

Our Side Of The Mountain

Collected Writings of Adult Learners



Cape Breton Literacy Network
2002

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My Wife



The person who had an impact on my life would be my wife, Connie. Up until I met her I didn't really want to do much of anything at all because my father had just passed away. It really took a chunk out of my heart. In meeting Connie and falling in love and getting married to her really got me on track again. It gave me a reason to live again. My reason for this is Connie, my wife, she is my life. As far as my dad, well he will never be forgotten at least not in my lifetime anyway.

Ricky Parsons
New Waterford Day Class

Helping People



I was able to change a very special person in my life. This person was very sad and did not smile at all. They were very sad because of things that had happened in their life that were very bad. It made this person sad for a very long time. I made this person happy by talking to them and being their friend. I made this person laugh for the first time in a very long time. I changed this person's life. I am very glad that I could make this person happy. I like to make people happy.

Ashley MacKinnor
New Waterford Day Class

Random Acts of Kindness



I do believe in acts of kindness. I believe that there are people who are always ready to help other people. I think that it is important to be there for people when they need you. I think that if people didn't care about others it would be a very cruel world. Being kind to people never hurt anyone but it brings more kindness to this world.

Yves Demers

An Event That Changed My Life



My life changed when I started school. I became a different person because I felt good about myself. I felt I had to make a goal for myself. I had to get up for school every morning even when I felt like staying in bed. When I first started school I was really scared because I didn't know anyone there. When I got to school I felt better when I meet the teacher. She made me feel comfortable and at home with myself. She told me that I just had to do things at my own pace and never be in a hurry to get finished first. So, the more time I spent in school I got used to everything all over again. I forgot a lot from when I was in school a long time ago. Today I am still going to school and I really like it. They say you are never too old to go back to school.

Cathy Campbell
New Waterford Day Class

An Event That Changed My Life



On June 28, 1998 at 6:03 in the morning I had a baby boy. His name is Marcel Yves Demers. He weighed 5 pounds and 15 ounces. He is my pride and joy. Every day he changes my life by saying different things. He learns more every day and understands me when I talk to him. Now I am having another baby. I hope this baby gives me half the joy that Marcel gave me because I feel so blessed to have children.

Hilda Demers
New Waterford Day Class

The Key



This key can open many things. It can open the door to a new home. It can open the door to a new car. It can open a security box at the bank. You can use this key to operate a new boat. You can use this key to operate a new motor cycle. This key could be the key to world peace. It could be the key to a cure for illness. It could be the key to mend a broken heart but most of all this key can open your imagination.

Hilda Demers
New Waterford Day Class

An Impact on my Life



The person who has made an impact on my life is my boyfriend Derrick. He is very thoughtful and he thinks of everyone else first. He helps Da filling out different papers and takes him to church every Saturday. I would like to do something special for him. He is very good to my daughter. Derrick takes her anywhere she wants to go. Derrick takes my father out for a drive every Sunday afternoon. I think that he is very thoughtful of him to do something like that. Da thinks there is no one in the world like Derrick. Before my mother died last year she told me in the hospital that she was glad I had someone like Derrick in my life. She said she could be a peace knowing that. I started to cry in the hospital. I am very blessed to have someone like Derrick in my life.

Marjorie Chicarella
New Waterford Day Class

People Who Made an Impact on My Life



When I first started classes I was very upset because I had been out of school for 20 years. Kathleen and Robin made me feel like part of the class. I was unable to read and write. They took the time to work with me so I could understand the basics of reading and writing skills so I could function in today's society. Kathleen and Robin are very special people in my life.

Frances Hibbert
New Waterford Day Class

Random Acts of Kindness



I do believe in random acts of kindness and that people will still take the time to help others. Someone once did a very kind thing for me. At Christmas 1999, my son got two new games for his Game Boy. He went to visit his friend and on his way to his friend's house he lost his Game Boy. He was very upset and for two weeks we searched for it with no success. I decided to put an ad in the paper offering a reward to see if someone would answer the ad. I had nothing to lose. Two days after my ad appeared in the paper I received a phone call that someone had found my son's game. A lady who lived not far from my father's house found the Game Boy and returned it to me. My son was very happy to get his Game Boy back. It goes to show that there are still honest people in the world.

