



# When We Get Together

Yearbook 2013

**HCLN**



Halifax Community Learning Network

*"a bridge to a brighter future"*

The Halifax Community Learning Network (HCLN)  
is a registered charity (# 85750 9335 RR0001) and  
donations can be made at:

<http://www.canadahelps.org/>

## Dedication—Constance Glube



The 2013 HCLN Yearbook, *When We Get Together*, is dedicated to Honourary Board Chair, Constance Glube.

I first met Constance when she approached HCLN about making a donation to literacy in memory of a friend. This happened to be a time when we were looking for a keynote speaker for the Literacy Solutions conference. So began a wonderful relationship that has lasted for nearly a decade.

Constance Glube is the former Chief Justice of this province and the first female Chief Justice in Canada as well as the first female City Manager in Halifax. She has received the Order of Canada and many other accolades including the establishment of the Constance Glube Spirit Award by the NS Canadian Bar Association.

Constance ‘retired’ from work in 2004 and joined the board of HCLN the following year. Since then, she has been an excellent ambassador for our work and a very wise sounding board for all decisions.

HCLN is just one of many, many causes that Constance supports. Her passion is infectious. She makes a casual mention of her work in restorative justice and women in conflict with the law, and somehow we found ourselves involved in the All Courts Education Seminar, which gave HCLN and others the opportunity to speak to many judges about the issue of literacy in the courtroom.

I mention the Mooseheads and discover that there is a Glube Cup Charity Hockey Tournament that provides support to Feed Nova Scotia.

Constance exemplifies the best of what we do at the Halifax Community Learning Network—and I think she carries the words *Halifax, community, and learning* wherever she goes.

Thank you, Constance for giving HCLN your time and we hope you will stay on board for another decade. Your wisdom and kindness are very much needed and appreciated. You are an inspiration to us all.

**The Halifax Community Learning Network (HCLN)** is one of forty community-based adult learning programs funded through the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education's Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning.

HCLN offers free programs for adults at the Captain William Spry Public Library, Halifax North Public Library, Keshen Goodman Public Library, the Spring Garden Road Public Library and other locations.

If you know someone who needs help improving his or her literacy skills or are interested in volunteering as a tutor, please contact us at:

(902) 422-7648

[\*\*hcln@ns.sympatico.ca\*\*](mailto:hcln@ns.sympatico.ca)

[\*\*www.hcln.ca\*\*](http://www.hcln.ca)

For information about other learning opportunities in Nova Scotia, check out the new Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning web site at:

[\*\*www.goNSSAL.ca\*\*](http://www.goNSSAL.ca) or call 1-877-466-7725

A volunteer Board of Directors governs HCLN. A very big thank you to the 2012-13 Board Members:

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## Introduction & Thanks

*Denise Morley*

“Reading is important, because if you can read, you can learn anything about everything and everything about anything.” – Tomie dePaola



*Linda, Denise and Pat celebrate the end of the  
GED Spryfeild Project*

I am pleased and proud to introduce the Halifax Community Learning Network yearbook, *When We Get Together*. The title comes from a poem by Darlene Coulstring of the Spring Garden Road Adult Learning Program and I think it captures perfectly the spirit of what we do together, at HCLN.

It takes many hands (and hearts and minds) to make our programs happen and the generosity of this community and what we achieve together continues to amaze me.

Take for example, the GED Spryfield Project. I wrote the proposal for funding through the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning- but that is just the beginning. The

uber organized Pat Roberts, and instructors Linda Oakley and Daun Windover did extraordinary work in teaching and supporting the participants in the class through math, snowstorms and IT glitches. Tutors came out of 'retirement' or did double duty as volunteers with the group. Carolyn Langlands and the staff of Captain William Spry Centre provided a sunny classroom and were always helpful. The Halifax Public Library let us use their computer room and Matthew McCarthy in particular provided support whenever needed. The Chebucto Wellness Centre and Metroworks Spryfield had a hand in things too. When you consider that all of this work represents just one of 5 programs we offer, you understand how much we appreciate our community partners and volunteers. From free juice (thanks, Oasis!) to good books (thanks, Bookmark!) we have much to be grateful for.

Together, we have celebrated International Literacy Day, the Word on the Street Festival, Literacy Action Week, Nova Scotia Adult Learners' Week and National Volunteer Week—the list goes on. Together, we have learned about Tutor Basics, Reading Horizons, Deconstructing Math Word Problems and more. Together, we have helped HCLN learners reach goals ranging from writing a first e-mail to passing the GED exam and everything in between. Indeed, this yearbook would not exist if not for the work of many.

A lot happens when we get together and I thank everyone who is part of the Halifax Community Learning Network. Thank you for caring, sharing and learning with us. HCLN exists because of YOU!

## **Thanks to the following groups and individuals for being friends of HCLN:**

Andre Davey  
Anne Doggett  
Bedford-Sackville Learning Network  
Bookmark Book Store  
Carolyn Langlands  
Cathy Campbell  
Chebucto West & Halifax Community Health Board  
CIBC  
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Wil Gamble  
Word on the Street, Halifax

## Message from Chair of the Board

*Joshua Judah*

The grit and strength of character of all the learners who participate in our programs is the driving force behind HCLN. This year we registered more than 140 students and received the support of more than 6,000 hours of volunteer time. I congratulate you for a fine effort and a year of accomplishments.



*Josh Judah receiving the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal for his volunteer work*

Once again this year we are fortunate to have an excellent group of dedicated staff and volunteers. I hope you take great pride in the quality of this Yearbook. It would not be possible without you.

This year we were sad to see Coordinator Jen Hill leave her position with Halifax North, but were very happy to welcome back Rachel Lebowitz after a nine-year absence from HCLN. We also said goodbye to longtime supporter and Board Member Tracey Jones who served as our Halifax Public Library contact. Luckily, Tracey's position was taken by Heather MacKenzie, a key staff person with the Halifax Public Library and an excellent addition to HCLN. We were also excited to welcome former tutor Jane Bolivar to our Board.

Some other highlights include our GED Spryfield Project, which allowed several learners to pass the GED. Volunteer Tutor Cathy Taylor received the Mainland North Recognition Award and Board Member. Bonnie Boivin won an HRM Volunteer Recognition Award. In addition, Ryan Maissoneauve won the Nova Scotia Adult Learners' Week writing contest and received his award at an event at the World Trade and Convention Centre. Congratulations to everyone.

Finally, I am very happy this yearbook is dedicated to Constance Glube. I have known Mrs. Glube all my life. She is the living embodiment of the maxim, "if you need help, ask the busiest person you know." Thank you for finding time for us.

## **My Experience with HCLN**

*By Jane Bolivar*

I am proud and humbled to be involved with the HCLN. Being a volunteer tutor has provided for me the gift of being useful. I am passionate about improving literacy levels in Nova Scotia. Indeed it is linked to so much that we value in our society. To have self-confidence and self-esteem - to feeling connected to your world and the world around you - to gainful employment, role modeling for children and others...Literacy is key to a healthy and happy life.

