

Network News

A newsletter for the Tri-County Literacy Network serving the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Essex and Lambton Counties

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**2010-2011
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Joyeuses fêtes

*“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”
~Margaret Fuller~*

We would like to take this opportunity to wish the very best to you and yours over the holiday season.

Please note that our office will be closed Friday, December 17, 2010 until Friday, December 31, 2010 and will reopen Monday January 3, 2011.

We hope you have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season and we'll see you in the New Year!

*We want to hear your comments and suggestions!
Click on the email address below and give us your feedback.*

tcln@cogeco.net

Message from the Executive Director

Season's Greetings!

In 2010, we were very active with a variety of projects and project proposals. We were also very active with the core business of professional development, promotion of literacy, literacy service planning and local planning and coordination including working with our key stakeholders within Employment Ontario. In June 2010 Tri-County Literacy Network Board and staff developed a three year strategic plan.

Project Updates

We completed the “**Linking Adult Literacy to Poverty Reduction**” Project during the 2009-2010 fiscal year with the distribution of the Final Report to the field and the posting of the report in English and in French on the Network website. This fall we submitted a project proposal to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities through the call for proposals from the Employment Ontario Network Development Fund (EONDF). The proposal is to bring Jodi Pfarr back to provide one day training across the Western Region for 5 Learning Networks of Ontario (LNO)(regional literacy networks). This would include a follow up workshop in Windsor to the “Building Bridges Out of Poverty” workshop she provided in November 2009. This was the most pressing request from the day one workshop in Windsor and a central part of the strategic plan for the project. We are currently waiting to hear the outcome.

We were part of an application by QUILL Network for EONDF funding for information and referral **forums** for literacy and our key stakeholders in Employment Ontario in 2011. These forums would be similar to past “Getting Connected” sessions in our region. We are waiting to hear the outcome of this.

We completed the **educational interviews** project led by Literacy Link South Central and in cooperation with the Learning Networks of Ontario - Western Region. As part time contract staff with Tri-County Literacy Network, Joan Iatonna worked with a number of Action Centres during this time to provide educational interviews with laid off workers. The feedback from the workers on this process was very positive.

I was involved on the Community Literacy of Ontario’s Advisory Committee which developed six online literacy presentations for anyone working in Employment Ontario. The workshops are hosted at www.nald.ca/clo/presentations.htm. Our Learners Speak Out video and local learner success stories are showcased in these presentations.

Further to training that we received on **Clear Writing** through a Western Region initiative (led by Adult Basic Education Association, Literacy Link South Central and QUILL to provide Clear Writing training for all Learning Networks of Ontario), we applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation this fall for a one year project on Clear Writing. This would include funds to hire part time staff to provide Clear Writing presentations, document consultations, literacy awareness presentations and information distribution in the tri-county region. We are waiting to hear the outcome of this.

Core Business Update

We held the Spring **Professional Development** workshop for all Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs in the region on April 22, 2010 at Adult Language and Learning in Chatham. Workshop topics included “Web Savvy”, “Through the Worker’s Eyes – Developing Authentic Workplace Learning Activities” and “Essential Skills and LBS.” There were 35 participants. Evaluation feedback on all three workshops was very positive. This fall programs participated in sector orientation training on the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum (OALC).

This past year the Network promoted and attended training on assessment, clear writing, project management, continuous improvement performance management (CIPMS), transliteracy, Bridging the Employment Gap, OALC and the Ontario Literacy Coalition Conference, “Spotlight on Learning: Becoming Agents of Change”.

We recently completed the Literacy Service Plans for Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex . We posted part of these plans on our Network website. At our Literacy and Basic Skills Local Planning and Coordination meetings we invited many speakers and guests including representatives from the Canadian Hearing Society, Frontier College, E-Learn Network, Workforce WindsorEssex, Pathway To Potential, Windsor-Essex Ontario Works, Ministry, Training and Colleges staff in Labour Adjustment, Apprenticeship as well as Employment Services, Service Canada, Southern First Nation Secretariat, Ontario Literacy Coalition, Sarnia Lambton Workforce Development Board, Lambton College and Goodwill Career Centre. Thank you for your time and for sharing your expertise with us!

As part of my visit to the Ontario Literacy Coalition’s Queen’s Park Day in November this year and last year, we continue to promote literacy and the critically needed adequate funding levels for Literacy and Basic Skills programs and support organizations so adults can access the literacy and essential skills training they need to contribute to the Ontario economy and our communities.

