



# The Update

## Summer Programming

Summer vacation time is here!

The Coalition office will remain open for the summer with staff alternating holiday breaks so feel free to call us when you need to.

Some Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs will close for a portion of the summer but all of them have some summer programming. If you're looking for information on summer services don't hesitate to contact the OCCL office at 613-233-3232 or by email: [abcline@occl.ca](mailto:abcline@occl.ca).

Here's wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer season!

## OCCL Project News

The *Community Works Project* is almost complete. Everyone who participated worked very hard and gained a lot of valuable information. See page nine for a report from Mary Wiggin on this successful project.

The City of Ottawa awarded OCCL another contract this year. Chris Harwood, who developed *Getting to Know the Library*, used the manual as the basis for literacy awareness training for the staff of Ottawa Public Library (OPL). It's a train-the-trainer model and Chris facilitated a successful pilot training with OPL staff in May. Beginning in the fall they'll be training their colleagues.

A French version of *Getting to Know the Library* has been completed and is available on the OPL website at: [www.bibliottawalibrary.ca/explore/borrow/Student\\_Pages-Final\\_French-PJ-REV4\(Final\).pdf](http://www.bibliottawalibrary.ca/explore/borrow/Student_Pages-Final_French-PJ-REV4(Final).pdf). Louise Lalonde of Moi, j'apprends gave her time generously to help OPL make this happen.

The Coalition received word recently from the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities, that we will be funded to produce an American Sign Language (ASL)

version of *Getting to Know the Library*. The Coalition will work in partnership with Ottawa Public Library, Ottawa Deaf Centre and the Deaf Literacy Initiative.

## Colleen Cooney Celebration of Literacy Luncheon – Friday, October 3

Our annual luncheon will take place on Friday, October 3. We are pleased to announce that the luncheon will be at our favourite venue, the Restaurant International at Algonquin College, and the meal will be prepared and served by the students of the College's Hospitality Program.

**Roy McGregor**, writer for the *Globe and Mail* and author of many fiction and non-fiction books has agreed to be our keynote speaker this year. In September 2005, Roy was made an Officer in the Order of Canada. He is described in the citation as one of Canada's "most gifted storytellers."

Mark the date. We'll send invitations with the August/September issue of **The Update**.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

OCCL's mission is to support, promote and strengthen adult literacy services in Ottawa through communication, research and public education.

Please direct any comments or questions to:

**Executive Director:** Mary Wiggin  
**Community Coordinator:** Maureen McGovern

**Address:** 107-211 Bronson Avenue,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6H5

**Phone:** 613-233-3232

**Fax:** 613-233-0299

**Website:** www.occl.ca

**E-mail:** abcline@occl.ca

### Board of Directors

**Chair:** Marcia Aronson  
**Treasurer:** David Robertson

### Literacy

**Reps:** Kae McColl  
Brenda Gaitens  
Isobel Bisby

**Community rep:** Wendy Siebrasse

### Local Planning & Coordination Committee

**Co-Chairs:** Jan Goatcher  
Isobel Bisby

### Members:

Brenda Gaitens  
Kae McColl  
Sarah Jappert  
Lina Léveillé  
Kathy Holmes  
Louise Lalonde  
Carol McMurchy

- June 25** - Family Literacy Day Planning Committee - Heartwood House  
153 Chapel Street
- June 26** - Professional Development Committee  
John Howard Society  
550 Old St. Patrick
- September 10** - Board & LPCC meetings  
Heartwood House  
153 Chapel Street
- October 3** - Colleen Cooney Celebration of Literacy Luncheon  
Restaurant International  
Algonquin College
- October 15** - LPCC meeting  
Heartwood House  
153 Chapel Street
- November 12** - LPCC meeting  
Heartwood House  
153 Chapel Street

### Mark your calendar!

The *Colleen Cooney Celebration of Literacy Luncheon* takes place at the Restaurant International at Algonquin College on **Friday, October 3**. Tickets are \$25.00 each.

If you wish, you can reserve your spot now by calling the OCCL office at 613-233-3232 or by emailing: abcline@occl.ca.

Our keynote speaker is **Roy McGregor.**



### NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL NEWS

#### Will Canada's Adult Literacy Rates Improve?

According to a report released by the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) on June 12, Canada's adult literacy rates are not likely to improve over time. The report is titled - ***Reading the Future***.

#### What does the future hold for adult literacy in Canada?

Our literacy future does not look promising. Currently, 48%—almost half—of all adults have low literacy skills. That proportion is expected to remain virtually unchanged over the next two decades. By 2031, we will see a 25% increase in the number of adults with low literacy skills, to a total of more than 15 million.

