

# EXPRESSIONS

The Provincial Newsletter of Laubach Literacy Ontario



## Students Tell their Stories: How Literacy Changed My Life

In the fall of 2005, LLO held a writing contest for students. The topic was *"How Literacy Changed my Life"*.

We were overwhelmed! We received 30 entries from students across Ontario. It was awesome to receive so many heart felt, empowering stories. What a difficult job for the Student Initiative Committee, the judges. The members of this committee are **Gary Porter**, **Arnie Stewart**, **Joseph Carriere** and **Pauline Laramie**, all students, **Linda Martin** (President of LLO) and **Howard Lane** (Tutor and LLO Board member).

The judges, after much deliberation, chose the top five winners (in my opinion they were all winners). **Kelly McDonald** from Barrie took first place and gets to attend our conference in June 2006 for free.



**First Prize Winner, Kelly McDonald**  
Barrie Literacy Council

The runners up were **Raquel** from Oakville, **Loretta Compton** from Barrie, **Katharina** from Waterloo and **Brian Joseph** from Oakville.

The five finalists all received a Collins Learners Dictionary compliments of Laubach Literacy of Canada as well a CD. All thirty participants received either a CD or Tim Horton's gift certificates.

Kelly's story is reprinted on page 3 and you can visit our website [www.laubach-on.ca](http://www.laubach-on.ca) for the remaining top 5 stories and photos.

It was my privilege to be staff support for this event and I must say "Students and tutors, you have lots to be proud of".

**Mary Anne Baker**,  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Mayor of Oakville presents award to Brian Joseph, as proud tutor, Carol Glasbey looks on.**



**Second Prize Winner, Brian Joseph**  
Oakville Literacy Council

**Brian Joseph** received his award and a certificate created by his Council from **Anne Mulvale**, the Mayor of Oakville at a luncheon, held at Kerr Street Ministries. Once a year, the Mayor visits Kerr Street Ministries for a luncheon, along with ministers and pastors from neighbouring churches. Check out [www.laubach-on.ca](http://www.laubach-on.ca) for his touching story.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

National Volunteer Week	2 & 6
My First Conference	4
Student Caucus	5
National Roundtable	6
Learner Statistics	7
Communication Tips	8
Win a Prize!	9
Project Updates	10 & 11
Member Focus	12

All the students who participated in the contest gave permission for their stories to be used to inspire other learners or inform the general public, so feel free to download the five stories featured on the Internet. If we get some time (or extra help) we will retype all 30 of the stories for that purpose. When using the stories, please use the students' first names only.

**Laubach Literacy Ontario supports its member agencies in the achievement of higher levels of literacy throughout the province.**

**Expressions:**  
The Newsletter of  
Laubach Literacy Ontario

Vol. 1, No. 5: Winter 2006  
Published semi-annually

**Published by:**

**Laubach Literacy Ontario**  
8A-65 Noecker Street  
Waterloo, ON N2J 2R6  
literacy@laubach-on.ca  
www.laubach-on.ca  
Tel: (519) 743-3309  
Tel: 1-866- 608-2574  
Fax: (519) 743-7520

Editor: Lana Faessler

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or Laubach Literacy Ontario

**Funded in part by:**

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Skills Investment Branch, Membership Fees, and Fundraising

**Board of Directors**

**President:** Linda Martin  
**Vice-President:** Helen McLeod  
**Secretary:** Sue Bannon  
**Treasurer:** Val Sadler  
**Provincial Training Officer:** Connie Morgan  
**Student Representative:** Joseph Carriere  
**Directors:** Howard Lane  
Gary Porter  
Melanie Remonde

Laubach Literacy Ontario is a volunteer-driven, non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to increasing literacy in Ontario, guided by the following **mission statement**:

"Laubach Literacy Ontario supports its member agencies in the achievement of higher levels of literacy throughout the province."

