

Antigonish County Adult Learning Association (ACALA)

NEWSletter

You can reach ACALA:

70 West Street, Antigonish, NS B2G 1R8

Telephone - (902) 863-3060

Email – acala@strait.ednet.ns.ca or

www.nald.ca and follow the links to *literacy organizations* in NS

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January 2006

ACALA Board of Directors

Executive Directors –

Mary Lou Nunn-Brenton - Chairperson

Walter Proctor - Vice Chairperson

Elizabeth Kell- Treasurer

Sue MacNeil- Secretary

Directors - Dorothy Thompson, Alan Quigley, Pat Cameron, Gina Sampson, Diane Roberts, Bill MacFarlane, Evelyn Lindsey, George MacDonald, Kim Hodgkinson, Barb Moreton

Staff: Raylene Bowman – Coordinator

Instructors: Kathryn Collicott, Florence MacEachern

Volunteers: ACALA has a team of dedicated volunteers who provide an invaluable service to the learners, the staff, the Board, and at special events. Volunteers are a community's greatest resource.

Thank you ACALA VOLUNTEERS!

What is Literacy?

Literacy is **the** essential skill.

It is the ability to use printed information to function in society, at work and in the family.

It is the combination of thinking and social skills we need to analyze and use information to control our own lives, achieve our goals and develop our knowledge and potential. (from Literacy Nova Scotia website)

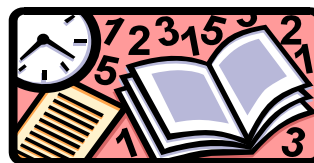
The Literacy Nova Scotia Learn Line
Call toll-free 1-800-255-5203 in Nova Scotia

FAMILY LITERACY DAY - January 27

Plan a special reading time together!

- ❖ Parents who read to their children improve their own literacy skills
- ❖ Children who are read to more than once a day do better at school
- ❖ Let your child see you reading – you are your child's most important role model.
- ❖ Encourage your child to read the words around them – street signs, cereal boxes, mugs, t-shirts
- ❖ Help your child with “thank you “ letters to family members and friends
- ❖ Allow your child to help with the grocery list
- ❖ Give books and magazines as gifts to children
- ❖ Visit your local library regularly and get a membership card to borrow books, games, etc.

For more information on Family Literacy read your newspapers, listen to the radio, look at TV, or visit www.abc-canada.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE - SEE DETAILS OF ACALA'S "SWING INTO SPRING" FUNDRAISER

Calendar of Literacy Events

Date	Activity & Theme or Main Topic	Time and Location
January 24	Strait Regional Planning Team “Professional Development Session “	
January 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Literacy Day • “Swing into Spring” • Launch of ACALA’s Fundraising Campaign • Guysborough Adult Learning Association to a launch a special “Family Literacy Project” 	Check with local libraries Listen to your local radio station Call GALA at 533-4252
February 6	ACALA Strategic Planning Meeting	70 West St -
February 8	ACALA Board meeting - “ Strategic Planning “	70 West St.
March 1	ACALA Board meeting - “Bursary Awards”	70 West St
March 24-25	GED Writing – “Grade 12 Equivalency”	New Glasgow
April 5	ACALA Board Meeting - “Volunteer Appreciation”	
May 12-13	GED Writing -“Grade 12 Equivalency”	Port Hawkesbury
May 26-27	GED Writing -“Grade 12 Equivalency”	Antigonish

A FEW POINTS OF INTEREST

From The International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS) – 2003

- ✓ 42 % of Canadians (16 to 65) surveyed had low literacy levels in 1993; there is no significant change in the 2003 IALSS data.
- ✓ 50% of Nova Scotians surveyed had a numeracy skill level below what they need to function in a modern knowledge-base economy.
- ✓ Many Nova Scotians with lower literacy levels are employed. 47% of Nova Scotians with Level 1 literacy skills are employed, and 58% of people at Level 2 are employed.
- ✓ The majority of Nova Scotian seniors surveyed had low literacy skills. The survey indicated that prose literacy skills decline with age across the country.

✚ Within 25 years, one in five Canadians will be over 65. Right now, six out of 10 Canadian seniors never completed high school, and 37% have less than a Grade 9 education.