#### What is *Reading the Future* about?

*Reading the Future* is a report and reference tool for policy-makers and adult educators. The first of its kind in Canada, it helps to fill specific “knowledge gaps” related to literacy by providing:

- √ new detailed estimates of Canadian adult literacy levels through 2031;
- √ an unprecedented closer look at the “face” of low literacy; and
- √ effective approaches to improve literacy among six identified groups.

To complement the report, the Canadian Council on Learning has also developed:

- √ **PALMM (Projections of Adult Literacy—Measuring Movement):** an interactive on-line tool that allows you to calculate adult literacy rates into the future based on variables such as location, immigrant status, age and education level; and
- √ **Success stories:** first-person video profiles of adults who have improved their literacy skills.

A full copy of the report, a fact sheet, PALMM, the success stories and other resources are available at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/readingthefuture>.



### NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL NEWS

#### *NEWS from the OLC...*

#### **Update on The New Canada-Ontario Labour Market Agreement (LMA) from the May 29 E Bulletin - OLC**

On February 21, the governments of Ontario and Canada announced the signing of a New Labour Market Agreement under which nearly \$1.2 billion will be invested in the Ontario labour market over the next six years. Starting April 2, 2008, the LMA will bring approximately \$194 million annually to the province. The LMA agreement is different than the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) as this agreement is new money that is being allocated for labour market activity. The LMDA funding was existing Employment Insurance funding of \$525 million annually that was transferred from the federal government to the Province of Ontario.

The LMA funding will be used to support people who are not eligible for training under the Employment Insurance (EI) program. The funding is intended to support groups who are excluded from or under-represented in the work force. The announcement identified the following groups, Aboriginal people, immigrants, persons with disabilities, as well as those **workers who lack literacy and essential skills**, to get the training they need to acquire skills for sustainable employment.

This is good news for individuals who are not eligible for EI training programs. The text of the Labour Market Agreement is complex. The general eligibility requirements of the agreement are:

- Unemployed individuals who are not EI Clients
- Employed individuals who are low skilled, in particular those who do not have a high school diploma or recognized certification or who have low levels of literacy and essential skills

The priorities for the allocation of the funding are in four areas. These are totals spread over the six years of the agreement: Technical Skills Training (\$828 million); Labour Market Integration of Immigrants (\$96 million); Foundation Skills Training and Supports (\$204 million); Labour Market Support for Persons with Disabilities (\$36 million).

To view the full LMA document, visit, [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/training/labourmarket.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/training/labourmarket.html)



## **NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL...cont'd**

### **A New LBS Notification Delivery Method**

The Business Support Unit Help Desk at Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities (MTC) is now using a new delivery method for LBS-IMS related communications and notifications. The communication will include messages pertaining to the LBS-IMS systems and some of the LBS program updates and requirements. Those who are currently receiving broadcast messages from AlphaCom need to submit their current email addresses for the new notification method.

If LBS program personnel wish to continue to receiving LBS-IMS/LBS notifications or messages they need to send the following information:

Agency Name; Agency Number; Full Name; Phone Number; Fax Number; Email Address

Please send the request for inclusion to Business Support Unit Help Desk at **lbsimssupport@ontario.ca** or fax number **(416) 327-1958**. Please send it using the following title or subject line, **Update LBS Notification Client Information**. With this note there should also be evidence of approval from the agency's Corporate Head, Executive Director or the MTCU Field contact person granting permission for the individuals listed to be included on the LBS-IMS/LBS notifications list. If you have any further question(s) or require assistance, please contact:

Business Support Unit Help Desk,  
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities  
Local: 416-212-5433, Toll Free: 1-866-916-4909, Fax: (416) 327-1958, TTY: 416-326-5493

**Email: [lbsimssupport@ontario.ca](mailto:lbsimssupport@ontario.ca)**

In the Spring of this year, ABC CANADA launched their new website. While the address remains the same (**[www.abc-canada.org](http://www.abc-canada.org)**), the site has a totally new and modern look. Check it out!



### NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL...cont'd

## Honouring Her Legacy - Frances Lever 1948 to 1997

Ontario's literacy community lost an exceptionally gifted, hard-working champion with the death of Frances Lever in September 1997. Frances began her literacy career in the 1980s as a Project Worker, advancing to become Special Projects Coordinator at Literacy Link Eastern Ontario (LLEO).

In 1992, Frances became the LLEO Executive Director. She worked tirelessly on behalf of programs in her enormous region, driving thousands of kilometers each year to spend time with program staff, volunteers, and learners.

Frances never sought the spotlight for herself. The persona she presented to the world was quiet and self-effacing. Those who were privileged to know her appreciated a woman who lived her life with great curiosity, determination, deep commitment, grace, and a wonderfully wry sense of humour. She was a one of a kind, fabulous role model for us all.

