

EXPRESSIONS

The Provincial Newsletter of Laubach Literacy Ontario



Celebrating International Literacy Day

Have your town proclaim September 8 Literacy Day

This year, the Oakville Literacy Council decided to put a local spin on International Literacy Day by having our mayor proclaim it Literacy Day in Oakville. And it was pretty easy to do.

Having worked on a proclamation in another town before, I had the idea to check out the requirements for proclamations in Oakville. I found the official request forms on the Town of Oakville website, asked Town staff for sample proclamations so I would know how to write a good one, filled out the

paperwork in an hour or two, and two days later I heard that our request had been approved.

Once I had the proclamation in hand, I planned a little media event to celebrate the day. We invited the Town Crier for attention-grabbing impact, along with local elected officials and friends of literacy, and set up in the centre court of a local mall. Each VIP said a few words, and we posed for pictures with local media.

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LEFT TO RIGHT: MAUREEN O'KEEFE, OAKVILLE LITERACY COUNCIL PRESIDENT; JANICE WRIGHT, OAKVILLE TOWN COUNCILLOR; KEVIN FLYNN, MPP, OAKVILLE; TOM ADAMS, OAKVILLE TOWN COUNCILLOR

Message from the President

On June 24, 2006, I began my term of office as President of LLO. I am a rookie at all things presidential, and would not even be writing this message to you if Lana, LLO's executive director, hadn't told me that the membership would expect no less. Not to disappoint any of you, I have prepared this brief message. The message will be brief, indeed as nothing much has happened since the AGM when the LLO Board was capably and lovingly presided over by Linda Martin.

In July Sheila Roberts, our communications specialist and web minder/designer posted this quote from Charles Schwab on the LLO site: "A man can

succeed at almost anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm." As I read this I thought, how aptly Sheila had chosen. If Charles Schwab is right in his estimation, then I will serve LLO and each of you well in the coming year.

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NOW THEREFORE, I, Ann Mulvale, Mayor of the Town of Oakville, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM, September 8 as Literacy Day in Oakville and would urge all residents to support the activities of the Oakville Literacy Council, especially by encouraging potential adult students to take advantage of their learning program.

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

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The Newsletter of
Laubach Literacy Ontario

Vol. 1, No. 6: FALL 2006
Published semi-annually

Published by:

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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

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Gary Porter
Carol Risidore

Laubach Literacy Ontario is a volunteer-driven, non-profit, charitable, provincial 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."

New President heads up LLO Board



Linda Martin passes the Presidential gavel to Helen McLeod at LLO's AGM and Banquet.

Prior to taking on the enormous responsibility of President of LLO, Helen was LLO's Vice-President and Provincial Training Officer, as well as Team Leader for the Training & Development Committee fondly nicknamed "The Brownbaggers". Helen teaches small group classes at the Hamilton Literacy Council, and serves on the board of directors for the Hamilton and Area Adult Basic Education Association. I wonder what she does in her spare time?



OUTGOING BOARD

From left to right-

Back row: Howard Lane, Joseph Carriere, Melanie Remonde, Gary Porter, Connie Morgan.

Front row: Sue Bannon, Helen McLeod, Linda Martin, Val Sadler.

Sad farewells and warm wishes were the order of the day at the LLO AGM and Banquet. Linda Martin served LLO twice as President, and once as Provincial Training Officer, for a total of 11 years.

Melanie Remonde will also be missed, and we wish her all the best!

Carol Risidore, of The Literacy Group Waterloo Region, was welcomed as a new Board member.



Presentation for outgoing board member, Melanie Remonde

*Message from the President
Continued from Page 1*

I am full of enthusiasm for the strategic plan that LLO developed with its membership 2 short years ago. I am looking forward to working with the Board and LLO staff on the next stages.

I have so much confidence in the abilities of the staff and this year's Board of Directors that my enthusiasm grows just thinking of working with them. If you have any comments, concerns, ideas, presidential tips or just want to brag about some of your successes, please contact me at hmcleod@hamiltonreads.



Helen demonstrating her strong teambuilding skills with Stephanie Hobbs (left) and Maureen O'Keefe (right).

