

Our Side Of The Mountain

Collected Writings of Adult Learners



Cape Breton Literacy Network

2000

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My Friend

He is always my friend and the one I can go to for guidance. He always has the time to listen to me. He never complains. He maneuvers me through my decisions that I make and is there to guide me at all times.

He helps me find the good in the world and in other people. He sends his helpers when I am in need of aid or assistance. He believes in me when others question me. I don't or need to visit him every week but I talk to him every day sometimes only for a few minutes. He helps me find peace in our crazy world.

Since I have found Him again, after years without him, I am truly happy and feel blessed. My friend is my salvation. He is our Lord.

Paula LeLievre
Whitney Pier Morning Class

Sydney's Tea Party

Last Sunday afternoon of March 26, 2000, the Citizens of Action (CIA) led a protest rally because of the C.B.R.M.'s decision to replace the R.C.M.P. with an expanded regional force.

This attracted crowds of supporters anywhere from 3,000 to 8,500 people who marched from the Mayflower Mall, which is outside the city limits.

They had the R.C.M.P. escorting the protesters from the mall to the city limits where the regional police took over by escorting them down to the civic centre boardwalk by the Harbour Front.

This demonstration was a re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party when the American colonists dumped tea bags into the Boston Harbour to protest a tax imposed by the British Parliament.

Several hundred people, including dozens with Pro-R.C.M.P. signs, and a handful in period costume, gathered around in a show of support as John MacMullin of Dutch Brook, chairperson of the CIA, spoke to reporters while standing on a lumber truck - turned podium.

According to MacMullin, who announced to the crowd of 8,500 this turnout of the rally should be enough to catch the attention of Nova Scotia Premier John Hamm and his cabinet ministers.

The parade today was done for Halifax, knowing it was a waste of time to try to address the mayor and council. MacMullin said the CIA has turned their eyes toward the province after abandoning hope that the C.B.R.M. will agree to review the decision or put the matter to a plebiscite.

In my opinion, I hope the efforts of the Citizens of Action (CIA) have not turned out to be a waste of time.

Betty Clarke
Whitney Pier Morning Class

Peaceful Protest Over Policing Decision

On Sunday, March 26 a group Known as Citizens In Action (CIA) held a protest in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

CIA started their demonstration at one o'clock in the afternoon at the Mayflower Mall parking lot. Protesters criticized the Cape Breton Regional Municipality's decision to oust the R.C.M.P. form the region. The demonstration was held to draw attention to the policing decision that has affected the island in the past few months.

John MacMullen, leader of the group bashed the C.B.R.M. and counselors' decision to expand the regional police force instead of having a dual force. Crowds were estimated in the thousands. Some dressed in costumes while others held pro-RCMP signs. C.I.A. members used a lumber truck as a podium to speak to the crowd. The rally in the parking lot was led by R.C.M.P. to the city limits where the regional police escorted the protesters to the Civic Centre Boardwalk.

MacMullen said he was trying to raise awareness of the Nova Scotia Government and that a new plebiscite was in order for the municipality to have a "fair say".

CIA was hoping to discuss the issue with provincial Justice Minister Michael Baker in order to make an advancement on the issue.

My question to the reader is: "why is it always a money issue? Can you put a price on lawful community and peace of mind?"

Michael Gallant
Whitney Pier Morning Class

My Thoughts on War

Wars are often started by people who exaggerate situations that pertain to the environment. Often a lot of rules have been endorsed and passed with which people do not agree.

One form of war is "War of Words". For instance, the subject of the Sydney Tar Ponds has been argued in public meetings and also the media. Peoples feelings have been hurt, sometimes to the point of non-repair.

We can also consider wars in third world countries. For instance, India with a large population, suffers from hunger and disease. There are unequal rights so people are not able to receive proper food or medical attention, this is often due largely to those who take advantage of the less fortunate.

These type of people often live in extravagant homes with many luxuries. In order for the poor of India to gain independence with self worth, they would need to over turn the government of the day. Many times wars have broken out with much sorrow such as homelessness, pain and death.

