



Literacy Plus Newsletter

Issue #50

Summer 2007

Bonnechere Authors Festival

Don't forget that our 5th Annual Authors Festival is on **Wednesdays** in July. Three will be held at St. James Church, Eganville, as usual, at 7:30 p.m. On July 18, *The Mysterious Affair in the Arnprior Garden* will be hosted by Gillian Danby in her garden, 143 Russell Street North, in **Arnprior**. This outdoor event will start at **7:00 p.m.** In case of rain, the event will be held at the Arnprior Public Library.

Author dates are as follows:

- July 4 - Elizabeth Harvor
- July 11 - Kristen den Hartog
- July 18 - Mary Jane Maffini & Barbara Fradkin
- July 25 - Charlotte Gray

Lesley Airth, author of *What We Remember*, will do a presentation for children at 2:00 p.m. on July 18 at the Bonnechere Union Public Library.



Come out and meet these acclaimed authors, ask questions about their books and writing methods, and have books signed. Tickets for 2007 remain \$15 per evening or \$50 for the series, dessert and tea or coffee included. We're looking forward to another interesting and varied season.

For information about the festival, call Rosemary Cammaert at 613-628-3072. For information about the Arnprior evening, call Gwen Storie at the Arnprior Book Shop, 613-623-8800.

Annual General Meeting

Forty people attended Literacy Plus's Annual General Meeting and potluck supper held on June 6. Next to literacy, our common interest must be good food—once again there were more good dishes than room to fit them on a plate.

The computer and upgrading classes had PowerPoint presentations, projects and posters on display before the meeting (see page 6 for a description).

Guest speaker Gayle Corbin gave an interesting talk and slide presentation about her literacy activities with her students in Renfrew. These include projects in the classroom and beyond, engaging students with the community in different ways. This involvement develops good citizenship and fosters the conditions for lifelong learning—just as it does with adult students.

Ms. Corbin also spoke about her own journey to becoming a teacher, which required perseverance in the face of many obstacles, including being turned down when she first applied for teachers college. It was a great moment for her when she received the Certificate of Excellence in Teaching from the Prime Minister earlier this year.

In the business portion of the meeting, Treasurer Michele Joyce presented the Auditor's Report, noting that, thanks to excellent fundraising efforts and generous donations, we were able to meet 2006/2007 expenses without drawing on our reserve.

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Chair Doyne Ahern, Fundraising Committee Chair Rosemary Cammaert, and program staff each presented reports as well.

Doyne Ahern noted that three directors are retiring from the Board this year: Charlotte Gebhart, Marie Lehman and Doyne herself. The Board is still seeking candidates to fill the three vacancies. The following directors will continue on the Board for 2007/2008:

Rosemary Cammaert
Barbara Dubé
Brenda Jolicoeur
Michele Joyce
Linda McLaren
Ethel Ryan
Gwen Storie



At a short Board meeting held after the AGM, the following officers were appointed for 2007/2008: Rosemary Cammaert, Chair; Linda McLaren, Vice Chair; Barbara Dubé, Secretary; Michele Joyce, Treasurer.

We thank Doyne, Charlotte and Marie for their many contributions to Literacy Plus. We are pleased that all three have promised to continue to help us out in various ways—with the Authors Festival, marketing, and work in the office and library.



Summer Hours

The Literacy Plus office will close for the months of July and August. It will reopen with regular hours Tuesday, September 4. Sue will come in several days through the summer to pick up mail and messages, but she will take holidays in July. She will be in the office on July 3 and July 30, and a few times in August.

Tutors who are meeting with students through the summer, **please send in your tutor reports right after your last meeting each month.** Sue will need your hours for the statistics reports. If you have questions, e-mail Diane at the office. She will check e-mail at least once a week.

Swing for Literacy

Golfers and friends of golfers, we will expect to see you at the Swing for Literacy Scramble Golf Tournament Tuesday, September 4th, at the Whitetail Golf Club in Eganville. Registration is at 11 a.m., golf starts at noon.

The \$75 fee includes golf carts, valet service from car to cart, free warm-up on the driving range, 18 holes of golf and a turkey dinner. Charitable receipts (for the \$15 donation portion of the fee) are available on request. Dinner only is \$20. Board members and others have been collecting great prizes so that every golfer goes home with something.

We very much appreciate the support of the retired teachers who have participated in this event over the years, many of them from Ottawa. We'd like to see a good showing of golfers from Renfrew County as well, so please bring this event to the attention of golfers you know. You don't have to be a great golfer, you can just come and have fun!

Please pre-register by August 24th. Call Dave Fisher (613-687-6862) or Gilles Doth (613-628-1818) or e-mail Phil Butler butlerminklake@sympatico.ca or Rosemary Cammaert cammaert@nrtco.net.



Raffle

Tickets are now on sale for our Literacy Plus Raffle, at \$2 each or three for \$5. You can see three of our prizes—the wildlife photo by Michael Runtz, the original print by Jerome Coulas and the handmade quilt by Maxine Golden—at the Authors Festival or Swing for Literacy. The fourth prize is a garden design consultation with Norma Moore—something all gardeners might be wishing for right now! The draw will be held on **October 5**.

