

Network News

A newsletter for the Tri-County Literacy Network serving
Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex

How to Find Us

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Office Hours:

Monday – Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

2011-2012

Board of Directors

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Andrea Dickinson**

**Administrative Assistant
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Joyeuses fêtes

“Learn everything you can, anytime you can,
from anyone you can.
... You will be grateful you did.”

~Sarah Caldwell, opera conductor~

**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 23,
2011 and will reopen Monday January 9, 2012.**

**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!

Our office moved in February 2011 to 555 Richmond Street in Chatham and we are now housed beside the new Chatham Convention Centre.

In 2011, we were very busy supporting the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs in the tri-county region to develop their capacity to be ready to fully implement the new Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF) in April 2012.

Based on input from the programs, we organized a variety of workshops this year to assist in these preparations.

In Windsor, Jodi Pfarr presented a full one day workshop (April 29, 2011) for LBS providers as well as Ontario Works, Employment Services and MTCU staff on **“Applying Bridges Concepts”**. Updated LBS brochures were provided to all attendees. There were 27 registered and 25 attended. All 20 evaluations indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed that the session helped them build their knowledge and skills and that the workshop was practical and useful for them. This was a follow up workshop to the “Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities” (Day One workshop) held in Windsor (November 2009) as part of the Linking Adult Literacy to Poverty Reduction Project. The strategic plan developed by this project identified a strong need for the workshop and this was reaffirmed at the February 2011 and April 2011 Windsor-Essex Local Planning and Coordination meetings with regards to the service coordination component of OALCF. We also coordinated the arrangements with aha! Process, Inc. to bring Jodi Pfarr to Peel-Halton-Dufferin Adult Learning Network for the Day One workshop (April 28, 2011).

We organized a full day **spring professional development workshop in 2011** focused on OALCF for all LBS practitioners and managers in the tri-county region in June (June 14, 2011 in Chatham). Presenters and topics included June Cox on stress management and managing change, Jane Barber on key concepts, core documents, and practice activities related to the OALCF, Laura Hamilton on MTCU expectations and myself on Network supports for the LBS programs. We anticipated 40 in attendance based on numbers gathered prior to the registration form distribution. There were 62 who registered and 54 in attendance. Evaluations indicated an increase in knowledge and understanding in all aspects of the OALCF.

We held **“Getting Connected Phase IV”** on Wrap Around Services related to domestic violence, addictions and mental health. We held a workshop for Windsor-Essex on October 21, 2011 in Windsor (Ciociaro Club) (61 registered and 59 attended) and a workshop for Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton on November 1, 2011 in Sarnia (Lambton Inn) (76 registered and 65 attended – some fog issues on the day may account for some of the difference) for Literacy and Basic Skills, Employment Services and Apprenticeship. The Ontario Literacy Coalition presented on an on-line screening tool for potential use by non-LBS programs. Updated LBS brochures were included in all packages. We received some

sponsorship assistance from the Sarnia Lambton Workforce Development Board for the event in Sarnia and Workforce WindsorEssex for the event in Windsor.

We hope to offer a **spring professional development workshop in 2012** for LBS programs which will provide an opportunity for regional follow up and sharing from the OALCF training offered by the sectors and streams in fall 2011.

We recently updated the current 2011-2012 Literacy Service Plans for Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex. After discussions of goal niches, we also prepared 2012-2013 Literacy Service Plans for Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex, representing 17 sites.

At our Literacy and Basic Skills Local Planning and Coordination meetings we discussed our Work Plan, professional development, program updates, MTCU updates, OALCF information and Literacy Service Planning. We also invited Apprenticeship to speak with the Windsor-Essex LPC group and Employment Services to speak with the Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton LPC group. The Network also attended an Employment Services Business Planning meeting this fall in Sarnia.

The Network continues to meet with the Learning Networks of Ontario provincially and the Learning Networks of Ontario – Western Region for the purpose of information sharing and professional development.

We also continue to work with the Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC) and visited MPP Bob Baily in Sarnia with the OLC on June 17, 2011 to discuss the important work of literacy programs in our region and in the province.

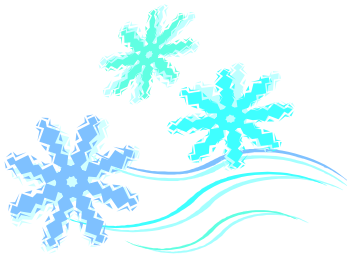
The newsletter provides an update of some of our public awareness activities in the region plus an update on new resources available for borrowing from our library.

