

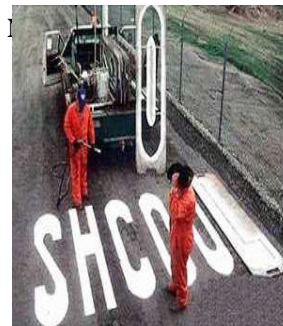
A note from the Network...

Hooray! Spring has definitely sprung, and there is little chance of any more of the 'white stuff' falling from the sky. (*Unless you live in Alberta!*) As always, the Network gets a lot of information on a wide variety of literacy-related issues. Information is posted to our AlphaCom discussion page as

we receive it, so that is your best source of current Network news. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue! Enjoy!

Wanda Minnings

Why literacy is important:



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

As we wait for the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer to arrive, we find the spring bursting with activity!

The month of **May** has many opportunities for those of us who have cocooned over the winter, to get out and see some familiar faces.

The Literacy Society of South Muskoka will hold its annual Wine & Cheese & Auction on Wed. **May 7th**.

On Thursday **May 8th**, the Midland Area Reading Council will hold their AGM.

On Friday **May 9th**, the Network will host a Spring Network Meeting at Georgian Downs Racetrack.

The T&D Committee meets on **May 9th** to plan the fall training line-up. Let us know your needs. Be sure to complete a training needs survey!

On **May 16th**, the North Simcoe LSP group will host a Stakeholder Breakfast Meeting.

The Board of Directors of the Network will meet on **May 21st**. Consider putting your name forward to join our Board!

Alpha Huronie will have an Open House on **May 23rd** in their beautiful new location.

The Barrie Literacy Council will hold their AGM on **May 28th** and have asked our newest board member, Joanne Stuart, to be the keynote speaker!

The AGM for the Literacy Society of South Muskoka is **May 29th**.

As we get closer to the summer, the calendar once again shows a number of important dates in **June**.

The Time Management Workshop has been rescheduled for **June 6th**. From 9—noon at the

Career Centre, Bayfield Mall.

The Annual General Meeting for the Network has been booked for **June 13th**—a boat cruise along the shores of Lake Couchiching! Registration and a cheque for \$35.00 are required to hold your spot—cheques will be returned at the AGM.

The Advisory Roundtable Committee (formerly the Regions & Sectors) will be meeting on **June 19 & 20** in Toronto.

We are pleased to bring you the FOCUS Workshop on **June 27th**. This full-day training will focus on working with hard-to-serve clients. This workshop has been offered by several Networks provincially, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

You are encouraged to use our AlphaCom page to post your event information!



Network Staff:

Wanda Minnings, Executive Director
Bonnie Patton, Administrative Assistant
Connie Morgan, Bookkeeper

Contact information:

- By e-mail
simcoe.muskoka@literacynetwork.ca
- By snail-mail and in person
69 Mary Street, Barrie, ON L4N 1T2
- By phone (705) 730-1414
- By fax (705) 730-1416
- Or visit us on the web at
www.nald.ca/smln.htm

Our 2002/2003 Board of Directors & Committee Members

Board of Directors

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

Planning & Evaluation Committee

Connie Morgan, Chair
 MaryAnne Myers
 Harriet Curran

Annual General Meeting June 13 - Orillia Waterfront

Back by popular demand!
Orillia Waterfront Boat Cruise
RSVP Required
 Elections will take place at the
AGM! Consider putting your
name forward to join our
Board. Two year term.
Five dinner meetings per year.
Mileage reimbursed.

Connect to what matters...

Training & Development Committee

Ally MacKay, Chair
 Ruth Faulkner
 Linda Irwin
 Joanne Stuart
 Jo Cryderman
 Wanda Minnings
 Bonnie Patton

Personnel Committee

Ruth Faulkner, Chair
 Linda Boon
 Marilyn Davies

See page 4 for the Terms of Reference
 for SMLN's Board of Directors!

Committee Reports:

Training & Development Committee

Submitted by Ally MacKay

This year has been an interesting one for us due to weather. We held AlphaChum training at the Alliston Learning Centre in November during a snowstorm. We looked at holding a training day in February, which we moved to March considering the weather and it as well was snowed out. We have rebooked the "Time Management Seminar" with Joanne Stuart for Friday

June 6, 2003 at the Career Centre. We have included training for the Network meeting on May 9, with Joanne Stuart who will present "Storytelling". On June 27 we are hosting FOCUS training.

