

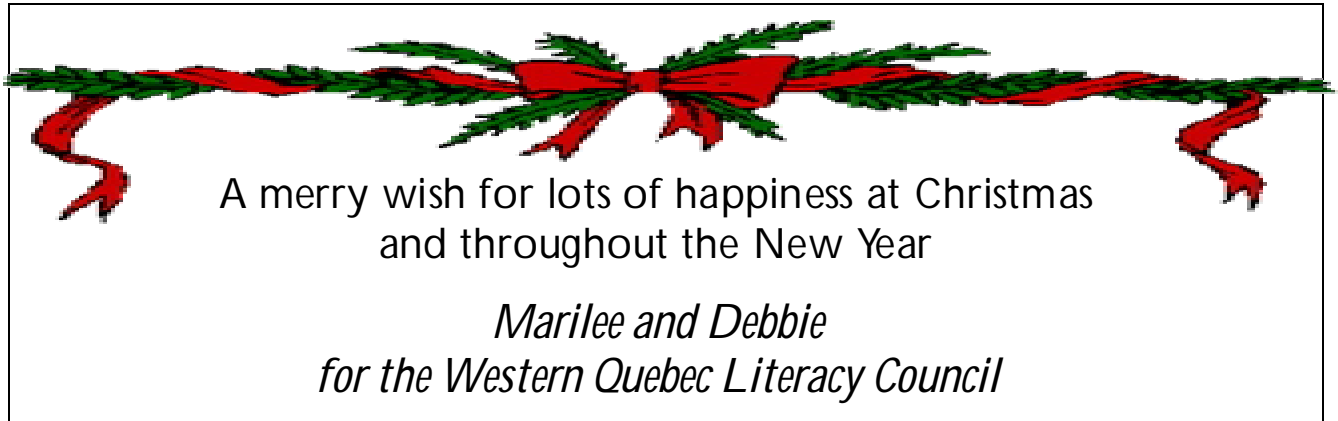
L.I.N.C.s

Each One Teach One

Literacy Information Network in our Communities

Newsletter of the Western Quebec Literacy Council

F a l l 2 0 0 9



A merry wish for lots of happiness at Christmas
and throughout the New Year

*Marilee and Debbie
for the Western Quebec Literacy Council*

Coming Events

QELA meeting, Montreal	January 13
LVQ seminars, Montreal	January 19-20
WQLC Board meeting, Shawville	January 21, 6:30
Family Literacy Day	January 27
Tutor Training Workshops	To be determined
Aylmer Tutor Get-together	To be decided

Strategic Planning

A productive strategic planning session was held on November 7th at the WQLC office. The three hour session was facilitated by Rhonda Morrison, Acting Director of the Outaouais CEDEC. The group developed issues and possibilities that had been generated by responses to a pre-session questionnaire.

Key areas for development include improving communications with the entire region (outreach project & internet), increase client (learner) base, further develop tutor training, develop a succession plan, develop volunteers and staff training. If this seems like a lot, you're right. Some items are already in development and some are in the planning stages and will be tackled over some years.

Your feedback on any of these ideas is invited. Also, please contact us if one of the topics interests you. We would be glad to include you in a working group.

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.

"Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I've got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)



Note to Tutors:

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

How to reach us:

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Board of Directors

Chair: Norma DesRosiers

Vice Chair: Michel Chabot

Treasurer: Shirley Gauthier

Secretary: Jennifer Weese

Student Rep.: Julie Sicard

Member: Nancy Hunt

Member: Monica Dodson

Tutor Trainers: Beryl Kerrison
Carol Pritchard

LINC's Newsletter:

Writer: Marilee DeLombard

Writer: Debbie Gauthier



Outreach Consultant Needed

WQLC is looking for someone to help raise our visibility with the English-speaking population of West Quebec. We want to expand the success that we had last year with Outreach Consultant, Nancy Hunt. In that project, Nancy developed an effective approach to literacy outreach and applied it primarily to the Pontiac, the western part of our region. This year we will focus attention on the Gatineau Valley.

We need to get our message to people with low literacy skills: "WQLC offers free, private help with reading, writing and math." To reach this audience we need to target the communities. Traditional publicity methods include making presentations to key networks such as social service clubs, youth centres, CLSCs and government agencies. Armed with our publicity materials and the fresh knowledge of our services, these people will then be our word-of-mouth ambassadors to help us reach those who need our services.

