



STILL DREAMING

a year of learning
with HCLN

HCLN
Halifax Community Learning Network
"a bridge to a brighter future"

This book is dedicated to the memory of Chris Conlan, a former tutor with the Halifax North Public Library Literacy Program- and to all of those who volunteer their time to help others.

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Mrs. Burton

BY IAN WISEMAN

Still sunny at sixty, she laughs
down by the government wharf-
a daisy nests behind one ear,
a terrier sniffs her naked shin.
Embracing a man's quiet hand,
linked and fused, husband and wife,
she views his face, his engraved husk.
He scans the horizon, then the surf.

Her face can soften into dough.
I've seen the tears through pleated veil.
They buried young her youngest son,
a boy with deference, discipline,
a friend of mine, a teammate, too,
whose midfield play had satin style.
A winter death, leukemia.

She cannot read or write as such,
She mocks the sound of words I know
-wisdom, benevolence, élan-
and (here's the lie of literacy)
in none of these am I her match.

This book was made possible through the work and generosity of many, with special thanks to:

Laura Channon, Rachel Lebowitz and Linda Oakley, the Coordinators who inspire our students to keep on writing. The volunteers and learners of the Halifax Community Learning Network who continue to make amazing things happen.

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Congratulations to the following volunteers, who have been involved with the Halifax Community Learning Network for more than five years:

Gordon Barnes

Daureen Stover

Sandra Blank

Margie-Naish Buchanan

Tricia Murray

Tom Forsyth

Gail Ellsworth

Patricia Padmos

As Network Coordinator, I am reminded every day of the commitment shown by those involved with the Halifax Community Learning Network- from the volunteers who tutor or participate in the HCLN Board, to the Program Coordinators who work tirelessly to support and educate our students and most of all, the students themselves: who often juggle the pressures of work and family and still find time to pursue their dream of upgrading their skills.

Their goals are varied, but everyone who comes to study at HCLN has one thing in common: the courage to seek help and work toward improving their level of literacy. As some of these stories show, many of those who come



Network Coordinator Denise Morley presents Sandra Blank with her certificate of recognition for more than five years of service as a literacy tutor during a National Volunteer Week celebration at the Keshen Goodman Library.

to HCLN have overcome huge barriers including the challenges of being a new Canadian, economic difficulties, or learning disabilities that made formal learning difficult. From those who are struggling to read their first paragraph or write a letter for the first time, to those who wish to achieve their GED or High School Diploma for Adults, you inspire me with your commitment to life long learning.

Congratulations to everyone who was written a poem or story for Still Dreaming: a year of learning with the Halifax Community Learning Network. I wish you all the best in your learning goals and reaching your dreams!

Denise Morley

A special thank you and congratulations to Margie Naish-Buchanan, the HCLN treasurer who was recently honored with an HRM Volunteer Recognition Award. Margie has been a volunteer with the HCLN for more than 10 years—a true friend of literacy, and has the task of keeping our finances in order. Well done, Margie!



HCLN volunteer Margie Naish-Buchanan receiving her HRM Volunteer Recognition Award from Mayor; Peter Kelly

Every year, I learn from the participants in these programs. The courage, dedication and hard work that the learners demonstrate is inspiring and the kindness and support they show to each other is remarkable. They remind me what I too often forget: how important these qualities are for us all. I am proud of all the learners in the two programs: not just for their achievements in reading, writing, and math, but for the extra effort they take in making us all feel comfortable and welcome.

All of the learners have improved throughout the



Program Coordinator Rachel Lebowitz at the National Volunteer Week party at the Spring Garden Road Library

year. Some have gone on to full-time classes or the portfolio program and two are almost ready to write the GED. One learner wrote longer pieces than she ever had before; another wrote a fictional story for the first time in his life. One learner has gained a real understanding of word problems. Another told me that she helped a customer read a greeting card, something she would never have done a year ago. I know that sometimes there are hard days and it can be difficult not to get discouraged, but I want you to know that everyday I see real improvements. You are an inspiration for us all. Thank you!

Thanks too to the tutors, without whom we wouldn't have a program! Your patience, creativity, great sense of humour, and hard work are much appreciated. Thanks for helping make this program so much fun! I hope we will see you again next year.

Lastly, thanks to the Friday gang at HN and Irene-Ann at Spring Garden for keeping me (uh, I mean us) replenished with cookies!

Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to seeing you next year!

Rachel Lebowitz

I have been working with the Bloomfield Literacy Program for six years, and although each year brings new rewards and challenges, I am always impressed with the progress made by my students. While some are working on basic reading and writing, others are studying to write their GED exam or to improve their employment skills. As you can see by their stories, some of my students have overcome a great deal to attend upgrading classes. I hope you all have a great summer and look forward to working together again in September!

Laura Channon



*Bloomfield Literacy Program Coordinator
Laura Channon at work*



Program Coordinator Linda Oakley with students and volunteers at the Winter Party at the captain William Spry Library

I just celebrated my fifth anniversary working and volunteering in adult literacy. My involvement with literacy has been challenging but very rewarding. I, personally, have learned from all the students and tutors I have met during the last five years.

Goodman Public Library and my second year at the Captain William Spry Public Library. A Coordinator does many different tasks and meets many people over the course of a year. Thus my job is never boring but always interesting!

There are many people besides myself that help make the upgrading program run successfully throughout the year. The library and the library staff provide us with a comfortable and welcoming space to have our sessions in every week and the staff are always eager to help us when needed. The Halifax Community Learning Network and Network Coordinator Denise Morley offer resources, knowledge and support. Then we have the people who make up our programs- the tutors and learners. They are an enthusiastic group who inspire me on a daily basis.

To all of you, thanks for another great year! I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe summer!

Linda Oakley

Congratulations to the following HCLN tutors who completed the NS Department of Education Tutor & Instructor Training Course with instructor Allan Banks:

Devon Code-McNeil, Chris Vosey, Elaine Frampton, Bev Oulton, Sandy Potter,



Tutor Training instructor Allan Banks with HCLN tutor Etta Hamm

Richard Schmalz, Elizabeth Miner, Sharon MacKinnon, Laura Kinderman,
Etta Hamm and Jenelle Gregg

My Long Walk to Freedom

BY ABABA AYELE

I was born in Davat, a village in Ethiopia, in 1964. My family's vegetable and fruit farm provided well for our large family. My father and brothers still operate the farm there.

I married Jallo at the age of 13 and we moved to the city of Gondar. Jallo worked for the Red Cross as an interpreter between English-speaking foreign aid workers, and staff and clients of local agencies. The language spoken there is Amharic, one of many Ethiopian languages. We had three boys and a girl. I ran my own busy cafeteria. Life in Gondar was great for us for thirteen years.

