



# Living THROUGH FRONTIER COLLEGE Literacy

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## MESSAGE from the President

Frontier College has earned its reputation for action in support of literacy. Since 1899, our teachers and volunteer tutors have taught people whom others cannot teach in places where others will not go. In the earliest days, this mission took us to isolated logging camps, mining towns and railway gangs.

Today it takes us to federal prisons, inner-city neighbourhoods and remote rural postings. And while these "frontiers" have changed, the mission remains the same – literacy for all. Not for "many", not for "a whole bunch", but for all.

I mention this reputation for action because that's what Canada's literacy movement needs – action. Right now.

Last fall, Statistics Canada published yet another literacy study with clear data:

- 15% of adults have difficulty reading any printed material
- a further 22% of adults have some difficulties coping with reading in every day life and work.
- high school drop out rates range from 20%-30% across Canada

These numbers would be shocking if it were not for one thing – we know it all already. Literacy studies have been researching and reporting these same results since 1990.

What's missing is serious action in support of a national strategy to solve the literacy problem. To paraphrase Stephen Lewis, we need fewer people doing studies and more people studying.

Frontier College is calling on the Federal Government for a national literacy strategy to teach one to three million people over 10 years and to reduce the high school drop out rate by 50%. This plan involves schools, colleges, businesses, labour and national organizations including Frontier College. As Canada's original literacy organization, we will play a leading role in this strategy.

Your support for Frontier College makes this project, and all of our programs possible. Thank you for being a part of the College and for assisting us in reaching that bold mission which began 107 years ago – literacy for all. ✉

J. L. O'Leary

John O'Leary  
President, Frontier College

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# The Dr. Margaret Strang Society



*Margaret Strang on horseback: a powerful image that embodies Frontier College's spirit of determination, service to others and visionary thinking, in support of literacy for all.*

In 1929, Margaret Strang was the first labourer-teacher in the "homesteading" program, traveling to communities in Northern Ontario from a base located near Edlund, Ontario. Determined to bring education to as many children as possible in the outlying areas, Margaret secured the donation of a horse so she could travel farther and more quickly. As only the third female graduate from the University

of Western Ontario's medical school, Margaret was also able to serve as a "doctor on horseback" for the communities she visited.

In the spirit of Margaret's commitment to reaching those who want and need to learn, we are launching the Dr. Margaret Strang Society, as part of our Legacy program.

We want to honour those donors who are so committed to supporting literacy that they have included Frontier College in their wills. After a lifetime of hard work, many people want to ensure their money will work hard beyond their lives, leaving a legacy for a cause they believe in.

All general bequests to Frontier College will be added to our endowment fund: the initial donation is pooled with other donors' contributions and maintained in perpetuity. The interest and income generated will be used to fund our ongoing programs each year.

The Dr. Margaret Strang Society

will be a tangible way to honour those who have remembered Frontier College in their wills. By letting Frontier College know about your bequest, we can ensure we respect your wishes and perhaps even discuss how you want your support to be used; it allows us to personally thank you today for your generosity of spirit and serves as an example to others about the impact one individual can have in giving the gift of literacy to future generations.

***If you would like to be a charter member of the Dr. Margaret Strang Society or would like more information, please complete the coupon attached to this newsletter and send it to the attention of Cathy Mann in the pre-paid, self-addressed enveloped enclosed.***

Thank you for your spirit of determination, service to others and visionary thinking. ✉

## An Easier Way to Give – Online Giving



With the advent of new technology and busier day-to-day lifestyles, our donors are moving towards an easier way to give – online giving. Online giving is quickly becoming the preferred way to give amongst our donors and with good reason – donors prefer making online gifts because it's quick and easy but best of all, it's cost effective and an immediate way to help fund our literacy programs. Go to [www.frontiercollegefoundation.ca](http://www.frontiercollegefoundation.ca) to make your online gift today!