Joanne McNeil
New Waterford Day Class

Winning a Large Sum of Money



Our class decided to have a discussion on whether or not your life would change as the result of winning a large amount of money. After some discussion we decided that if you had common sense it would be a good thing to win money but it could also be a negative thing. We compiled a list of positive and negative things that could happen in your life if you won a large amount of money.

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
Travel	Changes in personality
No money worries	Changes in relationships
Help Charities	Being harassed for money
Help friends and family	Could put your family in danger
Education for self and family	If you lost the money you would have a hard time going back to your former lifestyle.
Buy homes, cars, jewelry, furs	Some people have turned to alcohol or drugs as a result of not being able to handle having so much money.
Investments	Your friends would probably not feel the same about you
Able to buy anything you want	

New Waterford Day Class-Connie Parsons, Ricky Parsons, Chesley Clarke, Yves Demers, Hilda Demers, Cathy Campbell, Marjorie Chicarella, Barbara Keeping, Ashley Mac Kinnon, Pamela Fortune, Frances Hibbert. Joanne McNeil. Joey Power.

An Act of Kindness



In 1992 I was living in Hamilton, Ontario. I received word that my first cousin had died. He was living in Inverness when he died. He was very close to me and I wanted to go home for his funeral. At the time I did not have any money. My family and my husband's family got together and provided the money for me to travel to Inverness for the funeral and the return trip to Ontario. I never realized how kind people are until this happened to me and this is only one example of how family and friends come through when you really need them.

Connie Parsons
New Waterford Day Class

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire

Money is financial security
Isolated from ordinary people
Lots of decisions to make
Lose your self control
Interest money to live
Options make life easier
Nothing ever lasts
Arrogance makes you a different person
It's hard to be me
Real life real problems
Examine your values in every way possible



Submission by: Room 2 Sydney Day Class-Jeff Boulter, Jan Eddy, Keith Lewis, Crystal Murphy, Melinda Roach, Aileen States & Karen Blair

Very Loving People



I remember a couple of years ago, me and my mother sat in our kitchen and had a cup of coffee. She started to tell me about something that happened when I was an infant of six months. She began the story about an operation that I had performed on me at that time. It was so hard on her that she had a nervous breakdown. She spent eight months in a hospital in Halifax.

During those eight months my grandparents and my aunts and uncles on my mom's side looked after me. This must have been hard on them also. I can just imagine all the things they did for me like taking me to the hospital for my checkups, changing my dressings, and making sure that my stitches did not burst. They also had to make a special formula for me to drink. My mom told me that my Aunt Ella used to sit up night after night trying to get me to sleep. My aunt would rock me to sleep. Plus she would feed, bath, and change me.

Submitted by Keith Fougere
Sydney Day Class

Acts of Human Kindness

So I shall start off with the idea of:
How often do we perform acts of human kindness?

Well I truly believe that acts of kindness happen every single day somewhere in the world. And as we perform them most times we really make quite a difference in someone's life without even knowing it.

The next question that comes to me is:
What kind of effect does this have on the communities we live in? I think that the effects of human kindness are wide ranging. So many people are affected by the thought that someone cares. Believing that there are so many people out there doing something that can have an astounding affect on someone's life is just breathtaking.

The last question that comes to mind is:
What would the world be like if acts of random kindness never existed? Thanks to our astounding imagination we can ponder these ideas. I have to say that I could not live in a society where everything that I was brought up with was no more. It would be total and complete chaos everywhere in the world. People would hate one another. Therefore no one would ever do anything for anyone else.

So next time you decide to hold the door open for someone really think about what you are doing. There are many things in this life we do not even realize that we are doing them.