Room for one on Board, but only one; is it you?

The LLO Board will be meeting in November to take stock of our strategic plan, our strengths and our shortcomings. This year the LLO Board is strong, but not as strong as it could be with one more person at the table. We want to fill that seat as soon as possible with just the right person, the one who brings skills we need.

If you think you might be that person, please call the LLO office and get a nomination form. Fill it out and get it in as soon as possible. We will be considering all nomination forms received at the November meeting.

We will take turns keeping the seat warm, maybe just for you. *Procrastinators need not apply.*

***by Helen McLeod
President***

"A woman can succeed at almost anything for which she has unlimited enthusiasm."

(with apologies to—Charles Schwab)

Whoever Charles Schwab is, I hope he doesn't mind me improving upon his quote by changing the gender, but it was so appropriate to describe these very successful and enthusiastic women in the picture on the right. Past LLO presidents, to Helen's left, are Linda Martin, Diane Coombs, Bev Clarke, and Joan Lawton. It was an honour for me to work with all of them over the years, and a pleasure to see them receive the recognition they deserve, at our 25th anniversary celebrations at this year's conference and banquet. I look forward to more of the same high quality leadership from Helen McLeod in the coming years.

Lana Faessler, Executive Director



Back to the Future — Conference a huge success

LLO's Conference attracted 115 participants

According to respondents to the 2006 Annual Conference evaluation, they had a great time. The conference was held at Wilfrid Laurier University, June 23 to 25, with a **Back to the Future** theme.

The organization of the conference was rated as "good" or "excellent" by 95.6% of respondents, while 100% ranked the conference brochure, the time allowed for mail-in registrations, and the on-site registration process at the same high level.

The number of options and workshop choices offered were highly rated, while 100% of respondents found their overall conference experience as good or excellent. Twenty-five students attended, with ten of them from the Hamilton Council arriving on a special bus.



The morning after the night before...time to say goodbye to new and old friends for another year.

My First Laubach Conference



Yolisa at Donna Messer's "The Power of Positive Linking" Workshop.

The Laubach Conference in June was exciting for me as a new tutor. I began to realize that I belong to a large community focused on a common goal. During the conference, I met others across Ontario with the same belief that people have a resiliency that enables them to overcome vast obstacles in life.

The activities at the conference included a keynote speaker on Friday night and workshops on Saturday. Donna Messer's keynote address challenged me to reframe my own obstacles in life. She emphasized: anything is possible. She also encouraged the audience to network among themselves. She said that offering one another information creates a wealth of resources that benefit everyone.

Also, the workshops provided me with much needed information as a new tutor.

My experience at the conference in June gave me a flavour for Laubach Literacy of Ontario by providing an opportunity for me to gain a perspective of the organization's vision.

By Yolisa Nongauza
Tutor, Hamilton Literacy Council

For more pictures and comments about the Conference, check out our website at www.laubach-on.ca



What we liked most at the conference...variety of workshops, networking, tutor-trainer workshop was excellent. Karaoke—everyone singing "We are Family" at the end; interesting workshops and round table discussion; networking; presented a lot of good information, friendly, relaxing atmosphere; workshops were excellent. Beautiful location!

Suggestions for next conference...Make sure there is one; I heard no complaints...this was one of the best! More north; Strategies, multi-learning styles; lower the cost so more students can come or allow funding; more workshops; better beds; lunch on Sunday, before departure; dinner Friday night



Students' Voices

Twenty-two adult literacy students attended LLO's first annual student caucus meeting. They were polled on areas of concern and where they would like to see the Student Caucus focus for the upcoming year.

Concerns listed in order of importance

Learning equipment/aids that are not costly to assist students with learning disabilities.

Follow-through on promises made from councils to students.

Costs for books and learning materials for students who don't have access to funds to purchase them.

Making sure there is a student on the local councils Board of Directors.

Produce ideas about how to run, work and keep a student group.

Public speaking workshops for students.

More help from tutors, instructors and volunteers – to help independent learners.

More funding and how can we get it?

Review of levels and funding for level 1-5 programs.