### What is the Frances Lever Memorial Award?

- The purpose of this award is to recognize exceptional dedication and contributions to the cause of literacy.
- The award is open to anyone currently in an Ontario literacy organization either as a paid staff person, volunteer, or learner.
- Any resident of Ontario, including members of the OLC Board, can make nominations. You can only nominate one person per year. You cannot nominate yourself.
- Current OLC Board members, current members of the Frances Lever Memorial Award Committee, and current OLC staff members are not eligible to be nominated.
- A call for nominations for the award is issued each spring, and the award is presented at the OLC AGM.

### Make a Nomination

To make a nomination for the Frances Lever Memorial Award, visit [www.on.literacy.ca/events](http://www.on.literacy.ca/events) for more information and a nomination form.



# NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL...cont'd

## Second Careers For Ontario Workers

Ontarians now have a new way to train for a second career. The new **Second Career Program** helps workers who have lost their jobs or haven't been employed within the last year find new careers. Workers can learn to transfer their skills to other in-demand fields, such as mining and health care.

Second Career also assists workers with tuition, books, living expenses and other costs toward retraining. Training can take anywhere from six months to two years. An additional year will be available when academic upgrading is needed.

Ontario's manufacturing sector has been hit hard by rising oil prices, a strong dollar and a slowdown in the U.S. economy, and some workers are losing their jobs. Second Career gives workers across Ontario the tools they need to succeed.

### WHO CAN APPLY?

Recently laid-off unemployed workers, those eligible to receive Employment Insurance and those who are not, are welcome to visit their nearest Employment Ontario office for more information.

### WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE?

Employment Ontario counsellors will help workers determine the best path to a new job or career. Once eligible workers decide what training they would like to do, Second Career provides financial assistance based on individual need to help cover tuition, books, living expenses, disability support, dependant care and transportation.

### WHEN DOES IT START?

The program is available now. Training for a second career can take anywhere from six months to two years. Training is available for a third year if academic upgrading is needed.

### WHERE TO START?

**By phone:** People can call the Employment Ontario hotline at 1-800-387-5656 for information and referral to an Employment Ontario assessment centre. Interpretation services are available for languages other than English and French, and the Deaf can dial 416-325-4084.

**Online:** People can find assessment centres through [www.ontario.ca/secondcareer](http://www.ontario.ca/secondcareer), which provides information about Second Career and where to go for help.

**In person:** The Employment Ontario network of 1,200 service providers can direct individuals to the nearly 150 assessment centres providing access to Second Career.



# NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL...cont'd

### WHAT HAPPENS AT AN ASSESSMENT CENTRE?

People looking for work often have more job-ready skills than they realize. Employment Ontario counsellors work with clients to identify their skills, experience and education. Counsellors will ask clients about their career goals and interests to help determine which program or service best suits the individual's needs.

Through Employment Ontario, clients can access a range of programs and services including academic upgrading, placements to develop on-the-job experience, wage subsidies, financial assistance and planning to help start a business.

Working with the client, the counsellor will prepare an individualized Return to Work Action Plan. Counsellors provide ongoing advice and case management to help clients achieve their goals.

### EXAMPLES OF HOW SECOND CAREER CAN HELP PEOPLE

A forestry worker moves to a new job in mining:

- Age 40, has Grade 12 diploma
- Return-to-Work Action Plan identifies surveyor as long-term goal
- Attends four-semester, two-year Mining Engineering Technician Program at a college
- Second Career Strategy provides \$28,000 towards tuition, and living and transportation allowances.

A manufacturing worker successfully moves to a skilled-trades job:

- Age 28, completed one year of undergraduate studies
- Return-to-Work Action Plan identifies mechanical technician as long-term goal
- Attends four-semester, two-year Mechanical Technician Program at a college
- Second Career strategy provides \$25,000 towards tuition and living allowance.

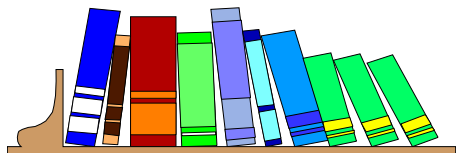
An assembly worker successfully studies to be a medical lab technician:

- Age 35, has Bachelor of Science from India
- Return-to-Work Action Plan identifies medical lab technician as long-term goal
- Attends one-year Medical Lab Technician Program at a private career college
- Second Career Strategy provides \$20,000 towards tuition, living and dependant care allowances.



## Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

### Ottawa Public Library (OPL) News [www.biblioottawalibrary.ca](http://www.biblioottawalibrary.ca)



The Ottawa Public Library has won the **Canadian Library Trustees Association Stan Heath Award for Achievement in Literacy** for producing *Getting to Know the Library* in partnership with the Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy. The manual (available in both English and French) is designed to introduce adult learners (literacy, ESL/FSL) to the resources and services of the library and to help learners feel more at ease when dealing with the library.

