

Antigonish County Adult Learning Association



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NEWSLETTER

November 2007

New Home, New Network Coordinator

We are settled into our new location on Main Street. An impressive learning environment with two large classrooms, a resource room, and ample office space, along with a set of enthusiastic staff and dedicated tutors and volunteers, provides the learner an encouraging, welcoming atmosphere where success is the goal. We are ready to receive anyone who requires our support.

ACALA has also undergone some staff changes. We would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to Raylene Bowman for her many years of service with ACALA. We extend to her our best wishes in all her future endeavours.

Our new coordinator is Gina Wallace. She is a native of Nova Scotia, a graduate of the Nova Scotia Teacher's College and Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (computer administration). Gina was employed as an adult instructor for Bow Valley College in Calgary and as well as for the City of Calgary's Neighbourhood and Family Services Unit. Gina has a strong foundation in non profit community based programming and after a settling in period, she is looking forward to getting connected to and reaching out to the community and putting ACALA resources to work.

Florence MacEachern is our instructor for our "Learning and Training" Program (formally level III). She enjoys assisting individuals who wish to upgrade their literacy skills to obtain further professional development and providing additional support to learners who are preparing to write their GED exams. Florence tutored at ACALA before joining as a staff member. She is a graduate of St. F.X. and Acadia Universities. She facilitated and instructed an Adult Training Course for the Nova Scotia Community College, Pictou Campus and has experience teaching high school in Manitoba and here in Antigonish. Florence has a passion for working with adults in their educational field.

Kathryn Collicott is our instructor for our 'Learning for Life' program, where she offers programs to fit everyone's needs. Our "Learning for Life" program is an opportunity for anyone with a variety of learning goals to continue their education at any age. Kathryn was born and raised in Halifax and graduated from Mount Saint Vincent University. She taught in the Northern part of Canada for eight years. She started with ACALA in 1999. She is married, has three children and one loveable dog. Kathryn is dedicated and loves teaching the "Learning for Life" program.

Rebecca Stoffer is the TIE (Teaching Immigrants English) ESL instructor. TIE is a province wide initiative and by sharing space with ACALA, the program is perfectly positioned to help new Canadians settling in our community with their educational goals. As last year's volunteer instructor for ACALA's own ESL pilot program – a happy and fruitful experiment for all involved – Rebecca can also attest to the value ACALA brings to the community as a whole by providing opportunities for adults to obtain challenging work experience and meaningful ways to contribute. She was a newcomer to Antigonish with two small children when life threw her a curve ball: her husband was diagnosed with cancer and no longer able to work. Through volunteering she was able to take stock of her skills, find hope and open new doors. But it was the opportunity to connect with people from all walks of life that she values most... "Working with ACALA has helped grow my esteem and confidence. I've learned that community is about finding yourself with others... Little by little the future looks brighter!"

Krista & Paul Rafuse have volunteered with ACALA for a few years, taking care of weekly cleaning chores at the previous location on West Street and the new facility behind Pharmachoice on Main Street. They are passionate about literacy and anti-poverty issues and hope, as time permits, to become more involved. Evening work for a cleaning service and their own cleaning and lawn care business keeps them busy and if there is any time left, Krista sketches and paints and Paul enjoys the computer, photography and transferring music from LPs and cassettes to CD via the computer. They share a love of animals and are the proud owners of 'Stacy', a lively 5-month-old bluish gray kitten.

5 Things You Can Do to Support Literacy

- 1 Life long learning**
Brush up on your skills or support your friends, family members and your neighbours who are improving their skills whether is reading, writing, computer use or getting a diploma or equivalent.
- 2 Initiate learning opportunities in your office**
Make sure your office provides training to employees and that courses are presented as a positive opportunity to improve their skills.
- 3 Tutor people in your community**
Many literacy programs are small and depend on the involvement of local community members.
- 4 Encourage friends who want to participate**
Offer to provide childcare, offer them a drive to a program or even attend classes with them.
- 5 Read with a child**
Reading just 15 minutes a day =465 hours of early literacy by 5 years of age.

Interesting Literacy Websites

www.abc-canada.org
www.nwt.literacy.ca
www.literacyfirst.com

www.literacy.org
www.aplusmath.com
www.ns.literacy.ca

www.nald.ca

A WORD FROM OUR LEARNERS AND TUTORS

Karen –I am delighted after so many computer sessions that the ONE to ONE sessions are really helping me. The Math problems are good brain exercises and English grammar helps to improve my writing skills. I love it here, staff and all!!

Krystal Penney-I enjoy volunteering as a tutor at ACALA. Overall it is a fun and laid back environment to work in, where you are surrounded by great people whether they are the learners or the teachers. Everyone is friendly.

Theresa C. -This is something I love to do. It is great for the mind. I love to come here and learn, the teacher is so nice and kind, it is just great! I love it.

Sheila Bernard- I, Sheila Bernard of Paq'tnkek First Nation, started the GED course in the month of October 2007. I enjoy going back to study for my GED course and have committed myself to this course. I'm working on getting my grade 12 so I can take other courses for the future.

