

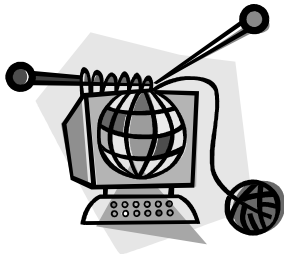


# L.I.N.C.s

*Literacy Information Network in our Communities*



## Newsletter of the Western Quebec Literacy Council Spring—2008



### Check out our new website

Our website has been improved and has a new look. Web designer Richard Wegner was hired to do the upgrades.

Please make note our new site and e-mail addresses:

**Website:** [www.wq-literacy.org](http://www.wq-literacy.org)

**E-mail:** [info@wq-literacy.org](mailto:info@wq-literacy.org)

We invite you to visit our new site. Your feed back will be greatly appreciated.

### Coming Events

- TREE student group bowling in Renfrew . . . . . Monday April 28
- TREE student group meeting . . . . . Saturday, May 3
- TREE student group trip to Tulip Festival. . . . Thursday, May 15
- Curriculum Renewal Tutor Workshop . . . . . Saturday, May 24
- Tutor Training Workshop . . . . . TBA

### Spring 2008 Tutor Training Workshop

Our spring Tutor Training workshop will be held later than usual this year. Tutor Trainers, Beryl Kerrison and Carol Pritchard and Executive Director, Marilee DeLombard have been hard a work renewing the training curriculum. We are looking forward to the next three day Tutor Training workshop with anticipation. The main obstacle now is schedules. We will be in touch with 6 weeks lead time before the workshop.

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.

### How to reach us:

#### Executive Director:

Marilee DeLombard

Western Québec Literacy Council  
P.O. Box 266, 381 Route 148  
Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0

Phone : (819) 647-3112 or  
1-888-647-3112

Fax: (819) 647-3188

Website: [www.wq-literacy.org](http://www.wq-literacy.org)

E-mail: [info@wq-literacy.org](mailto:info@wq-literacy.org)

### Board of Directors

Chair: Leila Nulty-Senf

Vice Chair: Michel Chabot

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Student Rep.: Julie Sicard

Member: Line Lafontaine

Member: Jennifer Weese

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

**Tutor Trainer:** Beryl Kerrison

**Tutor Trainer:** Line Lafontaine

**Tutor Trainer:** Carol Pritchard

### LINC's Newsletter:

Writer: Marilee DeLombard

Writer: Debbie Gauthier

### "Each one Teach One"

If you know an adult who would like to learn to read, read better, write and do math; tell them about the Western Quebec Literacy Council.

*Reminder!*

### Note to Tutors:

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



## Message from Marilee ( the Executive Director)

The WQLC web site is undergoing extensive renovations as part of our outreach efforts this year. With the help of Bristol web designer Richard Wegner, we are making the site clear and easy to use.

Web sites have become a valuable tool for recruiting volunteers and students.

"Students?", you say? Yes, many potential literacy students do read well enough to search for information on the internet. They are the people who could use help with their writing skills to get a promotion or take an up-grading course. Or the people whose business would really take off if they didn't have to have their partner re-read the details. You get the idea—there are plenty of people who "get by", but who find it harder and harder to get by as our society and economy demand greater literacy skills.

Here is the text from our new web page "What is literacy?"

A person's literacy skills are no longer seen as "literate" or "not-literate". The focus now is on how well adults can use written information to function in society, to achieve their goals and to develop their knowledge and potential.

Everyone has some level of literacy skill.

Only a minority of people with weak literacy skills recognize that they need to improve their levels. Forty eight percent (48%) of adult Canadians have some difficulty with the reading and writing skills needed in daily life.

\* About 20% of adult Canadians 16 years and over fall into the lowest level of literacy. They have serious difficulty dealing with printed materials and most likely identify themselves as people who have difficulties reading.

\* Another 28% of adult Canadians fall into the second lowest level. Such people can deal only with material that is simple and clearly laid out, and material in which the tasks involved are not too complex. They read, but not well.

[This information is drawn from the 1996 "International Adult Literacy Survey Report Reading the Future - A Portrait of Literacy in Canada" with statistics updated from the 2005 "International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS)" ]

From the statistics we see that we should have lots of literacy students waiting for tutors, when in fact, the reverse is true.

Forty eight percent of Canadians could benefit from weekly private lessons designed around their needs. Now our most urgent task is to reach these people and let them know about this opportunity: that they could spend an evening a week with a tutor whose only job is to help them learn. The program is free and confidential.

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But there is another outreach tool that is even more effective than a web site and that is "word of mouth". Yes, word of mouth is still the best way to reach people. That means that you WQLC volunteers are our very best outreach tool. You are in the communities and you have tremendous influence.

You have an understanding of the need. You don't have to target potential students themselves. Just talk with your friends and neighbours about your volunteer interests and the opportunity that exists for informal adult education. Who knows; the person you talk to may talk with someone else - maybe a nephew who is unemployed, with time on his hands after being laid off from the mill. Maybe the information will reach a neighbour who has lost her reading support system due to a death in the family. You may not realize the impact on your social network, but your contacts can make a world of difference in a person's life.

WQLC bookmarks make a good calling card. We will gladly send you some new book marks that promote our web site and the toll free telephone number. Book marks are a handy way to share information. Please call and let us know where to send them.

The end of the "school year" is coming around again. Please let us know your plans for next year by returning the form on page 8 of this LINC.

Best wishes for a sprightly spring,

### **A Renewed Look at Learning**

Ah, spring! The time of renewal - curriculum renewal! Leila Nulty-Senf will present the discussion group on the Curriculum Renewal on Saturday, May 24 from 10:00 to 2:00. For more detail see page 7 of the Winter LINC (now available on [www.wq-literacy.org](http://www.wq-literacy.org)) or call the WQLC office.

