



*The Knowledge is in you to give!
Each-One-Teach-One*

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Moncton Regional Learning Council Newsletter

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MRLC's New Addition

By Candace Nicholson

I am Candace Nicholson, and I have recently joined the MRLC through a work placement program with the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW). The program helps people with disabilities get involved in the workforce and contribute to the greater community. My job at the MRLC includes assisting in literacy research and to reestablish a new quarterly newsletter for the organization.

I am currently enrolled in Atlantic Baptist University, and about to embark on my second year of study, majoring in Psychology and Sociology. My greater educational goal is to go onto

graduate school and ultimately become a Neuropsychological researcher. Furthermore, I have fortunately had some experience with writing for a newsletter at ABU. During my second semester, I had an opportunity to write a brief article on community events, which resulted in writing various other articles in the monthly newsletter.

Also, recently I got a concerned citizen position on the Moncton Accessibility Committee, which advocates improved community access for people with various types of disabilities. With the addition of working and soon to be volunteering for the

MRLC, I will present a fresh approach to future topics and projects because as society ages, it is the upcoming generation, such as myself, that must work to continue to bring awareness to great social issues, much like those associated with the growing problems with literacy. My goal as the editor of the newsletter is to work with the various members the MRLC and community to bring awareness to literacy challenges, events, news, and include some success stories to illustrate the power and freedom literacy brings to an individual's quality of life.



"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."— Chinese Proverb

Student-Tutor Coordinator's Job

Holly Edsall is the Council's Student-Tutor Coordinator, a position in which she volunteered for at last year's AGM. Her essential role entails matching students with tutors, answering questions on tutoring raised by our council's tutors, notifying current and prospective tutors about upcoming training events, supplying tutoring materials,

managing our office, and recording and maintaining records of student/tutor data, among many other responsibilities that keep our organization going. Despite the demanding duties for one volunteer, Holly does everything with cheer and efficiency. However, there is one aspect to the job that creates stress for Holly: when tutors do not

respond to information requests. The information requests are always vital, and if everyone would respond to Holly's requests in a timely fashion, she would be greatly appreciative.



Student Support Group

The MRLC has, for many years, been fortunate enough to have a busy and passionate student support group. The group consists of eight to ten active members led by Roger Fournier and Jimmy Mitton with the help of



Louise Desmarchais and Eveline Mitton. They meet monthly to discuss plans and participate in a variety of joint learning and social activities, along with assisting in a

variety of community events. The group is currently planning the student program for the LLNB 2009 Annual Conference in Moncton. This past season the group met on Friday evenings to acquire computer skills in the lab we have established in the Parkton Family Learning and Resource Center. Their only regret is not having enough students participate in the program, and since our council's confidential mandate prohibits the group's leaders having direct access to student's contact information, it is through this news-

letter that they are appealing to all tutors to tell their students about the Student Support Group. Here are the numbers to call: Roger Fournier – 857-8350; Eveline and Jimmy Mitton – 859-8192; Louise Desmarchais – 852-7902.

Camp Kaleidoscopic 2009

The MRLC recently launched summer camp programs within the NB Housing Communities of Parkton and Beechwood. The programs not only offer children tremendous opportunities to establish and gain literacy skills, but it provides parents the tools and supports to build the necessary literacy skills they need to become literacy role models for their children. The other programs offered by the camps include

"The sweetest path of life leads through the avenues of learning, and whoever can open up the way for another, ought, so far, to be esteemed a benefactor to mankind."
- David Hume

outings because along with lacking access to literacy programs, transportation is a significant issue in these communities. The goals are to

instil leadership, improve behaviour, physical health, and greater equality. The kaleidoscopic theme is meant to demonstrate the multicultural aspects of the communities. Overall, the Parkton and Beechwood camp programs utilizes many community groups to benefit the lives of the people in these communities through literacy, nutrition, physical activity, and increased community involvement.

New Tutor Training Programs

The MRLC was the first recipient of the Laubach Literacy New Brunswick new literacy training program. The new program, which was presented by Pat Stafford at NBCC Moncton, saw the hours of tutor training increase from 12 hours to 20 hours, and the comprehensive programs available to both tutor and student enhance the learning



opportunities. As the tutor training opportunities improved, people that volunteer and participate in the pro-

gram spend a minimum of four hours per week conducting personalized one-on-one training.