Computer Literacy should be mandatory in every program.

Students from each council to speak to possible funders. Do a manual for students to do this and perhaps provide training for students on this issue through workshops for students.

More student recognition of accomplishments.

More advocacies and speaking with politicians.

Returning to Learning

Sixteen adult literacy students attended Gary Porter's popular "Returning to Learning" workshop. Gary and Connie, through the use of skits, encouraged participants to discuss issues related to the cost of returning to school, the balance of a personal life and school work, and the stress and time commitment of returning to learning. Students contributed possible solutions to these problems focusing on how to manage all of your responsibilities on top of learning and how to study and learn effectively.



"HUSBAND" CONNIE, BERATING "WIFE" GARY FOR NOT HAVING DINNER READY BECAUSE "SHE" WAS DOING LITERACY HOMEWORK INSTEAD.

The Student Caucus is a new part of the election process for the Board of Directors. The Caucus will meet annually at conference time to elect the student representative for the board, and to discuss current issues of concern to literacy students.

This year, the process for getting nominated for the Student Initiative Committee and the length of term of the student provincial representative were two things discussed at this caucus. A suggestion was made to include the new nomination forms with the newsletter in the near future.

Gary Porter is the new Chair of the Student Initiative Committee, with Sue Bannon assisting the committee.

Congratulations to Award Winners



Andrea Menig of **The Adult Literacy Council of Greater Fort Erie** was the recipient of the 5th annual Arnie Stewart Individual Achievement award at the LLO Annual Conference in Waterloo this year. Arnie Stewart, Joseph Carriere and Gary Porter, past recipients of this award, made a presentation to Maria Salvati of the Ft. Erie Council, on behalf of Andrea, who could not attend. A giant card was circulated for everyone at the conference to sign.



Andrea is shown here receiving the card and plaque from Arnie Stewart a few weeks after the conference. Included in this newsletter in an insert about Andrea, and an article she wrote. Please share this with the literacy students at your agency. Andrea's full story is on the LLO website at www.laubach-on.ca



Rubert Payea of the **Literacy Council of Niagara West** was honoured as the runner-up for this award. Rupert is shown here, being presented with a medallion by Gary Porter, LLC's national student representative. Rubert was invited to the conference as a special guest, along with his tutor, Rubert's full story is on the LLO website at www.laubach-on.ca

Congratulations also go to....

Leslie Ion, who was this year's recipient of the [Council of the Federation Literacy Award](http://www.laubach-on.ca). This award is given to people who have done an outstanding job of promoting adult literacy through teaching, learning, fundraising or volunteering. The Premiers of Canada developed the award in 2004 to recognize the importance of literacy in building a vibrant society and a strong economy. Leslie has volunteered with the **Literacy Council of Brantford and District** for the past 10 years and has dedicated more than 1000 hours to promoting literacy in Brantford, ON.

Clarence Brazier for winning the **Canada Post Individual Achievement Award**. Clarence is a student of the Muskoka Literacy Council in Huntsville and was recently featured in the Globe and Mail. Now 100 years old, Clarence learned to read at 93. The article has been posted, with permission, on our website at www.laubach-on.ca

Keith Allen who was honoured with **CUPE's first National Literacy Award**. Keith was last year's winner of the Canada Post Individual Achievement Award. That year, he also won the North Bay Health and Safety Award, and the Ontario Federation of Labour's Occupational Disease Response Team Award. Keith is a student of the North Bay Literacy Council. Many of you may remember him as "Booker the Bear", at our 2003 Conference in North Bay. (CUPE is Canadian Union of Public Employees)

Val Sadler for receiving the Lynn Livingstone Memorial Award from the Adult Basic Education Association at their Leaders in Literacy Breakfast in June. This award is given to those who exemplify the dedication, support and caring nature of Lynne Livingstone. Val is the Executive Director of the Hamilton Literacy Council, and a Director & Officer on the Board of LLO.

Lana Faessler for receiving the first Lana Faessler Outstanding Service Award, from the LLO Board of Directors. This award will be presented annually to an employee of a Laubach Literacy Ontario agency who has given outstanding service to his/her agency and community by advancing literacy in their community.

Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council — 2006 winner of annual Dr. Bob Student Fund

The small group classes of the Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council (Dunnville site) are pleased to be one of the winners of Laubach Literacy of Canada's annual Dr. Bob Student Fund Project 2006. Sixteen adult learners are in the process of planning, organizing, implementing and evaluating fundraising projects to determine which activities are most profitable.

The group is having a great time, they have held a giant lawn sale and a Walk-A-Thon. In addition, the group has designed and sold Council T-shirts. The learners are presently planning a cookbook to sell before Christmas. They will also sell raffle tickets for a hanging wall quilt donated by a resident of Haldimand.

Haldimand Coordinator Susan Dolan and Instructor Marie Brown are thrilled with the teamwork and commitment to this initiative. Skills learned and honed by learners are many, including preparing budgets, writing fundraising letters, designing and creating flyers/posters, event planning, working as a volunteers and the list goes on. Funds raised by these activities will be used to purchase books for adult learners in Haldimand County.

*by Anne Davidson,
Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council (Dunnville & Simcoe)*

International Literacy Day—Oakville Literacy Council Continued from Page One

Often the biggest value of these kinds of events is building and strengthening relationships with your community partners, whether it's the local library, other helping agencies, or local councillors, MPPs, or MPs.

Our goal in any outreach we do right now is to attract more adults to our program. Like many other Councils, we find it difficult to find and engage students. That's why I wrote a plea of sorts right into the proclamation. We need to encourage everyone in Oakville to be our eyes and ears in the community and refer potential learners to us.

In her remarks on Literacy Day, our Council President Maureen O'Keefe read a quote from the UNESCO website. It talks about why the United Nations has literacy as a key goal:

"The more a society progresses, the greater is the need for adjustment to new demands and pressures, making literacy a lifelong necessity for all in all societies. Families' economic well-being and literacy affect how their children face the future—the outcomes of one generation lay the foundation for the conditions and opportunities of the next."

We couldn't have said it better ourselves!

*by Karen Majerly,
Oakville Literacy Council*

Words of Wisdom

I thought I would write this article because of an issue that is near and dear to my heart.

I have been working with a student for the last 8 months. I 'inherited' her from another tutor who was dedicated but no longer able to tutor. She had worked with my student for a few years before I was assigned to her.

When I was matched with this student I was told that she needed assistance with her writing and spelling skills. I was told that she could read well and didn't really need help there. Going against my better judgement I took this evaluation at face value. Her previous tutor had been told the same thing and diligently worked with her in the **Patterns In Spelling** series.

This tutor did her job and kept excellent notes on this student. The notes indicated that she was struggling with every concept introduced. I am not particularly fond of the Patterns In Spelling series. This student hadn't made much progress working with it.

Many years ago I had put together a 13-week writing course for a small group writing class I was teaching. So, I thought I would use this program to assist her with foundation writing skills. As the first few weeks progressed I started to see a pattern of difficulty that went way beyond a lack of writing/spelling skills. It became evident that she did not understand or know the vowels and the sounds they

make, what consonants were, sentence structure, paragraphs—even her 'good' reading skills left a lot to be desired.

As I thought about how I would be able to give her more basic skills one thought kept coming back in my head. **The Laubach Way to Reading series.** So, after completing the writing program, during which she did pick up some basic rules for spelling, sentence structure, dictionary work, etc. I made the decision that I would take her into the LWR series. After years of using it I had confidence that this series could help her. She didn't need anything fancy. She needed the basics that LWR could give her.

We began work in this series (right back to the beginning) taking only a few lessons to get through Book 1. We have now been **working in this series for 4 months and she is now in Book 3.** Her progress is amazing. She can see herself that she is making noticeable improvement in all of the literacy skills.

I always ask at the end of every class how she felt about the lesson and she always says she has enjoyed it even when we weren't working in the LWR series; but in the last lesson we had before I wrote this piece, she blew me out of the water. Before I could even ask her about that day's lesson she said "***I love these books! They teach me in an order that I can understand and they keep going over things***

we have already studied while I keep learning new things. This is great!"

