

# LITERACY COUNCIL OF SOUTH TEMISKAMING

Newsletter









May/June 2011

## The Literacy Council of South Temiskaming

exists to provide Literacy and Basic Skills programs and training to area residents. This service is **free**, confidential and centered on the individual's needs. Learners receive one-on-one coaching from staff, instructors and/or volunteers from the community.

We are open during the summer months except for July 18-29 inclusive.

Intake is continuous so clients may access our services at any time. People come to:

-  **learn to use the internet**
-  **learn to use email**
-  **learn to count money**
-  **improve self esteem**
-  **learn time management skills**
-  **improve math skills**
-  **learn Word 2007 or 2010**
-  **improve writing skills for employment or independence goals**

If you want to learn, or know someone that wants to learn, please contact our office at (705) **672-4232**.



## Upcoming Events

- **LCST Annual Yard Sale** on May 14, 2011. Donations gratefully accepted. No clothes please.
- **Monthly Board meeting** on May 16, 2011 @ 6:30 P.M.
- **Spelling Bee** on September 29, 2011.

*Students come to the Literacy Council for many reasons. Improving their writing skills is one reason. Here is a story they completed as a group.*

### A Dark and Stormy Night

It was a dark and stormy night. The kids were all screaming and hiding under a table. There was a creepy shadow outside the window in the shape of a great grey owl. Suddenly, the lights flickered and went out! When the lights came back on little Johnny had disappeared! A huge flash of lightning lit up the sky. Then there was a big bang at the door.

Brave Aaron opened the door to find little Johnny standing there! "I sure scared you guys! I pulled the power plugs out and put up a cut-out of a huge owl. Ha, ha..." Johnny smirked. Suddenly, a real great grey owl swooped down and grabbed little Johnny by the arms. The owl, with its prey clutched in its talons, flew off into the dark and stormy night. No one saw rotten little Johnny ever, ever, ever again.



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## 5 More Reasons To Invest In Ontario's Literacy & Basic Skills Programs

### 1. Literacy and Civic Engagement

In Ontario, 50% of people with the lowest levels of literacy volunteer or participate in community groups, compared with 78% of people at the highest levels. As well, charitable giving increases with the level of education attained.

### 2. Literacy and New Canadians

Immigrants make critical contributions to our society, culture, and economy. However, 60% of immigrants in our province have low levels of literacy in English or French.

### 3. Literacy and Youth

While the high school graduation rate in Ontario has increased from 68% to 75%, still, 25% of young people are dropping out before completing their high school education. In addition, 16% of Ontario students who wrote the grade 10 literacy test in the 2009-2010 school year failed.

### 4. Literacy and Seniors

In Ontario, more than 80% of seniors have low levels of literacy. This exposes them to increased health and safety risks which can result in higher health care costs and diminished quality of life. It can also reduce their ability to make informed choices about their health care, finances and other key decisions.

### 5. Literacy and Skill Shortages

Due to our aging population and progressively lower birth rates, Ontario will start to experience a severe skill shortage in the near future. Improving literacy rates and increasing the participation rates of people currently under-represented in Ontario's labour force, such as people with low levels of literacy, will be critical our province's future economic health.

*"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."* Malcolm Forbes

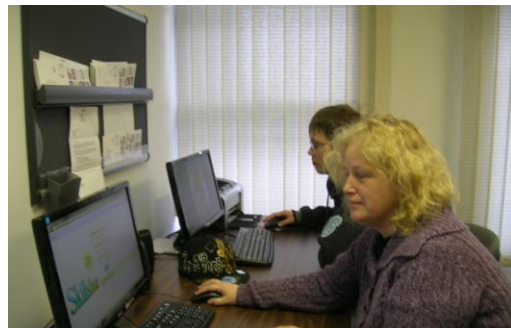


**Thank you!**

A big thank you goes to the following organizations for their generous donations! Their commitment to helping us provide training to our clients is sincerely appreciated. We have seen many lives changed because of donations like these.

- IODE, Haileybury Chapter
- Kiwanis Club of Cobalt Inc. Fund, The Temiskaming Foundation
- 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel Training Institute
- Knights of Columbus 10809
- Rotary Club of Haileybury
- Phippen Waste Management

We offer **SkillsTutor**, an online curriculum that provides differentiated instruction and intervention for the adult education classroom. Lessons and activities in reading, language arts, writing, math, science, information skills, and workforce readiness are accessible anytime. Please call for more information.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.nald.ca/lcst](http://www.nald.ca/lcst)