



# The Connection

## Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council Newsletter

Our Mission:

Assisting adults to improve their reading, writing, math and use of English.

### Readin' and Rockin' Christmas!



Fall/Winter  
2005/2006

On Saturday, December 3, 2005, the Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council and the Readers Café presented a Readin' and Rockin' Christmas! Everyone in attendance enjoyed a Christmas dinner buffet, draws and raffles & a visit from old St Nick. Musical guests included Bill Priddle, Mike Bell, and Mitch Bowden, Jack Tripper, The Pay-day Poets, RD and the Whiskey Chins and The Relics.

### Thanks to Paul, Cher & staff of the Reader 's Café for hosting this event!

\*A special thanks to our Board members Marlene Smith & Roberta Chapman for donating a set of tickets each that allowed four adult learners to attend. All proceeds went to the Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council.



### Family Literacy Day-Read-Write Surf-Sing

On January 28, 2006, families & communities across the country will celebrate the 8th annual Family Literacy Day. Sponsored by Honda & ABC Canada, this event promotes the importance of reading & learning as a family. We invite you to join us at the library & spend some time reading, making a craft, singing together & much more. Adults & teens can enjoy a survivor contest! We are pleased to partner with the Ontario Early Years and the Norfolk & Haldimand County Public Libraries.

**When: Saturday, January 28, 2006**

**Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 noon**

**Where: Norfolk Public Library - Simcoe Branch - 519-426-3506**

**Haldimand Public Library - Dunnville Branch - 905-774-4240**

Pre-registration is required. Please call your local library to register.

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### 2nd Trivia Night in Dunnville

Join us for an evening of trivia and fun! We encourage you to form a team with your co-workers, family, friends & members of your local service clubs & compete for prizes. Cash Bar - 50/50 Draw - Door Prizes

**Where: Optimist Hall Dunnville,  
101 Main Street East, Dunnville, ON**

**When: Saturday, April 1, 2006**

**Tickets & Info call Bill 905-774-9512**



### 4th Sweetheart Radio Auction

Tune in CD 98.9 every morning for a week to place your bid on some **incredible** experiences and items generously donated by our local merchants. For more details listen to CD 98.9, check the Simcoe Reformer or log on to our website at [www.haldimandnorfolk-literacy.com](http://www.haldimandnorfolk-literacy.com).

**When: Week of February 13, 2006**

**Time: 6:00 am - until bidding is over**



## Events Continued/Tutor Page

### Books for Learners

Thanks to Eleanor Proctor for donating funds to assist in purchasing books for our learners. Her name will be placed inside a book as a reminder of her generosity. A workbook, textbook or dictionary can be donated to a learner or class anonymously or in memory of a loved one.

If you are interested please contact our Simcoe office.  
**See page 6 for contact information.**

### Learner Evening-April 25, 2006 Dunnville

We encourage you to come with your student. You are one of the links for your student to our council & all it has to offer! Hope to see you there!

**Volunteer Award**-To be awarded at the Annual General Meeting in May  
**Welcome to our new tutors! - see page 3 for details**

**Tutors please bring this newsletter with you to your next lesson as most learners do not receive one by mail unless he/she requests it.**

### Tutor Upgrading Workshop for all tutors:

**Where:** Simcoe Adult Learning Centre  
(see page 6 for address & contact info)

**When:** Saturday, April 1, 2006

**Topics: Literacy Awareness  
Successful Written Communication**

This is an opportunity to have some fun, share your tutoring challenges and successes and continue your lifelong learning.

Please think about the issues that are important to you and your learner. We are in the initial stages of organizing an informal tutor support group. More details to come in the new year!

