clubs in Renfrew jointly hosted the first evening, providing wonderful refreshments along with great organization. (Special thanks to Brian Ruddy.) Gail Reid and Steve Campbell put up Steven Heighton at their Lochiel Street Bed and Breakfast. Deb Adams from the LoonsNest in Deep River provided copies of the authors' books for sale each evening.

The amazing Doyne Ahern finds and signs up the authors each year, and with husband Frank plays host at dinner and also houses the authors overnight if necessary. Board member and BAF Chair Barbara Dubé coordinated all these activities, and Board members, students and other volunteers assisted with the events. We are very grateful to all.

Help Wanted

With Terrie leaving, and the new curriculum looming, Literacy Plus has begun to look for a literacy and computer skills teacher to take over her duties starting in January. Ads were run in selected county newspapers, with a closing date of November 10. Interviews will follow.

Guest Writer: Bill Lavery

Board Chair Bill Lavery has recently published a book called ***Grandpa, You Should Write Your Stories Down***. The 204-page book contains memories and stories from age three to the present, ranging from growing up in Canada to teaching in Borneo and Africa, to a recent adventure in Ireland. Some copies are available for sale at \$20, or \$25 if mailed. Bill plans to begin work on a second book this winter. The following is a short excerpt.

An Icy Spring in Winnipeg

Spring had finally come to Winnipeg in 1949 but the ice on the roof over the veranda was thick and it looked as though it were permanent. My mother asked me to knock it off the roof if I could.

I stood on the stairs and poked at it with a broom handle and was able to dislodge a few tiny pieces but the main body of ice sat there, unmoved by my pathetic efforts. The only solution seemed to be to get up on the roof where I could get at it.

Once on the roof the strategy was simple. I rested one foot on one piece of ice and kicked at another. Large showers of ice were soon sliding off the roof, past the living room window and onto the stairs or even out to the concrete walk.

Soon there was not much ice left. I kicked at one of the few remaining icy spots and it started to move. Unfortunately for me, the piece of ice that was moving seemed to be attached to the one I was resting my other foot on. I had the horrible feeling of helplessness as I started, slowly at first, to slide down the slippery roof. Time slowed and, as I gathered speed, I had plenty of time to dread the probable result of my flawed strategy.

I went hurtling off the roof in slow motion with a shower of ice, past the living room window,

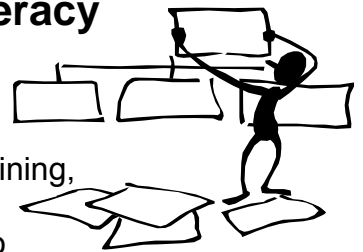


and—onto the wide banister of the stairs. I slid down the banister and onto a pile of crushed ice that had accumulated on the concrete walk. I sat there shaking—but totally unhurt. I slowly got up and went inside. No one in the house had seen me hurtling by the window. Everything was normal for them but I felt as though I had been through a time warp. The world seemed different now.

- Bill Lavery, June 2010

Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum

Sometime in early 2011, the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities will introduce the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework, with content and guidelines for a new provincial teaching curriculum, assessment and materials. While Literacy and Basic Skills “will continue to be a learner-centred, goal-directed, and outcome-based program,” the competency (task-based) approach of the new framework is intended to “make practitioners’ work easier and ensure consistent quality practice across the province.”



The intention is to make both the measurement of student progress easier and achievement more visible (to students, agencies and MTCU) than it currently is with the five LBS levels. When the framework is finalized, agencies will get training in its use, and will start implementing it through 2011.

Another coming change: The current IMS (Information Management System) that literacy agencies now use to report to the Ministry will be replaced by the EOIS (Employment Ontario Information System) next April. This is the same system now in use by the Employment Service Agencies, and it is reported to be more user-friendly than the current IMS. Making this transition will move us another step forward in the integration of training and employment services under Employment Ontario.

Bonnechere Caves Barbecue

On August 12, Literacy Plus and Chris Hinsperger welcomed friends and the public to an evening barbecue at the Caves to promote literacy, Literacy Plus and the importance of partnering among community organizations. As volunteers flipped burgers and hotdogs, Chris and his staff gave informal performances of music and poetry; afterwards, they provided an introduction to local fossils and tours of the caves.



The event raised \$682. Many thanks to Literacy Plus Office Manager Sue Rupert and Caves owner Chris Hinsperger for organizing this fun event, to the board members who provided desserts, and to the volunteers who did the barbecuing and ticket sales.

Literacy Plus Programs

Literacy Plus has a variety of programs running and planned. For more information about any of these, call the office at (613) 628-1720.

Ongoing (Eganville):

- Skills Upgrading: 3 days per week, full and part-time
- Computer-based literacy:
 - 6 day classes per week, each 3.5 hours
 - 2 evening classes per week, each 3 hours
- One-to-one tutoring

Upcoming:

- Computer-based literacy (Renfrew) in partnership with Employment Networks
- Spotlight on Change: An essential skills upgrading program for unemployed women over 40. 1-day workshop (introductory pilot)
- 1-day Workshops planned: WHMIS, Smart Serve, Safe Food Handling, Flagging, and more

This Employment Ontario Program is funded by the Government of Ontario.

Online Literacy Presentations

Community Literacy of Ontario has created six online audio-visual presentations about adult literacy and literacy training in Ontario:

1. What is literacy?
2. Recognizing literacy
3. Literacy and Basic Skills in Ontario
4. Making referrals
5. Literacy and employment
6. Learner success stories

The presentations are informative, easy to access and free. You can find them on the CLO website at www.nald.ca/clo/presentations.htm — just click on the topic that interests you. You may have to upgrade your Adobe Reader: <http://get.adobe.com/reader>.

