

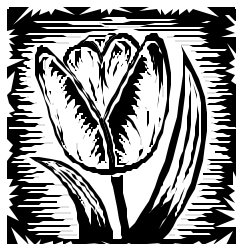
EXPRESSIONS



Laubach Literacy Ontario
Since 1961

The Provincial Newsletter of Laubach Literacy Ontario

Spring Greetings from LLO



**The second edition of our
Newsletter —
Spring 2004**

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is on Friday, June 25th, 2004 and is being held in Barrie, Ontario during Conference 2004. Enclosed is information about our conference. If you and/or your student are interested in attending the conference, please contact your literacy council for more information. The deadline has passed to run for the board of directors for next year, but if you or your students are interested in running in the future, please contact the LLO office and we will send you an information package. We try to have two students and two tutors on our board at all times. One of the many benefits of membership is the right to run for election on the provincial board, if you are affiliated with a member council. Each member council has a right to vote at the AGM—one vote per council.

Student Recognition Awards

At this year's conference we are holding the second annual student recognition awards. A sub-committee made up of students and volunteers

developed the criteria. Information on this initiative was sent to each member agency at the end of April.

Training Post

As you know, LLO did not receive funding to support a training project this year. Therefore, we no longer have funds available to send out a quarterly training post newsletter. However, we believe that offering this type of support to our trainers is an important part of who we are and will therefore be including a "Training Post" page (or two) within the body of each Expressions newsletter.

We encourage you to share this newsletter with your student(s) and hope many of you can make it to our conference!

Linda Martin, President

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Laubach Literacy Ontario is a volunteer organization dedicated to increasing literacy in Ontario guided by the principles of *Each One Teach One*

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Policy News from the Office

As a member of LLO there are several policies that affect your organization. Below we have included some of the pertinent ones that you should be aware of:

C-10 Council Book Loan - "A book loan of \$500 be available to councils in time of need."

On application a loan will be made available dependant on the availability of LLO funds at the time. The loan is repayable within one year of issue of the loan cheque which is made out in the Council's name.

C-20 Council Mediation - "LLO will provide council mediation for serious concerns or disputes, when requested by the council."

C-30 Council Start-Up Seed Grant - "LLO will provide a seed grant of \$500 to recently established councils (within 6 months) for start-up purposes only. (Subject to availability of funds)"

You should also be aware that as of April 1, 2004 LLO is no longer able to cover the cost of the Literacy Trainer Handbook (LTH) when an applicant registers as an Apprentice trainer. The new policy states:

T-40 Literacy Trainers' Handbook - "LLO will reimburse the cost of the Literacy Trainers' Handbook to each newly certified trainer effective April 1, 2004."

Therefore, LLO is still covering the cost, but as a reimbursement incentive!

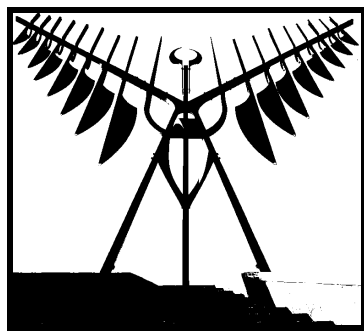
As new policies are developed or old ones are revised we will keep you informed in this newsletter.



CONTEST—The results are in!

Congratulations, Sandy!

Through voting at the LLO Conference in North Bay and on-line voting through LLO's website, Sandy's submission was chosen as the name of our new newsletter page. Thank you for your entry. Sandy received a \$25.00 gift certificate from Chapters/Coles/Indigo/Smithbooks for her winning entry.



A prominent symbol of Barrie, the Spirit Catcher guards the approach from Kempenfelt Bay. The Spirit Catcher was created by artist Ron Baird.

"Catch the Spirit of Learning"

Laubach Literacy Ontario's Conference 2004

Friday, June 25 to Sunday, June 27, 2004
Summer Suites at Georgian College
Barrie, Ontario

Host: Barrie Literacy Council

See you there!

"We are planning a trip by bus to the Barrie Waterfront. Participants can enjoy a nice walk along Kempenfelt Bay or visit the McLaren Centre Art Gallery. They can visit "The Dream Catcher at the waterfront. We are planning a "Saturday Evening of Fun" in honour of Barrie Literacy Council's 25 Year Anniversary. We will have karaoke with Jerryoke. He has a trunk of props to add an extra splash of fun to the evening's festivities. Starbucks will be serving up gourmet coffee!!"

Joanne Prior
Barrie Conference Committee Chair

Student speak!

