

# 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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Jennifer Peach  
Linda Oakley

Tutor Training / Instructor  
Avril Lewis

Administrative Assistant  
Jennifer Tower

## Getting Across - Spring 2007

Newsletter of the Halifax Community Learning Network

### Message from HCLN

Spring is in the air at HCLN! Although programs will soon be winding down for the summer break, there's plenty of upcoming events and activities to keep us busy...

National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 15th to 21st. HCLN will be celebrating with potluck gatherings at programs throughout April, and a half-day of tutor workshops for volunteers on April 21st at the Halifax North Public Library. For more details, please see page 4.

And summer can't come until HCLN holds its annual book sale. This year we are lucky to have the support of the Rotary Club of Halifax who are helping organize the sale on May 5th at the Halifax Shopping Centre.

Spring brings changes as well, and HCLN has had its fair share in 2007. After years of tireless work and dedication to improving adult literacy in HRM, Network Coordinator Denise Morley has decided to take a break for a few months. Noone deserves it more than her! Denise is keeping in touch with HCLN and sends her best wishes to all learners, tutors and staff. Holding down the fort at the HCLN office is interim coordinator Erica Butler and administrative assistant Jennifer Tower.

And the changes don't stop there. Board Treasurer Eloise Surette has recently retired her position, but not before recruiting the latest member of the HCLN team, Lori Haines, to take over the HCLN books. Lori is a chartered accountant with WBLI in Bedford. Welcome aboard, Lori. And many thanks for all your hard work, Eloise.

Finally, a big thank you to all the contributors who helped make another issue of *Getting Across* possible. We hope you enjoy it!

*HCLN Staff*



Your friendly neighbourhood HCLN office staff, Erica Butler and Jennifer Tower.

### HCLN's new Family Literacy Project hits Spryfield

HCLN will be hosting four free family literacy workshops in the Spryfield community this spring for moms, dads and other caregivers of young children. In these workshops, people will share ideas, activities and local resources for parents to help make learning fun for everyone in the home. You will get to meet local resource people from the community and other parents, learn about free or nearly free resources in the community and get some free materials on the workshop topics. Refreshments and resources will also be provided. Workshop topics include:

*Learning Through Play* – April 19th

*Read Write Now* – May 3rd

*Math is Fun* – May 17th

*Resources in my Community* – May 31st

All workshops will be held at the Captain William Spry Centre and will run from 9:30 am – 11:15 am on the dates above.

Sessions are free, but registration is required. Just call Veronica at 404-0107 if you are interested in information or attending.

## Focus on Programs: Jennifer Peach of the Halifax North & Spring Garden Road Adult Literacy Programs



I can honestly say that I LOVE my job! As the Literacy Program Coordinator for the Spring Garden Road and Halifax North Public Libraries, I am a daily witness to people's limitless potential and possibility. Everyday I have the privilege to share in the empowerment of other individuals and support them through the process of their specific learning goals. It has truly been an honor to work with such wonderful groups of diverse personalities, all lending to the "each one, teach one" philosophy. Learning is a continual, life-long process and nowhere is that more evident than in our literacy programs.

*Jennifer Peach*

## 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. So come fill up on books for the beach or cottage, and support HCLN. Please call 422-7648 for more information.

**Book Drop Off:** The Captain William Spry and Halifax North Public Library are accepting donations of materials for the sale. We are glad to accept books (no magazines please) that are in good condition.

**Booksale Volunteers:** All HCLN learners and tutors are invited to help out on May 5th, whether it be by lugging boxes of books, or making your best sales pitch to passersby. Call 422-7648 if you can help.

## Write On!

In March, author Jenni Blackmore worked with blossoming writers at the Halifax North and Keshen Goodman Public Libraries. Learner writings will be published by Word on the Street Halifax, in their third edition of In Our Words: Canadians Reading Together. Look for it at Word on the Street in September!

Workshop participant Denise Everick-Moore reports back on how the workshops went:

## Thank you to Jenni Blackmore

I did not want to attend this class because I was nervous and I was hoping that I didn't know anyone. When I arrived I looked in the room and saw all the people in there and I walked away. One of the ladies came out and asked me if I was there for the literacy class. I said "yes" and we walked in together. I sat down and listened to the speaker. Her name is Jenni Blackmore. She is an author.

I thought she was wonderful, very nice and made you feel that anyone could write. It's all about you and the paper, there's no right or wrong. She also gave tips on writing. Just let it flow, so what if you make a mistake, you always can fix it up later.

There were about fifteen to twenty in the class, young and old knowing that they were there for the same reason I was. Jenny asked all of us to write something down on paper and she walked around the room to see if we had any questions that she could help out with. At the end of the class she asked if anyone wanted to read their story out loud. A couple of people did. Then Jenny sat by me and asked if I would read my story. I thought I would die because I was so nervous and I was shaking so bad. I read my story and everyone seemed to like it.

Everyone thought I should let Jenny publish it and I said "yes". Thank you for giving me the courage to do it.

*Denise Everick-Moore*



*Soon-to-be-published writer,  
Denise Everick-Moore*

## Focus on Volunteers: Mike Reddy



Keshen Goodman Program Coordinator Melissa Michels and volunteer tutor Mike Reddy smile for the camera.

Mike Reddy is not only a dedicated volunteer tutor, but also a volunteer member of the HCLN board. Mike joined HCLN in October 2006 and is currently tutoring at the Keshen Goodman Public Library and volunteering his time to help out with the upcoming book sale.

