

**East Hants
Adult
Learning
Association**

School The Adult Way

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A New Future despite spinal injury

What do you do when you are over forty, have a spinal injury from an industrial accident and are unable to return to the work you have done all your life? Richard Brolly is such a person. Richard made life decisions that at the time didn't mean very much, not completing school. The labour market was always willing to hire someone who could easily learn a skill and who could spend long hours on the work site. All seemed well until one day, a few years ago, when scaffolding on an uninsured work site collapsed and he found himself on the ground with broken thumbs, a fractured leg and two herniated lumbar disks. Without workman's compensation to fall back on Richard faced a huge problem; minimum education, and no option to return to his previous type of employment.

On the advice from the counselors at Futureworx, Richard decided to visit Robert MacLellan, Coordinator of Literacy and Community Learning for East Hants, and Hannah Mills, the Level II/III instructor at the East Hants Adult Learning Program. Hannah discussed Richard's learning situation and together they devised a program plan that would allow Richard to be "reprogrammed to focus my attention on meaningful employment and an end goal". Richard was given books on clear thinking and on how to pay attention. The personal intervention he received from Hannah has really impacted Richard; "She has turned me from a 'Flunky' and has given me a reason to want to get up in the morning and feel useful. Coming to school each day is like having your own tutor, who not only helps you understand but helps you develop into a productive and capable member of society".

Without workman's compensation to fall back on Richard faced a huge problem; minimum education, and no option to return to his previous type of employment.

"My math skills were obtained on the job site and I used a calculator to find the answer". Richard knew how to make the calculation but couldn't tell you what it meant. Through the guidance given and with the help of the other students, his math skill has improved dramatically as has his understanding of basic math principles. He knows that he also needs to work on English and Science to obtain a grade 12 diploma, but he is prepared to take the time and do the work that is required.

When asked why a grade 12 diploma was so important, he said that he sees opportunities open to him that just aren't there, even for someone who gets a GED. Back in 1975, when he left school, the same thing was told to him about the need for an education, but today when he looks back, he is overwhelmed with the thought that he now has to work so hard for something that could have been easily done in the 70's. He sees himself continuing through the Adult Learning Program and then entering the Adult High School program. Richard

is so thankful for the opportunity to learn that he wants to give something back to the community, like working with community groups to raise funds.

It is not only the injury and the lack of education that is a stimulus, Richard has another reason to be motivated to improve his education

and that stimulus is his stepdaughter who recently completed her first year at NSCAD in the animation design program. His stepdaughters determination coupled with his experiences at the Nova Centre have dramatically changed how Richard views his life. He has embraced the learning experience and is more determined than ever to upgrade his education and obtain his High School Diploma.

Level II/III Class Car Wash and



Liz Cox and Sylvania Fletcher enjoy the food from the chief burger flipper Richard Brolly

Members of the Adult Learners program have been busy with year end projects to generate funds for materials and supplies for next September programs.

The two events raised close to \$500.00 for class project materials.

These extra fund are extremely important in assisting students to design and deliver projects of various sorts.

Some of the Car Wash Crew: Scott Halkyard, Siobhan Butler, Jennifer Hirtle and Della Hockett. The other crew members were Ashley MacDonald, Elizabeth Cox, Sylvania Fletcher and Mr and Mrs Butler



Elmsdale Adult High School

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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 classe beginning on September 4, 2006

Rob MacLellan

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Wanted

VOLUNTEERS

TO WORK WITH ADULT LEARNERS

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

LOCAL AREA WORK

Qualifications:

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



**Phone:
883-5376**

Sweet Treats and Auction a Huge Success

Response from the community for our first major fund raising event was well received and brought forth a crowd of close to 150 people. . The East Hants Adult Learning Association (EHALA) hosted a delightful evening on 4 February 2006, at the Enfield Legion. The evening was an opportunity to enjoy wonderful desserts, coffees/teas (while enjoying some fine music) and bidding on a great selection of auction items donated by businesses in East Hants. Performance by the HERH Jazz Band, and two other seniors groups provided the audience with a wide range of entertainment. A total of fifty East Hants businesses contributed to the auction by donating products or services. The auctioneer Mr. Terrance Isenor kept the crowd active and interested and managed to help people part with their hard earned money by keeping the bidding interesting. In total the Association generated just over \$3000.00.

The Board of Directors wishes to again thank the many donor and all who attended the event.



Richard Brolly receiving his Certificate from Hannah Mills,



Jackie Hutt receives Certificate of Completion from Tanya Burke, ALP Level I instructor

Adult Learners Luncheon And Awards Cere-

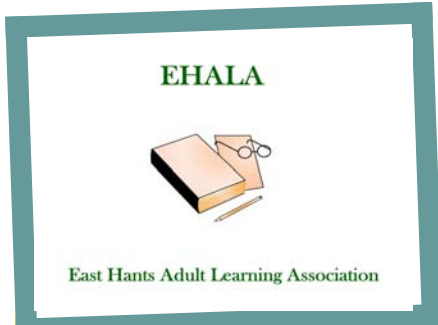
Students, family and friends as well as the Adult Learning Program instructors and staff enjoyed a terrific luncheon on June 8, 2006 at the third annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. Rob MacLellan, EHALA Executive Director welcomed everyone and Charles Woodworth and Jackie Hutt; gave the welcome comments. Quest speakers were John MacDonnell, MLA East Hants, who commented on the value of the Learners embracing the opportunity to improve their education. John Patterson, Warden, Municipality of East Hants spoke on the vitality the learners added to the municipality and that their efforts made East Hants a better place to reside and Donna MacGillivray, Coordinator, Adult Education Division., Dept of Education spoke on her delight in attending and having the opportunity to present to each learner a Certificate of Recognition from the Department of Education.

Richard Brolly read his poem "Who Knew". Commenting on his experiences in life and how the EHALA learning opportunity has changed is life. Another Level II learner Siobhan Butler penned a poem read by her cousin Dawn Chappell entitle " ".

On completion of the student presentations, Miles Thompson, a EHALA Director commented on the outstanding support provided during the past year from the support staff who will all be leaving the Association. Jecca Lewis, Transportation Service Coordinator, Sandra Bishop, EHATS Program Assistant, and Mitchell Nimeck, Funding and Promotions Coordinator.

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**Designed and Produced by
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EAST HANTS ADULT LEARNING ASSOCIATION



Visit us on the web and get to know the full story of how the ALP programs are changing lives in East Hants.

**For Information Contact
 883-5376 or
 883-4716**

Staff Changes at EHALA

The times are a changing for EHALA staff. Jecca Lewis who took over the responsibility for the Transportation Service has decided to return to a former employer. Jecca did an outstanding job in raising the profile and rider ship of EHATS. Jecca will be greatly missed by the volunteer drivers, as well as the EHATS Board.



Sandra Bishop joined the EHATS program as program assistant. Sandra contributed significantly to the success of EHATS services. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

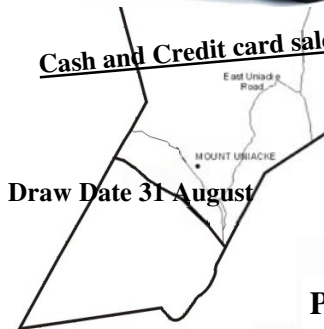
07 Toyota Yaris Car Raffle

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Mitchell Nimeck joined EHALA a year ago to promote the programs and establish a network of supports in the East Hants community. He was called upon to run three fund raisers and to write various action plans as well as the communiqué. Although leaving the job Mitch will remain with the Association in a volunteer capacity.