### Dates to mark on your calendar:

- \*Saturday, December 3, 2005-**Readin' & Rockin' Christmas!**
- \*Saturday, January 28, 2006-**Family Literacy Day**
- \*Week of February 13, 2006-**4th Sweetheart Radio Auction**
- \*March Break - no classes
- \*Saturday, April 1, 2006-contest deadline **Teens Write for Fun!**(in partnership with Norfolk ArtsCo and the Norfolk County Public Library)
- \*Saturday, April 1, 2006-**Tutor Upgrading Workshop**
- \*Tuesday, April 25, 2006-**4th Learner Evening-Dunnville**
- \*Monday, May 29, 2006-**Annual General Meeting & Dinner**
- \*Saturday, April 1, 2006-**2nd Trivia Night - Dunnville**
- \*June 23 & 24, 2006- **Laubach Literacy Ontario (LLO) Annual Conference**
- \*For more information call our Norfolk Office at 519-428-0064 or Haldimand Office at 905-774-9141 or visit our website at [www.haldimandnorfolkliteracy.com](http://www.haldimandnorfolkliteracy.com).**

### Lifelong learning @ your library

We are very pleased to partner with the Haldimand & Norfolk County Public Libraries in welcoming an **Alphaplus Community Literacy Collection (CLC)** to our communities. (Simcoe & Dunnville branches)

We encourage all learners, tutors, staff, family members & members of the community to visit your local library to **borrow these books**. This collection consists of up to 200 **learner-focused** adult literacy resources that we have for a limited time of one year. The resources you will find include basic reading, writing & numeracy, computer/life skills, family literacy and web based resources to support flexible learning customized by Alphaplus to meet the specific needs of our community.

To access these resources you will need a library card. To get your **FREE Library card** go to any Haldimand or Norfolk County Public Library. Don't forget to bring one piece of identification with your address on it.

Ask your librarian about the  
Alphaplus Community Literacy Collection.

- \*Call our office for more information about this collection**
- \*For more information about the services offered by Alphaplus go to [Alphaplus.ca](http://Alphaplus.ca)**

## Executive Director's Report

We are pleased to announce that our Council has received an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant that has allowed us to update our computer labs in Dunnville and Simcoe. Computers are an incredible learning tool and a wonderful supplement to traditional learning materials. The Government of Canada along with national and international agencies have identified and validated nine Essential Skills. One of the essential skills is Computer Use, the others include Reading Text, Document Use, Numeracy, Writing, Oral Communication, Working with Others, Continuous Learning, Thinking Skills. These skills are used for work, learning and life. See [www15.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca](http://www15.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca) for more details.

**New Volunteer Tutors!** We welcome 11 tutors to our Council:

Anne de la Fosse, Sarah Berta, Gert Brandwood, Josephine Dumanski, Sue de la Fosse, Susan Roach, Joyce Flexman, Lawrence Cyr, Lois Taunton, Josie Penny, Emily Kichler

Thank you for participating in our 12- hour workshop and supporting literacy in our community.

**Awards Announcement:** Last year we announced a new award system. We are very proud of the courage and determination of our adult learners and wanted to recognize individuals for their efforts. Awards were presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 30, 2005.

**Award winners:**

1. Best Attendance of the Year- Laura Temple of Haldimand County, Linda Reid of Norfolk County
2. Student Volunteer of the Year – Stephanie Sherwood of Haldimand County, Ruth Nitschkie of Norfolk County
3. The Doreen Lavigne – Executive Director's Literacy Award- Jeanna Hare of Haldimand County, Henry Heinrichs of Norfolk County
4. The Doreen Lavigne – Executive Director's ESL Award- Ruby Gutierrez of Norfolk County

We are introducing a new award, The **Volunteer of the Year Award**, the recipient will be someone who values respect, sensitivity, and lifelong learning.

This year awards will be based on a period from September 2005 to April 2006.

New nomination forms for all awards will be available in January 2006. (please submit forms by April 28, 2006)

The Literacy Council is currently engaged in a **strategic planning** process- we have identified key areas of focus and development. Thanks to all who attended the first stage, I appreciate your thoughts and ideas.

We appreciate your support in literacy and lifelong learning.

Anne

### Thanks to our funders:

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, United Way of Haldimand and Norfolk, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Also, a special thanks to all private donors.

**For a complete list of our supporters and donors please refer to our Annual Report.**



### Christmas Holidays:

Our classes and most one-on-one matches break for the Christmas holidays.