I pray that peace will prevail in the near future.

Marg MacKay
Whitney Pier Morning Class

I.C.Q.

I.C.Q. is a message line,
To send messages if you have the time.
I.C.Q. is lots of fun.
You can send six messages or even one.
You can travel all over the world
As fast as a heart beat,
I think this is really neat.
As you don't even leave your computer seat.
I can talk to many people from different places.
Sometimes they will send you pictures of their faces.
They have unusual cultures and trends
I can't believe how many I got of computer friends.
My friends send me, flowers, poems and fun sites.
Then the computer will freeze up , and that bites.
The I.C.Q. is sending and receiving messages really slow.
"Why?" it is doing this to me "I do not know".
Oops, I got to let you go.

Betty Clarke
Whitney Pier Morning Class

A Bad Place to Work

I work at the SPCA to pay off a fine. You would be surprised of what I saw people do to their animals. Some people leave their animals outside all night. In the morning the employees bring the animals to wash them and give needle and put them in a kennel.

Sometime I saw people throw the animals out of a moving car at the SPCA. Some animals when they arrived had maggots coming out of their ear and mouth. The SPCA has two large freezers full of dead animals. I think it took a month and a half to fill it. Then they take them to the incinerator.

The SPCA have a hard time looking after the animals they have over at the shelter. They don't need people to point fingers at them. If only people saw what they do over at the SPCA, they would think a second time before shouting at these people. I would pat those people on the back and say you are doing the best you can, so keep doing what you are doing and forget what other people are saying.

They would change their minds and back off if they knew how hard it was to put an animal to sleep. I se the look on these people's faces and they are upset and mad. If you saw the amount of animals that come in there every day you would have no other choice but to put them down. It is not hurting the animal, but doing the right thing. Tell me, if you could put an animal to sleep? I bet you couldn't do it. So say thank you to those people at the SPCA.

I think if people are going to have pets they should keep better care of them and take them for a walk every day, and play with them. It upset me when I saw what people did to their animals. They were sick, afraid, hurt, hungry, and sometimes dead. It only takes one or two people to make it hard to expensive to adopt animals. I hope this letter will do some good for people who want to adopt animals.

Stewart Moore
North side Evening Class

The Fishing Trip

On April 1st my four friends and I went on a fishing trip to Middle River. We stayed the night in a cabin. The next morning when daylight broke, we all scrambled to get ready. The weather was still cold and there was ice on the pond where we went. I'm the heaviest of us all, so they told me to go check the ice, it held me so they all came out. We drilled the holes in the ice and started fishing. One of the guys, Mike said he had the first fish, when he made a sudden move he fell in, his cousin Terry made a move to help him and he fell in. Then one of the other guys Lee tried to help , he fell in, then there was only two of us left. So Brent, the lightest of us ran over and laid on the ice to hold up Mike, I ran to shore and got some paddles to help get them out. When it was all over everybody got out ok but it goes to show how foolish people can get to get a few fish.

Daniel F. Bonnar
North side Evening Class

A Single Mom Raising A Child with Attention Deficit Disorder

I'm a single mother who has a child with A.D.D. and A.D.H.D. It is very hard raising a child with this disease. Most people don't understand about it. They look at my child like he is bad or that something is wrong with him. They see him hollering, jumping, throwing, running around constantly, and in fights all the time. My son doesn't know how to keep a friend, or how to play with one. He usually wants to do things his way or no way. He doesn't concentrate on school work or what the teacher is teaching. Everywhere I go with him, people say things about him, about how bad he is, and the things he does. Even me, I holler at him too. He sees this going on every day of his life, people not understanding him, people judging him. Nobody understands what he is going through. People ask me would I change him if I could and I say no because I love him just the way he is. This is my son with Attention Deficit Disorder.