So in conclusion, thank god that people of our large population give so much back to this world and the people they touch everyday of their lives.

Submission by: Mark A. Lewis
Sydney Day Class

Helping My Neighbor



I have a friend who lives on Rose Terrace across from Terrace convenience store. I babysit for her everyday until she moves into her own home that is down the Pier. She has two kids who are the ages of 6 and 8. I also watch her friend's kids who are the ages of 5 and 9.

I really enjoy watching the kids because they are so cheerful and they also know how to make me smile. I love doing things for her as much as I can because I know that my friend would do the same thing for me. My friend is a really nice person and her kids are so sweet. I also babysit my other friend's kids because they are moving in together and it would be very hard to start to move things down the Pier with the kids around so I offered to watch the kids for my friends. So all together I watch 4 kids.

I am really glad that I could really help them because I know that they really appreciate it. She always helps me out the best way that my friend knows how. She treats me like I am a part of her family and that means a lot to me. What are friends for?

Submission by: JanEddy
Sydney Day Class

Acts of Kindness



Kindness comes in many forms, but the overall act is the thought itself. Kindness can involve any means of honor, integrity, class and or generosity. Acts of kindness also rewards the human spirit with its simplicity and unconditional benevolence. Kindness can shelter the human spirit. A friend or stranger's smile or gesture can touch us with its simplicity. An act of kindness, whether small or big, has no boundaries.

Submission by
Gregory Blake MacNeil
Sydney Day Class

An Angel



When my dad died four years ago my family went through a hard time. I had to find someone to look after my four children. My husband suggested we get his cousin's wife. She was someone who our family had just meet only a few months before. I was a bit nervous to get her but my husband said that Marie was a kind and understanding person.

We called her to explain what had happened. Marie said she would come out to look after our children. Marie was absolutely a godsend. She cooked, cleaned, washed dishes and took excellent care of my three sons and one daughter. Marie ran my whole household. She made sure everyone was well taken care of. When everything was over I told her how much we appreciated everything she had done for our family during that troublesome time.

Submission by: Crystal Murphy
Sydney Day Class

Kindness



I don't think the world would be a very nice place if there weren't any kind and considerate people in it. I know that I wouldn't want to be a part of the world without caring people. I think that it wouldn't be hard for anyone to be a little nice at times. I know I like it and I appreciate it when people are nice to me.

I try to be as nice as I can because a little kindness goes a long way. I think some stories that my classmates were telling today were pretty nice. Mark told a story about when his car broke down and he got a free tow from a man at two in the morning. That was a kind thing to do and everyone he told thought so. Another story was one Aileen told about when she lost all her clothes in a house fire. Then a woman gave her ten thousand dollars worth of clothes for nothing. I think those were two very nice things to do.

I think both examples wouldn't have happened if the world had no kindness in it. I think the world is better with kind and considerate people in it.

Submission by: Jeff Boulter
Sydney Day Class

Living With Brain Injury



Having a brain injury is like starting a new life. We start over from scratch. We relearn to walk, talk and carry out basic everyday functions. Some people are worse off than others. What we all have in common is loss.

We become frustrated because of memory loss whether it is short or long term. Finding out new things can be scary. You may have loss of use of certain muscles and paralysis. Everyone treats you differently. People don't want to listen to what you have to say. Everyone is rushing you which leads to loss of patience and attention span. Relationships change and friendships are lost. Divorce rates are as high as 90%.

The Brain Injury Association is trying to be recognized in its own rather than being lumped with other organizations. This would enable us to access funding, buildings, work related programs and support group programs. We would be able to compete with other individuals and improve our life style. Therefore, acquiring a brain injury would not mean death.

Submitted by: Memory Book Class

Winning Money

If we won ten million dollars, life would change for the better. We would help our families and friends. We could look after our health and go to the best doctors around. We may even travel or go on a cruise. We would go on a vacation with our families. Cape Breton would always be home, though. We might have a business, like a flower shop or a small restaurant where family could work.



