

# Network News

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

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## How to Find Us

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**Office Hours:**  
Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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**2012-2013  
Board of Directors**

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Andrea Dickinson**

**Administrative Assistant  
Tammy McGivern**



## Joyeuses fêtes

“Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn and you will.”

~ Vernon Howard ~

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 21, 2012 and will reopen Monday January 7, 2013.

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](mailto:tcln@cogeco.net)

# Message from the Executive Director

## *Season's Greetings!*

In 2012, we were very busy supporting the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs in the tri-county region with the new Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF) and with service coordination within the Employment Ontario network.

Based on input from the programs, we organized the Spring and Fall workshops this year to assist with this.

The **Spring Professional Development workshop 2012** on “A Day in the Life of OALCF” with Robyn Cook-Ritchie was held on June 19, 2012 in Chatham for LBS programs in the tri-county region. There were 62 registered and 55 attended with all LBS programs represented. The evaluations were excellent showing marked improvement in understanding of OALCF and high satisfaction (evaluations indicated 18 very satisfied, 22 satisfied and 1 somewhat satisfied and no one unsatisfied).

**Getting Connected V**, with speakers Dr. Rick Miner of Miner and Miner Ltd. and John MacLaughlin of Essential Skills Ontario, was held at the Chatham-Kent John D. Bradley Convention Centre on October 26, 2012. It was sponsored by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario, Essential Skills Ontario, the Sarnia-Lambton Workforce Development Board, Workforce WindsorEssex and Employment Ontario. There were about 120 registered and about 100 in attendance from tri-county Employment Ontario (EO) programs. Evaluations were very positive, especially in regards to the speakers. TVCOGECO taped the presenters. The afternoon session focused on discussion tables on EOIS-CaMS (the new information management system), outreach and retention. There was excellent local media coverage of the morning session which focused on Jobs of the Future. These presentations were part of the **Celebration of Learning speaker series**.

The **Spring Professional Development workshop 2013** is currently being planned for Friday June 7, 2013 in Chatham for all LBS programs in the tri-county region.

There were a number of activities that we were involved in as part of improving **service coordination** in the tri-county region this year. We were invited to present on OALCF and Getting Connected V on May 24, 2012 at the Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton EO network meeting. As a result of this meeting, the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU) requested our assistance with follow up meetings in Sarnia-Lambton and in Chatham-Kent with the EO programs from those communities (in Sarnia-Lambton on September 5, 2012 and in Chatham-Kent on September 10, 2012). We also implemented LBS training for all staff (approx. 120 staff) of Windsor-Essex Employment and Social Services on October 17 and 18, 2012 in Windsor with two sessions per day and October 19, 2012 in Leamington with one session. All the LBS programs and TCLN presented at these sessions. Evaluations were very positive. Further, at MTCU's request the Learning Networks in the Western Region presented on service coordination at the Employment Ontario Pre-Business Planning meetings. We presented on October 31, 2012 in Wallaceburg for Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton and on November 6, 2012 in Windsor for Windsor-Essex.

As part of the **Celebration of Learning speaker series** funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario, and in partnership with ABC Life Literacy Canada, we were able to bring two inspirational speakers to Chatham this fall. Paul Rosen presented on Tuesday September 25, 2012 in the morning at Chatham Kent Secondary School for about 500 grade 9 and 10 students, Ursuline College Chatham in the afternoon for about 500 students and the WISH Centre in the evening for about 25 people from the general public. TVCOGECO taped the public presentation. Lesra Martin presented in the morning at John McGregor Secondary School for the entire school of about 800 students and staff as well as for the general public at the WISH Centre in the evening on November 20, 2012 with about 100 in attendance. There was extensive work on promotion and coverage for the Paul Rosen and Lesra Martin events including on Blackburn Radio, 99.1, Chatham-Kent Daily Post, CKTimes, Chatham Daily News and Chatham This Week. Feedback on these events has been extremely positive.

We recently updated the current 2012-2013 **Literacy Service Plans** for Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex. After discussions with the LBS programs, we also prepared 2013-2014 Literacy Service Plans for Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex, representing 15 sites.