Leehann Arsenault
North side Evening Class

Back in School at 52

I was starting to hit that stage of my life where I did the reflecting thing a lot. That's when you look at where you are now and start regretting the things you could have done or should have done but didn't. Then I get this call asking me if I would like to take this course at school. I took a mild panic attack while nicely saying, "Sure"! The idea intrigued me and scared me to death at the same time. Could I remember all the things I learned like 32 years ago? I'll probably be the oldest one there and they'll think I'm their grandmother. Then again, my 5 little grandsons call me their "cool nanny" and that's cause nanny gives them all their own way. I'll have to dye those grey roots so I don't look antique. All these things went through my head. I'm too old to be young and I'm too young to be old. Kind of like limbo. I decided "what the hell", I can do this. I'll get to meet new people and it will be interesting to see how much of the school work I can remember. My two teen-age kids thought it would do me good but it would also keep me from getting in their hair about their homework. My two older kids are the same age as some of the ones in my class. The day I was to start had me feeling excited and stupid at the same time. I was really glad to see people I already knew at the door. Lisa. Our teacher, seemed nice but nervous and I looked at her thinking "boy have you ever got your work cut out for you". It was surprising how the Math and English came back to me. It's like old things stored in an attic but I was able to move aside all the dust and cobwebs. The whole experience was a real moral booster and gave me more confidence to take this further and possibly go after an interesting course. It's never too late is more of a reality thing for me now. I had a great time torturing Lisa with my constant talking, really enjoyed the others in the class and their different characters. Lisa taught us things and we taught her things. We often strayed away from school subjects and talked about interesting current events. I'm really glad I took this course because it was educational for me and gave me a chance to learn and laugh with some real nice people. I'm going to hate to see it end and I'm going to miss everybody even Danny. Computer class, I don't think I'll miss too much. I'm convinced if you stare at those screens long enough they could suck you inside. Like in the movie "Poltergeist".

Sharon King
North side Evening Class Going

Back to School: A Second Chance

Nervous. Excited. Shy. This is how we felt at the beginning of our school year in late October. Then we got to know each other and the nervousness went away, we felt comfortable because the people were friendly and nice.

We all had our own reasons for being here. Michelle wanted to meet new people and to get a job. Stephen wanted to be able to help his son with his school work. Ches wanted to get his grade 12 so he can take a cooking course.

It's easy to come here every day. George had the time to spend with us individually. The classroom is comfortable because we have lots of room to work. Coffee and tea are available and free of charge. We have access to a phone in our classroom. We are responsible for keeping our area clean.

We come to class 2 and a half days a week. We spent a lot of time studying math: Rounding Off, Place Value, Multiplication, Division, Fractions, Word Problems. We read a lot of stories, and we did a lot of different kinds of writing. In our workshops we learned about Nutrition, Stress Management, S.T.D.'s, Addictions, Anger management, Self Esteem.

Now we know each other we have a lot of fun together. And we have a lot more confidence than we did.

It's getting close to the end of the year. We are all looking forward to continuing our education in the future.

Michelle MacPherson
Stephen O'Donnell
Chesley Clarke
Peers Helping Peers New Waterford

In a world of my own

Through the day I daze, I dream and think. My mind wanders and I do not listen to the words thrown towards me. You believe I am not interested but yet I love to learn. I believe if we try we can all succeed, but motivation is the continuous process we must develop. There was once I thought I wondered too much. But now I believe I was wrong. Wondering has increased my painting skills, building the pictures slowly but surely. I am in a world of my own I believe, and I don't consider it to bring on many problems. It's very soothing. Someday I dream I will be able to conquer my every day dreams. I enjoy writing, the computer is one of favorite hobbies. I believe we are just getting lazy with the use of the computers though. In conclusion I would just like to say I am in a world of my own.

Amy MacPhee
Project CONNECT - Sydney

THE PATH

The path reminds me of my life. When I start walking down the path it is the beginning of my life.

I always have to make a choice which way to go. I could go on to see what's further on or turn to go back where I have started from.

If I'm 3/4 of the way I may as well take the last few miles to see what's at the end of the path for me.

