

# 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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Laura Channon  
Rachel Lebowitz

**Instructor**  
Avril Lewis

## Getting Across - Winter 2006

Newsletter of the Halifax Community Learning Network

### Message from the Network Coordinator

Happy New Year to everyone at the Halifax Community Learning Network, especially to those whose new year's resolution is to return to learning or volunteer their time with a literacy program. I hope your experience with HCLN will be a good one.



From now until June, one to one tutoring programs will take place several times a week at the Captain William Spry, Halifax North, Keshen Goodman and Spring Garden Road Public Libraries as well as the Bloomfield Centre. (for a full program schedule, please check the web site at [www.hcln.ca](http://www.hcln.ca)) We are also pleased to offer a new classroom program at the Captain William Spry and Halifax North Libraries and to welcome Avril Lewis on board as an instructor. Avril has many years of experience in adult education and in addition to teaching at HCLN, she will be delivering the NS Department of Education Tutor and Instructor Training Program this winter for many of our volunteer tutors.

We have much to celebrate at the Halifax Community Learning Network and this newsletter is dedicated to marking some of the many successes we have achieved together. The recently published Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS) shows a marked improvement in literacy levels in Nova Scotia and in our work at HCLN, we see evidence of this progress every day. From a student who gains the confidence to read aloud for the first

time, apply for a job, or write the GED test—all of these accomplishments and many others are good reasons to be proud of the work done at HCLN. This newsletter also includes some of the many stories HCLN learners have shared with us. They are great writers.

*Denise Morley*  
422-7648  
[hcln@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:hcln@ns.sympatico.ca)



*Bloomfield Literacy Program Coordinator Laura Channon at the Winter Party*

## Congratulations

to the following HCLN students whose stories were published on the National Adult Literacy Database during the week of Dec 12-17th. To read the stories, check out the Story of the Week archives at [www.nald.ca](http://www.nald.ca)

**Heather Rumsey**  
**Chris**  
**Jeffrey LeBlanc**  
**Roseann Martell**  
**D.H. Oakley**  
**Kenneth McDow**  
**Jocelyn Morris**  
**Julie Lynne Stanhope**

### My New Home

By **Melvin J. Doyle**

*Halifax North Public Library*

I was told by staff at my group home that it would be a good step for me to move to the North Street small options home. They said the new staff at North Street were good.

So on Friday October 7th, I had to cancel my tutoring so I could move to my new home. When I got there, Mary was working. I worked with her before at Joseph Howe. She is a very good worker- she has a great personality and is fun to work with.

On Thanksgiving Day I met Andres. She is also a great worker. I got to know her very well. She helped me cook a special supper for Thanksgiving. I had my girlfriend Isabel over for supper. Andrea made her feel welcome and that made me very happy.

I think this will be a good step toward moving into my own apartment some day. Right now I have a lot of independence and more time for myself.

I often go for coffee at Robin's Donuts- sometimes by myself- sometimes with John, who also lives at North Street.

### Running in Winter

By **Leslie Ryan**

*Spring Garden Road Public Library Program*



I am very careful about running in winter. I check the sidewalks and if they are slippery, I don't run.

The reason I am so careful is because I got hit by a car one winter. I was in a crosswalk by the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth. I had run across the bridge.

When I was hit I lay on the pavement. The police and ambulance came. I wouldn't go in the ambulance because I was afraid I would have to pay. The policeman drove me home.

I was lucky I did not have any broken bones but I was really sore. After I got home I walked to the hospital to get my legs checked out. That was a hard walk.

When I was feeling better I called Legal Aid because I didn't think that the driver should get away with this. They gave me the number of a lawyer. The lawyer got all the reports from the police

and my doctor. We sued the driver but we didn't go to court because it was settled out of court. I was happy when this was over. I was mad because the driver had lied but he didn't get away with it.