We may be able to help other people in Cape Breton. There are charities. The Christmas Daddies and the Y's Men are the charities we would help. The Children's Wish Foundation is another good charity. We would like to help the homeless people by giving money to Loaves and Fishes. There are personal charities like the Cancer Foundation, the Heart Fund and the Kidney Foundation. We would do our best to make Cape Breton an Easier place to live.

There also may be some concerns about having ten million dollars. You may not always feel safe. You would have to have high-tech security around your home and property. You would lose a lot of your personal freedom by having to be guarded by gates and dogs.

We would also worry about our children. It would be easy for them to get drugs and alcohol because people would know they have money. Our children would probably expect a lot. They could fall in with the wrong crowd very easily. They would always have to have somebody with them.

Our lives may change, but hopefully our friends would not. We would help our friends without them feeling obligated. We would have to be careful of who we trust. We would not feel like ourselves around new, richer friends because of the way we live now.

There would have to be limits if we won ten million dollars. We would have to have a person to help manage the money. We would have to set limits for the children. They might be the same limits. We would have to finish our education. There must be rules. We must make sure we still pay our bills.

Life would definitely change for the better if we won ten million dollars. We could make life better for ourselves, our families and our friends. We would also make life better for the children and people living in Cape Breton. There are a lot of pros and cons to winning ten million dollars, but the pros outweigh the cons.

Submitted by: Ross Ferry Class

My Son



When I was just 19 years old. I was going to be a wife and a new mom. I did not know too much about being a mom. My mother said you will learn and be a great one. The day finally came I was going to have my baby. It was a boy. My husband at that time came in and asked if it was a girl with blue eyes and wore a baseball cap. I said no it's a boy his name is Shawn David. He was 9 lbs. And 18 inches long, with strawberry blond hair and blue eyes. He was the most beautiful baby I ever saw; that is until his two sisters Erica and Lindsay came into this world. I love you all with all my heart.

Written by: Vera Miehm
Northside Day Class

Bobby's Horse Story



Why do you love horses? The horses are a friend and people like them because the horses are good friends. The horses are good friends and the horses are loving pets. Can you get to like them? Some people are afraid of them. They will not hurt you and you can ride them. You will find horses at the race track and in the barn.

Bobby Young
Northside Day Class

Saving a Life



About six or seven years ago my family and I lived in a small town known as Sydney Mines. At this time my husband became very unwell. We didn't know what was wrong. One night he became so ill that he had to go to the hospital by ambulance. At first we thought maybe an ulcer had burst and that was the problem.

Time had passed and doctors came and went. We discovered that he had to have a liver transplant. They gave him six months at the most to live without a transplant. We didn't know what was going to happen or how we were going to get through it.

There were numerous trips back and forth to Halifax for operations and blood transfusions. While we were on one of our many trips a very good friend of ours decided to organize some benefit dances and other projects to raise funds for our medical travels.

We were very surprised to see how many people from around the community chipped in to help. The money raised was of great help to us at the time. We had a lot of people to thank especially the person whose liver my husband received in order to recover. We thank God every day. Time was running out for my husband; but for the grace of God he had recovered through the kindness of someone else.

To this day, we are not aware of the person who unselfishly donated his or her organs at the time of their death but we are very grateful. There is not enough we can say or do for this gratitude. We would like to thank everyone who was involved for saving my husband's life and being there in our time of need and support. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Written by: Peggy Anderson
Northside Day Class

Why Do Leaves Fall?



In the glorious autumn, leaves fall onto the ground. They are the most beautiful things that you can see. The colors are what make them elegant. When autumn comes kids love to play in the leaves and see the different shapes. Some people pick leaves and put them into wax paper and sketch them in a book.

So people know the leaves will change when the summer changes into autumn. Why do leaves change? Look at the winter there are leaves on a tree because it is cold for them, the leaves have fallen in autumn. The tree sleeps until spring. One thing about autumn is the Cabot Trail where you can see many leaves and the dazzling colors, multitude of shapes and sizes.