Imagination Library

The concept of the Imagination Library was created by Dolly Parton in 1996 to benefit children in her hometown in Tennessee by providing children from any socioeconomic background with access to books. The goal is to inspire a love for reading and literacy. The program went nationwide in the U.S. in 2000, and in November 2006, Parton's Dollywood Foundation partnered with Invest Kids to establish Imagination Library Canada. In 2008, more than 480 000 kids were registered in the U.S. and Canada, and 5 million books were distributed. The benefits to the programs are to

promote and encourage a love of reading and helps ensure that children who are about to enter kindergarten are equipped with a strong ability to read and an eagerness to learn. Along with strengthen literacy levels in the community and promoting parent-child interacting and bonding, the program is of extra benefit to society.

The Moncton Regional Learning Council and School District 2 are working together to promote family and community literacy. The cost per child for one book would be \$5.75, but through the generosity of the regions Rotary Clubs, children that are

registered in the program receive their books free each month. The schools from School District 2 that are involved in the program are Forest Glen School, Beaverbrook, Birchmount, Edith Cavell, Queen Elizabeth, Port Elgin Regional, Riverside Consolidated, and Petitcodiac. The two major goals of the Imagination Library in our community are *to ensure the sustainability of the program in the first eight catchment areas and to extend the reach of the program to serve more communities in Southeast New Brunswick.*

Annual Meeting

On June 13th, 2009, the Moncton Regional Learning Council held its annual AGM meeting at the Mapleton Rotary Pavilion. This event was fortunate enough to experience one of the few sunny days this summer, which meant their planned barbecue was fully enjoyed by students, tutors, and families. It was a fantastic event, which was made possible by the organizing of Eveline Mitton

and the culinary majesty of Jimmy, Ralph, and Roger, along with other volunteers. The regular order of business proceeded, and there were not any significant changes since this year was not an election year. However, there were some minor changes, Shelia Lewis' earlier resignation as Training Coordinator saw Valarie Higgins, MRLC's long-time Financial Officer, replace Shelia's

position.

Robert Smith, who has been assisting in book-keeping duties, offered to fill the Financial Officer's role, both positions were filled by acclamation.



Moncton Boys & Girls Club Storytime

Storytime is the annual event hosted by the MRLC at the Moncton Boys & Girls Club as part of the Frye Festival. Despite being unable to offer the event last year due to renovations at MB&GC, participants recouped the lost time by offering the club members a sampling of healthy snacks followed



by their involvement in the reading of age-appropriate books by MRLC's

students and visiting Frye authors. The children were entertained by a young magician, and at the end of the afternoon each child received two books to take home and enjoy. This event was possible through a generous grant from the City of Moncton and the efforts of our dedicated volunteers.

"A library is a hospital for the mind."
- Anonymous

Laubach Literacy New Brunswick 2009 Annual Conference

On October 24 and 25, 2009 the Laubach Literacy New Brunswick Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Moncton. The year's theme is "Celebrating Learning." More details to follow in early September.

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Communication and Feedback

Our council's records include the postal addresses and phone numbers of all our active tutors, and for our more recently trained tutors we have email addresses. This newsletter is being mailed out through Canada Post to everyone on our list and via email. In order to save costs, if you receive the newsletter by email, return the receipt, or if you receive the newsletter by mail and you have Internet access, please send an email to our office identifying who you are and include "Received the Newsletter" in the subject line. You can contact our office by

Email – mrlc@nb.ainb.ca

Telephone – 382 3303

Street Address – Parkton

Family Learning and Resource
Centre, 62 Lancaster Road, Moncton,
N.B., E1C 7P6.

Please note: the office is staffed voluntarily part-time by Holly Edsall. Be sure to phone ahead if you plan to visit the office to be certain there's someone there. If the answering machine cuts in please leave your name, phone number and when you can be reached so that Holly can contact you.

This is the first Moncton Regional Learning Council newsletter to be published in a long time. Your comments and suggestions on the format and content would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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