



L.I.N.C.s

Literacy Information Network in our Communities



Newsletter of the Western Quebec Literacy Council Winter 2007-2008



Noma and Beryl share a laugh at the WQLC Holiday Open House
—more pictures inside

Coming Events

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Learning to Read with Country Music | Tuesdays at 7:00 pm |
| WQLC Student group (TREE) meeting | Saturday, Feb. 9, 2:00 |
| WQLC Strategic Planning & Board meeting | Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:00 |
| Eating Well Workshop for students | Saturday, Feb. 23, 3:00-5:30 |
| Curriculum Reform discussion group | Date & place to be decided |
| Learning Difficulties workshop | Date & place 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.

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
Fax: (819) 647-3188
Website: www.ncf.ca/wqlc
E-mail: wqlc@ncf.ca

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LINC's newsletter:

Writer: Marilee DeLombard
Writer: Debbie Gauthier

Paper from Cascades

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper donated by Cascades. Thank you, Cascades, you help us keep in touch!

Note to Tutors:

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



Eating Well workshop

We hear more and more about healthy eating these days. But what does it mean? We will take a look at the new Canada Food Guide, and food labels. We will discuss favourite foods and new foods and how what we eat can affect our health.

Arleen Prost, W.Q. Literacy Council tutor and adult education teacher, will present the workshop. You may remember her laugh from other workshops - she makes exploring any topic fun.

This workshop is especially for WQLC students. Bring your questions. Also bring an appetite as we will be cooking and sampling some new foods. WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 23, 3:00-5:30, WHERE: WQLC office, Shawville WHO: all WQLC students, COST: free.

2007 Christmas Open House

Volunteers, students, family and friends filled the WQLC office for the Holiday Open House on December 8th. We were treated to delicious Christmas treats by Jennifer Weese. A festive atmosphere was created by the TREE group's holiday decorations. A tinkling fountain dispensed sparkling punch. A few books were swapped but mostly it was stories that were swapped as everyone had a good time visiting.

Thanks to all the folks who helped us celebrate. Wishing everyone a wonderful 2008!

(right) Harry, Nicole, Jacques, Norma



Jennifer and Julie



Sue, Owen and Leila

WQLC Student Confidentiality

There are many ways that a person can be a Western Quebec Literacy Council (WQLC) student. For example, a WQLC student could be:

- working with a personal tutor on:
 - writing skills to prepare for higher education,
 - reading and writing to improve job prospects
 - computer skills
 - basic reading and writing skills to expand life-long learning
 - a high school diploma through a distance education course
 - any other goal that a one-on-one tutor can help with.

A WQLC student could also be:

- working in a small group
- learning to read using country music
- learning organizational skills with the TREE group
- learning team sports with curling.



These are all ways that a person can learn with the help of a volunteer tutor. Some students want to concentrate on individual, private lessons with their tutor. WQLC assures students that their participation is confidential. Individual lessons also give the student the chance to direct what is studied and the pace of the lessons.

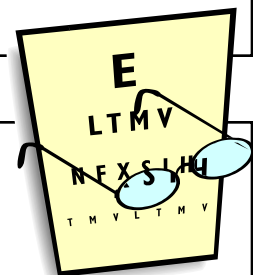
Other students want to learn with a group. They are the students one sees in newspaper articles and our newsletter. They have waived their need for confidentiality.

Many more students are working at individual lessons. They are invited to participate in group activities, but it is totally up to them whether or not they want to participate. If they do participate they retain their confidentiality. Names and pictures are only used with their consent.

Confidentiality and individual instruction are deciding factors for a person considering a return to further education. The promise of confidentiality is a valuable asset for an adult education program such as ours. We continually remind tutors about the importance of confidentiality. We extend the promise of confidentiality to anyone who considers becoming a WQLC student.

Health information Available in English

You can find information in English on particular health issues and about the services available where you live at the new website: www.ohssn.org. For more information contact Danielle Lanyi at 819-923-8429. This project is a joint effort of The Outaouais Health and Social Service Network for the English speaking population (OHSSN) in cooperation with the Agence de la sante et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais.



My Trip to Jasper

By Bruce Walsh

We left Sudbury by motor home on Saturday, September 22, 2007 and drove to Thunder Bay. There we spent the first night. Sunday we spent the night in Nippewa, and Monday night in Cold Lake.



Tuesday we arrived at Cindy's, my niece, in Fort McMurray. There we spent the rest of the week. After leaving on Saturday, we went for a tour of the oil sands, then left for Calgary. We spent the night in Airdric. The next day we arrived in Calgary, and had breakfast with Darcy and Sarah.

During the week we visited with Jeannie, and met her daughters Melissa and Taylor. There were many more people to visit. At Julie's we met Darlene's grandparents, Lorne and Eileen. On Thursday night we left with Darcy and Sarah for Edmonton, Jasper and the Columbia Icefields. We saw a natural bridge made from rock that spread over a river. It was there where we met some tourists from Taiwan, who had never seen a motor home. They asked for a tour of the inside, and really enjoyed seeing what it looked like.

We continued on to Lake Louise and Banff before heading back to Calgary. There we had Thanksgiving supper at Terry's. The next day we started to head east to go back home.

Along the way we stopped in Brooks, Alberta; Moosomin, Saskatchewan and Winnipeg, Manitoba. We also stopped at Kanabec Falls near Thunder Bay. It was a very pretty place. After spending the night in Nippigon, the next day we made many stops at trading posts, water falls, and different stores. We arrived back home in Sudbury around eight o'clock that evening.

