



Network News

A newsletter for the Tri-County Literacy Network serving the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Essex and Lambton Counties

How to Find Us

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2007-2008 Board of Directors

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Getting Connected III (Facilitator – Sandra Hennessey on Essential Skills)

Chatham-Kent & Sarnia-Lambton:

Friday June 6, 2008
The Sarnia Riding Club Limited
980 Riding Club Lane, Sarnia
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
(registration & continental breakfast)
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m workshop

Windsor-Essex:

Friday June 13, 2008
Giovanni Caboto Club
2175 Parent Ave., Windsor
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
(registration & continental breakfast)
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m workshop

Registration forms to come

*We want to hear your comments and suggestions!
Click on the email address below and give us your feedback.*
tcln@teksavvy.com

Strategic Partnerships for Action:

A Focus on Workplace and Workforce Literacy in Ontario
November 01, 2007

In 2005, the Ontario Literacy Coalition sponsored a provincial symposium on workforce and workplace literacy: *Workplace/Workforce Literacy Symposium: Building Linkages for Action*. The goal was to develop a plan of action to advance workforce/workplace literacy in Ontario. The objectives of the symposium were to stimulate a dialogue on the current situation in Ontario related to workforce/workplace literacy and better understand the interests of various stakeholders. Symposium delegates recommended that the symposium format be taken out to different regions in Ontario to get a regional perspective on similar questions. The forum in Sarnia was the fourth of five held around the province this year. It was sponsored by the Ontario Literacy Coalition and hosted by Tri-County Literacy Network with funding from the National Office of Literacy and Learning, Human Resources and Social Development Canada.



**Forum participants
Garry McDonald (Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce – left) & Ray Fillion (Sarnia and District Labour Council – right)**



Jo-Ann Schultz (Left) receives the Literacy Promotion Award from Trish Daubs (Right), President, Tri-County Literacy Network

**Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award
Recipient for Chatham-Kent for 2007**

This year, in Chatham-Kent, we would like to recognize the contributions of Jo-Ann Schultz.

Jo-Ann has been working in Wallaceburg for just over 5 years. She single-handedly was responsible for making the Literacy and Basic Skills program there thrive. If anyone was born to be a Literacy and Basic Skills instructor, it was Jo-Ann. Her compassion for the learners is unbelievable and she has the capacity to bring out the very best in everyone. Before working for Lambton Kent District School Board, Jo-Ann worked for 12 years for The Organization for Literacy in Lambton, first as a Literacy Co-ordinator and then as a Volunteer Co-ordinator. Before that, she worked with Labour Adjustment.

Jo-Ann has always tried to keep the program fresh and interesting with added features such as debates, current events, educational games, special programs, etc. She assisted in the co-ordination of the Video “Learners Speak Out” and even was on camera (even though that was not her plan). By example, she constantly shows her participants that it is hard to “step out of one’s comfort zone” but that it can be done. Jo-Ann has encouraged her students to embrace change.

By nature, she cares about the little things that matter most in all our lives and her personality shows that this is not just a job but a way of life for her to help others. Jo-Ann often states that she learns so much from her students and she is thankful everyday for the impact that the participants make in her own life.

Literacy Leads To Success

Learner Success Stories in the tri-county region

“Work hard, listen, don’t stop trying, and you, too, will succeed. I still use the notes from class and have found them extremely useful.”

Francis, Learner, Greater Essex County District School Board, Literacy and Basic Skills program (LBS)

When Calvin entered the St. Clair College LBS program he could barely read or write. He studied diligently for 5 months and earned his LBS certificate and then graduated from St. Mike’s Adult High School. Calvin was selected to participate in the “Learners Speak Out” video through the Tri-County Literacy Network. He is currently in his second and final year of Mechanical Technician – Cad/Cam at St. Clair College with a 4.0 average. This is truly a wonderful success story!

Calvin, Learner, St. Clair College

Rickey has been in and out of the Windsor Public Library LBS program for four years. He had a history of absenteeism, and frequently left the program once he had obtained employment. When he realized his skills did not match the job requirements, he would return to the program, only to exit again for employment.

He returned to the program in October 2006 and was paired with a tutor approximately his own age. This seemed to be the perfect match, since he has been committed to learning, showing up for all sessions, and taking initiative. His goal, in addition to obtaining employment, is to get his GED prep/school board program. He has created a resume which he is sending out. He has also written a 30-page story about the adventures of a team of documentary film-makers in Africa.