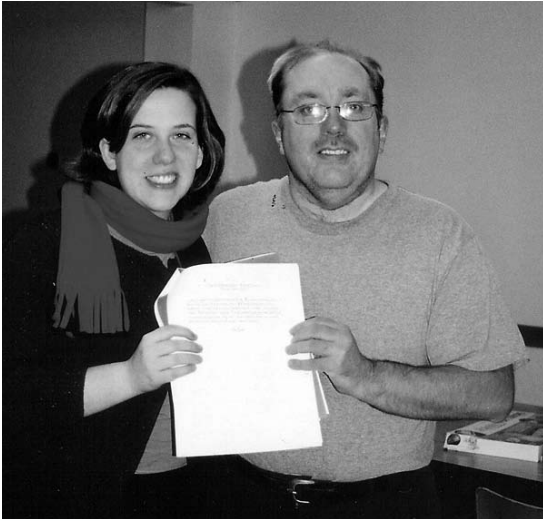
I am very grateful to the other runners and another driver who witnessed the accident. They were very good to me.

I was lucky, but I am very careful when I run in the winter now.

### HCLN Honour Roll

A big thank you to the following individuals and organizations that have shown outstanding support to this Network:

- **Dr. Bridge Pachai and the Rotary Club of Halifax** for their generous donation of funds to print the Ready, Set Know tutor kit
- **Literacy Nova Scotia** for their ongoing support to community literacy and in particular for the donation toward our Literacy Action Week activities
- **The Halifax Public Library and Bloomfield Centre**, our community partners who provide support and program space to HCLN
- **The Nova Scotia Canadian Volunteer Initiative Community Support Program** for their grant to provide professional development opportunities to literacy tutors
- **The Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning**, for allowing us to offer FREE literacy programs in our community
- **Grace McGregor and Etta Hamm** for sharing their experiences at HCLN with the Southender
- **The National Adult Literacy Database ([www.nald.ca](http://www.nald.ca))** who maintain the HCLN web-site, publish stories by our students and continue to do excellent work promoting literacy initiatives across Canada
- **Matt Likely of Oatmeal Design** who volunteers his time to many HCLN projects including this newsletter
- **Wil and Gord Gamble of Minuteman Press-** a business with a heart- for their support of non profit organizations such as HCLN
- **All the volunteers who give their time as tutors, Board members and in other ways. We couldn't do it without you!**



*Robert and Jenna enjoying themselves at the Spring Garden Road Winter Party*

## Roseann's Story

By Roseann Martell

*Captain William Spry Library Program*

Hi, my name is Roseann Martell. I have been coming to the upgrading program for the last three years. The first year I did not learn too much because my first tutor went on to something else, so it kind of set me back.

The next year I met my second tutor Carolyn Gallagher. What Carolyn and I are doing is reading and writing skills and I also have a math tutor that is helping me with my math. When I started the program I could hardly read or write, but now I can do all these things. My math skills are so good now that I am doing some grade twelve math! I am so happy that I can read and write so much better, just ask Linda!

I just would like to give a special thanks to my reading tutor Carolyn Gallagher and my math tutor David and a special thanks to Linda Oakley coordinator for the Literacy Program.

## Learning Opportunities for Literacy Tutors

Make sure to check the Upcoming Events section the end of this newsletter and mark your calendars for workshops on Tutoring Basics, Learning Blocks and the ever popular Literacy Solutions, all happening for HCLN volunteers. For more information, contact 422-7648 or e-mail [hcln@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:hcln@ns.sympatico.ca)

## The following are just a few of the success stories achieved by HCLN students recently.

Congratulations to:

