

# HCLN

## Halifax Community Learning Network

*"a bridge to a brighter future"*

The Halifax Community Learning Network is one of 30 community-based literacy initiatives funded through the Department of Education's Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning. HCLN offers free adult literacy programs to students in their community.

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### HCLN Board

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Denise Morley

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Laura Channon  
Melissa Michels  
Jennifer Peach  
Linda Oakley

**Tutor Training / Instructor**  
Avril Lewis

**Administrative Assistant**  
Jennifer Tower

## Getting Across - Winter 2007

Newsletter of the Halifax Community Learning Network

### Message from the Network Coordinator

Happy New Year to everyone at HCLN! Welcome to those whose New Year's resolution is to enroll in an upgrading program or to volunteer as a tutor. So far, it has been a busy year of learning at HCLN, with some changes and new faces but with much of the same energy and enthusiasm that help us to succeed as an organization. In addition to the many new learners and tutors who have started at HCLN since September, a special welcome to new board members Eloise Surette and Mike Reddy. Eloise is an accountant who is taking on the very big job of Treasurer, while Mike, who is a lawyer, has agreed to serve as a Member at Large. Both are volunteer tutors in addition to sitting on the HCLN Board, so are true friends of literacy. Thanks for volunteering with us.



*Learning together at the Tutor PD Day at Halifax North Public Library*

In this newsletter, you will find out about upcoming learning opportunities, fundraising efforts and some of the many individuals who work and study with HCLN. I hope you will take the time to read about our activities and consider participating in a professional development opportunity - from information sessions for new tutors to creative writing workshops for learners, there's always lots happening at HCLN!

*All the best for 2007*

*Denise Morley*



*HCLN members at the Captain William Spry Public Library. From left, Mike Reddy, Constance Glube, Eloise Surette, Erica Butler, Linda Oakley, Avril Lewis and Joshua Judah*

### Professional Development Opportunities for Literacy Tutors!

There are several upcoming workshops for adult literacy tutors that could be useful to you in your teaching. Volunteer Tutor Orientations, Tutor Basics, Using Phonics to Teach Reading Skills, and Resource Sharing Sessions are planned for dates in January through May. The Halifax Public Library has also received funds from the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre to organize "teach the teacher" modules for tutors. For details about these opportunities to learn, check the calendar of events at the end of this newsletter, or call 490-5990 or 422-7648 for more details.

### HCLN Book Sale - Saturday May 5th

Clear your book shelves and mark your calendars! On Saturday, May 5th, HCLN will

partner with the Rotary Club of Halifax to hold a book sale at the Halifax Shopping Centre from 10 AM to 6 PM. The Captain William Spry and Halifax North Public Library have offered to accept donations of materials for the sale. We are glad to accept books (no magazines please) that are in good condition. Please call 422-7648 for more information.



*Melissa celebrates both the end of term (and her recent engagement) at the Keshen Goodman Public Library.*

### **Focus on Programs: Melissa Michels of the Keshen Goodman Library Literacy Program**

While Melissa is new to the job of literacy Program Coordinator at the Keshen Goodman Public Library, she has been involved with HCLN for some time, having started as a volunteer tutor at Halifax North in 2003. Tutoring is only one of Melissa's volunteer activities- she has participated in the CIBC Run for the Cure, the Labatt's 24 hour relay for the Abilities Foundation and annual ALS fundraisers. She has also always been drawn to teaching.

It makes sense then, that she would be a perfect fit to coordinate volunteers and their learners at the Keshen Goodman Public

Library. "The thing I like most about coordinating is the fact that I get to be a part of the work that the tutors and learners tackle each week." says Melissa. "As they learn, they teach me about myself. The people in this program cause me to appreciate and measure my own personal successes and, at the same time, I also to get to celebrate theirs."

A graduate of Mount Saint Vincent University, Melissa juggles her job at Keshen Goodman as well as work as an Early Childhood Educator with the Giant Steps Children's Centre. She also recently completed the Nova Scotia Department of Education Tutor & Instructor Training Program.

### **Write On!**

In March, HCLN will partner with Word on the Street Halifax to host creative writing workshops for literacy students at the Keshen Goodman and Halifax North Public Library. The result of these sessions will be another edition of *In Our Words*, a book that will be launched at Word on the Street in September. Please call 422-7648 or ask your Program Coordinator for more information.

And don't forget the annual HCLN yearbook that is published in June- if you have a poem or story to share, let us know!



*Program Coordinator Jennifer Peach enjoying the end of term party with Jamie at the Spring Garden Road Library.*

## Focus on Volunteers: Tom Forsyth

Keshen Goodman Public Library literacy tutor Tom Forsyth is one of our most longstanding volunteers, having started with the Thomas Raddall Library in October 1998. After retirement, Tom felt he wanted to give something back to the community, and in addition to his work as a literacy tutor with HCLN, he has volunteered with the John Howard Society as well as volunteering as a private tutor. "I feel I have been very fortunate in my own life" says Tom "Volunteering is a way for me to pay back the community and enjoy the people I meet through tutoring." Tom is one of 150 volunteers who donate their time to HCLN and we owe a big thank you to him and all of those who work as tutors, board members or help in other ways to make our programs- and students- succeed.