We have scheduled for the fall a "New to Literacy Workshop" for people who are entering our field either as volunteers or as service providers. It is also a great refresher for anyone

already working in the field. On Friday September 26, we will have a training seminar at the Orillia City Hall, topics to include media and writing.

We are looking at arranging for a motivational speaker for our September training date and if you know someone who you feel would be a good speaker please let one of the committee members know. If you are interested in joining this committee, we are looking for representation from all regions.

Planning & Evaluation Committee:

The P&E Committee submitted three project proposals to MTCU for consideration.

- (1) Workplace Literacy Skills for People with Special Needs, Phase 2.
- (2) Partnership Outreach Project: Workplace & Workforce, and

- (3) Road to Reading Festival: How to Host a Literacy Event

For further information on these projects, please contact the Network office or a member of the Planning & Evaluation Committee.

Outreach materials are now available! The Network has a small supply of personalized pens and note pads.

Did you know...

- ☑ Two of our community-based literacy programs have recently moved their offices? The Muskoka Literacy Council is now located at 72 Main St. E., Huntsville P1H 2C7. Alpha Huronie is now located at 'historic' 1A Simcoe St., Penetanguishene L9M 1V2. Phone and fax numbers remain the same for both programs.
- ☑ Bonnie Patton is available to speak to your community groups or staff meetings about literacy through our

Partnership Outreach Program. But hurry! The project ends June 26th. Call her at the Network office to discuss.

- ☑ The 2nd Annual Road to Reading Festival will be held on Sunday September 14th, 2003 at the South Shore Centre on Barrie's beautiful waterfront. Please consider donating any of your used books for the Used Book Sale. Contact the Festival staff at (705) 730-0648 to arrange a pick-up.
- ☑ If you do not check the Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network AlphaCom discussion page regularly you have been missing this information and more.... Please call us if you need help signing in.

Great Ideas Welcome Here!



The Official "Rules" for the English Language

1. Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
5. Avoid clichés like the plague. (They're old hat)
6. Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
7. Be more or less specific.
8. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
9. Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
10. No sentence fragments.
11. Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.
12. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
13. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. One should NEVER generalize.
15. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
16. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
17. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
18. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
19. The passive voice is to be ignored.
20. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary. Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.
21. Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.
22. Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
23. Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth-shaking ideas.
24. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
25. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.
26. Puns are for children, not groan readers.
27. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
28. Even IF a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
29. Who needs rhetorical questions?
30. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

And the last one...

31. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

Partnership Outreach Project.... Update!

submitted by Bonnie Patton

Since taking on the project last fall, I have made approximately 18 presentations to various groups including the Simcoe County Health Unit, David Busby Street Centre, clients from Children's Aid as well as many others. I have also spoken to more than 219 OW clients since late December.

My presentation style and length have varied from 10 minute presentations to 2 hour workshops on Volunteering Your Way to Work from a literacy standpoint. As well, the size of group has varied: as many as 50 people to organizations with one contact person. Each time, I include contact information for all 18 programs as well as a brief overview of the sectors; community based, school board and college based programs as well as the francophone programs, and details about how the programs work. After each presentation I offer the opportunity for

a Q&A and always let people know how they can contact us for further information.

At the beginning of the project it seemed that a power point presentation was necessary. I have learned this is not always practical or convenient. Most of the presentations are done at staff meetings or fit into a schedule at some point throughout the day. I'm sure we can all appreciate that finding time throughout the busy work day to meet with someone can be a challenge and therefore a 10 minute meeting is often the extent of my outreach opportunity.

Part of the outreach project was to update the existing ABC Referral Tool. It has been a long road getting there, but the new version should be ready very soon. We combined our efforts on this endeavor with third year graphic art students at Georgian College and designed a new look for the

referral tool. It looks great and I think it will be easier to read.

I am still seeking out new opportunities to bring awareness to organizations within Simcoe County and Muskoka. I feel that this project has been successful so far in connecting with organizations and groups within the community and making them aware of what we do and what the adult literacy programs have to offer.

Note: The project ends on June 26th.

Hot News !!!

The Call for Nominations for the 2003 Canada Post Literacy Awards are out!!!