Don't miss out on your chance to win one of these great prizes. If you'd like to help us sell tickets, please call Board member Linda McLaren at 613-732-4301.

Program Statistics

Our funder, the Ontario Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, requires us to keep track of the number of students we serve and the hours we spend serving them. Our statistics for this year show that:

- Overall, in 2006/2007, Literacy Plus served 224 students for a total of 7,033 hours. We spent another 490 hours delivering information, referral and follow-up services.
- Three quarters of our students were women. The majority of those served (188 or 84%) were in their prime working years, ages 25 to 64. Nearly 80% cited employment as their main reason for attending Literacy Plus.
- The new upgrading class in Eganville started off slowly in the fall but by year end, 13 students had taken part in the classes, spending 700 hours working more intensively on reading, writing, math and other skills with instructors Pam Contant and Lisa Leblanc
- Computer classes make up the biggest single component of our program, accounting for 3,200 hours. In Eganville, 66 students in seven classes received 2,818 hours of training on computers, with instructors Terrie Watson and Jerome Coulas. Jerome also took over the class at Employment Networks in Renfrew. Over the year, 17 students received 383 hours of training in the Renfrew classes.
- Office Manager Sue Rupert assisted 8 students who came in to spend another 498 hours over the year working independently at the computers.
- In the volunteer program, 32 students spent 850 hours working one-to-one with volunteer tutors. Another 24 students worked for 488 hours in small computer classes in Killaloe, led by volunteer Tony Pearson.
- Students also put their reading and measuring skills to work in craft classes led by volunteer Maxine Golden. Twelve students spent over 90 hours making wreaths and ornaments, creating paintings, and transferring pictures to T-shirts.



- Two students volunteered for work and learning placements with us, spending a total of 703 hours assisting Sue in the office and making the library resources easier to access.

Fundraising Report

Fundraising has become an essential component of Literacy Plus finances—our expenses continue to rise, and we do our best to expand programming to meet the needs of our students and the community. However, our Ministry funding has not increased in 10 years.

Fundraising Committee Chair Rosemary Cammaert reported at the AGM that fundraising in 2006/2007 was very successful. Altogether, our three major fundraisers netted a total of \$12,144. This was almost double our budget projection.

- The 4th annual Literary Tuesdays raised nearly \$5,500. Close to 100 people attended each evening.
- The 3rd annual Swing for Literacy golf tournament raised over \$3,700 after expenses.
- Our annual calendar raised nearly \$3,000 in donations from individual and corporate sponsors.

For 2007/2008, the Board has set itself the challenge of raising \$21,000 through fundraising and donations.

Literacy Plus thanks all the businesses and individuals who support our events by giving us monetary or in-kind support, by attending and participating in events, and by volunteering to help out. We could not accomplish what we do without them.

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.



– Eleanor Roosevelt

Community Support

Literacy Plus benefits from a huge amount of community support. Community organizations, local businesses, and individuals have all contributed their wisdom, their time, and their resources to enhancing our work. In particular we would like to recognize and thank the following:

- St. James the Less Roman Catholic Church, Rev. Msgr. Borne and the parishioners who generously allow us to use their hall, kitchen, and meeting room.
- The local Eganville businesses, in particular Serendipity-on-the-River, Frisco's, and Magelly's, who have donated gifts, space, and resources.
- The businesses and organizations who have made financial contributions: Barry's Bay Northern Credit Union, the employees' foundation of the Eganville Bank of Montreal, Cobden and District Civitan Club, and the Rotary Club of Petawawa.
- The generous individual benefactors who have made donations to Literacy Plus.
- The businesses, organizations, and individuals who have supported our fundraisers.
- All those who have supported the RCCUP/ Literacy Plus calendars over the years.
- The authors who share their time and books at the Authors Festivals.
- The local artists, artisans, and businesses who have generously donated raffle prizes: Jerome Coulas, Maxine Golden, Norma Moore, and Gwen Storie.
- The Swing for Literacy golf tournament committee: Gilles Doth, Phil Butler, Dave Fisher and Rosemary Cammaert.
- The Oaks of Cobden Golf Club and the Whitetail Golf Course.
- The many Renfrew County businesses, organizations and individuals who donate prizes for Swing for Literacy.
- The agencies who partner with Literacy Plus to meet the needs of our mutual clients: Employment Networks in Renfrew,



and the Action Centre and Rural Outreach Employment Services in Eganville.

- Jim Slavin of the Delfi Group who has provided guidance as we continue to develop our organization.
- The Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation who provided financial support for our marketing project. We also received support from Alain Pauzé Consulting, Star 96 FM, A-Channel, Stone Fence Theatre, Custom Printers and MyFM.

We cannot thank our community enough for all the support offered us this year and in the years past. It shows clearly that the community recognizes the importance of literacy and essential skills training in Renfrew County. We thank them one and all.

Tutor Training

Tutors, please mark your calendars for next fall: We are planning for tutor training on either Saturday, October 20th or 27th. The featured presentation will be on **teaching reading**, facilitated by our AGM speaker, Gayle Corbin, a teacher at Renfrew's Central Public School. Gayle is a reading specialist.