**Volunteer Canada**

**designates**

**April 17-23, 2005**

**National Volunteer Week**

This time is set aside to recognize a 32 - year tradition to celebrate the efforts of volunteers. These very volunteers who inspire the people they help and inspire others to serve are honoured on this special day.

Here are a few ideas from their website at [www.volunteer.ca](http://www.volunteer.ca)

If you don't have the funds to pull together a volunteer recognition event, don't be concerned. There are plenty of creative and inexpensive ways to make your volunteers feel appreciated. Here are a few that are easy on the bank account!

- **Cake and Coffee** – what could be easier than inviting your volunteers to an informal gathering right in the office? Serve up some slices of cake and hot coffee.
- **Potluck Lunch** – have staff members treat your volunteers to a potluck lunch on a predetermined day!
- **Ice Cream Sundae Bar** – ice cream, fruit and a selection of great toppings are all you need to make a celebratory event like this happen!

Here are some other possibilities.

- **Movie Night Out** – rent a small movie theatre where you can present volunteer recognition awards and then enjoy the latest flick!
- **Cultural Escapade** – book a room at a local museum or gallery for your event, and treat your volunteers to a tour.
- **Tree Planting Party** – plant a tree to commemorate this year's volunteers and invite everyone to the park for the planting.

**National Volunteer Week**

**The thought that counts**

Put on your thinking caps to come up with ways to help your event focus on the contribution of each volunteer.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

**Hold an awards presentation**

Invite a speaker to talk about how they have been touched by your volunteers.

- **Announce important milestones**—how many volunteer hours were logged, how many lives were touched, how many goals were met, etc.

- **Create a "thank-you" slide show** featuring photos from the past year of your volunteers in action.

**Contact LLO's Student Initiative Committee** if you would like to invite one of them to speak at your event.

Recognizing the commitment and achievement of your volunteers is an integral part of a successful volunteer relationship. It can be as simple as thanking them when the day is over, appreciating them through methods like those mentioned above, or by nominating a special volunteer for local, provincial or national awards.

**See page 8 for a description of two such awards.**

**Ideas from Members:**

- **Potluck Breakfast**—have volunteers bring a dozen of their best muffins, and copies of their recipes. Volunteers tend to show up at events when they are counted on to bring something!
- **Create a "Volunteer of the month" award** and announce the winner on your website and in your newsletter. Frame a picture of the winner and hang it in your office (wall of fame).

This has been my life.

I struggled all through school but I graduated from grade 12. However, all through school I bullied people to do my work so I could pass the grade and move on. I tried to ask for help but no one would help me. They just put me down.

After I finished school, I started working and it was fun. I did easy jobs that I did not have to read or do math. I first worked at a childcare provider and then at McDonald's. I also worked at Zeller's. When it came time to do the WHMIS testing, I did not know how to do it and I asked for help. They gave it to me but made me read out loud in front of people walking by. That made me feel so embarrassed and as little as an ant. That experience made me leave the workplace.

So I was then out of a job. When I met James, he had a little boy named Austin who was 3 years old. Austin asked me to read a story to him and I said yes. When it came to a part in the story I could not read, I made up the story and he said, "That's not how it goes. Can you read it to me right?" Again I felt like a little ant because I could not even read a kid's book to him.

All my life I have wanted a good job that pays good money so I can live happily.

Last year (2004) as I was driving down Dunlop St., I heard on Barrie Beat 101 that a Road to Reading festival was going on. I asked James if I could take Austin to the festival. James said, "Yes, but can I come too?"

It was there I learned about the Barrie Literacy Council. The information that I got helped me make up my mind about coming to the council.

When it was time to go for my assessment interview, I couldn't read the signs to get to the office. So I called on my cell phone and they guided me with the directions. When I got there I met some nice people and they set me up with a tutor.

Over the period of a couple of months, my tutor has helped me improve so much on my spelling and my reading and math. I have worked through Challenger 1 and 2, and am currently working on Challenger 3.

