



Network News

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Since our bulletin in the spring, the Tri-County Literacy Network has hired Tammy Campbell as our new Administrative Assistant in September 2003.

Tammy Campbell completed a 3-year Business Administration Program in Accounting with academic honours in 2000 from St. Clair College, Thames Campus and also completed a certificate program in Human Resource Studies from St. Clair College in 2000. Through her work with H&R Block as Assistant Manager for 2 years she has become familiarized with accounting systems. As well, she is well experienced in reception, customer service and secretarial work through her years of service with Southwestern Regional Centre and her contract work with Veltri Metal Products. Tammy is eager and keen to work with our organization. Please join me in welcoming Tammy when you speak and/or meet with her.

Our strategic planning continued this fall with a visioning session for Board and staff that was facilitated by Robb MacDonald. As a result of this process, we have developed a new vision, mission and slogan for our organization that reflects the direction and work of the Tri-County Literacy Network. Along with this we will have a new brochure for distribution and a new updated website.

An important part of this direction is the promotion of life-long learning in the tri-county region. The expansion of the Literacy Promotion Award from Chatham-Kent to also include Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex as part of International Literacy Day in Fall 2003 is one way we are working to achieve this goal. This year we were thrilled to recognize one worthy recipient in each of these three communities who has worked hard to promote literacy. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Alan Boam, Trish Daubs and Walt Stechyshyn for your dedication and devotion to the promotion of literacy as an important part of life-long learning.

The Tri-County Literacy Network is also working, in partnership with other promoters of learning, to continue the Need to Read Festival in Chatham-Kent and to expand it to Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex during Education Week in May 2004. Pat Hatt has agreed to visit the tri-county region to speak on literacy and learning disabilities. We also have a number of children's authors booked to visit schools and libraries. My heartfelt gratitude for everyone's hard work to continue and expand this worthy learning opportunity.

Please STAY TUNED for more news related to all these ventures. Best wishes for a healthy, happy December and New Year.

Andrea Dickinson – Executive Director, Tri-County Literacy Network

How to Find Us

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E-Mail: literacy@mnsi.net

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Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

2003 – 2004

Board of Directors

Jennifer Wilson, President

Carol Cazabon, Vice President

Walt Stechyshyn, Past President

Joan Iatonna, Treasurer

Trish Daubs, Secretary

Mary Genge

Jane Swan

Executive Director

Andrea Dickinson

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Campbell

What did you learn today? ... Literacy touches everything!

What is literacy?

Literacy is a person's ability to understand and use printed information in daily activities at home, at work, and in the community. Literacy skills help people find information, set goals, work with others, solve problems, and make decisions.

Why is literacy important?

Literacy skills give people more choices about their lives, and more control over those choices. They help people find information, set goals, work with others, solve problems, and make decisions. People with literacy skills are more likely to lead healthier lives, earn more money and help their children be the best they can be.

Having literacy skills means that you can ...

- Read to your child
- Apply for a job
- Order from a menu
- Read your birthday card
- Apply for a license
- Write a love letter
- Write a grocery list
- Find a street
- Use a bank machine
- Follow a recipe
- Help with school work
- Travel

What
did you
learn
today ?

Just the Facts

Almost 50% of Canadian adults struggle with words and numbers

- **22%** of Canadians have serious difficulties with any type of printed material.
- A further **26%** of Canadians can do only the simplest reading and writing tasks.
- In Ontario, over **20%** of adults do not have basic literacy skills.
- An additional **24%** of adults in Ontario are not able to read well enough to carry out daily tasks or find and keep jobs.

How can I promote literacy?

- Promote reading
- Support friends who want to participate in a literacy program
- Support local literacy programs by volunteering as a tutor
- Donate money or equipment to your local literacy program
- Be informed about the literacy needs of adults in your community
- Have a guest speaker on literacy at your club or group
- Read with your child regularly
- Read a book instead of watching television
- Ensure that printed material, brochures and signs are in plain language
- Spread the word about literacy programs in your area, to co-workers, friends, and colleagues
- Be sensitive to people who may have difficulty reading

Celebrate Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day is recognized nationally on Tuesday January 27, 2004. For information on events in Sarnia-Lambton, please contact the Organization for Literacy in Lambton at (519) 332-4876. For information on events in Chatham-Kent, please contact the Ontario Early Years Centre at (519) 352-0440. For information on events in Windsor-Essex, please contact the Windsor Public Library at (519) 255-6770. Please visit ABC Canada's website at ww.abc-canada.org for general information about this day.

Literacy Promotion Awards 2003

As part of International Literacy Day, the Tri-County Literacy Network would like to recognize individuals' contributions to literacy in the tri-county area of Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex. On an annual basis, commencing in 2003, one individual from each county or municipality will be recognized for his/her promotion of literacy.