We hope you will celebrate **Family Literacy Day** on January 27, 2012! Please see details inside for information on local contacts.

Best wishes for the holiday season and 2012!

Andrea Dickinson





Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award Recipient for Chatham-Kent for 2010/2011

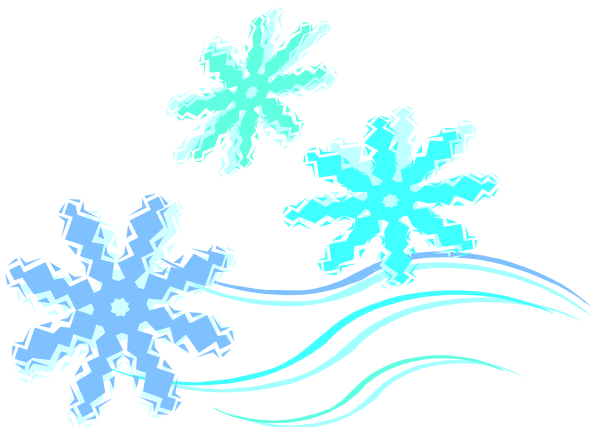
This year, in Chatham-Kent, we would like to recognize the contributions of **Joan Stearns**.

Joan Stearns is a retired librarian who previously worked for the Wallaceburg Public Library. She became a volunteer with the Wallaceburg Lambton Kent District School Board Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program in October 2010. Her keen interest in assisting the learners often extended beyond classroom hours.

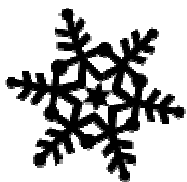
Joan has been vital in improving the self-esteem of the learners she works with. Her caring, compassionate and sincere approach has made even the most skeptical readers look forward to reading with her. Joan provides the learners with a comfortable environment and she always greets them with a smile.

When Joan began her volunteer work with the LBS program, she worked with two learners and volunteered once a week. Currently, Joan works with 8 learners, twice a week. Joan was even able to capture the interest of those who were previously hesitant to commit to the reading portion of the LBS program. When an individual expressed the need for extra help, Joan took it upon herself to volunteer the extra hours.

Despite a personally difficult year in 2010, Joan continued her literacy work with eagerness and compassion. In just a short time, Joan has become a very significant member of the literacy program's family.



Andrea Dickinson, Executive Director, Tri-County Literacy Network (left) presents the Literacy Promotion Award 2011 for Chatham-Kent to Joan Stearns, Volunteer with the Wallaceburg LBS Program.

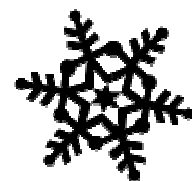


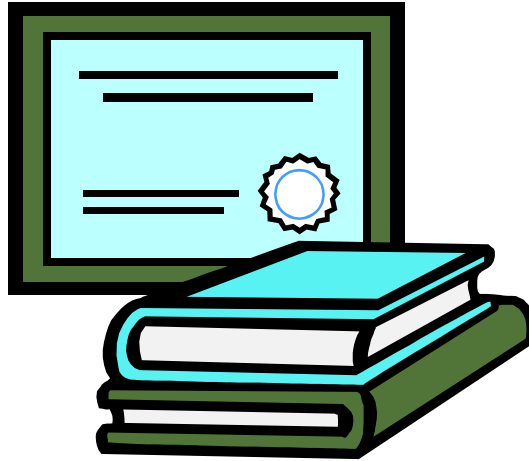
Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award Recipient for Sarnia-Lambton for 2010/2011

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

Anna MacAlpine was a volunteer tutor in Lambton College's 2010 summer Academic Upgrading English/Self-Management/Computers classroom. She volunteered in this classroom from the end of June until the end of August. Classes ran from Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. It was an extremely busy summer, with some days thirty or more students in the classroom. As a tutor, she assisted in helping students with their work. It became very obvious right at the beginning that she was a self-starter who wanted to help out any way she could. Anna was excellent at anticipating when students needed help. Despite having no prior experience, she quickly grasped what needed to be done and could readily identify when students just needed clarification of an assignment. Whenever she had a spare moment, Anna took the initiative to assist with xeroxing, filing and sorting. She was a very committed volunteer who never missed a day and never arrived late. On days when she couldn't get a ride to work, she biked. She was most approachable and helpful to both the students and instructor. When the instructor was too busy with students, the students did not hesitate to seek her help. Without having Anna in the classroom last summer, the student's literacy skills would not have improved as quickly as they did. Students were able to complete their training plans and goals because Anna was there to assist the program.

