



---

# Literacy Plus Newsletter

---

Issue #49

Spring 2007

---

## National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week, April 15 to April 21, pays special tribute to the 12 million Canadian volunteers and 161,000 organizations across the country that donate their time and energy to help their communities and their neighbours.

Volunteers sit on boards and committees, organize cultural and recreational activities, support the elderly, counsel youth, coach teams and, of course, provide literacy training to adults. Volunteers do this work because they believe in causes and equal opportunities. They work to make a difference and make life better for others.

At Literacy Plus, we depend on volunteers — to tutor students, to serve on the Board of Directors and its committees, and to plan and carry out fundraising activities. From April 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007, 42 volunteers donated 1,800 hours to tutoring and board work for Literacy Plus. Students also volunteer by helping in the office and at special events, holding raffles and yard sales, and teaching craft classes, among other things.

The staff of Literacy Plus asks students and the community to join us in recognizing the tutors, Board members and other volunteers who share their valuable time and skills with Literacy Plus. Thank you, volunteers!

Volunteers are the  
  
of our program

## Employment Ontario

You may have noticed the new sign in our window this year that says Employment Ontario. Literacy Plus and other adult literacy programs are now members of a formalized partnership of Ontario government-funded agencies that deliver employment and training services.

The Employment Ontario network's purpose is to streamline access to information and services related to training, education and jobs. Anyone who needs help with training or getting a job will be able to approach any Employment Ontario agency and get information about and referrals to the services they need.

The network includes employment counselling services, (Job Connect, Employment Assistance Services, Employment Resource Centres); training and skills development services (Apprenticeship, Literacy and Basic Skills, Employment Assistance); and financial support services (Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support, Employment Insurance).

Employment Ontario also has a hotline and a website where people can get information about services available in their area. Phone 1-800-387-5656 or go to [www.ontario.ca/employmentontario](http://www.ontario.ca/employmentontario).

## Email Reminder

Literacy Plus's email address is now [literacyplus@bellnet.ca](mailto:literacyplus@bellnet.ca). Some tutors may still have our former rccup address on older report forms—please make sure you send reports to the new address.

---

## Annual General Meeting

Board and staff welcome all students, tutors, other volunteers and members of the public to join us at Literacy Plus's 2007 Annual General Meeting and potluck supper on Wednesday, June 6. The evening starts at 5:30 p.m. with meet-and-greet and the chance to see what students have been working on.

Terrie's classes will have a display of travel brochures they have created and a PowerPoint display on Creating Your Own Business.



The potluck supper follows at 6:00 p.m., and the business part of the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker this year is Gayle Corbin, a Grade 4 teacher from Renfrew who recently won a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. She is one of only seventeen teachers in the country to be honoured with a Certificate of Excellence.

Ms. Corbin's special interest is literacy, particularly literacy for boys, who are often reluctant readers. "I have a huge passion for boys' literacy," she told The Ottawa Citizen. "I think I've been able to instill a love of learning and reading." She has a gift for reaching each student as an individual and drawing out even those who seem unreachable. She does this by involving her classes in many hands-on activities arising from their reading, in the classroom and beyond. For instance, her Grade 4 class visited Groves Park Lodge to read to seniors in long-term care.

At the Annual Meeting, Literacy Plus also elects board members to replace those whose terms are ending. For more information about becoming a board member, please call the office or visit our website at [www.literacyplus-renfrewcounty.ca/volunt/board.htm](http://www.literacyplus-renfrewcounty.ca/volunt/board.htm)

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

## Raffle

A raffle replaces the calendar this year as Literacy Plus's third fundraiser. Tickets will be on sale over the summer and into the fall. We have four great prizes: a handmade quilt and matching pillows, made by Maxine Golden, a print by Jerome Coulas, a photograph by Michael Runtz, and a garden design consultation with Norma Moore.

Tickets (\$2 each or 3 for \$5) will be available in May and on sale at all our events, where the prizes will be on display.

