



L.I.N.C.s

Literacy Information Network in our Communities



Newsletter of the Western Quebec Literacy Council F a l l — 2 0 0 8

Computer Basics Drop-In !

A drop in seminar -
every Thursday evening
6:00—8:00
at the W.Q.L.C. office,
381 Hwy 148, Shawville.



This seminar will cover the basics of using a computer. Call the WQLC office (819-647-3112 or 1-888-647-3112) with your computer conundrum and our computer crew will prepare a short tutorial for you. Everyone welcome!

Coming Events

Computer Basics Drop In..... Every Thursday; 6:00 —8:00 p.m.

Holiday Open House

W.Q.L.C. office, Shawville..... Sat. Dec 6, 2:00-4:00

Numeracy & Learning Difficulties

Workshop for Tutors..... Sat., January 17, 10:30-2:30

WQLC Board meeting..... Thursday, Jan. 22, 6:30, Shawville

Family Literacy Day..... January 27

Exercise Your Brain Workshop

for Tutors and Students To be decided

The vision of the Western Quebec Literacy Council is to help and encourage members of our community to develop the skills needed for life long learning, enabling them to reach their full potential.

The mission of Western Quebec Literacy Council is to help English- speaking adults, families, and youth improve their reading, writing, listening, speaking, numeracy and other life skills through programs adapted to the needs of the individual.

As a charitable volunteer organization, Western Quebec Literacy Council recruits and trains committed volunteers as tutors and support personnel. We are dedicated to promoting community awareness with sensitivity throughout the region of West Quebec.



Note to Tutors:

Please take a few minutes during your next lesson to read this LINC's with your student.

How to reach us:

Executive Director:

Marilee DeLombard

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Board of Directors

Chair: Leila Nulty-Senf

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Member: Line Lafontaine

Member: Jennifer Weese

T.R.E.E. Group Rep: Sue Stewart

Tutor Trainers: Beryl Kerrison
Line Lafontaine
Carol Pritchard

LINC's Newsletter:

Writer: Marilee DeLombard

Writer: Debbie Gauthier

Outreach Consultant: Nancy Hunt



**May the joy and peace of the
holidays be with you throughout the
New Year.**

From the Literacy Council

WQLC Annual General Meeting 2008

The 24th W.Q.L.C. Annual Meeting was held on September 20, 2008. Once again it was a day of recognition and congratulation. Thirty members, both students and volunteers, attended the event and received a copy of the 2007-8 Annual Report. They participated in the annual business meeting to review the activities and financial statements for the past year and to elect the WQLC Board of Directors for 2008-9.

Volunteer tutors and trainers were recognized for their outstanding contributions during the year. Students received recognition for their outstanding achievements. Julie Sicard, WQLC Student Representative, addressed the group with a composition about her summer vacation. Julie was enthusiastically congratulated on her speech. This once shy student has become a poised and articulate person. Congratulations, Julie.

A delicious buffet lunch was served by Norway Bay Golf Club accompanied by much visiting and networking amongst members. Leila Nulty-Senf, WQLC President, made a presentation on education in Quebec; the philosophy, recent history, and current strengths and weaknesses. A lively discussion followed, acknowledging the challenges inherent in making changes in a large and complex system.

Nancy Hunt, WQLC's new Outreach Consultant, was introduced to the membership. She spoke about her outreach campaign to bring awareness of WQLC's services to West Quebec. Door prizes and more visiting brought the day to a close. We were pleased with the large turn out and left feeling reinvigorated to carry on helping English-speakers in West Quebec improve their literacy skills.

You can see the 2007-8 Annual Report on our website www.wq-literacy.org or request a printed copy from the WQLC office. In the Annual Report you will find many coloured pictures of people events in 2007-8.



Michel Chabot recognized for many years on the board of directors



Carol Pritchard receives Tutor Trainer Certificate from Beryl Kerrison, Tutor Trainer Supervisor



Kate Aley receives Volunteer Tutor certificate

T.R.E.E. MUSEUM TRIP

In June the T.R.E.E. group, along with their tutors and families, got together for visits to the Museum of Science & Technology and the Experimental Farm in Ottawa.

It was a day long trip which started at the WQLC office in Shawville. From there the group boarded a school bus. The first stop was at the Museum of Science and Technology. There was a brief shopping excursion at the gift shop for souvenirs. A tour guide led the group through displays from submarines to lights; telegraphs to telephones, and trains to aerospace.



The next stop was at the Experimental Farm. The group first enjoyed a delightful picnic lunch before touring the farm. All had the opportunity to pet the horses; hold some bunnies; brush the cattle; and see a milking machine in progress. The rain held off just long enough to get back on board the bus, before returning to Shawville. It was a most exciting and enjoyable day for everyone.

Student Stories

Literacy Volunteers of Quebec (LVQ) values the efforts of adult learners. Stories and other writings by learners are high-lighted on their website www.literacyvolunteersqc.ca. So, learners and tutors, please send any stories or other texts, to info@literacyvolunteersqc.ca and see yourself published on the web!

You may also win a \$25 gift certificate from Chapters bookstore. Each month LVQ will ask students to submit a short text on a given topic. Each student that submits a text will automatically be entered in a draw. The winner's name will be drawn out of a hat. The winning submission may be posted on the LVQ website, with the student's name and council. Deadline for this month is November 30. Topic: the LVQ annual conference. Good luck to WQLC students!