I have never understood why others are hesitant to use the LWR series or think that there is better material out there. For students who are basic, and let's face it, most students entering our programs are truly beginners at literacy, this series, in my mind is the best out there. **This opinion comes after tutoring many students over 15 years.** It is not that I don't use other good material. However, they are used as supplemental material, not the primary lesson material.

After being in the local program for almost 3 years, my student is now making marked progress (**Check Up for Book 2 = 97%**). That is very hard to argue with. She would have failed that check up 4 months ago.

In closing, I would like to say, that perhaps the Laubach Way to Reading series isn't appropriate for your student. However, **if your student is struggling and making slow progress**, perhaps another look at the Laubach Way to Reading series is worth considering.

If something has worked well for over 80 years who am I to challenge its value. My students have proven time and time again that it is a series that works. As the saying goes "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

From a certified Master Tutor.

Funding Cuts

On Wednesday, October 4, 2006, all across Canada many of the provincial and territorial literacy coalitions held a press conference to draw attention to the major impacts that will be felt across our nation if literacy support services are cut out of literacy initiatives and programs. OLC joined in this pan-Canadian response by holding a press conference in Toronto, along with ABC CANADA, Toronto Adult Students Association (TASA), Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy (MTML), and Peel/Halton/Dufferin Adult Learning Network.

Laubach Literacy Ontario was one of many provincial and regional literacy organizations who helped plan and support this event. To ensure there were diverse student voices, **Arnie Stewart** and **Gary Porter** were on hand to speak to the press. Mary Anne and I also attended, and although the press coverage was less than hoped for, the event was attended by over 80 people representing literacy and other social service sectors. A copy of the advisory and press release will be available on the OLC website soon.

During lunch with several of the people who attended, Mary Anne made a connection with **Michael Shaughnessy**, OLC's learner representative. As a result, Michael emailed us a letter he wrote about the funding cuts that was read in the House of Commons, and published in both the Toronto Star and his hometown newspaper in Sault Ste Marie. In his email, he wrote, "*the more I can get people to read this the more we might win the fight*". We have included it as a special insert to this issue of **Expressions**. On the reverse of his letter is the submission for this year's Individual Achievement Award winner, Andrea Menig. Feel free to make as many copies as you like for distribution to your students, tutors and other stakeholders.

Field Development & Research Projects

The following six proposals were submitted by LLO to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. We should know by November 3, 2006 if any were successful— CIPMS Symposium; Building on the best: providing best practices methods/materials to literacy practitioners; Interactive E-Learning Webcasts for Laubach Literacy Ontario Trainers, Tutors and Students; Interactive Live Webcast of Laubach Literacy Ontario's AGM and Annual Conference training; WWW.E-LEARN.LLO! (e-magazine).

Beyond the Basics Professional Development and Trainer Retreat Event

Over 30 tutor-trainers will be at Canterbury Hills Resort in Ancaster to hone their presentation skills, share ideas and resources, and network with each other. Diane Warriner, of Trainers To Go, will be the guest presenter. This collaborative event, in partnership with the Hamilton Literacy Council, was made possible through a \$5,000.00 grant from the Ontario Network—Canada Volunteerism Initiative.

Program Tool Shed

Putting the date in an Excel cell

Submitted by Mary Anne Baker

I was recently reading an article in the Administrative Assistant's Update and found this interesting Excel tip. I contacted the author to see if I could share it with our readers and he was delighted that we would ask. So here it is.

Sometimes the easiest tools are the best. Here's one that will quickly insert the current date/time in a cell. It's **=now()**. (After the word "now" is an open bracket, then a closed bracket, with no spaces)

Simply stated, in any cell in which you want to have the date (and/or time, depending on how you wish to format the cell), just type in: **=now()**. Every time you open the file (or refresh it) the current date/time will be updated.

Another shortcut....

If you want just the current date in a cell (no time), try this instead: **Control ;** - that's a combination key-stroke. Hold your Ctrl key down, and press the semicolon.

This will post the current date in the current cell. However, since it isn't a formula, it won't change the date when the file is refreshed or reopened. It just enters the current date quickly for you.