Then Major Mengistu, a dictator government leader, came into power. His soldiers tried to force Jallo and Atakalti, our 12-year old son, to join the army. It was a cruel army run by a terrible government. You had no choice in anything. Many who tried to escape were caught and forced to join. Many were killed.

Jallo and I decided to take our chances. Late one night we started on a long walk to the Sudan, leaving all our clothes and belongings behind. It was risky, but we had to go.

Jallo carried Bitow, our 4-year old son on his back. I carried Fantanish, our 2-year old daughter. Atakalti and his brother Mulu, 10, were big enough to walk. We walked for one week toward the Sudan border where we would be free.

So that military security would not catch us and put Jallo and Atakalti in the army, and send me and the smaller kids home, we walked only at night. Through forests, bushes, fields and hills. The children and I hid and slept under trees in the daytime, resting from walking all night. Jallo never slept at all, the whole week, always watching out for Mengistu's soldiers, thieves, and hyenas, wild dogs that will eat anything.

We carried no money because soldiers or thieves would have taken it from us

anyway. Some people were killed for their money. I carried bits of dry food to keep us going, and Jallo carried a big bottle of water, besides carrying Bitow.

We got very, very tired, walking so far. We felt we could not take another step, but Jallo kept us going, almost 300 miles. Finally, worn out and with no money, we reached the Sudan border.

There we met a bus driver named Jamal-Abdu. We told him how far we had come. We were a terrible sight and he felt sorry for us, so he let us on his bus. The bus took us many miles on country roads, and several towns where we stayed overnight. Jamal-Abdu's employer paid for him to sleep in hotels and he let us sleep in the bus. He bought us food and drink. Jamal-Abdu lived in the big city Port Sudan, so that is where he took us.

Jamal-Abdu and his wife, Fatima, kept us in their home two months. They gave us shelter, food, and clothes. They were the answer to our prayers. Then we got our own place to live.

We lived there for five years. I got a job working for a family, and Jallo kept working for the Red Cross. Jallo's life on the job with professionals during the day was ok, but city life was hard.

The people of Port Sudan, mostly Muslims, don't like Christians, and they don't like refugees. People laughed at our clothes, insulted us on the street, and treated us badly in many ways. Atakalti and Mulu were bullied at school every day. The teachers didn't supervise the kids. They didn't care what happened to refugees. There was no future there for us at all.

In Port Sudan two years, we applied to come to Canada. We were finally approved after three years of waiting, living that hard life every day.

We came directly to Halifax seven years ago. The Canadian government paid our air fare and we had to pay it back. MISA got us a place to live and helped us to get settled. It was great to be with friendly people. Life here is good. We feel welcome here. I thank God to be living in this free country. I thank my tutor for helping me tell my story. I have many more to tell.

Class Haikus – November 2004

Halifax North Public Library Communications class

Driving late at night
A yellow line disappears
I was right ticked off

In Ahern Manor
A drunken bum pounds the door
I phoned the police

I saw an old man
Cruising down Forest Hill Park
On a mountain bike

He rode past tracks, trails, and fields
On his small, grey bike
Attached to a lawn mower

“The Goonies”

BY ANN DARVILLE

I watched a video last night. It was a mystery/action film. The name of the movie was “The Goonies.”

The main characters were a group of kids who were searching for a treasure. There were also adults who were following the kids to the treasure.

The movie starts when two boys find a treasure map in their home. The map describes a pirate ship with a treasure inside the ship. The boys decide to go on a treasure hunt. The treasure hunt starts at a scary old house. Under the house there are tunnels, waterfalls and a pirate ship. The adults (an old woman, her son, an escaped convict and a friend of the old woman) are following the kids.

The old woman knew about the treasure hunt. The adults wanted the treasure for themselves. The adults followed the kids because the kids had the map.

The map showed the kids where to go inside the old house. The kids followed tunnels under the house. The treasure ship was in the tunnels under the old house.

The ship was surrounded by water. The kids had to swim to get to the ship. When the kids get on the ship they find a treasure (gold, coins and jewels). The old woman's son helped the kids find the treasure and stops the adults from taking the treasure.

At the end of the movie the police capture the old woman, the con and the old woman's friend. The kids get a reward for helping capture the con.

One of the boys gets some of the jewels for himself. He uses the jewels to save his parents house from being destroyed.

I liked this movie because it was a good mystery. It was never boring and made me think a lot.

The Bull

BY GRACE MCGREGOR

I grew up in New Ross with my six sisters and three brothers. Sometimes my family was hungry, so us kids, me and my sisters and brothers, went looking for apples that fell on the ground from the trees in a field. The field belonged to Roscoe Porter. Roscoe had cows and a bull. The bull was in that field all summer.



HCLN student Grace with tutor, Etta

We had to go through a barbed wire fence to get into the field where the bull was. Sometimes we ripped our clothes on the barbs on the fence.

Once we got in there, we were afraid of the bull. Bulls will chase you and throw you up in the air with their horns. They are very angry, crazy animals. A bull can kill you. We were so scared but we needed those apples. The bull chased us lots of times but when you're young, you can run so fast. We had to pass him to go swimming too. Boy, that bull sure made life hard for us. It

was us against him.

We were scared but when you're a kid you don't think about dying. When I think back now, I'd never go back in that field with that bull in there. I can't believe we lived in all that danger. But I look back now and I have to laugh. I wonder what ever happened to that bull in the end.

The Four Seasons

JOHN ALLAN MACMILLAN

Spring is like a new born baby
Washed and powdered
Like new flowers coming out
Summer is like a sunny day
Sunday arrives and it's to the beach.
Fall is when the leaves on the trees turn
Red, green, yellow and orange before they fall down.
Winter is lovely when sun shines
Or when you're on a trail.

The Dart Team

By A.M.

I belong to a dart league. There are four teams with four players, and each team has a Captain. There are five or six spare players to fill in when someone is not available. We play once a week, with three games per night. Each team starts with 501 points, and counts down to zero. You must hit a double to begin scoring, and also to win.

I started playing last September for the first time. I was a spare for the first half of the season. I was asked to join a team full-time after Christmas. The people are friendly, and it is an enjoyable experience.

The league finishes in May, and starts again in September. I am looking forward to being on the team again next year, with God's blessing.

“Me”

BY SPRYOS ANGELOPOULOS

My name is Spyros. I would like to share my favorite sporting events with you.

I take part in the Special Olympics program. I like to go swimming, bowling, and track. My favorite is running and diving.

I also have an older brother that just got married. His name is Alex. I also have a kitten named “Coy”, he is a gentle kitty that eats out of my hand. I love Coy.

Do Yourself A Favour

BY KATHY DOBSON

There are many people in the world who have problems reading. Some people say they’re too old to learn to read. Some people say they don’t have the time. Some people worry that they’re not smart enough to learn to read. Some people are embarrassed that they can’t read well.

