

Network News

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

How to Find Us

Address:

111 Heritage Road, Suite 103
Chatham, Ontario
N7M 5W7

Phone: (519) 355-1771

Toll Free: 1-877-333-4833

Fax: (519) 355-1998

E-Mail: tcln@teksavvy.com

Website: www.tcln.on.ca

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

2005 – 2006

Board of Directors

Carol Sannes, President

Trish Daubs, Vice President

Jennifer Wilson, Past President

Jane Swan, Treasurer

Mary Genge, Secretary

Joan Iatonna

Walt Stechyshyn

Anne Marie Cosford

Executive Director

Andrea Dickinson

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Campbell



**“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends;
they are the most accessible and wisest counselors,
and the most patient teachers.”**

~Charles W. Eliot~

**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 23, 2005
to Friday January 6, 2006 and will reopen on Monday January 9,
2006.**

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

WRITER'S SHOWCASE

Barbara Ann Houlbrook

This is my own success story. My dream is to complete school. I am working on getting my grade twelve diploma. It is something that I want to achieve at my own pace. I couldn't do it when I was younger because I had to stay home and help raise my younger siblings while both my parents worked. So now is my time to accomplish something for myself. My own children are encouraging me to do it. Plus, I am doing it for my father who passed away one year ago.

My other goals are to work with elderly people in nursing homes. That's why I volunteer at Vision Nursing Home in Sarnia. I was recommended by my adult school to do volunteer work at the nursing home. I am very thankful for their help. The staff at my adult school is very encouraging to me. I thank them all very much.

A Date with Frosty

Recently I met someone who was big, cold and round. When I touched him, he chilled me to the bone. When I confronted him, he jumped on me and was all over me like a big cold blanket.

I knew better than to expect a long, warm relationship but he did literally melt at my feet! He didn't say a lot but I had it made because luckily I look cute all soaking wet.

So if you meet this frosty guy, I say go out on a date with him go for it! It will be the experience of a lifetime.

Besides, it's fun rolling around in the snow with a round, jolly fellow.

Marg King, Adult Learner

Wallaceburg Small Group Literacy Program

Lambton-Kent District School Board





Rick Miller (Literacy Promotion Award Winner, Chatham-Kent)
& Carol Sannes (TCLN Board President)

September 8, 2005
International Literacy Day at Tri-County Literacy Network

STAND STRONG

by Rick Miller

*Life is a business you have to
make known
How you run your business is
that of your own.*

*Some people will try to lead
you astray
But using your thoughts you
will choose the right way.*

*Life will get difficult from time
to time;
That's when you pull life skills
from the back of your mind.*

*You will remember some
words or some reading you've done
And try to fix your problems
one by one.*

*Things will get tough but never
think: THE END.
You can always pick up the
phone and call a friend.*

*So make it your goal to make
a life nice,
You're the only one that can do
it and don't think twice!*

*Even a person who speaks
strongly of love
Can try to change you with one
little shove.*

*So remember your business
and try to stay tough
If people are trying to change
You, then they're not good
enough!*

Literacy Promotion Awards 2005

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, one individual from each county or municipality will be recognized for his/her promotion of literacy.

Chatham-Kent Recipient

This year, in Chatham-Kent, we would like to recognize the contributions of Rick Miller.

Rick Miller first came to the Wallaceburg Literacy Program in 2004. An injury had prevented him from continuing in his job and it was suggested that he do some upgrading to prepare for a computer course as part of his retraining. Rick also worked on his reading and writing skills. Soon, as part of his journal writing, he discovered his ability to create original and impressive poems. To quote Rick, "two weeks ago, I was street fighting in St. Thomas and now you've got me writing poetry". This long-haired Harley-driving fifty year old guy was suddenly pouring out his feelings onto paper with a unique and creative style. No one was more surprised about his new found talent than Rick himself and the praise and support from his fellow students just added to his sense of self-worth. He flourished and grew before everyone's eyes. He also improved his reading skills enough to pass another level of testing in truck driving. Although very modest about his accomplishments, Rick claims he owes all his current success to his one year participation in the Lambton Kent District School Board's Literacy and Basic Skills program and is particularly appreciative of the efforts of his dedicated instructor, Jo-Ann Schultz.

Rick's journey has been a source of inspiration to his co-learners in the program. At a presentation to the Rotary Club in Wallaceburg, Rick spoke to the group about what the program had done for him and impressed the Rotary members with his poetry. Speaking to a group like this was another skill Rick had never before tackled. Heartfelt words from learners such as Rick do so much to promote any literacy program. The realization of his goals were not just beneficial to him, but to the rest of the group as well. As recently as May 6th 2005, he read three of his poems at the Open Mic program of the Need to Read Festival in Chatham-Kent. It was truly inspirational. Again, Rick took the opportunity to mention the program to the audience. His poetry and his journey continue to inspire others.

