

CONNECTIONS

Adult Learning Centre News

727-3207

December 2005

MERRY CHRISTMAS



The month of December is usually very busy here at the Centre and this year is no exception. Students are gearing up for exams. Everyone is trying to get things tidied up before the Christmas break.

We all had fun filling two shoe boxes for the children in underprivileged countries through the "Samaritan's Purse". We did one for a boy and one for a girl, both 11 to 14 years old. We are looking forward to the New Year and all that it will bring. A New Year of learning, how exciting. There are so many things to learn.

We are currently reviewing our upcoming schedule and would appreciate your input as to what you would like to see offered. We always have a great group upgrading their academic skill levels, but we can usually accommodate special requests.

JOB READINESS PROGRAM

Another month of exciting guest speakers, workshops, and community participation as Pam and "her kids" are gearing up for the work placement component of the program.

Job Connect has been instrumental to the development of the team with informative workshops dealing with resumes, job interviews, self-esteem, and safety. Thanks Kara.

A very interesting presentation was provided by Sergeant Lori Corkum of the Canadian Armed Forces. She was a dynamic speaker outlining the career opportunities available through the armed forces. She left a variety of materials at the Centre so please drop by if you would like more information.

The class has participated in two interactive presentations at the Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre (Museum). We did "*Hudson or Bust*" and "*Time Travel*". We made the cover of their 2005-06 schedule and we can also be found on their web site at www.redlakemuseum.com. Drop by and check out what Michele and her staff have to offer.

This month the class will be completing their St. John's First Aid, WHIMIS, and Ontario

Superhost. Skills that are an asset to any workplace.

Should your organization be approached as a possible work placement; these young people are certainly ready to take their place in the workforce and we suggest you give them an opportunity to prove it. All wage and associated costs are fully reimbursed through the program. If you are interested please call us for further information.

***Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them.
-Lady Bird Johnson***

GENEALOGY COURSE

You can always tell it is Tuesday and time for our genealogy course; it is snowing! Thanks to Carol Smith for providing such interesting material. We now have the skills and tools to research our family tree. It is amazing to see what information is out there.

COMPUTER COURSES



The Microsoft Excel and Simply Accounting Courses have wound up as well. Another Excel course will run January 30th to February 2nd The course runs for 5 evenings for a cost of \$50.00. Simply Accounting will be offered again depending upon demand. Introductory Computers and Word will also be offered if numbers warrant.

Please call if you are interested

CHRISTMAS BASKET DRAW



Our annual draw for a basketful of Christmas goodies will take place this year at the Lakeview Restaurant on December 20 at 3:00 pm. This year we have two baskets so you have two chances to win. Tickets are still a dollar each.

Tickets are available at the Lakeview Restaurant in Red Lake, at Pape's in Ear Falls, or at the Centre at 232 Howey St.

Thank you for supporting the Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre.

RECIPE CORNER

Hazelnut Shortbread Refrigerator Cookies

1 cup flour
½ cup cornstarch
½ cup icing sugar
¾ cup finely chopped hazelnuts
¾ cup butter, softened

Preparation:

COMBINE flour, corn starch, icing sugar and nuts in a large bowl.
With large spoon, blend in butter. Work with hands until soft, smooth dough forms.
SHAPE dough into a smooth roll about 1 ½" in diameter.
Wrap and chill until firm (about 4 hours or overnight). Store rolls in refrigerator for up to 1 month.
CUT with sharp knife into thin slices. Place on ungreased baking sheet.
BAKE at 375°F (190°C) for 8 to 12 minutes, or until edges are lightly browned. Remove from sheet and cool completely.

VARIATION:

Cherry Pecan Shortbread: Omit hazelnuts. Mix dough until smooth then mix in ¾ cup chopped candied cherries and ½ cup chopped pecans until evenly distributed.

This month's recipe from Robin Hood's Baking Festival Cookbook and also found on their website at www.robinhood.ca.

CONTACT NORTH / CONTACT NORD

The fall semester at Contact North/Contact Nord is winding down, and students are busy with tests and final exams. Our winter flyer of *Bridging the North* will be distributed in early December, listing the courses available for January 2006. We also have some interesting programs being offered in January. Sault College is offering a part-time Personal Support Worker Certificate Program. Confederation College is offering part-time programming under the Paramedic, Personal Support Worker and Social Service Worker Programs. The deadline for the application packages is December 22nd, 2005. Confederation College is also offering a full-time General Arts and Science program.



If you are interested in taking any part-time courses, or the full-time General Arts and Science Program, come in and see Carol for the application packages. There will also be some general interest courses available, as well as more language courses. The Spanish For Beginners is a lot of fun! It is a great opportunity to learn a new language, expand your knowledge and maybe get that job promotion! Remember, it is never too late to learn.

FORMER NHL COACH ADMITS ILLITERACY

The NHL's Jacques Demers was able to win a Stanley Cup but he now admits there has been one skill he was never able to master - **how to read**.



The former Montreal Canadiens coach says in a new biography by sports writer Mario LeClerc that while he can write his name and a few other words, he is functionally illiterate, unable to read most sentences.

Now 61, Demers says he first admitted his problem to his wife in 1984, when she complained about always being his secretary. Demers managed to keep his illiteracy a secret from just about everyone else as he built his career in the NHL, fearing that it would damage his career.

"There is no way that the National Hockey League would have given me a chance," Demers says.

But some admit they had an inkling. CTV Montreal sportscaster Brian Wilde worked with Demers on a show about the Habs and remembers how Demers struggled when asked to write a script.

"Jacques fought through it. He tried his best to write it," Wilde recalls. "At one point, he said, 'Well, I have to give up on the writing. I can't do the writing.' And we said, 'Well let's see what you've done so far.' And he said, 'Well, I didn't bring it with me'.

Demers told CTV's Canada AM that he found ways of covering up his secret.

"I can't write a letter to anybody, but if I had to go in a banquet or different place to sign autographs, I would always write a few words: 'Best wishes, Jacques Demers', 'To my friend' -- those are words that I learned by heart. So I kept it to very minimal words.

"But I've extended a little bit some of my words that I could write now."

Literary advocate Judy Brandeis says most literacy problems stem from learning

disabilities that are never diagnosed. She says Demers' admission is important.

"I think it's very unfortunate for him that he had the problem. But it's very interesting that it would take a sport figure to bring the issue to the forefront, because we've been trying to do that for years," she says.

Demers says he hopes that by bringing the issue out and coming out from the shame, he'll help others like him.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The Adult Learning Centre will be closed from December 23rd, 2005 to January 9th, 2006.

Merry Christmas

Very best wishes to everyone for a safe and healthy holiday from the Board and Staff of the Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre.

Ethel Janet
Joyce Donna
Birgit Georgie Lorelei Johanna Rosalie
Kathy Pam Melanie