The leaf that intrigues me the most is the Maple Leaf. I love the bright color and its shape. No wonder it is Canada's most famous emblem and adorns our flag.

Amanda Theriault
Northside Day Class

My New Puppy



One day I came home from school, when my boyfriend came over with a surprise. It was a beautiful black puppy. Joey was told the puppy was a boy, five weeks old and a purebred Rottweiler. She is the cutest puppy I've ever seen. She is all black except for her paws and her eyebrows are brown. It took about two weeks but we finally named her Keyla.

Keyla loves to chew on things. Her favorite toy is a small stuffed animal named Eyore from a Winnie the Pooh mobile. She also loves to be chased around the house and the yard. When she feels she's not getting enough attention she will whine to let me know.

Submitted by: Holly Daye
Northside Day Class

Murder at the Northside Day Class



It was a Tuesday, a cold and blistery day in January. Mrs. Punctuation arrived at the Northside Day Class as usual around 8:30 a.m. Everything seemed normal. The lights were on and the door unlocked. Great, she thought. Mr. Protractor is here before me. I hope he has his own photocopying done!

"Good morning," she calls out. No response. Her voice echoes through the large building. Behind her a voice hollers out, "Good morning, where's Mr. P?" (Mrs Punctuation faints.) As Bobby Thunder reaches down to help Mrs. Punctuation up off the floor they see something dripping through the ceiling. Mrs. Punctuation look up in horror. "That looks like blood," she said to Bobby Thunder. "No! It couldn't be," he replied with confusion in his eyes. "It's probably paint spilt over in the attic from all the wind last night." Then he dashed out the door.

Mrs. Punctuation walked over to the red pool on the floor, there was more still dripping from the ceiling. She thought it doesn't smell like paint and it looks too thin for paint. So she walked up the two sets of stairs leading to the attic. As she slowly walked in she looked around, it was so gloomy and dusty she could barely see.

Suddenly Mrs. Punctuation tripped over something. When she looked down to see what it was she let out a shrieking scream. There was a blood soaked hammer buried inside the skull of Mr. Protractor. He was sitting in a huge pool of blood. Mrs. Punctuation ran down the stairs and called the police.

Once the police arrived they secured the building with yellow tape. They went up to the attic, took pictures, they put the hammer in a plastic bag and took Mr. Protractor to the morgue.

"I'll need to ask you some questions, Ma'am. So please stick around!" said the officer to Mrs. Punctuation.

As Mrs. Punctuation tried to contain herself the Big Khuana and the little Khuana screamed. Before Mrs. Punctuation could say anything a big hefty officer rushed over. "I'll have to ask you to leave, this is a crime scene and you could disturb evidence." Big Khuana and Little Khuana walked outside in a daze.

Outside Big Khuana ran into another officer. "What's going on?" she demanded in a panic, "I cannot give out that information until further investigation," the officer replied.

Meanwhile inside the big husky officer brought Mrs. Punctuation a glass of water. "Hi, I'm Officer Doeboy, come in this room with me so I can ask you a few questions, Ma'am." Mrs. P sat in a small chair in the office. "OK, Mrs. Punctuation, I need to know if Mr. Protractor had any enemies," said the officer.

"ENEMIES! Mrs. Punctuation exclaimed. "No, not that I know of. There was a few people upset with him but I don't thing enough to kill him." "Please tell me who and why these people were upset with him," said the officer.

"Well, " said Mrs. P. "There was Summer Day. She was upset because he ate her lunch every day. There was Amanda Hugnkiss. Mr. Protractor performed an experiment with her and it turned her hair green. There was Bonnie Beeswax. He used to borrow her pencils and chew the ends off. Also, Susie McGillicutty, he borrowed her glasses and now she can't find them."