At his initial assessment, Ricky’s reading and writing skills were at level 1 – he has now reached a high level 2. His oral communication skills have improved, and – whereas in the past he was a “one-word answer” learner – he will often come into the office and chat. His success, he says, is due to a realization of the importance of literacy upgrading, and to the measure of confidence he has gained in this program.

Rickey, Learner, Windsor Public Library

Mamie attended the LBS program at the Great Essex County District School Board full time for 2 years.

When Mamie first entered the LBS program, her reading and writing skills were extremely poor. She had very little confidence and hope for the future. She left the program a changed person. She can now read and write quite well and “continues to improve” every day.

One of Mamie’s goals while in the program was to get her driver’s license. Today she is driving. Mamie moved to Edmonton, Alberta in May, 2006. She is working full time as a Personal Support Worker; in addition, she does housekeeping 5 hours per day.

Mamie returned to Mason school on February 12, 2007 to talk to the LBS class. Mamie came back a smiling, confident young woman, full of hope for the future.

Mamie, Learner, Great Essex County District School Board

Elizabeth was widowed at a young age. She was born and raised in Mexico and has little skill in reading and writing in any language. Her background is low-German Mennonite. The factory she worked for closed down and as a result Elizabeth decided to seek out a new career. Being in a rural area there are school bus positions often available, Elizabeth came in to ask for tutoring to help her improve her English language skills, but more specifically, she needed to study the driving manual in order to get the bus driving license. After a number of months she was ready and passed the written exam with flying colours. Elizabeth now has a permanent bus route and has since completed a defensive driving course and a First Aid course.

Elizabeth, Learner, South Essex Community Council

Dan is 56 years old. He was institutionalized as a very young boy. He lived in 3 different locations and not one of them offered him any type of schooling. When the opportunity came to move into a community, he did so. His great desire was to become independent enough to live on his own, With the assistance of a wonderful support team and his own determination, Dan began to blossom. He attended literacy classes to learn money skills and be able to shop independently. He also wanted to get better at telling time so he didn’t always have to ask someone.

Dan is now living in his own apartment. The money and time management skills he learned in literacy have given him the independence he so greatly desired. He is now also a spokesperson for the People’s First Self Advocacy Group and has made a number of presentations all over Central and Southwestern Ontario.

Dan, Learner, St. Clair Catholic District School Board

Scott needed a huge boost in self-esteem and the small group assisted him in that area. He brought his reading, writing and math skills up to the requirements for the ACE (Academic and Career Entrance Program). He now works and attends ACE. Scott has completed the Math portion of ACE. He is now three-quarters of the way through the English program. He then will do the Physics and Chemistry portion. His goal is third class engineering. He loves it at the college and feels so good about himself. Scott has expressed an interest in returning, when he has completed his courses, to tutor in the literacy program at Organization for Literacy in Lambton.

Scott, Learner, Organization for Literacy in Lambton

Richard came to the Link to Apprenticeship program with a clear goal to move from a job to a career as either a plumber or an electrician. These were the fields he felt he understood, and offered security as well as long-term stability.

As Richard began to learn more about apprenticeship he realized that there were many more options available for apprenticeship than he had realized. Coupled with the research into apprenticeship, the exploration of essential skills demonstrated to Richard that he could use many of the transferable skills he possessed in other apprenticeship opportunities as well. With his interest and knowledge about computer systems and software, Richard had been a “hobby” computer support and web development enthusiast. His skills in these areas led him to a completely different apprenticeship option than he had previously considered. As he researched training and employment opportunities, Richard began to focus his employment and apprenticeship search to the Information Technology Analyst profession. He became knowledgeable about the requirements and the training available and began to set skills and training goals based on what he was learning.

Richard’s research and goals met with success as he secured an interview with an employer in the field of Information Technology. The research, goal setting, essential skills, job search strategies and interviewing skills resulted in Richard being offered a job on the day of his graduation from the Link to Apprenticeship program in the field of Information Technology. He is currently working and following his goal path of Apprenticeship.

Richard, Learner, Lambton Kent District School Board – Link to Apprenticeship

Anjarajo Hambafehy (Hamba) is an ESL student from Madagascar who credits a large portion of his success to the Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) program at Lambton College and how it helped him prepare for post-secondary.

Hamba was with the ACE program in February 2006 until he began his Instrumentation program in September 2006. While with Lambton College, he completed two maths (Apprenticeship and Technical) as well as chemistry in that short time; achieving an "A" in all credits. He's now in his second year of his program and has just received two academic awards from the college (International Society of Measurement Control Award – Year 1 and the BP Canada Energy Company Award – ICET).