I read the article on Sonya Moore. I like the story but she should have told her sons that she couldn’t read. Instead she told her employment counsellor. If she had told her sons they would probably help her or give her a book and sit beside her to help her read. I think they would try to help her and not turn her away. People should not be embarrassed to let people know that they can’t read. Sonya was embarrassed to let anyone know that she could not read but she blurted it out while she was talking to the counsellor. She could have saved time if she got help reading sooner. Then, she could have helped her sons with their homework. I am happy that Sonya got the help she needed from her counsellor.



*HCLN student Kathy Dobson with tutor
Patricia Padmos*

She finally told her sons and instead of getting angry they hugged her and she felt so much better. She finally got the confidence to start working on learning to read.

So it is really important to take the first step. Tell a friend or counsellor that you are having trouble reading or writing. You will have more confidence in yourself if you make this start. So do yourself a favor. Take the first step in learning to read. If you learn to read the world opens to you.

My name is Kathy Dobson. I was born in Halifax. I have lived here my whole life. Because I had polio as a child and I was in the hospital for three years, I missed a lot of school as a child then I never really got going in a proper school program. I somehow learned to read and write but I didn't go very far in school. I started coming to the Halifax North library program in 1994. Since then I have learned to write stories, read whole books, do multiplication and division and many other things.

Satisfying Times

BY ETTA HAMM

Becoming a volunteer tutor with the Halifax Community Learning Network is the best thing I've ever done! I love it so much that I'm helping not one, but two learners.

The highlights of my week are Wednesday mornings with Ababa and Friday mornings with Grace. They're so enthusiastic about learning! They triumph in mastering "the hard parts" and in understanding what they're learning. They have aha! moments. They seriously apply themselves to making progress toward their goals, and are seeing light at the end of the tunnel.

They're crafting stories about their lives and appreciating the value and the beauty of clear, effective communication. They're enjoying a variety of approaches to learning, discovering that learning can be fun – and they're eager for more, more, more!

This may not be every tutor's experience – maybe I was just lucky in being matched with Grace and Ababa.

We have such wonderful, satisfying times working together – and we do take the time to chat and laugh! Now, why wouldn't I love it?

My Learning

CLARENCE DOUCETTE

Spring Garden Road Library Program

I am one of the participants in this program. I have been coming here for about four years. These are some of the subjects I have learned while in the program:

Reading. My reading was poor when I started. Math. I have worked on exercises encompassing adding, subtraction, multiplication and long division.

Writing. My writing used to be jammed together and people could not understand it. Now the words are spaced apart so that people can read it.

Spelling. I could not spell very well. I can now sound out syllables to spell words.

Computers. I couldn't understand how to work the computer but now I know a lot more. For example, this story was written on the computer.

Grammar. My grammar was poor but now it has greatly improved.

Navigation. I used to get lost frequently but now I can find my way around most of the time.

I have greatly improved in these subjects over time.

My First Year

BY CYNTHIA MACNEIL

Spring Garden Road Library

My name is Cynthia MacNeil. This is my first year with the literacy program at the library. I come to the Spring Garden Road Library on Tuesdays. I heard about the program from Clarence, who is my companion. He helped me to talk to Rachel. He got me involved. I decided to join to increase my education and go to a higher level. I decided to wait before joining to see how Clarence liked it. He said it was good.

I met Rachel at the library and we talked about what I need to work on and what I want to learn. I thought it would take a few weeks to get a tutor, but I was surprised! Rachel had a tutor for me within one week. In the past, I had bad experiences with tutors. I never got anything done with them. It was one on one tutoring at your home. They came to you. It was a different literacy program.

When I was younger, I didn't have the opportunity to have regular schooling to get ahead. My parents tried to protect me, but they didn't help me to go into the regular system. They were afraid I couldn't cope with the pressure of the teachers and students. They thought I would be teased too much. In my mind, I thought if I had a chance, I would do what I could. If I had a chance to fit in, but I didn't have the chance. I didn't even have the chance to try it for a short period of time. I think that's what held me back on my education today. Now in school, people with disabilities have teachers' aides. If I would have had teachers' aide, I could have coped. Someone could have helped me take notes so I could keep up. I would've gotten ahead a lot easier.

The literacy program helps me to get out and meet new people. It helps me to learn about the library too. I never had the chance to learn about the library before. I had never used my library card either and I don't know how to use the computer. I want to learn how to use it. Plus, I want to work on different skills, like math and reading- especially reading. Reading is my biggest weakness. I also need to work on writing and putting my thoughts on paper.

The literacy program is helpful for people like me, who want help with whatever they need to work on. It takes a lot of work to keep the program running. It takes a lot of time. The little things are nice too. It's comforting to know they try to make you feel welcome with different things like tea, coffee, and parties. Without the tutors and Rachel though, there wouldn't be a program, because you need people involved to make it work.

Rachel is very outgoing. She does a good job because she is outgoing and very helpful to anybody in the program. I was fortunate to find a nice tutor. Her name is Kyla Russell. You need to have a connection with your tutor to make it work. I think it is important to feel you can be yourself so you can get more done. Plus, the tutor needs to have patience. You need to have patience yourself! It takes time to work on whatever you need to work on, because you only meet once a week. It's hard to get stuff done. It's not like school where you are in class every day. Sometimes you can do exercises if your tutor is

able to give you exercises to do at home. If you want to do that too, it will help.

I want to say thank you to everyone in the program. Thank you very much. It means a lot to me. I hope this program will continue for a long time. I hope I will have my tutor for a long time if she is able. I hope everybody finds the program helpful as well. It's important to keep doing what you need to do. It is important to finish what you start and not to give up.

Butterfly

BY RICHARD SCHMALZ

Butterfly

Against my window, it
flits and dives. Tilting
at the glass,
it batters its way
into
my mind's eye.

Mountain Climber

BY ELAINE FRAMPTON

Margaret climbs a mountain every week to get to class. Her physical challenges make it very difficult, in fact painful to stand, let alone walk, but she is not deterred.

Margaret has told me that some days when it is cold and miserable and she is feeling sore and tired, she wishes she were dead. Then she forgets about it and moves on, and does what she must do.

Sometimes during our sessions she will say "This work is tough", but I've never heard her say, "I can't" or "I won't". She says "I'll try".

Margaret says that her success in her school work has improved her confidence in other areas of her life. More and more she sees the value of every small, painful step and tries harder in everything she does.

When we first started our work together, Margaret said she felt that a better education would make her a more worthwhile person. As she climbs higher up the mountain, my main hope for her is that she will realize that anyone less 'worthwhile' would never have undertaken the journey in the first place.