George Snow
Project CONNECT - Sydney

The Day by Myself

One day I decided to go for a walk all by myself down this path I saw. I thought it would be a nice walk to take .

When I began my journey the first thing I enjoyed was the peace and quiet. The sound of the birds made me feel at ease. I heard water rushing in the distance. I came to a beautiful waterfall. I enjoyed it so much I decided to sit down on the rocks and enjoy the sound of rushing water.

If you sat there long enough you could see the salmon trying to jump up the falls. There were grizzly bears in the distance trying to get the salmon for food. It was a beautiful site.

Down a little ways I saw a deer with her fawn getting a drink by the bank. Summer was definitely here.

Down the river I saw bald eagles swooping down, getting their food right out of the water. I never saw so many animals in one place at one time.

Well, it was getting dark so I had to head home. It was one of the best days I have ever had by myself. I really enjoyed it.

June Shewan
Project CONNECT - Sydney

Struggles

Hard Time in the Maritimes

She probably couldn't get her Ed

She had to bring her children up as a single parent. She went to college to get her Computer Science Degree. She now has a job in This Field.

Raylene D. Allyne
Project CONNECT - Sydney

They say I couldn't do it, But look at me now? I made up my own.

When I was fifteen, I came out of school , Because I couldn't do the work because of my learning pattern, so I quit and never went back after been out for twenty years.

So look at me now I'm learning so much in school than I did when I was before. I am completing my education, so I can go into the workforce when I complete my school.

Why I decided to go back to school?

I came back to school so I can go after my dream and to reach my goals in life. The most important thing for me is to better my life so I can fulfill my dreams and to have reached that goal and it makes me feel good inside that I came back to school.

Yvonne Marsman
Project CONNECT - Sydney

Walk Down the Path

I like to walk down along The path to think. I like to watch nature Because it makes me feel good to watch things change. It is good to learn about nature, just like me to learn things in School. I like to fish in the brook. I like to watch wildlife on TV.

Charles Gardiner
Project CONNECT - Sydney

Motorbike

I really like a sport motorbike, speed and take my time and going with my girlfriend or go to Florida to check the babes because I'm a wild thing and a cool guy...

I feel comfortable while I'm driving. I'm really like going to Florida for a few days.

I gotta watch out for the Deer!!! Bang! Ow! I got pain in the butt!!!

I better slow down or I will hurt myself.

Jason MacLean
Project CONNECT - Sydney

My Goal

My name is Donna. I am going to tell you how I am going to reach my goal. I am married with three children so I find life really hectic. I felt so embarrassed when my twelve year old son came home from school with grade seven math and I could not help him do it. I said to my self I am going back to school. I tried for two years to find an adult upgrading program which I am now in. It is called Project Connect. The teachers and tutors are very nice and supportive. They take extra time to help you in any way. After I graduate from here I am going to go to Marconi Campus for adult academic up grading. From there I am going to go for a Licensed Practical Nurse (L.P.N.). I know this is a long term goal but if really want it bad enough no obstacle is going to stand in your way.

Donna Carrigan
Sydney Day Class

Hunting in the Highlands

One fall weekend I was invited to go hunting moose in the Highlands in Cape Breton.

The man who invited me was my husband's uncle, his name is Hector. We stayed at his cabin at Margaree Valley. It takes about a hour from North Sydney to get there.

We would start by getting up around 5 am. We would have our hearty bacon and eggs. We would then make sure that we dressed warmly, and have all our gear plus the right safety clothes on hand.

Once we reached the hunting grounds, we would cover a lot of land by driving constantly. We would have spots where we baited apples and we would stop there too.

We found that the moose liked to move in the early morning and late afternoon. But sometimes they would come right out in front of you. They became really foolish in the rut season.

One late afternoon on our way back to the cabin from hunting, a moose came right out in front of us and just stood there. Our adrenaline started pumping, the moose was directly in our sights, Hector shot the beast. It ran up the hill and finally dropped, it was still alive and looking directly at me. Then finally it closed its eyes and died.