At our **Literacy and Basic Skills Local Planning and Coordination (LPC) meetings** we discussed our Work Plan, professional development, program updates, MTCU updates, OACLF information and Literacy Service Planning. We also invited Employment Services, Ontario Works, Apprenticeship and the Sarnia Lambton Workforce Development Board to speak with the Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton LPC group and Employment and Social Services, Employment Services, Workforce WindsorEssex and Pathway To Potential to speak with the Windsor-Essex LPC group.

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 **Essential Skills Ontario**.

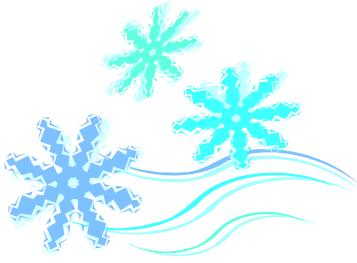
The newsletter provides an update of some of our public awareness activities in the region plus an update on new resources available for borrowing from our library.

We hope you will celebrate **Family Literacy Day** on January 27, 2013! Please see details inside for more information.

Best wishes for the holiday season and 2013!

*Andrea Dickinson*





## Tri-County Literacy Network Literacy Promotion Award Recipient for Windsor-Essex for 2011/2012

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

Michelle Johns has worked in Employment Services at the Unemployed Help Centre for four years. She is and always has been a determined advocate of adult education and upgrading. Over the past year Michelle has made 150 referrals to ACE, LBS, ESL and Second Career programs throughout the city.

Michelle does not allow her encouragement to end at the referral instead she continues to support her clients as they proceed through their upgrading programs. In the past she has taken it upon herself to call several clients to persuade them to attend class regularly and to remind them of the goals that sent them to Literacy upgrading in the first place.

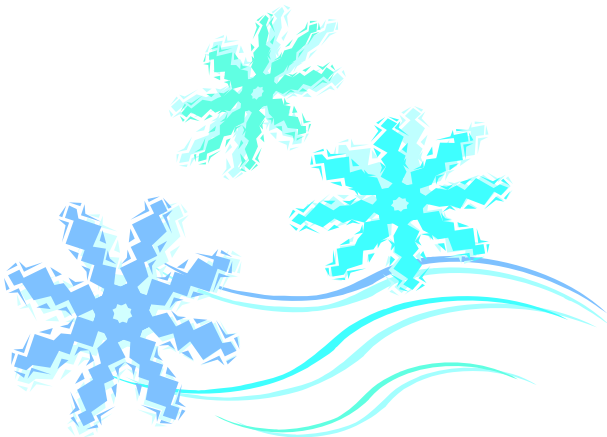
Michelle taught for several years abroad and worked in New Comer Services before settling into her career with employment services. As a qualified teacher she has stepped into the LBS classrooms when asked to act as a supply teacher. The Learners always comment on how much they enjoy the time they spend in her classes.

“When I see that a client has been unable to advance due to limitations in their education, I recommend upgrading because I believe it is the best route to a better future.” The sincerity of this belief is evident in everything that Michelle does. She is truly a champion of adult education.

Over the years there have been too many clients to count who have succeeded in their education goals and employment goals thanks to Michelle’s encouragement. Even more numerous are the clients who have completed some education and improved their self-esteem by succeeding in learning because Michelle opened their eyes to this possibility. Michelle says she has learned a lot over the years from her clients and students. It has helped her grow and better understand the human experience.



Andrea Dickinson, Executive Director, Tri-County Literacy Network (left) presents the Literacy Promotion Award 2012 for Windsor-Essex to Michelle Johns, Unemployed Help Centre of Windsor





## Celebration of Learning – Speaker Series

Please see recognition to our funders and partners on pages 2, 3 and 11.

Presented on Tuesday, September 25, 2012  
Chatham-Kent Secondary School, Ursuline College Chatham & W.I.S.H. Centre

### Paul Rosen

Inspirational speaker & Life Literacy Ambassador (ABC Life Literacy Canada)



Paul Rosen is a Paralympic gold medalist and former goalie of Team Canada's sledge hockey team. He won gold in Turin in 2006. Paul's struggles with literacy affected all aspects of his life. At age 50, he decided to seek help after realizing he no longer wanted to live a lie. Paul decided to join ABC Life Literacy Canada as a Life Literacy Ambassador because he wanted to share with others that there is hope. He is an inspiration to all those wanting to increase their literacy skills to live a fully engaged life.