Citadel

BY MARY THOMPSON

I was working at a hotel, The Citadel, next to the police station. I worked there for 24 years. If somebody didn't show up I had to cover for them. I used to work days and nights sometimes. I worked in the laundry, upstairs in the rooms, maintenance person. I did lots of stuff there.

When I was carrying my little girl, I worked there till I was nine months pregnant.

Some of the people there were nutty. One of the cooks was there for a long time. He was George - you could tell he was going to do something nasty but he didn't do it. He'd get someone else to do it for him. Like putting a cooked egg in my milk - he got Mikey, another cook, to do it for him.

There was too much joking in the laundry. When it was somebody's birthday we'd put butter or whipped cream on their nose. Not me, the other guys. Two girls tried on my uniform together but after a while, Darlene got as big as me. We'd have water fights with those spray water bottles. You'd squirt someone, you'd go behind the dryer and squirt someone. The supervisor was there. She used to get into it too. She was in on the joke, she didn't miss nothing. You gotta have some kind of joking otherwise you'd go insane.

There was Jim Terreo, he was a baker, bakes some muffins, Christmas cakes. He was a cool guy. And Scott and somebody else, another cook - Paul. They were just standing there joking and I walked past and they said, "Look, Mary" and lifted up their cook jackets. "Oh, look, look, Mary, which one is the hairiest?" They wouldn't let me pass till I looked. I said, "I'll let you know later. Show me later." They were all good looking men too. I just went, "I gotta go to break."

When I was cleaning out the bin to sort the linen to go in the machines I'd see

some mice. One woman put the mice - the baby mice - into an empty Kleenex box and then when Eileen came and saw the mice she jumped on the table and screamed, "Aah!" And she said a couple of nasty words after that. I said, "It wasn't me!"

We had good, good fun. We had a serious job to do but we somehow got it done but we were crazy. I don't miss the work but I miss the people.

The Wolves

BY DH OAKLEY

It was a dark and stormy night. We got lost in the woods. We were out hunting all day long and we lost our way. It was getting so dark that you couldn't see in front of you. The wind was blowing so strong that we had to put our hands over our eyes to see where we were headed. My son was not used to being out in the woods on a stormy day like this one. He was getting kind of scared so we sat down for a rest and tried to figure out where we had to go. All at once we both turned our heads and saw a wolf sitting on the path that we had to take. My son whistled, and the wolf stood right up and started to walk along the path. It was like the wolf was telling us to follow him. We sat there for a bit more. The wolf walked out of sight and we couldn't see it anymore. My son said to me, "Do you think he's telling us to follow him?" I just laughed at him and said, "You're crazy."

Then about ten or fifteen minutes later the wolf was back and was sitting right in the same spot. He did this three times, so we took a chance and followed him out of the woods. As we were walking the wolf disappeared and we couldn't see him anymore. My son was whistling a tune just trying to keep his spirits up and for some reason I turned around and saw a pack of wolves following behind us. I didn't tell my son that the wolves were following us because he might scare them and they might attack us. So we just kept walking to our truck. It was a long walk but we made it a long way and the wolves didn't bother us all the way out. We turned around and my son whistled a tune the wolves ran after us. They chased us right to the truck. We were lucky to get to the truck. We both talked it over and we decided to stay out of the woods until next year.

“|”

BY GAETANE SIROIR

I do not walk; you will find me in different places.

I wear all colours one or multiple at a time. I do not wear clothes.

I live in the wild, but I am domesticated.

I need care, some attention and water to survive.

I influence the equilibrium of nature. I'll always be there.

I get walked on, eaten, cut down, thrown away or carefully placed on a table for everyone to see their enjoyment.

I am beautiful; some people don't like me and others can't get enough of me.

I spread out on the ground, cover the trees yet still I live alone.

I am the symbol of love; they use me for joyful celebrations and more somber ones too.

I am soft at the touch, also tall, short, thin, wide, big, small, and more.

I am transformed by nature to become tangible and practical for your needs.

I have thousands of names - long names, scientific names and surnames but everyone knows me as the flower.

School

VICKY ISENER

I remember when I was younger. I used to play hooky, and didn't pay much attention in school, when I first started out. I failed primary twice, grade 1 once, and grade 4.

At the time, I wasn't the happiest I could be in school. I found it difficult to

pay attention and listen, and I also didn't have a lot of self-confidence. I was very frustrated because other problems were partly holding me back.

Around the age of 22 I started to come around and started getting better and started feeling better about myself. I decided it was time to gain my independence so I thought it was time to move out on my own.

I felt a strong feeling to go back to school to start where I left off. I wanted to catch up on the levels that I missed. Learning is more enjoyable now than it was back then because I have more confidence in myself than when I was younger.

My goal is to continue finishing school and to not let anything get in my way.

Tutoring

BY DAVID TRENBIRTH



HCLN tutor David Trenbirth receives at the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration at the Keshen Goodman Public Library

David Trenbirth is a literacy tutor for mature student David Riles at Keshen-Goodman library, with coordinator Linda Oakley.

It's no secret that keeping the interest of students over months and years in improving their reading skills and the understanding of the subjects depends a great deal of using interesting material.

A student with low-end skills can usually make progress with fairly simple reading tasks, and understand basic lessons in spelling and sentence construction, but I believe it is possible to "force" the student to a higher level by using a variety of library books and magazines that might at first sight seem too difficult.

This has been my experience in the past 18 months with my student, who has studied subjects as varied as Canadian military history, meteorology,

architecture, the B.C. gold rush, Halifax's connection with the Titanic sinking, and humorous stories from politicians and pioneers. Results in tests have varied from fair to quite good. "Exams" aside, the result of not relying on what my student refers to as "kids' books" has been increased self-confidence in tackling more complex material.

There is a second side to this method. It builds confidence in the tutor, in their ability to teach, and keeps their own interest.

In brief: keep lessons lively so both parties come to their weekly sessions with a sense of accomplishment and an ability to discuss relatively difficult material.

A Celebration of Life

BY ANN KELLY

The Apartment Program is a government-run program to teach people to get into the community. Every year, the Regional Residential Apartment Program has a meeting. This year's meeting was a celebration of the program being around for 25 years. All the people who had been in the program for 25 years got a boutonniere when they came in the door. They were also presented with a gift.

I couldn't believe it when I was given the biggest gift. I was given a mirror for being in the program for 25 years.

I have met a lot of people from all walks of life through the program. Sometimes I feel like it's a real family because we do a lot of things. We go on trips in the summer, like going to camp and going on day-trips and go places like to the valley. Through the years, two of the clients have passed away.

The counselors do a lot of running around to go to businesses to get donations for the silent auction.

Some of the people need supervision. They have never lived in an apartment before so they need help. They have a live-in that helps with everyday tasks. It helps them gain a sense of independence. In the program, the supervisors had a workshop that showed the people how to role-play. Role-playing shows people how they can behave in a positive way.