On October 17,18,&19th I went to North Bay for a literacy workshop . The conference was three days long .I was picked up at 9 am on Friday and drove up and it took us 2 hrs. and 30 min. to get to the hotel. We played games on the way. Gary Porter was there and he spoke at his workshop and talked about his learning . I was going to quit school and because of his talk in his workshop he helped me come back to school.

I would go back next year because I learned a lot and I enjoyed myself and I made new friends and the food was good too.

Saturday night they had a karaoke dance and we had a lot of fun. They had prizes for the best singers and Gary's group won the first prize.

I would like to thank Pennyann and Gary for inviting me to the North Bay workshop and Gary for the ride to North Bay. Thanks Pennyann and Gary.

by Spiro Catania.



"I would go back next year because I learned a lot and I enjoyed myself and I made new friends..."

Laubach Literacy Ontario is pleased to announce the second annual “Arnold Stewart Individual Achievement Award”

This is an award for adult learners from Laubach Literacy Ontario member councils. Each Council was asked to nominate one learner who met some or all of the following criteria:

- **Has made a significant achievement due to skills gained while in the program**
- **Has over come barriers**
- **Is a mentor, leader and/or example of for other literacy learners**
- **Has given back to his or her council or community by helping to raise awareness around literacy**

If you have a student from your council that you think meets the criteria there is still time to send in your nomination for this year! The recipient’s name and Council will be engraved on an LLO plaque that the Council will showcase for one year. Each recipient receives an individual plaque and all nominated learners will be recognized at the AGM.

Send us your star!

Deadline: LLO must receive your nomination by

May 31, 2004

Arnie Stewart received the Flight for Freedom Award in 1999 and has served on the LLO Board since 1996, first as Student Representative and later as Vice-President. He was also the first Chair of T.R.E.E., Laubach Literacy of Canada’s national student group. Arnie is a popular guest speaker at Annual General Meetings and at schools as he has a natural ability to present his story in a humourous and meaningful way. He has been called an ambassador for literacy and volunteers much of his time to literacy. Arnie is honoured that this new provincial award bears his name.

A Bit About Last Year’s Recipient:

GARY PORTER



After years of indecision, Gary decided it was time to go back to school and seek help. September 2000, he began at the Barrie Literacy Council in Barrie, Ontario. After a year and a half of being tutored both privately and in small group sessions, he had made tremendous strides. Gary says, “before, I was shy to speak out, now when tutors are being trained; I tell them how it’s helped me. It’s made me grow inside; I’m not scared or ashamed to let people know.”

Gary was voted as ‘Student Valedictorian– Graduating Class of 2002’ and he received the “Certificate of Recognition” for service to the council and the “Certificate of Achievement” for attainment of goals.

Recently, Gary was elected to the LLC Board of Directors, is Chair of the National TREE Student Committee and a member of the LLC Blueprint Ad-Hoc Committee. Gary has also experienced being a talk-show host for CBC Radio.

member council focus

"Take Flight with Literacy" The Hamilton Literacy Council

"Take Flight With Literacy" is a slogan adopted by the Hamilton Literacy Council a little over two years ago. It reflects the Council's desire to inspire learners to strive for their goals by building on their literacy skills.

The Hamilton Literacy Council has been matching learners and tutors since 1973 and was the first Laubach council in Ontario. Currently we are at full capacity for the program with approximately 100 tutor/learner teams working together. We also have learners working in three different small groups at two classroom locations: one at our main office and another at our satellite office, which serves the needs of Hamilton East.

In September 2003 we were thrilled to celebrate our 30th year with a community birthday party

complete with gourmet birthday cakes, children's book characters, and a free book for every guest. The party was held in front of City Hall and it was a great turnout.

A lot has changed in the thirty years that we have been providing literacy service.

The face of volunteerism in Canada has changed and the pots of funding that we rely on have changed. Public perception has changed and awareness about the cause of literacy has increased. Many things have not changed in thirty years. We still watch our amazing learners come to us for help and watch them grow in many ways as they advance through our program.

The literacy problem in Ontario is enormous but helping a hand-

ful of learners at a time day in and day out does make a difference! 2004 is a year for revamping our program. Through the generous support of a Trillium grant, we are producing a new brochure, updating our website, a recruitment video and other materials. Our learners and tutors will play a significant role in this endeavor through their words and photographs.

We are excited about this "new face" for the Hamilton Literacy Council and look forward to the successes and challenges of 2004!