We started with the knife from the bottom up. We had a really nice knife for the job. The gut came out perfectly, just like a big bubble. Hector cut it out without a problem. You have to make sure that you don't break the guts because it will ruin the meat.

We never wasted anything from the Moose. We kept the heart and kidneys for people who like to eat organs. We would keep the horns for decorations. The grandmother Hilda, would like to paint the horns and hang them around the cabin.

So all the driving around, waiting patiently, scoping out spots and freezing our butts off, paid off in the end. Plus I had meat for the winter.

It's been two years since I last went moose hunting, I sure miss the excitement of the chase, the thrill of the kill and the taste of the meat.

By: June Shewan
Date: March 2,000

KEY DECISIONS

Good decision making is crucial to everyday life. Recognizing that every decision has a consequence is also very important. Sometimes a person makes decisions without fully understanding the consequences.

Quitting school is one such example. When a student quits school it is usually a result of peer pressure, system failure, immaturity, and/or general disinterest. At first, quitting seems like a good idea. With no deadlines or pressures, there is a sense of freedom and lack of responsibility. You think that time is yours to waste and that it really doesn't matter.

However, time marches on. Suddenly former school friends are shutting you out of their groups. Watching them graduate and get good jobs, you realize that they have made a better life for themselves. You, however, are in dead end job going nowhere and must face the reality that you have made a big mistake.

Now there are more decisions to make. How do you fix your past mistakes in order to improve your future? You recognize that the key to your downfall was quitting school and you decide to concentrate on continuing your education.

There are several options available, all of which may seem frightening at first. There are adult literacy programs offering day and evening classes, provincial upgrading programs, and continuing education classes, to name just a few. Regardless which program is chosen, you must realize that it probably will seem scary to go back and try something that you had a negative experience with in the past. The key, however, is taking that first step and enrolling in a class.

Having made this decision, you must then be determined to abide by it and thus reap the consequences. Through perseverance, hard work, and dedication, you will achieve your goal— improving your education.

Remember - every decision, whether it be good or bad, has its consequences. The decision to go back to school may be one of the most important you will make but the consequences will be extremely rewarding.

Written by Anne Marie LeDrew, Donald Clements and Mike Fitzgerald

Swiss Air 111

On the night of September 2nd, 1998 there was a plane in trouble over the coast of Nova Scotia. Swiss Air 111 was carrying 229 passengers flying out of New York to Switzerland. They radioed that they were having difficulties with electrical systems. They were told to proceed to Halifax but they went down off the coast of Halifax around Peggy's Cove.

I started my first day of work on the Coast Guard ship Mary Hitchens at 12:00 PM. She is out of Dartmouth NS. We were heading to Louisburg NS on fisheries patrol when at 22:42 PM we received a rescue call that a plane was down. We did not know what type of plane but assumed it was just a small one. We turned around and headed back towards Halifax in the area where it was supposed to have gone down. My shift was over at 12:00 AM but I was awakened at 2:45 AM when they needed another pair of eyes on the bridge because of fog. We started seeing debris at about 3:00 AM. I was on the searchlight. We stopped and waited for daybreak before launching a FRC (Fast Rescue Craft). The fog kept us busy because it was so thick that you could not see more than two to five meters. There were a lot of boats around as we could see them on radar.

There were a lot of different people involved in this search and rescue. A lot of them were fishermen from surrounding communities and auxiliary Coast Guard and mostly small fishing boats. The larger vessels were Navy and Coast Guard ships. Some RCMP Patrol boats were involved. It was a combined effort by all those who were involved in this search and rescue tragedy. As the search and rescue changed to a recovery the United States helped with the Navy ship called the "U.S.S. Grapple". It was a dive and retrieval unit. There was also a Canadian Navy dive ship involved.

When it first started it was hopeful that we would find survivors but that changed when we saw the damage that was caused. In the first three days on my ship alone we had taken aboard sixteen parts of bodies of different people who were aboard Swiss Air 111. My job was to help take care of and go through the personal effects of the passengers of Swiss Air 111 and give them to the Captain. As we went through these effects I saw things like teddy bears, baby bottles, compact discs and many other personal belongings. I felt very helpless but I remembered that if this was one of my family members I would want someone to find something so I would have closure to deal with this tragedy. This disaster is something that I will never want to forget or will forget.