Running Marathons

LESLIE RYAN

Spring Garden Road Library Program

When I was 59 years old, I decided I would try running. I was a smoker. This made it hard for me to run. With the help of people from the YMCA, I stopped smoking.

I decided I would run a marathon. That is hard work and you have to train a long time. A marathon is twenty-six miles.

I have run all over Nova Scotia and Ottawa and Toronto. Now I run half marathons. That is thirteen miles. I meet a lot of nice people.

At Sea with the Coast Guard

BY MYLÈNE DIPENTA

I work with the Coast Guard. My job is to fix radios, computers, radars, TVs, sound systems, and lots of other things. Most of the time I work in a shop with ten other technicians. We go to the ships in the morning and come back at night. I like my job. Something different happens every day. You never know what will break! I started the job less than two years ago. I am still an apprentice, so there are lots of things I have to learn. But there are usually more experienced people around to help me out.

For two months during the year, though, I go to sea. I sail on one of the ice breakers or science research ships. During this time, if anything breaks, I am on my own. No one else can help me, because I am the only technician on the ship. Sometimes we are so far away from home that even cell phones and satellite telephones don't work. It was scary at first. I didn't really believe that I could do things by myself.

The first time I went to sea, I was very seasick for two days. I thought I would never get better. I was worried I would get fired because I couldn't do my job! Then I started to feel better. Soon I was working 12 hours a day, eating pie and pizza, and feeling fine. The first time something broke

and I had to fix it, I was very worried. I knew the ship couldn't sail unless the problem was fixed. If I didn't do well, we would have to end the trip early. I was nervous, but I took out my tools and did my best. Soon the problem was fixed, and the captain was very happy. After that, I never felt as scared again.

Sometimes it's hard being the only woman on the ship. The guys are nice but they don't really understand me. I try to be friendly, and hope that gradually their attitudes will change. I'm glad I went back to school to learn how to do this job. I have learned so much from it already.

The Romouski and Mooseheads Series

DAVID HICKEY

The Halifax Mooseheads and the Romouski Oceanics played in the Quebec Major Hockey League Finals in early May. It was a great series but Romouski outplayed and outshot the Mooseheads.

One of the reasons that Romouski won the series is because they had Sydney Crosby on their team. He is one of the best players in the league.

The Romouski Oceanics won the series four games to one. They played very well and had a great coach.

The series had terrific goal tending on both sides but the Oceanics had the best out of the two teams.

The Romouski Oceanics go on to the Memorial Cup where four teams play in different series. It should be a great Memorial Cup.

Kids and Violence in Today's Society

PRESENTED BY DERECK HILES

Kids seem to be very disobedient in today's society. Nowadays, children do not listen to their parents and do drugs and if their parents ask them to do things, they say they don't have to listen to them because they can call the

police or child welfare. I think they should give power back to the parents so that they can have more control over their kids.

In today's society parenting isn't like it used to be. In the past both parents would be together doing things with their kids like taking them to the movies, baseball, outings, family nights. In today's parenting, parents do not spend enough quality time with their kids. They spend more time working especially single parents. Marriages today result in a lot of divorces leaving the mothers to bring up the children by themselves. Since the father figure is absent in such homes sometimes the kids don't listen to their mothers and get out of control.

The education system in today's society is very poor due to the fact that there are more students in classes. As a result kids do not get one-on-one attention with their teacher. And also teachers do not spend enough time on teaching their subjects. I think that more time should be spent on one subject at a time and some students require more time and help than other students. When students fall behind in the education system they are tempted to drop out of school. Therefore I think that there should be two teachers per classroom so more time can be spent per child.

Children watch more television today than socializing with other children or being active. By children watching more television they learn and do what they see on T.V. Some programs that children watch have vulgar language that children repeat and do. There is a lot of crime and violent programs and movies that children see, play and do, for example violent video games that kids play today on PS2 and other T.V. games. Children play these games and go out and try it like it's the real thing. Children aren't always supervised when watching T.V. and playing games. Therefore they watch anything they want.

The justice system also plays a role in kids' violence. It is too lenient on crimes committed by juveniles. I think that young kids break the law and get away with it because they are underage. The young offenders act protects them and the juvenile offenders know that and take advantage of that. I think that the young offender act should be changed and young kids be held responsible for their actions and crimes accordingly. If the punishments are harder then the kids would think twice about committing a crime.

In conclusion, I believe the justice system should discipline children who

break the law and should have strict rules in order to stop children from recommitting violent acts. Television and movies that are put on TV should be coded or blocked so children can't watch violent shows. Violent games should be taken off the market. Single parents should be supported to help them raise their children. Finally the education system should put more programs in schools to better educate the children so they can be productive in today's society. Kids who are out of control should be put into programs to help them manage anger and avoid violence, robbery, drug and alcohol abuse, etc. This will help them learn what their violent behaviour does and how it affects people in our society.

My Dreams

BY PERCY OLIVER

As a teenager, I dreamt about becoming a truck driver. I used to see the big trucks like 18-wheelers and I always thought I would enjoy the challenge and the lifestyle. It was a good way to travel and to meet people. I wanted to meet the right person, have kids and go on long hauls to see many different places in the United States and Canada.

At 30, I started to work on my dreams: being a truck driver and upgrading. I prayed about getting myself a class one license to drive an 18-wheeler. Then I found out about Teamworks, a program that helps people with learning disabilities. Don Looper, a gentleman from Teamworks, helped me find the money and support that I needed to get my license. Then in 1998, I went on a course, passed it, and I got my class one! I also continued my upgrading. This helped me to feel good about myself. I studied spelling, reading, math and map reading skills and this helped me pursue a career as a truck driver.

But I guess God had different plans. This is the year 2005 and now I'm doing the same thing all over again, trying to find the support that I need to reach my goals. Although I have always wanted to drive a truck, I have had to change my goals to be more realistic. I may have the chance to get my class two license to drive a bus. If I could drive a bus, I would like to work as a shuttle bus driver and one day run my own shuttle bus business.

God has taught me a lesson about dreams. I worked hard to get my class one license and the same year I got it, I lost it after being involved in a serious accident. It seems difficult to get my class one again and I am thinking that

God wants it to be this way so that I can be with other people. I enjoy being with people and God has brought me to meet many different people along the different path I have taken. I'm still not sure where the path is headed. I'm taking it one day at a time, still dreaming and always following my heart.

Finding a Pet

BY MELVIN J. DOYLE

My dad was a hunter and a fisherman. He was also a lumberjack man, meaning he didn't have any power saw back in his day. When he raised us with Mom as young kids he always got me up in the morning. He washed me, dressed me and fed me. Then we went into the woods with Uncle Willy to cut firewood for the stove to keep us warm in the wintertime.