Trish Daubs

This year, in Chatham-Kent, we would like to recognize the contributions of Trish Daubs, the Small Group Literacy Coordinator for the Lambton Kent District School Board, Literacy and Basic Skills program. She has served in the literacy field for many years and in several different capacities. She has worked as a volunteer, an instructor and as an administrator. In all these capacities she is recognized for her respect towards others, intelligence, compassion, dignity and humour. She is always teaching, encouraging and praising. She is described as believing totally in literacy and the adult learner, which provides her with the inspiration and motivation for her dedication to the field. She sets a standard of excellence that is regarded as an inspiration to others. Her efforts have had a very positive impact on her staff, learners and the community.

Trish was recognized formally at the Alphabet Soup Lunch in Chatham on September 8, 2003.

Alan Boam

In Sarnia-Lambton we would like to recognize Alan Boam. Alan has been working in the one to one program since the fall of 1999. He moved to Sarnia from London where he had been working with a literacy group and decided to continue his work. He is actively involved and always willing to participate with outreach activities to attract new learners by sharing his own personal story such as being interviewed by the Sarnia Observer newspaper. His honest and straightforward approach to the interview made for compelling reading. He truly believes that by sharing his story it will give others the strength and courage to step forward and ask for help.

Most recently during the "What did you learn today?" campaign Alan was very generous with his time and willing to share his experiences. This campaign involved print, radio and television coverage and Alan represented learners in a very positive manner in all instances. He also participated in the planning meetings for the "What did you learn today?" campaign and contributed with valid suggestions of activities that were eventually part of the events.

The Organization for Literacy in Lambton was pleased to award Alan the "Learner of the Year" award in 2001. This was a very proud moment for Alan's family and friends. Alan has more self-confidence now and he continues to improve his skills. To quote his tutor, "Alan had a moment called the Eureka! moment where he began to read phrases, sentences, and finally paragraphs without assistance. "

Alan was recognized formally at Showcase Literacy in Sarnia on September 24, 2003.

Walt Stechyshyn

In Windsor-Essex we would like to recognize Walt Stechyshyn. In June of 1996, the Unemployed Help Centre literacy teacher was retiring, and Walt Stechyshyn was designated to take over the instruction of the community-based literacy class. Walt Stechyshyn had been working in the Developmental Support Worker program at St. Clair College's Thames Campus, but due to college re-structuring was being transferred to Windsor where he was to immediately begin teaching literacy and numeracy to adults in the community program setting.

It didn't take long to discover what a truly dedicated and compassionate individual they had been sent. Providing literacy and numeracy instruction was a new field for Walt, but you never would have guessed it, as he was always confident and professional. He immediately immersed himself, body and soul into earning the trust and respect of the learners, while behind the scenes he was constantly researching and reviewing whatever literacy resources, journals and articles he could get his hand on.

Walt was recognized formally at the Local Planning and Coordination meeting in Windsor on November 13, 2003.



Regional and Provincial Updates

Tri-County Literacy Network

NEW vision: We envision a community in which literacy and life-long learning are highly valued.

NEW mission: The Tri-County Literacy Network is a non-profit organization that promotes literacy as an important part of life-long learning. We provide support to adult literacy programs and develop community partnerships with other promoters of learning in Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton, and Windsor-Essex

Professional Development 2003

A definite highlight for this year is the professional development organized for literacy administrators and practitioners in the tri-county region.

By request, the Network organized a tri-county **workshop on the Information Management System (IMS)** with Anne Parker of AlphaPlus presenting to literacy staff. The feedback was very positive as the participants found the information helpful.

The FOCUS (Finding, Organizing, Challenging, Understanding, Self) workshop was presented by Tim Nicholls-Harrison for the Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton practitioners on Friday May 30, 2003 in Corunna and on June 6, 2003 in Windsor. Attendance was excellent and evaluations were very positive. I believe this was the most well received workshop we have held since I have been with the Network. We also distributed the Hire Value kits to all participants. Ontario Works and Job Connect representatives attended these workshops. In Chatham-Kent, as a result of this workshop, we held meetings this fall with representatives from Literacy and Basic Skills, Ontario Works and Job Connect to discuss implementing parts of the FOCUS program in Chatham-Kent. There is a similar interest in implementing a FOCUS type workshop in Sarnia-Lambton.

A Tri-County Practitioner Training Workshop was held on November 7, 2003 at Country View Golf Course in Chatham with 30 practitioners and administrators from all 13 programs from the tri-county region in attendance. Robyn Cook-Ritchie facilitated this **workshop on common assessment training**. The feedback was very positive especially in regards to the networking and sharing that occurred as a part of this workshop.

