

Network News

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

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**2009-2010
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Joyeuses fêtes

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”
~Margaret Mead~

**We would like to take this opportunity to wish the very best to
you and yours over the holiday season.**

**Please note that our office will be closed Friday, December 18,
2009 until Friday, January 1, 2010 and will reopen Monday
January 4, 2010.**

**We hope you have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season
and we'll see you in the New Year!**

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

tcln@cogeco.net

Message from the Executive Director

Season's Greetings!

It has been an interesting, exciting and busy year since our last Newsletter in December 2008.

In response to the numerous plant closures and lay-offs in our tri-county region, we were involved in a pilot project with Literacy Link South Central (LLSC) and the western region literacy networks (Learning Networks of Ontario – Southwest) aimed at assessing laid-off workers. Through this project we have offered and provided 50 **educational interviews** at the Inergy Action Centre in Blenheim, Community Transitions Project in Wallaceburg and the Plastech Action Centre in Leamington. These educational interviews assisted people by providing them with information on further education and training options related to their needs and goals. Feedback from the participants was very positive. As a result of this pilot, LLSC received funding to continue this project for this fiscal year. As a result, educational interviews have been held at the UBE Action Centre in Sarnia, the Tilbury Action Centre in Tilbury, ECR International - Olsen Division Action Centre in Wallaceburg and the Community Transition Project in Wallaceburg. We were able to hire Joan Iatonna as a part time, contract Labour Adjustment Liaison Coordinator to assist with this as a result of additional funding from MTCU for this fiscal year.

We are currently managing the **'Linking Adult Literacy to Poverty Reduction' Project** during the 2009-2010 fiscal year with funding from the Employment Ontario Network Development Fund (EONDF). The project was designed to improve the capacity for Windsor-Essex Ontario Works and the Tri-County Literacy Network to work together to more effectively work with people living in poverty.

The project was designed to meet the three EONDF funding priorities by:

- Developing strategies and sensitivities of staffs for working with learners/clients in poverty
- Identifying systemic changes that are necessary to improve services
- Identifying effective Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) strategies and programs that address poverty

Deliverables are:

- Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop designed to increase staff understanding of poverty
- Researching local and provincial best practices for programs and collaborative approaches to addressing the needs of learners/clients in poverty
- Creating and field testing an Agency Self-Assessment Tool
- Holding a forum where research results are presented and a strategic plan for next steps is discussed
- Evaluations and reports

The activities/deliverables which have been achieved to date:

- Established and held regular meetings with an advisory committee that includes representation from Tri-County Literacy Network, Ontario Works, Literacy and Basic Skills, the Poverty Reduction Roundtable and Employment Ontario
- Hired project staff
- Developed a survey to research strategies and programs that have proven to be successful in overcoming barriers within networks or other organizations to provide services and programs for those living in poverty
- Evaluated survey results to identify best practices for inclusion in the one pager of best practices and the agency self-assessment tool
- Developed a one pager of best practices, including web links that was printed and distributed at the *Bridges Out of Poverty* workshop
- Developed a *LBS Agency Self-Assessment Tool* and *Agency Self-Assessment Tool* to assess the use of best practices within agencies in the areas of individual action, program elements and community engagement
- Planned the *Bridges Out of Poverty* (Ruby Payne) workshop
- Held the *Bridges Out of Poverty* (Ruby Payne) workshop in Windsor for approx. 150 Windsor-Essex Ontario Works staff, Employment Ontario staff including Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS), Ontario Disability Support Program staff and Pathway to Potential representatives (Windsor Essex County's Poverty Reduction Strategy) with excellent feedback on November 6, 2009
- Forwarded the Self-Assessment Tools to identified agencies, reviewed and summarized the results, shared the results at the Managers' Forum
- Held 'A Forum for Managers' on December 11, 2009 for approx. 50 Windsor-Essex managers representing the same agencies that attended the workshop on November 6, 2009
- Developed a draft strategic plan that is designed to ensure Ontario Works and Literacy and Basic Skills programs and procedures are in place to best meet local needs and discussed this at the forum

Next steps in the project:

- To produce a revised strategic plan for use by Ontario Works and the Tri-County Literacy Network on a go forward basis as a result of the feedback from the forum
- To identify potential future project proposals that will enhance project activity

A final report will be produced outlining the details of the project.