The introduction of the manual will greatly aid the OPL in fulfilling one of its core values, promoting life long learning and providing resources for personal growth and responsible citizenship. This is one of the library's key strategic directions and OPL board chair Councillor Jan Harder believes that it is a crucial one, "The library has a vital role to perform in making sure that there is equal access to resources and assistance for those wanting to improve their lives." We are delighted that the work of the Library and our partners has been recognized.

*Getting to Know the Library* was specifically designed to assist adult learners in second language and literacy programs overcome common barriers to using the library. By understanding and addressing these issues through a series of activities,

library staff are better able to help adult learners become more comfortable and confident when using the library," says Marcia Aronson, OPL Manager of Adult and Readers' Services.

The manual is composed of both participant's and instructor's guides and contains 65 activities that can be used by adult literacy, ESL and FSL classes. The activities include joining the library, family literacy, career information, health information, finding information on specific subjects, the difference between fiction and non-fiction, choosing a good book and many more topics.

Recognizing the link between literacy levels and health, the manual was produced with the support of Ottawa Public Health. Studies show that people who have higher levels of literacy are healthier because they are more likely to seek out and understand information on better nutrition, exercise and coping with stress. *Getting to Know the Library* will help engage and educate those who have no experience with library services and enable them to find vital information to make informed lifestyle choices.

*Getting to Know the Library* is available on the OPL website in English and French and may be downloaded free of charge by individuals or groups at [www.BiblioOttawaLibrary.ca](http://www.BiblioOttawaLibrary.ca). A signed version for individuals with hearing disabilities will be available next year.



### Community Works Project

#### Community Works: Learners Achieving Goals Through Volunteering

OCCL is happy to report that the Community Works project is almost done. We'll post the *Community Works Handbook* developed during the project on the OCCL website early in the summer. We are grateful to the **Office of Literacy and Essential Skills, Human Resources and Social Development Canada** for funding the project. OCCL worked with two terrific partners, **ALSO** and **Heartwood House**. Our goal was to develop an innovative model of supported volunteering that would provide training in transferable essential skills for learners who are marginalized and/or disadvantaged by a variety of barriers and challenges.

ALSO and Heartwood House did a tremendous job as they developed and tested the model. Special thanks to **Isobel Bisby** (ALSO) and **Maureen Moloughney** (Heartwood House) for their unwavering support. Ten learners did volunteer placements during the project in the OC Transpo Lost & Found or on reception at ALSO or in their Children's Room.

**Helen Mildon** did a brilliant job of developing a curriculum and all the supporting material to help learners prepare for and manage their volunteer placements. Many thanks to her and her colleagues and the learners at ALSO who worked together to test documents and processes as they were developed. **Chris Harwood** stepped in during the last stage of the project and worked her magic to organize all the material into a user-friendly manual.

Thanks to **Minoo Hannani** for her contribution as a member of the project's Working and Reference Groups and as the supervisor of volunteer placements in ALSO's Children's Room. Isobel, Maureen, Helen and Chris were all members of both groups. We were joined initially by **Suzanne Charron, Amanda Franklin** and **Kelly Moore** from Employment and Financial Assistance, City of Ottawa, until internal reorganization at the City made it necessary for them to resign.

We appreciate the time given by **Marianela Santamaria**, Coordinator, **Centretown Laundry Co-op** to meet with us to discuss the ways the Co-op works with volunteers and how they recognize and reward their contributions.



### Community Works Project...continued

**Kae McColl** did line editing of the manual and we are grateful for her steady, eagle eye. **Carol McMurchy** (Ottawa-Carleton District School Board) and **Wendy Reid** (John Howard Society of Ottawa) joined the members of the Working Group in reviewing the manual and we appreciate their thoughtful, insightful comments.

And last, but by no means least, we would like to thank the **Learners** from **ALSO** and **People, Words & Change** who participated in this project with such amazing enthusiasm, energy and hard work. They met the challenges presented by their volunteer placements and shared their experiences and insights quite generously in a lively focus group. Here are some of their comments:

*I'm an asset now – giving back – I no longer want to kick the world.*

*Volunteering with other people with challenges helped me come out of my shell.*

*I can't tell my children what to do with their lives if I don't do something.*

*Confidence is really important.*

*If you have confidence, nothing can stop you.*

*Coming here makes me smile.*

*I am actually happy to get up and come in.*

*I've learned what I'm capable of doing.*

*I'm amazed at myself and so is my family.*

*I feel good when I go home.*

*We knew our own challenges but didn't recognize our own strengths.*

*I never felt good before. I am achieving goals and feeling good about my way of living.*

*Spread the word! Give other people a chance to do what we have done.*



### Local Program News

#### Join the Race for Literacy

On Saturday, September 27, 2008, the streets of Ottawa will be overrun by racers taking part in the **Fourth Annual Amazing Book Race**. Dust off your running shoes and sign up your team, or become a sponsor of Ottawa's most entertaining literacy event ever! Teams are typically made up of 3-4 people.