At the same time the Outreach person will be recruiting volunteers to become literacy tutors. New volunteers are continually needed to provide services throughout West Quebec. Many adults can not attend classes because of transportation issues. A private, weekly lesson in their local community is the only workable solution.

The 2009-2010 Outreach Consultant will work with the WQLC Outreach Committee to design and execute an outreach campaign during the winter of 2010. What are we looking for in an Outreach Consultant?

1. Someone who knows the English-speaking communities in the City of Gatineau and the Gatineau Valley
2. Someone who knows the Western Quebec Literacy Council
3. Someone who is a good communicator

If you are interested in applying for the paid contract or to participate in the Outreach Committee please contact the WQLC office.

2009 Open-House

WQLC started off the Christmas season with a party. We welcomed twenty-some visitors to our holiday open-house on December 5th. WQLC tutors, board members and families enjoyed good food and holiday treats. Interested folks from the community also joined in the festivities and learned what WQLC is all about.

As 2009 draws to a close we are reminded how fortunate we are to live in so generous a community as is this Western Quebec literacy community. Thanks to all the generous volunteers for making this an outstanding year!



WQLC 25th Anniversary AGM

WQLC wrapped up our first quarter century in style. It was a day of celebrating adult learning with student achievement awards. It was a day of celebrating the volunteers who make it possible for adult learners to have more chances at building their life-long learning. It was a day of celebrating the organization that has offered these unique opportunities to volunteers and students for 25 years!

On September 19th members explored WQLC history through photographs and newspaper articles newly organized in binders for the occasion. Wiebke Ludwig, a founding member, shared stories of early days with WQLC.

Three guest speakers reminded us of the reasons that we “do literacy”. Jean-Claude Rivest, owner of Jericom computer services in Campbell’s Bay told us about how adult education helped him change his life. Montreal literacy students Ramsay Lewis and Elena DiLorio, each spoke about their lives before getting help with reading and how that contrasted with their lives as readers and writers.



Wiebke Ludwig

The most remarkable news from the Board at this AGM was the resignation of our wonderful, long-time President, Leila Nulty-Senf. Leila has been both rock and wind for WQLC. When things would start to get rocky, Leila could be counted upon to be as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. When things would start to get bogged down she would be the one to say “Let’s go for it!”. Like wind she would carry the “literacy sailboat” out of the doldrums. Thank you, Leila, for seventeen excellent years of remarkable leadership. This year we also say goodbye to Line Lafontaine, a multi-year Board member and Tutor Trainer. A member of much energy, Line will be missed.

The good news is that we count many talented people among our membership. Monica Dodson of Gatineau, and Nancy Hunt of Mansfield and 2008-9 Outreach Consultant for WQLC and are our latest additions to the Board.

The WQLC Board of Directors for 2009-2010 are: Norma DesRosiers, President; Michel Chabot, Vice-president; Shirley Gauthier, Treasurer; Jenn Robert-Weese, Secretary; and Board members Julie Sicard, Monica Dodson, and Nancy Hunt.

Welcome, everyone, to WQLC year 26!



Line Lafontaine & Leila Nulty-Senf



Norma DesRosiers

T.R.E.E. Group News

On Sunday June 14, the group enjoyed a fun filled game of baseball, at the Bryson baseball diamond. Marilyn Fox cheered while the group played on. Later that afternoon a BBQ was held at the home of Cathy Fox. What a great day!



Tom is at bat, Lisa pitches, and Marilyn cheers them on.



The group elected Bruce Walsh as their President. Bruce has been a member of the T.R.E.E. group since it was first established in 2002.

He also curls with the Happy Rockers curling team. Members from the Happy Rockers have joined the T.R.E.E. group. In 2007 Bruce won the Adult Literacy Award presented by the Centre for Literacy.

Taking time out for refreshments

Marilynn Fox 1931 - 2009



Marilyn Fox formed the Happy Rockers curling group in 2002. She coached and organized the activities of the team until 2006. Although ill health took her to the sidelines she continued to be a big supporter of the Happy Rockers.

In the summer of 2009, after spending many months in hospital, Marilyn regained the strength and mobility to return home to her son, Tom, and their beloved home at the Ragged Chutes on the Quyon River .

Marilyn passed away suddenly on September 15. She is greatly missed by the Happy Rockers, and everyone at WQLC. Her memory lives on with the learning group that she started - the Happy Rockers.

The Start of a New Season For The Happy Rockers

The Happy Rockers kicked off another season of curling on November 19th. This will be the ninth season since their formation in 2002.

