

Laubach Links



Newfoundland and Labrador
Laubach Literacy Council Inc.
Serving Newfoundland and
Labrador since 1986

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NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR LAUBACH LITERACY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The President's Corner

Wow! It's spring again. The snow is gone and I'm pretty sure most of you are like me and are wondering where the winter went. I trust you all had an enjoyable winter and feel invigorated now that spring is in the air!

Our November 2008 AGM in Corner Brook was a great success and we came away with some concrete plans for our organization for the next two years. It was very encouraging to see a good number of our students in attendance. Our AGM's just wouldn't be the same without you.

Our staff has had a very busy winter and the Essential Skills project has been going great, thanks to both Margie's and Lin's enthusiasm and great work ethic. We are very fortunate to have such great employees to work for us.

We elected a new board of directors at the AGM. I would like to personally thank all the candidates for putting their name forward (some for another term and some for the first time) to serve on our Laubach board. I truly realize that it is a big commitment for a lot of individuals who have such busy lives.

We are dedicating this newsletter to Melvin Parrott, who I had the privilege of knowing through my literacy work. Melvin was such a genuine, quiet individual who will be greatly missed by all of us at NLLLC. On behalf of the executive and staff, we extend our deepest sympathy to Melvin's family and friends.



WANDA PARR
PRESIDENT,
NLLLC

In Memoriam ...



MELVIN PARROTT

This newsletter is dedicated in memory of Melvin Parrott, NLLLC outgoing Student Representative who passed away on December 26th, 2008. Melvin was a strong advocate for literacy and literacy learners. He will be missed by many in the literacy field and his memory will continue to inspire those whose lives he touched.

Thoughts

"The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination"

**-Albert Einstein-
[1879- 1955]**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.nald.ca/nlllc



Tributes to Melvin Parrott

Dear Literacy Community:

It was with much sadness that we heard of the passing of our very dear friend, Melvin Parrott, on Boxing Day 2008. A person like Mel leaves such an impression on one that it is difficult to write about him and try not to forget all the things that made him so special.

I first met Mel in 2002 when he came to see if he could get into Adult Basic Education Level I classes. He had been laid off at work and wanted to upgrade and hopefully go back to his job. When he started class he quickly became a friend to everyone. He was a very friendly, gentle, and compassionate man. He became involved with our Literacy Council in Grand Falls-Windsor and was elected student representative on the Newfoundland and Labrador Laubach Literacy Council Provincial Board. He was very dedicated to his position with the literacy council. All of us enjoyed having Mel at our provincial meetings and conferences. I especially loved having him because I never needed to worry how I would get all my boxes and workshop supplies into my hotel room upon arrival. Mel would never need to be asked, he readily volunteered and was always such a gentleman. Mel also served on the National Laubach Literacy Board as student representative for Newfoundland and Labrador. Monnie, Mel, and I attended many conferences together. He would always tease Monnie and me because we not only brought lots of shoes on every trip, but it never failed, we would always find a pair or two to buy and add to our collection! We will always remember those little things- Mel coming to our room to make sure we got to the workshop on time and sometime later that evening we would hear him laughing and telling the others about all the shoes in our room and how we had bought more that day. Mel also served on the Literacy Newfoundland Board as student representative for Central Newfoundland. He did all he could to promote literacy in our province. Even when he finished classes he would still drop by to visit whenever he was in the Grand Falls- Windsor area. He was always warmly welcomed by everyone and we all looked forward to his visits. I still expect my classroom door to open and see Mel dropping by for a visit.

Mel and his wife Ann became friends with us and we were always trying to make plans to get together for a skidoo trip or to get to the cabins. He was a fantastic family man and they must miss him so much. He was always talking about his grandchildren and bringing in pictures to show us. I will miss my very dear student and more especially friend and I think he is somewhere smiling because he knows that I shed many a tear every time I think of him. He will always be missed.

Lillian Moores

My name is Leona Blackmore and I remember the first day I met Melvin. It was when I walked into the classroom for the first time. I was very nervous about attending school and he made me laugh and I felt much better. I remember attending my first AGM in St. John's. All of the students went to visit the Geological Center and we all got in an elevator and Melvin stamped his foot on the floor and frightened all of us to death. Then Wandalee, Bonnie, Melvin, and I went up to Signal Hill and it was really windy up there. Melvin said that he was afraid the high winds would blow his teeth out. The biggest surprise I ever got was at the AGM banquet when Melvin presented me with the Student of the Year Award in 2005.