*Volunteer Tom Forsyth at the Keshen Goodman Public Library year end party.*

## HCLN Honour Roll

Congratulations to the following HCLN students whose stories were published on the National Adult Literacy Database in December:

**Ababa Ayele**

**Barb**

**D.H. Oakley**

**Julie Lynne Stanhope**

**Kathy Dobson**

**M.J.**

**Rico Ibrahim**

**Ken McDow**

The stories can be read at: <http://www.nald.ca/story/archive/2006/06dec11.htm> and be sure to check out [www.nald.ca](http://www.nald.ca) for information on literacy issues in Canada.

Congratulations to the following volunteers who completed the Nova Scotia Department of Education Tutor & Instructor Training Program with instructor Avril Lewis in December:

**Melissa Michels**

**Mary Kate Arnold**

**Carol Davis**

**Catherine Dingle**

**Carol Ennis**

**Sarah French**

**Kathleen Hubley**

**Susan Lyons**

**Stella Robertson**

**Julie Sherriff**

Congratulations to HCLN Board Member Constance Glube who was made an Officer of the Order of Canada on December 15. A retired Chief Justice of Nova Scotia (and the first female Chief Justice in Canada), Constance always finds time in her busy schedule to attend meetings, promote literacy and help out with HCLN events.

Congratulations to former Halifax North and Spring Garden Road Public Library Program Coordinator Rachel Lebowitz on the publication of her book, *Hannus*.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy, you can do so at: [http://www.amazon.ca/Hannus-Rachel-A01-Lebowitz/dp/1897141114/ref=sr\\_11\\_1/701-0404891-6825936](http://www.amazon.ca/Hannus-Rachel-A01-Lebowitz/dp/1897141114/ref=sr_11_1/701-0404891-6825936) or, you can check out a copy at the Halifax Public Library.

A special thanks to the following groups or individuals who have supported HCLN recently:

- **Canadian Volunteer Initiative Nova Scotia** for the community grant that will allow the purchase of tutor training materials. For more information on this organization and opportunities for volunteers, check out: <http://www.novascotianetwork.org/>

- **Literacy Nova Scotia** for providing a Literacy Action Week grant that allowed HCLN learners and volunteers to send a message to government about the social and economic value of literacy programs.

- **The Rotary Club of Halifax** who will partner with HCLN to run a book sale at the Halifax Shopping Centre on Saturday, May 5th.

- **The National Adult Literacy Database** for hosting the HCLN web site and providing ongoing support to literacy initiatives in Canada.

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*Denise Morley, Avril Lewis and Carol Davis celebrate the end of Tutor Training at Cornwallis Junior High.*

January 27th is Family Literacy Day, a national initiative that promotes reading and learning together as a family. For more information on Family Literacy Day events taking place in Nova Scotia, check out: <http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/>



*Celebrating the end of term at the Halifax North Library Winter Party*

## HCLN launches Reading Together: a family literacy project in Spryfield

HCLN has applied for a grant to promote reading together to parents and caregivers in Spryfield. If you live in that community and would like to learn more about sharing books with your children, please call 422-7648 for more information.

## More Web Sites for you to check out!

Imagine Bloomfield, a non-profit organization of interested citizens and groups who are working to ensure that the Bloomfield Centre fulfills the potential to be a creative and viable part of Halifax's North End community:

[www.imaginebloomfield.ca](http://www.imaginebloomfield.ca)

Halifax Public Libraries:

<http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/>

Bridging the Gaps:

<http://www.hrca.ns.ca/CLN/>

Literacy Nova Scotia:

<http://www.ns.literacy.ca/>

MCCE, a non-profit organization that is committed to enhancing and extending learning opportunities for adults:

<http://www.mcce.ca/>

Advancing Learning Technologies Project:

<http://alt.ns.literacy.ca>

Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning:

<http://nssal.ednet.ns.ca/>

## Upcoming Events

Contact 422-7648 for more information

**Tutor Information Session**  
Tuesday, Jan 16th / 6:30-8:30 PM  
Captain William Spry Library

**Tutor Information Session**  
Tuesday, Jan 23rd / 6:30-8:30 PM  
Keshen Goodman Public Library

**Tutor Basics**  
Thursday, Jan 25th / 6-8:30 PM  
Keshen Goodman Public Library

**Family Literacy Day**  
Saturday, Jan 27th

**Tutor Information Session**  
Monday, Jan 29th / 6:30-8:30 PM  
Bloomfield Centre

**Tutor Information Session**  
Thursday, Feb 1st / 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
Spring Garden Road Public Library

**Tutor PD Day!**  
Saturday, Feb 3rd / 9:30 AM - 1 PM  
Halifax North Public Library

**In Our Words Workshop**  
Wednesday, March 7th / 10 AM – 12:30 PM  
Halifax North Public Library

**In Our Words Workshop**  
Wednesday, March 14th / 1:30 – 4 PM  
Keshen Goodman Public Library

**National Volunteer Week:**  
April 17th- 21st

**Tutor PD Day!**  
Saturday, April 21st / 9:30 AM – 1 PM  
Halifax North Public Library

**HCLN Book Sale**  
Saturday, May 5th / 10 AM – 6 PM  
Halifax Shopping Centre

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