The 4 award categories for this year are:

Individual Achievement, Educator, Community Leadership, and Business Leadership.

Road to Reading Festival.... Update!

Mark your calendars for **The Road to Reading Festival**, September 14, 2003. Once again, it will be held at the Southshore Centre at Barrie's beautiful waterfront.

The reference group (Sue Bannon, Melanie Remonde, Connie Morgan, Linda Boon & Wanda Minnings) continue to work with Michele Newton, Event Coordinator, ensuring that the **Festival** is even better than last year!

One great new twist is that **Books for Brunch** mini-festivals will be held in Alliston, Midland and Bracebridge on the weekend prior.

If you would like to be involved consider renting a table at the **Festival** to promote your program or volunteering!

Info at www.roadtoreadingfestival.com

Or phone (705) 730-0648.





Simcoe/Muskoka
Literacy Network

**SIMCOE/MUSKOKA
LITERACY NETWORK**

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

I have never let my
schooling interfere
with my education.
- [Mark Twain](#)

Terms of Reference—Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network (SMLN):

- Is legally responsible for the SMLN;
- Makes sure that the SMLN acts lawfully and responsibly;
- Ensures that SMLN uses funds appropriately; and
- Makes certain that there is effective leadership and management of SMLN.

The Board makes Policies for the whole Organization:

The Board develops policies about how the organization is to be managed. Responsibility for carrying out the Boards' policies and managing the organization on a day to day basis is delegated to the Network Executive Director who is hired by the Board.

Specific duties of the Board:

- Approves and monitors SMLN's Work Plan
- Approves and monitors SMLN's Business Plan
- Establishes SMLN's financial policies
- Approves and monitors SMLN's annual budget
- Is familiar with SMLN's by-laws and policies
- Plans the AGM once a year
- Hires and evaluates the Network Executive Director
- Establishes personnel policies; and
- Participates in ad hoc and standing committees when necessary

Who is on the Board?

The Board shall have equal representation from both the regions and the literacy sectors within Simcoe County and Muskoka. Up to four members may be associate members from the community at large who can provide needed expertise on the Board and who support the objectives of the Network.

How long is the term of office?

SMLN shall be governed by a Board of no more than twelve (12) directors, elected for a two year term. Half of the Board members will be elected each year.

How often and where does the Board meet?

The Board will meet every two months on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Network office in Barrie. Meetings will be approximately 2 hours in length from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Travel expenses will be paid at \$0.35/km and a meal will be provided. Insurance provided by SMLN.

Summer in Muskoka is "Fun" Fundraising Time!

Submitted by Linda Boon

I attended a fundraising workshop given by Gay Douglas at one time and one of the things she said was that "fun" was part of the word and should be part of the process. So, I'm pleased to say that the Literacy Society had \$10,000 worth of fun in 2003-2004!

The major fundraiser was the annual spring Wine & Cheese Auction which resulted in \$5,000 income. We gathered a wide variety of items from Muskoka businesses that were auctioned off and charged \$5 a ticket to attend the function. Wine and cheese refreshments added flavour to the evening and made it enjoyable for everyone whether they were the successful bidder or not. Paid advertising in the local paper and radio supplemented free advertising via flyers, PSA's and Cable T.V.

Tag Days usually net about \$3,000. The days are divided between Gravenhurst and Bracebridge/Port Carling. By having it on different days in each community, some taggers are available for both days. Students can get involved in this fundraiser as taggers and enjoy being part of an important event. Part of the proceeds were used in August, 2002 to fund a field trip for students and tutors to Algonquin Provincial Park and Dorset.

A person can hardly drive through Muskoka without seeing a golf course so we take advantage of this by holding a "Tee Off for Literacy" event in the fall. Businesses purchase hole sponsorships and golfers bid on rounds of golf at Muskoka's prestigious golf courses.

For 2003, we are thrilled to be sharing a benefit performance of *Grease is The Word* to be presented at the Gravenhurst Opera House June 13th. This opportunity came about as a result of our involvement with Muskoka Family Focus who joined us on our Muskoka Family Literacy committee in 2002 to host activities that promote family literacy including Books for Brunch to be held on September 6, 2003 in Bracebridge.

We are fortunate to live in a community which supports our literacy fundraising activities so generously. It takes large doses of enthusiasm and teamwork to be successful but we're happy to do it when the "fun" pays off!