Now I can read to Austin. I have also taken on the student group. I organize and plan the meetings, run them and make the dinners for them.

Coming to the Barrie Literacy Council has built my confidence and self-esteem so much that I can now talk to the new tutors and help them understand how we learn and how we struggle with things. I used to be shy to talk to people and to ask for help. Now I can talk to people and tell them about my life, and how difficult it is to live without reading or math skills. They will probably never understand completely how I feel, until they go through it themselves or help someone that cannot do it on their own.

This makes me feel like I can take on the world – but I know I can't. However, coming to the Barrie Literacy Council has made a big change in my life. Being a bully does not make you feel good inside or help people; rather it makes people feel badly. Now people see the real me, someone who is eager to learn and wants to help others. People that knew me before say what a great big change they have noticed. My mom and dad see it too.

I can't stop thanking the Barrie Literacy Council for giving me the opportunity to learn and to have a chance at a successful life.

Thanks so much to the Barrie Literacy Council.

*"The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination."*

*—Tommy LaSorda*

*"Whoever wants to reach a distant goal must take many small steps."*

*—Helmut Schmidt*

# My first conference

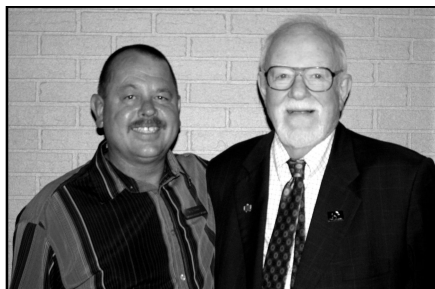
*Email from Gary Porter, National Student Representative*

I believe most students would benefit from attending the LLO conference for their first time just as I did.

I was at the Barrie Literacy Council being tutored for about seven months when I was asked if I would like to attend a provincial conference in Gravenhurst, Ontario.

My first reaction was one of fear, as I felt safe with my surroundings at the council with my tutor.

After talking about going to the conference with other students who had already attended one, I decided to go.



**Gary with Dr. Bob Laubach at last year's conference**

The day finally arrived. It was a sunny afternoon in June as I drove to the conference my heart was pounding and my palms were sweating as I did not know what to expect.

After arriving I was checked into my room and was told where everyone was meeting. As I walked into the room it was filled with people but for

some reason I did not feel out of place.

From that moment on some of my fears were put to rest as people came up to me and introduced themselves to me.

As the conference continued I met and talked with many other students about their journey to learning.

Although I know there were others like me who had trouble reading and writing I didn't know that there were so many, in some ways that made me feel good that there were many other people like me and I was not alone.

I was able to talk openly to other students about the way they learn, what worked for them and what didn't but most of all the fear of talking to others disappeared.

I learned a lot at the workshops that helped me with my studies when I got home

When I look back now at the whole experience the biggest thing that the conference did for me was it gave me self esteem that I never had before, it also gave me the confidence I needed to achieve my literacy goals.

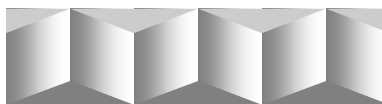
Yours truly  
Gary Porter

***This is Gary's first attempt at composing a long article using the computer. Keep the emails coming, Gary!***



**Joseph Carriere**, LLO's Student Representative, leading the Student's Roundtable last year.

**Gary Porter's article about his first conference was requested by one Council to help raise funds to send their students to the conference. We asked Gary's permission to put this article in the newsletter to help all of our members raise funds.**



**Amie Stewart has distributed over 15 LLO information packages to various businesses and service clubs, requesting donations to help decrease costs for students to attend the LLO conference.**

## Student Caucus at Conference

Hello everyone. Over the last year LLO was lucky to have several students agree to sit on a committee. This committee has worked very hard to put together ideas and plans that will help all LLO students have a stronger voice. This committee selects the Arnie Stewart Individual Achievement Award winner. This committee also picked the winner of the Student Writing contest.

