

Expressions

Each One

E-Magazine

Teach One

Volume 3
Issue 1
Summer 2009

An interactive quarterly magazine for literacy students and practitioners published by Laubach Literacy Ontario

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by student author Patty Cantwell

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

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If you have any comments or questions or ideas for articles please feel free to email Robyn Cook-Ritchie: ritchieg@execulink.com

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“Turnaround”

Part 1...

A short story by Patty Cantwell

It was a muggy summer night about 11pm in downtown Cambridge when Jenna came out of her apartment building to take her dog, Zeus for his evening walk. She looked down the street and saw a guy coming towards her. Suddenly Zeus began yanking on the leash to get to the guy. “Heel”, screamed Jenna. But Zeus kept pulling on the leash. The guy stopped walking. As Jenna got closer she recognized him from her building, she remembered that his name was Kevin. Kevin was just getting off work from his job as a security guard. He asked Jenna, what are you doing out so late? “I’m taking my dog for his walk,” said Jenna. “Would you like to go with me,” said Kevin. “Sure,” said Jenna. “Do you like taking your dog for a walk?” said Kevin. “Yes” said Jenna. They started walking over the bridge. Two guys that Kevin knew were coming towards them. Suddenly Zeus began pulling on the leash and barking. “It’s getting late,” said Jenna, “Zeus and I are going to head back home”. Kevin decided to go with his friends for coffee. As Kevin and his friends were walking towards Tim Hortons they noticed a car driving really slowly by them. Once inside they all ordered coffee and sat down in a far corner. The car pulled up and the passenger got out wearing a mask. He walked towards the door, he opened the door and moved quickly towards the counter. He showed the frightened girl a knife and demanded money. Kevin and Cane and Michael sat frozen in disbelief. Kevin was thinking that this a good time to have a friend for a cop and that is who Cane is. Quietly Cane stood up and walked towards the robber. All of a sudden the robber turned around and saw Cane coming towards him. Cane kicked at his hand that was holding the knife and the knife went flying and hit Michael in the stomach. Meanwhile Kevin was frantically calling 911. Michael hit the floor and Cane tackled the robber. In the distance they could hear the police sirens screeching. The girl behind the counter was shaking. The robber was on the ground with Cane holding onto him. Cane looked over and saw Michael hurt with a knife in his gut. Kevin was still on the phone with the cops. Just then the cops arrived and rushed in and arrested the robber. Kevin went in the ambulance with Michael. He was taken to the hospital. Cane went to the police station to fill out the police report. Meanwhile the robber has been taken to the police station. Cane talked to him and asked him why??? The robber told him that he was desperate for money as his mom needed surgery. The police charged him with attempted robbery and assault with a weapon.

To read the next installment of this exciting story read the next edition of E-Magazine (fall 2009).



Author Patty Cantwell (right) is pictured here with her tutor from the Literacy Group of Waterloo Region

Program Administration



Insurance & Liability
RESOURCE CENTRE for Nonprofits

RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR NONPROFITS

The [Insurance and Liability Resource Centre for Nonprofits](http://www.industrymailout.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=143825&print=1&q=120865152&qz=6889d8) has a selection of tools and resources to help you manage risk in your organization:

<http://www.industrymailout.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=143825&print=1&q=120865152&qz=6889d8>

Employment Ontario Information

The Handbook of Employment Ontario Terms and References, published by CESBA is a handy resource for program administrators. Click on the link below or the cover to access the handbook online.

<http://www.lizbialkowski.com/PDFS/HEOTR%20-%>

HANDBOOK of EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO TERMS & REFERENCES

cesba
Ontario Association of
Adult and Continuing Education
School Board Administrators



Did you know?

As of May 2009, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) replaced the *Registered Charity Information Return*

with a new form, the T3010B. The new form contains far more detailed content, and because of the nature of the questions, it is essential that the form is filled out properly. This podcast also discusses the new application process for registered charity status, which will be in effect as of September 2009. Click on the links below to listen to a podcast:

[New CRA forms for charities](http://www.charityvillage.com/cv/mp3s/newforms.mp3)

<http://www.charityvillage.com/cv/mp3s/newforms.mp3>

To access the Canada Revenue Agency site click here:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t3010b/README.html>

HOW TO 'GO GREEN' WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK

Written using information from the Frugalist's 57 tips for going green



Saving the world can start right in your own home. Here are some tips for going green, without spending too much green!