- **Sarah and Barbara** from the Keshen Goodman Library program who are now enrolled and doing well at the Nova Scotia Community College
- **Rhonda** from the Keshen Goodman Library program who successfully wrote and did very well on the GED
- **Amber** from the Captain William Spry Library program who enrolled and is doing well at the Nova Scotia Community College
- **Michael** from the Captain William Spry Library program, who has been accepted at the Cunard Centre and will start in February.
- **Britney Henneberry** has been accepted by the Indigo Project in Spryfield. She will get GED preparation and a job placement in this program.
- **Vicky Farewell** of the Halifax North Library program who has been reassessed from 1A to 1B
- **Bonita Shepherd** of the Halifax North Library program, who passed all 5 GED tests on first try in June and is now enrolled in Clemente program
- **Rose** of the Halifax North Library program enrolled in Clemente program
- **Melvin** from the Halifax North Library program who moved from a group home to apartment living program and read a pamphlet aloud for the first time at a meeting
- **Irene-Ann** from the Spring Garden Road Library program, who completed the Prior Learning Assessment portfolio program in June
- **Carol and Ida Mae** of the Bloomfield Literacy Program, who have moved on to study at the Flexible Learning Centre.
- **Pam** from the Bloomfield Literacy Program who recently got a new job

Congratulations to Halifax North Library student D.H. Oakley for winning a prize in the Halifax Public Library Story Contest for the following story, which is posted on the Halifax Public Library web-site ([www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca](http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca))

### My Story: Time to Reflect

By D.H. Oakley

I've been coming to the library literacy program for four years. The first year wasn't a good one. I didn't get along with the tutor. We only stayed together for a couple of months. But the last three years have been good. I learned a lot and have more confidence than I ever had before. I know for sure the tutor makes a big difference. There is always one bad apple in the bunch. (Ha.) I don't know. I could have been the bad apple. (Who me?)

I sure have changed in the last couple of months. Just today I was pumping gas and I noticed a sign saying, the cashier doesn't take change \$50 bills or higher. I couldn't have read that a couple of years ago. I wouldn't even have tried to read it.

Another time I was in line at a car dealer, waiting for an oil change. I was fifth in line and was drinking a cup of coffee, just looking around at the different bays. I was really reading the signs. Then I shook my head. I had tears in my eyes. I was excited. Time is creeping up on me. I hope I can fulfill my dreams of getting a GED someday so I can be a tutor and help someone just like me.



*Celebrating the end of term at the Keshen Goodman Public Library Winter Party*

### The International Adult Literacy Survey

The International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) was last conducted in 1994 and has recently been replaced with the Adults Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS) which was released in November. For information about how Canada placed in this survey, check out the Statistics Canada web site at:

<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/051130/d051130b.htm>

### For more information about adult literacy events, check out the following web-sites:

<http://www.abc-canada.org/>  
<http://www.literacy.ca/>  
<http://www.ns.literacy.ca/>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/>

### Congratulations

to the following students whose work was published in Over the Mountain 8: Success Starts Here. Several HCLN programs celebrated Literacy Action Week with the launch of and readings from Over the Mountain.

**Chris Bowes**  
**Beatrice Cooke**  
**Darlene Coulstring**  
**Kathy Dobson**  
**Melvin J. Doyle**  
**Jeffrey LeBlanc**  
**Kenneth McDow**  
**Cherie Messervy**  
**D.H. Oakley**  
**Paul**

### Upcoming Events

**January 18th:**  
Tutor Orientation  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Halifax North Library

**January 18th:**  
Tutor Training Starts

**January 27th:**  
Family Literacy Day  
[http://www.nald.ca/literacyevents/fld/province\\_fid.asp?lang=1&scope=3&y ear1=2005&province=7](http://www.nald.ca/literacyevents/fld/province_fid.asp?lang=1&scope=3&y ear1=2005&province=7)

**February 2nd:**  
Tutor Orientation  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Keshen Goodman Library

**February 13th:**  
Tutoring Basics  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Keshen Goodman Library

**March 23rd:**  
Learning Blocks  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Keshen Goodman Library

**March 29th:**  
Tutor Training Complete

**April 1st-8th:**  
NS Adult Learning Week

**April 8th:**  
Literacy Solutions  
Details TBA

**April 23-29th:**  
National Volunteer Week

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