An important task this year for this committee was to plan and design a **Student Caucus**. The Student Caucus is a way for all students to let LLO know what students need to be more successful. **The Student Caucus will also elect a student** that will sit on the LLO board of directors to represent all LLO students.

At the conference, coming in June this year, **all students are invited** to a workshop that will explain how the caucus will work. This workshop will be led by the students who are now working on the Student Committee.

Every year the Caucus will meet and discuss student issues. The Caucus will also nominate and elect a representative **who will become a director on the LLO board**.

The Student Committee hopes that The Student Caucus will help LLO better understand and meet the needs of all our students. It is important that **as many students as possible attend** the Conference and the Student Caucus.

The Student Committee is looking forward to the conference this year and to the first Student Caucus. Come out and join us!

From your Student Committee members:

Joseph Carriere  
Gary Porter

Pauline Laramie  
Arnie Stewart

**Caucus** (noun) {kawkess}

1. Political meeting: A closed meeting of people especially to select delegates or candidates.

2. Special-interest group: A group of people, often within a larger group, who unite to promote a particular policy or particular interests.

To form a caucus means to hold or meet in a caucus.

# Back to the Future

Conference,

**Back to School,**

**Back to Work,**

**Back to the Community**

**June 23-25, 2006**

**Wilfrid Laurier**

**University Campus,  
Waterloo, Ontario**

**AGM & LLO's 25th Anniversary plans are well underway. We don't have funding or a host council, so we are going "back" to the old way of doing conferences...do-it-yourself!**

**Check out the enclosed flyer and stay tuned to [www.laubach-on.ca](http://www.laubach-on.ca) for up-to-date information on the conference.**

## LLO at National Roundtable Session in Ottawa

### Report on "Literacy and Other Essential Skills: Moving Towards a Comprehensive Strategy" Roundtable Session By Jane Tuer

In late October 2005, the then Minister of State (Human Resources Development), Claudette Bradshaw met with Literacy providers in Ontario as part of an on-going process across Canada.

Minister Bradshaw explained that the federal government wants to set a ten-year plan for literacy. These cross-country consultations will provide both the Minister and Literacy stakeholders with the opportunity to:

- ☐ Share information and build common understanding on literacy and other essential skills
- ☐ Hear stakeholders views on possible key elements and priorities for moving forward on a comprehensive strategy on literacy and other essential skills
- ☐ To hear stakeholders views on priorities for the renewed Adult Learning, Literacy and Essential Skills Program and priorities for the additional \$30 million announced in Budget 2005 (this is a 3-year budget)

The Minister went on to share what concerns she has heard so far in her consultations:

*... "a job gives people independence... a job gives people a dream" and we've put 42% of our population into a position to fail*

*...stop project funding and start providing core funding*

*...pay practitioners better*

She also wanted to assure everyone that the National Literacy Secretariat is NOT at risk and is seen as a vital part of the federal government.

The stakeholders were asked for their input...what do we need the federal government to do in literacy?

### The following are key points made by myself on behalf of Laubach Literacy Ontario:

- ☐ More funds for staff of programs to reduce the high turnover...also some recognition of the skills of adult literacy practitioners
- ☐ Funding based on realistic results, as compared to the current expectations from MTCU in Ontario
- ☐ National promotional campaign, aimed at Essential Skills Level 2 learners who do not self-identify, as we are not reaching them
- ☐ The campaign can also include promotion to employers based on the Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey (ALLS) in regards to investing in training in lower level employees as the return is higher and more significant to the bottom line than investing in training of management, which has no effect on the company's profitability
- ☐ Promotions should also include a common language...use of the term Essential Skills makes it clear to stakeholders and employers across the country
- ☐ While promotion is important it is also important to recognize the capacity issues programs face due to lack of funding for core programming...solution is to increase the base line
- ☐ Funding needs to also cover youth (16 to 19 year olds that fall between the cracks in the regular system) and family literacy receives no core funding at all
- ☐ English as a Second Language (ESL)...the separation between this and literacy needs to be addressed as it is difficult to draw the line and perhaps we should not be trying to do that, but instead try to serve both literacy and ESL
- ☐ Help support the upgrading of training of practitioners by promoting to provincial governments the need to give requirement breaks (for example in Ontario it would be a reduction in contact hours) for anyone attending upgrading training...professional development is handled in this way in the K-12 system and it should be recognized and supported in the adult literacy system
- ☐ Learning goals of employment and further education and training are important, but the goal of independence should never be forgotten and supported.