Leona Blackmore

My first impression of Mel was of a soft spoken, polite gentleman. Over the years that impression did not change. Mel was also generous with his time for others. If we needed someone to lend a hand when we were "on the road" to conferences, Mel was always there.

We miss his presence.

Mata Mangal, Exploits Literacy Council Volunteer

The first time I met Melvin was after he had started ABE classes with Lillian. He attended some of our local meetings in Grand Falls-Windsor. Although he lived almost an hour from town he would stay around until it was time for our meetings to start. Then he would drive home @ 8:30 or 9 pm and still drive back in for classes with Lillian in the morning.

He was very dedicated to continuing his education to better himself, (as he would say) and be an advocate for literacy. He loved to attend any literacy function, local, provincial or national. After he was elected student rep. we went to Ottawa several times together. If Melvin was coming you had nothing to worry about. He was a real gentleman, taking your bags, etc. anything he could do to help. One of the fondest memories of Melvin on our trips was once we were all checked in, he would always make a point to come and count our shoes and sandals. He would remark that each trip we still managed to take more with us.

Each time I drive through Glenwood my thoughts are of Melvin and how many times Lillian and I would pick him up at the gas station heading east for some literacy AGM /conference. On one of our trips we did get to spend time with his wife and our spouses. We had a great weekend together but [it is] sad to realize that we never got our snowmobile trip together that we discussed at that time.

My sympathies [go] to his wife, Ann & his family. We will always fondly remember Melvin and hold him close in our hearts.

Monnie Moores, Past President of NLLLC

Board of Directors for 2008-2009



The 2008-2009 Board of Directors elected at the 2008 Annual General Meeting include:
(from left to right) front: Gale Brown-Student Representative, Lillian Moores - Vice President, Alwyn Kean - Secretary, Monnie Moores - Past President, Wanda Parr - President, Maureen Kennedy - Provincial Training Officer.
back: Peg Spurrell- Member at Large, Judy Antle - Member at Large, Paula Power - Outgoing Treasurer and Louise Fillatre - Member at Large.
Thank you to outgoing Board Members Paula Power and Denise Russell and welcome Mag Snook who is the newest board member and treasurer of NLLLC (missing from photo).

Mag Snook
Incoming Treasurer.



Thank-you to Michelle Power and Gillian Skinner (Department of Innovation Trade and Rural Development) for helping us secure funding for the Community Capacity Building Strategic Planning workshop which was held November 14th and 15th, 2008. This workshop, facilitated by Dana Pitman provided us with an opportunity to hold our 2008 Annual General Meeting.

MARGIE LEWIS
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, NLLLC



From the ED's desk...

Hello Everyone,

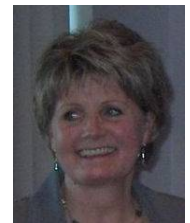
Welcome to the first 2009 edition of the NLLLC newsletter, designed to bring you the latest about our projects, the activities of councils, learners and volunteers along with other items of interest.

One of the many things I have learned this year is the importance of showing appreciation. I want to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers, donors and supporters of the Newfoundland and Labrador Laubach Literacy Council Inc. for their valuable contribution to making 2008 a successful year.

With your help, we have strengthened our Board of Directors, started the development of a strategic plan to guide us, formed new partnerships and secured substantial funds to update and add to tutor and learner materials through our newest project Essential Skills Literacy Training: Tools for Older Adults.

On that note... Welcome Linda!

I am pleased to welcome Linda Collier as the new addition to the NLLLC team. Linda has been hired as the Public Consultation Facilitator for the Essential Skills Literacy Training: Tools for Older Adults project. I am certain Linda will prove to be a great asset to the project and look forward to her contribution to NLLLC!



LINDA COLLIER
PUBLIC CONSULTATION
FACILITATOR

Council Spotlight...

Bay St. George Literacy Council, Inc.

The Harmon Building, 58 Oregon Drive, Suite 209, Stephenville, NL A2N 2Y1

www.envision.ca/webs/bsgliteracy

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Bay St. George Literacy Council Inc. (BSGLC) will be holding a bake sale and recruiting volunteers and students at Bay Expo being held May 30th and 31st at The Stephenville Dome.