Older readers have special needs, including:

- a) the need for LARGER print
- b) the need for good use of colour and design to guide the eye
- c) the need for safe, easy to follow instructions

(from Clear Language & Design, Toronto East End Literacy Project-2003)



In Memory of Dr. Charles V. Keating

On November 22, 2005 we lost a great promoter and supporter of lifelong learning and literacy. Dr. Charles Keating was very generous to Antigonish County Adult Learning with a one time donation in 2001. In keeping with Dr. Keating's desire to help people from all walks of life, ACALA created an annual Learner Bursary award that is presented February of each year to a learner who is enrolled in an ACALA program, who demonstrates independent learning, and a desire to continue on to higher education and training. In Dr. Keating's memory, the ACALA Board of Directors announced in December 2005 that ACALA's learner bursary awards would be called "The Charles Keating Memorial Bursary Awards". Dr. Keating respected and admired all adult learners, volunteers, and those working in the field of adult education and literacy. He will be greatly missed by the business community and his many literacy friends.

NOTICE TO ACALA LEARNERS

Applications for the Charles Keating Memorial Bursary Awards are to be completed and returned to the ACALA office by February 17, 2006. The bursaries will be awarded on March 1, 2006 at the ACALA monthly Board meeting.

In Praise of GED GRADUATES

- **Jason Carty** was successful with his GED writing and left for employment out West! Jason, we wish you all the best in your new career!
- **Chad Anderson** passed the GED tests and recently found employment at a local boat building business. Good Luck, Chad, and Congratulations!
- **Jeff Teague** received his GED grade 12 equivalency certificate and is planning to pursue military training. Jeff, we hope you get the big call soon. Keep in touch with ACALA!

A Learner Success Story- Cheryl Nickerson

Cheryl Nickerson attended an ACALA upgrading program from September 2000 to December 2001.

She wrote the GED tests in December of 2001 and passed!

Cheryl went on to attend the Nova Scotia Community College, and in 2003 graduated from the Continuing Care Assistant Program.

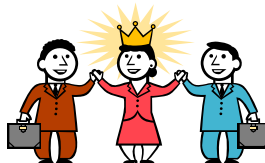
She is currently employed with the Antigonish and Area Homemakers Association.

Everyone was so excited for Cheryl and so proud of her!

We admired her determination and her commitment to lifelong learning.

Cheryl recently told us that *"attending ACALA and getting my GED helped me follow through with my training, and with getting employment – thank you ACALA"*.

Congratulations Cheryl from ACALA, your friends and your family!



ACALA GIVES THANKS AND WELCOMES

- ❖ **To MLA, Mr. Angus MacIsaac** - thank you for your on-going support!
- ❖ **To Paul Rafuse** – your dedication to ACALA as a Board member for the past few years is greatly appreciated. We are glad you are staying on as a volunteer tutor and special events supporter. Thank You!
- ❖ **A sincere THANK YOU donors** – The following are people who have made donations to ACALA since October 2005: Judy Cairns, Pat Cameron, Darlene Rushton, Brian Dort, Walter Proctor, Dianne Fitzpatrick, Dorothy Thompson
- ❖ **Appreciation to the Department of Education** for partnering with ACALA to ensure that community based literacy is alive and successful in Antigonish Town and County. Thank You!
- ❖ **Thank you to Literacy Nova Scotia** for supporting us with a grant to see that our learners are encouraged and rewarded as they take their learning goals one step at a time. You have helped ACALA provide an essential support service to each learner.
- ❖ **WELCOME - Catherine MacPherson**, our latest volunteer. We will learn from each other!
- ❖ **St. Francis Xavier University Alumni donates \$1000 to ACALA** - Our sincere appreciation to St.FX Alumni for a most enjoyable family celebration of literacy at their Summer Sizzler Day last summer at Crystal Cliffs.



Thank You Raylene Bowman

Raylene Bowman joined the ACALA team as a Level 2 instructor ten years ago this month. However, since 1996 Raylene has taken on many roles with ACALA, and today she is the coordinator of the organization. She has been and continues to be an effective facilitator and adult education practitioner, a conscientious team player, an inspiration to adult learners and volunteers, a dedicated supporter of lifelong learning, and an energetic and skilled professional who truly takes pride in her community, and in her place of work – the Antigonish County Adult Learning Association (ACALA). Let's all raise our glass in praise of Raylene! Congratulations and Thank You!

SWING INTO SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENT

Once again ACALA is Swinging into Spring with a variety of FUNdraising activities. The whole community will be involved - We need your support! A letter writing campaign to local businesses and organizations will soon be happening. Volunteers will soon be on a ***ticket selling drive***.

Central Supplies is the proud support of this event and will be donating all supplies for the grand prize, and providing the space at their Antigonish store for on-going ticket sales. **The Grand Prize will be a unique hand-crafted Wooden Swing that is being built by Walter Proctor, Locky MacIsaac and friends.** Stay tuned for more details of ACALA's "Swing into Spring" literacy celebration event that will be taking place near the end of May. *Please support your local community based literacy organization – ACALA!*