As a volunteer tutor - I was afforded the luxury of working one on one with some incredible and determined individuals. Offering them support, guidance and

friendship has been gratifying on many levels - and seeing what they can accomplish is magic. It truly is magic to me.

Currently I am grateful to be a member of the HCLN Board of Directors. I have not met a more dedicated and caring group of individuals - all very committed to supporting the good work of this organization.

I thank Denise Morley and all the staff of the Network - they make the organization run in a smooth and progressive way. It is a joy to be part of such a great team!

## Message from Sandy Crocker

I did not realize the extent of the importance of the yearbook until I read one of the stories aloud at a meeting of executives. When I finished and looked up, I saw one of the participants wiping tears from their eyes.



*Sandy at the HCLN Literacy Action Week booth*

The stories in this yearbook give a lot of joy back to the community and many people look forward to reading it every year. On behalf of the library, I would like to thank the learners and tutors for working so hard to share their talent and lives with us.

## Message from Jen Hill

This year for me has been a year of change, so I have been thinking about change. I said “goodbye” to everyone at Halifax North (I miss you!) and I started a new adventure as the ELL coordinator at Keshen Goodman.



*Jen teaching Tutor Basics at Halifax North*

In the meantime, all the tutors and learners at Spring Garden have been working hard – and those builders across the street have been working hard on our new Central Library! Lots more change will be in our future, as this time next year we will be getting ready to move.

Leo Tolstoy said:

“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.”

However, I’d argue that we change the world by changing ourselves. We change ourselves when we go back to school, volunteer to help someone else, travel, try something new, join a group we may not have joined before. Maybe it’s the only way most of us can or do change the world. Slowly and surely, we and our world become different.

Barack Obama said:

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

So go out, embrace the change that surrounds us and the opportunities it can bring. Go out, learn something new – like you’ve done this year - and make yourself a little bit different. Be proud of yourself and of the journey that has gotten you to the place where you are and the places you will go in the future.

It has been a wonderful year working with all of you. I am proud to be part of a program where learners and tutors achieve such successes. I am fortunate too to work with some fantastic and supportive co-workers. In particular this year – welcome back Rachel! It’s great to work with you again.

Thank you – and have a wonderful summer everyone!

## **Message from Patricia Roberts**

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.” Albert Einstein

This was my fifth year as coordinator of the adult literacy program at the Keshen Goodman Public Library and it was yet another successful year. We had 35 adults enter our program and have twenty-five learners who meet with tutors on a weekly basis. Our extremely talented

volunteer tutors make the program possible and they have volunteered approximately 1,400 hours this year, which is pretty amazing. A huge thanks goes to all of them. One of our exceptional tutors, Cathy Taylor, received a 10th anniversary Champion



*Pat in action at the CWS GED class*

Award, given by the Mainland North Volunteer Recognition Committee on May 8th. Congratulations, Cathy!

I was also coordinator of our GED class at the Captain William Spry Centre in Spryfield for the second year. We had 12 students register for the class and ended up with a group who studied very hard for the full 20 weeks of the program. Many wrote the GED in March and several passed at that time. More wrote the sections they didn't passed (largely math) in May and 3 more succeeded. A few others plan to write the test in June or next fall. One student is now enrolled in the WEE program through Women's Unlimited and several students are considering attending a trade program at NSCC in September.

The learners at Keshen Goodman continue to be a major source of inspiration and we had several success stories this year. To date, we have had 2 learners pass the GED and we have at least 7 more who plan to write the test by the end of the year. GED learners were by the far the largest group of learners this year and since the GED is converting to an electronic version in January 2014, we anticipate receiving many more applications next

year. Several learners wrote wonderful submissions for our annual yearbook, some for the first time. We also had learners and tutors attend a Publish It! Workshop to create stories, complete with colour pictures. One learner made a formal submission to the LNS writing completion this winter and, although he didn't win, his success story of completing the GED and continuing on with his studies to support his family is truly motivating. We also had apprentices in trade programs be successful with tutoring, and who are now scheduled to write the Red Seal exams.

Technology has been widely used this year to the benefit of many tutors and learners. Laptops continue to be used in all the sessions and we received many new licenses for the Canadian Reading Horizons online site. Both tutors and learners really enjoy using this software. We also have access to an iPad and have downloaded many free math apps which are great practice for our learners.

As always, big thanks go to the fabulous staff at the Keshen Goodman Library. They are extremely helpful and pleasant and continuously make us feel welcome. And of course a giant thank you to Denise Morley for all that she does – from support to professional development to the yearbook to new resources, Denise does it all. And all with a smile! Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing everyone in September!

## Message from Rachel Lebowitz

I first started working as the adult literacy coordinator at Halifax North library nine years ago. I loved the job. Every day I was inspired by the hard work that the learners did, the way they persevered through challenges far harder



*Rachel, and Denise at the Reading Horizons workshop with Andre Davey*

than I've had to face, the way they achieved successes, whether it was reading in front of others for the first time, or getting a learner's license or GED. It was exciting to be a part of their journey, and I found I learned just as much, if not more, from them than they did from me, or their tutors.

In 2006, I left the job so I could pursue my education degree. I did other things: moved across the country, became a mother, wrote a new book, taught other adult learners, taught children. But I've always missed this program and so I was very pleased to come back here this past January. Things have changed. Many learners and most tutors are new to me. There is more paperwork! There are more resources to discover. There is a new batch of learners so focused and eager to learn that I could not drag them away from their tutoring sessions to attend a party! "Stop studying," I wanted to say, "come and join the party!"

The most important things have not changed. We still have successes: glowing report cards from other programs the learner attends. Someone who, after working hard for years, is now almost finished her grade 12 and has been accepted in the Practical Nursing Program at NSCC. Another learner who used to forget session times and now comes early and works hard. Someone who has learned to read for enjoyment and does so, often, on her own time. Another who is determined to read the newspaper and is been doing so now with great success.

We have failures too, times when it's hard to continue. Sometimes it feels like two steps forward, one step back. But still, you're moving forward. As one learner said to me, "Everyone says how much I've done and when I'm doing it, I can't see it. I can only see it afterwards." This is true for us all. It is hard for us to recognize our accomplishments. But your remarkable generous tutors can see your accomplishments and so can I. Try to remember: what you are doing is huge. You are an inspiration for us all.

## **Message from Linda Oakley**

This was my second year teaching the GED class at the Captain William Spry Centre in Spryfield. Again this year, I had a great group of students in the class. They worked very hard for five months, Monday to Thursday, preparing for the GED tests. We went through the very thick GED book. The students also completed a CPR course, attended several employment related workshops, and learned about study and test taking

skills. A computer class was held once a week as well. The students were assisted in their studies by volunteer tutors who donated many hours to the class.

For the students who achieved their goal and received their GED, this is not an end but a beginning. Many doors will now open to them. They can further their education or perhaps get a better job. Whatever path they select to follow, these students are setting a good example for their family, friends, and children about the importance of getting an education.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped the students in the GED class. They were: Kimberly Berry, Reg Crick, Michael Guilcher, Janet Hollis, Graham Pierce, Pat Robinson, Kent Speiran, and Linda Stewart. I would also like to thank Denise Morley and Pat Roberts who worked hard to make the class a success.

