



Simcoe/Muskoka
Literacy Network

A note from the Network...

This past week, I was reminded of an old adage that goes something like this: *the only constant is change*. How true that is! As I witness the changing colours of leaves, the shorter days and cooler weather, it seems appropriate to reminisce of the not so distant past when things were greener, longer and much warmer.

The Network office has changed dramatically with respect to the staff housed within its walls. In July, Bonnie not only completed her 1-year Partnership Outreach Project, but also relocated back to her native Calgary. And to refer to yet another well worn cliché, as one door closes, another opens – and in walked Melanie Remonde

to very aptly fill the Administrative Assistant position! In addition, the Network received approval from HRDC for a JCP application that was submitted, and once again a hiring blitz was on! In October, we welcomed Paul Tamblyn to the network staff as our Sponsorship/Fund Development Coordinator.

As you know, the Network also houses the staff of the Road to Reading Festival, and we welcomed Janet Carmichael as the Marketing Coordinator in July. Michele Newton completed the event coordination of the 2nd festival, and left in October to complete the last phase of her MBA. In Michele's place, we have welcomed Sue Bannon who has extensive experience with both event coordination and this project in particular.

The Network has also been the very grateful recipient of some very welcomed talent contributed in a variety of ways. For instance, several student volunteers (drawn from our LBS programs as well as local high schools) have offered their much appreciated services for a variety of tasks within our office. We would also like to acknowledge each of our programs for their contribution to the success of the Network through the time and talent their staff continue to donate to our Board of Directors, committees, training events and network meetings. Thank you all for your continued support!

Wanda Minnings

Next issue: Spring 2004

NOC Career Handbook –2nd Edition ...Now Available

The Human Resources Partnerships Directorate is pleased to announce that the second edition of the Career Handbook is now available. It provides 923 occupational profiles for counselling based on NOC 2001.

To obtain copies of the new Career Handbook, call 1-800-635-7943. The catalogue number is MP53-25-5-2003(E) for English and (F) for French and the cost is \$99.95 plus shipping and taxes. The on-line version will be available soon on HRDC's Web site at:

<http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/noc>

Karen Naylor
LMIA Assistant for Lakeland HRC (705) 326-7831

Why literacy is important?



Without it... everything would be Greek!



Network Staff:

Wanda Minnings, Executive Director
Melanie Remonde, Administrative Assistant
Paul Tamblyn, Director of Fund Development

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- By phone (705) 730-1414
- By fax (705) 730-1416
- Or visit us on the web at
www.nald.ca/smln.htm

Welcome Our 2003/2004 Board of Directors & Committee Members

Board of Directors

Ruth Faulkner, Chair
 Joanne Stuart, Vice Chair
 Marilyn Davies, Treasurer,
 Linda Boon, Past Chair
 Janet Arnett, College Rep.
 MaryAnne Myers, School Board Rep.
 Alison Turnbull, School Board Rep.
 Sheila Smale, Community Based Rep.
 Lindsay Core, Associate Member
 Pennyann Tibbits, Student Rep.

Planning & Evaluation Committee

Connie Morgan, Chair
 MaryAnne Myers



Training & Development Committee

Ally MacKay, Chair
 Ruth Faulkner
 Linda Irwin
 Joanne Stuart
 Jo Cryderman
 Wanda Minnings
 Melanie Remonde

Personnel Committee

Ruth Faulkner, Chair
 Linda Boon
 Marilyn Davies
 Sue Bannon

Committee Reports:

Training & Development Committee

We held a training day on Friday October 24, and the response from those who came was that they all had a good time. Many thanks to Rob Shepard, Linda Irwin, and Joanne Stuart for the informative and interesting workshops that

they presented. We will be holding a New to Literacy training in the future as we had very few people sign up for this training. If you have staff members who would benefit from this please contact Melanie or Wanda.

We will be holding a training in the spring for the ministry that will be covering workforce. The pilot workplace projects in the field realized that literacy programs needed to do further research in this in the area of before implementing it within our programs.
 Submitted by Ally MacKay, Chair

Planning & Evaluation Committee:

The Network is seeking volunteers interested in devoted some time toward evaluation our services and planning for the future. Traditionally the *Planning & Evaluation Committee* has played an role in assisting with the development of the

Business Plan for the coming year, has made recommendations for possible projects and has assessed how well the Network delivers its 7 core functions. If you are interested in sharing your expertise, contact Wanda or Melanie at the Network office at 730-1414. We look forward to hearing from you.

What did you learn today?

OLC outreach materials are now available! The Network has a small supply of personalized pens to share with members.

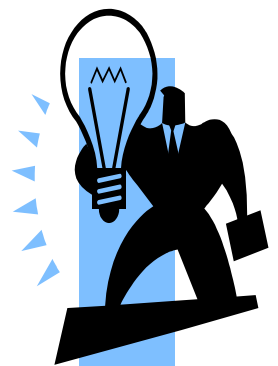
Did you know...

Accdrnig to a rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deos-n't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny ipr-moetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The

rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by it slf but the wrod as a wlohe.

So much for spelling skills!

Share Your Ideas!