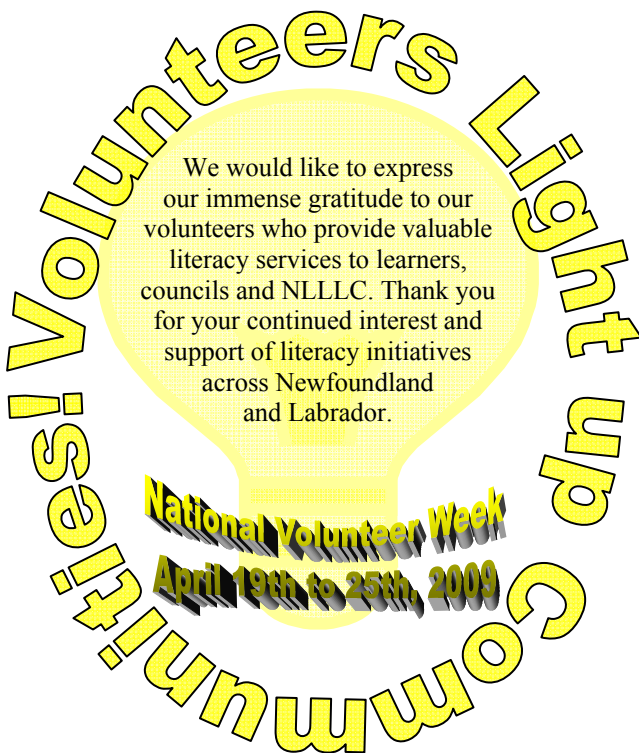
The BSGLC is hosting a Basic Tutor Training Workshop which is scheduled for early fall 2009. Visit the WHAT'S NEW section of the council's website for updates. Contact BSGLC if you want to attend a future workshop. A non-refundable registration fee of \$10 is required to be paid two weeks before workshop date (TBA). Payment can be made at the office or mailed. For information, call 709-643-4121 or e-mail: bsgliteracy@hotmail.com

English as a Second Language (ESL) Tutor Training Workshop

Fifteen tutors were presented with ESL tutor certificates on February 7th, 2008 in Stephenville. Laubach ESL trainers, Bev Hulan and Muriel Chislett facilitated the ten-hour workshop which was hosted by Bay St. George Literacy Council in partnership with Literacy NL.



Above - New ESL tutors Stephen Penney, Marsha Benoit, Stephanie McGean, Lori Harnett, Greg Curnew. Sara Lea Bennett. Cora Saunders



Council Spotlight...

Burin Peninsula Laubach Literacy Council Inc.

P.O. Box 1308, Creston Boulevard, Marystown, NL A0E 2M0

The Burin Peninsula Laubach Literacy Council Inc. is actively involved in providing literacy services throughout the community. Past initiatives include programs such as Parents as Teaching Partners, Baby's First Book and Family Literacy Day events. Among the many projects, the council offers a Summer Reading for Fun Program for school-aged children during the summer months and operates an ABE Level I program out of the Laubach Learning Centre.

A key to the council's success is the ability to forge strong partnerships with like-minded groups in the community in order to carry out literacy initiatives. Most recently, the Council partnered with the Youth Employment Services Centre in Marystown to offer a Skills Link – Certification/Job Readiness Project. The project began on March 23rd and concluded on April 17th, 2009.

Through this program eight individuals who meet HRSDC Skills Link program criteria focused on skills development. Participants took part in life skills workshops, and received training for certifications such as First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety. This program is designed to help remove barriers to employment and will provide assistance to participants by opening more opportunities through development of transferable skills and personal qualities. Upon successful completion of the certificates and workshops, participants gain additional skills to develop their résumé that will assist them in securing employment. This program will also enable the participants to make more informed decisions about their future.

For information about the literacy council or any of its programs, individuals can call Carol Ann Farrell at 709-279-1176 or Toll Free: 1-877-779-7323.

A little inspiration...

"In 1961, John Corcoran graduated from college. By 1979, he had taught high school students for 17 years. In the early 1980s, he developed over \$50 million in real estate. In 1987, John Corcoran learned how to read."

Read his story
www.johncorcoranfoundation.com

Contribute to the Newsletter...

The Laubach Links newsletter is a voice for council members, tutors and learners. Is there a topic you wish to see discussed? Is there a story you would like to share? What's happening in your community? Do you have a question you would like answered? Send your contributions and ideas for the newsletter by mail to the provincial address, fax to (709) 634-2126 or send an e-mail to laubach@nf.aibn.com.

