

Funded by the NS
Department of
Education
Community
Learning Initiative,
HCLN is one of 27
provincial Learning
Networks that offer
adult literacy
programs to
students in their
community.



Getting Across

Newsletter of the Halifax Community Learning Network • Fall 2004

HCLN Board

Chair

Joe Burke

Vice Chair

Gail Ellsworth

Treasurer

Margie Naish-
Buchanan

Secretary

Betty Dobson

Members at Large

Erica Butler
Cathy Gaudette
Tracey Jones

HCLN Staff

**Network
Coordinator**
Denise Morley

**Program
Coordinators**
Linda Oakley
Laura Channon
Rachel Lebowitz

Message from the Network Coordinator

It has been a busy autumn for everyone involved with the Halifax Community Learning Network as new students, volunteers and programs begin. This past July saw the departure of former HCLN Coordinator Tylor McDuff. Tylor is responsible for much of the growth that has taken place at HCLN in the past few years and we wish him all the best in his new life in Yellowknife.

As the new Network Coordinator, it has been a pleasure to meet those who work to make HCLN programs succeed. The Program Coordinators, Board members and volunteer tutors bring to this organization a combination of energy and experience that greatly benefit our many learners. It has also been a pleasure to work with community partners such as the Halifax Public Library and Options Work Activity who provide support including the program space we need to hold classes and tutoring.

This year, HCLN is holding programs at the several branches of the Halifax Public Library as well as the Bloomfield Centre. For more information on our program schedule, check out the HCLN web site at www.hcln.ca.

To all the students who are returning to learning at HCLN, I wish you the best of luck. I am sure your dedication will pay off.

Denise Morley

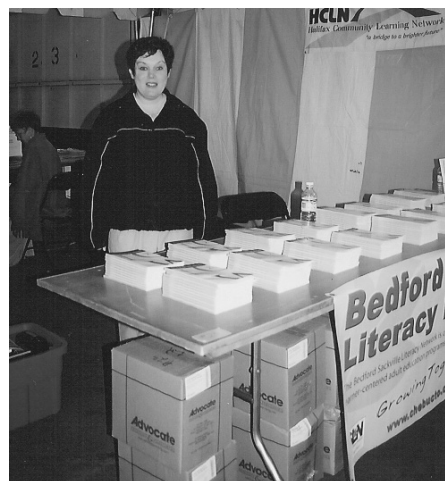


Network Coordinator

HCLN Celebrates Word on the Street

On Sunday, September 25th, HCLN once again participated in Word on the Street, an annual free event that celebrates books and magazines with author readings, book sales and information displays.

The book and magazine fair also saw the launch of *In Our Words 2*, a collection of poetry and stories by adult learners from across Nova Scotia. Congratulations to HCLN student Heather Rumsey whose story called **Our Move to Tangmere Court** was chosen for publication. Heather also helped out with the HCLN display at Word on the Street.



Word on the Street, Fall 2004

Mission Statement

The Halifax Community Learning Network is a community-based non-profit organization that provides quality adult literacy programs in the Halifax area.

Literacy Solutions: Fall Into Learning

On Saturday, November 27th, a day of workshops for literacy teachers and tutors will take place at the Halifax Family Military Resource Centre. Sessions include workshops on creative writing, teaching math and working with students with learning disabilities. This is an excellent opportunity for professional development and to meet others involved in the literacy field.



Enjoying a day of learning at Literacy Solutions, Spring 2004

For more information or to register, call Dawn at 431-9505.

One in Four Canadians Volunteer: Why Not You?

According to Statistics Canada, there are 6.5 million Canadians who volunteer in the non-profit sector. Most find it to be an enriching and rewarding experience that allows them to learn new skills, meet new people, and make a difference in their community.

The Halifax Community Learning Network depends upon volunteers to help us meet the needs of our many students. If you would like to volunteer a few hours a week to help make a difference in someone's life, please call 422-7648.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Farewell to a Friend of Literacy

HCLN was saddened to learn recently of the death of volunteer Christopher Conlan. An employee with

Canada Post, Chris volunteered for two years with the Halifax North Public Library literacy program. A lifelong lover of books, Chris shared his passion and showed his community spirit by tutoring a literacy student.

The Halifax Community Learning Network was also chosen as one of the charities to receive donations in memory of Chris. The generosity of his family and friends has been greatly appreciated.

Ready, Set, Know: Tutor Orientations

Would you like to learn how to get started as a volunteer literacy tutor? Orientation sessions are planned for the following times and locations:

- Bloomfield Centre: Monday, January 17th / 6:30 PM
- Captain William Spry Public Library: Tuesday, January 25th / 6:30 PM
- Keshen Goodman Public Library: Tuesday, February 2nd / 6:30 PM

For more information, or to register, call Denise at 422-7648.

HCLN Student Chosen for NALD Story of the Week

Congratulations to HCLN student D. H. Oakley, whose story has been chosen as a Story of the Week on the National Adult Literacy Database for the week of November 22-29th. Check it out at www.nald.ca

D. H. is a student in the Halifax North Public Library adult upgrading program and attends classes or tutoring three times a week. Well done!

Literacy Action Week...