Submitted by:
Valerie Sadler, Executive Director
Hamilton Literacy Council
75 MacNab St. S. Room 321
Hamilton, ON L8P 3C1
Ph: 905-529-9907
Fax: 905-529-0526
"Take Flight with Literacy"

Literacy Action Day

Literacy Action Day takes place at the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. It may look like "the storming of the Bastille" but in reality the "mob" consists of concerned literacy people at all levels. We become amateur lobbyists. Our message to the individual members of Parliament is simple, "What can you do to help the Literacy cause?" Please help us in funding or aiding in the passage of Bills to help those who have trouble with Math and English. In bringing up their level of Literacy the government helps all, even themselves. The higher the wages the greater the tax take for the government. Better Literacy skills also helps us as a country to remain competitive.

That the politicians recognize Laubach as a driving force in the Literacy field speaks volumes about us.

I simply cannot say enough good things about the organizers, Movement for Canadian Literacy. They are first rate. The organizational skills ensure we meet our politicians at the appropriate time, shows that they are consummate professionals. The numbers of face-to-face meetings are high. Howard Lane, Vice-President (LLO)



John de Vries, Howard Lane, Lilla Sinanan and Gary Porter

Program Tool Shed

**Your turn:
My problem and how I solved it!**

This new regular section will feature someone who had a problem or issue at their organization and how they solved it!

Submissions can be emailed to ritchieg@execulink.com

or

faxed to (519) 743-7520

or

Sent to the LLO Office

Deadline for entries: August 31, 2004



Family Literacy Day!

The fourth annual Family Literacy Day took place on January 27, 2004.

Some projects our members have undertaken in the past include:

- ✓ Library display celebrating Family Literacy
- ✓ Local celebrity reading circles
- ✓ Distribution of "Ready to Read" tote bags
- ✓ Creation of story books written by kids for kids



If your organization celebrated Family Literacy Day in a unique way LLO would love to know what you did so we can pass on the ideas in our fall 2004 newsletter.

Student Speakers Can Have A Powerful Impact!

One February afternoon Arnie (Stewart) came to Nantyr Shores Secondary School to tell his story about being a non-reading child and adult. Without note-cards, he eloquently related a triumphant success story still in the making. From how he struggled with poverty and hunger as a child excluded from Elementary school to following a bus to Timmons in his new car unable to read the street signs to accidentally feeding his children dog food because he could not read the no frills canned goods at the grocery store, students were amazed at his life story. Arnie's inspirational message: Ask for help from those here to guide you. Do not live in the dark until all your pride has vanished. Take one step at a time with learning and you will find results and a better life. Having Arnie at our school has reinforced our mission as teachers and reminded students that reading, writing and the courage to ask questions are necessary for survival. Since his visit to our school, students have written letters to Arnie thanking him for his strength and encouraging him to continue speaking to students like themselves. He is a powerful speaker with a story that can inspire and change lives.

Submitted by: Janet Lee Stinson
English Dept. Leader Literacy Chairperson
Nantyr Shores Secondary School

Who's on First?

The Demographic Profiles of Adult Learners and the Factors Affecting Their Success in Literacy Programs

This project addresses two broad questions: Who are the individuals that attend community-based literacy programs in Ontario? And What learner demographics and program characteristics predict success in the program?

Several literacy based community groups have expressed an interest in participating in the research. This is encouraging as it signals a positive response from the literacy field as to the importance of our research as well as giving us a wide range of demographics in both Laubach and non-Laubach programs.

At the conference in North Bay, Dr. Joseph Casey and I presented three workshops. At the two student-focused, we received valuable feedback and a positive response.

Dr. Casey and one of his graduate students have completed a literature review of material related to this project. The purpose of this review is to determine what has already been done in this type of research and to provide an annotated bibliography for use by literacy organizations wishing more information. The next step is to look at intake and exit forms.

At this time we have not invited specific community-based literacy programs to participate, as the recruiting process still needs to be finalized and then approved by the University of Windsor Research Ethics Board. Once the research questions are refined and ethics approval granted participant sites will be recruited and data collection will begin. It is anticipated that data collection will begin in JUNE 2004.

Stephanie Brennan (Project Coordinator)

TRAINING POST

**EACH ONE
TEACH ONE**

Each provincial Laubach organization has a volunteer Provincial Training Officer. Until recently, LLO's PTO was Jeanne Tucker, who has had to resign. Many thanks to Jeanne for her hard work as our PTO. Now that we are without a paid staff person to handle training, we realized the workload was too much for one person, and now have two co-PTOs: Helen MacLeod, from the Hamilton Literacy Council, who also serves on our Board, and Connie Morgan from the Barrie Council. The LLO office will field phone calls, emails and faxes regarding training.