We spoke with the Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC) to let them know that all 13 literacy agencies and approximately 25 participants in the tri-county region, including all streams, were interested in being considered for the **Ontario Literacy Coalition sponsored Self Management, Self Direction workshop** before the end of February 2004. The OLC has approved our request and the workshop is booked for Friday February 20, 2004 at the Wheels Inn in Chatham. We are very fortunate to provide this in our region as a very limited number of workshops are available across the province.

We also expect that there will be a training session in the spring on a topic related to the **workforce strategy** that will be sponsored by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). Literacy programs will be providing input to MTCU on the type of training that is needed and the Network will be responsible for coordinating it.

Literacy Local Planning and Coordination (LPC) Meetings

LPC meetings were held on September 12, 2003 for Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton and September 18, 2003 for Windsor-Essex. Agenda items included practitioner training preparations, Ontario Works (OW) updates, 2004-2005 Literacy Service Plans, Hire Value distribution plans (Sarnia-Lambton) and workforce strategy update (Windsor-Essex). The LPC meetings were also held on November 13, 2003 for the Windsor-Essex Local Planning and Coordination meeting and November 14, 2003 for the Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton Local Planning and Coordination meeting. Agenda items included further practitioner training, MTCU Community Survey related to the workforce strategy due along with the Network Business Plan on January 9, 2004, self evaluation of the Literacy Service Plans (LSPs) process, OW update, information and referral and the 2004 Work Plan. The next Local Planning and Coordination meetings will be held on January 27, 2004 for Windsor-Essex and January 30, 2004 for Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton.

The Executive Director of the Sarnia Lambton Training Board (SLTB) attended the Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent Local Planning and Coordination meeting on September 12, 2003 to discuss the distribution of the **Hire Value kits**. The SLTB distributed Hire Value kits throughout Business Week (October 15 to 24, 2003) in Sarnia-Lambton. They have agreed to keep us informed about the response that they receive.

In Windsor-Essex, the Local Planning and Coordination Group held an internal **stakeholders' meeting** as Laura Hamilton presented an update on Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' Workplace Strategy to the committee on September 18, 2003.

The **Literacy Service Plans** and narratives for 2004-2005 for Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex were submitted to our Ministry Consultant on November 3, 2003 as required.

Field Development Projects

Our Ministry Consultant has recommended that we resubmit our **Agricultural Based Workplace Development project proposal** to MTCU and NLS for the next proposal call. She explained that the timing for workforce development funding will be better for the next proposal call.

Provincial meetings

The next **Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC) Coalition Advisory Roundtable meeting** is scheduled for January 22 to 23, 2004. The OLC is planning their next **OLC Conference** for June 17 to 19, 2004 at the Hamilton Conference Centre.

Need to Read Festival

The Need to Read Festival celebrates the written word through fun and educational activities for children, adults and families during Education Week in May every year.

The fourth Need to Read Festival was held on May 1 to 3, 2003 in Chatham-Kent. We reached approximately 2,000 people in Chatham-Kent through author readings at Ridgeway College as well as in schools and libraries throughout the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. We were very fortunate to have a variety of community partners involved in organizing this event including the Chatham-Kent Public Library, Lambton Kent District School Board, St. Clair Catholic District School Board, Chatham-Kent Council on Adult Basic Education, Chatham-Kent Integrated Children's Services, Ontario Early Years Centre, Learning Disabilities Association, Imagination ink., Cogeco Community Television, Chatham Daily News and representatives from the francophone community. We plan to continue the festival in Chatham-Kent and commence expansion of the festival to Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex in 2004.

Supporting learners with self-awareness and self-direction

“Self-awareness and self-direction are critical to the learning process”

This Workshop builds on the results of the research project on self-management and self-direction conducted by the Ontario Literacy Coalition in 2002 – 2003. The workshop will help participants apply the findings of the report *Supporting Learning, Supporting Change* to their own programs.

In the workshop we will:

- ◆ reflect on our programs in light of the research findings
- ◆ explore different approaches to building self-awareness and self-direction
- ◆ share ideas about what would work in different programs
- ◆ take back a guide to use with our programs, to work through the process of developing our own approaches, based on our particular learners and program context

A workshop For: Literacy and Basic Skills Practitioners and Administrators in Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex

Facilitator: Katrina Grieve
Author of *Supporting Learning, Supporting Change*

Date: Friday February 20, 2004

Time: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Continental Breakfast served from 8:30 am until 9:00 am

Location: Wheels Inn, Wedgwood Room – 615 Richmond Street, Chatham, ON

For information, contact: Tri-County Literacy Network
Phone: (519) 355-1771 or 1-877-333-4833 (toll free)
Email: literacy@mnsi.net

Please Note: There will be a cost of \$35.00 per participant. Lunch is provided and free parking is available at the Wheels Inn. Limited seating available so please register early. Participants will receive some preparation materials to read and consider before coming to the workshop.

Cancellation Policy: No Refunds After January 30, 2004

Please list ALL registrants from your program.