Sarnia-Lambton Recipient

This year in Sarnia-Lambton, we would like to recognize the contributions of Jean Doull.

From the very inception of Literacy and Basic Skills programs in Sarnia Lambton, Jean Doull has been involved. If she was not starting or chairing a committee to advance the cause of literacy in the community, she was certainly an active member.

In her official capacity, Jean has worked as the Executive Director with the Organization for Literacy in Lambton for the past seven years. In this role, she has promoted literacy very effectively by hosting Showcase for Literacy, organizing Family Literacy Day with other community partners and working extensively with the media. As recently as last year, Jean took on a new responsibility of chairing the Need To Read Festival committee in Sarnia-Lambton.

Jean is also a wonderful mentor to those in the field who do not have the wealth of knowledge that she has. She is very willing to lend a hand to co-workers and community partners alike. She is truly a wonderful example of selflessness and dedication and her commitment to the cause of literacy in Sarnia Lambton is more than admirable.

Perhaps the greatest contribution Jean has made is to the learners whose lives she has touched. She has a passion for learners that would be hard to match. She is truly passionate about the plight of those who face enormous barriers every day because of the literacy challenges in their lives. She has touched so many lives and has made a real difference in them.

From her direct work with learners to the Reading nights she often hosts in her own home, to the committee work and countless meetings she attends, she is truly deserving of recognition.

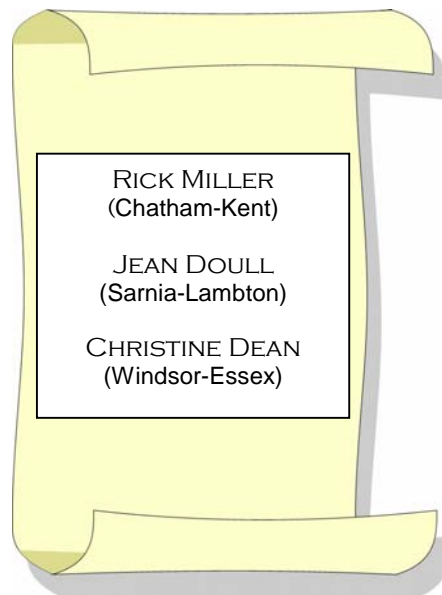
Windsor-Essex Recipient

This year, in Windsor-Essex, we would like to recognize the contributions of Christine Dean.

Christine Dean has been involved in the literacy field for 21 years. She has worn many hats over the years (administrator, assessor, counsellor, advocate, promoter of literacy awareness, tutor trainer, 1:1 tutor, etc.), but the one constant throughout the years has been her unwavering dedication and compassion for individuals lacking basic literacy skills and those with special needs (learning disabled, developmentally challenged, etc.).

Christine has demonstrated leadership in the variety of roles she had with a number of literacy organizations. Christine's first involvement on the Laubach Literacy of Ontario's Board of Directors was from 1986 to 1987 as secretary. She later served another term with the Laubach Board as Secretary from 1996 to 1999. Christine's long term association with the Laubach Literacy Ontario and the Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County have provided many volunteer tutors, teachers and literacy practitioners with the opportunity of accessing valuable local training. In 1995, Christine participated on a Community Literacy of Ontario Steering Committee and remained actively involved with CLO which led to her serving on the Board of Directors as Secretary from 1997 to 1999. Over the years, she has participated on numerous reference and advisory committees as well as being a content reader for various new projects and manuals.

She has been a role model and mentor for her own new literacy staff as well as other literacy program practitioners over the years and has always given of her time and tremendous expertise when approached. Christine demonstrates passion and a tireless energy whether she is advocating on behalf of learners or promoting literacy awareness in general, and challenges and motivates her learners, tutors and fellow practitioners to give their best to achieve their goals and full potential.



Adult Literacy and Life Skills

This fall I presented to Rotary clubs in Chatham-Kent on literacy and the work of the Tri-County Literacy Network. Here are some snapshots from these presentations:

On May 11, 2005 Statistics Canada released the Adult Literacy and Life Skills (ALL) survey results.

According to the first round of this major new survey that measured literacy skills among individuals aged 16 to 65 in Canada and six other countries in 2003, the challenge to improve literacy performance among Canadians is far from over.

The Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey tested more than 23,000 Canadians in 2003 on their skills proficiency in four scales: prose, document, numeracy and problem-solving. Skills were rated on the basis of levels one to five, that is, lowest to highest. This report presents an initial set of findings covering Canada, Bermuda, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, the United States and the Mexican State of Nuevo Leon.

It found that the average literacy score for Canadians had not changed significantly during the nine-year period since the last major survey which was conducted in 1994. As in 1994, a significant number of Canadian adults had low-level literacy skills which had an impact on their participation in society and in the economy.

In Canada, about 58% of adults aged 16 to 65 possessed skills in the top three literacy levels on the prose scale, indicating that they could meet most everyday reading requirements.

However, the study also shows that millions of Canadians do not have the literacy skills they need to keep pace with the escalating demands of our society and economy.

Some Key Findings of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey

- Four in ten Canadians do not have the literacy skills they need to meet the ever-increasing demands of modern life, where skills are the key to success in our knowledge-based economy and society.
- We have seen some progress among Canadians with the most serious literacy challenges. The survey showed that 15% of Canadians scored in level one, the lowest performance level. This was down slightly from 17% in 1994.
- Literacy skills have a large impact on earnings. Canadians with literacy barriers tend to be stuck in low-paid, low-skilled jobs that offer little chance of advancement or of improving their skills.
- Among the unemployed, those with the most serious literacy barriers only had a 50% chance of finding a job, even after 52 weeks of unemployment.
- There has been an apparent decline in literacy scores among Canadian youth. A parent's level of education has a significant impact on the literacy scores of their children. Canadian youth aged 16-25 who had parents with little or no education scored lower on average in 2003 than similar youth surveyed in 1994.
- In the international ranking, Canada ranks 4th out of 7 of the countries compared in this study: behind Norway, Switzerland, and Bermuda but ahead of the USA, Italy and also the Mexican State of Nuevo Leon. Later, additional countries will administer the survey.
- Currently, the people who need training most are the least likely to be able to access adult education and training programs. Governments and business tend to support skill upgrading for people with the highest skills and do less for people with the lowest skill level.
- Literacy skills erode if not used regularly. Canadians who do not exercise their literacy skills at work, at home, or through continued education, will experience a deterioration of their skills over time.

- Adults who say they are the healthiest have higher average literacy and numeracy scores, while those who report poor health have the lowest average proficiencies.
- Labour markets no longer replenish themselves sufficiently through young people coming out of school. We need to help less-skilled adults acquire the skills they need to participate fully in our economy and our society.
- The relationship between formal schooling and literacy skills is complex. Even a high school education is no guarantee that a person has the literacy skills they need to succeed.

Our literacy challenges are connected to some of Canada's most pressing social and economic issues. Statistics Canada concludes in this study that "investments in foundation skills would lead to improved levels of health, increased productivity, reduced social costs and higher growth."

The **Tri-County Literacy Network** works to respond to the issues and concerns raised by this study. The Tri-County Literacy Network envisions a community in which literacy and life-long learning are highly valued.

The Tri-County Literacy Network is a non-profit, charitable, incorporated 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. We were incorporated in 1998 and our office is located in Chatham. We are one of 16 Networks in the province and are primarily funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

We support adult literacy programs by facilitating local planning and coordination of literacy services, coordinating the ongoing professional development of literacy staff, increasing public awareness of the nature and extent of the literacy needs of adults and sharing critical information. We do not provide a direct service to adult learners, instead we help to promote literacy programs and provide information and referral to these programs.

We promote literacy as an important part of life-long learning by offering the Need To Read Festival during Education Week in May, celebrating International Literacy Day in September and recognizing Family Literacy Day in January.

There are many ways to support literacy:

- letting people know about the literacy programs in our community
- supporting people involved in upgrading their skills
- providing donations to literacy programs and events
- attending events that promote one's own life-long learning as well as one's family's life-long learning
- communicating in clear language to the public.

For further information, please contact the Tri-County Literacy Network at 355-1771 or toll-free at 1-877-333-4833 or visit the Network's website at www.tcln.on.ca.

Andrea Dickinson, Executive Director

*Sources of information include Statistics Canada, Ontario Literacy Coalition and Movement for Canadian Literacy.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2006

CELEBRATE FAMILY LITERACY DAY

Family Literacy Day is recognized nationally on Friday, January 27, 2006.

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) 358-1451.

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

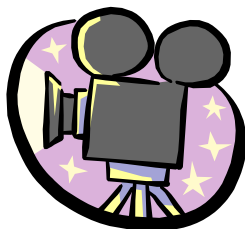
Please visit **ABC CANADA'S** website at www.abc-canada.org for general information about this day.