## Swing for Literacy

Tuesday, September 4, is this year's date to Swing for Literacy. This year the Whitetail Golf Club near Eganville will host the



tournament. We welcome more teams of golfers from Renfrew County to join the golfers from Ottawa who have supported this event every year. Please encourage the golfers you know to come out and join the fun, and help support literacy. Lots of prizes and a great dinner! Details will be available soon.

## Calendar Error

We don't know how it happened, but the Literacy Plus calendar listed the wrong date for Easter. By now you will know that it was the weekend of April 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, NOT the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> as printed. Apologies for any confusion this may have caused.



## Calendar

- April 4 – Safe Food Handling workshop
- April 25 – Board meeting
- April 27 – craft workshop: T-shirt decorating
- May 23 – Board meeting
- May 25 – craft workshop
- June 6 – Annual General Meeting

## Bonnechere Authors Festival

The Bonnechere Authors Festival will soon be here. The authors and dates for this year's Festival have been confirmed for the following **Wednesdays** in July:

July 4     Elisabeth Harvor  
July 11    Kristin den Hartog  
July 18    Mary Jane Maffini & Barbara Fradkin  
July 25    Charlotte Gray

As noted in the December newsletter, Elisabeth Harvor's books include novels *All Times Have Been Modern* and *Excessive Joy Injures the Heart*, as well as short story collections *If Only We Could Drive Like This Forever* and *Let Me Be The One*. Kristin Den Hartog has written *Water Wings*, *The Perpetual Ending* and *Origin of Haloes*.

Charlotte Gray received stellar reviews for her 2006 book, *Reluctant Genius: The Passionate Life and Inventive Mind of Alexander Graham Bell*. She has also written about Canadian pioneers Susanna Moodie and Catherine Parr Trail (*Sisters in the Wilderness*) and native poet and feminist Pauline Johnson (*Flint & Feather*).

The evening of July 18 will be a special event. Gillian Danby will host *The Mysterious Affair* in the Arnprior Garden in her own fabulous garden. Mystery writers Mary Jane Maffini and Barbara Fradkin will share the stage. As well as their own novels, both have published in *The Ladies Killing Circle* collections.

Mary Jane Maffini, former librarian and co-owner of Prime Crime Mystery Bookstore in Ottawa, now has three series. Watch for *Organize Your Corpses* in May, or catch up with Camilla MacPhee or Fiona Silk in *The Dead Don't Get Out Much* and *Death of a Lounge Lizard*, the most recent titles in those series.

Barbara Fradkin is an Ottawa psychologist whose work with children and families provides inspiration for her complex psychological stories. Her five detective novels feature

Ottawa Police Inspector Green. *Fifth Son* and *Honour Among Men* are her two most recent books.

Children's author Lesley Airth, author of *What We Remember*, a collection of true stories about children who were affected by war, will read at the Bonnechere Union library on the afternoon of July 18.

All evenings except July 18 will be held at St. James Church in Eganville, as in the past. Ticket prices for 2007 will remain at \$15 per single evening and \$50 for the series of four evenings. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Come for dessert, coffee, book browsing, and conversation. Readings start at 8:00 p.m.

## Marketing Project

Literacy Plus's marketing project has been a great success. Exposure on radio (Star 96 FM and myFM) and television (A-Channel) connected us to a wider public: we've had many reports of ads seen and heard, and we had 19 new students enroll in January and February. Stone Fence Theatre volunteers kindly helped out with the TV ad. Custom Printers in Renfrew designed rack cards and posters, which are now going into circulation. They also created a new logo to represent Literacy Plus (see page 1).

We are grateful to all our partners in this venture, especially Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation for their funding. The publicity has been and will continue to be of great benefit to Literacy Plus and to the students who learn about and take advantage of our programs.

## Thank you!

Literacy Plus thanks the Northern Credit Union in Barry's Bay for their recent donation of \$200. Generous donations such as this are a great help as we increase our services to meet the needs of students.

## Program Activities

The office and classrooms in Eganville are buzzing these days.

