

alphabet

SCOOP

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Newsletter of the British Columbia Councils of Laubach Literacy of Canada - Volume 5 Number 2 - October 2001

Spring Conference 2002 planned for April

Our Spring Conference in June 2001 was enjoyed by all who attended, thanks to the careful planning by the organizing committee from Richmond Council. But where were all our tutors?

Attendance could have been much better. We were expecting 60 but less than half that many turned out. Could it have had something to do with the time of year? We know that June is usually a busy month for weddings, vacations and the like, so Conference 2002 will be held in April, this time in Kamloops.

Plan to attend. If you received this by mail (and don't change your address) we'll send information to you about Spring Conference 2002 after the New Year.

Conference 2001 organizers were Andrew Lyall, Dave Hogg, Lawrence Price, Joseph Sequeira, Nina Dabiria and Jerry Horne.



Laubach Literacy of British Columbia board members (left to right) include: Peg Beaton, president; Myrna McGregor, provincial training officer; Bevin Heath Ansley, Lower Mainland representative; Joseph Sequeira, communications and public relations officer; Jane Fitschen, secretary treasurer; and James Hance, student representative (TREE). Not in this picture are: Darcy Allen, vice president; Wayne Cunningham, Laubach Literacy of Canada representative; Gwen Pich, northern representative; Barb Banford, BC Interior representative; Kim Jensen, family literacy representative.

Tutor workshops this fall

Oct. 20 & 21, Clearwater - contact Sylvia at North Thompson Skill Centre (250) 674-3530

Oct. 20 & Nov. 3, Vancouver/Burnaby - contact Jerry Horne (604) 263-6606

Nov. 2 & 3, Valemount (In service Voyager & ESL) - contact Pat Powell (250) 566-4601

Nov. 3 & 4, 70 Mile - contact Peg Beaton (250) 573-4456

Nov. 9 & 10, Prince George - contact Darcy Allen (250) 964-9615

Nov. 23 & 24, Lillooet - contact Lisa Steele (250) 256-4745

Message from the President

by Peg Beaton

Thank you to the many volunteers who have support the cause of literacy through [Laubach Literacy in British Columbia](#). The hours you have shared, in tutoring or in council administration, have made a big difference in the quality of life for members of our community. The results of your time and efforts will be like a "smile" that goes for miles and miles.

After attending the Provincial President's Meeting and the National Laubach Board meetings in Toronto in

Continued on page 2

President's message (continued)

August, I felt like I had really jumped right in. It was a fast initiation. I quickly identified with other presidents, as the issues raised at our Annual General Meeting are the same across Canada.

The National Laubach Board is proceeding with an organizational evaluation, which will benefit us all.

In the mean time, we will get on with business in British Columbia. The Public Relations and Communications Committee is reviewing a marketing plan prepared for us by a team of students at Simon Fraser University* and we are looking for new ways of supporting our councils with a unified plan of action. Your input is invaluable to your LLBC Board, so I encourage you to contact us with both your "beefs" and "bouquets".

Kamloops Councils will be planning the LLBC annual general meeting and conference for April 2002. Plan to attend. I would love to meet all of you.

Peg Beaton

* Download the SFU plan at the following website:
<http://members.home.net/home7376/LLBC.SFU/>

Start a student organization

Grants of \$250 are available to councils which start a local TREE committee. TREE stands for "Teamwork to Raise Education and Equality Student Committee". TREE was created to provide students with the opportunity to participate in leadership development and the promotion of literacy awareness.

How do you start a TREE committee? Begin by asking your student if she/he would like to work with other students from your region on a new national initiative. It is up to the students, but tutors can help.

Fieldworkers' report

by Jan Seedhouse and Jerry Horne

There is a new council in **Shalalth**, which is between (sort of) Lillooet and Whistler. We plan soon to have a new council in **70 Mile House** and perhaps one in **Chetwynd**.

Merritt Council has folded due to lack of interest in the community — despite valiant efforts on the part of Gwen Davis.

Darcy Allen in **Prince George** is busy working with the new literacy coordinator from the Friendship Centre. In **Valemount** they're planning a day of additional training. Jan will present a three hour Voyager workshop and three hours of tips and techniques for ESL tutoring.

Kamloops Laubach and the classroom program, now called *The Academy*, have moved to a smaller location in Kamloops. Jan has moved with them and has her own office for the first time. The new address is 614 Tranquille Road on the North Shore. If you who are in Kamloops and would like to stop by, we'd love to see you.

A number of councils have received a draft of a **brochure** that can be redesigned to contain local information. Contact us for more information.