NEED TO READ FESTIVAL

The Need To Read Festival committee is currently planning events for Chatham-Kent for May 1 to May 7, 2006.

The Organization for Literacy in Lambton is currently planning events for Sarnia-Lambton.

For further information please contact the Tri-County Literacy Network (519) 355-1771 or toll free 1-877-333-4833



The Ontario Trillium Foundation has funded us to develop a "Learners Speak Out" video (approx. 10 minutes) for our area to air on TVCOGECO, (targeted launch is International Literacy Day, September 8, 2006) to reach family and friends with a call to action to get more information on literacy programs in the tri-county region so more potential learners will attend the literacy programs in our area. The secondary audience is community organizations and groups, which would be reached through presentations.



The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.



Resource Library – New Resources

Available through the Tri-County Literacy Network office. Please contact us at (519) 355-1771
or toll free at 1-877-333-4833.

1. **Public Awareness Action Guide & “Let the Experts Do The Talking” #334**
(Ontario Literacy Coalition – Nov. 2004)
Adult learners/community partners and local media – starting a learner speaker program.
2. **Factors Affecting Success in Community Based Literacy Programs (Phase I) #335**
(Joseph E. Casey/Christine Drummond – Oct. 2004)
Phase I research summary – literature review.
3. **Program Evaluation – An Integrated Approach #336**
(SLTB & Lambton Literacy Providers – 2005)
Manual – Making ongoing evaluation accessible, doable and useful to LBS programs.
4. **Evaluation de Programme – Une Approche Integre #337**
(SLTB & Lambton Literacy Providers – 2005)
Manual #336 – French
5. **TVO – Learner Story Video #338**
(TVO – 2004)
A learner story video of Arnie Stewart.
6. **“Train Ontario: Learning Works” & Feasibility Study #339**
(Jane Tuer & Cheryl Conway – 2004)
Exploring the viability/Train Ontario follow-up results.
7. **Reading Magic #340**
(Mem Fox – 2005)
Why reading aloud to our children will change their lives forever.
8. **Essential Skills Training (CD’S) #341**
(Literacy Link Eastern Ontario – 2005)
Occupational curricula based on the essential skills and assessment tools in the workplace.
9. **Thea’s Files (CD) #342**
(Thea DeGroot – 2004)
CD – Self-management/Self-direction.
10. **Prepared For Success 2003/2004 – Study #343**
(College Sector Committee – January 2005)
A study of the success of adult upgrading graduates in the first semester of post secondary.
11. **Raising the Bar and Celebrating Success – Workshop summaries #344**
(Community Literacy of Ontario – March 2005)
Conference workshop summaries – 10th Anniversary Conference – October 2004.

12. **Shining Across Ontario – A promotional kit #345**
(Community Literacy of Ontario – 2005)
Promotional kit – Marketing your services in your community.
13. **Need To Read Festival 2005 Video #346**
(TVCOGECO – September 2005)
Local author readings on location – May 2005 Need To Read Festival.
14. **Learning Works! (CD) #347**
(Literacy Network Northeast – September 2005)
Connecting to Workplaces: Validating Outcomes Demonstrations with Employers.
15. **Learning Challenges Assessment Tool for Adult Literacy Learners #348**
(Sara Maggio/ABE Hamilton – August 2005)
Assessment tool designed to be used after initial training in Learning Disabilities.
16. **Working Together, Working Well #349**
(Lorri Sauve & Jane Tuer – August 2005)
Manual – Activities to develop teamwork skills at work or in the classroom.
17. **Workwrite – Policies and Procedures (Book 5) #350**
(Karen Geraci – September 2005)
Final book in Workwrite series – focuses on lengthier text in documents.
18. **Ontario Learns – Strengthening Our Adult Education System #351**
(Government – August 2005)
Adult Education Review.
19. **Trends, Opportunities and Priorities & Profile 2004/2005 Life in Sarnia-Lambton #352**
(SLTB – January 2005)
Labour Market Research.
20. **Making It Work Series #353**
(Ontario Literacy Coalition – September 2005)
Five workforce bulletins developed for both LBS learners and practitioners.
21. **Mapping Literacy in the Community #354**
(Literacy Link South Central – September 2005)
Literacy activity in Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk counties.
22. **Towards Clearer Communication (VIDEO) #355**
(FCAF – September 2005)
Clear Language video – 13 minutes & 40 seconds – French/English.
23. **Successful Communication Tool Kit #356**
(Communications Canada – May 2005)
Addressing communication challenges posed by low literacy among Canadians.
24. **A Dream That Walks II: Planning for Change #357**
(Anne Moore, Action Read – November 2005)
An 8 week goal setting plan.

