

Network News

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

How to Find Us

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Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

2000-2001 Board of Directors

Joan Iatonna, *President*

Walt Stechyshyn, *Vice President*

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Jennifer Wilson

Executive Director

Andrea Dickinson

Administrative Assistant

Lori Cummings

“Celebrate International Literacy Day”

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2001
SARNIA, ONTARIO

7:00 P.M.

IMPERIAL OIL CENTRE FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS

\$15/Adult \$13/Student



Lesra Martin

Call the
Organization for Literacy
@ 519-332-4876
for more information

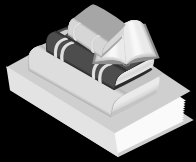
More than twenty years ago, Lesra Martin was illiterate and poor, living a life of little hope or promise. Then, through some incredible circumstances, Lesra became a catalyst in the freeing of Rubin (Hurricane) Carter, a famous American boxer who had been wrongfully convicted of murder.

Along the way, Lesra fought to change his own life - he learned to read, went to university and law school and became an attorney and inspirational speaker. Come and hear Lesra telling his amazing story.

“The Story Book” By William Bouguereau



The Network is raffling this print with a literacy theme. It is double matted, with a carved dark wood frame. It is quite large and measures 29.5 x 33.5". Tickets are only \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. This artwork is valued at \$400.00. **The draw will take place on Friday September 7, 2001 in celebration of International Literacy Day at the Alphabet Soup lunch at the William Street Cafe, 28 William St. S. in Chatham.**



New Resources...

Available through the Network Office

- (1) **Sharing the Path**
Developing a Common Understanding of Assessment
Two Models for Facilitation
Project Read Literacy Network
Waterloo-Wellington
January 2001
Two models for developing a common understanding of assessment among LBS agencies are outlined in this publication. Both models are presented in a HOW-TO fashion, offering meeting agendas, topics, group activities, facilitation tips and other suggestions.

- (2) **What Works**
Recruitment and Retention of Ontario Works Clients - Phase 2 Report
January 2001
Prepared by Dee Goforth and Mary Jonik
Further information building on the data provided in the Phase 1 Preliminary Report released in June 2000, which studied the impact of Ontario Works clients on LBS College programs.

- (3) **Working with Ontario Works**
Forging Relationships Between Regional Literacy Networks and Local Ontario Works Centres
Literacy Link Niagara - Compiled by Sue Arnedt, Gay Douglas and Beth Pomroy
Interim Report
March 2001

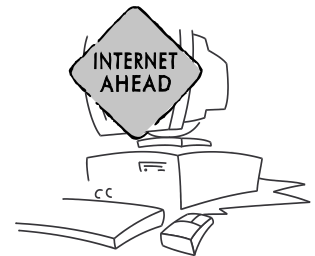
- (4) **Preparing for the Workforce:**
Demonstrating Success.
Part of the Workforce Assessment and Learning Tools Series
Quill Learning Network
2001
The purpose of this project was to create literacy and basic skills teaching demonstrations that integrate relevant workplace essential skills for entry-level positions.

- (5) **Essential Skills CD-ROM Program**
Human Resources Development Canada
December 2000

- (6) **Moving Right Along**
A Report on Learner Referral and Transition
Project READ Literacy Network
March 2001
This research report looked at the support of adult students in making transitions from LBS agencies to other settings where they would continue the journey towards their goals.

COMPUTER FILE

Web sites of Interest:



- (1) **Demonstrations Ontario**
New on-line resource - <http://demonstrations.alphaplus.ca>
- (2) **Essential Skills - HRDC**
The information provided in this web site will show how the Essential Skills are used in different jobs with over 170 occupations profiled. Most of the jobs can be entered from high school.
www15.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca/
- (3) **Test of Workplace Essential Skills**
The TOWES project now has a bank of test items, which, collectively, form an assessment tool to measure essential skills in workplace settings.
www.TOWES.com

Message from the Executive Director



In with the New...

By Andrea Dickinson

Greetings. Since starting in my new position on December 13, 2000, I have had the positive experience of meeting many administrators, practitioners and learners in the tri-county area as well as across the province. Over the past few months I have been a learner of the literacy field – learning new terminology, concepts and approaches!

Prior to coming to the Tri-County Literacy Network, I worked as the Education Coordinator at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Chatham-Kent Branch for twelve years. In this capacity I worked with a wide variety of organizations and individuals in the community developing my skills and expertise in communication, coordination, facilitation and promotion. During this time I coordinated the Coping With Unemployment program, taught Stress Management and Communication Skills courses, provided numerous presentations, oversaw volunteers, chaired committees and worked extensively with the media.

