

**East Hants
Adult
Learning
Association**

School The Adult Way

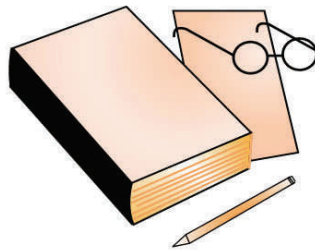
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Adults Returning to School Need a Great Teacher



Comments by Hannah Mills, Level II and III instructor at the Adult Learning Program—Elmsdale.

Hannah Mills is a devoted teacher and community volunteer who has dedicated her talents to enriching the lives of people for 34 years. She has witnessed a lot of change in the teaching profession over that span and has influenced many, many people. The majority of her career was spent mentoring and enriching the lives of adult learners. Hannah said that her students who have dropped out of school for any number of reasons but are now faced with parental demands or low esteem issues that hamper their employability. In her current class she has two students who are over 40 years of age and who are returning to the classroom because getting a high school diploma is something that they always wanted to do.

Although Hannah did not want to generalize on reasons why an adult wants to return to school, she indicated that some students just don't feel confident in writing a letter to their child's teacher or can't help them with the child's homework. "These people are

not the same people who left school, they have lots of valuable life skills". Hannah is an encourager and often functions like a coach molding her students into a cohesive work team. Every student has different needs but also different skills; by working together their interaction is supportive and upbuilding.

Hannah's goal is for each student to develop his/her brain building and problem solving skills. "There is no cut-off between school and home". When asked about the impact of today's culture and especially the electronic demands, Hannah said that the demands and needs are just as great today as they were 18 years ago. Everyone has basic needs, unfortunately employers demand a minimum of a GED for new employees. The need for

Students become very close friends and the class room is an environment of trust, confidence and success.

adults to retrain and upgrade is greater than in the past, in fact it's urgent. Young people don't feel that urgency and haven't seen the dead end of social assistance".

As a teacher Hannah must relate constantly to each student, everyone has strengths and weaknesses, and strength development is paramount. Sometimes you have to take a person by the hand and lead them until they become accomplished. Adult students are no different from any other student; some are very needy and require extra attention, which they find in Hannah who is not only a teacher

Teaching Adult Students

but a counsellor, a mentor and a friend.

What makes the Adult Learning Program environment unique is the quality of the learning environment; it isn't authoritarian or disciplinary, but rather it's nurturing and caring. Because the students that enroll in the program have literacy levels ranging from grade 7-9 the students are with Hannah for 3 or 4 years. Students become very close friends and the classroom is an environment of trust, confidence and success. There is certainly no Teacher-Student stereotype in this class; it's an extension of an old country kitchen where family gathers to learn and enjoy everyone's company.

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Elmsdale Adult High School

Is your goal to earn a grade 12 Nova Scotia High School Diploma

If you are 18+ and have been out of regular school for at least one year, register now in the Academic Adult High School Program for classes beginning

For more information contact:

Rob MacLellan

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Wanted

VOLUNTEERS Tutors

**TO WORK WITH
ADULT LEARNERS**

**who do not yet have
the equivalent of a
junior high education**

**LOCAL AREA
WORK**



**Phone:
883-5376**

Qualifications:

- must have a Grade 12 diploma
- a desire to help others
- a willingness to learn
- own transportation

Please Contact:

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WHAT IS NUMERACY?

(\ˈn(y)üm-ər-sē\) n.

1. the ability and skills to understand and use numbers in daily activities
2. the ability to use numbers as a means of communication.



Numeracy is part of literacy, and is, in fact, as important as solid reading and writing skills. See also *math literacy*.

If you struggle with numbers and lots of us do, then you may be interested in joining us at the upcoming **Sweet Treats and Auction** scheduled for 4 February 2006 at the Enfield Legion from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

In conjunction with ABC Canada and Literacy Nova Scotia we will display literature that you will find very useful

Math literacy, also referred to as "numeracy," is defined as the ability and skills required to understand and use numbers as a means of communication. "It's the basic math skills you use in everyday activities," explains ABC Canada's president, Christine Featherstone. "People don't always realize how much you need solid math literacy skills to function in daily life. Everything from filling out a bank deposit slip to filling up your gas tank requires an understanding of numbers and how to apply them."

According to the *International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS)*, approximately 43 per cent of Canadians are at a basic or low numeracy level. This means that about four in ten Canadians struggle with everyday numeracy tasks, such as understanding and using media information, calculating the tax on a purchase, and converting measurements.

Gift Basket Draw

Response from the community for our first fund raising event for the current academic year was received with enthusiasm.

The draw raised \$321.00 for the promotion and delivery of Adult Literacy programs in East Hants. Ms Katheleen Moriarty of the Truro Futureworx office held the winning ticket #GB218 and was delighted with the wonderful donations in the gift basket.


A huge Thank You goes out to the business community who came forward with some won-

derful gifts. The gift basket was valued at \$352.00.

The donors were: Curley Portables-2 dinner gift certificates, Purolator Couriers Ltd—two managers donated 2 pair of Moosehead Tickets each, Mastodon Ridge Developments-The Last Billion Years, The Ridge Shop Stewiacke - Paperchain Clock, Studio Glass Maitland-gift certificate, Links @ Penn Hills-Golf Cap, Inklings in Wood-Hand Turned Birds Eye Maple Burl Bowl and a Subways



Rob MacLellan Executive Director—East Hants Adult Learning Association presents Katheleen Moriarty with the Gift Basket.



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**EAST HANTS ADULT
LEARNING ASSOCIATION**

Learning for Life

[http://nald.ca/
PROVINCE/
ns/nshome.htm](http://nald.ca/PROVINCE/ns/nshome.htm)

Sweet Treats & Auction

Join the students, staff and board members, for an evening of delectable desserts and exquisite teas and coffees. Patrons will also enjoy some great entertainment from local musicians and choral members. The evening will conclude with a fantastic Live auction

Menu:
Specialty Teas
Flavored Coffees
Cheese Cakes, Pies,
Fancy Squares
Exotic Pastries

Door Charge: \$5.00
-includes your first beverage and dessert

Enfield Legion
4 February 2006
6:30-9:30 p.m.

Additional beverages & desserts \$1.00 ea

EAST HANTS ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE REQUIRES VOLUNTEERS

East Hants Alternative Transportation Service has been providing transportation to residents in East Hants for one year. During that time, our membership and the number of rides delivered has increased. EHATS is advertised frequently in a number of publications, however, we receive the majority of our response by word of mouth. Every new person we speak to knows someone who has used or can use the service. The service groups in the community have been a valuable asset. They refer many new riders for transportation.

Our service has expanded rapidly and we have outgrown our small group of volunteers. We rely on 6 volunteer drivers. Although many new members join the service, we have not been as successful in expanding our volunteer driver base. Our volunteers

provide their own vehicle and time; EHATS will reimburse \$.34/km for every ride delivered. Our volunteers choose the times they are available to drive and EHATS will schedule accordingly. We are in need of volunteers in the Enfield, Elmsdale, Lantz area who are available for an hour in the morning or afternoon. We could even book a volunteer for the whole day! Our rides are delivered primarily Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, with an occasional ride that may be required in the early evening. If you can spare a few hours a week to help with this very valuable service, please contact Jecca Lewis 883-4716 for more information.