The newsletter provides an update of some of our public awareness activities in the region plus an update on new resources available for borrowing from our library.

We hope you will celebrate **Family Literacy Day** on January 27, 2011! Please see details inside for information on local contacts.

Best wishes for the holiday season and 2011!

Andrea Dickinson





Ellen Paterson, Executive Director, Ontario Native Literacy Coalition (left) & Andrea Dickinson, Executive Director, Tri-County Literacy Network



Andrea at a visit to Queen's Park on October 4, 2010 with the Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC) in support of literacy and literacy funding. For more information on Queen's Park Day, please visit the Ontario Literacy Coalition link at <http://www.on.literacy.ca/whatwedo/app/qp2010>.

Andrea Dickinson, Executive Director, Tri-County Literacy Network & Frank Clarke (right), Senior Communications Advisor, Ministry of Education, Office of the Minister





Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award Recipient for Chatham-Kent for 2010

This year, in Chatham-Kent, we would like to recognize the contributions of **Carol Sannes**.

Carol Sannes is a passionate and persistent advocate for literacy programs in the Chatham-Kent community. Through her work as Manager, Continuing Education, St. Clair College, Carol has directly counseled and referred learners, both youth and older adults, to literacy programs. As an administrator, Carol lobbied for and helped launch the Academic and Career Entrance Program (ACE) which aims to give learners the skills and knowledge to meet entrance requirements at Thames Campus.

Carol participated as a Director on the Tri-County Literacy Network Board for 8 years of dedicated service. She served in all positions on the Board including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Past President and was on the Advisory Committee for the Evaluating Outreach Strategies and Events project. Carol's extensive experience and insight gained as a college administrator enabled her to give exceptional leadership to the Board.

For Carol, the highlight of her year as President was the launch of the Tri-County Literacy Network's "Learners Speak Out" video. This is a high quality video which was produced in partnership with TVCOGECO and funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation in 2006. This video features the success stories of learners involved in adult literacy/upgrading programs and continues to be used to inform other service providers and members of the community about adult upgrading programs.

Carol, in both her professional and volunteer work, is positive, poised and professional. Under this demeanor is a passion---a passion for learning and for literacy fuelled by the knowledge and belief that literacy empowers learners.

And it is this passion that motivates Carol to continue to support and promote literacy and life-long learning in Chatham-Kent.



Carols Sannes (left) receives the Literacy Promotion Award 2010 from Trish Daubs, Past President and Andrea Dickinson, Executive Director, Tri-County Literacy Network.





Marilyn Mryvold (left) receives the Literacy Promotion Award for 2010 from Anne Marie Cosford, Board President, Tri-County Literacy Network.

Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award Recipient for Sarnia-Lambton for 2010

This year, in Sarnia-Lambton, we would like to recognize the contributions of **Marilyn Mryvold**.

Marilyn Mryvold has been in literacy work since helping adults began. Marilyn started as a volunteer in a Lambton College program more than 25 years ago. Marilyn has always been there with empathy, understanding and a willingness to go the extra mile for all learners.

Marilyn came to help in the school board program as a volunteer when the adult learning program began. Before long, she was also a volunteer in the Organization for Literacy in Lambton's one-to-one program.

You could backtrack to any one of Marilyn tremendous 'inventory' of learners and every one of them would speak very highly of the support, encouragement and personal kindness Marilyn has shown each learner, whether rich or poor, male or female, beginning learner or advanced student.

In her interesting life, Marilyn has lived and travelled through many countries. Her children have likewise scattered as they pursue their chosen careers. Her devoted husband, now deceased, supported her throughout her long volunteer career.

The learners became Marilyn's second children as she showed them the kindness, understanding and the ability to share her incredible knowledge as she must have with her own children.

Some of these learners have become lifelong friends and continue to invite Marilyn to birthday parties and other happy events as they too share in Marilyn's special moments.





Emily Landry (right) receives the Literacy Promotion Award for 2010 from Andrea Dickinson, Executive Director, Tri-County Literacy Network.

Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award Recipient for Windsor-Essex for 2010

This year, in Windsor-Essex, we would like to recognize the contributions of **Emily Landry**.