Thanks to Paul Rosen for sharing his inspiring story in our community. The feedback was very positive.

# Getting Connected Phase V

October 26, 2012 – Chatham-Kent John D. Bradley Convention Centre

## John MacLaughlin

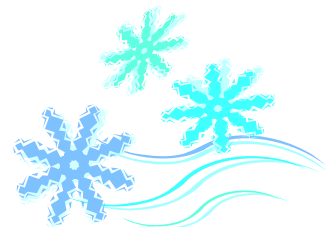
Manager of Research & Business Development with Essential Skills Ontario

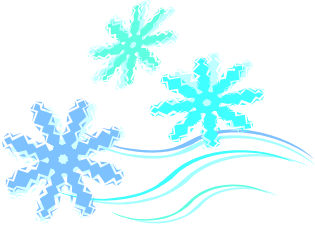


John MacLaughlin, the Manager of Research & Business Development with Essential Skills Ontario (formerly Ontario Literacy Coalition), spoke at this conference. John coauthored the groundbreaking discussion paper *Menial No More: Advancing Our Workforce through Digital Skills* (2011) which has sparked a dialogue across Canada about the nature of entry-level employment. John has discussed this issue as a speaker at numerous conferences and forums in Canada and abroad. He is currently on the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's (OCC) *Productivity, Innovation and Human Capital Committee*.

John discussed the role Literacy and Essential Skills can play in supporting local workforce development and what is being accomplished in Ontario and abroad. His discussion followed up on the findings from the discussion paper *Menial No More* as he examined innovative workforce solutions for job seekers without high-school attainment.

Thanks to John MacLaughlin for a great job presenting on why it's important to provide upgrading for the 20% of adults in Ontario who did not complete high school.





**Dr. Rick Miner**  
**“Jobs of the Future: Options and Opportunities”**



Dr. Rick Miner is President of Miner and Miner Ltd., a management consulting firm that specializes in issues related to labour force demand, jobs of the future, Human Resource Management and post-secondary education. Prior to this position, he served as Seneca College’s President from August 2001 to July 2009, at which time he retired and was appointed as Seneca’s President Emeritus.

Dr. Miner’s presentation on “Jobs of the Future: Options and Opportunities” considered the dual trends of an aging population and the need for a more educated workforce. The consequence of these events occurring simultaneously is frightening. Unless they are proactively addressed, increased labour shortages and higher levels of unemployment will result. The presentation looked at the jobs of the future (existing, evolving and new) and discussed how we can better prepare for the changes that will occur. It discussed how the negative impact of these trends can be avoided with particular attention being paid the importance of literacy, essential skills, post-secondary reform, job related training and communities preparing for the jobs of the future.

Thanks to Rick Miner for a great presentation on "Jobs of the Future: Options and Opportunities". A good area to look at is new products and services for older adults.

Presented on: Tuesday, November 20, 2012  
John McGregor Secondary School & W.I.S.H. Centre

## **Lesra Martin**

Internationally-acclaimed motivational speaker &  
Life Literacy Ambassador (ABC Life Literacy Canada)



Growing up in Brooklyn, New York, Lesra Martin faced literacy challenges until he learned to read at the age of 15. He went on to university and became a lawyer, ultimately helping free former boxer Rubin “Hurricane” Carter from wrongful conviction. He was featured in the 2001 Hollywood movie *The Hurricane* and has also been interviewed by Oprah and Larry King. In 2002, the National Film Board created a documentary about him entitled, *The Journey of Lesra Martin*. Martin now serves as a LEARN Ambassador for ABC Life Literacy Canada.

Thanks to Lesra Martin for travelling out here from British Columbia to provide uplifting presentations to our community. The feedback was very positive.