I have been enjoying the opportunity and challenge in bringing this background to the literacy field. My hope is to build on the work of my predecessor, Marianne Simpson, in creating a strong and effective organization. The Board of Directors has been an active, driving force in the establishment and direction of the organization. I look forward to working with everyone on the Board and staff to further our work.

On behalf of the Board and staff we extend our invitation to you to join us at our **Annual General Meeting on Friday June 22, 2001 at 1:00 P.M. at Smitty's Pancake House located at 307 Grand Ave. West in Chatham.** For further information and to confirm your attendance please call the Tri-County Literacy Network at **(519) 355-1771**. We look forward to seeing you there.

I have been most impressed with the committed, dedicated and supportive people I have met in literacy. Thank you to everyone for your support in making this a smoother, easier transition.

Tri-County Literacy Network



Regional and Provincial Updates

Project Updates

The final report for the project, Building Bridges for Adults with a Developmental Disability, has been completed and distributed to all programs in the Tri-County region.

The Positive Strategies for Managing Change project has commenced this spring. The Reference Group is in the process of hiring a Project Consultant. A one-day workshop for administrators and practitioners is planned for early November.

The Evaluating Outreach Strategies and Events have been recommended for approval. We should hear more on this during the summer. It is slated to commence this fall.

What
did you
learn
today?

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held Friday June 22 at 1:00 p.m. at Smitty's Pancake House, 307 Grand Ave. West in Chatham. All are welcome to attend. Please call (519) 355-1771 to confirm your attendance. Please also call us at this number if you are interested in becoming a Board Member or volunteer with Tri-County Literacy Network. A special thank you and farewell to our supportive Treasurer, Patricia Kerth, who is leaving our Board June 2001.

Ontario Literacy Coalition



"Courage To Learn" OLC Conference was held on May 10-12, 2001 at Inn on the Park Hotel in Toronto. This

was attended by the Tri-County Literacy Network Executive Director plus other individuals from our region. The conference had a session on the OLC organizational review, which is still in process. The results will be presented at the OLC Annual General Meeting in the fall. The OLC also launched its public awareness campaign at the conference. The theme of the campaign is "What have you learned today?" The campaign can be seen on public service announcements on TV, radio, in newspapers and on posters across the province. All regional LBS programs have/ will receive posters to post in your area.

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Regional and Provincial Updates

continued

Workplace Strategy

A May 9th MTCU working session facilitated an exchange of ideas and information. This was attended by the Tri-County Literacy Network Executive Director. Basically there are two parts to the LBS Workplace Strategies. The first part is workforce training. All LBS programs need to get involved in the workforce part of the Workplace Strategy. Over this next year, all networks and LBS agencies are asked to begin to bring the workplace into the classroom. A great majority of LBS learners have the long-term goal of increasing their employment opportunities, joining the workforce, or participating in further education or training so that they can join the workforce. All of these learners need to be exposed to workplace materials and concepts in the LBS classroom or tutorial situation. The second part of the Workplace Strategy takes place in a community after good workplace practice is in place in the LBS classrooms, small groups and tutorial relationships. Only then is a community of LBS agencies ready to begin to market fee for service arrangements with employers.

Mandatory Literacy Testing

MTCU is holding a meeting on June 13, 2001 to inform us further about mandatory literacy testing developments. Tri-County Literacy Network will be represented at this meeting. We will keep programs posted on the information shared at this meeting.

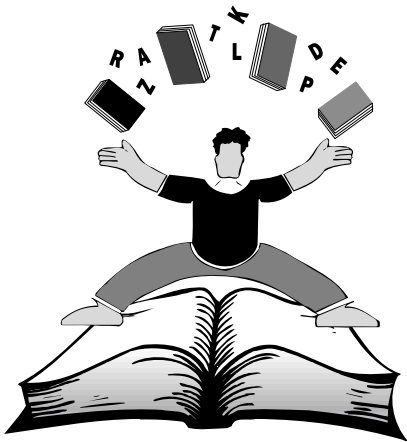
Information Management System

- ❑ The IMS Help Desk is available through Alpha Plus. Agencies are encouraged to call the Help Desk with any systems questions, complaints or concerns. This is critical because in doing so the callers will not only get their questions resolved, but MTCU will have access to a compilation of the calls providing MTCU with a whole range of information, feedback and possible training needs. The telephone numbers are Toll Free 1-887-772-2345 or 1-800-788-1912.
- ❑ Phase 2 of IMS development has started. This phase will include enhancements to the system, ongoing support and the development of statistical reports for MTCU.