The Canadian government brought in Critical Stress Teams to deal with anybody who was involved in the Swiss Air tragedy. I thought this helped family and those of us who were involved in the Swiss Air disaster. I would like to go and see the monument that is in Peggy's Cove. One thing I can say is when a disaster like Swiss Air 111 happens, the people of Nova Scotia came together like nothing I had ever seen and I have the greatest respect for anyone that was involved.

By: Daniel Dunlap, Quarter Master on the Coast Guard "Mary Hitchens"

Ghost Stories

This is a tale of a ghost town. Ghosts live in haunted houses and travel around roads and shortcuts in Northern Pennsylvania. On Halloween night they travel to the crossroads around midnight .

In the year 1974 vampires lived in a town in Pennsylvania and another in Connecticut .

Ghosts are also found in woods, hotels, and museums with pictures of people and candles on the wall. These places have haunted piano music.

This is a story about J.B. Fletcher, a mystery writer who lives in Cabot Cove, Maine. She finds clues and solves the mystery of a French Acadian ghost who lives in a castle. The story takes place on Halloween night around 5:00 in a castle with no light and lots of mystery.

The story by Lisa Marie McGrath

A Start

I started this class on Jan 10, 2000. Each class I go to I feel more excited than the last. When I come home from school I feel more excited, more self esteem than ever before in my life. As long as I am going to school I hope I will always be able to go. I feel that way. I learn something new every time I am in school. I hope some day I have enough self-esteem and education to have a job and a girlfriend who I can help also with problems. I am a very bright person with a high I.Q. I feel if I get enough education I will be a wonderful person to be around and will never get down.

James Mercer

The Pony Express

This form of mail transport began in western U.S.A. Long hard miles were covered in short time. The riders were young -seventeen was the average age. Young, but hardened & rugged; good with a gun, good with a rifle. They were familiar as possible with the country. Their horses were a breed from small Indian ponies & ranch quarter horses. They were fast & could run hard on little water. Stations for water & changing mounts were 80 miles apart. A quick bite to eat for horse & rider & maybe a fresh mount if available, or just back on the trail with the same mount. Renegades made things difficult & many a rider had to outrun a bullet in the back.

Terry MacDonald

My Favorite Things

My favorite thing is getting my picture taken with babies. Babies are cute. I like them because they have blonde and brown hair, and blue and brown eyes. Another thing I like is going visiting my relatives and cousins. Another thing I like is cleaning place mats and tables and sweeping floors.

Ruth Mouland

My Trip to Halifax

I am going to see my Godmother in Halifax. She is in an apartment that I am really looking forward to see. I am going up for a week to spend some time her, and I am so glad that I am going up. I didn't see her since her move up to Halifax. My staff is going to take me up. I am looking forward to going up there. I know that I am going to have fun with my Godmother. I am going up sometime in June and I can't wait. I love her very much because she is my Godmother. Because I am her Godchild she is good to me.

By Patricia Hamper

MY FAMILY

I AM GOING TO NEW BRUNSWICK THIS SUMMER. WHEN I'M IN NEW BRUNSWICK I GO SWIMMING IN THE OCEAN. I WILL HAVE A BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH MY SISTER LUCILLE. I ALSO GO SHOPPING WITH MY NIECE MELAINE.

ROSEANN CRAWFORD

Mr. Goldfinny

The best pet to have in the whole world (except for a dog) is a goldfish. My goldfish's full name is Mr. Goldfinny III. He loves to eat, swim, and throw rocks. Mr Goldfinny used to have a nice big bowl, but one day he was playing too rough and put a crack in it. Now he has to live in his vacation bowl until I can find him a new one.