This information was written by Jim Spellos, a computer and software trainer and technology consultant. For more information visit www.meeting-u.com or e-mail him at jspellos@meeting-u.com.

Making Essential Skills Work For You

UPDATE

As a brief review – this project has three distinct outcomes:

1. To develop learning activities around the Essential Skills and Self-Direction/Self-Management components of Oral Communication and Thinking Skills.
2. To develop a manual/guide on how to navigate and use the Essential Skills website and links within an adult teaching environment.
3. To develop a guide on how to use the Essential Skills to promote community-based literacy programs to businesses and other agencies within your community.

Currently this project is in the process of “tweaking” the 20 learning activities for field testing in October. They will be field tested with four Laubach programs and one other community-based agency. Thank you to the agencies that offered their assistance in this process.

The field testing of the two guides will occur in mid and late November. **We are currently looking for three sites willing to field test both guides for a small honorarium.** If interested, please contact Jane Tuer at janesworld@aol.com.

The Reference Committee for this project has been invaluable in sharing ideas and suggestions around the kinds of learning activities learners in community-based programs need on upgrading and training. They will also be responsible for reviewing all items before field-testing. The actual products for this project will be made available to all Laubach programs in early 2007.

Lorri Sauve and Jane Tuer also gave a “sneak preview” to the products being developed for this project at the Laubach Literacy Ontario Conference in June. The workshops and information were well received by participants.

We are excited about the support the outcomes of this project will give to our member agencies. It will not only give them needed training ideas and activities to meet students’ learning goals, but also give them an excellent start to the “No Wrong Doors” process. This project is also a great beginning to CIPMS.

Word on the Street — Outreach Event

The event was held on September 24th—a sunny, cloudy, cold, rainy Sunday, in Victoria Park Kitchener. We shared the space with our local council, **The Literacy Group of Waterloo Region**.

Our goal was to spread the word about adult literacy and tutoring. This meant having to catch the attention of people passing by.

The Literacy Group had **several large Scrabble games** set up and this drew in children as well as adults – seems everyone likes to make words. We attracted the children by handing out “**I am a Reader**” **book marks**. While the children adorned the book marks with stickers the parents perused statistics about adult literacy as well as information about Laubach Literacy Ontario. It was encouraging to talk to the children and hear them say they “Love to read”. Needless to say, books and rain do not go well together so we packed it in around 3, took our soggy literature and left. Typical of the day, the sun came out about half an hour later, but it was short lived.

Thanks to Mary Anne for making the book marks, and drawing the crowds; to Howard Lane, Lana’s grandchildren, and Mary Anne’s and Lana’s husbands for pitching in and helping out! We managed to hand out plenty of our new pamphlets, listing member agencies, and to refer a few tutors, so it was worth the effort!





Factors Affecting Success

We are pleased to announce the completion of the **Factors Affecting Success Project**. The results are in, the analysis has been done, and the full report will be accessible on the LLO website and AlphaCom by the end of October 2006.

Twenty-two community based programs, representing 16 of 20 regional networking areas, participated in this ground-breaking research. The report covers agency profiles, student demographics and most importantly provides first of its kind research related to factors associated with success in Ontario community based literacy programs!

Survey Highlights:

- Nearly half the sample of students interviewed considered themselves to have a learning disability, and one third of the entire sample indicated that they had received such a diagnosis.
- On entering the literacy program, most students indicated a preference for one-to-one tutoring (69%). Thirty-seven percent indicated a preference for a small group format and 16% indicated a preference for a large group format.
- The average length of time in a program was 8 months.

Indicators of Success Highlights:

- Virtually all students, 97%, indicated that attending their program was a good use of their time
- Almost all students reported improvement in areas pertaining to other personal and adaptive skill areas.
- 88% thought that their confidence in completing reading and writing tasks in daily life was higher than when they began the program. 82% thought their confidence was higher with regard to reading and writing tasks in the workplace.

Key finding from the analysis of factors associated with success indicators:

A higher percentage of students made a net gain in their LBS skills than did not if they received at least

some one-to-one instruction.