[www.frontiercollegefoundation.ca](http://www.frontiercollegefoundation.ca)

### FRONTIER COLLEGE

Frontier College is strengthening Canada's social fabric by engaging and mobilizing volunteers to take action in the cause of literacy and learning. We demonstrate the power of non-formal learning to make change in people's lives and we work in partnership with others. Through these partnerships, we reach children, teens and adults from coast to coast. We support children and families, community groups and organizations in high-needs areas through training, workshops, conferences and volunteer placement.

[www.frontiercollege.ca](http://www.frontiercollege.ca)

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# SCRABBLE®

FRONTIER COLLEGE'S  
SCRABBLE  
NIGHT  
in CANADA

## IT UP THIS WINTER

Are you passionate about words and literacy? SCRABBLE® things up in 2007 and shake off those winter blahs by hosting a SCRABBLE® party in your home, school or office while supporting literacy in Canada.

Frontier College wants all you word enthusiasts out there to join the third annual Frontier College's SCRABBLE® Night in Canada Friends and Family Challenge or Corporate Challenge for 2007.

It's easy. Starting February 19, 2007 people across Canada will be hosting SCRABBLE® parties in their homes, offices or schools, having a great time and raising much-needed funds for Frontier College's

nation-wide literacy programs.

On March 27, corporate teams in Toronto will compete in Frontier College's SCRABBLE® Night in Canada Corporate Challenge, presented by TSX Group. The challenge this year is to see who can beat the Scotiabank Nerdiques, the two-time SCRABBLE® Night in Canada Champions.

Forty-two percent of adults in Canada have difficulty using reading and writing to participate in day to day life (International Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey). Imagine not being able to order from a menu in a restaurant or drive thru, look for information on the Internet

or read the dosage instructions on medicine for your child.

Frontier College believes that literacy is an essential skill in today's knowledge-based society and a fundamental right for all Canadians, but we need your help to make this a reality.

For more information on SCRABBLE® Night in Canada or ways you can help, contact Amy Schindler at [aschindler@frontiercollege.ca](mailto:aschindler@frontiercollege.ca), call 416-923-3591 ext. 335 or visit Frontier College's SCRABBLE® Night in Canada website at [www.scrabblenightincanada.ca](http://www.scrabblenightincanada.ca).

Now pick up those tiles and let's SCRABBLE®! ☒

## They are the champions... again

### SCOTIABANK NERDIQUES take home the TSX CUP for the 2nd year

#### \$180,000 raised for Frontier College's literacy programs

The tension was palpable in the Barbara Frum Atrium of the CBC building on Tuesday, April 4, as 30 teams from Canada's financial and professional services industries faced off at the second annual Frontier College's SCRABBLE® Night in Canada Corporate Challenge fundraiser, presented by TSX Group.

Eric Sinclair, Senior Vice President of TSX Group welcomed the evening's participants and pulled the ceremonial First Tile. Outfitted in hockey jerseys emblazoned with their company's logo and team name, participants had the opportunity to improve their performance by buying some coaching from

SCRABBLE® Ringers, including Canadian, North American and World SCRABBLE® Champion Joel Wapnick.

In the end, it was sweet victory once again for the Scotiabank Nerdiques, ably captained by Dave Stevens for the second year in a row. The Scotiabank Nerdiques took home – or rather, took to the office – the coveted TSX Cup. The team also had the honour of opening the Toronto Stock Exchange on Friday, April 7. Winners in their respective Conferences were:

**Banking** – Scotiabank Nerdiques  
**Diversified** – Toronto Public Library  
**Data Services** – Reuters Canada  
**Legal** – Miller Thomson LLP



The 2007 SCRABBLE® Night in Canada Corporate Challenge is being held Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at the CBC Barbara Frum Atrium. Mark your calendars and visit [www.scrabblenightincanada.ca](http://www.scrabblenightincanada.ca) for more information or to view the event scrapbooks.