Mike moved to Halifax in June 2006 from Newfoundland. He is a lawyer and will be working with Haynes Group of Lawyers in Halifax starting in April. When asked why he became a literacy tutor, Mike says that both of his parents are retired teachers and he has seen first hand many people with literacy issues. Mike has always been interested in adult literacy, so he finally fulfilled his interest by becoming a volunteer tutor with HCLN to help those in need. Mike also decided to become a member of the HCLN board when he heard they were in need of people. He did so because he was interested in the business aspect of things and wanted to see what being on a board entailed and how it would implement HCLN programs throughout the HRM. Mike previously volunteered for about two years as a coach and umpire in Newfoundland with Waterford Valley Softball Recreation.

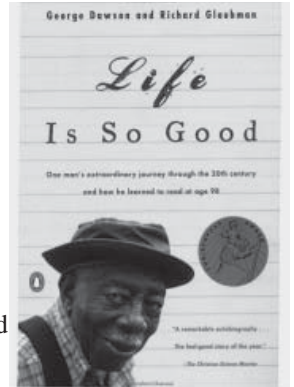
Mike is one of 150 volunteers who donate their time to HCLN and we owe a big thank you to him and all of those who work as tutors, board members or help in other ways to make our programs-and students-successful.

Mike- Congratulations and Good Luck with your new venture!

Jennifer Tower

## Book Review: Life Is So Good by George Dawson with Richard Glaubman

George Dawson at 98 is learning to read. He is now 101 years old and telling his story of how “Life is so good”. Right from the start, it captured my heart and attention. George, from the age four, was a hard worker. He always wanted to go to school, but growing up poor in Texas, the southern United States in the early twentieth century and being black, it was not an option. George had to leave home at the age of twelve to work on the Little’s farm. His pay, of 1.50 a week, went home to his father. Being alone for the first time, and living in a shed out back of the Little’s house, he cried. For the first time George felt sorry for himself.



After being away from home for four years George came home to work on his father’s farm, where he stayed until he was twenty one. At that time his father told him it was time for him to do whatever he wanted. With this, his father told him, “A man is born to die”, and not to worry about what would happen to him in life, that life was getting better.

“Why am I still alive, healthy, with all my memories?” George had wondered to himself. Now at ninety eight, George is going to school, with his question answered. He now knows, it is to tell his story.

Myself, I have struggled with reading and writing since my childhood. I appreciate being able to enjoy reading at this stage of life. I appreciate the adult literacy program. I appreciate how after only having been in this program less than a year, I can read this very special book and put my thoughts on paper. Life Is So Good.

Barb Pottier

This book is in the HRM Library system. It is also available in Large Print. HCLN also has three copies available for use by tutors and learners.



Book reviewer Barb Pottier and her reading pick: *Life is So Good* by George Dawson.

### HCLN Honour Roll

Congratulations to the following HCLN students:

**Chris & Mark**, who recently took the GED test.

**Geraldine McLeod**, who recently got a new part-time job.

**Jeff**, who recently started a full time learning program at the Cunard Centre

**Mulu**, who has become more successful in his classes as a result of the extra work he does with the Bloomfield Literacy Program.

**Barb Pottier**, who had a letter to the editor published recently in the Sunday Herald.

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

**Word on the Street Halifax** for hosting writing workshops for adult learners, and for the upcoming publication of *In Our Words 3: Canadians Reading Together*.

**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 Adult Learning Knowledge Centre** for funding the creation of a four-part Tutor Basics Workshop Series for literacy tutors in HRM. The series will be reoffered in the fall!

### Web Sites for you to check out!

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/>

### Learner Awards & Bursaries

Hey learners! Get recognized for your achievements! Applications for the following awards are due by May 16, 2007. Ask your program coordinator for more information.

**2007 Provincial Learner Achievement Award:** for learners in a literacy or upgrading program who are returning in the fall.

**2007 Nova Scotia Learner Award:** for Adult High School or GED graduates who are moving on to college or university.

Literacy Nova Scotia also has opportunities for financial support for learners at all levels. The deadline for bursaries and scholarships is September 28, 2007. Ask your program coordinator for information.

### Tutor Workshops: APRIL 21

Two great hands-on workshops to help tutors learn how to use technology to support their tutoring practice. Find out how to use commonly available literacy software and the Internet in adult learning.

**Saturday, April 21st, 9:30am to 1pm**  
**Halifax North Public Library**  
**Snacks provided.**

**Registration required!**

Call 422-7648 for more info or to register.

*9:30am to 11am*

**Literacy Learning Online** with Jane McDonald of the Advanced Learning Technology Project

*11:20am to 1pm*

**Literacy Software Hands-On** with Stephanie Langill and Elaine Frampton of Bridging the Gaps Computer Literacy Program.



*Tutors Jane, Ralph and Mary Ann finish of the last of the Tutor Basics Workshop Series at the Halifax North Library.*

### Join the HCLN Board of Directors

We are always on the lookout for individuals to help steer HCLN in the right direction. The Board meets once a month to discuss projects and activities. Please call 422-7648 if you'd like more information.

### Upcoming Events

*Please call 422-7648 for more information about any upcoming events.*

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

**Spring Garden Adult Literacy Volunteer Appreciation Party**  
Tuesday, April 17th / 6:30 – 8:30pm  
Spring Garden Public Library

**Halifax North Adult Literacy Volunteer Appreciation Party**  
Wednesday, April 18th / 6:30 – 8:30pm  
Halifax North Public Library

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

**Keshen Goodman Adult Literacy Volunteer Appreciation Party**  
Wednesday, April 25th / 6:30 – 8:30pm  
Keshen Goodman Public Library

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

**HCLN Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 8th / 4:00pm  
Roy Building, room 232

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