Recycle

Big step: *Buy used.* Shop at vintage or consignment stores, or even patrol your neighbourhood for furniture and appliances left at the curb.

Smaller step: *Bring your own bag.* Most grocery stores now charge for plastic bags, so a re-usable canvas bag is a great investment and can be used for more than groceries.

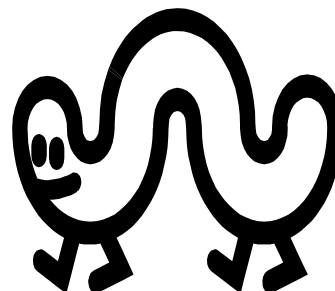
Baby step: *Recycle.* Remember more than just boxes and bottles – plastic bags, greeting cards, paperback books and aluminum foil can all be recycled.

Food and Food Waste

Big step: *Set up a worm composting system.* If you really get into “vermiculture” you can even sell your worms, but be careful of scams that offer to buy back your worms. For more information about worm composting, visit <http://cityfarmer.org/>.

Smaller step: *Compost – worm-free.* If worms creep you out, you can still compost, even in an apartment. Learn how and what to compost here: <http://www.compost.org/backyard.html>

Baby step: *Boycott plastic.* Reuse glass food packaging and drink from a stainless steel water bottle to reduce waste and avoid toxins.



Transportation

Big step: *Lose the car.* It saves the environment, and you'll save loads on gas, insurance and maintenance. Instead of dumping it, donate it for a tax deduction!

Donate your car here: <http://www.donateacar2charity.com>

Smaller step: *Bike or walk to work.* The Frugalist estimates that this will save you about \$1,560 per year.

Baby step: *Keep your car tuned.* You can use up to 9% less gas if your vehicle is running smoothly, a savings of about \$150 per year.

For more tips, visit the Frugalist at: <http://frugalist.instantcreditcard.com/2007/how-to-go-green-and-save-a-boatload-of-money-57-tips-tutorials-and-ideas/>

Creative Curriculum

May 2009
Issue No. 1

FCAC's Financial Literacy Newsletter

The City: A Financial Life Skills Resource, released in September 2008, is a free easy-to-use web-based program that engages both teachers and students, while making learning about money matters relevant and effective. *The City* can be found on FCAC's Web portal - themoneybelt.gc.ca - which is dedicated to teaching young Canadians the fundamentals of managing money.

Ontario Skills Passport has just launched the interactive "Skillszone".

<http://www.skillszone.ca/>

Check out this cool text to speech site:

http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/tts_example.php?sitepal

On the Road...Bridging the Employment Gap for Learners with Low Literacy Skills

Another opportunity to learn more about Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network's *Bridging the Employment Gap* resources...SMLN has been approved to offer more regional workshops this Fall/Spring for it's *Bridging the Employment Gap* series...stay tuned for more information coming shortly.

SMLN's *Bridging the Employment Gap* materials received rave reviews from the LLO *Sharing Pearls of Wisdom* pre-conference workshop...

This set of workforce curricula was designed to help learners at Essential Skills Level 1 to upgrade their literacy, numeracy and other essential skills in an entry-level occupational context. Though best suited for LBS levels 1 & 2, including learners with special needs, they can also be adapted for use at LBS level 3.

There are 5 occupational sector manuals – *Clerical, Retail, Janitorial, Grounds Maintenance, and Kitchen Help* – as well as a 6th manual called *Ready for Work* which focuses on "soft skills" needed by all employees. *Ready for Work* was developed in response to requests from employment counsellors and job developers. The manuals include instructor notes, learning activities, demonstrations and authentic materials. All parts of the manuals may be copied for use with your students.

"We have been reviewing the binder that I brought home from the conference, *Ready for Work*, and just wanted to let you know that we think it is excellent. You and your team have done a great job in putting it together and the fact that it is Canadian makes it all the better."