This year Pierre Thibault, long time Happy Rockers curler, takes over as coach. Cathy Fox will continue as organizer.



If you love the sport of curling, or would like to learn, you can still join the group. Volunteers and students are both welcome. Join this group of fun-loving people - the Rockers need you for the team. The group will be curling at the Shawville Curling Rink on Thursday afternoons from 3:00-4:30 until April, 2010. There will be no curling on December 17, 24 & 31.

If you want to join the team, please contact Marilee at the WQLC office 819-647-3112, 1-888-647-3112 or by email: info@wq-literacy.org.

For more information about the Rockers, visit the Happy Rocker's page on our website: www.wq-literacy.org/student_rockers.html

"Skills For Life" free teaching materials

A wonderful new tool from Quebec is now available for use in adult literacy lessons. It was created by the Quebec Literacy Working Group (QLWG) which represents literacy training in school board classes. The "Skills for Life" series is a competency-based approach to adult learning in an Canadian, real life, context.

The series begins with a section on how the student learns. The student's own learning process become the focus of research and reflection. This understanding then becomes the basis for the study that follows. Other units include "Managing My Money", "All About Me", "Communication Skills", and "Getting My Drivers License". The "Skills for Life" materials can be downloaded for free from <http://www.nald.ca/qlwg/index.htm>.

WQLC tutors can view the materials online and request a printed version to be mailed to them by WQLC - just ask!



Monthly Calendar and Expense Sheets

Volunteers and tutors can now download the monthly calendar and expense forms directly from our web site: www.wq-literacy.org

The forms can be accessed through the "VOLUNTEER" page under the tab "Forms". Or just click on this link: www.wq-literacy.org/forms.html



Student stories

Literacy students have a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to Chapters in the LVQ "Monthly Challenge". The Writing Challenge topics for December-January are "About Kris Kringle" or "Kwanzaa". The deadline is January 31. Here are the rules:

1. Submissions must be between 100 and 400 words.
2. The winning submission may be posted on the LVQ website.
3. Your name and council will be appear next to your submission.

To enter, send your story to WQLC, P.O. Box 266, Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0, or by fax (819) 647-3188 or by email to info@wq-literacy.org Happy writing—Good luck!

Literacy Volunteers of Quebec Annual Conference 2009

The theme for the provincial conference was "The Environment" this year. There were workshops on making art from recyclables, natural home care products, composting and being a responsible consumer. Participants were treated to an interactive presentation by Dr. Ariel Fenster on the topic of natural health.

There was an interesting discussion with Prof. Georges A. Le Bel, teacher and lawyer with the University of Quebec At Montreal. Prof. Le Bel answered questions from 28 board members and staff from member councils of LVQ. Norma DesRosiers, Jennifer Robert-Weese, and Marilee attended this seminar



Tom Fox joined us for a trip to the Botanical Gardens where we viewed decorated pumpkins and the Chinese Garden and the Magic of Lanterns display.

Welcome, new tutors!

Eight volunteers completed the basic tutor training this year in our series of workshops held at the West Quebec Career Centre in Aylmer. The training was presented by WQLC Tutor Trainers, Beryl Kerrison of Cantley and Carol Pritchard of Aylmer. Six of these new tutors also completed the supplementary sessions "Numeracy and Learning Disabilities" presented by Beryl Kerrison and Marilee DeLombard.

Our new tutors are: Connie Andrigo, Aylmer; Elizabeth Beaupre, Aylmer; Louise Carisse, Aylmer; Barb Fulton, Breckenridge; Linda McCrea, Aylmer; Jane Peddie, Chelsea; Pamela Taylor, Aylmer; and Sharron Lee Zweig, Aylmer. Welcome, new tutors!



Beryl Kerrison



Carol Pritchard



Connie Andrigo

Louise Carisse



Jane Peddie
&
Barb Fulton



Linda McCrea
&
Sharron Zweig



Pam Taylor
&
Liz Beaupre

Free patch for Microsoft 2003 users

Those working with Microsoft Word 2003 know the frustration of not being able to open a Word 2007 document (documents ending with a "docs" rather than just "doc"). Microsoft has created an easy to install "patch" that will allow you to easily open all Word 2007 documents within Word 2003. To install this handy and free patch (aka "Compatibility pack") go to: <http://tiny.cc/1TqQA> or try this long version:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=941b3470-3ae9-4ae-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en>