As far as professional development, we held our **Spring Professional Development workshop** for all LBS programs in the region in Chatham on June 19, 2009 at the Wheels Inn in Chatham. This was funded in part through a project of Literacy Link South Central's and which was on Social Marketing and was presented by Robb MacDonald. The Learning Hub presented over lunch. There were 25 in attendance.

We held our **Fall Professional Development workshop** for all LBS program managers in the region in Chatham on October 16, 2009 at the Chatham Kent Skills Centre in Chatham. Robyn Cook-Ritchie presented on Succession Planning for 22 participants with excellent feedback. We are currently planning the Spring PD for 2010 on Integrating Technology into Delivery and Through the Worker's Eyes.

We worked with Sarnia Lambton Workforce Development Board to provide an **employer breakfast** on essential skills called, “The Power of Learning in the Workplace”, on September 30, 2009 in Sarnia-Lambton.

The newsletter provides an update of some of our public awareness activities in the region plus an update on new resources available for borrowing from our library.

We hope you will celebrate **Family Literacy Day** on January 27, 2010! Please details inside for information on local contacts.

Best wishes for the holiday season and 2010!

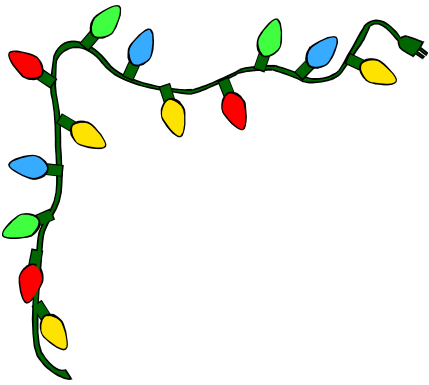
Andrea Dickinson



Andrea at a visit to Queen’s Park on October 1, 2009 with the Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC). MPP Bob Bailey, from our region, spoke in support of literacy and literacy funding. He made reference to the good work being done by our Network and the Organization for Literacy in Lambton. Jean Doull was also acknowledged for being named the Ontario winner of the 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award.

MPP Bob Bailey (left) &
Andrea Dickinson (right)

Tri-County Literacy Network's Literacy Promotion Awards for 2009



Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award Recipient for Chatham-Kent for 2009

This year, in Chatham-Kent, we would like to recognize the contributions of **Patricia Blonde**.



Patricia Blonde (right) receives the Literacy Promotion Award from Carol Sannes, Board Member, Tri-County Literacy Network.

Patricia Blonde has been the driving force behind Imagination ink, a storefront operation in the Downtown Chatham Centre that promotes reading and writing skills for all ages. Imagination ink just celebrated their tenth anniversary in May of this year. She has been actively involved in two programs aimed at putting books in the hands of children. Imagination ink collects new and gently used books to be donated with the many agencies that work with children and so far more than 5000 books have been given out. She also works on the Books for Babies program which tries to introduce new mothers to the idea of reading to their children. She has been a member of the Writers Guild for over twenty-five years and helps adult writers on Wednesday afternoons with writing exercises as well as listening to and editing their written work. With that in mind, she has put together a wonderful reference library for writers.

She willingly shares her passion for the written word, not only with Imagination ink and the Writers Guild, but does her own writing for magazines and has started a book club that allows her to discuss and share writings by other authors. She is always first in line to buy a book from local writers who get their books published. For the past 7 years, she has participated in NaNoWriMo – the national novel writing month is November – which encourages you to write 50,000 words in 30 days. She has made a concerted effort to get many people involved with the project and holds a start-up party, a midway party and a windup party to keep the enthusiasm up. It teaches people to put away their internal critic and has been a very freeing experience.

Many more people are interested in reading because of Patricia's ongoing efforts.





Susie Beyon (right) receives the Literacy Promotion Award from Anne Marie Cosford, Board President, Tri-County Literacy Network.

Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award Recipient for Sarnia-Lambton for 2009

This year, in Sarnia-Lambton, we would like to recognize the contributions of **Susie Beynon**.

Susie Beynon, Public Services Manager of Lambton County Libraries, has been involved in literacy for the last several years. She worked with Organization for Literacy in Lambton (OLL) and Ontario Library Association to bring a literacy collection to Sarnia Library. A special section was set aside in the library and a collection of readers, history books, science books, math books and a particularly a collection of First Nations' material. All books are high interest/ low vocabulary material for adults.

Susie has for the last several years been an integral part of the Need To Read Festival held in May each year in Sarnia Lambton. Susie is on the committee and arranges author accommodations, author "buddies" and makes sure that all 26 libraries in Lambton County have all the information about the festival. She has successfully integrated GenreCon (science fiction and mystery writers provide workshops for interested adult writers) with the festival. Almost all libraries hold some activity related to Need To Read Festival including a French language author at the Sarnia Library.

Susie has encouraged all 26 libraries to house a Give A Book box for OLL at Christmas. In these boxes patrons of the library give new books so that each child whose family receives a Christmas hamper will receive a new book.

As a director of the volunteer Board of Directors of OLL, Susie provides invaluable input to that organization from her vast experience.

In her library life one very important project to Susie is the establishment of a "teen" advisory group and the establishment of teens' section in all libraries in Lambton County.

Susie's high energy, delightful personality and sense of humour inspire those with whom she works in all fields.

She has ensured that the "literacy message" reaches all corners of Lambton County for many outreach projects for literacy. In so doing she enriches the lives of those around her and the many future literacy learners around us. She is one in a million for her dedication and love of all things "book".



Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award Recipient for Windsor-Essex for 2009

This year, in Windsor-Essex, we would like to recognize the contributions of **Jean Foster**.

Through her position as Acting CEO of the Windsor Public Library, Jean Foster raises awareness of literacy issues and efforts to make public information accessible to individuals with low level reading skills. This makes her a leader in the Windsor community.

Jean believes that literacy is a community issue and that each of us can learn from each other no matter how much education we have.

Over the past 8 years, Jean has partnered with various community agencies to ensure that the library and the literacy program continue to be a dynamic and integral part of the community.

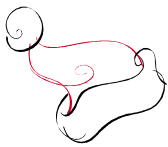
Jean is instrumental in advocating library/literacy programs: she has worked tirelessly on behalf of others to ensure exceptional programming such as Book Buddies (Early Literacy), Adult Literacy Program (Adult Literacy), Get, Set, Learn Program (Family Literacy) and even implementing an Early Years Centre in the library. Jean sits on various committees and boards that promote literacy such as Windsor Bookfest and the Best Start program.

Jean believes that the adult and basic literacy movement is critical nationwide. Providing people the opportunities to succeed is a global social justice issue, and it fundamentally begins with literacy.



Jean Foster (right) receives the Literacy Promotion Award from Andrea Dickinson, Executive Director, Tri-County Literacy Network.





“Celebrating International Literacy Day”



*Guest Author & Presenter
Bryan & Shannon Prince*

The Tri-County Literacy Network celebrated International Literacy Day at the William Street Café at 28 William Street South in Chatham on Friday September 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. by hosting a reading for adults by guest author and presenter Bryan & Shannon Prince on the book **I Came As a Stranger: The Underground Railroad**.

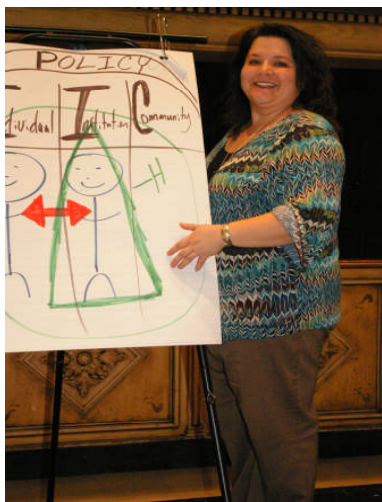
In 2002, Bryan Prince was awarded the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal for contributions to history. He won the 2005 Children’s Nautilus Book Award for Non-Fiction, for his work, **I Came As a Stranger: The Underground Railroad**.