Frontier College Foundation would also like to thank CIBC, Palmer Audio, ONEX, HarperCollins Canada Ltd., Hasbro, Random House of Canada, Sleeman's, Starbucks and Thomas Allen & Sons for their support of the 2006 SCRABBLE® Night in Canada Corporate Challenge. ☒

# Still working on the frontiers

Frontier College youth leaders were found everywhere this summer. From directing a play at a Writing Camp at Don Mills and Eglinton, in Toronto, to working on a folk tale in Attawapiskat, near James Bay, to sharing the magic of a fairy tale at a Reading Tent in Montréal. Everywhere you looked, Frontier College's summer literacy programs were in full swing!

These programs included the Starbucks Summer Writing Camps, TD Reading Tents, and the "Summer of Hope" Aboriginal Summer Literacy Camps.

So what exactly went on in communities across Canada this summer? Aspiring writers worked diligently to produce original pieces of writing in a fun and creative camp atmosphere. More than 4,000 children and adults had the opportunity share books, games and songs at day camps, day cares, community centres, libraries and neighbourhood festivals. First Nations children had the opportunity to develop their reading and writing

skills through the exploration of their First Nations identity, culture and symbols.

"We all had fun writing The Little Red Riding Hood play... It wasn't only about language, it was

It's almost the end of camp, too bad! Camp is so great because we get to do lots of fun stuff like going on trips and having fun. To make this camp successful (our instructors) were there. They were the ones to make this all possible... camp was great and I wouldn't want to change anything about camp.

*Anonymous camper evaluation*

about having fun with language in many different ways. It was a lot of fun!" said 11-year old Christine.

The primary goal of these programs is developing the reading and writing skills of young people, such as Christine. Helping them express themselves creatively, showing them the power of words



and giving them the confidence to succeed in school.

A secondary goal is to provide skills development opportunities for Frontier College's force of committed university student volunteers. By drawing from this nation-wide pool to coordinate and staff summer programs, the students are able to build their community development and leadership skills, giving them a solid base for future community involvement. Many of these students are back at university now and continue to be involved in their communities by volunteering for Frontier College.

Whether the frontiers are urban or rural, Frontier College's volunteers and staff continue our 107 year mandate of working on the frontiers, taking literacy and learning to those who need it most, those in isolated or marginalized communities. ☒

## The end of an era for the PGIs Play the Red Barn... and the beginning of the next incarnation

After 17 years of The Barenaked Ladies with Ben Heppner, bats flying around on stage, and Shelagh Rogers and Peter Gzowski hosting... we're ready to try something new.

They say you should always go out with a bang and so we did this year with comedian Ron James, and musicians Denzal Sinclair and Jackie Richardson among many others.

Organizing a variety show of Canadian talent and a picnic for 300 people in The Red Barn Theatre (one of the oldest summer theatres in the country), in Jackson's

Point, Ontario was the craziest thing we thought we'd ever do. Well, that was 17 years ago and we're even crazier today. We'll be sure to prologue the 22nd PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy at The Briars Resort with something spectacular in June of 2007. ☒



Shelagh Rogers, host of the PGI Golf Tournaments for Literacy at the Briars and of the yet-to-be named extravaganza the night before!

**Thanks to everyone who helped us make the last PGI Plays The Red Barn the best ever:**

Canada Post  
CBC Radio Canada  
Cohen, Barristers & Solicitors  
Doug Knight  
Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life  
Hillebrand Estates Winery  
Honda Canada Inc.  
Manulife Financial  
Patricia & David Morton  
Pizza Pizza  
The Briars Resort  
The Co-operators  
Upper Canada Brewing Company  
Woodbine Entertainment

**See you next year!**



# I GOT THE JOB!

Those four words are music to anyone's ears. For Frontier College learners and the volunteers who help them develop their literacy skills, they are especially meaningful.

Owen Stickels has been volunteering with Frontier College's Independent Studies program for several years. The program helps learners overcome barriers to literacy which may be due to cognitive or developmental disabilities.

It was there that Owen met Sam\*. Sam came to the program to develop his literacy skills and find a new job – his current employer was closing.