**After everyone had their input, Minister Bradshaw told us clearly how to get what we want.**

Give her solutions to problems...be realistic, but don't just say something should be done...tell her how to do it.

**Along with the solutions should be a dollar figure...how much do you need to do this?**

*(continued on page 7)*

*Continued from Pg. 6*

For example, it makes sense if you were looking at showing how to increase the pay of practitioners... take the average wage and show a cost of living increase for the past ten-years that practitioners have been flat-lined.

**Ask direct questions...** if you want answers.

**Talk to your MP's** (and MPP's)... keep them up-to-date with what you are doing and where you need help.

It was exciting to hear Minister Bradshaw's interest in literacy, as her last work was on the homeless and that plan has gone far in the government.

Now that the election has changed the political landscape, what can we do? Continue to meet with your MP's to discuss the needs of literacy, Essential Skills and lifelong learning in Canada. Keep abreast of the work being done by MCL on our behalf.

Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) worked with other national literacy organizations, including Laubach Literacy of Canada, to deliver a 10-year Results-Based Literacy Action Plan.

In November, a multi-sectoral national committee endorsed and built on these action plans in the report **Towards a Fully Literate Canada: Achieving National Goals Through a Comprehensive Pan-Canadian Literacy Strategy**.

Links to the 10-year Action Plan and the Committee report can be found under "Government Relations" at [www.literacy.ca](http://www.literacy.ca).

## Charitable and Non-Profit Information

### Did You Know?

The Government has made the **following information mandatory** on Official Tax Receipts issued in 2006. The receipts issued in 2005, not including all this information, will be accepted.

- ✓ Your organization's name and address and any other information you might want to add.
- ✓ Date Paid
- ✓ Receipt Date
- ✓ The wording "Official Receipt for Income Tax Purposes"
- ✓ Canada Revenue Agency
- ✓ Their website address [www.cra-arec.gc.ca/charities](http://www.cra-arec.gc.ca/charities)
- ✓ Amount of Donation
- ✓ Your Canadian Charitable Registration number
- ✓ Name of donor – including an initial if you have one
- ✓ Address
- ✓ An "Official Receipt Number"
- ✓ A line for Authorized Signature

We recently updated our receipts with the help of Midland Area Reading Council and the government website. After doing the research we thought this information might be useful to you as well.

Sample official donation receipts can be found at:  
[www.craarc.gc.ca/tax/charities/pubs/receipts-e.html](http://www.craarc.gc.ca/tax/charities/pubs/receipts-e.html).

*Mary Anne Baker*

### MTCU Annual Report —Learner Statistics

The following Learner Statistics are in the MTCU Annual Report posted in AlphaCom.

- . 89 per cent of learners were in the Anglophone stream
- . 35 per cent of learners were in School Boards
- . 34 per cent of learners were in Community-Based agencies
- . 31 per cent of learners were in Community Colleges

. Out of 23,823 learners who exited the Program in 2004-05, 64 per cent moved on to further training, education or employment, an increase of four percentage points over 2003-04

- 29 per cent of learners receiving literacy services receive income support through Ontario Works
- 69 per cent of learners completed the Learner Satisfaction Survey and 91 per cent of learners who completed a survey were satisfied with their program