Bryan’s book, **A Shadow on the Household**, is the extraordinary story of one couple’s determination to free themselves and their children from slavery and make a new life in Canada.

Prior to abolition in 1865, as many as 40,000 men, women, and children made the perilous trip north from enslavement in the United States to freedom in Canada. Many were aided by networks that came to be known as the Underground Railroad. And the stories that emerge from the past about these journeys are truly remarkable.

In **A Shadow on the Household**, Bryan Prince, brings to life the heart-wrenching story of the Weems family and their struggle to liberate themselves from slavery. John Weems, a man who purchased his own freedom, paid the owner of his enslaved wife and eight children and annual fee to keep them together at one plantation. But when the owner died the Weemses were cruelly separated and scattered throughout the South. Heartbroken and desperate, John resolved to raise the money to buy his family’s freedom and reunite them. Mining newspapers, private letters, diaries, estate records, marriage registries, and abolitionist papers for details of a story cloaked in secrecy, Bryan Prince has rescued the Weems family and their plight from historical oblivion.

An unforgettable story of love and persistence, played out in four countries (the United States, Canada, Jamaica, and the United Kingdom) against the backdrop of the publication **Uncle Tom’s Cabin**, a growing abolitionist movement, and the heroic efforts of the Underground Railroad, the Weems family saga must be read to be believed. Bryan and Shannon Prince brought this story alive as part of our celebration of International Literacy Day.



Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities featured presenter Jodi Pfarr, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a consultant with **aha!process** since 2001



On Friday, November 6, 2009, the Tri-County Literacy Network, as part of the Linking Adult Literacy to Poverty Reduction project, sponsored a professional development opportunity for Ontario Works, Apprenticeship, Employment Assistance Services, Job Connect, Academic Upgrading and Literacy and Basic Skills, Pathway to Potential Roundtable members and Ontario Disability Support Program providers in Windsor-Essex. This workshop entitled *Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities* featured presenter Jodi Pfarr, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a consultant with **aha!process** since 2001, and was held at the Ciociaro Club in Oldcastle.

This full day event was planned by members of the Tri-County Literacy Network, Ontario Works, Employment Ontario, and the Windsor Essex Pathway to Potential Project. The day was funded by the Employment Ontario Network Development Fund and the Windsor Volunteers for Literacy Foundation donated *Bridges Out of Poverty* workbooks for all attendees.

Participants in the workshop developed a greater understanding of the challenges people living in poverty face on a daily basis and provided effective strategies in assisting people to move out of poverty. Participants were presented with identified best practices for linking adult learning/literacy to poverty reduction as a community effort. An expected benefit of this workshop is the improvement of outcomes for people living in poverty as professionals identify barriers and help their clients/learners overcome them.

Linking Adult Literacy to Poverty Reduction Project

Project team welcomes presenter, Jodi Pfarr to Windsor on November 5, 2009. Dining at Contempo restaurant in the Art Gallery of Windsor.

Featured in the photo are:

Karen Sklash - Project Coordinator (left), Andrea Dickinson - Project Chair, Christine Dean – Project staff, Jodi Pfarr – presenter & Tammy Campbell – Administrative Assistant. Photo taken by Nancy Gignac – Project Member.



Looking Forward to 2010

Celebrate Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day is recognized nationally on Wednesday, January 27, 2010.

For information on events in **Chatham-Kent**, please contact the
Ontario Early Years Centre at 519-358-1451 Ext. 0
and the
Chatham Kent Public Library at 519-354-2940 Ext. 247

For information on events in **Windsor-Essex**, please contact the
Windsor Public Library at 519-255-6770 Ext 4433.

Please visit **ABC CANADA'S** website at www.abc-canada.org
for general information about this day.