#### **Call WQLC for free!**

We now have a toll free number for our long distance callers.

**1-888-647-3112**



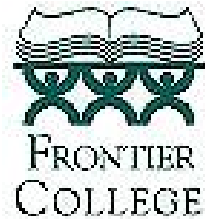
## Goodbye LLC, Hello Frontier College



WQLC members have received the final newsletter from Laubach Literacy of Canada (LLC). Last summer the board of LLC began an orderly wind-down of operations of the national organization.

Tutor training, Trainer certification and access to textbooks through the New Readers Bookstore were major concerns for WQLC. We are reassured to read that the bookstore and training and certification of trainers have been transferred to Frontier College, another national Canadian literacy organization.

Book orders are already being accepted, and in fact, the Frontier College New Readers Bookstore is opening with a sale for old customers. The details of training certification process are less clear, but we are confident that an agreeable relationship will develop.



## National Volunteer Week—April 27-May 3

Canadians have a rich history of volunteering and community involvement. Volunteers are on the front lines of all of our community services – volunteer tutoring, board of directors, heritage and arts, maintenance of green space, volunteer firefighting, minor sports – the list is endless. The work of the volunteer is essential work. National Volunteer Week (NVW) pays tribute to the millions of Canadian volunteers who donate their time and energy.



Western Quebec Literacy Council salutes its dedicated volunteers. We can't do it without you. Give yourself a pat on the back when you see the National Volunteer Week notices—this is for you!

It is better to sleep on things beforehand than lie awake about them afterwards. -Baltasar Gracian, philosopher and writer (1601-1658)

## News from Literacy Volunteers of Quebec (LVQ)

### New provincial website now on-line

The new and improved LVQ website is now up and running. Note: the design is not completely finished and you will notice some sections are still under construction. Please take a look and forward any comments you have, good and/or constructive. Student or tutor writings or photos can be sent to the WQLC office and they will be forwarded to the LVQ site.

The web site address is: [www.literacyvolunteersqc.ca](http://www.literacyvolunteersqc.ca)

### LVQ Annual Conference

The November annual conference is in the planning stage. Joani, our provincial Coordinator, is looking for ideas for workshops that students and tutors would like to explore.

You don't have to have a finished workshop in mind. It could be an idea or a problem that you have thought of. Others probably have the same concerns and a workshop can be made around the issue.

A forum will soon be set up on the LVQ website where students and volunteers can discuss what they expect from the conference and share ideas for workshops.

For now, please contact the WQLC office (819-647-3112 or toll free 1-888-647-3112 with your ideas. We would also like to hear from people who don't attend the conference: what would you expect from the conference were you to attend?

WQLC students and tutors have enjoyed attending this conference for years, now. If you think that you would like to join in, please share your ideas.

Literacy Volunteers of Quebec (LVQ) now has a new logo:



### New books / comics at WQLC

Do you remember what got you started as a pleasure reader? For me it was Nancy Drew mysteries. For my son it was “Tin Tin”. The pictures in these “comic books” filled in the gaps and encouraged him to read to the end. Then he had to go to the library to find another exciting story.

Comics are not just for kids anymore. A creative artist and storyteller can make complex adult topics appealing to beginning readers. We have added two such comics to the WQLC library. “On The Turn” is a well-illustrated story about gambling and how one young woman came to realize her problem and how she dealt with it. “An Invited Threat” is an exciting and creative story about diet and diabetes told from an aboriginal perspective. These paper-backs are easy to send in the mail, so let me know if you would like to read them in your lesson.

### T.R.E.E. Group News

On Saturday, April 12th the T.R.E.E. group held their regular meeting. Plans were made to make another trip to Renfrew on Monday, April 28 for an afternoon of bowling . Last year the group had an enjoyable time bowling.

Future plans also include a trip to the Tulip Festival in Ottawa on Thursday, May 15th. A trip to the Museum of Science and Technology is in the works. Students who would like to participate in these events may let us know by calling the WQLC office (819-647-3112 or toll free 1-888-647-3112).

The T.R.E.E. group will meet again on Saturday, May 3rd to discuss their plans. All students are welcome.



Sue Stewart chaired the meeting and was secretary, too.



Tom & Bruce consult the calendar.

**Members**  
**Help us to start a new year and complete the following questionnaire.**  
**Please mail it or bring it the Annual General Meeting.**

**Members Participation Plan**

1. \_\_\_ I will be available for tutoring. (1.5 hour lessons, 1 hour preparation) in 2008-2009.

2. \_\_\_ I will not be available for tutoring in 2008-2009 and

\_\_\_ I want to retain my membership in WQLC and stay on the mailing list.

I will notify the office when I am again available to tutor.

\_\_\_ please remove my name from the mailing list.

3. \_\_\_ I have books to be returned to WQLC. Please call me.

4. \_\_\_ Please contact me when planning the next basic Tutor Training Workshop. I would:

\_\_\_ attend the workshop to learn tutoring techniques

\_\_\_ help produce the workshop (greet, organize lunch, etc.)

\_\_\_ attend the workshop as a potential Tutor Trainer.

5. I would like to have a workshop on this topic (i.e.: “Making a Portfolio”, “Journal writing”, “Teaching Numeracy” “Learning Disabilities”, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_ Add my name to the attendance list for the WQLC AGM on Saturday, September 20.

7. \_\_\_ Please give me a call about serving on the WQLC Board of Directors.

8. \_\_\_ Here is my \$5 cheque for 2008-2009 WQLC Membership Renewal

9. I think that this change would improve W.Q.L.C.:

\_\_\_\_\_

10. I am interested in \_\_\_\_\_

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thanks for your feed-back!*