Hamba, Learner, Lambton College (ACE)

Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.

Emilie Buchwald

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.

W. Fusselman

The more you read,
The more things you know.
The more that you learn,
The more places you'll go.

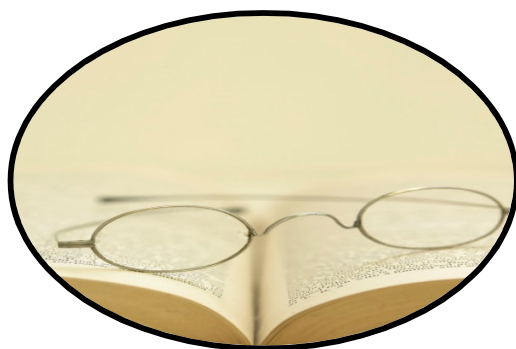
Dr. Suess

Everywhere I have sought rest and not found it,
Except sitting in a corner by myself with a little book.

Thomas Kempis

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.

Chinese proverb



Resource Library – New Resources

All resources are available through the Tri-County Literacy Network office.

Please contact us at 519-355-1771 or toll free at 1-877-333-4833.

1. **“Take A Step” PSA** (DVD & VHS formats) - #379
(Ontario Literacy Coalition – November 2006)
OLC's 2005 social marketing campaign intended to motivate people to take action and to attract learners to literacy programs (30 & 60 second PSA's).
2. **Investing in Citizens & Communities/HRSDC Government Funding** - #380
(Imagine Canada/HRSDC – August 2006)
3. **Lambton County Directory** (CD) - #381
(Sarnia Lambton Workforce Development Board – November 2006)
Directory for persons with disabilities.
4. **Learning Works** (CD) – Collection of resources from Train Ontario I & II - #382
(QUILL Learning Network – November 2006)
Reinforcing our capacity to serve learners with employment goals.
5. **Governing For Results** - #383
(Mell D. Gill – December 2006)
Strengthening your Board – A Director's Guide to Good Governance.
6. **Finding Your Way at Work: Beyond Reading and Writing** - #384
(Ontario Literacy Coalition – December 2006)
Designed to help LBS learners and instructors explore topics related to keeping a job.
7. **Making It Work – Conflict and Communication** - #385
(Anne Moore/Action Read – December 2006)
A workbook on conflict and communication for adult learners.
8. **For My Child** - #386
(CIRCEM – December 2006)
Phase II

9. **Worker Referral Forms - # 387**
(Sir Sanford Fleming College – March 2007)
Pad of forms re: employee skills with generic message & PowerPoint CD to explain its use.
10. **Choose Your Life - #388**
(Literacy Link South Central – February 2007)
This book is a fun way for interactive way for youth to explore job search options.
11. **Literacy in the Niagara Region - #389**
(Literacy Link Niagara/NTAB – March 2007)
A profile of employers and community organizations in the Niagara region.
12. **Making Essential Skills WORK for you - #390**
(Laubach Literacy Ontario – May 2007)
Created for literacy practitioners – a guide to marketing literacy and upgrading programs.
13. **Strategic Partnership for Action: A Focus on Workplace/Workforce Literacy - #391**
(Tri-County Literacy Network/Ontario Literacy Coalition – November 2007)
Sarnia workplace/workforce forum event summary.
14. **Apprentice Bound – Pilot Disc (CD) - #392**
(Charles Craig – December 2007)
Practitioner training.
15. **Circle of Literacy - #395**
(Project Read – Jane Tuer & Lorri Sauve – December 2007)
A collaboration guide for literacy development in Waterloo Region, Niagara and Ottawa.
16. **Literacy Services Plan for 2008-2009 (Chatham-Kent & Sarnia-Lambton) - #393**
(Tri-County Literacy Network – February 2008)
This resource was designed to provide a greater understanding of Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) for adults including learner success stories and a current listing of all literacy providers/services in Chatham-Kent & Sarnia-Lambton areas.
17. **Literacy Services Plan for 2008-2009 (Windsor-Essex) - #394**
(Tri-County Literacy Network – February 2008)
This resource was designed to provide a greater understanding of Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) for adults including learner success stories and a current listing of all literacy providers/services in the Windsor-Essex area.

Employment Ontario staff will be interested in the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway website at www.eopg.ca



www.ontario.ca/employmentontario

or

call toll free at 1-800-387-5656