For more information see the brochure enclosed with this newsletter and/or call **ALSO** at 613-233-8660. To find out more about ALSO's Amazing Book Race, visit:

[http://www.also-ottawa.org/downloads/Book\\_Race\\_2008\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.also-ottawa.org/downloads/Book_Race_2008_Brochure.pdf)

The **Western Quebec Literacy Council** has a new website.

Check it out at: [www.wq-literacy.org](http://www.wq-literacy.org)  
The new email is: [info@wq-literacy.org](mailto:info@wq-literacy.org)

The Council welcomes your feedback on their new site.

#### OCCL Website ([www.occl.ca](http://www.occl.ca)) Activity Report

Listed below are the top downloads from our site for the months of March, April and May 2008.

##### March 2008

1. Putting Literacy on the Map (**956**)
2. Literacy Outreach Package (**234**)
3. OCCL Newsletters (**98**)

##### April 2008

1. Literacy Outreach Package (**166**)
2. Putting Literacy on the Map (**106**)
3. PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy (**45**)

##### May 2008

1. Literacy Outreach Package (**101**)
2. PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy (**54**)
3. Hire Learning Modules (**35**)



### Local Program News

#### The 2008 Co-operators Learner Achievement Award

Each year the Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy chooses an adult learner to receive the *Co-operators Learner Achievement Award*. This learner is someone who has demonstrated real commitment to learning and represents exactly why the PGI Golf Tournaments for Literacy are held. We are delighted to announce that Jordan Clouthier received the 2008 award at the golf tournament dinner on May 22.

Jordan went to the ACElinks program at the John Howard Society location because his experiences in the school system had left him discouraged, and without confidence. In the program, he found the support that encouraged him to prove to himself that he had what it takes to get his Grade 12 equivalency – and to get it with flying colours!

Although he was tentative at first, with a measure of trust and a lot of courage, Jordan began his first course. From that point on, he never looked back. He worked steadily and surely towards his goal, one assignment at a time, never missing a class.

When only his Math course remained to be conquered, Jordan had to transfer to the ACE program at Algonquin College – so he called on his courage again. He need not have worried. He settled in quickly, remains an A+ student and continues to prove his outstanding commitment and dedication to learning.

Jordan is still in touch with his teacher and job coach at the John Howard Society. As he finishes up his Math, he is registering in the Computer Technician program at Algonquin College.

Jordan will be the first ACElinks student to receive his ACE certificate. His classmates from the John Howard Society are proud of him, and they will be there to cheer him on.

**Congratulations Jordan!**



### Local Program News

#### Success Story for LiveWorkPlay and the talented Gillian Gillespie!

Gillian Gillespie, a client of LiveWorkPlay, has become an author of a children's story. Her book *The Adventures of Grace and Archimedes* has been published by Baico Publishing and is for sale at Chapters.

Gillian is part of the Journeys Program at LiveWorkPlay. Journeys is a weekly community participation program for young people with mild intellectual disabilities who are in secondary school and who are between the ages of 13 and 21. Friday nights at Journeys are all about getting out in the community after dark and having a good time with peers while learning how to manage the risks of the real world. It is about taking the bus, managing money, and navigating the streets, shopping malls, restaurants, and more!

#### About the Author and the Book

Gillian Gillespie was born May 19, 1989 in Ottawa, Ontario. She lives with her mother and her two black cats, Merlin and Sagwa. Gillian enjoys playing the piano and listening to music. She also loves reading, drawing and writing.

This book is about a brave little witch named Grace and her curious black cat, Archimedes. Grace and Archimedes journey from one exciting adventure to another in Wacky Witch and Wizard World. This could be the first in a Wacky Witch and Wizard World series!

Gillian sends a special thank you to the staff, volunteers and families of LiveWorkPlay for their support and encouragement, giving Gillian the opportunity to be a contributing member of a caring community.

#### About LiveWorkPlay

LiveWorkPlay was founded in 1995 by Keenan Wellar and Julie Kingstone who both share a passion for helping young people enjoy a better quality of life. They were alarmed by the lack of effective services for people with mild intellectual disabilities. Why LiveWorkPlay? They wanted to be about serving the whole person in all three areas of life: where they live, where they work (paid or unpaid), and where they play (being active citizens, relationships with others, recreation).

There are no spaces in "LiveWorkPlay" because home life, work life, and play life are all connected. If you are experiencing depression at home, you aren't going to be happy at work. If you about to lose your job, your ability to enjoy time out in the community with friends is going to suffer. Everything we do as human beings shares connections, and the organization functions with that understanding in mind.