Currently there are over 100 trainers, supervising trainers and apprenticing trainers affiliated with Laubach Literacy Ontario. **Become part of the team!**

For a tutor to become an apprenticing trainer you need to be working towards becoming a certified Senior Tutor (40 hours of tutoring an English-speaking student).

During the apprenticeship process of becoming a trainer you are supported by a supervising trainer—Each One Teach One. One of the tools you will receive to help you become a trainer is the *Literacy Trainer Handbook*. You will become very familiar with this book as it offers information about the workshop presentations, qualities of an effective presentation, room set-up and many more valuable tips.

As part of your training apprenticeship, you will observe a workshop and take notes — it is a different view as a trainer than as a new tutor! With the guidance of your supervising trainer, you will present various workshop segments over a period of time and eventually become the planner and lead trainer in a workshop.

Being a trainer is a great way of spreading your enthusiasm about literacy to new tutors, of meeting new people, and of working as part of a team. Be part of the leading edge of our new training system.

**Contact your local council or the LLO office in Kitchener
(1-866-608-2474) for more information.**

TRAINING SUPPORT SURVEY: Summary of Responses

In January, we faxed an LLO Training Support Survey to our members, and received over 30 responses!

We asked: While LLO doesn't have training project funding, in what non-financial ways can LLO help support your program's needs in training and council development in 2004?

You said:

One respondent suggested a regular feature in the newsletter "My problem and how we solved it" as related to training or program development? As you will see in this edition of Expressions we have listened and will be incorporating this a regular feature (see page 6).

- ✓ **Communications: Continue to provide information, advice and resources/materials and facilitate networking among members**
- ✓ **Continue to coordinate/facilitate travelling training arrangements**
- ✓ **Continue to develop LETS; help councils with implementation of LETS**
- ✓ **Continue to develop/update training modules/seminars and inform councils of developments; Keep trainers in touch and up-to-date**
- ✓ **Development support**

We asked: If and when an LLO training project is funded again, how best can we spend the money to support our members?

You said:

- ✓ **TRAINING—continue travelling training program**
- ✓ **Resources and materials**
- ✓ **Workforce training to learners**
- ✓ **Development support**

We asked member agency staff if they would be okay with us sending a package of newsletters for their tutors, to help save us over \$1500.00 in postage, due to the fact that we did not get training project dollars. Almost all programs said that would be fine as most of their tutoring was done on site. In other cases emailing a copy of the newsletter was the preferred option.

"The Workshop Exchange"

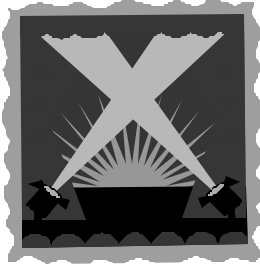
Tell us when and where you are planning your next workshop so we can let others know!

From the Editor

In our subsequent issues, we plan will continue to include the following regular segments:

Spotlight

ON..



We will highlight a different council in each edition of our newsletter. Our spotlight this edition was the Hamilton & District Literacy Council—our first council in Ontario! If your council is interested in being highlighted please submit an article by:

August 31, 2004.

We would like to include student writing in each edition in the “Student Speak” column. Encourage your students to write about their learning experiences!

Deadline for submission is August 31, 2004.

Tips and Advice



What happens if a student doesn't show up for lessons? Or...my student and I don't get along. Or...I would like to tutor more than one student at a time, should I? Or...how do I deal with the isolation of one-to-one tutoring? This advice column is intended to help you with those literacy related questions that you have....

We encourage tutors, students, board members and staff to pose their questions and an expert will provide you with advice in the “Program Tool Shed”. We also want your expert answers in the “My problem and how I solved it” column.

Next submission deadline: August 31, 2004.

We're on the web!

www.laubach-on.ca is our main website and lists contact information for the 46 literacy agencies that are affiliated with LLO.

From our main website, you can link to www.trainingpost.org which has tutor resources and training modules.



Suggestions! Ideas! Comments!

We would like to hear your ideas about what you would like to see in *your* newsletter...

Send your ideas, suggestions, and comments to me by email at: **ritchieg@execulink.com** or to the Head Office of LLO in Kitchener (contact info on page 2)!

Robyn Cook-Ritchie
Newsletter Editor