Chris Andres
Niagara Regional
Literacy Council

The manuals are available as free download from the Nald@work website (<http://library.naldatwork.ca/browse/series?name+Bridging+the+Employment+Gap>), or order hard copies and CDs from Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network at simcoe.muskoka@literacynetwork.ca or 1-888-518-4788.

Academic and Career Entrance (ACE)

The Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) program is an adult credentialing program focused on upgrading academic skills to a level needed for further learning at a community college. It gives a student training accepted by college-level post-secondary programs, and the skills to help them succeed once admitted. However, it is also relevant in the workforce. The ACE Certificate shows employees that an employee or applicant has the skills expected of a grade 12 graduate. The Apprenticeship Branch also acknowledges ACE as an Equivalency Credential. ACE programming is offered at all 24 Ontario Community Colleges, including French programs at La Cité and College Boreal.

ACE was approved for delivery in July 2004. It is funded by Academic Upgrading (AU) and Ontario Basic Skills (OBS) from MTCU. Fee-payers, determined by provincial guidelines, also provide funds to the program. ACE replaces Basic Training for Skills Development – Level 4 (BTSD 4), a College Entry Level program approved in the mid-1960s. ACE was developed with two objectives in mind. First, to make certain the ACE curriculum had all the outcomes needed for students to gain access to post-secondary education and to be successful in their programs. Second, to make sure ACE addressed the related outcomes in the senior level college stream of the new Secondary School Curriculum.

Students of the ACE program can be Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) graduates who need certain courses to get into the post-secondary program of their choice or want to improve their academic skills. They may also be OSSD early-leavers who wish to get their OSSD, or LBS participants who want to fast-track to post-secondary education or apprenticeships. Students may have future goals in the workforce, wishing to upgrade their skills for employment or promotion. Lastly, they may simply be individuals who want to improve their skills and in turn, their quality of life.



To ensure students reach their goals, ACE students have access to the college's student supports, which may include counseling services, accommodations for those with disabilities, participation in campus orientation and special events, and facilities such as computer labs, athletic complexes and libraries. The success of students can be seen in the numbers. There are 2,245 full-time students at 23 colleges across Ontario. The rates of completion are high: 80% passed first semester, many with high GPAs. As well, 70% of students stayed in their original line of study, with only 5% switching their programs.

ACE has specific course outcomes and graduation requirements, and students fulfilling these criteria will get the ACE credential. However, students may also take only courses needed for their chosen program if they do not need the credential. Courses offered in both French and English are Communications, Core Math, Apprenticeship Math, Business Math, Math for Technology, Computer Studies, Self Direction, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Anglais Langue Seconde (English as a Second Language) is also offered to French-speaking students. ACE can be delivered in class, either by students or teachers. In July 2008, colleges began online delivery of ACE programs through OntarioLearn. After completing the Learn to Learn assessment course, students can take ACE online.

If you have any questions about ACE or about the highly successful ACE Distance Delivery option, please Lynn Wallace. You can also find out more about ACE programming on our website www.collegeupgrading.ca. In August ACE will also be launching www.acedistancedelivery.ca which will focus specifically on the online delivery initiative.

Linking Laubach with Essential Skills

The [Linking Laubach with Essential Skills](#) project looked at the three Essential Skills: Reading Text Document Use; and Writing and their relationship to three key Laubach series: Laubach Way to Reading, Challenger and Voyager.

The Project Team compared the materials to Essential Skills to determine at approximately what level the materials would support the acquisition of Essential Skills.

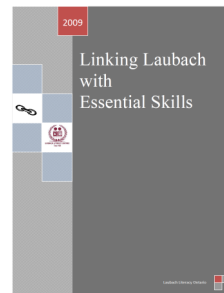
The “Link” charts in the overall report show the relationship between Essential Skills and the Laubach materials. The original articulation to the five Literacy and Basic Skills levels have also been reproduced in the charts for comparison purposes.

Click on the images below for:

- a presentation that summarizes and compares the three key Laubach series: Laubach Way to Reading, Challenger and Voyager (great for tutor training)
- the complete **Linking Laubach with Essential Skills** document

**Laubach Way to Reading,
Challenger, and
Voyager**

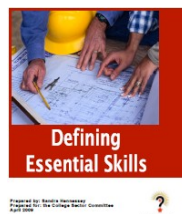
An Overview of Each Series
and a Comparison



UPFront with Essential Skills and LBS

Defining Essential Skills prepared by Sandra Hennessey for the College Sector Committee is a great overview of how the Essential Skills came to be.