"Thank you! The officer said and left the building to find the suspects in the crime. First he went to Summer Day's. She had an alibi; she was at MacDonald's eating lunch at the time of the murder. She didn't want to bring it into school anymore because Mr. Protractor always ate it on her.

Next Officer Doeboy went to see Amanda Hugnkiss. She was at the beauty salon getting her hair fixed at the time fo the murder. Next he went to see Bonnie Beeswax. She stated that she was at the office supply depot getting new erasers at the time of the murder. Finally he went to see Susie McGillicutty. She verified that she was at the eye doctors getting new glasses at the time.

Just as the officer was leaving Susie's house his cell phone rang. "Officer Doeboy, how can I help you?" he spoke into the phone. It was Mrs. Punctuation and she sounded frantic. "Officer Doeboy, I was so upset I forgot to mention that when I walked into the building this morning I was startled by Bobby Thunder. Come to think of it, he was there before me. I arrived at 8:30 and he wasn't supposed to show until 10:00 a.m. He seemed nervous, and when I noticed the blood he made an excuse for it saying it was probably paint and left in a hurry."

"Can you think of any reason why Bobby Thunder would want to kill Mr. Protractor?" The officer asked.

"Well, Mr. Protractor did a science experiment on him and took away his thunder and left him with lightning," replied Mrs. Punctuation.

Officer Doeboy raced to Bobby's house. When he knocked on the door, Bobby answered. When he saw the police, Bobby tried to run. The police grabbed him and said, "You killed Mr. Protractor, why Bobby, why?"

Bobby Thunder started to shake and yelled, "YES! Yes I did it. He took away my thunder and left me with lightening. I couldn't take the shocks anymore and the smell of my hair burning. I called him this morning at around 7 and told him the photocopying machine was broken and asked him to come and fix it before Mrs. Punctuation arrived. When he showed up I cornered him and demanded my thunder back and when he objected it stirred up my lightening and I killed him." The police arrested Bobby Thunder and put him in jail. His cell was padded with rubber, no more lightening for Bobby.

Everything got back to normal except for Mrs. Punctuation; she had to go to therapy. To this day she has not entered the building where Mr. Protractor was slain.

Written by: Pauline LeMoine
With assistance from the Northside Day Class Students

What Education Means To US



The key to education is knowledge. Education can be gained in a variety of ways like attending school, job training, volunteering, etc. Education is a combination of skills: social, self esteem, personal hygiene, communication, etc. These are the skills you will need to become a learner. No matter what age you are you can always become a learner. Age is unlimited to education.

Another very important tool in education is employment. The more education you have the better the chance you have on gaining employment.

Today in our education system is we now have computers. We think computers are a two way street. Sometimes it makes people lazy because they may take the easy way out. But on the other hand computers can become a useful tool.

The most important thing we would like to point out is that special needs people need supports, Examples: a child who is visually impaired will need large print material, Braille, etc. There needs to be more one on one with students who have learning disabilities.

The most important thing that has to be mentioned is that special needs students need to be understood not pitied.

Submitted by: Sydney Special Needs Classes

The Big Win



If I won a large amount of money I would jump for joy. Once I regain my senses I would sit down and start to make arrangements. First I would make sure that my immediate family would be well looked after. Then I would make sure all my grandchildren were taken care of. I would make arrangements for a world tour for the wife and I. It would be a long extended trip.

I would deal with everything when I get back. I would start by getting my finances looked after. I would go looking for a house once that was done. When my finances were up to par I would start looking into the poverty of children here in Canada. I would donate something to them as well as adopt two. That would make me feel good about myself.

My life would change because I am in a higher tax bracket. I would help my good friends with their finances. Having all this time on my hands I would have to find something to do like take some kind of a hobby to monopolize my time.

I would not feel comfortable with new rich friends and I don't think that they would understand me because they haven't been where I was or come from. I would know my real friends because they are the kind of friends that stay by your side whether you have money or not. There are people who just want what ever they can get or take. If they are my best friends I would help them. And I wouldn't want them to feel in debt to me. I think I could be equal to my old friends. The question is could they be loyal to me.

