



Literacy News

Winter 2009/2010

Love of Learning

For the recent graduates of this Fall's LSSM tutor training workshop series, it is a love of learning that motivates them to help others. The training sessions involved over 17 hours of a combination of lively group discussions, mini-lectures and practical hands-on activities during the seven week program.



Libby Hudswell, Judith Lowes and Bob Weekes examine some of the resource books available to them as tutors at the Tutor Training which was held at the LSSM office in October and November.

The training covered

topics such as lesson planning, learning styles, teaching strategies and materials, record keeping, learning disabilities, teaching English as a second language, and the importance of demonstrations.

Delivered by Jo Cryderman and Dave Steeves, participants came away with a wealth of information and strategies to use in their important roles as tutors.

"I really enjoyed it", stated Joy Gervais, a participant from Huntsville. Three participants from the Muskoka Literacy Council in Huntsville attended the training. The Literacy Society has added three new tutors to its roster. A warm welcome to Bob Weekes, Libby Hudswell and Patti Spicer.

Winter Office Hours

Monday to Thursday: 9 am—5 pm

Closed: Fridays

**The office is closed from 1 p.m. on December 23, 2009
and will re-open at 9 a.m. on January 4, 2010**

The answering machine is always on...if it picks up before we do, kindly leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible.

Literacy News is the quarterly newsletter of the Literacy Society of South Muskoka, Gravenhurst, Ontario, Canada.

Deadline to submit articles for the Spring issue is March 1, 2010.

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**Celebrate
Winter!**

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Message from the President of the Society

2009 has been another very busy year at the Literacy Society. Volunteers are the framework of our organization. Fundraisers like the tag days and golf event were successful thanks to the committed efforts of our staff, board members and volunteers. The June open house event showcased our clients' efforts, drawing upon the creativity and encouragement of our volunteer tutors and the organization of our staff. Well done to you all!

So, on behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to extend a sincere thank you and our appreciation to our volunteers for all of the time you have committed to serving our clients.

Merry Christmas and Happy New to all of you. All the best.

Sincerely, Randy Puchala

Since the last Newsletter...

Ready for Work: In the summer, Jo Cryderman and Dave Steeves adapted the *Ready For Work* Seminars for Ontario Works' clients in Gravenhurst. Following the success of this project, they were asked to conduct the 12 hour course to Bracebridge Ontario Works' clients this Fall.

The course covers a range of topics from local job sectors, fitness and health, job applications, interview preparedness and role playing to payroll forms and self-esteem.

The comments from the 8 recent graduates were positive. The facilities at the Bracebridge Employment Resource Centre were spacious and comfortable to allow the students to work in groups, practice role play situations and participate in group discussions. Several students were optimistic that the course would benefit them securing employment in the future.

Driver's Ed training had 4 participants this fall. The sessions were held weekly at the office from October to early November.

Ladies' Yoga Class - Wednesdays from 1 to 2 pm.

Art Group - Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 pm.

Sewing Class - Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm.

Individual Computer Instruction - Call the office to book a time to improve your skills. Learn how to type, email, do an internet search. Get one on one assistance.

It's a Literacy Fact...

Low literacy rates in Ontario have remained at approximately 42% for over 10 years. (*Ontario Literacy Coalition website*)

Upcoming Events:

December 17, 2009—*LSSM Christmas Party* will be held at the Salvation Army Church in Gravenhurst. Meet and Greet starts 6 p.m. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring a potluck item. **R.S.V.P. 687-9323**. Entertainment this year will feature the Gravenhurst Saxophone Quartet and Ms. Sue Ward, violinist. This invitation is extended to all board members, LSSM members, tutors and students.

Jan 14, 2010—*Tutor Talk* at the LSSM office from 2-4pm. Refreshments provided.

Jan. and Feb—proposed *followup training* for past Ready for Work participants.

Feb 25—*Tutor Talk* at the LSSM office from 2-4 pm. Refreshments supplied.

March—new series of *Ready for Work* sessions starts with Ontario Works.

Attention All Tutors: please work with your learners to provide demonstrations of their achievements for the June 2010 *Open House*. Start now to create and save those demonstrations.

Find it on the Internet

- **themoneybelt.gc.ca** is dedicated to teaching young Canadians the fundamentals of managing money.
- Check out the health and literacy resources for adult students at: **www.northbayliteracycouncil.ca/** (click on the 'Health and Literacy' tab).

Featured Library Resources for Students and Tutors:

Oxford Picture Dictionary, Second Canadian Edition is the newest addition to our resource library. There are 3 copies in our library. The books feature 4,000 words, 12 story pages and 40 new topics. This is an excellent resource to use with ESL learners.

Be a Better Reader series is a highly recommended resource to teach reading comprehension in literature, social studies, science and math. Skills covered include cause and effect, character, plot, main idea, classifying.

Need copies of worksheets for a learner? Come to the office to browse through the collection of materials on the small table next to the copier. Help yourself and take home what you can use!



Spread the Word... New members welcome! Volunteers serve on the board of directors, tutor, and help with fundraising. Membership fees are \$10 per year. Membership benefits include: access to resource materials from our library; 4 issues of the Society's newsletter *Literacy News*; invitations to Society functions such as the annual Christmas dinner, tutor talks, membership in Laubach Literacy Ontario (for discounts on attending the annual provincial conference, purchase of books and other resources); and voting privileges at the Society's Annual General Meeting in June. If you know of someone who would share their enjoyment of reading, writing or math with another adult please encourage them to contact us at 687-9323 to join the Society and sign up as a tutor.



In the Students' Words...

Last year when I was at the Literacy Society, my tutor, Dave, helped me quite a bit with using different measuring tools. That came in very useful this summer and I am glad to have Dave as a tutor again this winter.

By Phillip Cooke

Success Results from the Ready for Work program:

One of the participants report that they have obtained employment following their completion of our 3 week course at the Employment Resource Centre in Bracebridge.

The Last Word....

*The Muskoka Family Literacy Group
Presents....*

Family Literacy Fun Day

Free Admission

- Clifford the Big Red Dog
- Russ—Children's Singer
- Nature & Stories
- Hand-on Activities
- Healthy Snacks
- Drumming with Terry Cowan & Friends

Gravenhurst Centennial Centre
*Saturday February 27, 2010
10 a.m. to Noon*

National Stress-Free Family Holiday Month

Tips about how families can reduce stress during the holiday season:

1. Do simple, stay at home activities like going outside to enjoy the fresh air, shovel snow, go for a walk as a family. When you come inside, have a hot mug of cocoa, tea or coffee to warm up.
2. Watch a movie at home or go to the cinema with the family. If you are alone, call up a friend to join you.
3. Enjoy the outdoors...skate, ski, toboggan or snowshoe.
4. Decorate the house. Afterwards, make a big snowman outside.
5. Take a trip together. Go winter camping...stay at a resort...or get away from the snow and travel someplace warm!

Adapted from Your News, Dec, 2009 issue



Happy Holidays