To find out more about LiveWorkPlay, their programs and who they serve, visit their website at:



## Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

### OCCL Newsletter Survey

We would like to thank the donors, LBS instructors, coordinators and administrators, volunteer tutors, board members of LBS Agencies and Friends of Literacy who filled out our Newsletter Survey sent with the February/March 2008 edition of **The Update**.

#### Overall Results

- √ 80% gave the highest rating for the content and presentation of information
- √ 75% were totally pleased with the various sections of the newsletter.
- √ 80% felt that the information emailed between newsletters was highly relevant and useful, and
- √ 90% gave the highest rating to the timely receipt of information by email.

Listed below are several anecdotal comments from the survey:

*"I receive many good tips from the newsletter. An excellent source of literacy information"*

*"I find it very comprehensive. It's just the right length. Don't let it become electronic - I read **The Update** but I scan other electronic newsletters."*

*"Maybe more materials recommendations, suggested websites, resource book reviews. It's really our main Ottawa resource for anything to do with Adult Literacy Programs. Therefore, a most valued resource for everyone in the field."*

*"I receive many newsletters. This is one of the best - interesting, informative and timely." There should be more information for those wanting to get involved with improving literacy. Volunteer opportunities, etc.*

*"I know there is a need for a hard-copy newsletter, but have you considered an electronic version for those who request it?"*

*"I would like to see international news from other countries on literacy projects."*

Once again the staff at OCCL wish to thank you for taking the time to fill out the newsletter survey. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated and duly noted. They will help us to make improvements to how we share information

#### Mark Your Calendars!

The Ontario Literacy Coalition's (OLC) Training Event and Conference  
**Spotlight on Learning: Literacy takes Centre Stage**  
October 6-8, 2008  
Delta Chelsea Hotel in Toronto  
For further information visit: [www.on.literacy.ca/training/spotlight.htm](http://www.on.literacy.ca/training/spotlight.htm)



### 211Ontario.ca

#### WHAT'S FAST, RELIABLE AND POWERFUL?

The new 211Ontario.ca ([www.211Ontario.ca](http://www.211Ontario.ca)) website released in May 2008!

#### WHAT IS 211ONTARIO.CA?

A bilingual online directory with authoritative information about more than 56,000 community, social, health and related government services and programs in Ontario

- ✓ Location, keyword, subject and advanced searching available
- ✓ Sophisticated mapping
- ✓ Searching finds the service closest to the user
- ✓ French language service for Francophones in Ontario
- ✓ Updated database of information collected by local community agencies

Access to accurate and timely information can empower people to successfully cope with life's challenges and be productive, active and engaged. With the launch of 211Ontario.ca, access to information about human services just got easier!

**Contact:** Kathy Kelly, **211Ontario.ca** Project Manager, 416-392-4658

#### A Learning Exercise

Practitioners may wish to help learners find out about the 211Ontario website ([www.211Ontario.ca](http://www.211Ontario.ca)). Learners can log on to the site then input their home address and the service they are seeking. The site will generate detailed contact information and a map showing the service closest to their home address.



## RESOURCES

From the June 2008 Community Literacy Ontario E-Communique

### Online Proposal Writing Guide

The Northwest Territories Literacy Council and the Nunavut Literacy Council have just produced a *Proposal Writing Guide (2008)*. This guide is extremely practical and guides people through the key steps of proposal writing. It is also written in plain language.

Here is the link: [www.nald.ca/library/learning/prwritgd/prwritgd.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/prwritgd/prwritgd.pdf)

### Lifelong Learning for Literacy Practitioners Website

Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO) has received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for a project called: "Lifelong Learning for Literacy Practitioners Website." This project will run from July 2008 to June 2009. In this exciting project, CLO will research and develop a website that hosts information and resources on training and accreditation in the Ontario literacy community. The Lifelong Learning website will include:

- Web-based information that outlines the current training and accreditation requirements for employment in the Ontario literacy community
- Web-based information which gives an overview of the skills required by literacy practitioners
- A tool for literacy practitioners to assess their current skills and their skills gaps
- A resource to help literacy practitioners develop a personal learning plan for upgrading their skills
- Web-based information which gives an overview of opportunities for education and training for literacy practitioners (this includes formal, accredited training and informal, professional development opportunities)

### Compendium of Websites

Laubach Literacy Ontario has developed a collection of relevant websites. These sites have been useful to adults who want to improve their reading, writing, math and essential skills as well as to tutors and trainers. The compendium also provides brief descriptions of each site that is listed.