Emily has worked for the South Essex Community Council in the Literacy and Basic Skills program. Emily worked in this department in various capacities from coordinating volunteer tutors to instructing small group classes and creating curriculum. She worked tirelessly to make the learning the best it could be for her students – on a very limited budget and with never enough staff! Emily respected and enjoyed her students. She brought a sense of humour and a fun atmosphere making the learning environment relaxed and a safe place to risk making mistakes while moving towards success.

Later Emily moved on to take a job in Literacy with the Greater Essex County District School Board.

Emily Landry has been an instructor for the Greater Essex County District School Board for approximately 10 years. She also worked for a time as an employment counselor in the Greater Essex County District School Board Employment Assistance Service in Leamington. The combination of her knowledge as an ESL instructor as well as literacy knowledge gave her the well rounded background to be able to advise learners on how to meet their goals in education or employment.

Over the last few years she worked mainly in the evenings teaching learners who were underemployed and who were looking to improve their employability. It was during this employment period when a tornado struck the Leamington area. Emily's house was destroyed and she and her dog barely escaped. Everyone was concerned and expected she would need time to regroup and gather resources to maintain her daily life. Emily – the trouper – chose to continue to work and came in to teach four nights that week. This class, she said, gave her the stability and encouragement to go on. A solidity and support with the community was shown in the many donations that came in for her during this difficult time. It is this dedication and commitment that should be honoured.

Emily contributed to a positive impact on the lives of others. Emily's attitude towards her students promoted trust and encouraged the students to persevere. In turn the students were more motivated and did not give up easily. She inspired them to keep trying and believed in their ability to succeed.

Emily's work with her students promoted care and concern for others all the while encouraging their life-long learning goals. They were given praise and rewarded for their achievements. Many students have gone on to promotions in their work and higher level learning as well as becoming strong members of their local community.



Tri-County Literacy Network Strategic Planning Session

June 21, 2010



Left: Michelle Repuski (Board Member) & Trish Daubs (Past President)



Strategic Priorities

- Provide leadership within Employment Ontario in our region
- Increase awareness of literacy and Tri-County Literacy Network at the community level and within MTCU
- Focus on effectiveness and continuous improvement

From left: Walt Stechyshyn (Board Member), Andrea Dickinson (Executive Director), Tammy McGivern (Admin. Assistant), Carol Sannes (Treasurer), Anne Marie Cosford (President) & Beth Pirouet (Vice President)





“Celebrating International Literacy Day”



*Guest Author
Mary Lou Dickinson*

The Tri-County Literacy Network celebrated International Literacy Day at Smitty’s Restaurant, Pine Room in Chatham on Friday September 10, 2010 by hosting a reading for adults by guest author Mary Lou Dickinson. We also present the 2010 Tri-County Literacy Network’s Literacy Promotion Award for Chatham-Kent.

Mary Lou Dickinson read from and talked about her recently published novel, *Ile D’Or*, a novel about gold, greed, renewal and hope. Mary Lou answered questions after she read. She was also available after her presentation to sell and autograph her book. Her presentation was made possible through the financial assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts through the Writers’ Union of Canada.

Ile D’Or is a vibrant new novel that examines language, community and the politics of Canada through the lens of the hardscrabble life of a company mining town and the psychological fallout for the adults and children who live there.

Ile D’Or takes place shortly after the first referendum on Quebec separation. Four forty-somethings encounter each other in Ile d’Or, the town where all of them grew up. These intriguing characters are emerging from a frontier existence and moving into late twentieth century society. They must discover how their contemporary lives connect with their pasts and how their presents have been shaped by growing up in a Northern Quebec mining town in the 1930s through the 1950s.

Mary Lou Dickinson's short fiction collection, *One Day It Happens*, was also published by Inanna in 2007. Her fiction has appeared in numerous literary periodicals and has also been broadcast on CBC Radio. Dickinson grew up in northern Quebec and after a few years in Montreal and forays to the West coast has lived since then in Toronto. *Ile D’Or* is her first novel.



Remembrance Day Literary Contest of the
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 185

First Place – Intermediate Poem



The Video

A mine explodes
A tank drives past
A soldier dies
A gun fires fast.

All these images
I did not know
Until I saw
A video.

I saw it at school
On a big screen
It was the saddest thing
I had ever seen.

Visions of tanks
Visions of fire
Visions of fences
Made out of barbed wire.

People in their houses
Sit and pray
Waiting for loved ones
To come home some day.

The war was terrible
The war was bad
The war was cruel
And the war was sad.

The war took four years
It seemed too long
What they thought would only be a
summer
But what they guessed was very wrong.