- The **upgrading program** is thriving, with 7 students enrolled full time and 3 part time. Students work on reading, writing and math skills; some take a computer class as well. Pam Contant will continue teaching this class two days a week. Pam taught in the School Board's adult upgrading program last year and her experience there made it easy for her to step into the Literacy Plus program.
- Our newest offering is **preparation for the GED**, the high school equivalency exam. A small GED group has been added to the upgrading class on Thursday afternoons, taught by Lisa LeBlanc. Lisa is a recent university graduate and teacher who has experience teaching high school and students with special learning needs.
- In Eganville, we have six daytime **computer classes** and one evening class in our regular program, each running three hours a week. We have just finished an 8-week evening **fee-for-service class**. Fee-for-service classes are offered from time to time, when there is enough interest to fill a class.
- In Renfrew, we have been partnering with Employment Networks to offer 10-week computer courses to their clients, one morning a week. We will take a break for the spring semester and offer these courses again next fall and winter.
- In Killaloe, volunteer Tony Pearson offered two computer classes this winter at the Killaloe Friendship Club. New classes and students are starting in early April.
- On April 4, in partnership with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit and the Action Centre, we offered a workshop on **Safe Food Handling**. Enrolment in this workshop, as for the Smart Serve workshops



we have offered in the past, was open to the public as well as students of Literacy Plus. These popular workshops give participants an additional credential for employment and also help promote Literacy Plus in the community.

- Maxine Golden keeps coming up with great ideas for her **craft workshops**. In February, the class learned how to transfer a picture onto a T-shirt. In March the class worked on paintings (see Maxine's report on page 6 for details). Two more workshops are scheduled for April and May.



## MTCU Field Support

Ontario literacy programs received one-time funding in January from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to increase their capacity to serve clients who need upgrading for employment.

With its funds, Literacy Plus was able to buy some much-needed equipment and resources. The computer classroom now has five new computers and a new printer. We also purchased tables and chairs for the upgrading classroom, shelving, and a DVD/VCR player and monitor needed for Smart Serve and other workshops. We ordered many new resources to support job readiness and literacy for the workplace, as well as materials for reading, writing and math, and for GED preparation.



The field support funding also allowed us to pay for some additional instructor time: a half day a week in the upgrading class and two extra weeks of computer classes. And finally, we were able to purchase another four weeks of radio advertising on Star96 FM. Funds had to be spent by March 31.

With the increase in students our marketing project has brought, these funds for extra support were very timely and much appreciated. Thanks MTCU!

## The Learning Edge

The Wellington County Learning Centre has posted a new issue of The Learning Edge, its lively interactive online newsletter for students. You'll find stories and lessons that cover:

**Communication in the Workforce** - Students will learn that in the workplace what you say, how you say it and what you don't say are three key communication strategies.

**Workplace Safety** - Jim wants to learn what his rights are at work: Does he have the right to refuse work, if he thinks it's unsafe? He uses what he learns for a class presentation.

**Essential Workplace Skills** - Taxi drivers use many essential skills on the job: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and thinking skills to name a few. The skills that taxi drivers use are skills that can be transferred to other workplace settings – and used at home and in the community.

**What Does it Take to Stay Employed** uses two quizzes to help learners rate the employability skills they already have.

**Workplace Stories** - Five learners talk about skills they use on the job.

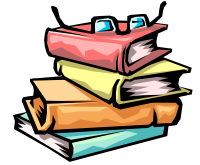
The Learning Edge can be used by tutors with their students, or by students working on their own. Go to [www.thewclc.ca/edge](http://www.thewclc.ca/edge)

## Options 2007

Options 2007 is a skilled trades fair where students, teachers and the public can learn more about the trades and the apprenticeship opportunities available for young people. Along with interactive displays, students from across Renfrew County will compete in skills competitions in small engine repair, tire changing, hairstyling, team carpentry, digital photography, culinary arts, webpage design and cabinet making. The trades fair takes place April 20 at the Ma-te-way Activity Centre, 1 Ma-te-way Drive, Renfrew.