"Sam's biggest disadvantages were his limited literacy skills and job experience," said Owen. "We had to think about what types of positions fit Sam's personality, comfort level and literacy skills."

After a lot of discussion of Sam's interests, Sam and Owen concluded that the best type of position for Sam would involve cars and meeting people. Eventually, they agreed that a job as a delivery driver was a realistic goal, since Sam already had his driver's license.

"The hard part was making a job search plan," says Owen. "I encouraged Sam to start by calling some companies in his area that he knew used delivery drivers."

Cold calls are a daunting task for anyone, but especially for someone with limited literacy skills and little job experience. The pair got ready by making a script and doing some role playing.

"We probably looked pretty silly," Owen recalls, "Two adults talking into computer mice. But we were in the computer room and the mice seemed like a natural stand-in for phones."

They spent several tutoring sessions practicing the calls until Sam felt he was ready to do it for real. One week – and several phone calls – later, Sam had his new job.

"When Sam came to class and told me that he got a job, the look of pure happiness on his face brought tears to my eyes," says Owen. "I've never seen him so excited about anything, not even cars, his passion."

"It was such an awesome feeling, seeing Sam succeed like that," says Owen. "It was a huge triumph for him."

Without dedicated volunteers like Owen, Frontier College would not be able to help more than 7,000 learners each year. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for helping us to spread literacy across Canada – one word, and one person, at a time. ✉

\* not his real name

Giller  
BASH  
Light

Mark your

Calendar for the

Giller Light Bash 2006

Join us on November 7, 2006 at the SteamWhistle Brewery in Toronto, or the McNally Robinson Booksellers Grant Park location in Winnipeg. You can enjoy food, fun and festivities while catching the Scotiabank Giller Prize broadcast on the big screen, then join in the celebrations when the winner is announced. Over the last four years the Giller Light Bash events have raised over \$60,000 for Frontier College's homework clubs, helping students in urban centres develop their reading and writing skills.

Tickets for Giller Light Bash Toronto and Giller Light Bash Winnipeg will be going on sale in the fall.

For more information, please visit the website at [www.gillerlight.ca](http://www.gillerlight.ca). Or call us at 416-923-3591 ext. 335 (toll free 1-800-555-6523).

## Respecting your privacy

Frontier College and Frontier College Foundation is committed to protecting the privacy of our donors, volunteers and supporters. We adhere to all legislative requirements with respect to privacy.

We will **never** rent, sell or trade our mailing lists. We only use your information to keep you informed about our activities – including programs, services, open houses, funding needs and special events – through periodic newsletters, letters and invitations.

If at any time you wish to stop receiving this information, contact Barbara Fraser at 416-923-3591 ext. 324 (or 1-800-555-6523 ext. 324), email [bfraser@frontiercollege.ca](mailto:bfraser@frontiercollege.ca), or mark the appropriate check box on this coupon and we will gladly accommodate your request.

I do not wish to receive information from Frontier College Foundation.

We would like to acknowledge donor support publicly in our annual report and on our website. If you consent to having your name publicly recognized as a donor, there is no need to contact us.

I prefer to remain anonymous and have completed my contact information on the other side of this coupon

Or contact Barbara Fraser at 416-923-3591 ext. 324, (or 1-800-555-6523 ext. 324) or email [bfraser@frontiercollege.ca](mailto:bfraser@frontiercollege.ca).

## Gifts of Securities

If you ever considered donating shares to Frontier College, the May federal budget makes the notion much more attractive, as capital gains tax is exempt on donations of publicly traded securities to public charities.

Frontier College Foundation is able to accept electronic transfers of shares, as well as receive shares in certificate form.

We recommend that you seek the advice of your tax, financial and/or legal counsel before proceeding with a gift. If you require additional information about making a gift to Frontier College, please contact Cathy Mann, Executive Director, Frontier College Foundation by telephone at 416-923-3591 ext. 311, at 1-800-555-6523 or via email at [cmann@frontiercollege.ca](mailto:cmann@frontiercollege.ca).