## **Computer Class**

*Daun Windover*

Teaching adults how to use computers can be challenging at the best of times, but the fabulous group in the GED Spryfield Class made the effort absolutely worthwhile. They were all stellar students who put forth 110% effort to learn new things each time we had class. They were also undaunted by the technology itself and the limits it imposed. As C.P. Snow said “Technology is a queer thing. It brings you great gifts with one hand and it stabs you in the back with the other”.

I don't see technology as a thing that will solve all of life's problems (in fact it sometimes creates a few) but it can certainly make tasks much easier. I am of an age where I remember searching for information at the library by rifling through the card catalogues, strolling the stacks and pulling journal after journal to gather my research. Then, among this mountain of books, I scanned and discarded, organized and edited (all by hand, writing notes, pen and paper) to get the material to support my thesis. Today it's a click of the mouse and I don't even have to leave home!! Yay computers!!

In a world where almost everything is becoming computer controlled, where we conduct business, education, socialization and communication by way of ones and zeros, it is important to feel somewhat competent in using the tools at hand, i.e. the computer. Being afraid of what we don't understand is absolutely normal, so my goal in teaching computers has always been to provide information as well as skill. The more students explore, make mistakes, lose documents, crash and create, the more they learn.

I only hope that I was able to give the Spryfield learners that sense of freedom, and accomplishment.

## **When We Get Together**

*By Darlene Coulstring*

When we get together we meet at my house.

When we get together we go to McDonalds' for Big Macs'.

When we get together we  
talk about our health...

my diabetes, his eyes.

When I get together with  
my brother Greg we talk  
about the Jays;

they will be lucky if they  
make the playoffs.

When we get together we  
joke about our brother  
Louie,

he is a torment.

When we get together in May we will be going to Sam's  
Restaurant...

Greg and I.

When we get together on Mothers' Day we will lay  
daffodils on her grave.

I remember the day the adoption agency called me.

Telling me I had a brother.

And we have all been together ever since.



*Darlene and Alison at the Spring Garden Road  
ALP*

## **How Learning Has Made a Difference in my Life**

*By Tyler Jacquard*

To find out how learning has made a difference in my life you need to know a bit about my life.

I grew up with a mother who did not support me. In fact I had to support her, working full time while going to school. I will admit that my first time in grade eleven I did screw around, often cutting classes and not really trying when I did show up, but the second time I tried my best. Unfortunately the deck was stacked against me. Not only did I work long hours to support my unemployed mother, which interfered with my studies, I also had the bad luck to catch pneumonia, which caused me to miss a month of school. While I was sick, nobody helped me to keep up, not my classmates or the teachers. In fact, when I finally got back to school and asked my teachers for help catching up they told me if I wanted to pass my exams I should have been at class. Missing that time and the lack of support I had upon my return broke me. Due to this, one day I didn't have the will to get out of bed, my mother came in to my room and said to me "if you don't get up to go to school you might as well not go back", so I didn't.

What I didn't realize growing up was that I loved learning. Each job I had I soaked up all there was to know about it. Because I learned so quickly was one reason I moved up to supervisor positions so quickly and was put in positions of authority over others. Being able to learn new skills in the workforce is one way that learning has

made a difference. People see me differently when I am in a position of authority, which helps me to see myself in a better light.

Another way learning has made a difference in my life is that I was able to get my GED in January of this year. This has changed many things for me. The job market has opened up for me. I am able to apply for more jobs than before. This is important so I can support my family; my wife and four month old daughter. The most important difference learning has made in my life is that I can look at my daughter and be proud that I have worked so hard to get my GED. That I can tell my daughter, it is worth it to stay in school, to strive towards her goals, whatever they may be, to work hard and to always continue learning.

I have learned a lot of things in my life, and the most important things that I am learning now have nothing to do with working or school. I am learning what it means to be a man, to be a good person and to take responsibility for the decisions that I make today as they can affect tomorrow. I currently have the best teacher in the world for that, my daughter Kairi.

## **The Story of Solomon**

*By Solomon Ambaye*

My name is Solomon. I live in Halifax now. I have lived there for 18 years. I really like Halifax but having visited Toronto, I think Toronto is a better city.

I live in Halifax with my family. My family consists of my mother, brothers, and sisters. I have five brothers and two sisters.

I have worked in many places in the past. Of these jobs, I enjoyed the most being a prep cook. I enjoyed being a prep cook because I like working in the community and in groups.

However, one day I would like to be a welder but to be a welder I need to finish my high school and also do a welding diploma. That is the reason why I have come to the Halifax North Adult Learning Program, to reach my goal of GED. Therefore I think literacy program will help me improve my essential skills, like reading, writing, thinking and oral communication.

Thank you for reading my story.

## **My Path**

*By Ashley Keeping*

After leaving school I didn't think of doing anything with my life. I was 18 years old and just did not care. As the years passed on I knew I had to find something to do with my life. So I sat down and thought about what I would like



*Ashley and her tutor Retb at work at the CWS  
ALP*

to do with my life. It come to me that I like working with kids so I would go back to school get my grade 12 and from there get my E.C.E. Now I am seeing a tutor once a week to help me get my math and reading up to date. I can't wait to start school and follow my dreams so that I can do what I want to do in life not just a job, but a career. I would like to thank Noreen and Reth for all their help and support.

## **Reading**

*By Frank Brown*

I read 24 books this year. I learned a lot from all of them. I read a book about Scotland and a book about New York. Sometimes I have trouble. When I see a word I don't know it throws me off the story. I have to stop and look it up but I keep reading. It helps me to read with my tutor Shannon. I have started reading up a level for this year.

## **Maud Lewis**

*By Marjorie Wright*

I had seen a documentary on T.V. and I was so taken by what I saw. A small woman doing those paintings and it was hard for me to watch and see that she did all those paintings.

Maud Lewis was a well-known folk artist who lived in Marshalltown, outside Digby, N.S. She was born March

7, 1903 and died July 30, 1970.

Even though she had severe arthritis and spent her life in pain she was content with her life.

## **Something I Like To Do**

*By Melita Carvery-Jackson*

I think I am pretty good at doing technical and mechanical things. Sometimes I fix things around my house. This saves me money.

One day I was walking down the street. What did I see on the side of the road but a VCR? I picked it up and took it home. I examined it inside and out. I tried a movie in it and it worked pretty well. I loved taking it apart, seeing how it worked.



*Melita and friends at the CWS ALP*

I was thinking “Wouldn’t it be nice if I could fix TVs or computers!” Since I do fix things around the house maybe someday I could take a course in this and make some money.

## **My Cataract Surgery**

*By Kenneth McDow*

The last time I went to the eye doctor she said I had Cataracts and they were ready to come out. About six months later the hospital sent me a letter with the date for my surgery.

