

Laubach Links



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NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR LAUBACH LITERACY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The President's Corner

It is a pleasure to be serving once again as the Provincial President of Newfoundland and Labrador Laubach Literacy Council.



**BESSIE
MERRIGAN**
NLLLC
President

I would like to thank the outgoing executive for their many years of service. Monnie Moores, Mata Mangal and Lillian Moores have given many years to the literacy movement in Newfoundland and Labrador and certainly to the provincial Laubach organization. I am sure they will continue to serve the literacy students in various other capacities within Laubach.

It is a privilege to be working with the current executive. My sincere thanks to Wanda Parr, Denise Russell and Melvin Parrott who are continuing in their respective roles on the executive, and to the new members of the executive, Paula Power and Maureen Kennedy for putting themselves forward to serve the Laubach community. Together the executive will strive to keep the councils informed of each and every event planned over the coming months.

The executive joins with me in sending best wishes to the current Executive Director, Melanie Callahan, who is leaving us for another career opportunity. She will continue to volunteer with the Humber Literacy Council and be actively involved with literacy

This is certainly a challenging time for the literacy community throughout the country, but especially in Newfoundland and Labrador where councils are struggling to survive. It has also meant changing times for the councils as they wrestle with the need to provide confidentiality to the students, yet meet the demands of the funders who are seeking measurable outcomes on the student population. Please be assured that your executive is working diligently with the Executive Director to ensure the confidentiality of each student.

I welcome your input over the next two years as together we work to make our province a more literate society.

Regional Training Symposiums

Pending funding from the Adult Learning, Literacy and Skills Development, the Newfoundland and Labrador Laubach Literacy Council will bring regional training symposiums to four sites in the province. These symposiums are intended to refresh the tutor's skills and to provide them with the training that will supplement the Laubach Way to Read training. Some of the areas identified for further training include English as a Second Language, Math, Spelling and supplementary learning materials. Laubach trainers will deliver these trainings. These trainings will take place on a Saturday, and will be open to all trained tutors (active or inactive) and those with like-minded interests in the community. Funding will be available to allow people to travel to these symposiums. Through this project, it is hoped that we can refresh our tutors' skills, learn from each other's experiences and encourage inactive tutors to again become involved.

Annual General Meeting and Conference 2006

In November, the Humber Literacy Council hosted the Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Newfoundland and Labrador Laubach Literacy Council. At that time, a new provincial executive was elected. Several awards were also handed out to deserving literacy students and volunteers.

MEET THE NEW NLLLC PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE



The new board includes: (from left to right) front: Paula Power- Treasurer, Melvin Parrott- Student Representative, back: Wanda Parr- Vice-President, Maureen Kennedy- Provincial Training Officer, Monnie Moores- Past-President and Denise Russell-Secretary (Missing from photo - President Bessie Merrigan).

NLLLC STUDENT OF THE YEAR



Debbie Hiscock, right, an ABE student at the College of the North Atlantic in Deer Lake was presented the award for Student of the Year by Humber Literacy Council member Bonnie Schwartz.

CANADA POST STUDENT OF THE YEAR



Leona Blackmore of Grand Falls-Windsor, was named Canada Post Student of the Year for this province. Leona is visually impaired. She quit school at the age of 17 after only completing grade six and said she would never go back. She has since learned never to say "never." When she started her Adult Basic Education course, Leona felt she had finally arrived where she belonged. Here, Canada Post representative Eleanor Rose, left, local area manager for Corner Brook presented Leona with the award. Leona also received a notebook computer.

NLLLC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Lillian Moores, left, a member of the Exploits and Area Literacy Council and outgoing Provincial Training Officer, was presented the Volunteer of the Year award by Melanie Callahan.

2007 AGM & Conference

Now with the 2006 AGM and Conference behind us, it is time to look ahead to the 2007 AGM and Conference. We have yet to find a host council for the 2007 AGM and Conference. Hosting a conference is not as intimidating as it seems, and NLLLC board and staff are here to lend their hands. Materials are available to guide the host council through the process. Please contact the provincial office if you are interested.