The outcome for students was better if their literacy agency was affiliated with one or more literacy organizations.

Students coming from programs that did not have any full-time staff did not do as well as students who came from programs that had one or more full-time staff.

Of the students who received tutoring from volunteers without training, more made no net improvement (25% of students) in their LBS level than made improvement (7%). More students showed improvement than did not if volunteers received between 11 and 20 hours of training.

A summary of recommendations:

The study showed that “overall, program characteristics had a greater impact on student outcome than did student characteristics.” Agencies could undertake a self-study process to determine if current agency characteristics reflect the factors of success identified in this study.

With the distribution of this report, it is expected that others in the literacy field will identify research issues of interest and be inspired to undertake their own projects designed to advance the literacy field.

Participants in this project should be tracked over a longer period of time as many were excluded from the analyses examining outcome because they had not yet completed their literacy program.

The administration of a standardized measure of basic academic skills at intake and exit, would allow for finer changes in skill level to be detected.

Conducting psycho-vocational assessments on a random sample of individuals with and without self-reported learning disabilities would provide a more accurate estimate of the prevalence of learning disabilities in adults attending LBS programs and, more importantly, advance our understanding of the literacy training and vocational needs of adults with learning disabilities.

By Robyn Cook-Ritchie, Project Coordinator



Laubach Literacy Ontario
Since 1981

Satisfaction Survey Results

Newsletter feedback

Comments

"We read it cover to cover", "Enjoy newsletter and website info", "Pink paper hard to read" "good newsletter all around", "enjoy reading about student success".

83% of members who responded to LLO's second member satisfaction survey read every issue of "Expressions", and 100% of respondents rated it highly or moderately interesting overall (75% rated it as highly interesting).

The sections of the newsletter receiving the highest rating were Ministry Information and Student Pages, followed by Website information. 87% said that articles were about the right length, with one respondent saying articles in

general, were too long, and too hard to read. All but four program staff give their copy to someone else when they are done with it. Programs who receive 25 or more copies of Expressions distribute the newsletter using the following methods:

Put on front desk, display table – 7
Include with their newsletter, or mail it out – 3
Tutors pick up or we hand out to tutors – 2
Hand to students – 3
Circulate/share with class – 2
Share with staff and/or board members – 2
Bring articles of interest to students – 3

72% of members were aware that Expressions is also available on LLO's website at www.laubach-on.ca

Respondents said..."I would love to read about..."

- More tips for tutors/hints and suggestions from tutors or volunteers
- Workshop ideas for students
- Councils – what works for them, fundraising activities, recruitment ideas
- Student activities and tutor hints
- Partnerships with stakeholders—what do they do?
- Other volunteers and their tutoring stories
- Learner success stories
- More workforce materials in the literacy field
- Board activity

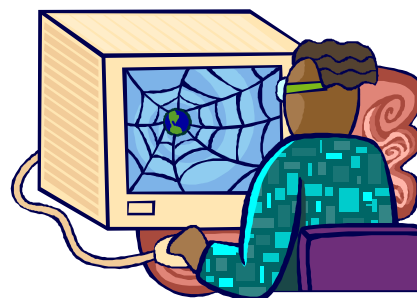
Websites of Interest

Is email ruling your life? Try this tip submitted by Glenn Wolsey on the www.43folders.com website:

Create 3 folders and name them **Follow-Up, Interesting & To Do**. Then, as you check your emails file them straight into the applicable folder.

Later, when you have time you can go straight to these folders and work through them. It will be much quicker to see what needs attending to and you are more likely to be motivated to spare a few minutes clearing your to-do folder.

As we covered in [Inbox Zero](http://www.43folders.com/2006/03/13/inbox-zero/), it's all about [liberating the actions](http://www.43folders.com/2006/03/13/inbox-zero/) out of your mail. For more great tips check out these websites: <http://www.43folders.com/2006/03/13/inbox-zero/> and <http://www.glennwolsey.com>



<http://www.google.com/literacy/>

The Literacy Project — A resource for teachers, literacy organisations and anyone interested in reading and education, created in collaboration with LitCam, Google, and UNESCO's Institute for Life-long Learning.