On the day of the surgery I had to go the hospital about 9 am. The nurse put drops in my eye and then put a needle in a vein in my arm. Then I was taken to the operating room.

The operation was very good. It took about 15 minutes. After surgery I went to the recovery room. After about 30 minutes I was allowed to go home.

When the freezing came out my eye was sore. I took some Tylenol to ease the pain in my eye. I had a patch or shield over my eye when I slept but I didn't need to wear it during the day. I wore that for a week.

After a week I went back to the hospital so they could check my eye. Everything was fine so I didn't have to come back again for a month.

Soon after that the hospital called with the appointment for my second eye. They had a bit of trouble with the left eye. During surgery the bag in my eye broke. They were able to fix it but for several months I had something called floaters in that eye. It was like black dots and streaks like a shadow going across my eye. I still have them every once in a while.

Now I have to go back to the doctor in six months to make sure everything is fine with both eyes.

Now that it's all over my eyes are very clear and I can see everything. Once I was all healed up I got new glasses so I have 20/20 vision now. I would tell anyone who had to get it done that it was the best thing I've ever done.

## **My Journey Up North**

*By Keith Finn*

When I was 16 years of age I went up North to work. My first job was in a small community called Norman Wells, working for Esso. I was a “jack of all trades”. I built fences, cut brush around old oil wells, and cleaned



*Keith and some of the Spring Garden Road ALP gang*

oil tankers. Then I went to Inuvik and worked as a front desk clerk at a hotel. Then I applied for a job on an oil rig. I got the job! I started working on a man-made island, delivering supplies to the oil rigs.

I enjoyed watching the Northern Lights. They were really beautiful. They moved in the sky in many ways. The

midnight sun was beautiful. The sun shone 24 hours a day and in the winter it was dark 24 hours a day. There were pretty white arctic foxes and polar bears on the island.

I got into arm wrestling in Inuvik. I started to compete in tournaments and got really good. I trained really hard. I lifted weights, did lots of wrist curls, and did pushups. My favourite tournament was in Whitehorse. I met the world professional super heavyweight champion. I came in first place in my division. My best match was when I went up against the defending champion and won! The whole bar was cheering for him. I felt really good being the winner. I was given the nickname Iron Arm Keith.

I really enjoyed my experiences up North. I have a lot of good memories and exciting stories to tell.

## **The Struggles to Success**

*By Robert*

I have been through a lot in my life so far. I am compassionate, friendly, social person who cares about others. I have two children who I love very much that mean the world to me. They have been a big motivation in my success.

I have a learning disability, which I did not know until my first year of college, because of this I have always struggled in school growing up. This led to problems with anxiety, fear of asking for help, and substance abuse. This affected my self-esteem, communication

skills, motivation, homework assignments, and listening skills. I did graduate from high school with a grade 6 reading level comprehension.

I have been with the Halifax Community Learning Network for a year now but I feel I have only been committed since September. I have been working with a really good tutor named Kate. She has pointed out what my learning styles are, what weakness I can work on, and has been helping me to achieve my goals with Reading Horizons and as well to learn to study for tests and exams and to prepare for interviews.

A lot of changes have taken place over this year due to the hard work I put into this program. My self-esteem, comprehension, and patience have increased. I have earned a special class driver's license and successfully completed tests and an interview for an important job. I have also completed the first 5 chapters of Reading Horizons and now read a lot of books for enjoyment. I highly recommend this program for any adults, who want or needs the help. I am very grateful that this program is available for free to anyone who needs it. I hope someday I will be able to help or encourage others that may share the same struggles.



## **Christmas Story**

*By Margaret Kelbrat*

My brother will decorate the house outside with the red and green Christmas lights. My cat Bucky will play with the balls on the Christmas tree.

This will be the first Christmas with my dog Taffy for our family. Taffy will steal all our Christmas treats. My mother is doing all the baking of the cookies and cake. My sister will help cook the yummy turkey dinner. I will help by washing the dishes. On Christmas day I will go to church and then open my Christmas presents. Merry Christmas!



*Margie and her tutor at work at the Spring Garden Road Library ALP*

## **My Name is Mamawa**

I was born in Liberia and live there for four years. When the War started, my Mom and my Dad and Brother and me left Liberia to go to Guinea.

We stay in the refugee camp about 8 to 10 years and my Sister was born there.

We apply for the resettlement program to come to

Canada. My Mother, Father, Sister and Brother came first to Nova Scotia. And after a few years, I came. I started going to English School to learn how to speak English.

Now I want to get my GED.

## **Library**

*By Maria*

I am glad that I have joined this program in the Halifax Library. I am originally from a small town called Amherst; there are no programs like this. It is very good that the library has programs for someone who needs to increase their language skills. I have been in Canada for years and still have a difficult time with English. When I moved to Halifax, and found out that I could get free English help, I was excited and wanted to learn more about this program. As I found out more information I found it fit my daily work schedule. I work during the day so evening classes are perfect for me.

I joined about four months ago. Right now I am doing a phonics and grammar program. I have trouble hearing the sounds, because of that I have trouble spelling and writing. Jen had given me a great program that might help my phonics. This program helps you sound out words and gives you some definition of the words. It also gives a little bit of grammar. You can do the exercises at home, at anytime you want. You don't need a tutor.

My goal is to improve my reading and writing skills, as well as hearing the sounds more clearly.

## **Black Beauty (book review)**

*By Jane Landry*

Characters : Nicholea Skinner, Lord and Lady Grey, The Blomfield Family, Mr. Barry, Mr. Gordon A Famer, Joe Grey, Jerry Baker Ginger, Merrylegs John and James.

Plot : Black Beauty was happy with his mother and he lived at Birthwich Park It was his home. He hated the bit and bridle. Then came his saddle and shoes but in time he got used to it. There was a fire and his master John saved Black Beauty's life by putting a towel over his eyes. Some of the horses died in the fire. Black Beauty saved Mrs. Gordon's life in an emergency to the doctor as fast as he could go. John Black Beauty's master had to leave and Black Beauty was sold to a man who whipped horses.

Black Beauty had gone up a wide hill with packages too heavy to handle so he was sold again. Jerry was his new master and he was good to his horses. He gave them a clean stable and good food and plenty of water. One day Jerry took sick. He couldn't do his business so he sold Black Beauty. This time it was a farmer who was kind. Black Beauty was in a lot of pain. The Farmer gave him love and special attention and then took him to a fair and he was reunited with Joe Green his first master. Joe Green was a grown man and recognized Black Beauty He now lived in a loving home with Joe Green where he spent the rest of his life.

Opinion: I thought the story was beautiful. The horses in the story of Black Beauty in the first home had a loving

home. Then he suffered agony with his other masters. I was glad when he encountered Joe Green again. When he recognized Joe Green he knew he was home.



## **A Learner or Tutor?**

*By Pat Harding*

This year I began as a tutor at the North End Library, but now I see that I have mainly been a learner. Rachel Lebowitz, the Adult Literacy Coordinator helps us find new reading materials and good math sites. Madina, who I worked with, taught me about hard work, and another culture. The North End Library showed me how a library can become a community centre where all children feel welcome. The Halifax Community Learning Network helped me by providing workshops like Tutor Basics and Reading Horizons. I suspect most people don't realize how much help we are given.