# Volunteer Awards

## The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award

This award is intended for an individual whose unpaid, behind-the-scenes voluntary contribution provides extraordinary help or care to families or groups in the community over a long period of time. The award recipients will normally not have been previously recognized by a federal or provincial award or honour. There is no age requirement for this award, but youth candidates are particularly welcome. Anyone may submit a nomination. There is no deadline date for nominations and awards are announced on an ongoing basis. For further information and nomination forms, contact the Chancellery at Government House (1-800-465-6890) or [www.gg.ca/honours/caring\\_e.asp](http://www.gg.ca/honours/caring_e.asp)

## The Flare Magazine Volunteer Award

The Flare Volunteer Awards were established in 1997. Six awards are presented annually to Canadian women aged 18 and older whose volunteer service in the field of social services, health, arts, culture, education, environment or citizenship have made a significant contribution to the welfare of others by addressing needs in their community. For more information about the awards or to find out how you can nominate someone, contact Hazel Picco [hpicco@flare.com](mailto:hpicco@flare.com) at Flare Magazine in Toronto at 1-877-229-2737.

**Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others. - Danny Thomas**



## Special tips for adult learners

# Communicating more clearly

Last October, the *Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français* (FCAF) held a one-day conference in Toronto – part of a cross-Canada series – to discuss a number of topics related to clear communications, concentrating on adult learners. The focus was on writing for levels one and two readers as identified by the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) criteria. Laubach Literacy Ontario was able to attend and participate in the day, where a number of excellent guest speakers presented and involved the audience in interactive exercises.

The FCAF has now made the presentations and a number of clear writing tools available to all at the following website: <http://www.clearercommunications.ca/tools> It's a superb reference site – bookmark it now for future use.

The main idea of all the presentations is (and, as published in a booklet prepared by the FCAF, *Towards Effective Accessible Communications*):

- ✓ limit the amount of information in spoken and written messages
- ✓ communicate the main idea at the start of the message
- ✓ control the delivery speed of spoken messages
- ✓ choose your environment and context carefully for your audience
- ✓ avoid abstract or unusual vocabulary – use familiar, everyday language
- ✓ avoid metaphors or figures of speech – FCAF has found the Level 1 readers do not understand what many of us take understanding of for granted, such as “window of opportunity”, “centre stage” and “the fruits of one's labours”
- ✓ don't worry about being too simplistic or repeating words (repetition is good)

They also advise against using the things most of us already know are obstacles to understanding:

- ✓ overuse of negatives
- ✓ use of the passive voice

And the best advice of all:

know how to listen – try to imagine how people will react to the information you are giving them.

**Submitted by Sheila Roberts, LLO's Communications Specialist and member of the Training & Development Committee, aka “The Brown Baggers”.**



# Member Satisfaction Survey Results

The majority of members who responded to LLO's first member satisfaction survey feel LLO's ongoing communications are relevant and timely, and that the Fall 2005 issue of the newsletter *Expressions* was very relevant.

Eighty per cent of our respondents said LLO's [promotional pamphlet](#) was very or extremely relevant.

Congratulations to the Literacy Council of Brantford and District for winning the survey draw prize - a free copy of *Smart Solutions - Skills, Problem Solving Tools, and Applications: Comprehensive Math Review*.

## COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

☺ I find it helpful when free Internet sites for students and tutors are given.

☺ I appreciate the newsletter best...if I get too many items in my inbox, they seem to be put aside, **I read newsletters on breaks** (more relaxing and retain more)

☺ Keep up excellent work.

☺ I really like to hear what other councils are doing.

☺ Newsletter is good and passed on to Inmates (Warkworth Institution)

☺ LLO provides relevant info for Program Coordinators. I am pleased to see the diversity of information provided including information about literacy trends, Ministry initiatives, learner news etc.

☺ Most articles are concise and informative.

☺ I am pleased to be associated with LLO and grateful for the services offered.

The complete results of the satisfaction survey are available on our website at [www.laubach-on.ca](http://www.laubach-on.ca).