I liked my trip very much. I enjoyed visiting all the places that I have never seen before.



Message from the E.D. (Executive Director—Marilee)

“Learner” or “Student”?

You may have noticed that adult literacy students are sometimes called “learners”. I have resisted using the term. Why invent a new word when we have the word “student”? It was recently pointed out to me that “learner” comes from the phrase “life long learning”. “Learner” indicates an adult who is continuing to pursue learning. This I like.

So, you may start seeing “learners” mentioned in the LINC.s. It doesn’t mean that our “students” have changed. It just means that a perception of them has changed..

Computers in literacy

Something that has not changed is my belief that computer technology can help literacy students. We have been offering home computers to students for years. Some have adopted computers into their learning plans. But as in the general population, thinking of one’s self as a computer user doesn’t come easily.

Fortunately computer technology has developed so that basic computer operation is easier for the beginner. This fact has been lost in the hype around the internet. Some people do not realize that a computer can be useful without being hooked up to the internet.

In fact a computer is a wonderful tool for basic literacy learning. Many writing lessons have been developed using a basic word processing program. In some ways writing is actually easier on a computer than by hand. Basic computer reading and writing skills quickly extend to other learning programs. These can supplement individual lessons with a tutor and can also encourage independent study.

The first step is to learn basic computer operation. WQLC students will have a chance to learn these skills at a workshop on February 20. (See the article on page 7 of this LINC.s.)

Please call and let us know if you can attend. We would also like to know what you think about using a computer.

Reading and babies

I mentioned in the Fall LINC.s that I have a new grandson. Here is a picture of Tesla with his mother, Audrey. Even at one week old he enjoys reading. Babies are such a delight!

Enjoy your winter reading everyone!



Tesla already enjoys reading!

Introduction to computers

This workshop for students will show you how to get started using a computer. It will explore the basics of using a personal (home) computer. You will learn how to copy, move, save and organize files and data.



WQLC tutor, Peter Gauthier, will lead the workshop. He has taught computer usage at Yukon College, Faro, Yukon Territory and at Heritage College, Gatineau.

All WQLC students are welcome. We have enough computers that you will be able to try it yourself. Peter will also be glad to answer your questions.

Who: All WQLC students

When: Wednesday, February 20, 4:00—5:30

Where: WQLC office, Shawville

Curriculum Reform and Adult Education

Since 2002 education in Quebec has been reinventing itself. This was in response to changes in the world: labour market changes, rapid advances in information technology, and a better understanding of how a person develops knowledge and skills. In order to keep pace with the world, reform of our educational practices was necessary. Such educational reform involves more than simply reorganizing the curriculum. New policies and therefore new teaching practices must be implemented as well.

Integrating the new curriculum into WQLC's existing one-on-one program is not a big stretch. One of the education theories at the core of the new curriculum is the constructivist theory of learning. This theory says that a person develops new knowledge and skills by using prior learning to adapt to new situations; knowledge is constructed through doing. Much of this new curriculum reflects the educational theory upon which we were founded: learning is built on existing knowledge, students determine course content that is relevant to their needs, and students set their own goals for learning.

Leila Nulty-Senf has offered to lead a discussion group around the topic of the reform. Leila is involved with the reform through her work as an adult education teacher and she is President of WQLC. Please call the WQLC office (819-647-3112) if you would like to know more and we will arrange a meeting to suit participants.

Ideas for this report come from "Understanding Curriculum Reform in Adult Education" by Vicki-Ann Hugli; September 2007, for QELA.

Every year we have the opportunity to acknowledge student achievement and volunteer support. Jonai Tannenbaum, Coordinator of LVQ, our literacy coalition, made this handy table of the current volunteer and student recognition awards. Nominations can come from anyone. Nominate a worthy person this year!

Literacy Volunteers of Quebec
Literacy Awards
Open to adult learners, tutors or volunteers

Literacy Contest	Deadline (approx.)	For Whom	Submission	Award	Web site
Council of the Federation Literacy Award (awarded by each province)	April or May 2008	Learners	Text – maximum of 3 pages. Two letters of support	Medallion Certificate signed by the provincial premier)	www.councilofthefederation.ca/literacyaward/literacy.html
Canada Post Literacy Award (Canada Post)	April – May 2008	Learners Tutors	Text – maximum of 5 typed pages double-spaced.	Certificate \$300 award (Leamer) \$500 award (Tutor)	www.canadapost.ca/personal/corporate/about/community/literacy/literacy_awards/default_2007-e.asp
Adult Literacy Recognition Awards (The Centre for Literacy, QAAL, QLWG, LVQ)	March 10, 2008 (midnight)	Learners Tutors	Entry must involve writing: essay, poem, comic strip, etc. Maximum - 2 pages.	Certificate \$125 award	www.literacyvolunteersqc.ca
Co-operator's Learner Achievement Award (Co-operator's Insurance)	Prior to the Quebec PGI	Learners	Text – minimum of 1 page. Can be written down for you by someone else, or taped. Letter of support from a tutor.	Certificate Cash award	www.qela.qc.ca
Freda Hudson Volunteer Recognition Award (LVQ)	October 2008	Volunteers	Nominated by a member council	Pin Certificate	www.literacyvolunteersqc.ca

For more information on any contest or award, contact your council.