We all have limits even though we don't have money. It is important we don't lose control now that we have this windfall. We have to keep our sanity because we have more to lose. We should be able to go out without any worries about money. Are there two sets of laws, one for the rich and one for the poor? You wouldn't feel safe with that amount of money. There is always that chance of being robbed in this kind of condition you would become self-conscious. Have ones independence is great but if you are not careful you could lose it.

Submitted by: Ernest MacDonald

You Can!



As parents we do our best to teach our children all they need to know as they prepare to venture out into the world. Don't talk to strangers, always be polite, and treat people as you would like to be treated are some of the things we teach our children.

As I was watching TV last night I heard my 4 year old say to her dad "I can't skate!" Because she was discouraged over her skating lessons we talked to her about this. We told her, "You can skate! Maybe you'll play on a woman's hockey team some day." "Daddy that's silly," she says "girls can't play on hockey teams". This shocked and upset me. Had I unknowingly taught my daughter what society has for so long? That we as women are second best. Is the world still sending this message to our children?

I took great pride moments later in pointing to the TV set and saying, "look honey we can do it! And we can be the best in the world". Congratulations to the Women's Canadian Olympic hockey team. They brought home the gold, gave us pride, and most of all, taught our children they could do it if they just try hard enough!

Submitted by: Irene King

Over the Mountain



We believe that life would change greatly if we won the lottery. With a lot of money we could buy just about anything we wanted. We would never have to work again. We could do so many good things such as give money to charities and organizations that help the less fortunate. We could give money to the private sector. We could open a business and hire people which would help the economy.

If we won the lottery and helped other people we would feel as though we gave part of ourselves to the community. We would be happy knowing that people would benefit from our generosity. We feel that we could change people's lives for the better by giving them things that they might not otherwise have. Our greatest joy would come from knowing that we had brought so much happiness to others.

We also believe that life would definitely change if we won the lottery. We would have peace of mind knowing that you would never have to worry about money again. We think though that you could both gain and lose things if you had a lot of money. You might gain happiness, security and material things. You might lose privacy and friends who are jealous of you among other things.

As a class, we believe that winning the lottery has good and bad points but we would rather win. In order to win, you have to buy a ticket. Get one and good luck!!

Submitted by: Sydney Day School

My Parents



My mother was only thirty-seven years old when she passed away. She had breast cancer. My mom was a very kind and loving person who would go out of her way to help others or to give things that someone else might need more than she did. She loved to work.

To relax she like to play cards and darts but with eight children there was not much time to relax.

I wish that mom could have been with us a full lifetime. There were so many things she wanted to do and she has so much love to share with her children, her grandchildren and others.

My mother and father were married at a young age. My father was a steel worker most of his life and was well liked by his fellow workers, especially when he loved to cook and always had great dishes ready for my boyfriend and I. He would always have treats on hand for his grandchildren. Most of his friends called him Tab or Jim. He loved to travel around and talk to others. He really liked to go around the Cabot trail to take in the scenery and to try a meal on the way.

He really enjoyed being at his granddaughters wedding. He looked forward to going on a fishing trip and really prepared for it but left us before the season opened. Maybe he and mom went fishing together. In loving memory of James and Dorothy Mugridge, whom we all loved and miss.

Submitted by Helen MacLeod
Sydney Day Class

28 Million Dollars

Money can solve a lot of problems but it can't solve every problem. If I had a lot of money such as 28 million my children and I would be taken care of first. Then I would have to consider those that are less fortunate and don't have anything in life. At least 14 million would go to ministries that are well known in the Christian surrounds so the poor would have clean water to drink and for everyday use. They would also have clothes, food, shelter and education as well as other important needs. I know it would make me feel great to share my winnings with those that are in terrific need.