International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day is celebrated each year on September 8. This year, the Renfrew County Literacy Service Planning Committee (LSP) placed small radio spots on local stations to raise public awareness of the day and the issue of literacy. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) kindly sponsored the following information spot on Star 96. It ran for a week ahead of ILD.

September 8th is International Literacy Day, a day that celebrates learning around the world. The Renfrew County Literacy Service Providers encourage adults everywhere to take the first step to upgrade their skills. To find out more, look under LEARN in the Yellow Pages.

International Literacy Day: What did you learn today?

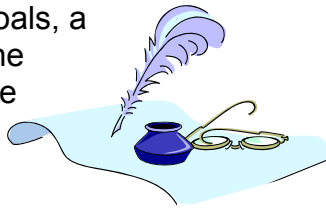


Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and it looks like work.

- Thomas Edison

Student Writing

We have four student writers in this issue, writing about personal goals, a favourite memory, and the challenges of learning the new software.



The Boy Walking Out on the Train Tracks

I can remember walking on the train tracks when I was 5 years old. That was when I was full of life and joy. I would walk for miles on the tracks and have lots of fun doing this. Sometimes, I would go as far as Kipawa. I would look all over the place and see and talk to other people that might be there at the time, or I might be just having fun by myself. Sometimes, I would go fishing by the lake for some big fish like Northern Pike.

The lake I'm talking about is called Tee Lake in northern Québec. The people that I would go fishing with would be my cousin and brothers. The summers there were very nice. We would go swimming, and for long drives. The swimming was very pleasant with the family when we went to Temiskaming. But what I enjoyed more was going for my long walks up to Kipawa.

The long walks were very enjoyable; I would hear the cries of the Loons in the wild and the jumping of the Great Northern Pikes as they splashed the water. When it was time to go home for the night, you could see the sky turning color just before it was time for the night to go to sleep. The sky was alight with colors; it was bright with red, yellow, and sometimes a deep purple.

The train tracks were very long and beautiful, but sometimes they were hot – but that was nice when walking on summer days. As a grown man I think about the long walks to Kipawa along the train tracks and the fishing in Tee Lake.

- Rickey McKay

My Goals

I am attending Literacy Plus to upgrade my skills in hopes of pursuing a career as a Personal Support Worker for the elderly. This career choice is important to me because people need a caring individual to look after their needs when they are unable to do so for themselves. My goal is to provide them with an atmosphere that would be without shame or embarrassment. As a Personal Support Worker, I would hope to make a difference in my patients' lives, by making them feel as comfortable as I possibly could. I look forward to this journey and know that I will make a difference in their lives once I am there.

- Upgrading Class Student, October 2010

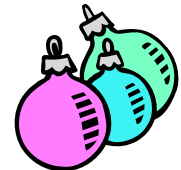
Class News

Students in Terrie Watson's computer classes collected \$550 from sales of their **Earth Friendly Home Remedies** book. They used this money to purchase sturdy, comfortable new chairs for the computer classroom. Thank you to the students, and thanks to Terry Dick, who put the chairs together.

Student Raffle

The raffle draw organized by Joyce Gutzeit will be held at the Christmas party, on Monday, December 6. Anyone who still has tickets, or stubs and money, please contact Joyce right away and arrange to get them in to her.

Christmas Party



The computer and upgrading classes are busy planning an extra special Christmas party, scheduled for Monday, December 6, at 12 noon. The computer classes will provide a main dish of chicken, purchased with the funds remaining after buying the chairs. Potluck salads and desserts are welcome—no nuts please. Door prizes, the raffle draw and a visit from Santa will round out the day. Students, staff, Board members and other volunteers are welcome.

Microsoft Office 2007

In our computer class this term, we are discovering something quite different from what we have learned in the past. We are being introduced to Office 2007, which contains Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and Outlook. I must admit that when I first opened up Office 2007, I felt a bit overwhelmed. Things appear to be completely changed, but if you take your time and read all the information supplied in class notes, you'll soon discover that you can do anything you did before and then some. I found the notes self-explanatory and easy to follow, just don't let the fact that things are in different places and called different names discourage you from diving right in.



One of the main differences in Office 2007 and Office 2003 is that Office 2007 has things called ribbons. Microsoft Office 2007 uses these ribbons to put the tools you need within easy reach all the time. The seven different ribbons available for use are Home, Insert, Page Layout, Reference, Mailing, Review and View. Here you'll find tabs that open sets of commands to help you create a professional looking document. Options such as line spacing, paragraph indents, spell and grammar check, text alignment, bullets, numbering and borders are all available.

I especially like the way most things are right there in front of me, not hidden behind tabs like the previous word processors I've used. In all, I for one am very happy to have the chance to learn all the ins and outs of such a great software program. I predict that with the help available to us as students at Literacy Plus, you will agree with my findings. Try it, you'll like it!!!!

- Diane Felske, Tuesday AM Computer Class

Working with Windows 7

I think Windows 7 is the greatest software so far. If you know XP Windows, then Windows 7 is a breeze. Mind you, there is lots I have to learn about it yet... But what a challenge – it is sooo interesting, you can do so much with it.

I don't have it at home yet, I'm getting it next month I hope. The seniors and Literacy Plus have it and I'm learning at both places. It certainly gets your brains going, which we all need.

By pinning, unpinning, removing and changing the order of files, folders or websites using jump lists, one can keep them easily accessible. You can also pin a program, such as Office Word, directly to the taskbar. Snap lets us arrange windows side by side, expand windows vertically for reading longer documents and maximize to focus easier on a particular window. Aero Shake lets us minimize every open window, except the one we want to work on.

- Joyce Gutzeit, Tuesday AM Computer Class

I've learned that making a living is not the same as making a life.

I've learned that even when you have pains, you don't have to be one.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

- Maya Angelou

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