Rob MacVicar

GARDENING

Gardening is a very relaxing and enjoyable pastime. Although people think that it is too hard or time consuming, it is a very simple task. As eastern Canada has a longer winter season than some other provinces, seeds and/or starter plants should not be put in the ground until after June fifteenth, when the risk of frost has passed. Only a few things are needed to start a flowerbed or garden. Once you have top soil or black earth, a spade, seeds or starter plants, water and gardening gloves, you are ready to start.

Some plants require a lot of sun and need a sunny area. For example, pansies, petunias, Shasta daisies, and violas are sun loving plants and should be planted where they will get sun all day. Plants like phlox, sweet Williams, and hollyhocks are shade loving plants and grow better in a shaded area, with just a bit of sun. To plant a larger garden, find an area with both sun and shade and make your garden interesting by making it in a design like a circle, square, or kidney shape. Start with the tallest plants in back, medium plants next and smaller plants in front for an attractive arrangement . Gardening may be a bit time consuming but after it is all done you will enjoy the beauty and fragrance of your garden.

By Anne Marie LeDrew

The Fishing Trip

On April 1st my four friends and I went on a fishing trip to Middle River. We stayed the night in a cabin. The next morning when daylight broke, we all scrambled to get ready. The weather was still cold and there was ice on the pond where we went. I'm the heaviest of us all, so they told me to go check the ice, it held me so they all came out. We drilled the holes in the ice and started fishing. One of the guys, Mike said he had the first fish, when he made a sudden move he fell in, his cousin Terry made a move to help him and he fell in. Then one of the other guys Lee tried to help, he fell in, then there was only two of us left. So Brent, the lightest of us ran over and laid on the ice to hold up Mike, I ran to shore and got some paddles to help get them out. When it was all over everybody got out ok but it goes to show how foolish people can get to get a few fish.

Daniel F. Bonnar
North side Evening Class

OPENING THE DOORS

Going back to school has helped me by opening up doors that I did not even dare knock on before. School has made it possible for me to obtain an education and better myself by giving me self-respect and the confidence to go on. Now that doors are opening up for me, I find myself looking at more things to do. Going to the library and signing up for a computer class is one such example. Being out of the system for so long an individual tends to lose confidence in him/herself. In today's world it is hard to get ahead or even survive without an education. Not everyone is ready to make the same choice. He or she has to do it for themselves, when they are ready. It will not be easy- in fact it will at times be quite hard- but not as hard as trying to live today without an education. For me, it has brought inner peace.

Opening the doors to a new education may not be for everyone, but if you do not have an education and you have the opportunity to obtain one, go for it! You have nothing to lose and an education to gain!

By Donald Clements

My Friend

He is always my friend and the one I can go to for guidance. He always has the time to listen to me. He never complains. He maneuvers me through my decisions that I make and is there to guide me at all times. He helps me find the good in the world and in other people. He sends his helpers when I am in need of aid or assistance. He believes in me when others question me. I don't need to visit him every week but I talk to him everyday sometimes only for a few minutes. He helps me find peace in our crazy world. Since I have found Him again, after years without him, I am truly happy and feel blessed. My friend is my salvation. He is our lord.

Paula LeLievre
Whitney Pier Morning Class

WRESTLING

For a few years now I have had a hobby that holds a lot of interest for me. This hobby is sports entertainment, or what is better known as professional wrestling. The first wrestling match I watched which really grabbed my attention and made me a true wrestling fan was between the immortal Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant.

It was on March 29, 1987 that I watched Wrestle mania Three taking place at the Pontiac Silverdome. Hulk Hogan was defending the World Wrestling Federation heavy weight belt against Andre the Giant. With over ninety-three thousand wrestling fans chanting their favourite superstars' names you could hardly hear yourself think. I wondered what it would have been like to actually be there to see Hulk Hogan drop his massive leg across Andre the Giant's neck and to see Hulk Hogan's arm raised in victory. From that moment on, wrestling has been my favourite hobby, no matter if I'm watching it on television or on Pay-Per -View. Wrestling will always remain my favourite thing to watch.

By Mike Fitzgerald