NAME(S): _____

PROGRAM: _____

Forward registration before January 30, 2004 with cheque payable to:

Tri-County Literacy Network
120 Wellington Street W.
P.O. Box 404
Chatham, Ontario
N7M 5K5

Submissions

Articles for the Network News are always welcome. We thank all those who have provided excellent work. We are unable to print all that we receive due to the space limitations. The Network also reserves the right to edit articles for length and content.

MEMBERSHIPS

You can become a member of the Tri-County Literacy Network. Anyone with an interest in Literacy can become a member. Contact the Network office for more information.

Writer's Showcase

A Last Summer Swim

Waves splashing on my face
I am swimming along
I am weightless and alone
Having a good time
I reach down and feel
The sand between my fingers.
I touch
The clamshells
Slime and rough.
I hear seagulls
Waves and laughter.
The late summer sun
Is almost gone
It's time to go
I don't want to leave.
I pull myself out of the water
To the hot dry sand I reach up
And pull myself into my wheelchair.

By C. Hetherington
Community Living, Wallaceburg

Library Corner

The Tri-County Literacy Network has purchased an excellent new video from the National Film Board. It is available for you to borrow from our library.

THE JOURNEY OF LESRA MARTIN

Lesra Martin was poor, illiterate and struggling on the violent streets of Brooklyn when a chance encounter with a group of Canadians shattered the confines of his life. Pulled from the chaos of the inner city and given a fresh start in Canada, Lesra became a hero when he helped to bring justice to wrongfully imprisoned American boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter. Finding the courage to change his own life, today Lesra is a lawyer and motivational speaker on the world stage.

Delving into the intensely personal story beneath the fame, this film brings together intimate interviews with Lesra, his family and friends. From his home in British Columbia to a poignant return to the streets of his childhood, Lesra reflects with humour and grace on the events that altered his life. He also grieves for family still consumed by the unforgiving ghetto, while inspiring viewers to find their own strength in adversity.



Highly Recommended

Programs

To help with reading, writing and math for Adults 19 years and older

Chatham-Kent

- 1) **Chatham-Kent Council on Adult Basic Education**
One-to-one tutoring and large groups
Day and evening
Call: (519) 354-7424
- 2) **Lambton-Kent District School Board**
Small and large groups to upgrade for credit and employability
Call: (519) 358-2352
- 3) **St. Clair Catholic District School Board**
For adults with intellectual disabilities
Call Toll Free: 1-866-336-6139 Ext. 388

Sarnia-Lambton

- 1) **Lambton College
Employment and Educational Opportunities Program**
Academic upgrading to enter post secondary
Preparation for employment
Call: (519) 542-7751 Ext. 3597
- 2) **Lambton-Kent District School Board
Alternative and Continuing Education**
Small group upgrading program for pre-credit and employment skills
Call: (519) 383-8787
- 3) **Organization for Literacy in Lambton**
One-to-one tutoring and small groups
Day and evening
Call: (519) 332-4876
Call collect if necessary
- 4) **St. Clair Catholic District School Board**
For adults with intellectual disabilities
Call Toll Free: 1-866-336-6139 Ext. 388
- 5) **Native Literacy Programs**
 - ♦ **Aamjiwnaang Alternative and Continuing Education**
Call: (519) 336-8410
 - ♦ **Walpole Island Literacy Programs**
Call: (519) 627-0708 Ext. 269

Windsor-Essex

- 1) **Greater Essex County District School Board
Windsor**
Preparation for employment
Call: (519) 253-5006
- 2) **St. Clair College**
For entrance to high school or college
Call: (519) 972-2727 Ext. 4551
- 3) **Windsor Public Library**
One-to-one tutoring using volunteer tutors and in-house classes for adults with developmental challenges
Call: (519) 255-6770 Ext. 4433
- 4) **Unemployed Help Centre**
Preparation for employment
Call: (519) 944-4900
- 5) **Centre Alpha “Mot de passe”**
Tutorat ou petit groupe dans votre region
Tutoring or small group in your area
Call: (519) 253-3959
Call Toll Free: 1-866-411-4311
- 6) **The Native Literacy Program**
Small groups at Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre
Call: (519) 258-8954
- 7) **South Essex Community Council, Leamington**
One-to-one tutoring or small group tutoring
Call: (519) 322-3532
- 8) **Greater Essex County District School Board,
Leamington**
For entrance to adult secondary credit program
Call: (519) 326-0513

Glossary of Terms

FOCUS – Finding, Organizing, Challenging, Understanding, Self

IMS – Information Management System

LBS – Literacy and Basic Skills

LPC – Local Planning and Coordination

LSP – Literacy Service Plan

MTCU – Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

NLS – National Literacy Secretariat

OLC – Ontario Literacy Coalition

OW – Ontario Works