Canada, Britain, and France
All won the war
So now people hope
There will be no more.

Poem by: Max Dickinson
12 years old

Looking Forward to 2011

Celebrate Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day is recognized nationally on Thursday, January 27, 2011.

For information on events in **Chatham-Kent**, please contact the Ontario Early Years Centre at 519-358-1451 Ext. 0 and the Chatham Kent Public Library at 519-354-2940 Ext. 247

For information on events in **Windsor-Essex**, please contact the Windsor Public Library at 519-255-6770 Ext 4433.

Please visit **ABC Life Literacy Canada's** website at www.abclifeliteracy.ca for general information about this day.



Help is a phone call away

- We can help you improve your skills so that you can help your kids with their homework
- Free confidential service
- Adult learning environment
- Learn at your own pace
- Practical skills
- Focused on your goal

For more information about programs that can help call Tri-County Literacy Network at 519-355-1771 or toll free at 1-877-333-4833 or visit www.tcln.on.ca.





Resource Library – New Resources

All resources are available through the Tri-County Literacy Network office.

Please contact us at 519-355-1771 or toll free at 1-877-333-4833.

1. **Literacy Capacity Development Guide 2009** - #464
(Literacy Link South Central – November 2009)
Guide to assist agencies and networks with raising awareness of literacy in the community.
2. **Integrated Local Labour Market Plan Windsor-Essex** - #465
(Workforce Development Board Windsor-Essex – August 2009)
Labour Market Plan – report for Windsor-Essex.
3. **Sarnia Lambton’s Labour Market Plan** - #466
(Sarnia Lambton Workforce Development Board – April 2010)
A data driven report.
4. **Literacy & Essentials Skills in Industrial Art** - #467
(Literacy Ontario Central South – May 2010)
Course materials re: stained glass, blacksmith, welding, jewelry making & mosaic – facilitator & student notes.
5. **Essential Skills for Personal Success** - #468
(Sheila Marshall/Karen Farrar LNN – June 2010)
Practitioners guides & modules 1 to 4 – manual with accompanying CD.
6. **Recognizing Life’s Work** - #469
(QUILL – June 2010)
Helping learners connect their essential skills from home to work – a practitioner’s resource kit & NOC profiles C & D.
7. **Spotlight On Change** - #470
(Marianne Paul/Lindsay Kennedy – June 2010)
An essential skills upgrading program for women over 40 – includes manual on memory stick.
8. **ILE D’OR** - #471
(Mary Lou Dickinson – August 2010)
Novel about gold, greed, renewal and hope.
9. **Making It Work** - #472
(Ontario Literacy Coalition – September 2005)
Series of 5 workforce bulletins developed for both LBS learners and practitioners.

10. **How? Now!** - #473
(Literacy Network Eastern Ontario – April 2009)
Structured training program booklet designed to re-connect workers in the changing workforce.
11. **Chatham-Kent Rural Guide 2009** - #474
(Ridgetown OMAFARA Resource Centre – September 2009)
Offering products and services to the Chatham-Kent community.
12. **Literacy in Ontario** - #475
(Ontario Literacy Coalition – September 2009)
Report is to showcase the full depth of adult education in the province.
13. **Vocabulary Building Workbook** - #476
(HRSDC – 2009)
Workbook is designed to help you to improve your vocabulary.
14. **Understanding Learning – the How, the Why, the What** - #477
(Sarnia Lambton Workforce Development Board – April 2010)
A data driven report on where our talent works today and where it will work tomorrow.
15. **Resource Guide** - #478
(Community Literacy Ontario – June 2010)
Popular resources – Supporting the transitioning of adult learners with Independence or Employment goals.
16. **Developing Workplace Violence and Harassment Policies and Programs** - #479
(Occupational Health & Safety Council of Ontario - 2010)
What employers need to know
17. **Developing Workplace Violence and Harassment Policies and Programs** - #480
(Occupational Health & Safety Council of Ontario - 2010)
A Toolbox
18. **Linking Adult Literacy to Poverty Reduction** - #481
(Tri-County Literacy Network – January 2010)
Project Final Report
19. **Liens entre la litt ratie des adultes et la reduction de la pauvret ** - #482
(Tri-County Literacy Network – janvier 2010)
Rapport final

Employment Ontario staff will be interested in the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway website at www.eopg.ca



www.ontario.ca/employmentontario

or

call toll free at 1-800-387-5656