Anna appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the success of the program. Initially, she was a little shy but quickly grew into the position. Anna had an excellent work ethic and the students benefited because of this. Her positive, enthusiastic personality had an impact on the classroom. Students found her most approachable. She was self-directed and eager to help the students. Her problem solving abilities were certainly put to the test as the program was extremely busy. If she didn't know the answer, she quickly found it. At the end of the summer, she had a sense of a job well done and certainly this opportunity improved her level of confidence. She felt this experience was truly another stepping stone in her Drama/Music career. Anna never hesitated to put in the extra effort necessary to see a student receive the help that he/she needed.





Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award Recipient for Windsor-Essex for 2010/2011

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

Beth Pirouet, Manager, Employment Services, St. Clair College, now Human Resources Manager with St. Clair College has been an active board member with the Tri- County Literacy Network for the past five years. She quickly became a leader amongst the board members and as a result held the position of vice president and secretary offering her 20 years of community service expertise to the Board. Beth's sense of humour and common sense approach has had an impact on many clients/students in the tri-county region. Beth's passion for serving youth in her community and her understanding of their unique literacy needs contributed to her ability to make a difference in the lives of many individuals.

Beth's ability to make clients feel empowered and help them make changes in their lives does not go unnoticed She brings laughter, commitment and a positive approach to her work and touches others everyday with these powerful influences.

Beth's contribution to community service and literacy has touched many.



**Tri-County Literacy Network
Annual General Meeting
June 23, 2011**



TCLN Board Members 2010/2011

From left: Bev Brandenburg, Anne Marie Cosford, Trish Daubs, Eric Kilbreath & Connie Sandros



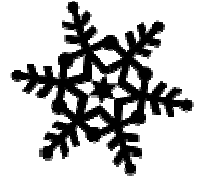
TCLN Board Members 2010/2011

From left: Andrea Dickinson (E.D.), Anne Marie Cosford, Trish Daubs, Eric Kilbreath & Connie Sandros



Passing of the "Crown"

From left: Trish Daubs (Past President) and Anne Marie Cosford (President)



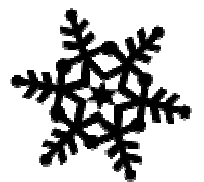
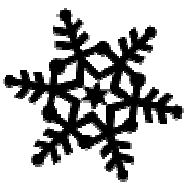
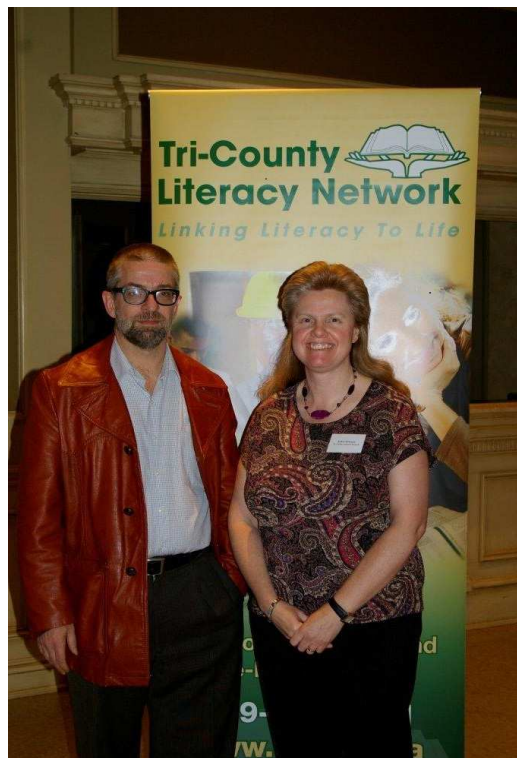
“Celebrating International Literacy Day”

The Tri-County Literacy Network celebrated International Literacy Day on Thursday, September 8, 2011 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Rotary Building in Wallaceburg where the Literacy Promotion Award for Chatham-Kent was presented.

Getting Connected Phase IV

October 21, 2011 - Ciociaro Club, Windsor

John MacLaughlin (Ontario Literacy Coalition) & Andrea Dickinson



Success Stories

Submitted by Adult Language and Learning (ALL)
(with learners' permission)

Bill is a middle aged man who although his diploma says grade 12, it isn't a true indication of his abilities. However he was never out of work of some kind until the last economic downturn. With factory closures in abundance in Southwestern Ontario with no promise of employment, he decided to take advantage of the Second Career Strategy opportunity. However, he was informed that he would have to improve his literacy level to be successful in the welding course he had chosen.