I was worried about working as a tutor – how would I know what to do? Could I really help? - Jen Hill reduced these fears when she gave us a workshop. Jen has often been a tutor and she explained very clearly how we could do our job. For example, she explained how we should suit the program for our learner and talked about the different ways people learn. She told us how to find reading and math materials, both on the internet and in the library and she brought many good workbooks and story books to show us. She also told us how we should divide up our two-hour session so it is not too tiring. Most important, Jen made us feel that we could be successful as long as we listened carefully to our learner and followed their lead.

I went to a workshop given by Andre Davey (of the Cunard Learning Centre) on the Reading Horizons Program. The Reading Horizons Program is a computer-based reading program that teaches reading in an interesting, step-by-step way. It breaks language down so the learner can see how to do each step. The computer program lets each reader know how they are doing and it gives them interesting things to read and other fun activities. This workshop was great because Andre showed us each step of the program and described his own experiences with it. We each had a computer to use and practiced with the program ourselves.

So you can see that I have been mainly a learner in the Adult Literacy Program and it has been fun.

## **The Art Show**

*By Ron Oxner*

Last Saturday I went to an art show at St. Margaret's of Scotland Church Hall. Lots of people came to see the art we made. I went with John, RJ, Dan and Jordon. RJ, Dan and I painted pictures for the show. I sold my painting. Lots of people came to look at all the art work at the show. I felt good when I was at the art show.



*Ron enjoying the art show*

## **My Mother's Memories of her Childhood Christmas**

*By Irene-Ann Hinde*

My mother grew up in the East of Germany in the East Prussia. There they had early snow and had lots of it. It was fun for the children in the wintertime to go skating, skiing and tobogganing.

Kounigsberg had a lake in the middle of the city. In the winter the city kept the ice free from snow and installed loud speakers around the lake so the public could skate with music.

Her Christmas memories started with the first Advent four Sundays before Christmas. Every Sunday afternoon the family (her mother's parents, my mother, her sister and grandma and grandpa) got together for coffee and cake. As a center piece on the table was an Advents wreath with four red candles. On the first Advent Sunday one candle was lit. After coffee her father played



*Irene-Ann shares a story at the Spring Garden Road ALP*

the Zither, and they all sang Christmas carols. After singing the candle was put out. Every following Sunday another candle was lit. That meant the light got brighter to Christmas, the birthday of Jesus.

My mother enjoyed making Christmas cookies with her mother. My mother's Aunt lived in the country and sent Christmas trees for her parents, one large tree for the parents and one smaller tree for the 2 girls. The parent's tree was decorated with white candles and ornaments; the smaller tree had colored candles and sweets as ornaments. The children did not see the trees until Christmas Eve after they came home from church. After a light supper the Weihnachts Mann (Santa Claus) came sometimes to give the children a gift if they had been good. The children had to recite a Christmas Poem for him in front of the Christmas tree with the lit candles.

Than the gifts were opened and everybody looked what was on their “Bunte Teller” a plate with goodies, chocolates, Christmas cookies and Marzipan. With Christmas music, laughter and a happy feeling that it was possible to be all together. We ended our Christmas Eve. Christmas Day is another story.

## **Changing My Life**

*By Michelle Byrne*

I have not done a lot of writing in my 20 years since I left high school, but recently discovered just how much I love and miss it. After receiving an email asking if I would be interested in writing about my experience, I was intrigued. I hope writing about my experience getting my GED helps someone else realize how important it is and just what wonderful people there are out there to help in the process.



*Noreen & Michelle at the Captain William Spry Library ALP*

Since my son was born 11 years ago, I have spent my life working around him and being there as much as I could for him. I live in Halifax but have no real support system here, as all my family live in Newfoundland. I have

myself, my son, and my husband and we do fine with the help of friends from time to time with childcare. I began a cleaning business so we could work around my sons school hours and days off, it gave me the flexibility I needed to be the Mom I wanted to be. Now he is 11 and I need to do more for him and me, as far as stability for my future and his.

At 18, I left high school needing 1 credit to complete a diploma. It was a very difficult year for me as my parents had split up and it was far from amicable. I felt torn for I had always had that stability of the family unit and now out of the blue it was gone. All that was left was arguing and a family torn. Because of this I moved on, on my own to live with friends and now the freedom, to not have that someone who loved me push me to be the best I could. I allowed myself to believe it didn't matter but it did! Deep down it did, always in the back of my head I was sorry for walking away but never really had the guts to do anything about it. That would have meant I had to admit I failed! How could I do that?

At 39, I decided I needed to do something more...but what??? Anything that appealed to me at all I needed a GED or high school diploma for. So my deep down feeling was correct, I should have made it important! A close friend was doing her GED, upon helping her with some of the things she struggled with I realized: WOW I could do this! She completed hers and I decided I could do it too! Some wonderful friends pushed my thoughts on the subject and I made the call! I paid for my GED and had 3 weeks to prepare for a test people take 20 week courses for! Panic set in...I pulled myself together, got a book from the library, spoke with a wonderful

woman, Noreen, who set me up with a tutor for my Math and decided 'I can and I will'.

Working, running a home, being a Mom and also doing what I have always done for others learning how to say NO made studying pretty near impossible. I met with the math tutor, David on 3 nights and a friend who teaches high school English. It was absolutely life changing as they made me believe I still had the smarts I had in school, I just needed to freshen them up. I had forgotten just how much I loved to learn and had absolutely no idea the resources out there to help get this going.

I wrote my GED and passed the first write with scores I never thought I could accomplish. We all have the capabilities to do things; sometimes we just need that push and confidence from others to help us know what we are capable of. I have been lucky on my journey to have met wonderful, caring people. If you are even considering doing this to better yourself and your life... DO IT! It is the best thing I could have done for myself. I am so happy and thankful I did it, for now I have endless possibilities for a future. I can be who I was meant to be.

## **Book Review of Terry Fox**

(Grass Roots Press's Biography Series)

*By Keith Finn*

I read a true story on Terry Fox's life. It was written by Terry Barber. This book is a biography.

This book was about Terry Fox's life. Terry Fox was a young Canadian man who got cancer at a young age. He started the Marathon of Hope at age 18 to raise awareness and money for cancer research. His goal was to run from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.



*Keith works on a story at the Spring Garden Road ALP*

In the beginning of the book we learn that Terry was born in Winnipeg in 1958. Terry had two brothers and one sister. Terry was very stubborn and he loved sports. He turned 18. He got in to a car crash and found out that he had cancer so he decided that he wanted to do the Marathon of Hope to raise awareness and money for cancer.

He ran 5,373 km. His cancer spread. He died on June 28 1981. He raised 24.1 million dollars and the Marathon of Hope continues today.

I liked the book very much. I was very impressed with

his determination to have a marvelous dream of hope. I would like to recommend this book to anyone who has dreams.