[http://
www.collegeupgradingon.ca/
current/definitions/
ESdefinitions.pdf](http://www.collegeupgradingon.ca/current/definitions/ESdefinitions.pdf)



Students Say YES! You and Essential Skills

Literacy and Essential Skills Tool Kit has launched a series of new self assessments for 8 of the Essential Skills (not thinking skills).

[http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/
essential_skills/general/toolkit.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/essential_skills/general/toolkit.shtml)

Students can use these downloadable self assessments to help them understand where they can improve their Essential Skills

HOBBY HABIT *What do you like to do?*



In a world in which people often opt for Wii fishing over the real deal, the award-winning campaign, Take Me Fishing, and South Bend Sporting Goods, are joining forces to re-connect people with nature. The result of their effort is N GAGE®, a series of fishing gear to be released in 2010. It's fresh, trendy, youthful and extreme. It aims to stop the stereotype that fishing is a hobby of retirees in the hopes of introducing the sport to a younger crowd.

However, you don't need to be young and hip to appreciate the innovative products the N GAGE® line will introduce. For example, their 3-piece Spinning/Spincast Combo Sling is the first of its kind. It is a rod/reel combination that can be transported using the sling it's sold in. Weathered canvas and hand-illustrated graphics gives it a trendy and rugged look, and the mp3-player pocket brings it into the 21st century. The series also boasts a 2-piece rod/reel combo, a messenger bag, graphic tees and hoodies, canteens and more.

Besides giving fishing a rejuvenating facelift, South Bend also wants to appeal to the female market segment. The Ready2Fish "Bright Pink" combo kit includes a rod and reel combo, a complete tackle assortment, and an illustrated how-to-fish guide. And – you guessed it – everything is pink! If looking pretty in pink while wrestling a salmon isn't appealing enough on its own, the Bright Pink kit is inspired by the breast and ovarian cancer organization of the same name. Bright Pink® focuses on prevention and early detection, and you can help contribute while catching dinner!

To learn more about fishing, visit <http://www.takemefishing.org/>.

Adult learning celebrated in seven videos

The Canadian Council on Learning's Adult Learning Knowledge Centre (AdLKC) is pleased to announce its launch of six short videos illustrating the power of adult learning. Each video provides a story on how adult learning has positively affected communities, individual learners and professional/community-based organizations. The inspiration for the video series was provided through the AdLKC's Knowledge Exchange program. The video series embraces learning in several themes including arts and culture, prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR), literacy and late-entry learning.

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/AboutCCL/KnowledgeCentres/AdultLearning/OurWork/Video/?Language=EN>

GrooveShark

Find just about any song you want on GrooveShark! You can set up a free account and listen to music on your computer without downloading any additional software. Click here: <http://listen.grooveshark.com/>



Power Tools: What's New?

Tools of the Trade magazine presented the 2009 Editor's Choice Awards in its Spring 2009 issue. Editors of the magazine selected new tools that they believe will increase performance, last longer and are safer and easier to use.

Milwaukee tools make the list with their innovative Hackzall, a one-handed reciprocating saw. Despite its small size, it can fit standard reciprocating saw blades, or the one made especially for it. Milwaukee also has a compact motorized copper-tubing cutter, which cuts much faster than a manual cutter. For more information, visit: <http://www.milwaukeetool.com/>.



For unisaws, the Delta Unisaw remains the top pick for stationary table saws, but their newest model has improved on the tried and trusted design. Easier to use and access dual front cranks control the blade-height and bevel adjustment, and the bevel-gauge dial is easier to read. The table also includes a storage drawer for blades and parts. For more information, visit: <http://deltaportercable.com/>.



If you work with a lot of drywall, the Goldblatt BladeRunner is a useful little tool. It splits into two cutting wheels, so you can score both sides of a sheet of drywall at the same time. This way, a process that usually takes three steps can be done in only two. Though tiny, it can cut through 5/8-inch-thick drywall. For more information, visit: <http://goldblattbladerunner.com/>.