The Marginally Literate Workforce

Taken from NALD-Susan Crompton

The pressure to develop a highly literate workforce has intensified in recent years as the skills demanded by employers become increasingly complex. However, employers tend to enhance the skills of those who are already highly literate and leave behind a substantial proportion of workers who are only marginally literate. So although the economy demands increasing numbers of highly skilled workers, present practices may well be limiting economic growth and productivity. Improving the abilities of adults with poor literacy skills may present the biggest human resource challenge of the next decade. This article briefly profiles the significant minority of Canadian workers who possess only Level 1 or 2 liter-

acy skills, as determined by the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) (see *Data source and definitions*). Although no one country is "better" than another in an absolute sense - they differ in their demographic composition, educational organization, social institutions and employment opportunities - useful questions may be raised by studying the literacy skills of foreign workforces. Therefore, this article also looks at workers in the United States, our largest trading partner and primary competitor, and Germany, the principal economic power in Europe.

Over one-third of Canadian workers have weak literacy skills

Over one-third of the workers in Can-

ada (36%) possess marginal literacy skills. This proportion is consistent across all three types of literacy - prose, document and quantitative. Although most workers "at risk" function at Level 2 literacy, about one in three operate at Level 1. *This article is taken from the National Adult Literacy Database website. To read the full article by Susan Crompton log on to: <http://www.nald.ca/fulltext/pat/MLw/page1.htm>*

We definitely have our work cut out for us in the area of Workforce Literacy!

Coming events....and you're invited!

By the looks of today's weather, old man winter is certainly reminding us of his presents. The following upcoming events may keep our minds off the coming winter season.

Congratulations to the Orillia & District Literacy Council on their **25th Anniversary**. Staff and volunteers will be celebrating with an **Open House on November 4th, 10:00—12:00**, and your invited!

Common Assessor's Meeting has been scheduled for **November 7th, 10 am—Noon, at the Big Bay Point Zehr's**. Please call the office to con-

firm your attendance. And for directions to the new Zehr's location in Barrie.

Join us at the Network on **December 10th for our Christmas Open House**. Come share a cup of cheer, (God knows we'll need it by then after our Business Plans have been completed)

The Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU) is planning a spring training session on Workforce Literacy. Dates to be determined. Stay tuned. The Network will notify you the moment we hear word.

Barrie Literacy Council will be celebrating their **25th Anniversary** by hosting the **2004 LLO/LLC Conference June 11, 12 & 13**. Practice your Karaoke skills and get set to WOW them!

Mark your Calendar's! The Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network will be celebrating it's **10th Anniversary on September 12th, 2004**. Staff and committee members are already planning this upcoming event.

Road to Reading Festival.... Update!

The Road to Reading Festival 2003 proved to be another success for the second year !

Many thanks are extended to the corporate sponsors, project staff, committee members and of course the many volunteers who pulled together to make the event a reality.

Unfortunately, we must bid farewell to

Michele Newton who has been the inaugural Coordinator of this project for the past year and half. Michele has chosen her Master's Degree over the Festival . We wish all the best in her future endeavours. At this time we would like to welcome Sue Bannon as the new Coordinator for the coming year.



Sue is already busy planning events in recognition of Family Literacy Day on January 27th and gaining a head start on next year's Festival. The Festival is already booked for September 12th, 2004, at the South Shore Centre . More updates will follow. Info at www.roadtoreadingfestival.com Or phone (705) 730-0648.



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Visit us on the web at:
www.nald.ca/smln.htm

**"I must say I find
television very
educational. The
minute somebody turns
it on, I go to the library
and read a book."**

-Groucho Marx
workinghumour.com



**Peel-Halton-Dufferin
Training Board**

La Commission de formation
de la main-d'oeuvre de
Peel-Halton-Dufferin



The Peel Halton Dufferin Training Board in partnership with the Peel Halton Dufferin Adult Learning Network is pleased to host a one-day conference for adult literacy, adult education and work-place literacy practitioners.

Literacy, Self-Direction and the Workforce

- Offering a series of workshops covering the relationship between workforce literacy and learner self-direction/self-management
- Linking literacy programming to relevant workforce issues and provincial policy
- Conference Program and Registration information to follow

Friday November 14, 2003
9am – 4pm
Best Western
5825 Dixie Road
Mississauga, Ontario

Registration fee: \$25
For further information:

Contact: Elaine Krayacich
Phone: 905-812-3533
Email: elainek@ca.inter.net

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

Public meetings to disseminate the results of the LOTF research

Eight public meetings have been organized with the co-operation of eight post-secondary educational institutions to disseminate the key findings of the LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE (LOTF) research, to update the community on ongoing LOTF activities and to gather community feed back and comment on the current status of services and supports available to individuals with LD in Ontario.

The meetings and the hosting institution are listed below. Each meeting will be held between 7 and 9 p.m. The specific location will be advertised by the hosting institution.

Several of the locations have more than one post-secondary educational institution. We encourage all institutions to assist, even if they are not listed below as the hosting institution. It is LOTF's hope that all ESF staff will try to attend a meeting at a suitable location and that students will participate if at all possible at all meetings. Both LOTF and LDAO ask all the LDA chapters to encourage their members and the parents of students with LD in their communities to participate. This is an important opportunity to hear about the research findings and to recommend follow up action for the benefit of persons with LD.

The meetings are going to be in English only, but we shall bring with us both English and French versions of the executive summary of the LOTF final report. The complete LOTF final report in both English and French is available on the LOTF website, Handouts will be provided at the meetings and participants will be invited to complete a one page feed back form to assist the LOTF in its on-going work.

Date	Location	Hosting institution
October 21	Sudbury	Cambrian College
October 29	Thunder Bay	Confederation College
November 12	Barrie	Georgian College
November 13	Toronto	Ryerson University
November 18	Windsor	University of Windsor
November 19	London	Fanshawe College
November 25	Belleville	Loyalist College
November 26	Ottawa	Carleton University