Help is a phone call away

- We can help you improve your skills so that you can help your kids with their homework
- Free confidential service
- Adult learning environment
- Learn at your own pace
- Practical skills
- Focused on your goal

**For more information about programs that can help call Tri-County Literacy Network
at 519-355-1771 or toll free at 1-877-333-4833 or visit www.tcln.on.ca.**





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. **Strategic Partnerships for Action – A Focus on Workplace & Workforce Literacy in Ontario - #436**
(Ontario Literacy Coalition – 2007)
Briefing paper for Sarnia-Lambton (2007).
2. **Hand in Hand – Family Literacy in Minority Context - #437**
(Coalition francophone COFA – November 2003)
4 year research on the impacts of family literacy programs on francophone families in a minority.
3. **Where We Live - #438**
(Southwestern Literacy Clearinghouse – Early 1990's)
Learner stories.
4. **Bare Essentials: An introduction to Essential Skills - #439**
(College Sector Committee – February 2009)
An Essential Skills resource for frontline practitioners.
5. **The Skilled Trades Handbook - #440**
(SWOIEC – May 2007)
A guide to the world of Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship in Ontario.
6. **Beyond the Book: Learning From Our History - #441**
(Ontario Literacy Coalition – January 2009)
Takes a look at the literacy movement from the 19th century to include present day programming.
7. **Workplace Essential Skills Manual for Employers - #443**
(ABEA – February 2009)
Understanding and implementing Essential Skills training in the workplace.
8. **Making Cent\$ of Literacy – Celebrate Literacy for a Healthy Economy - #444**
(ntab & Literacy Link Niagara – 2007)
PowerPoint presentation (hard copy) – Niagara region
9. **Literacy in the Niagara Region - #445**
(Paul Knaflec/Derek Picard – March 2007)
A profile for employers and community organizations (regional literacy stats).

10. **A Collection of Demonstrations for Use in Adult Literacy Programming** - #446
(Windsor Public Library – April 2009)
Adult literacy program demonstrations.
11. **A Framework for Understanding Poverty** - #447
(Ruby Payne – 2005)
A vital tool for better understanding and addressing poverty & underlying factors that perpetuate it.
12. **Hidden Rules of Class at Work** - #448
(Ruby Payne/Don Krabill – 2002)
Intended to look at how issue of class determines one's ability to survive in the workplace.
13. **Tactical Communication** - #449
(Jodi Pfarr – 2009)
Law enforcement tools for successful encounters with people in poverty, middle class and wealth.
14. **Understanding Learning – the How, the Why, the What** - #450
(Ruby Payne – 2002)
This book will look at learning – what is inside the head and the body.
15. **Working with Parents – Building relationships for student success** - #451
(Ruby Payne – 2006)
Building communications with parents.....Building student success.
16. **Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World** - #452
(Philip DeVol – 2004)
Building economic stability – for people on the lower rungs of the economic ladder.
17. **Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World** - #453
(Philip DeVol – 2006)
Facilitator notes.
18. **Learning Structures** - #454
(Ruby Payne – 1998)
Modules 8 – 13 workbook.
19. **Bridges Out of Poverty Workbook** - #455
(Philip DeVol / Ruby Payne /Terie Smith – 2006)
Strategies for Professionals and communities.
20. **Business Results Through Essential Skills and Literacy** - #456
(Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters – June 2009)
Guides for companies hoping to address their skills and training needs – invaluable reference tool
21. **Common Assessment Pilot Project** - #458
(Project Read – July 2008)
FINAL REPORT.
22. **Connecting Literacy, Learning & Work** - #459
(Christine Pinsent-Johnson – August 2009)
Innovative ways to integrate literacy learning with job prep for adults with employment barriers.

23. **Breaking the Barriers to Literacy** - #461
(Literacy Network Northeast – October 2009)
13 minute DVD – informs people about the services and supports available to succeed in today's job market.
24. **Beginner's Guide for Program Coordinators of Small Literacy Agencies** - #462
(Mid North Network – November 2009)
Intended to ease the transition process for the newly hired program coordinator of the smaller literacy agency.
25. **Easing Transitions for Clients Between EO Agencies** - #463
(Literacy Link Niagara – March 2009)
Better understanding of the literacy levels necessary to fully participate in the employment prep programs in the Niagara Region.

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

EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO

Ontario's employment & training network

www.ontario.ca/employmentontario

or

call toll free at 1-800-387-5656

HAPPY NEW YEAR