The Festool Kapex is *Tools of the Trade*'s favourite in sliding miter saws. The editors praise its excellent up-front bevel-angle adjustment, dust collection, and dual-line lasers. It also has several original elements that bring it to the top of the competition. These include its locking chop-cutting position, variable-speed monitor, and angle-bisecting protractor. For more information, visit: <http://festoolusa.com/>.

The Makita plunge-saw system is loved by editors for its electronic speed control, variable-speed dial, electronic soft start and electronic brake. For easy clean-up, the dust port can be attached to a vacuum. For more information, visit: <http://makitausa.com/>.

Ridgid also brings innovative new tools to the market, with the Fuego one-handed reciprocating saw and the fibre-cement saw, both designed to meet unique needs with enhanced precision. Ridgid's new features include the lightness and ease of the reciprocating saw, and the fibre-cement saw's hose and attached filter that pulls dust away from cuts before it becomes airborne. For more information, visit: <http://ridgid.com/>.



For more information on the newest in power tools, visit *Tools of the Trade Online* at: <http://www.toolsofthetrade.net/>.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

New Project – Essential Skills for Literacy Practitioners

We are pleased to announce that we have received project funding from MTCU that will not only benefit LLO's apprentice trainers, but all literacy practitioners. This project called "Essential Skills for Literacy Practitioners" will be coordinated by Robyn Cook Ritchie, and will focus on identifying Essential Skills for Practitioner Training and Certification.

Tutor and trainer competencies required by all levels in LLO's current certification system would be identified. An analysis of the competencies as they relate to the current Employment Ontario environment and the expectations that places on LBS programming would ensure that tutors and trainers meet expectations in this rapidly changing environment. An Essential Skills task analysis will be conducted for each level of certification.

As part of the review, a competency based training plan template for apprentice trainers that recognizes prior learning and identifies Essential Skills levels will be developed and piloted. The current system requires all trainers to participate in a 12 hour live workshop to complete certification at that level. All current trainer workshop segments will be converted to an e-platform to make delivery of this workshop flexible to those who cannot attend a full live workshop. The online trainer workshop will be made available to all literacy practitioners across the province. Members of LLO's Training Development and Certification Committee (TDAC) with representatives from across the province will support this project in an advisory capacity.

The updated certification system will be launched on the LLO website.

LLO is the only LBS organization with a certification system in place for tutors. Updating this system to encompass Essential Skills will provide greater transparency in the larger EO system. All programs utilizing volunteer tutors will benefit from being able to review the system even if they are not part of the certification process. The Laubach apprenticeship system provides support to new employees of Literacy agencies, who may not have tutor-training or presentation skills. System includes training materials and resources, mentor support, practice sessions, trainer workshop. Certification encourages many practitioners to become literacy tutor trainers. A PLAR system will be put in place to recognize literacy practitioners who have had prior teaching or facilitation experience in other fields. Completion of apprenticeship will no longer be based on the number of tutor training segments delivered successfully, but will be based on a set of trainer competencies that can be demonstrated. Laubach's comprehensive Literacy Trainer Handbook is used as a guide for trainers and includes detailed instructions to ensure content area is accurate and meaningful to tutors. Therefore, subject-matter expertise is learned through the apprenticeship and mentorship process.

A recruitment plan and process will be developed to encourage more volunteers to become involved as tutor trainers, thus decreasing time pressures for front-line workers, instructors and E.D.s to also have to deliver training.

Laubach's trainer workshop needs to be updated to incorporate new technology, including using Moodle and other computer platforms to deliver tutor-training. Content would be developed for the trainers, but they would still need to know how to access it and present it at tutor-training sessions.

Portions of the 12-hour workshop, which has been seen as one of the most valuable experiences trainers have had, will be video-taped and linked online.