**Get ready to respond to next member satisfaction survey...included with your newsletter!**

**Survey draw prizes are copies of Herb Perry's "Call to Order" and "The Board: A Winning Team".**

# Program Tool Shed

## SEVEN STEPS TO RENEWING THE BOARD

- Assess needs.
- Profile skills.
- Recruit a pool.
- Select individuals.
- Elect directors.
- Train directors.
- Evaluate directors.

For full article go to:-

[http://www.axi.ca/tca/Summer2005/guestarticle\\_4.shtml](http://www.axi.ca/tca/Summer2005/guestarticle_4.shtml)

## WHAT DOES OUR BOARD NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VOLUNTEER LIABILITY?

Nonprofits can get sued when a volunteer driver has damaged a parked car while exiting a parking space, or when available screening tools have not been used for individuals working with children, or if athletic equipment used by volunteer coaches turns out to be unsafe.

**"Managing Volunteers: Balancing Risk & Reward"** is a great booklet available for free downloading at <http://www.niac.org> (then click on "Member Services" and then on "Publications").

## Making Essential Skills Work For You

This timely project was developed with three distinct outcomes:

- **Creation of an Essential Skills Guide** for Literacy and Basic Skills practitioners. This guide will show practitioners how to easily use and navigate the Essential Skills website and all related websites. It will also give practical ways the Essential Skills can be used in a classroom, small group or one-to-one setting with learners. The Guide also intends to provide ways to bring this information into volunteer and practitioner training workshops. The main focus of this Guide will be to reduce the amount of time practitioners and volunteers would normally have to use to integrate Essential Skills and all the other valuable workforce websites and tools into their programs and training.
- **Creation of a Marketing and Partnership Guide** specific to the needs of community-based programs. This Guide will show programs how to use the Essential Skills as a common language and marketing tool in their community. It will also address the potential partnerships that can be developed as a result of using this “common language”.
- **Development of Learning Activities on Oral Communication and Thinking Skills Level 1 and 2 Essential Skills.** From the follow-up work done after Train Ontario 1 it was found that community-based programs (and other sectors as well) were struggling with finding activities they could use with lower level learners. Oral Communication and Thinking Skills from the Essential Skills which also flow into Self Management/Self Direction of the LBS matrix were key areas where curriculum and activities have not been developed. This project will develop activities based on this two Essential Skills for lower level learners working in a one to one or small group environment.

The final product will be placed on a CD-ROM to enable LLO to provide one copy to all its member agencies. This CD-ROM will also be available to other programs who wish to purchase it on a cost-recovery basis. The intention is to have this final product available to the field by February 2007.

**If you are interested in becoming a field test site for the Essential Skills Guide or the Learning Activities, please contact Jane Tuer at [janesworld@aol.com](mailto:janesworld@aol.com).**

## LLO Outreach

### Word on the Street

Sunday, September 25th opened overcast but could not dampen the Literacy spirit here at Victoria park in Kitchener. LLO shared a booth with The Literacy Group of Waterloo Region in a gesture of cooperation and to use existing resources more efficiently.

In our booth we had Mary Anne, Barb and I, Lana, Lana's daughter, Hayley, and her granddaughter, Liana.

We were heartened to see many families and many children being exposed to books and vendors.

*Submitted by Howard Lane*



**Mary Anne Baker, Barb Lake and Cathy O'Brien**

Hundreds of people dropped in at our booth, which we shared with the Literacy Group of Waterloo Region. Bracelet-making crafts for children and free balloons drew parents to the display, and LLO pamphlets were distributed widely.

## Factors Affecting Success

Laubach Literacy Ontario (LLO) is extremely pleased to announce that we received funding approval for **“Factors Affecting Success for Adult Learners in Community-Based Literacy Programs: Final Phase”** project! LLO is excited to continue this project and we are hopeful that all agencies that participated in phase 2 will continue during the final phase.