## **New Frontiers in Math Studies**

*By Ryan Michel Maisonneuve*

Learning has not only made a difference in my life, it has changed my life.

My name is Ryan Michel Maisonneuve. I was born in Oromocto New Brunswick, and attended some High School In Ontario. I joined the Navy in 2001, and move to Halifax, Nova Scotia shortly thereafter.



*Ryan celebrating his success during Adult Learners' Week*

When I was in High School, most subjects were difficult for me to understand, including Math, which frustrated me greatly. This was due to my seeming inability to grasp the subject matter. In retrospect, it was far before high school where the blocks in learning occurred leading to holes in my understanding when attempting to learn new more complicated concepts. This frustration affected me greatly! So much so that I never had motivation to pursue the pre-requisites required to attend university in the programs that I wanted. School seemed more complicated, over whelming and unattainable for me at

the time. Some teenagers, like I was, don't learn the same way as conventional high school would require them to. This is a problem that needs to be addressed in the form of alternative learning institutes where learning can be tailored to the individual, granting the learner the abilities to accomplish the great things.

Life for me went on, and I joined the Navy as a non-commissioned member not having attended university. 12 years later, I decided to give math another shot, and to my amazement, it was possible for me to learn and understand it fully. Today, after only a few weeks after beginning this new attempt, not only do I understand it, but the tutoring I am receiving has been conducive to me excelling at it!

From the moment I understood that it is possible for me to continue my studies in Math and other subject that I have yet to dive into, and I was also fully inspired. What if there were others out there that have experienced the same challenges that I had in High School? Surely there are, and when I am competent enough in my skills and achieve a high enough level that I would feel comfortable, I will become a math tutor for someone who needs, and wants it.

This is how learning has changed my life. It has given me courage, and motivation to finally overcome the mountain that is education today. I owe this to myself, for trying again, but more importantly, to my tutor Ben, and to the fine folks at the Halifax Community Learning Network and Literacy Nova Scotia. Thank you for showing me the way.

## Learning Together

*By Benjamin Wooten*

Serving as a new tutor at the Spring Garden Road library in Halifax has been a source of serenity in my life. My learner, Ryan, and I get together every Thursday evening to work on math.



*Ben and Ryan at Adult Learners' Week*

It's been exciting to watch his skills and confidence grow, and every time we have a session I learn something new, or relearn something I have not picked up in many years.

One great memory I have occurred shortly after working on multiplying decimals, ratios, and proportions with Ryan. A few short weeks later I had cause to use the knowledge at a job site for my work, when different liquids had to be mixed in precise proportions. Without having reviewed those skills during tutoring, I'd have been lost!

Thanks to the HCLN for all they do, and for the tutors and learners who make Thursdays such a rewarding experience!



## **Beechville**

*By John Cromwell*

I'm from Beechville. It was a lot of fun. Beechville was pretty small compared to Halifax. Beechville was called Monroeville before it was called Beechville.

There were both colours of people and it was nice. We all got along, black and white. We used to play together.

I lived on my grandparents' farm. We had chickens and pigs. We grew potatoes and vegetables. We used to go out to get the water and eggs for breakfast.

Everybody shared food, vegetables, chicken, water, milk and eggs. We shared a lot more than food.

To bathe, you first set the pot on the stove to warm the water pail up to pour in the tub.

After I moved to Halifax I visited Beechville on weekends, summers and holidays. I had to do chores there. In Beechville, I knew everybody- in Halifax it was all different.

## **A Learner Shares and a Tutor Delights**

*By Samia Eldik & Margaret Cameron*

Each Wednesday, since mid-January, it has been my routine to make my way to the North Branch Library around 12:15 to meet with Samia, a new learner in the Adult Learning Program. For about two and half hours, we work together on topics of her choosing, often on assignments related to her enrollment at the Cunard Learning Centre. On occasion because she is a keen and curious learner, Samia will ask questions and seek instruction on topics not related to her school assignments.



*Margaret & Samia taking a break from working together at Halifax North*

One stormy Wednesday towards the end of March, I received a phone call from Samia, who was calling to ask if I would be coming to the library for our regular tutoring session. Because of the weather conditions that

day, schools, universities and some businesses were closed, as were the libraries. Despite the weather and unaware of what she would find when she got there, Samia had arrived at the library for our appointed meeting time only to find the building locked and a sign on the door advising that due to weather conditions the library would be closed until 1:00. Not one to be easily daunted, Samia found shelter from the snowy conditions at the YMCA, next to the library. It was from there she was making the call. When I assured her that I would see her at 1:00, she found a spot where she would not be interrupted and proceeded to fill the short waiting time.

As promised, I arrived at the library about 1:00 to find Samia already inside and ready to get to work. Before I could get my coat off, she handed me a sheet of paper, explaining that she had written me a letter while she was waiting next door. The previous week she had asked for some instruction on how to write a letter and we had spent some time working on different formats of letters depending on the purpose. She expressed particular interest in writing to a friend, but also wanted to know how to reply to requests for official information. At the time, I would not have anticipated that I would be a recipient of her effort.

My eyes were moist when I finished reading, but not because the contents contained sad news. On the contrary, what Samia wrote was cause for a joyous celebration. It was not only what she was telling me in the letter, but also how she chose to tell me. She could just as easily have told me orally, but in choosing to write the letter she demonstrated so clearly what she

had learned from the instruction the previous week. Her written words captured so beautifully her excitement and joy, and, as well, linked us as literacy companions in a way that spoken words could not have accomplished. A literacy tutor could ask for no more!

Here is Samia's letter:

Dear Margaret,

I am writing this letter to let you know that I will not be at the library next Wednesday. You would not be tutoring me on that day because I am going to get my Canadian citizenship on the 27th. All my children and I will be Canadian citizens on March 27. I am so happy!

When I went for the test, I was worried so much. I thought I wouldn't be able to pass the test because my hands were shaking and even my feet were shaking. I can't believe it. I did it! It will be a big surprise for my children because I did not tell them I did the test or that we are going to get Canadian citizenship. I will tell them on Sunday.

From, Samia

On March 27, I attended a very moving Canadian Citizenship Court Ceremony over which the Hon. Linda Carvery presided. Once again my eyes were moist as I witnessed Samia and her family become Canadian citizens.

## **Strength, Beauty and Real**

*By Sheldon G. Wile*

A woman is like a flower in the heaven's garden.  
Sprinkle a little bit of rain, she blossoms into a real woman.

Understand her and she will bring Love, and hugs and strength,

Which is the backbone of a true man.

Together it's a beautiful thing.

## **The Story About My Cats**

*By Kenneth McDow*

My wife and I picked up two white kittens at a house on Bayers Road in 1999. The cats were six weeks old. I took the cats to the animal hospital for a check up and to get their shots.



*Charly helping Ken do his homework for the Kesben Goodman Library ALP*

Charly and Lucy are 13 years old now and they are still healthy today. My cats never leave my apartment. They have toys to play with and they chase each other around the apartment.

Terry feeds the cats in the morning and at dinner and

supper time too. They are in good health and get all their needles every year.