## Family Literacy Day in Igloolik

*Tutor and board member Linda McLaren's daughter Jennifer is school librarian in Igloolik. She reported on her first Family Literacy Day there this past January.*



Success!

Heather, the public librarian, and I organized some events in the library to celebrate Family Literacy Day. I made up 30 prize bags with pencils, pens, notepads, stickers, etc. We had lots of other giveaways including some gift certificates, books donated by TD Waterhouse, and t-shirts, toques and other stuff donated by ABC Canada and Nunavut Literacy Council.

I read a few stories and our Inuktitut teacher made an appearance and read a couple of stories in Inuktitut. I asked one of the Grade 6 classes to get involved and with the help of their teacher they put on three super puppet shows.

We had about 40 kids throughout the afternoon, along with about a dozen adults. A few kids were actually there to read, and others enjoyed the stories and puppet shows a lot. The adults read with their kids or looked at photo albums. Great turn out I think. I wasn't sure what to expect but if we'd had many more, we might have had fire code problems!

The Hamlet is excited with what we are trying to do and has encouraged Heather to keep going with weekend events.

I feel good about my first literacy event as school librarian. In March it will be the Book Fair! I hope more people come to the library over the next months and that our weekend events reach even more people. Who knows, maybe we'll get a few more people reading!!

- Jennifer Marshall

---

*"Literacy skills are like muscles; they are strengthened and maintained by regular use."*

Statistics Canada

## Student Writing

### A Slippery Situation

Hi, my name is Sherry Bradley and I am originally from the B-line. Here is a little story about something funny that happened to me when I was little.

One evening I was helping my Mom by filling the dishwasher. I put the dishes in and was about to add the soap when I discovered that we were out of dish detergent. I thought that I would solve the problem by using laundry detergent instead. After all both soaps look pretty much the same. So, I filled up the soap dispenser and turned on the dishwasher and went in my room to play. Not too long afterwards I heard my mother excitedly calling my name. I ran to the kitchen to where her voice was coming from and there I saw soapsuds, and lots of them, crawling across the floor towards me. This turned into me not only helping mom with the dishes, but I also helped her wash the floor.

- Sherry Bradley

### My Personal Qualities

I love to work in the garden. I know I would make a great gardener because I really enjoy being outside. I am good at planting new things, looking after them and watching them grow. I am very responsible and would not forget to water them. I really like working with my hands and digging in the dirt and having fun. I also like the solitude of working in the outdoors. Working in the garden to me is the most beautiful thing. I would really enjoy being a gardener.

- Upgrading class student

## Amazing Math

What do you get when you multiply  
 $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111$ ?

A reversing number: 12,345,678,987,654,321



## Craft Class Report

Seven students showed up for a paint class on March 23, 2007. We had red, blue and yellow paint and 140 lb paper.

We first put some of each colour on a piece of plastic, put some water in it, then we rubbed it on our paper, took a brush and spread it around. Then we took a Kleenex and blotted here and there. Whatever we saw, we worked on. Some had flowers, some had fish and squid or a tree. Everyone's picture turned out lovely.



The next craft class will be April 27, 2007. We will be decorating a T-shirt again.

- Maxine Golden

## Learn to Use a Computer

Whether they are eight or ninety-eight, people who use computers experience the wonders of technology and of the world.

Computers can help bring people together, and nowhere is that more important than for people who are constantly being moved apart. For example, computers allow access to e-mail, and these instant messages are becoming crucial to military families, who often have to live apart from one another and who even more regularly must settle in new communities apart from their friends and family. In a study of senior citizens introduced to personal computers, self-esteem and life satisfaction were found to improve by about 5 percent as a result of computer use.

From *The 100 Simple Secrets of Happy People* by David Niven, Ph.D.

- contributed by Terrie Watson

### Newsletter Production

#### Editor:

Peggy Bridgland

#### Layout & Design:

Sue Rupert & Peggy Bridgland

#### Contributors:

Peggy Bridgland, Sherry Bradley, Maxine Golden, Jennifer Marshall, Terrie Watson