When we came out of the woods, he and Uncle Willy tied the horse to the gate. Then Uncle Willy and Dad unloaded the logs in a pile beside the saw-horse. I used to sit up on top of the logs while he was sawing them with a bucksaw, not a power-saw. Back then there were no power saws to be seen.

While he was sawing I would watch the sawdust fall on the ground. Then when we were done Uncle Willy went home with the horse. Then my dad would take me into the house to have dinner.

One day when we came out of the woods, I saw a truck in the yard. It was loaded with animals. I walked up to the truck and said to the man who was driving it: "What kind of animals do you have in here?" He said: "Little guy, I have budgie birds, hamsters, rabbits, baby ducklings and baby chickens." His name was Ralph Nuss from the Valley.

So he asked me to get my mom or dad to see if I could have a pet. I walked into the house and asked Mom if I could have a budgie bird for a pet. She said no.

I started to cry because I couldn't have the pet budgie. So the truck went off.

I had noticed something blue and white in the sawdust pile so I went over and I saw this little bird. I didn't know what kind of bird it was but I caught him and I ran into the house. I said to dad: "Dad, look what I have here! Can I keep him?"

Mom said no. I started to cry again and Dad said: "Let him keep the little bird."

Meanwhile, Ralph Nuss came back because he noticed the door was open on one of the cages. He walked into the house and asked if anybody had seen a budgie. I showed him the little bird.

He saw that I was crying and he said: "Let him keep the bird - cage and all." We called him Jerry. He was blue and white with black wings. We had him for 11 years.

Camels

ISSA HAGGAR

My name is Issa. I am from Africa. My job at home is a camel driver. I raise camels to sell in the market.

The camels are sold alive. Camels are used for meat, transportation, and oil. Business people buy camels for meat. Farmers buy camels for milk and meat. Camel milk tastes the same as cow milk. Camel milk and meat is used as medicine. The grass and trees that camels eat are healthy for humans. The camel is very fancy and neat. They drink clean water and eat fresh grass. Camels don't like sheep, goats or cows. Camels don't like dirty places. Camels are selfish because they can't be around other animals. Camels don't like the smell of other animals. They live in the desert because no animals or people live in the desert.

Adult camels go away for 2 to 3 months then they return. I keep the baby camels so that the mother will return. If the baby is stolen the mother camel will cry for a long time. Camels can live for 15-20 years.

When the female camel is 4 years old she becomes pregnant. Camels can only have one baby at a time. Females are pregnant for 9 months. After a year the camel can give birth again.

Male camels can travel alone for 3 years. Camels are very strong.

There are many types of camels. One kind has short hair and is deaf. Most

camels from Africa have one hump and short hair. My family owns 60-70 camels. Camels are very expensive. I can sell a camel for \$600 to a businessman.

I miss my camels. I wish I could see my camels again. I haven't seen my camels in 8 years. Maybe one day I will see them again.

Chapter 1

The Sick Tiger

BY JAMIE LOOMIS



The tiger asked the monkey, "May I have a banana, please?" The monkey said, "I have no bananas." The tiger went home. The tiger felt sick. The tiger felt better in the morning. The monkey talked to the doctor, "Come over and see the tiger."

The doctor put the medicine in the tiger's mouth. The doctor was a human being. The tiger did not hurt him. The tiger felt a lot better. Tiger did cartwheels in the doctor's office. The tiger is going to the doctor's office. Tiger says, "Wow!"

Chapter 2

The Tiger and the Monkey

The Tiger is 5 years old. His Name is "BIG". He lives inside a cave. He is in a zoo. He ROARS. His best friend is a monkey whose name is GEORGE. They like to eat, play games, laugh, swim and relax.

Chapter 3

Tiger at the Big Top

1. The Tiger works at the BIG TOP CIRCUS.
2. He plays around with a ball.
3. He has fun with the children.

4. The Children like “BIG” better than the other animals.
5. He works hard, hard, hard for a long, long time.
6. Tiger goes home to his cave at 2:00 p.m.

Chapter 4

Monkey George lives at the zoo. His job is to feed the elephants. He gives him peanuts. But the elephant is too full to eat. He has no name. The elephant drinks water. A zookeeper gives him water. George is a curious monkey. He is nosey and he works hard. BIG is George's best friend. He gets off work at 9:00 o'clock.

Chapter 5

Monkey George and his friend Tiger “Big” go to New York City by train. They lose their luggage so they take the train back to get it. They go back to New York and stay a while. They stay in a hotel. They went sightseeing and saw lots of people and the Statue of Liberty. They went on the subway underground and took a ferry across the water. Then they saw the Empire State Building and Central Park. They took the bus home. They had fun and a very good time. The End

Chapter 6

The Picnic

Tiger and Monkey go for a walk. They go for a picnic. They take meat, bananas a picnic blanket and apple juice. The picnic is in the park. Ants come to the picnic. They want food too. Ants like picnics. So the tiger and the monkey walk home and eat their picnic at home.

Chapter 7

Tiger and the Monkey are best friends. The elephant sells peanuts to them. The Tiger and the Monkey take a break and eat the peanuts. The Tiger, Monkey and the elephant sell peanuts to people on the sidewalk. Peanuts are sweet. A bag of peanuts costs \$1.00. They use the money for 7UP. Tiger and the Monkey go home to the zoo. The elephant was sad.

Learning to Swim

BY IRENE ANN HINDE

When my sister and I were five and six years old, we went to Germany to visit my aunt in Wiesen. The town had a beautiful outdoor swimming pool, which had a very strict and tough instructor. My mother registered us both for swimming lessons.

Before we went into the water, we had to learn certain exercises which we had to do later in the pool. Before going into the water, we had to put floaters around our wrists for extra safety. We had to listen to the instructor and do what he told us to do. We had to put our face in the water which we didn't like, but I learned to overcome my fear of the water. I learned everybody had to wear a bathing cap; it was a must to keep hair out of the drains.

Swimming was fun and I learned a lot. I had success in what I was doing in swimming and it taught me not to be afraid of the water. I learned to do the butterfly stroke and the breaststroke.

Back to School

BY CHRIS BOWES

Back in 1998, when I was on social assistance, I wanted to go back to school for my grade 12.

I wanted to go to the Sylvan Learning Program but at that time it was the only program that I knew of and my social worker said it was too expensive. My social worker told me that I had to go to Dartmouth Work Activity; that was for eighteen months.

I felt that the Dartmouth Work Activity was not for me. I am very determined to go back to school to obtain my grade 12 so I can get to where I need to be in life and that would mean having my own independence. That will give me more opportunities for better employment and a possible career.