Visit [www.laubach-on.ca/Trainingpost/compendium/index.html](http://www.laubach-on.ca/Trainingpost/compendium/index.html)

Each site is listed according to the Essential Skill or Skills provided:

Reading Text  
Document Use  
Numeracy

Writing  
Oral Communication  
Working with Others

Thinking Skills  
Computer Use  
Continuous Learning



## RESOURCES

### Working Together is now available online!

LBS programs and mental health agencies in Ottawa joined forces to work on a *Feasibility Study for Literacy and Mental Health* last year. From this report, a document was created called *Working Together* that looks at client readiness for LBS training.

Programs have since discovered that *Working Together* is a helpful resource for serving any potential learner. The document was reduced and reworked many times before a final version was approved. *Working Together* can be downloaded and printed from the OCCL website at: [www.occl.ca/wrktogth.htm](http://www.occl.ca/wrktogth.htm). *Working Together* will be translated into French and posted along with the English version in the near future.

The Coalition is interested in your feedback on the document so we have enclosed a copy of *Working Together* with this newsletter. Feel free to send your comments by email under the subject heading - *Working Together* - to: [abcline@occl.ca](mailto:abcline@occl.ca)

From the March 20, 2008 (Ontario Literacy Coalition) OLC E-Bulletin

### Publications

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) is pleased to announce that the following publications are now updated and available on their website to view and print. They can also be ordered through their online order form. Links to the publication lists, online order forms, etc. can be found on the CLEO website: [www.cleo.on.ca/english/index.htm](http://www.cleo.on.ca/english/index.htm).

**Family: CPP Benefits:** Are you Entitled? Separated? Divorced?

**Health and Disability: CPP benefits:** Are you Entitled? Disability Pensions

CLEO's publications regularly change to reflect changes in the law. Their Discard List tells you which publications are out of date and should be thrown away. The English Discard List can be found at: [www.cleo.on.ca/english/index.htm](http://www.cleo.on.ca/english/index.htm)

All their publications can be ordered free of charge. Visit their website:

[www.cleo.on.ca/english/pub/order](http://www.cleo.on.ca/english/pub/order)



### RESOURCES

#### Web Tools: Blogging as a Tool to Practise Writing

AlphaPlus has tools available from their *Web Tool and Adult Literacy* workshops. There are examples of how to use blogs for writing practice. Visit [www.teachandlearn.ca/blog/2008/02/04/towards-reflective-blogtalk](http://www.teachandlearn.ca/blog/2008/02/04/towards-reflective-blogtalk). While the examples shown feature teachers working with young students, they can easily be used with adult learners too.

If you visit [www.21classes.com/shop/support](http://www.21classes.com/shop/support) you can use a free blogging software called 21 Classes. Even if the software doesn't interest you, the article contains some techniques and simple tools to use when students are blogging.

#### Health Literacy Curriculum

Marcia Aronson, OCCL's Chair of the Board, sent a link on a Health Literacy Curriculum courtesy of Queen's Library in New York City. To check it out, visit: [www.queenslibrary.org](http://www.queenslibrary.org), click on *About the Adult Learner Program* at the bottom of the home page and then on the bottom of the next page click on A Health Literacy Curriculum for ESL Beginners.

#### Free Parent-Child Early Literacy Materials

Washington Learning Systems located in Seattle, Washington has recently posted a set of early literacy materials titled "On the Go." These materials include 14 activities designed to be used outside the home: in the car, while walking, during bus rides, etc. The activities encourage early language and literacy development from birth through preschool.

To view and/or download the free materials go to [www.wlearning.com](http://www.wlearning.com) and click on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the homepage. Look for the "On the Go" file to download the materials in PDF format.

The new materials are designed to encourage parents to interact with their children while they are "On the Go" to facilitate language, early literacy and positive parent-child interactions.

#### Making Financial Literacy Fun?

James Cunningham, who has been featured in two Comedy Now specials, Just for Laughs and Last Comic Standing does his schtick called "Funny Money" for high schools, colleges, universities and the corporate sector. More information can be found at: [www.funnymoneyinc.com](http://www.funnymoneyinc.com)



### A LITTLE HUMOUR

*We promised you more in the last issue of **The Update**. Here are the remaining amusing analogies and metaphors found in high school essays this year collected by English teachers across the country.*

13. The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.
14. Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.
15. They lived in a typical suburban neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan's teeth.
16. John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.
17. He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant, and she was the East River.
18. Even in his last years, Granddad had a mind like a steel trap, only one that had been left out so long, it had rusted shut.
19. Shots rang out, as shots are wont to do.
20. The plan was simple, like my brother-in-law Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.
21. The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.
22. He was as lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck, either, but a real duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.
23. The ballerina rose gracefully en Pointe and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.
24. It was an American tradition, like fathers chasing kids around with power tools.
25. He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.