After a severe injury to his hand in 1993 and a psychological assessment, Bill received a report that he was "severely dyslexic", that he was not teachable and that he should perhaps be satisfied with a low skill level position that involved lots of supervision and repetition. "From a practical viewpoint, unfortunately, his chances of success in formal upgrading and retraining is slim".

In January 2009, Bill found the ALL literacy program in the phone book and began to work on his skills sets. He developed the confidence and the literacy skills to apply to a trade school and successfully achieved his welding certificate. Three days after graduating he was employed and one month later he had moved on to an even better job.

He has repeatedly said that without the staff and volunteers at ALL, the patience that they showed him, the experience that they shared and the strategies taught to him that helped overcome his learning disability, he would never have been able to complete the further training. He is grateful for literacy programs that treat him like an individual.



Jillian

Jillian was also a factory closure statistic and decided that it was time that she upgraded her academic skills. She researched a career area and training available for the prospective career. Second Career Strategy however did not recognize the course in another city as a valid choice so she cashed in her long term savings and signed up anyway. The literacy program's role in her success was to prepare her for academics, increase her comprehension and help her to interpret better the multiple choice questions involved in qualifying for her license.

She is now a licensed dog groomer; the only licensed dog groomer in the local community as opposed to the people who took the quick six week course. Her income is substantially higher. She is doing what she loves, has started her own business and is building her clientele. She attests to the fact that the program gave her the skills and the confidence to complete the months of training. It also gave her the courage to invest her savings in this new career path.

~ Success Stories continued ~

Submitted by Lambton College
(with learner permission)

Tamara

Tamara is a mature student and single mother of two young children. Tamara studied in the ACE program from March to August of this year. During her time in the program, she studied ACE Technical math, Chemistry and Physics in preparation for her enrollment in the Chemical Production and Power Engineering Technology Program at Lambton College. She is presently in her first semester, maintaining an A average and attributing her success in large part to the skills and knowledge she gained in the Lambton College program. Tamara was recently awarded the Nova Chemicals Science and Technology Award; a substantial monetary award based on academic achievement, letters of recommendation and financial need. Tamara not only had great success within our program, she's making her mark in Post Secondary studies as she continues on her path to a promising career as a Process Operator .



Submitted by South Essex Community Council Community Education Centre in Leamington

“Out of the 15 learners in some South Essex Community Council LBS classes, none had ever voted in an election in Canada (municipal, provincial or federal). Just days before the provincial election, only one learner was aware that there was going to be an election. Through a lesson that focused on the election including information about each political party, the role of an M.P.P., the role of the Premier and the services of the provincial government, learners became aware of the importance of voting. They learned about who could vote, how to vote, where to vote, and why to vote. Following the election learners were surveyed to ask if the lesson had changed their actions. Several learners voted for the first time and many who did not vote, encouraged their husbands and children to vote.”



~ Success Stories – continued ~

Submitted by Greater Essex County District School Board - Leamington
(with learner permission)

Heinrich

Heinrich lost all of his fingers on his left hand through a workplace accident in March 2008. He had a wife and four children to support. He had worked all his life and wasn't afraid of hard work. In February 2009, less than a year after his accident, he was ready to start on his learning journey. With the help of WSIB, he enrolled in full- time classes in Leamington.

In the mornings he was in an Literacy & Basic Skills classroom along with 15 other students and in the afternoons he went to the Invest Lab and worked on his studies using a computer.

It quickly became evident that math was one of his strengths and he excelled in this area, to a point that he was helping other students with their math problems.

Heinrich was at an LBS level 2 and his original goal was to get into the Heavy Equipment courses. We had weekly discussions around his goals and it became evident that maybe getting his GED or grade 12 would be a possibility for him before he went on to heavy equipment.

For the next year he worked hard on his studies but at times would become frustrated that he wasn't going fast enough. We had to revisit his goals again and he became reassured that he could do this.

Heinrich enrolled in credit courses in Feb. 2011 to get his grade 9/10 credits through the PLARS process. Within 3 months he had his grade 10. He even tutored some students in math at the teacher's request.

He is presently enrolled in a Heavy Equipment course and he hopes to achieve his goal of finishing his last reminding credits at night.

I know whatever path he takes he will be successful because he isn't afraid of hard work.



Looking Forward to 2012

Celebrate Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day is recognized nationally on Friday, January 27, 2012.