MORE NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Announcing LLO New Board of Directors for 2009-2010

Old Presidents never die, they just reincarnate as Past Presidents! Thankfully, Helen McLeod agreed to stay on the board to help lead us through the process of developing our new strategic plan. Her President's Message, which she read at the AGM, was inspiring, and can be seen on Page 2 of our Annual Report at <http://www.laubach-on.ca/Annual%20Report.htm>

Sadly we had to say goodbye to two amazing board members—Val Sadler and Connie Morgan. The good news is that there are a lot of amazing people within our membership, and Jennifer Ellis of MARC, the Midland Area Reading Council and Isabel Mosseler of LAWN, Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing in Sturgeon Falls, are our two latest additions.

Staying on the board, and taking on the role of President, is Sue Bannon of MARC; Carol Risidore of The Literacy Group of Waterloo Region is Vice-President; Jane Jackson of the North Bay Literacy Council is Secretary, and Joanne Prior of the Barrie Literacy Council is our Treasurer. Rounding out the board are two former adult literacy students—Keith Allen as the Provincial Student Representative, elected at the Annual Student Caucus at our conference, and Gary Porter, former provincial and national student representative.

To see their happy faces as they take on the challenges of managing a provincial organization, visit our website at http://www.laubach-on.ca/board_of_directors2010.htm

LLO's Social Enterprise Project comes to a successful end

The Ontario Trillium Foundation provided Laubach Literacy Ontario funding for an 18-month Social Enterprise Project, which began in December 2007 and concluded in June 2009. The project, managed by Susan Taylor of Taylor & Associates, focused on strengthening capacity and building sustainability in non-profit adult literacy programs through social enterprise development. The project activities supported six pilot member agencies to complete the research, planning, organizational development and fund development stages of social enterprise ventures within their organizations, in preparation for full implementation of their social enterprise projects. Pilot sites had to be confirmed when the proposal was written, to ensure there was commitment and buy-in, and that there were at least two northern literacy agencies included.

At the conclusion of the project, all six pilots were provided with business plans, sample funding proposals, and sample tools to attract potential funders for the following social enterprise ventures that they have indicated interest in considering for start-up:

- Midland Area Reading Council: New Skills North Simcoe
- Barrie Literacy Council: Very Odd Jobs Services
- North Bay Literacy Council: HELP Academy
- Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing (LAWN) Adult Learning Centre: The Hub
- The Literacy Group of Waterloo Region: Waterloo Region Training Group
- Laubach Literacy Ontario: Laubach Literacy Bookstore

The grant has provided an opportunity for the pilot agencies to develop/implement a plan for increasing their capacity and sustainability in the long term, which in turn will impact the quality of life of the people these agencies serve.

Literacy agencies will be able to contact pilot sites and receive guidance and mentorship regarding moving through the process of considering, researching and planning for a social enterprise. As well, sample tools and templates will be posted on LLO's member wiki, at <http://laubachliteracyontario.pbworks.com/> and on our website www.laubach-on.ca in the near future.

For more information on this project, see page 6 of our Annual report at <http://www.laubach-on.ca/Annual%20Report.htm>

MORE NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Conference and AGM – 2009

Once again, Laubach Literacy Ontario held another successful networking and professional development conference June 11-14th, 2009. **238 practitioners, staff, and students** – the highest number yet to attend an LLO conference – made their way to Georgian College in Barrie for the 2009 **“Sharing Pearls of Wisdom”** Conference. Pearls were chosen as a theme to commemorate the Barrie Literacy Council’s 30th anniversary.

The weekend of learning and fun garnered positive feedback and praise from participants. **97%** of participants rated the conference organization as good or excellent, while **91%** rated the relevancy of workshops at the same high level. **96%** ranked their overall conference experience as good or excellent and **69%** hope to attend again next year. Here are three quotes from the conference evaluation:

“These conferences are essential for professional development for Council volunteers, staff, practitioners and trainers”

“The students’ major role in the conference is “a strong reminder and affirmation of the work we do.”

“I hope that the Ministry will continue to see the importance of continuing to fund LLO to provide this training to LBS programs in Ontario.”



The conference certainly lived up to its name, giving participants the opportunity to gain pearls of wisdom from presenters, and share their own knowledge with others. LLO partnered with the **Barrie Literacy Council**, which hosted the event, and with the **Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network**, which provided pre-conference workshops. These collaborative partnerships were instrumental in being able to offer four days of high quality workshops, networking opportunities and entertainment.