Practitioner Training

Practitioner training sessions were held in Windsor on April 24, 2001 and Corunna on May 25, 2001. Topics included Workplace Literacy Strategies, demonstrations and learning disabilities. The follow up to this will include a MUDWorks session with Jane Barber for Windsor-Essex practitioners on Tuesday October 23 at 9:30 – 2:00 p.m. at the Windsor Public Library – mark this day on your calendar. We are also planning a half-day learning disabilities workshop on October 2 in Windsor and October 3 in Corunna with Pat Hatt. Dates to be confirmed and distributed to programs.

The Second Annual Need to Read Festival Was A Big Success!



The festival was held on Friday June 1, 2001. Seven authors were very well received in the twelve elementary schools throughout the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. In the evening, Shannon and Bryan Prince, Marcel Beneteau and Drew Hayden Taylor provided excellent storytelling and music. Those who attended the event at St. Joseph's Auditorium in Chatham also enjoyed the opportunity to meet authors, purchase books and gather information on literacy programs and community agencies.

Anyone interested in being involved in planning our third festival please contact the Tri-County Literacy Network office at (519) 355-1771 or by e-mail, literacy@mnsi.net.

The following article appeared in the March 2001 edition of The St. Clair College newsletter, The Gryphon



A Book of Many Thanks.
Rick Krumes (centre) is thanked for his contribution by Applied Arts Chair, Julie Longo, Dean Pat McMahon and Professor Joanne Marshall, as friend Ron Trudell looks on.

Able Advocate Expands Students' Understanding

"Informative. Interesting. Inspirational. Enlightening."

That's what first-year architecture, civil engineering, interior design and landscaping students thought of adult education student Rick Krumes's contribution to their understanding of barrier-free design and accessibility issues.

The accolades were contained in a monogrammed book of thank-you messages presented to Krumes with an honorarium from the appreciative students.

Confined to a wheelchair all his life, he spoke to some 125 students at the request of Applied Arts Professor Joanne Marshall as part of English/communications coursework focusing on barrier-free access. Marshall praised Krumes for the time he devoted to the project, his expertise, sound advice and direct and effective communication skills.

Krumes said he hoped the students would remember something he said "which will make a difference in the way they work and do their jobs." Judging by their messages, they will.

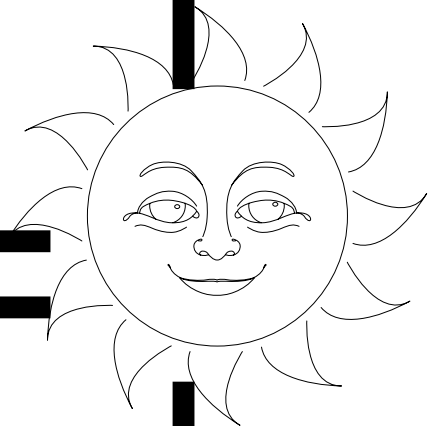
Writer's Showcase



The Lights of Life

I look through the darkness
And there I find the lights of life
Stretched through time.
The bigger picture in this, I see
Reveals the secrets of eternity.
And in the morning, when the dark is gone
The lights of life still shine on
As time goes on,
And on,
And on....

Daniel F. Eppert



Dad

Dad, I wish I would have spent more time with you.
So we could laugh and joke and talk a little more.
And the dreams I have of you alive and well
But then I wake and find that you're not really here.

Oh how I miss you, Dad
And the dreams of you
Are all that I have.
Oh, how I miss you Dad.

Daniel F. Eppert

*Daniel is currently enrolled in the LBS / Adult Education Program
at St. Clair College of Applied Arts & Technology in Windsor*

Network News

Published three times
a year by the
Tri-County Literacy Network

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.

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Darren Rogers
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(519) 332-4876

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Ongoing and Upcoming Activities

The Tri-County Literacy Network was profiled at the Chatham-Kent Community Strategic Plan launch on May 25, 2001. We were recognized for our leadership role in the area of promoting literacy and literacy programs.

Literacy Stakeholders' meetings are being held in Sarnia, Chatham and Windsor throughout the month of June and September.



Formerly, Southwestern Literacy Desktop Publishing Centre

Two years ago, the Organization for Literacy in Lambton supported the Desktop Publishing Centre during its transition from a funded service for literacy to a self-sustaining service. We are owned and operated by the Organization for Literacy and we continue to support many social service and private sector agencies while making a profit that supports literacy programs. We offer a unique service where clients get materials produced and support literacy in doing so. We offer all sorts of help in managing every kind of print job which includes in-house colour printing and printing press setup for larger jobs. We also have available: spiral coil binding, 25" width lamination, foam/acetate board mounting for display boards, booklet stapling, CD recording, shrink wrapping and many other printed materials. Call for a price list or more information at 519-332-4876. Thanks for your support!