



L.I.N.C.s

Literacy Information Network in our Communities

Winter
2008/2009

Newsletter of the Western Quebec Literacy Council

WQLC NEEDS TUTORS!

WQLC is a two-way street. One direction is about reaching people who need help with their literacy skills. The other side of the street is training people who can read to become tutors for adult literacy students.

WQLC has been very successful in recruiting new students this year. Now we really need tutors to work with them. The students come from many parts of our region and they have different skill levels, but they all have two things in common: they want to learn more and they are ready to learn now.

Please attend our next tutor training workshop on April 24-25. You will learn why adults haven't learned to read and how the "Each one teach one" approach works. You will learn about the relationship between the spoken and the written word. You will practice using the teaching materials which have been developed specifically for volunteer tutors working one on one with an adult student. Ask a friend to join you at the workshop. If you have taken the workshop in the past consider taking it again as a refresher. The workshop continues to be updated as new materials are added.

When: Friday, April 24 in the evening
Saturday, April 25 during the day
Where: Aylmer
Cost: Free
Register: Preferably by Friday, April 17
Call WQLC: 1-888-647-3112
info@wq-literacy.org



Coming Events

Quebec Learner's week	March 28—April 3
National Volunteer Week	April 13-18
Tutor Brunch & Portfolios Workshop (Shawville)	April 18, 2:00
Tutor Training Workshop (Aylmer)	April 24 & 25
Tutor Brunch & Portfolios Workshop (Aylmer).....	Date to be set yet
WQLC Annual General Meeting Conference	Sat. Sept. 19
LVQ Conference 2009 (Environment theme)	Sat. Oct 24

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.

“Creative activity could be described as a type of learning process where teacher and pupil are located in the same individual.” -Arthur Koestler, novelist and journalist (1905-1983)

Note to Tutors:

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

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Tutor Brunches

Tutors often talk about having an opportunity to meet with other tutors for an informal chat, so we are organizing a tutor brunch for you and your fellow tutors. With the emphasis on “informal”, you can expect the talk to involve sharing tips and resources, as well as stories about successes and challenges. We would also like to hear about the tutoring support that you get (or don't get) from WQLC.

A workshop will also be offered on the topic of “helping your student develop a personal portfolio”. A portfolio is a collection of documents that is gathered as a person updates his or her skills and learning. It profiles the student's goals, achievements, and competencies in an organized and purposeful format. Personal portfolios allow learners to monitor and present what they have learned. In the process of developing the portfolio one's self-esteem is enhanced as achievements (academic, sporting, leisure, work experience, community activities, etc.) are highlighted. Tutors find that the process of creating a portfolio encourages a range of learning activities such as goal setting, decision making, educational and professional planning, and prioritizing.

WQLC is organizing two Tutor Brunches: one in Aylmer and one in Shawville – that way no one has to travel too far. In order to suit as many tutors as possible we are planning the date and time around the availability of the tutors. Currently active tutors have been polled and the date has been set for the Shawville Brunch: Saturday, April 18 at 2:00. The date for the Aylmer Brunch is still being decided. If you would like to participate and have an internet connection please go to this site <http://www.doodle.com/uig67y5sutincku9> and enter your availability. Or call the WQLC office (1-888-647-3112).

We hope that Tutor Brunches will become a regular event. See you in April!

Electronic Mailing

In an attempt to cut back on mailing, we are currently developing an electronic mailing list. Anyone who has provided us with their email address will receive the newsletter, information and current events via email.

If you have not yet provided WQLC with your email address, or if it has changed, please send us an email expressing that you wish to be added to this list.

Our email address: info@wq-literacy.org



Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is April 19 – 25, 2009.

To WQLC this means “Volunteer Appreciation Week” - and we do appreciate our volunteers! Without volunteers we would not exist. Volunteer tutors, trainers, board members and “tooters” are our life blood and back bone. (Tooters are volunteers who promote WQLC by “tooting” for literacy – sharing information about WQLC with friends and neighbours.)

Give your self a hearty pat on the back from WQLC during National Volunteer Week. We can't say it often enough - “Thank you!”

Annual Christmas Get Together

On December 6th, despite the stormy weather, approximately 20 of WQLC’s volunteers, tutors, students and staff, came to celebrate the season at the annual Christmas Open-house.



Each year WQLC hosts a get together to thank everyone for their support, hard work and achievements. It is also a wonderful time to meet and greet each other, and to reminisce since there is not much time throughout the busy year.

Tom, Peter, Norma, Monica, Leila, Robert, Nancy, Lynda, Richard, Debbie, Shirley, Marilee (left to right)

A book swap was held at the same time, and all enjoyed a fabulous buffet lunch.

Family Literacy Day - January 27 Attempt to Break a World Record



Family Literacy Day took place in communities across Canada. It is a day to promote the importance of reading and learning together.

This year there was a national attempt to break the Guinness World Record™ for **Most Children Reading with an Adult, Multiple Locations**. More than 190,000 Canadians signed up to participate in the attempt.

If successful, it will break the record currently held by the United States of 78,791, adults and children reading together

On January 23, participation in this attempt was held at St. John’s School in Campbell’s Bay. Selections from Robert Munsch’s “Munschworks2” were read for a period of 30 minutes.

On January 27, the St. John’s Community Learning Centre held a **Reader’s Theater** via Tele Conference. Four schools participated. Children acted out their favourite stories from their favourite books.



Literacy Volunteers of Quebec

LVQ has launched a new on-line forum for students, volunteers and staff

Students and volunteers can now participate in an on-line forum on the LVQ website. To participate in the forum, visit <http://literacyvolunteersqc.ca/forums/> and:

- 1. Register as a user. Once registered,
- 2. Select the forum you'd like to participate in (staff, students, volunteers).
- 3. Select the board you'd like to participate in;
- 4. Click on the post to which you'd like to reply under the subject heading;
- 5. Click on the reply button;
- 6. Write your message;
- 7. Click on the post button.