An arrangement was made for me to attend the Cunard Centre. I did the

assessment test there and they had me at Level 2. After doing the test, it was about two weeks into the classes; therefore I could not start because I would be behind in the schoolwork by about two weeks. So I ended up at the literacy program at the Halifax North Public Library on Gottigen Street for four months.

I received a call from a counselor at the Cunard Centre. She asked me if I was still interested in attending full time. Now that I am back, I have come too far to give up. I plan to see this through in completing my grade 12.

France

BY MARGARET LEBLANC

Captain William Spry Library Program

When I was thirteen years old, I went to France the day before Easter and came back home a week after Easter. Ten people from our group went on the airplane. I went to the beach and played in the sand. I met all kinds of people in France. I went on a candlelight vigil one night. All the kids in my class made me cards and they had a going away party for me. I went to eat at a restaurant and I went other places too. It was too foggy to land in Halifax. We had to go back to Moncton and come the rest of the way by bus.

Jean's Story

BY JEAN DIGNARD

I have been coming to the Captain William Spry Upgrading Program for several years. I am learning to read and write better. I also do math problems.

I enjoy coming to the library for my upgrading sessions. The library staff are very nice. The learners and tutors in the program are friendly and supportive.

My husband encourages me to learn more. He helps me with my homework and we read the Bible together every day.

A Christmas Memory

BY HEATHER MORLEY

As a child of around 6 I had to spend a Christmas in the hospital. As you can imagine, I was very unhappy about the whole event. I came down with a case of pneumonia, and my parents took me to the hospital on December 22.

I had told my parents that the only item I wanted Santa to bring me was a Chatty Kathy doll. They were one of the first dolls that when you pulled the string on the back of the doll it would say, "Hi, my name is Chatty Kathy." I so wanted to have this doll more than anything else. As well, I was worried that Santa would not know how to find me.

Well Christmas morning arrived, and my parents thinking that they were doing what would make me happy brought in my Christmas gift that Santa had left for me. It was my prized doll. Instead of the excited, happy little girl they thought I would be, I was very upset. I threw a little temper tantrum, crying for them to take it home, as the other children in the hospital room would steal it. My parents could not convince me otherwise.

While my parents were still at the hospital visiting me, the doctor informed them that I could go home for Christmas Day.

On the way home my dad, trying to make a sick child happy, decided to drive through the South end of the city, so that I could experience the homes lit up in all their splendor. I remember having a sense of security, wonder and magic. I was tucked in the front seat between my parents, wrapped in a blanket, and I remember thinking that this was the best Christmas ever.

I hope that all children are able to have that same feeling that I had that evening this Christmas and hopefully all year round.

My Story

BY BEATRICE COOKE

I have not finished school because as a young girl I fell ill.

I have always desired learning but work, marriage, and children became my

first priority.

I am also very comfortable with my teachers and this has given me the confidence I need to return to my education at this age.

I would love to be able to read more and have a better ability to take care of my own affairs.

Since starting with HCLN (North Branch) I have found my desire to learn has increased.

I am very pleased with the program and what I have learned so far.

Coming to Canada

SIRI KURUVITA

Bloomfield Literacy Program

I am from Sri Lanka. I came to Canada in 2002. The past two years were very hard for me. During that time I didn't know English, speaking or writing. I couldn't go to school. I had no money. I couldn't get financial help from the bank, because I was new to Canada. I went to many job interviews, but I was unsuccessful every time. I had known about some organizations that would help people to learn English, but they helped only landed immigrants. I was very, very upset. Sometimes I tried to teach myself, but it was very difficult. One day one of my friends told me about this upgrading program. I went there and met the coordinator. She was very friendly with me. I was glad about that. It wasn't difficult. There are many teachers. Everybody is a good teacher. They were doing very well. Still I have better jobs and better English knowledge. My teachers and coordinators helped me all the time. I need to continue learning English. I like to help people who are learning English and I hope to volunteer in this organization.

Dougie's Story

BY DOUGIE JAMIESON

I'm doing the research on my family. I like to know what my grandmother did to my mother, and her brothers and sisters too. What I know about it so far is that my grandmother took off with another man and left her kids on Market

St. I don't know the year. Mom doesn't say very much. She doesn't know much about it either. She says there was a big write-up about it in the paper. I read the newspaper on the microfilm. It's exciting. It's a long journey, a long process. You need to get all the facts. It's not short. I hope to find out what it says. I'll be happy when I find it. When I find it, I'm going to show Mom.

I've done a lot of research. I find obituaries for my family and friends and I save them. I've got a photo album where I save certain ones. I do it because they're my family and friends. It's something to remind me of them.

Story

BY DONALD D'ENTREMONT

On Saturday morning the guild put on a model show of their boats at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

There were about ninety tables of different kinds of boats. There was a scallop dragger that I like.

The Amsterdam tug that I am building another modeler is also building.

There was a navy group of boats. These boats are equipped with live ammunition. They play war games in Shubie canal.



HCLN student Donald D'Entremont with one of his model ships

Story

BY ANONYMOUS

I took a vacation from the Literacy Centre for about a year. I decided to come back to try it again, to start where I left off.

On the first day I was uncomfortable, for a couple of classes. My tutor made it more comfortable for me. Then we started to set up a program for this year.

My personal goal was to get better at my reading skills, and to find out about diabetes.

I feel like I have improved with my reading. I learned a bit about diabetes so far.

Tutor's perspective - I liked my student as soon as I met him. He was interested in learning to read and he had lots to talk about. He has a demanding job at a restaurant, but he never misses a class. I know he will reach his goal of learning to read.

The Logic of Football

BY DARLENE COULSTRING

On Saturday night the first semi- final game between Pittsburgh Steelers and New York Jets started at 5:30 pm and ended at 9 pm. Pittsburgh won the game. The second game between St Louis Rams and Atlanta Falcons started at 9:00 pm and went into overtime. Atlanta Falcons won that game. Pittsburgh and Atlanta were subsequently eliminated.

On Sunday the first game started at 2:00 pm between Philadelphia Eagles and the Minnesota Vikings. The Eagles won the game. The second game started at 6:00 pm and the two teams that played were the Indianapolis Colts and the New England Patriots. The Patriots won.

The Super Bowl game between New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles started at 7:00 pm on Sunday, Feb.6th 2005. The game went to midnight because it went into overtime. It was a very exciting game because Donovan McNabb the quarterback for the Eagles, threw the football which hit the Umpire on the head, and knocked him out cold. Tom Brady, the quarterback for the New England Patriots, was very focused when throwing the ball. He threw the ball to Deion Branch who made a touchdown. The Patriots won the Super Bowl game. The score was 24 21, giving the Patriots their third championship in four years.

My Idea of a Good Time

BY ROSEANN MARTELL

Captain William Spry library Program

My name is Roseann Marie. I am 35 years old. I was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I have two small children.