For information on activities or events offered by these organizations on or close to the day, please contact the

- Chatham-Kent Ontario Early Years Centre at 519-358-1451 Ext. 0
- Chatham Kent Public Library at 519-354-2940 Ext. 247

Please visit **ABC Life Literacy Canada's** website at www.familyliteracyday.ca 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. **Essential Skills for Literacy Practitioners - #483**
(Literacy Link South Central – February 2011)
Provides a foundation for literacy practitioners to learn more about the 9 Essential Skills & Essential Skills profiles.
2. **Capacity Plus - #484**
(Vicki Trottier & Joanne Kaattari – July 2010)
Organizational Capacity Resource Guide for Ontario's Community Literacy Agencies.
3. **Online Literacy Presentations DVD (6) - #485**
(CLO – July 2010)
This DVD contains files for CLO's 6 presentations about literacy & 6 presentations in power point format.
4. **Enhancing Pathways: The Literacy and Language Continuum - #486**
(Anne Ramsay/LorriSauve/Matthew Shulman – October 2010)
Project Report – Partnerships & Collaboration
5. **Essential Skills for the Trades - #487**
(LLEO – May 2011)
Information presented on CD.
6. **Connecting Literacy and Employment through Essential Skills - #488**
(Literacy Link South Central – May 2011)
Set of 7 workbooks
7. **Workforce Essential Skills - #489**
(PTP – May 2011)
Discussion guide.
8. **Cloud Computing - #490**
(AlphaPlus – June 2011)
What is cloud computing and Why is it Important for Adult Literacy.

9. **Community Workforce Literacy and Essential Skills - #491**
(LOCS – June 2011)
CD containing facilitators guide & notes – students notes & tasks.
10. **EmployAbility Success! Essential Skills At Work - #492**
(QUILL – July 2011)
CD – Workplace materials incorporating Essential Skills, also includes.
11. **Bridging the Employment Gap - #493**
(Simcoe Muskoka Literacy Network – 2011)
CD – workforce curricula for learners with low level literacy skills – 5 occupational sector manuals
12. **Finding Our Way - #494**
(AlphaPlus – 2011)
Digital Technologies and E-learning for Adult Literacy Students, Educators & Program Literature Scan 2005-2011
13. **Guide to Effective Technologies & Tools for Providing Online Staff Development & Training - #495**
(CLO – 2011)
Blogs, E-books, Moodle, Social Bookmarking, Social Networking, Wikis, Webinars etc.

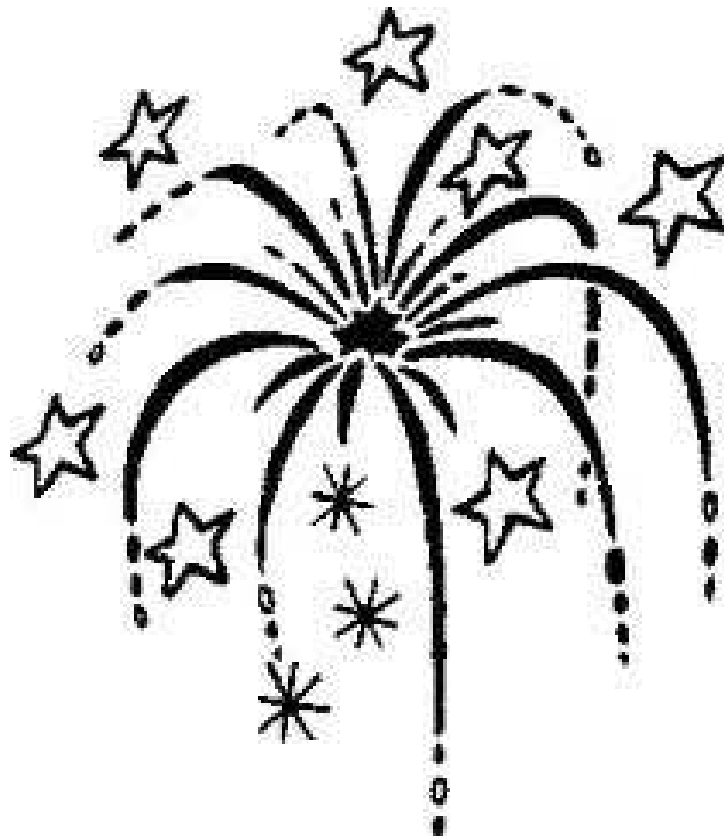
Employment Ontario staff will be interested in the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway website at www.eopg.ca.



www.ontario.ca/employmentontario

or call toll free at 1-800-387-5656

2012



Happy New Year!
Heureuse Nouvelle Année!