Charly likes to jump on the table to help me do my homework. He likes to lay on my papers and it makes it hard to get my work done.

When he gets tired of helping me, Charly jumps down and walks around the apartment looking for Lucy.

Sometimes it seems like Lucy is talking to me. Both Charly and Lucy have one blue eye and one green eye. They were born that way. They were the only ones like that in the whole litter. That was why we decided to take them both.

My cats are getting older now and they don't sleep much at night. They walk around the apartment all night long. Charly and Lucy will stay with Terry and I until they go to heaven. They are good company for Terry and I. They come into my room and wake me up in the morning and go to Terry's room and wake him up too so that he'll feed them breakfast.

I love my cats and that is the end of my story.

## **I am a Cat Cuddler!**

*By Heather Myatt*

I am a volunteer at the SPCA. I am a cat Cuddler! I go into the rooms where the cats are. I talk to them. There are two rooms with lots of cats. There are big

cats and there are kittens. The cats are many colours and sizes.

Sometimes the cats are nice and playful. Sometimes the cats are not.

I have had one cat hiss, growl and try to bite and scratch me.

He was a cranky cat!

When I visit the cats,  
most times they are glad to see me.  
After my volunteering, I have to sanitize my hands.

The best part about volunteering at the SPCA is that I get to see the cats and enjoy their company. The sad part is when I have to leave.

It is nice to make a difference!

## **Lawyers' Dreams**

*By Anne Elliot-Tomilson*

Image affects all of us. An image is how we see people. When we look at someone, we create an image based on occupation, age, and reputation. Recently I met a lawyer



*Heather and her tutor Aileen working on Reading Horizons*

who changed my mind about the cliché of the lawyer's reputation.

When introducing myself to Mark Charles on the phone, I said it would be an insignificant will. He welcomed me with a powerful yet pleasant and reassuring voice.

One week later I walked into his office – a large room with smoky grey walls. His first words were, “The cost of the will is four hundred dollars.” I did not twitch at his bad social skills and went on to say, “Let’s get started.”



*Anne sharing one of her stories at the Spring Garden Road Adult Learning Program*

Mark Charles is a pit bull in the law, not a poodle. He made me understand how important it is to take charge of necessary things such as a will. He also told me how lawyers are working hard to create a new image of law. To me, this was an introduction to the new lawyer.

## **Inverness County**

*By Mary Thompson*

Inverness County is in Nova Scotia on an island called Cape Breton. My mother came from Creignish, Inverness County. My tutor's mother came from Inverness County too. This is why we are interested in this place.

To get there from Halifax we have to cross the Canso

Causeway. We turn to the left and drive up the west coast of the island. The road is twisty and if we go in the evening we can see a beautiful sunset. By day we see the trees, the ocean and the hillsides. There are homes and children playing and there is white church on top of a hill. There is also a graveyard. This is the church where Natalie MacMaster, the famous fiddler, was married. Ashley MacIsaac, another famous fiddler was born here.

Some other well known people came from Inverness County. There were two Premiers of Nova Scotia , Rodney MacDonald and Angus L. MacDonald. Father Moses Coady from Margaree, Inverness County , started the Co-Op movement to help the fishermen and farmers. The musical group, The Rankin Family came from Mabou, Inverness County.

The first people to live in this area were the Mi'kmaq. Then came the French, the Scottish and Irish settlers. There are still several different languages spoken here.

There are lots of concerts and music in Inverness County. People like to dance to the fiddle music.

The people work at farming, fishing, in hospitals, banks, schools and stores Some work in the woods to cut lumber for the pulp mill in Port Hawkesbury. Many people work to entertain and take care of the thousands of tourists who come to visit each summer and fall. So there are more restaurants and a new golf course.

Inverness County is a great place and many people love to visit! Why don't you check it out?

## Curling

*By Julie Lynne Stanhope*

It is a fun sport to get involved in. You get to throw stones in the bullseye.

I play for Team Nova Scotia. It is the best team in the world. For our provincial game in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia we came home with the bronze medal. I was sick like a dog. My bronchitis was acting up and my puffer was not working. I had to miss a few games. Lunenburg Queens won the gold medal. Pictou County won the silver medal.



*Julie enjoying a workshop on healthy eating*

To be a good curler you have to practice a lot. To be a good team and player you tell your teammates “good game” and “good curling”. We have to work together.

We eat healthier food, drink a lot of water, and stretch for exercise.

We took a bus last year to Pictou County and this year we took the bus to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

My grampy took me to a curling rink. He had a picture of him as mate and as president of his curling rink. They used an old fashioned broom like the one the witches use for flying. His name was Brinley Phillips. He owned his own business, a garage and gas station. The rink that he played in is torn down.

Advice I would give to someone getting into the sport? Practice everyday and never give up.

## **Poem for My Son**

*By John*

You are a blessing, from God above. Who gave us you,  
to show his love.

From mother's womb, a boy there was, whom God  
created, for a cause.

I love you son, so very much. That even words, cannot  
touch.

You will always know that I care, even if I'm not right  
there.

So count your blessings, one by one. Cause life for you,  
has just begun.

And faithful you, will always stay. Cause God is there, to  
guide your way.

Love and be loved, be filled with joy, just as you do

when you play with your toys.

From father to son, you will always be number one.

Love Dad

## **Setting Proper Goals to Lose Weight**

*by April Sherman*

I've decided to start setting goals to lose weight because I'm a diabetic type 2 needing insulin and taking pills. Diabetes runs in my family, I've lost an uncle and mother to the disease, so I've decided that I want to live.



*April at Halifax North*

All my life, up until now, I had an addiction to sugar and calorie rich foods. Today, I'm in the process of reaching my goal. Back on Feb. 5 2013, I joined a walking group called North End Walkers. I'm also learning how to eat healthy meals but I need guidance to balance them. I have a dietitian to refer to who runs the walking group.

So far, my achievements include lowering my sugars and losing 4lbs. I'm looking forward to seeing me reaching my goal in losing weight.

## **Black Diamond Gambella**

*By Achan Obang*

My name is Achan Obang and I come from Gambella, which is a region in the southwest of Ethiopia bordering on Sudan. For many years, the people in my country lived in peace. The land was rich and farmers grew crops of many kinds without the use of chemicals. Fish were plentiful in the rivers and many crops grew wild in the forests. There was no hunger in my country because the land was so fertile and because my people believe in sharing with each other. If you come to my house, and you have nothing, I will say to you, “come in, you are welcome in my home, and what I have I will share with you”.

About nine years ago, people from Norway, Denmark, and Holland came to Gambella, attracted by the recent discovery of oil and gold. The president of also extended an invitation to the Chinese to come and take over the land to grow rice and other crops, displacing the native Gambellians. On December 13, 2003, police from Addis Abba launched a brutal attack on Gabella’s Anuak population and many people were killed, mostly the men.

There were three days of killing; during this time over 3000 people ran to the Church to take shelter. Many more people hid in the forest. I was at work when the shooting started and hid there until there was no more gunfire. I ran home afraid for my children and other members of my family, and was so happy to find them safe at my house.