It is clear from the fall 2005 survey that there were many benefits for both the learners and the agencies that participated in phase 2. Here are some of the comments made about the experience of being an integral part of this groundbreaking research project:

- *The few learners who did participate felt very positively about sharing their stories. It validated their history and life experiences.*
- *An appreciation of the great challenges facing literacy learners.*
- *The interview process was good for both the interviewer and the learners and allowed for ongoing assessment potentials, including self-assessment.*
- *It was useful to get feedback from students who do not interact with others in a small group, or visit the office on a regular basis.*
- *Gained more information about our students and helped with the whole student process.*
- *Participating in this project helped some of our learners feel ‘heard’ and understood. It provided a forum for students to discuss their learning and employment goals. It also helped provide some additional insight into the many barriers and issues our learners face. It will surely be beneficial to distribute and discuss the findings of this study with both learners and practitioners in our organization.*
- *Good learning tool for us at the entry and exit level*
- *It assisted us with having a “voice at the table” to share what most practitioners see on a daily basis through the intake assessment process. It also allowed us to make a contribution to the research, which hopefully will be impactful when dealing with government to improve funding flow for level 1 and 2 learners.*
- *We learned a great deal about our learners during the project and it also gave some of the learners a chance to learn about themselves. It was a valuable experience for both parties.*
- *We learned a lot about our students and their lives. Our volunteer, the person who conducted the interviews, came from a teaching background and she found that she learned so much from our students; she called them her “new heroes”.*

As you know, the initial data collection period in phase 2 was very short. Continuing the project for a final data collection phase will allow us to capture a more comprehensive picture of what factors do affect the success of adult learners. The final phase will run from December and be completed in September 2006.

As of the end of February 2006 we have received **222 intake interviews from a total of 18 participating programs**. Four new programs were in the process of starting as well.

If your agency participated in the second phase of data collection and you have forms left, you can still participate in this final phase. All you need to do is to start doing interviews and sending them in! If you know of any other community based programs that are interested, please pass on their contact information and we will get in touch with them directly.

*Robyn Cook-Ritchie, Project Coordinator*

# Laubach Literacy Ontario

## Member Focus



Laubach Literacy Ontario  
Since 1981

## Locks for Literacy

Many of you know **Howard Lane**, a board member of Laubach Literacy Ontario and a long time tutor for the Cambridge council. If you know him you will find this hard to believe but a picture is worth a thousand words. The one word that comes to mind is "Wow".

The Literacy Group of Waterloo Region - Cambridge in conjunction with **Danny's Barber Shop** held a 1 day Blitz in October called "Locks for Literacy". All haircuts were donated to Literacy. This was an Awareness Day event and coincided with International Literacy Day. They raised \$800, a combination of proceeds for the day and donations from passers by. As you can see from the photos, Howard made the ultimate sacrifice and donated his "locks".



**Barber Danny, Howard Lane, Cathy O'Brien of The Literacy Group of Waterloo Region—Cambridge**



The Cambridge Literacy council served coffee and donuts and spent time with people explaining literacy problems, tutoring, and needs. Several students came in as well and spoke about their tutoring and learning experiences. Congratulations to the Cambridge Council on an excellent fundraiser! Howard keep the hair short – it looks great.

*Mary Anne Baker  
Roving Reporter*

**Congratulations  
To:**

**Carol Risidore**, new Executive Director of The Literacy Group of Waterloo Region  
**Sue Bannon**, new Executive Director of the Midland Area Reading Council  
**Howard Lane**, recently retired from the Toronto Star...their loss is our gain.

### Newsletter Deadline: June 30 2006

**June 30, 2006**, is the **deadline** for submitting articles and information to be included in our summer newsletter. In each edition we try to highlight a different council — if your council is interested in being highlighted, please submit an article before then. If your students have writing they would like to submit, please encourage them to do so. Email [literacy@laubach-on.ca](mailto:literacy@laubach-on.ca)

**Tell your tutors and students about the conference....share this newsletter with them, mail or email them the enclosed conference flyer or direct them to our website.**