# Looking Forward to 2013

## **Celebrate Family Literacy Day**

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

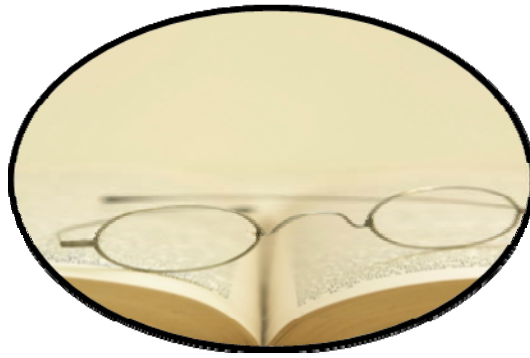
Please visit **ABC Life Literacy Canada's** website at [www.familyliteracyday.ca](http://www.familyliteracyday.ca) for great family literacy ideas and general information about this day.



### **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](http://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.

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1. **An Info & Referral Guide for Ontario, Online e-Channel Program - #500**  
(Cindy Davidson - November 2011)  
Guide to e-Channel Delivery organizations useful for your community planning and referral services.
2. **Digital Discoveries: Guide to Promising Practices in Online Learning for Adult Literacy Learners - #501**  
(Vicki Trottier - CLO - January 2012)  
Practices in online learning for adult learners.
3. **B.L.E.S.T. - #502**  
(Laubach Literacy Ontario - November 2012)  
Building Literacy, Essential Skills and Life Skills through Thematic Modules using Authentic Materials - Practitioner Guide & Learner Activities
4. **Workplace Essential Skills Assessment - #503**  
(LLEO - April 2012)  
CD
5. **Enhancing Pathways Phase 2: The Literacy and Language Continuum - #504**  
(Project Read - March 2012)  
Final Project Report: Five Pilots for Facilitating Service Coordination

Employment Ontario staff will be interested in the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway website at [www.eopg.ca](http://www.eopg.ca) .



[www.ontario.ca/employmentontario](http://www.ontario.ca/employmentontario)

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

**Special thanks to our funders and partners for the  
Celebration of Learning - Speaker Series in 2012.**

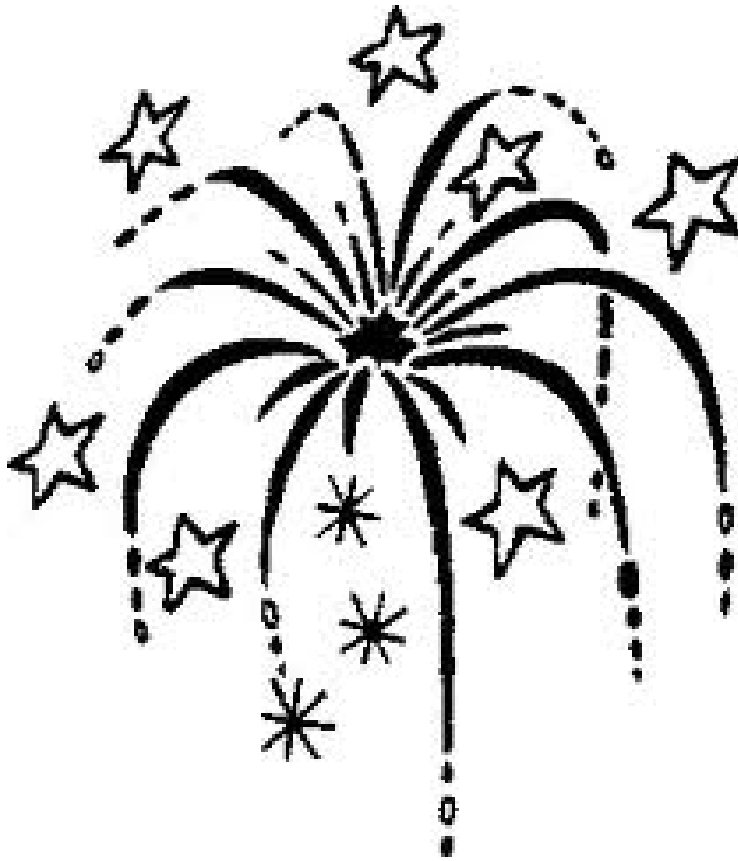
For more details on the events please see pages 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.



Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario



**2013**



*Happy New Year!*  
*Heureuse Nouvelle Année!*