Jan will present the Student Recruitment workshop this fall. It would be a three hour workshop. Clearwater or Kamloops are possible presentation sites. We need to know if anyone is interested enough to attend. Student recruitment is more of a problem in small communities, but some councils have been having some success and brainstorming always produces new ideas.

Richmond Council has been one of British Columbia's most successful Laubach councils over the years, with 40-60 active tutor/student pairs at any given time. This success has been due in large measure to the organizational skills and hard work of Dave Hogg.

Dave is retiring from his position of student/tutor coordinator for the Council. In concert with fellow council members Lawrence Price, Andrew Lyall and Joseph Sequira, Dave has worked hard to build a strong council base. The group is in the process of recruiting a student/tutor coordinator for Richmond. The Council won't be doing tutor training this fall, but Council Librarian Joseph Sequira is available to assist Laubach tutors who are currently working with students in the Richmond area.

Councils in **Surrey/Delta** and **North Vancouver** are also experiencing growing pains, and will need some new volunteers to help to direct development and administrative projects. If you live in one of these communities, think about how you can help. Also, **Vancouver** Council and **Tri-Cities** Council will be holding council meetings in the coming weeks. We may be calling you. If we don't, please call us!

Laubach was at **Word on the Street**. The annual book fair at Vancouver Public Library again attracted thousands of visitors. The event took place under sunny skies on September 30. Many Vancouverites and out-of-town visitors passed by our table and over thirty signed up with an interest in tutor training. Special thanks to our volunteers, who pressed the flesh and chewed the ears of passers-by: Rob Goodell, Mernie Jacobsen, Lynda McMillen and Fiona Playfair.

Special thanks to Jan Church, who is retiring as a trainer. Jan became an Apprentice Trainer in 96, a certified trainer in 99, and participated in 24 Literacy Tutor Workshops around BC, including Prince George, Logan Lake, Chase, Lillooet, Barriere and Kamloops. She also helped Eloise Welch with the Kamloops Council's library, and received her advanced tutor certificate. Thank you, Jan, for all your cheerful help. We'll miss you.

Check your learning style

Seeing, hearing and doing. A successful educator tries to involve all three activities.

Some people tend to learn something best when they see it illustrated. Others learn best when something is told to them, or read to them. Still others don't learn something until they've actually done it themselves or re-written it in our own words.

Here is a little test, which you can perform on yourself, to determine your particular learning style. You can also do it with your student to find out how to use your tutor time together more efficiently.

Read each question or statement and circle the most appropriate answer. Some questions will be difficult to answer, but try to respond according to how you'd react most often.

- 1. You usually remember more from a class lecture when:**
 - a. you do not take notes but listen very closely
 - b. you sit near the front of the room and watch the speaker
 - c. you take notes (whether or not you look at them again)
- 2. You usually solve problems by:**
 - a. talking to yourself or a friend
 - b. using an organized, systematic approach with list, schedules, etc.
 - c. walking, pacing or some other physical activity
- 3. You remember phone numbers (when you can't write them down) by:**
 - a. repeating the numbers orally
 - b. "seeing" or "visualizing" the numbers in your mind
 - c. "writing" the numbers with your finger on a table or wall
- 4. You find it easiest to learn something new by:**
 - a. listening to someone explain how to do it
 - b. watching a demonstration of how to do it
 - c. trying it yourself
- 5. You remember most clearly from a movie:**
 - a. what the characters said, background noises and music
 - b. the setting, scenery and costumes
 - c. the feelings you experienced during the movie
- 6. When you go to the grocery store, you:**
 - a. silently or orally repeat the grocery list
 - b. walk up and down the aisles to see what you need
 - c. usually remember what you need from the list you left at home
- 7. You are trying to remember something and so you**
 - a. hear in your mind what was said or the noises that occurred
 - b. try to see it happen in your mind
 - c. feel the way "it" reacted with your emotions
- 8. You could learn a foreign language best by:**
 - a. listening to records or tapes
 - b. writing and using workbooks
 - c. attending a class in which you read and write
- 9. you are confused about the correct spelling of a word and so you:**
 - a. sound it out
 - b. try to "see" the word in your mind
 - c. write the word several different ways and choose the one that looks right
- 10. You enjoy reading most when you can read:**
 - a. dialogue between characters
 - b. descriptive passages that allow you to create mental pictures
 - c. stories with a lot of action in the beginning (because you have a hard time sitting still)
- 11. You usually remember people you have met by their:**
 - a. names (you forget faces)
 - b. faces (you forget names)
 - c. mannerisms, motions, etc.
- 12. you are distracted most by:**
 - a. noises
 - b. people
 - c. environment (temperature, comfort of furniture, etc.)
- 13. You usually dress:**
 - a. fairly well (but clothes are not very important to you)
 - b. neatly (in a particular style)
 - c. comfortably (so you can move easily)
- 14. You can't do anything physical and you can't read, so you choose to:**
 - a. talk with a friend
 - b. watch TV or look out a window
 - c. move slightly in your chair or bed

Scoring

1. Count the total number of responses for each letter and write them below:
 - a. _____ **auditory** (learn best by hearing)
 - b. _____ **visual** (learn best by seeing)
 - c. _____ **kinesthetic** (learn best by touching, doing, moving)
3. Were the results as you expected them to be? Is that the way you see yourself?