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# Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

## HOTLINE STATISTICS

Contacts	March	April	May
Calls from learners	5	12	7
On behalf of learners	5	5	5
Learner follow-up	4	6	2
From Volunteers	1	4	3
Literacy Outreach	1	10	32
OCCL Admin	73	95	111
Workforce Development	28	39	52
Special Projects/Resources	67	52	28
Provincial and National Activities	44	43	36
Network Calls/LPCC/Board/Community (EO)	140	166	99
Training - Learner & Practitioner	51	55	11
Family Literacy/FLD Events	31	14	10
PGI	28	67	127
Events	8	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>523</b>

### Referrals\*

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	2	2	3
Ottawa Catholic School Board	2	1	3
PWC	2	7	2
ALSO	2	1	3
Algonquin College (CCP)			
ILC Web site		1	1
ELTOC		2	
ACElinks	1	1	1
John Howard Society			
Sage Youth			
Moi, j'apprends		1	
La cité collégiale		1	
Adult High / St. Nicholas Adult		1	
Western Quebec Literacy Council			
Job Connect at the Y			
Language Assessment Centre			
Ottawa Public Library	1		
No referral	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>

\* At times we make more than one referral per call. The total number of referrals therefore may be higher than the total number of calls received.

OW related calls:	6	5	5
ODSP related calls:	0	1	0



# THE LAST WORD

## The PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

On May 22nd the Coalition celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy. The weather at Loch March Golf & Country Club was not in a celebratory mood unfortunately – the sun made rare appearances followed always by a good dose of rain. However golfers are a stoic, stubborn breed and they played the game, some sporting rain suits, others sheltering under colourful umbrellas.

The tournament can only happen with lots of planning and hard work. There are many people we must thank for their wonderful contributions.

First, let's hear a round of applause for all of our local sponsors. Our Local Tournament Sponsor is **Burke-Robertson, Barristers & Solicitors**. Committee Chair, **Ted Masters**, and his colleagues, **Jane Murray** and **Mario Gravel** hosted the planning meetings, recruited a number of golfers, made a financial contribution and helped to make the tournament a lot of fun.

**The Ottawa Citizen** is our Golf Day Sponsor, advertiser and printer! The Citizen also covered the cost of the tournament photographer and contributed golfers, prizes and auction items as well as the fabulous services of **Janet Goodell** who has been with us every step of the way for 20 amazing years!

**Bruce Brooks** represented **Collins Barrow Ottawa LLP** on the Organizing Committee. As a Local Sponsor, Collins Barrow contributed prizes, made a financial contribution and fielded several enthusiastic foursomes.

**TD Financial Group** is our dinner sponsor (and a wonderful dinner it was) and **David Laidlaw** represented them on the Organizing Committee.

The **Ottawa Senators** were winners in our books as they returned as our Cart Sponsor and **Algonquin College** joined us as the Lunch Sponsor. **Chevy West** was prepared to give away a Chevy Equinox at their hole-in-one but sadly no one went home with a new vehicle. However, Bob Henry, one of our most faithful supporters came within an inch or two. Bob has managed 18 holes-in-one in about as many years.



## Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

### PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

Across the country the 14 PGI Golf Tournaments for Literacy all benefit from the contributions of generous national sponsors:

**Great West Life, London Life and Canada Life**  
**Canada Post**  
**CBC**  
**The Co-operators**

Behind the scenes volunteers, **Janet Goodell, Gail Anglin, Brenda Gaitens, Cathy Lunau, John McGovern** and **Lauren Walker** provided wonderful assistance. Many, many thanks for your help – we couldn't have done it without you!

And back to the event itself.....When the golfers returned to the clubhouse it was time to have a cocktail, enjoy the piano stylings of John McGovern and browse through the items displayed for the silent and live auctions (thank you to all the local firms and organizations who donated items). A new "balloon auction" helped us recognize the three golfers in attendance who had played in the first tournament – **Danielle Nadon, Don Hale** and **Bill Conrod**.

After a delicious buffet dinner, **J. J. Clarke** shone once again as Master of Ceremonies. Congratulations to **Jordan Clouthier** from the **ACElinks Program** who received **The Co-operators Learner Achievement Award** and to the **Ottawa Senators** who were honoured with the **Gzowski Award**. **Mary Jane Maffini** was a hit as our poet. Her poem, "There's Nothing Like Murder to Make My Day" will soon be posted on the OCCL website.

*And now let's do it again.....We are delighted to announce that we'll be returning to Loch March for our 21<sup>st</sup> PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy on **Thursday, May 28, 2009**.*

**Update** - The Ottawa Citizen held a garage sale & mini silent auction to sell off leftover prizes from the PGI and the Ottawa Citizen Amateur Golf Championship. They very kindly donated the proceeds from the sale to the *Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy*.

Many thanks to the staff at the Ottawa Citizen for their tremendous support!