Outreach at Shawville Fair and International Literacy Day

WQLC set up an information booth at the Shawville Fair. This outreach event coincides with the week of International Literacy Day. The focus this year was on literacy and health. According to the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALLS), 60% of adult Canadians lack the capacity to obtain, understand and act upon health information and services and to make appropriate health decisions on their own.



Leila tending the booth at the Shawville

WQLC's information booth reminds West Quebecers that free, private tutoring is available to help develop the reading, writing and math skills necessary to keep up with the demands of modern life - including health concerns.

Many people stopped by and showed their interest in what we are accomplishing. Some signed up for our Tutor Training Workshop. Our fridge magnets, bookmarks and especially our magnifier bookmarks were popular give-a-ways to the crowd.

Tutor Training Workshop Fall 2008

Training tutors is one of the most important things that we do at Western Quebec Literacy Council. Our program of free, private lessons depends upon trained volunteer literacy tutors located throughout West Quebec.

Thanks to the training talents of WQLC Tutor Trainers, Beryl Kerrison and Carol Pritchard, four new tutors were trained and are now ready to join our team of tutors. Prema Arulpooranam, of Shawville, Cathy Fox Welsh, of Bryson, Carol Brown, of Bristol and Nancy Hunt, of Mansfield are our new tutors.



Back: Left to right: Carol, Beryl, Prema, Cathy, Carol;
Front: Marilee, Nancy

Congratulations!

LVQ Annual Conference 2008

WQLC students and tutors participated in the provincial volunteer literacy conference in Montreal on October 25. The conference theme this year was "Literacy and Health".

Students and tutors attended workshops in Brain Gym (simple exercises and practices to increase the capacity for whole brain learning), Health Chat, Science (hands-on experiments in cleaning water), Head to Heart (positive self-talk for stress reduction), and Health Information (evaluating readability). Each participant attended two workshops and also met other English-speaking literacy students and tutors.



Peter and Tom at LVQ conference

The conference guest speaker was Dr. Ariel Fenster from the Office for Science in Montreal. He gave an interesting slide show talk on the history and science of chocolate. Very tasty.

This was the second year for the presentation of the Freda Hudson pin. This is a special award for outstanding volunteering in the province. Martha Shufelt was awarded the Freda Hudson pin in 2008. Many WQLC tutors know Martha from having received their tutor training with her. Martha and Grace Saabas, the recipient of the first Freda Hudson pin, have traveled to West Quebec many times to help deliver tutor training. Both tutor trainers are richly deserving of recognition. Congratulations, Grace and Martha!

Once again, our provincial group, Literacy Volunteers of Quebec (LVQ), presented a day full of challenging and entertaining activities. Please consider joining us next year.

Outreach on Radio Pontiac

You may have heard us on the radio. Julie Sicard, WQLC Student Representative and Marilee, WQLC E. D. , went to Radio Pontiac studios in Fort Coulonge and recorded an interview. We wrote our own script. First Marilee interviewed Julie about being a student. We hope that radio listeners will be encouraged to become students. Then Julie asked Marilee about what happens when they call WQLC for 1-1 lessons.

As a Radio Pontiac member WQLC can do other shows on the radio. Please call the office with your ideas for other shows..



Julie at the door to Radio Pontiac



Thinking outside of the book

Since the middle of September, I have been working to develop a partnership with the social agencies, businesses and schools of the Outaouais in order to reach potential students and tutors. I have tailored each contact on an individual basis by asking myself, "How might this organization be able to further the goals of the WQLC?" The response from the community has been positive and receptive. People are aware of the need to improve our literacy skills as a whole, and they are eager to spread the word.

Our magnets, magnifying rulers, ink pens and posters have been put into circulation. Several other constructive promotional ideas have been identified that Marilee and I are following up on. Newly designed flyers and brochures will be off of the drawing board and into the hands of the public within the next few weeks. We need to keep our phone number and message repeated often. I refer to this as continuous advertising of the WQLC services. However, there is still a big gap between handing out our phone number and getting a person to commit to changing their life. I welcome your ideas as to where and how our information needs to be promoted.

My personal involvement with the Literacy Council is quickly becoming a passion. Participating in the tutor-training workshop was a powerful lesson for me; my two new students are putting my math skills to the test! I greatly admire the enormous dedication of the students and the tutors towards life-long learning. As part of our campaign to become more visible, the public needs to be kept informed of our projects, workshops and events. We all need to feel comfortable in raising public awareness and become bold in speaking out on behalf of literacy.

Submitted by Nancy Hunt, WQLC Outreach Consultant

Winter Workshops

We will be offering workshops for tutors and students this winter. The first workshop, "Tutoring for Numeracy and Learning Differences", will be held on Saturday, January 17 from 10:30-2:30. This workshop helps tutors get away from the fear factor often felt when thinking about math. Instead it relates to all the real world use of numbers that we do every day, such as balancing a checkbook or completing an order form. The Learning Differences segment is an exploration into the different ways that people perceive and learn.

Exercise Your Brain is a workshop for students and tutors. It will demonstrate simple activities that can increase the effectiveness of your study time. The time and place for this workshop will be chosen to suit those who want to attend.

Please contact the WQLC office and let us know of your interest.



**You are invited to our
Christmas Open House
at
Western Quebec Literacy Council**

**381 Hwy 148
Shawville, QC**

**Saturday, December 6,
2:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Come check out the latest in learning tools: books, CDs & sites,
have holiday treats, join in the book exchange.**

Everyone welcome!

**Contact: Marilee or Debbie
info@wq-literacy.org**

819-647-3112 or 1-888-647-3112