I am coming to the Upgrading Program to learn to read and write. I also want to improve my math skills. I would like to get a good job so I can take care of my two girls so they can get a good education. My girls Raytesha and Raytell are good children. They have good manners and they respect their elders.

My parents live downstairs from me and they are both old and sick. I look after them as well as my family. This keeps me busy.

That's why my idea of a good time is to sit down by myself, have something to eat, watch TV and have no one to bug me and to have peace of mind.

Encouraging Literacy

BY JUSTIN PANTHIER

I just started the literacy program and I feel good about it. It's helping me to learn to read and write. It's also helping me to communicate better with other people. It's helping me in my job at the grocery store because it's easier to read the labels and to explain myself to customers. Learning makes me feel better about myself. I can learn about history, read a whole book without putting it down in frustration, and I can read to my little girl. Even learning one or two new words is really exciting to me.

Literacy is starting to help me and could do the same for others. In Canada, which has a relatively good economy, a lot of people still don't know how to read and write. To solve this literacy problem, the government could help people financially, for those that need it, so that they could continue their education. Creating more literacy programs would probably help too.

With reading and writing in my future, I see more opportunity. Maybe I could become a doctor, a teacher, or a lawyer. Or, in my home country of Dominica, I could be one of the voices to stop police brutality and encourage the police

to treat people better. Or I could teach music or reading and writing. After all these years of not going to school, I thought that I would never learn to read and write, but thank God for the literacy program in Canada and everyone involved. Now I feel that I can do anything that I want to.

More Opportunity

BY VALARIE WILSON

Bloomfield Literacy Program

I have always been interested in learning and having a job. When I first started getting into a literacy program I didn't know too much and didn't think I would fit in. After almost three years I have learned so much about myself and feel so much better about myself. I have learned how to get along with other people, to interact with and speak up for myself. I have also learned how to do math, reading and help my children with their homework. I feel really comfortable with my tutor who has been a great support in all areas in my life. With further learning I would like to obtain a job and to be a more productive person. The road to learning is lifelong.

Accomplishment

BY JIM BEAVER

Coming to this program has greatly helped me in my reading skills and math skills. Although at times I can't make it because of my health, I think it is important to take this course. I find it's getting harder and harder to walk and if I can get my reading skills down pat, I will be able to read a book when I can't walk anymore instead of just watching T.V.

Right now, I can't understand the words and so I just throw the book away disgusted and mad. It doesn't take much to get me disgusted and discouraged.

This program has been beneficial to me because normally when I start something hard, I just show up the first day and then I don't come back because I get nervous. But this program is different because it is a one-on-one session and my tutor, who I thought was going to be hard on me, was understanding and knew where I was coming from. I am very glad that Jennifer, my Occupational

Therapist, found this program for me. I am very happy that I came and that I stuck it out. It is the first thing I stuck out in 12 years.

My Flying Adventures

BY LAURA MACDONALD

When I was a teenager I got to do some different kinds of flying. I got a chance to go up in a glider, a “Breezy,” a hot air balloon, a helicopter, and I flew on a Commercial airliner twice. I got to fly in a glider and a breezy at Stanley airfield in Hants County, N.S. and I went up in a hot air balloon at an airfield near Sydney, N.S. My flight in a helicopter was at Shearwater and we flew out around Halifax Harbour. My one flight on a Commercial airliner was from Sydney to Halifax to bring my grandfather to the hospital. My aunt arranged for me to go up in the glider and the Breezy as my uncle was a member of the flying club at Stanley. If I had to choose the one I like the best it would be the Breezy because I liked the way it was so open. I flew in the hot air balloon in Sydney one summer. It was a short trip. I really liked all of the flying I did and would like to do it all again some day.

My Move to Independence

BY HEATHER RUMSEY

Keshen Goodman Public Library Program

The most exciting piece of news this week was finding out that I’ll be living on my own.

I had a meeting with the apartment program coordinator to discuss if I’ll be living on my own or with a supervisor or a roommate. I am not sure what area I will be living in.

I’ve been preparing myself for the past 15-20 years to get to my goal which was to eventually live on my own. I have been working on basic living skills.



Heather Rumsey helping out at Word on the Street

I'm looking forward to living on my won and being responsible for myself.

The Story of My Cars

KENNETH McDOW

Keshen Goodman Library Program

My first car was a 1949 Ford. I bought it when I was 18 years old and living in the North End. The car worked good for me. I drove it for four years, and I sold the car for a better car. It was a 1959 Chevrolet Sedan. I drove it everywhere in the city and in the country with my family and to the beach on the weekend. I used it to drive to work and coming home. I drove it for four years and I sold it for a 1956 Austin. The 1956 Austin I used to take my children up to the Valley to pick fruit. I moved to a home in the country.

I bought a truck that year. It was a 1972 Chevrolet truck. I went back and forth to work in it. I sold the truck for a Dodge van. The van did not work very good- not as good as my old Chevrolet truck. I traded the van for a new Toyota wagon. I had it for years. I went back and forth to work, and I went to the beach with my family and fishing with my boys. They liked fishing and me too. I moved my boxes with my Toyota wagon; I used it like a truck. I traded it for a new Chevrolet bus van. I used to take my family to a camping ground on weekends and go fishing at Sambro Head on the weekends with my boys. When I sold it, I traded for a 1984 Cavalier sedan. That car was no good at all. I wished I had the van back in my hands for good and I could drive it for years.

Learning English

BY DAMMIKA KUMARA

Before I came to Canada I did not speak English. Then I decided to take an ESL program. First I would like to express my heartfelt Appreciation to my coordinator and teacher, because they are very helpful and kind to me. They have helped me to improve my English. Now I can speak and understand English much better than before I came to Canada.

So I plan to continue taking this course because my Coordinator and teachers are continuing support and encouragement to me. I'm very glad about that

and becoming more successful in communicating in English.

Sincere thanks to my coordinator and teachers.

Special Olympics in Nagano

BY JULIE-LYNN STANHOPE

Keshen Goodman Library Program

I was picked to go because I had won a gold medal in pairs figure skating at Nationals in PEI in 2004.

I had very bad luck last October, an accident at practice. I tore a ligament and soft tissue and broke my anklebone. The screws from the surgery didn't come out until January.

When we arrived in Okaya, we were adopted by a Japanese family. We ate sushi salad, apple pie, ice cream- all Japanese style and we had a green tea ceremony. We visited an elementary school and a temple. When we left Okaya, the people were so sad to see us go, they ran after the bus.

Then we went to Nagano. At the opening ceremonies, we saw the Prince and Princess and a sumo wrestler. I won gold medals in singles and pairs.

When I came home, lots of people congratulated me. I am so glad I never, never gave up on my dream.



Julie-Lynn Stanhope with her gold medals from Nagano. Well done!