The **27 different workshops** covered a wide range of topics from Workforce Literacy, Essential Skills, successful Employment Ontario transitions, flexible and distance learning, new technologies for learners and practitioners, academic upgrading/GED, Learning Disabilities, literacy best practices, tutor-training, volunteer management, fundraising, student leadership, personal growth, stress management, literacy and health, leadership development, and general interest. This year’s conference included Employment Ontario Networking Exhibits on display throughout the weekend, and a **“Pathways to Training and Employment” Panel Discussion** for those interested in learning more about the Employment Ontario environment. This presentation has been video-taped and will be available on our website in late September.

Several awards were presented to recognize the achievements and commitment of LLO members and students. **Mike Chamberlain** of the Literacy Council York Simcoe in Newmarket, was the recipient of the 2009 Arnie Stewart Individual Achievement award, and **Sue Bannon**, Executive Director of Midland and Area Reading Council, and LLO’s new President, received this year’s Lana Faessler Outstanding Service award.

To read more about these awards, or about our guest speakers **Garfield Dunlop, MPP** for Simcoe North, **Spider Jones** and **Gary Porter**, or to view our slide show of the conference, visit our website at <http://www.laubach-on.ca/conf2009.html>

Our Conference Proceedings Report will be available in both English and French and will be posted on our website in late September.



At this year's LLO Conference, "Sharing Pearls of Wisdom," Paula Abdul (Mary Anne Baker, LLO), Randy Jackson (Joanne Prior, Barrie) and Simon Cowell (Connie Morgan, Barrie) once again gathered to crown the 2009 karaoke king or queen. The competition was tough, with 20 brave competitors submitting themselves to judgment. Performances were impressive all around, though

some received harsher criticism from the judges than others.

The highlight of the evening was the performance of Cliff McGill, a student from the Hamilton Literacy Council. His rendition of "On the Other Hand" by

LLO Idol

Randy Travis – without the aid of a karaoke machine – blew audiences away. In fact, many thought it was a recording. But Cliff certainly wasn't cheating. His outstanding voice, untrained professionally, earned him a first place spot in the competition. Hamilton Literacy Council took home the LLO Idol trophy to stay until the next competition. But future competitors will have to look out if Cliff's in the running again.

Hamilton displayed even more talent when staff member Bonnie Atkinson snagged the second place position in the competition. However, Leonard Lavoie refused to let Hamilton sweep the competition. He took home third prize for the Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing in Sturgeon Falls.

Congratulations to all the winners! We look forward to seeing you battle to keep your titles in the next LLO Idol competition. Until then, everyone else better practice to beat these veteran vocalists!



Cliff McGill, winner of LLO IDOL 2009



A message from the president

Dear Members:

As fall quickly approaches, we are all starting to get back into the swing of things. As this is my first year as President, I am looking forward to meeting and working with you all.

As you are all aware we have been battling for funding for the Community Based Literacy Agencies for quite some time. I am very pleased to say that with the help of MPP Garfield Dunlop we were finally able to have our plight heard at Queen's Park. Not only did they listen, but they also responded to our plea! However, we are not done yet! As we announced at our June AGM, we will be planning a **Literacy Awareness Day** at Queen's Park, which has been confirmed for November 23, 2009. We will be heading down to Queen's Park with some students, practitioners and administrators to speak to the Ministers, MPPs, press people and anyone else who will listen. Garfield Dunlop is helping us to coordinate this event. We will be hosting a reception at Queen's Park on this day to have guest speakers and others attend and speak on the importance of Literacy. Invitations will be sent at a later date.

There are three main areas of focus for us at this event:

- Thank the Provincial Government for the recent funding
- Remind them that this funding needs to be continuous/ongoing funding
- Address cost of living increases yearly
- Raise awareness of community-based literacy

We need to continue to keep them apprised of the good we are doing and how desperately more funding is needed, especially during these economically difficult times. LLO will keep you all posted on this event as it develops.

In closing, LLO, along with all our members, has become quite a team! I encourage you all to continue to raise awareness of literacy issues, and stand together and help one another through these difficult times.

Stand Tall and Proud – Onwards and Upwards!

Sae Bannon, President

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