**Dunnville:** December 15, 2005-last day of classes  
**January 2, 2006-first day back to class**

**Frogmore:** December 8, 2005-last day of classes  
**January 10, 2006-first day back to class**

**Simcoe:** December 15, 2005-last day of classes  
**January 3, 2006-1st day back to class**

Learners, please choose a theme and email your short story, poem or inspirational quote to sherry@hnliteracy.com. Submission deadline: March 30, 2006. Must be 75 words or less.

## Heather's literacy class-Simcoe

**This class borrowed *The Tunnel King* from our local library through the Golden Oak Adult Literacy Book Club.**

**This club introduces adult learners to Canadian fiction and non-fiction books. Support materials include information about each book, a profile on each author and discussion questions.**

Our whole class is reading *The Tunnel King*. The book is about the second World War. Wally Floody was one of the prisoners that helped to dig the escape tunnel.

George

Tonight we (Dave, George, Henry and I) talked about the book called *The Tunnel King*. It is about Wally Floody's great escape.

Susan

We made a compass in class the other night. We magnetized a needle; then we dropped the needle into a bowl of water. We then took a real compass to check its accuracy, and it pointed north. We got that idea from the book called *The Tunnel King*.

Henry

Next week we are going to make a radio just like the prisoners did in *The Tunnel King*. I brought in wire and most of the things that we need. We are having trouble finding a head set. Last week, I went to the hobby shop in Hamilton. Tomorrow I am going to the hardware store in Port Dover to see if they have a crystal set with head phones. If I can't find one, Dave is going to look on the internet.

Ray

## Marie's literacy class -Dunnville

### Learning New Things

Hi my name is Stephanie Sherwood. I live in Dunnville Ont. I grew up in this town for 20 years. I realized in my life that I needed to get my grade 12 education so I joined the Haldimand – Norfolk Literacy Council. This school is so cool. I like all the people here. I am doing great in school. My teacher Marie is the best teacher in the whole world. She taught me a lot so far. I am learning new things everyday. I am having so much fun here.

Stephanie Sherwood

### Caring About My Future

I'd like to share with you how literacy has changed my life. First off, when I started here I barely knew anything. Well I did, just not as much.

I've been here for a year and a few months and it has changed my life. Learning to work with numbers, new words. It's exciting to learn at my age, which is 50 by the way.

I feel more confident and outgoing, and proud to tell people of my experiences at the Haldimand – Norfolk Literacy Council. "I go to school," I tell them, "and I'm proud to be doing so!"

Linda Jenkins

### My School

Since I have started school I have opened up. My schoolmates say when I smile, it lights up the room. I have learned how to spell better, and my Math has improved. I also would like to say that I love coming to school. My classmates are so much fun to hang out with. They keep the room loud and happy.

Joleen

## Learner Page

### How Literacy Has Changed Me

About a year ago, I came to the Haldimand – Norfolk Literacy Council to see about getting my grade twelve. Since I have been coming, I am remembering the things that I learned in school. The things that I thought I had forgotten came back to me with some review work and help from our teacher, Marie Brown. She is such a wonderful teacher, and so very patient. I have also learned to help and encourage other classmates with their work.

It has been a challenge for me coming to school and working two jobs, all at the same time. I realized that getting a good education is very important in life.

My classmates are wonderful people, and we are like a little family. I am very proud to be coming to the Haldimand – Norfolk Literacy Council.

Crystal Nie

### Improving Myself

When I started coming to the Haldimand – Norfolk Literacy Council, I was shy in my studies. In the last year and a half, I have picked up with my studies. My Spelling was poor before, now it has improved a lot from when I first started 4 years ago. I am surprised my reading has also become better. Before my Reading was poor so I couldn't read too much, but now I can read more. Coming to the Literacy program keeps me busy three days out of the week. Over the time I have been here, I have met other learners, and now I have friends that I can call friends, which I never had before. I love coming to learn more than before.