*Adapted from
Orton Gillingham training materials*

Walking for Literacy

by Fran O'Rourke

This year the Shuswap Learning Centre, the Laubach council in **Chase**, held a *Walk for Literacy* on *International Literacy Day*. Like many rural councils, we have a hard time attracting new students and if you don't get students, your tutors disappear.

To keep things simple, we carefully defined our goal. Our aim was to reach students, not to raise money. So, we went with registration by donation, which kept the event open to everyone.

We ordered a couple of books to give away as prizes, local businesses donated water and a couple of tables, someone rustled up a PA system and we were ready to go. Then we advertised for two months - community notes in local newspapers, a couple of pictures and special notes in one, posters, school newsletters, radio spots and the grapevine.

There were only about twenty who actually made the walk of 3.7 km, but that was enough to create interest. We did leave a small crew behind and someone followed in a van in case a walker needed help. We had chosen a circle route so at the end of the walk we had everything set to draw for prizes.

Was it worth the work? Definitely! The turnout was a little disappointing but the aim of the exercise was to get the word out to students. With the publicity leading up to the walk, we doubled our students. We now have almost all of our tutors matched with students. The donations more than covered our costs. And we all had a good time. Will there be one next year? It's a very good possibility. We will profit from our mistakes and do better, and, we will let you know in time for you to join us.

Special thanks to Mina Paisley, a Laubach graduate and council treasurer, who came up with the plan, and Chuck Wyld and his wife (long time Laubach supporters) who brought their barbeque and hot dogs.

Fiona Playfair is our new volunteer coordinator for **Vancouver Council**. She immigrated to Canada from Scotland in 1996. Fiona spent a year in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, then she worked for ten years in the oil industry in Aberdeen, Scotland.



While pursuing "45 hours per week" in computing and economic modeling, Fiona discovered that she derived greater fulfillment from the "hour a week" tutoring a student in English literacy. So, she went back to school to become a secondary teacher in Scotland. Fiona taught adult vocational courses at Shetland College of Education prior to coming to Canada.

Fiona also tutors at the Immigrant Services Society, a counseling and education centre for refugees and other immigrants in Vancouver.

Funding for Fiona's one-day-per-week position with Laubach Literacy Vancouver Council was provided by the Cygnus Foundation.

Changing your address?

You're a free-spirited Laubach tutor. You're a rolling stone, and nothing is going to make you stay in one place long enough to gather moss. But wait a minute, we really want to keep in touch with you. As a Laubach-trained tutor you are a valuable commodity.

Help us out. If you're moving, let us know. Mail us your updated address information, or call our toll-free number.

Also, if you're a trained tutor and aren't working with a student right now, call us soon. We'll find you a student or get you involved with local council activities. Even if you're only available for short period of time, we need you!

Laubach Councils in British Columbia

Barriere Laubach Literacy Council:
Brenda Erhardt

<http://www.bcwebsites.com/barriere/barremp.htm>

Kamloops Literacy Council:
Judy Haynes

Land of the Crane Literacy Council:
(Shalalth): Sheila Cavanagh

Laubach Literacy of Logan Lake:
Lorraine Boyd (Chair)
Student-tutor coordinator: Andrea Webb

Richmond/Delta Council:
Joseph Siqueira (Librarian)

Laubach Literacy Vancouver Council:
Fiona Playfair (Volunteer Coordinator)

Mission Literacy Association:
Cheryl Henderson (Chair)
Contact: Myrna McGregor

North Shore Literacy Council:
Winifred Napier

Prince George:
Darcy Allen

Shuswap Learning Centre (Chase):
Fran O'Rourke

Surrey/White Rock:
Ilze Booth

North Thompson LLC:
Belle McGregor

Tri-Cities (Port Coquitlam):
Mernie Jacobsen

BC Fieldworkers

Jan Seedhouse, BC Interior
1-800-766-4660 (toll-free)

Jerry Horne, BC Lower Mainland
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