Participate in the Essential Skills Literacy Training: Tools for Older Adults Project

NLLLC anticipates a growing need for literacy services to address essential skill development and workforce literacy of older adults. To meet this literacy challenge we have received funding from HRSDC, through the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills to develop an essential skills training package. You can help us! We are currently carrying out a province-wide consultation to examine the needs of older adults around essential skills and workplace literacy as well as the needs of business owners and industry for essential skill development of older workers. Information gathered from these consultations will help us develop appropriate materials for the training package which will include a trainer manual, tutor handbook and learning modules to be added as a core component to tutor resources and training and distributed to stakeholders across the province and country. The end product will help literacy practitioners better support older learners who want to improve and enhance essential skills and workplace literacy.

Current and former Laubach Literacy tutors and trainers, business people, organization and agency representatives, local and provincial government officials and older adults (students, retirees who have returned to work or intend to, and those who would like to upgrade or improve their essential skills) are invited to take part in the study.

Over the next few months, NLLLC will be gathering information through interviews (telephone and one-on-one), and focus groups throughout the province. Focus groups and interviews are being scheduled for Stephenville, Grand Falls-Windsor, Carbonear and Port Hope Simpson during May 2009. Funds are available to cover travel related costs for participants in surrounding areas to attend the focus groups (must have prior approval). Individuals who are unable to participate in a focus group or interview have the option of accessing the interview surveys on the Internet at NLLLC's website. To complete an online survey, participants can go to <http://www.nald.ca/litweb/PROVINCE/nl/nlllc/news.htm> and enter the "Essential Skills Literacy Training: Tools for Older Adults project". Choose the survey that is appropriate and once completed, click "Submit". The response goes directly to Linda Collier, Public Consultation Facilitator by email.

To participate in a focus group, to arrange for an interview or to obtain further information about the project or schedules, prospective participants are asked to contact Linda Collier, Public Consultation Facilitator, by phone at 709 643-6699 or by e-mail at publicconsultationfacilitator@gmail.com or contact NLLLC by calling 1800 863 0373, 709-634 5081 or by e-mail at Laubach@nf.aibn.com.



Review Committee for LWRS

As part of the Essential Skills Literacy Training: Tools for Older Adults project, a committee has been set up to review the Laubach Way to Reading Series to determine and identify essential skills applications in the series.

From left to right: Ruth Doyle, Linda Collier and Muriel Chislett.

Literacy Notables...

LILLIAN MOORES IS NAMED THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION LITERACY AWARD



The Council of the Federation Literacy Award, created in 2004, recognizes outstanding achievement, innovative practices and excellence in literacy across Canada. The award is presented to educators, volunteers, learners, community organizations, non-governmental organizations and businesses in each province and territory. Vice President of NLLLC, Laubach trainer and volunteer with the Exploits Laubach Literacy Council, Lillian Moores was announced as the 2008 recipient of the Council of the Federation Award for Newfoundland.

LILLIAN MOORES

MURIEL CHISLETT IS NAMED THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 CANADA POST EDUCATOR-ENGLISH AWARD

Newfoundland and Labrador is blessed with many dedicated volunteers who provide selfless service in the cause to improve literacy in the province. This year, Muriel Chislett was recognized for her contribution nationally as the winner of the 2008 Canada Post Community Literacy Award for Educator-English. Muriel is a volunteer with the Bay St. George Literacy Council. She currently serves as an assistant student tutor coordinator as well as social secretary for the organization. Muriel is a Laubach trainer and most recently obtained trainer certification for English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring.



MURIEL CHISLETT

RECIPIENTS OF THE 2008 NLLLC PROVINCIAL LITERACY AWARDS

Western Star Photo by Gary Kean



2008
STUDENT OF THE YEAR
GALE BROWN

2008
SUSIE DAY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
PEG SPURRELL

During the 2008 Annual General Meeting in Corner Brook, NLLLC recognized student Gale Brown and literacy volunteer Peg Spurrell with the presentation of the Student of the Year and Susie Day Volunteer of the Year Awards. The Student of the Year Award is presented to Laubach learners who have made significant progress in learning. The Susie Day Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to a volunteer who demonstrates outstanding service through participation in and leadership of Laubach programs.