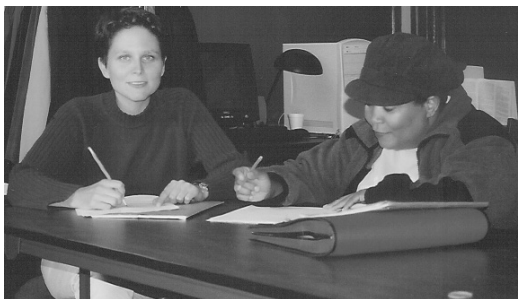
November 1st to 5th was Literacy Action Week in Canada. HCLN marked the event with an information display at the Barrington Street Superstore and an evening of live theatre in partnership with the All Saints Bedford Players.

Thanks to everyone who showed support to HCLN by selling or purchasing tickets for this fundraiser.

Focus on Programs: Bloomfield

The Bloomfield Literacy Program, located in the Bloomfield Centre, has been running for more than a decade. Each week, Coordinator Laura Channon organizes daytime and evening tutoring and small group classes, with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers.

Laura has been working with the Bloomfield Literacy Program for six years, and though she says each year brings new rewards and challenges, she is always impressed with the progress made by her students. While some are working on basic reading and writing, others are studying to write the GED exam. One student recently returned to work for the first time in many years.



Learning together at the Bloomfield literacy program

All of these successes are cause to celebrate and one of the things Laura enjoys about her program is the support the students offer each other as they work toward their various goals.

If you are interested in taking part in the Bloomfield Literacy Program, please call 453-6246 ext. 23.

Fundraising Can Be Fun!

Do you have experience with or an interest in fundraising for HCLN? We are always looking for volunteers to help out with our fundraising endeavors.

Recent activities include a book sale and a play done in partnership with the All Saints Bedford Players. If you have ideas or would like to get involved, called Denise at 422-7648.

Our Learners Write...

Our Move to Tangmere Court

By Heather Rumsey

Our last house was put up for sale in April 2003. And it was finally sold in July 2003. During this time we looked for a new home. We wanted a duplex so that Debbie, Erika and Jenna could live on one side and my aunt and I could live on the other side.

We looked at many homes and duplexes. We were getting frustrated at this point in time. There were no duplexes available to move into before our closing date.

We finally found a house to live in at Tangmere Court.

The reason why we bought the house is because it looked bigger than our previous home.

The house consists of the following, 3 bedrooms upstairs and a living room and dining room, kitchen and bathroom.

The basement has 1 bathroom, a computer room which we just painted and there are two bedrooms plus a laundry room.

I'm still not used to my room. My room was one of the first rooms painted pale yellow and I just bought a bed in a bag to match.

I like my room because it is roomy and cosy and has closet space. Our yard isn't very big. During the hurricane time, we had our deck built on and it was difficult without power.

Web Sites We Like...

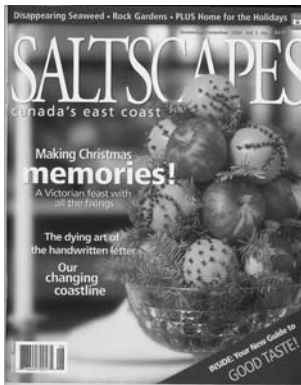
www.nald.ca

www.myenglishlessons.net

www.literacy.ca

<http://gseweb.harvard.edu/~nscall/fob/>

Give the Gift of Reading...



In more ways than one!

This year, The Halifax Community Learning Network will benefit from the Community Spirit program at Saltscapes Magazine and partner for a literacy fundraiser and magazine subscription drive. Thanks to the generosity of those at Saltscapes, HCLN will receive \$10 for every new subscription we sell of Atlantic Canada's premiere lifestyle magazine. If you are interested in purchasing a subscription or helping to sell the magazine, please call 422-7648.

NALD: A Literacy Library at Your Fingertips

For tutors with access to the Internet, the National Adult Literacy Database (www.nald.ca) is an excellent resource and we are fortunate to have Charles Ramsey from NALD visit in January to provide hands-on workshops exploring adult education resources on the web. These workshops are open to those already volunteering in HCLN programs and registration is required.

Please call Denise at 422-7648 for more information.

- **Captain William Spry Public Library**
Thursday, January 13th, 10am-12pm
- **Halifax North Public Library**
Friday, January 14th, 9:30-11:30am

- **Keshen Goodman Public Library**
Wednesday, January 12th, 6:30-8:30 (for tutors only)
Friday, January 14th, 1:30-3:30pm

HCLN Says Thanks to:

- All of those who volunteer their time with the Halifax Community Learning Network as tutors, Board Members or community partners. Your generosity and community spirit is an inspiration!
- Literacy Nova Scotia for providing financial support for this newsletter.
- Karen Saunders, Stu Ducklow and Allen White for their technical support
- The All Saints Bedford Players for allowing us to sell tickets to **The Murder Room** as a fundraiser for HCLN
- The YMCA on Gottigen Street for allowing HCLN programs to take place there during the Halifax North Public Library renovations

HCLN Wish List

We would very much appreciate donations of the following items for our office and programs:

- Computer paper
- Stamps
- Binders
- Ink cartridges
- Computer software
- Office supplies

Please call 422-7648 if you would like to make a donation.

A Few Facts on Literacy...

- **A total of 52% of Atlantic Canadians have problems with everyday reading and writing.**
- **There is a strong correlation between a person's literacy ability their ability to find and retain employment.**

-Background Information on Literacy