Laura Temple

### Learner News

**\*Take a look at the new adult learner books in the Simcoe & Dunnville libraries from Alphaplus in Toronto. We have them for one year-ask your tutor & staff for more info!**

**\*Tuesday, April 25-Student Evening-7:00 pm at Dunnville Library for students, staff & tutors - call 905-774-9141 for info**

**\*New computers in classrooms thanks to Trillium grant :)**

**\*Do you have a library card? If not, ask your tutor for help**

**\*Ask your tutor/instructor about the Golden Oak Book Club**

**\*Do you want to have fun & help us raise money for our ESL & Literacy programs? Check out our events page 1 & 2**

**\*Would you be interested in telling your story? What brought you to the Literacy Council? Call Anne 519-428-0064**

**\*Nominate your tutor for a volunteer award**

See page 3 for more details.

### The Learning Process

The Literacy Council has changed my life in so many ways. I look forward to coming to the class to learn. I have learned so much in just the little time I have been here. My Math and

English are easier to learn in a small setting. The class has helped me grow by being more open, self-confident, and the staff is always kind, helpful, and make the learning process very enjoyable. My classmates are very interesting. My daughter and I enjoy the experience of doing our homework together at night. Being in school again is a sheer pleasure. I have grown in many ways, my self-confidence has grown, and my attitude is different. I really enjoy doing Math, Spelling, Reading, and interacting with other students now. I am thankful that the Literacy Council is here for me and other students like myself that need it.

Beverly J Marr

### How Literacy Changed My Life

Literacy has changed my life, as I am now able to read and comprehend what I'm reading.

I feel confident about myself and am able to read company contracts and instructions. I can fill out job applications more easily now. As a union steward it makes life a lot simpler.

When a fellow employee needs a grievance filed, there are forms to be filled out. I'm able to fill these forms out and take their statements with confidence so that they will be understood.

Shane Whitwell

### Larry and Linda's tutor/learner match

#### My Story

The leaves are falling off the trees and the fair is over for another year. I went to the fair on Wednesday and had fun. There was a man who was playing all kinds of musical instruments and singing to all the people.

Tutor match Larry & Linda

[www.haldimandnorfolkliteracy.com](http://www.haldimandnorfolkliteracy.com)

### **Simcoe Head Office and Adult Learning Centre**

39 Kent Street, North, Unit 6  
Simcoe, Ontario, N3Y 3S1  
**Phone: 519-428-0064** Fax: 519-428-4172  
Anne Davidson-hnliteracy@kwic.com  
Sherry Black-Shrubb-sherry@hnliteracy.com  
**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday  
9:00-3:30

### **Dunnville Office and Adult Learning Centre**

Location: 101 Main St.,  
Mailing Address: Box 162Dunnville, Ontario,  
N1A 2X5  
**Phone: 905-774-9141** Fax: 905-774-6464  
susan@hnliteracy.com  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9-12 & 1-3:30

## **Our Dedicated Team:**

### **Our Board of Directors:**

#### **Officers:**

President: Stan Reid  
Past President: Terry Lubrick  
Treasurer: Bill Van Nort

#### **Directors:**

Roberta Chapman  
Larry Cyr  
Phil Hedges  
Jody Orr  
Marlene Smith  
Debbie van Grieken

**Welcome to Jody, Debbie and Larry!**

### **Our Small Group Instructors:**

Heather Adams: Literacy Simcoe  
Marie Brown: Literacy Dunnville  
Marisa Guendert: ESL/Literacy Frogmore  
Christine Kennedy: Frogmore  
Mary Loewen: Literacy Frogmore  
Suzie Mabee: Literacy Frogmore  
Pat Meiklejohn: Literacy Simcoe  
Catherine Payne: ESL Simcoe, Port Dover, Waterford  
Pauline Coghlon: ESL Dunnville

### **Marketing/Development**

**Coordinator-**Lynne Bradstreet

**Tutor Trainers:** Helen McLeod  
Anne Davidson

**Apprentice Trainer:** Pat Meiklejohn

### **Our Office Staff:**

Anne Davidson: Executive Director - hnliteracy@kwic.com  
Sherry Black-Shrubb: Norfolk Coordinator/Administrative Assistant - sherry@hnliteracy.com  
Susan Dolan: Haldimand Coordinator - susan@hnliteracy.com  
Doreen Lavigne-Bookkeeper