Student Writing Challenge



LVQ's monthly writing challenge started in January. By submitting a text, students become eligible to win a \$25 gift certificate at Chapters. One name will be picked at random from those who send in writings.

By submitting a composition, you are deemed to have agreed to have it posted on the LVQ website. You may choose to have your name on it or just your initials plus WQLC's name. Your piece should be between 100 and 400 words.

Send your submission to info@literacyvolunteersqc.ca or to WQLC and we will send it for you.

Congratulations to January's winner, Cheryl Hoyte of the Chateaugay Valley Literacy Council. Read Cheryl's entry as well as those of other students soon to be posted to the LVQ website www.literacyvolunteersqc.ca.

Submissions are due by the last day of each month.

Topics:	March	Who the heck is St. Patrick anyway?
	April	How do you know it's spring?
	May	Mother's Day
	June	Father's Day

“As long as a man stands in his own way, everything seems to be in his way.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson, American writer and philosopher (1803-1882)

“We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

-Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate (1879-1955)

The Informer - a student newsletter

Tutors and students might want to check out "The Informer", a newsletter written for adult students by the Quebec English Literacy Alliance (QELA). The articles are topical and clearly laid out. A new newsletter comes out each month. You can download them free from www.qela.qc.ca/en/news or WQLC will send you a paper version if you ask. The writers at QELA are asking for feedback. Writing a critique could be an exercise in critical thinking for your next lesson.

QELA " Contact"

QELA (Quebec English Literacy Alliance) puts out a quarterly newsletter for people interested in English literacy in Quebec. The content of "Contact" reflects the fact that QELA is made up of people working in literacy with English School Board literacy programs and with volunteer literacy organizations, like WQLC. You can download "Contact" free from www.qela.qc.ca/en/news.



The Happy Rockers have been playing every week. Soon they will have the play-offs ... and then the banquet.

Quebec Adult Learners' Week

For the last six years, the **Semaine québécoise des adultes en formation** (Quebec Learners' Week) has helped to foster the desire and develop possibilities for lifelong learning for all adults in Québec.

This year WQLC has been invited to present our information kiosk at a learning expo in the Pontiac Learning Centre in Campbell's Bay on Thursday, April 2nd. Please stop by and see us and all the other sites offering educational opportunities in the area.

Adult Learner Videos and Success Stories

The Canadian Council on Learning has created online videos showcasing the success stories of adult learners. The 6 minute long videos are very well done. They are inspirational first-person accounts of adults who have worked to overcome low literacy.

One that I especially liked is by Daisa Alurut from Nunavut. Here is the link to her story:
<http://tiny.cc/lixnR>

www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/ReadingFuture/SuccessStories.htm

Money Tips

The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada has prepared tip sheets on a variety of financial issues such as mortgages, payday loans, banking, insurance, credit reports and scores, low-cost accounts and much more.

Students could use these tips sheets in lessons. The information is written clearly, but the vocabulary can be difficult.

From this website you can download the tip sheets that you want. You can also order a free print copy from the website and they will send it to you. We have ordered a selection of the tips sheets and they are available at the WQLC office.

<http://www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca/eng/publications/ConsumerPubs-eng.asp#bi>

Fun, Easy Learning Website

www.gcf.learnfree.org

This is the link to a fun learning website. It is made for real beginning learners. It starts by telling you how it works with your computer. It even reads out loud to you on some of the exercises. You can choose from topics such as "food", "money", "work", "shopping", "maps, plans & schedules", and "bills and budgeting". It is all clearly laid out with pictures to help you read the labels. The exercises are made for students to do by themselves, but a beginner would do well to have the help of a tutor.

The site has been developed for a long time. It was first started in 1999 by Goodwill Community Foundation, Inc. Since it is made in the United States it shows American money and U.S. spellings on some words, but you won't mind very much when you see how much fun it is to use. It is free to use. You only have to sign up. They will even remind you of your password if you forget it.

Thanks to Nancy Hunt and Colleen Green Wilson at the Allumettes Island Connects program for recommending this fun website.

This timely poem was submitted to the LINC's by volunteer tutor, Robert Wills. He suggests that tutors and students try reading it aloud, and discuss the meanings of the old terms.

Sugar Weather

When snow-balls on the horses' hoofs
 And the wind from the south blows warm,
 When the cattle stand where the sunbeams beat
 And the noon has a dreamy charm,
 When icicles crash from the dripping eaves
 And the furrows peep black through the snow,
 Then I hurry away to the sugar bush,
 For the sap will run, I know.

With auger and axe and spile and trough
 To each tree a visit I pay,
 And every boy in the country-side
 Is eager to help to-day.
 We roll the backlogs into their place,
 And the kettles between them swing,
 Then gather the wood for the roaring fire
 And the sap in pailfuls bring.

A fig for your arches and modern ways,
 A fig for your sheet-iron pan,
 I like a smoky old kettle best
 And I stick to the good old plan;
 We're going to make sugar and taffy to-night
 On the swing pole under the tree,
 And the girls and the boys for miles around
 Are all sworn friends to me.

The hens are cackling again in the barn,
 And the cattle beginning to bawl,
 And neighbours, who long have been acting cool,
 Now make a for giving call;
 For there's no love-feast like a taffy-pull,
 With its hearty and sticky fun,
 And I know the whole world is at peace with me,
 For the sap has commenced to run.



by Peter McArthur (1866-1924)