Tutoring Tips WRITING EXERCISES

One of the most difficult things about working with a student is finding educational activities that are interesting to the student. Here are a few ideas of ways to improve basic writing skills for adult literacy students.

Ask your student to write:

- an autobiography about themselves, someone in their lives or someone they have read about.
- what you would do if you won the lottery.
- a recipe book.
- captions for photos which could be used in a scrapbook.
- grocery lists.
- letters (including addressing the envelope) or e-mails to friends.
- journals or personal diaries.
- language experience stories.
- a piece for a Visitor Information Guide about the community which you live.

Once a piece is written, there are many activities which can be developed from these written materials.

Council Corner VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

We all know how great it is when a new volunteer, with new ideas and new energy, joins your council. Here are a few tips to attract new members to your council.

- Use the media to get out information about your group and what you do.
- Develop and distribute eye-catching brochures and pamphlets describing the organization and the benefits people would receive from volunteering with it.
- Network with other community groups. Representatives from other community groups may be willing to share information and to promote each other's opportunities.
- Use word of mouth; this is still the most effective way to promote your organization.
- Brainstorm with current volunteers on how to recruit others.
- Offer orientation sessions for your volunteers.
- Offer information sessions on your organization and on available positions.
- Show your interest in potential volunteers as individuals, not only as volunteer workers.
- Allow your volunteers to provide feedback and input.
- Recognize the work of your volunteers. Something as little as saying thanks can make a volunteer feel valued and worthwhile.
- Keep informed of what other successful groups do to capture and keep volunteers.
- Do not recruit more volunteers than are actually needed.

This information was taken from the Community Service Council webpage: www.envision.ca.

Congratulations Bessie!

NLLLC President, Bessie Merrigan received two prestigious awards recently. Bessie was awarded Memorial University's Alumni Tribute Award for "Outstanding Community Service" in October 2006 and the Order Of Newfoundland and Labrador, December 2006. Here Bessie is seen with Ed Roberts, His Honour Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, left, and Honourable Danny Williams, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador.



Senior Tutor Certification



Bayshore Council recently presented two tutors with Senior Tutor certificates. Peg Spurrell, Student - Tutor coordinator, left, made the presentation to Sarah Lawrence and Jack Mosdell.

Summer Reading for Fun

Applications for The Summer Reading for Fun program are normally accepted by the end of February. Please consider whether your council will be interested in such a program.

The goal of this project is to provide supplementary reading, writing and numeracy activities to students from kindergarten to Grade 12.

The salaries for the tutors and the provincial payroll coordinator for the Summer Reading for Fun program are applied for under the Summer Career Placement program funded by Service Canada.

Pending funding, tutors and coordinators receive a training seminar sponsored by the Newfoundland and Labrador Laubach Literacy Council. At this seminar, certified Laubach trainers provide information sessions to tutors on topics related to the daily operations of the program. Councils are responsible for the appointment of their own volunteer Steering Committees who are responsible for hiring coordinators and tutors in the community and monitoring the day-to-day activities of their site.

Good-Bye . . .

I will be stepping down as Executive Director of NLLLC. It has been a great couple of years working with you all. I have never seen such a dedicated and enthusiastic group of volunteers. In a time when volunteer recruitment is becoming more and more difficult, NLLLC currently has close to 100 student-tutor pairs working together, over 120 volunteer board members and too many trained tutors to count. I will remain involved with NLLLC as a volunteer with Humber Literacy Council, and I look forward to working with you all to help more and more students reach their potential.

All the best, Melanie Callahan

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR LAUBACH LITERACY COUNCIL

Box 822, 141 O'Connell Drive
Corner Brook, NL A2H 6H6
laubach@nf.aibn.com



LAUBACH
LITERACY OF
CANADA
ALPHABÉTISATION
LAUBACH DU
CANADA

P: 1-800-863-0373
F: (709) 639-2126
www.nald.ca/nlllc