Raffle Winner

The draw for Maxine Golden's trillium painting was held at the AGM. The lucky winner was Sue Rupert. The raffle raised \$134 for Literacy Plus.



Fall Classes

Most **computer classes** will begin the week of September 10. The **upgrading class** will start the week of September 17. Please call the office after September 3 to register.

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

Student Achievements

Students come to Literacy Plus for help in learning many new things. Some want to improve their reading, others their arithmetic; some want to learn computer skills and others want to learn to speak more assertively. 2006/2007 was another successful year for our students. Here are some of the highlights:

Students in our **upgrading** class are not only learning, but they are also working and volunteering in the community.

- One student in our upgrading class has moved on to full-time employment.
- Another has returned to part-time employment.
- Yet another upgrading student has provided many invaluable hours of volunteer work for Literacy Plus, the Action Centre, and local seniors.

Many students in our **computer classes** have moved beyond the basics of computer skills and are now tackling more advanced skills, to prepare them for today's electronic workplace.

- Some computer students have set up their own websites and are busy "blogging" with the best of them.
- Some have acquired computer skills required by their place of employment and are now settling into their work with more confidence and more success.
- Other computer students have designed an entire package of materials to support their own small businesses.
- Still other computer students are working together on a fundraising project in which students are taking photographs of the Eganville area, designing postcards from these photographs, and writing business proposals. They hope to market these postcards to local businesses
- One of our computer students has organized and facilitated a series of craft workshops at Literacy Plus which students (and staff) have found most enjoyable.



All of our students in the **1-to-1 program** have made great gains this past year.

- One learner who joined us with very limited reading skills is now reading on her own, for fun.
- A few of our students have acquired essential foundational literacy skills which have allowed them to move on successfully to credit courses, with A-grades on every course.
- Some of our students are working diligently on their oral communication skills so they can participate more fully in the community and at work.

Student Writing



How I Became a Cook

In 1969 I came from Italy. I married my husband Italo on August 10. On August 14 I came to Ottawa.

We arrived late at night and stopped at a snack bar restaurant and had a bite to eat. We met a man who was the owner of a cafeteria and we talked. He asked if we knew somebody to work for him in the cafeteria. I asked him if he would give me the job. I told him that I had never worked in a restaurant but I was willing to work very hard and learn to cook really quickly if he would give me the job. He looked at me with a big smile and said, yes, can you start tomorrow? I was really happy. I worked there for 12 months.

Then my husband and I opened our own first restaurant in Renfrew called the Swinger Restaurant. After three years, we moved to Arnprior. We bought our own restaurant called the Pizza Palace. We owned it for twenty-four years. On November 10, 1995 it burned down. After, I started to work in a hotel and restaurant.

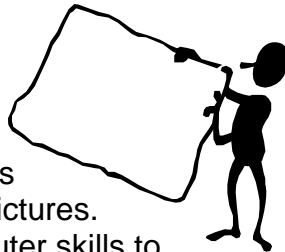
When I was in Italy I went to school for a fashion designer. When I started cooking, I loved my job every day more and more.

- Anna Inglese

Class Presentations

Students had some impressive work on display at the Annual General Meeting. This spring Terrie's classes worked on two projects: travel brochures and support materials for a home-based business.

For the travel brochures, students first did research on the physical or human (cultural) geography of a country or region. They used the Internet, library materials and online resources such as atlases or National Geographic articles to gather information and pictures. They then used their computer skills to develop brochures, writing copy and creating an attractive layout.



For the other project, students each came up with an imaginary business. They created business cards with their own logos, and a brochure outlining the business, presented in a folder. Some also created newsletters, business letterhead, envelopes and databases. A few students designed PowerPoint presentations. Several businesses focused on food (catering, food baskets, a tea room) but there were also craft businesses, a maid service and even snowmobile racing.

The upgrading class also worked on an advertising project. Students had to invent and name a product, price it, and design a poster to market it. Two posters were on display: one for the Back Saver, a system to help melt snow off driveways, and one for Running Soles, a special shoe to enhance athletic ability.

Also on display was an album of photos from Maxine's craft classes, showing off some of the lovely paintings and T-shirts created this year.



To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

The experts speak....

People are often given to grand pronouncements and predictions about new-fangled inventions. Sometimes they hit the mark but sometimes they don't....

Electric light:

"Good enough for our transatlantic friends, but unworthy of the attention of practical or scientific men."

- British Parliament report on Thomas Edison's work, 1878

Telephone:

"That's an amazing invention, but who would ever want to use one of them?"

- U.S. President Rutherford Hayes, 1876

Television:

"People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night."

- Darryl F. Zanuck, head of Twentieth Century-Fox, 1946

Computers:

"There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in their home."

- Ken Olson, President of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

Aviation:

"The popular mind often pictures gigantic flying machines speeding across the Atlantic and carrying innumerable passengers...it seems safe to say that such ideas are wholly visionary."

- Harvard astronomer Wm. Henry Pickering, 1908

Medicine:

"The abdomen, the chest, and the brain will be forever shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon."

- leading British surgeon Sir John Erichsen, 1837

Newsletter Production

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