My husband was lucky enough to escape to the Sudan. He contacted me and told me must leave Gambella with our children to join him in Sudan. I walked all the way from Gambella to Sudan with the children; it took over two weeks to get there and we survived on juice and cookies. We stayed in Sudan for two months before flying to Nairobi where we lived for two years before the Canadian government sponsored us to come to Canada. My family is still in Nairobi and I am hoping to be able to bring them to Canada once I finish my education and get a job.

## Light

*By Bonnie Boivin*

We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own. ~Ben Sweetland

It was difficult to find a quote that helped describe what happens every Thursday night at the Keshen Goodman Library, but I think I've found one. Light

is how it feels to be sitting in that room, working with my learning partner. Light is also how it feels to look around and see other tutors and partners at work. Lighting up is what happens when someone suddenly realizes that they can do something that was previously difficult or a mystery to them. Light is what comes into their eyes



*Bonnie receiving the HRM Volunteer Achievement Award in April. Congratulations, Bonnie!*

and into their expressions as they flush with the pride of accomplishment. Light is how we feel when goals are reached, whether they are to read and understand a book, figure out a math problem, or pass the GED.

Thanks to Denise Morley, Pat Roberts and all of the folks involved with the Halifax Community Learning Network for the effort they put into making this work possible. Thanks, as well, to my learning partners for teaching me so much about how to be a tutor.

## **The Juice**

*By Malcolm Talbot & Leeanne Smith*

Once upon a time Leeanne and I were getting ready to start tutoring when she took a drink of Sanpelligrino orange juice. While Leeanne was tutoring Malcolm, her student, she noticed that she had broke out in a small rash on her hands. Leeanne and Malcolm did not take it seriously.

Fifteen minutes into tutoring, Leeanne took another drink of Italian orange juice. She noticed that she was breaking out more: up her arm, on her face, and all over her body. Then, she curled over on the table and started making strange noises. She fell onto the floor and began to mutate. Malcolm, her student, was in shock and repeated to Leeanne-the-mutant, "I AM YOUR STUDENT."

She started getting bigger and deformed and people

started going crazy. The library was in an uproar. At the same time, Leeanne-the-mutant was wrecking stuff.

She ran out the door, as mutants often do, and ran out to Gottingen Street, wrecking more stuff.

And then, the cops showed up. By this time, Leeanne-the-mutant was gone. They interviewed witnesses, and Malcolm, the student, looked at his arm. There was a rash!!!

## **This is My Story**

*By Percy Oliver*

It does not matter how old you are it feels good to learn more. Sometimes it could be hard, but you feel better doing it, and it does pay. With my tutors helping me out, I do not think I am alone.



*Percy and the gang at Halifax North*

With my new tutor, his name is Travis, it would not matter if you are in a bad mood, or in a good mood but when you are with him, I do not know why, you will start laughing. And I still get the work done.

Don, he is a retired school teacher, and every time he gives math to do he would start making some noise with his finger or his pen, then I would ask, if there were a problem, he would ask me why? Then I would let him know what he was doing.

I had Sandra for between four and six years before Travis, when I had her she was a very nice tutor. Her job was working at a library in a school, she was a mother, and would take two hours off her work to come here and work with me. After that Travis came into the picture. I have been very lucky I couldn't ask for better tutors and it is worth it. One advice is I find every day we are getting older and my best advice is think before you sink, sometimes talk is cheap, don't talk about it, just do it and tomorrow never comes it is always today.

## **Photography is the Gateway to Getting my GED.**

*By Diane Pinto*

I love taking pictures. I started taking pictures when I was old enough to hold a camera. Through the years of taking many, I believe a picture does tell a thousand words. That's why I am so interested in photos and hope that other people can enjoy what I see in it.

I take a picture and when I look at the person's eyes, they tell me if they are happy or sad, stressed or if there is a lot on their mind. You can see this in the person's eyes. If its scenery, I see the beauty in a spot that some may not see if they are there. Photos are, for me, memories

of places and people that I've lost.

I love looking at old photos because they bring the past to the present and old pictures make me wonder how people lived back in that day. I wonder about the struggles they went through without technology we have today.

When I look at pictures from the early 1900's, especially my relatives, I look for the resemblances to my children and to my grandchildren and find it exciting to see similar features.

By getting my GED, I will be able to go on and hopefully start a career with taking pictures and editing them myself. That would be my greatest joy!

## **A Special Thanks**

*By Matthew Allison*

For this yearbook submission, I would like to give a big thanks to my two wonderful tutors. I just completed my first year at NSCC and with there help I made it through. Sheila helped me with my reading and comprehension. Carolyn helped me a lot with my math work especially my times tables. I look forward to coming back next year to work with them again.

## **We are Grateful**

*By Amy Mulnix*

Not available.

HCLN Learners Write! Check out more writing from HCLN at the these sites:

<http://www.nald.ca/sotw/17dec12toc>

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

<http://pub1.msvu.ca/>

## **Some notes of thanks to HCLN:**

*Dear Denise,*

*Good Morning, I wanted to take a moment and extend a sincere thank you to your organization that helps adults continue a life of learning and to the individual volunteers that have spent so much of their precious time with my father, Kenneth McDow.*

*When I received a letter from my father yesterday along with a yearbook full of wonderful stories I could not help but become emotional. I live in Vancouver now and have been away from home for some time, my father and mother worked hard to raise their four children and often under extreme circumstances. He gave up a life for himself and gave it to us so we could be successful and I will never be able to thank him enough.*

*I started receiving his yearbooks when he began the program a few years ago and I keep everyone of them. His enthusiasm for learning is unprecedented and to*

*hear the pride in his voice fills my heart. He could not be experiencing all of these wonderful moments if it were not for your organization and your team members that spend countless hours not only teaching, but caring....*

*That's what this is all about and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for bringing joy, pride and self-esteem to my father's life.*

*Thank you.*

*Ann*

*~ Ken's 'team' includes Keshen Goodman Coordinator Pat Roberts and long-time tutor, Cathy Taylor. Cathy was recently awarded a Mainland North Volunteer Award. Congratulations, Cathy!*

*Hello Denise & Co,*

*Many thanks for the great gift you sent by way of appreciation. I will keep it and treasure it with the many mementos I have received from HCLN. Actually, I must confess that I enjoy what I do with HCLN and would wish that I had the time to do much more. Your organization does a fine job and is deserving of more recognition than it gets, as well as greater funding. I wish you well.  
Kind regards,*

*Reg*

*Hi Denise,*

*Yes I did write this past weekend and did pass! So I finally have my GED! I won't be going back to school until after the baby but I'm hoping for fall of 2014. Thank you all so much for everything, I wouldn't be where I am today without Linda's help! She was amazing! Thank her for me please!*

*Thank you all again for everything.*

*Megan*

The Halifax Community Learning Network (HCLN)  
is a registered charity (# 85750 9335 RR0001) and  
donations can be made at:

**<http://www.canadahelps.org/>**

**Thank you to:**