Shirley- I joined ACALA to study for the GED testing in November. My experience here has been wonderful. I never could have been ready for the testing without the help of the teachers here. Florence MacEachern is a great teacher. Thanks to her and ACALA, I will be ready to write my GED. Thank you ACALA.

Vacenta-It is great that you have the option of coming to ACALA when I need clarification or extra help. I try to take advantage and come as often as I can. This is much better than trying it at home alone. For people that have to work there is a night class. It's great that you have options.

Bill- I like the atmosphere. I find the staff very direct and eager and willing to help you out in many matters. There's so much to learn and I want to take advantage of what there is to learn out there. Being at ACALA makes me comfortable enough to share my life experiences with others, and express my feelings with honesty, which helps me to learn even more. We all have many of the same characteristics and abilities and are able to improve our education and our lives. Listening is the key to learning.

Sarah-I really enjoyed my time spent volunteering here at ACALA! I like the positive effects the centre brings to the Community, giving residents confidence in their literacy skills and enabling them to live a more complete life, and it is an immensely gratifying organization to participate in. I look forward to helping out with ACALA in the future!

Gordon- I love coming to ACALA! I enjoy the activities like reading, spelling, and math and having fun with the staff, like we do on trips. Learning to use the computer has been great, letting me send emails to friends and family. I'm looking forward to learning more and I plan to become a better reader and speller.

ACALA BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Lou Nunn-Brenton – *Chairperson*

Sue McNeil - *Vice Chair*

Diane Roberts – *Treasurer*

Ann MacKenzie – *Secretary*

Elizabeth Kell

Gina Sampson

Bill MacFarlane

Evelyn Lindsey

Barry MacLeod

Pat Skinner

Barb Moreton

Walter Proctor

On behalf of ACALA I would like to personally “Thank” the board for their commitment to this program and for their support. I look forward to working with them throughout the coming year ~Gina Wallace~

Donations:

A sincere “Thank you” is expressed to all those who have made a donation to ACALA. Recent donations since September 2007;

- ❖ The Catholic Women’s League \$1,000.00
- ❖ The W.E. Power Foundation \$2,000.00
- ❖ Millie MacDonald-donation in memory \$10.00
- ❖ John Chisholm-donation in kind \$10.00
- ❖ Patti Huston –novels and learning materials
- ❖ Wendy Kraglund-Gautier-learning materials
- ❖ A.M. Helm-cross stitch wall plaque -The Provincial Flowers and Emblem-In Memory
- ❖ IBM Canada has made a donation of several computers and printers to Literacy Nova Scotia Advancing Learning Technology project. Literacy NS has in turn donated a new Lexmark printer/scanner/copier/fax machine to ACALA. It has been placed in the office.
- ❖ Linda Stewart for organizing the Sobey’s receipts, which brought us \$100.86 thus far.

Other Funding

Literacy Nova Scotia	\$2,000.00
Department of Education Community Based Literacy Grant	\$92,688.00

UPCOMING EVENTS



November 2rd – Professional Day Development –Literacy Workshop-Reading strategies.
Port Hawkesbury.

November 16th –Professional Day development-Literacy Workshop on Math strategies.
Port Hawkesbury.

November 23/24- Port Hawkesbury -GED testing dates

November 30/December 1st –Antigonish GED testing dates

November 30th- Literacy Nova Scotia's AGM. This gives us an opportunity to participate in some public relations events that may occur as a result of the donated printer to ACALA.

December 1st - ACALA will participate in the Antigonish Christmas Parade at 3:00 p.m. The Theme is "The Spirit of Christmas".

December 5th -ACALA Board Meeting

December 12th -ACALA Christmas Social. Please drop in from 11:00 am-2:00 pm to share Christmas treats and greetings.

December 14th –Provincial Committee Meeting re: Students in Transition, Halifax

December 20th-Last day of classes for 2007

December 17th –22nd-  ACALA's Fundraiser-Christmas gift-wrapping. For a small fee ACALA will wrap your Christmas gifts at the Antigonish Mall and possibly at a downtown location. ACALA is looking for volunteers who can work a few hours between 1:00 pm and 9:00 pm on any of these dates.

January 7th-Classes begin for 2008

January Board meeting –To be Announced

January 27th- 2008 -Family Literacy Day Celebrations. ACALA in partnership with the Pictou Antigonish Regional Library will be celebrating Family Literacy with activities the week of January 27- 31st 2008. You are invited to join us. Keep an eye out for more details.

Suggestions for Your Family Literacy Day Celebration Activities

- ❖ Parents plan and special reading time together with any family member.
- ❖ Visit the local library, get a membership card and borrow some interesting books.
- ❖ Buy books and magazines for gifts, then read them to each other.
- ❖ Create your own special book together. Perhaps the topic could be "What are some of our favorite things?"
- ❖ Play word games, like I spy or what rhyming games, while you are traveling in the car or going for a walk.
- ❖ Write a story, poem or play.
- ❖ Count (everything)!!!
- ❖ Sing.

QUOTES

"How you do anything is how you do everything" -Unknown

"The greatest gift is a passion for reading." -Elizabeth Hardwick

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." –Dr. Seuss, " I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

"Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers." –Henry S. Truman

As Christmas draws near we, the staff, would like take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.