Now back to what I was saying before about money not solving every problem. What's money if you have cancer, AIDS, or some kind of life threatening illness that there is no cure for? Can money bring back your loved ones who have died? Can it solve all the problems in the world? I would thing not! We all can enjoy money but it can't buy love, happiness, or your health. I guess what I am saying is money is not everything but it is fun, great fun to spend. It's a temporary enjoyment for as long as you have it.

Submitted by Jean MacKay

An Accident

On March 16th, 1983 I got hit by a car. I was running across the street. I didn't look across the street. And I got hit. My brother sat down beside me. The car backed up and my brother ran across the street. My brother said to my grandmother that Damian got hit by a car. She called the ambulance. She called my mother and she came home. The ambulance got there in an hour. The doctor said to my mother, "At 24 hours your son would be dead". My mother said to the doctor, "I want Damian to go to Halifax right away". They did. In Halifax my doctor said to my mother, "If Damian lives he will be a vegetable". See me now! I Can walk and talk. I am not a vegetable.

Submitted by: Damian Peck
Sydney Evening Class

Winning the Lottery



If I won the lottery, I would like to think that my life wouldn't change but in reality I know it would. Winning the lottery would probably be very exciting but would come with a price. I would expect that if I won the lottery, the phone would ring nonstop with people looking for assistance with their debts. I'm sure I would help a lot of people, family, friends, and organizations I am interested in. I know my lifestyle would change by I would not want to change who I am. I really don't think I have to much to worry about because I've had no luck so far and if I don't, I'm content with what I have.



Submitted by Margie St. John
Sydney Evening Class

My Favorite Trip



On the afternoon of August 25, 1985, my Uncle Murray Ross and I left East Bay at 4 p.m. We left the bungalow, started across the sandbar and we had to turn back because we forgot the utility trailer to drop off to his buddy in Stellarton, Nova Scotia. Then we continued on to our destination once we got to Stellarton with the trailer. We arrived in St. Stephen, New Brunswick at one o'clock in the morning. It was hard to find a room because the summer games were going on there. Finally, we got a room for forty dollars where we could bunk down for the night. We got up at 6 a.m. and we were on the road for our long journey.

We stopped for breakfast on the other side of the border, in Maine. We drove all day and night. As we were driving through Buffalo, New York, we stopped and asked a man how to get to the Peace Bridge that took us back into Canada. When the man was giving us directions, Uncle Murray asked how were the people in that section of town because we had to drive through "The Bronx". This is the section of town where the crime rate is very high. It's about two o'clock in the morning and as we were driving through that part of town, my Uncle said to me, "Wouldn't this be a good time to have a flat tire"? When he said that I got so nervous and scared that I locked all the doors of the truck. We were driving a 1984 Jimmy. When we got to the Canadian border, I had to show the border guard my birth certificate and I was so nervous that I couldn't pronounce my name.

As we were driving toward Windsor, Ontario in the early hours of August 26 Murray asked me if we should get a hotel room or keep driving. I said keep driving. He said "If I don't stop and rest my eyes, my G.D. Eyeballs will be on the dash". As we were driving through St. Thomas, Ontario we hit a violent thunder and lightning storm. By this time, it was about 4:30 in the morning of August 26. We pulled off to the side of the road and rested for at least one half hour. We arrived in Windsor at 6 a.m. we stopped at a 24 hour Green Gables convenience store to get some bread and milk.

When we finally arrived at Uncle Murray's house in Windsor, Ontario at 6:30 in the morning we were so tired that we went to bed. When we got up at noon his wife, Judy and the two kids flew in from Sydney, Cape Breton. During my stay in Windsor, I did many enjoyable things such as going to the zoo with my Aunt Judy and the two kids, Ian and Katherine, going to my uncle's newly opened ice cream parlor and many other things. The day after we arrived, it was my eighteenth birthday. My Aunt and Uncle had a small part for me.

Around the first week in September, Murray and I made my plane reservations to come home. My Uncle Murray drove me to the Windsor Airport to get my 2 p.m. flight to Sydney. It was my first time flying by myself. When I took off from the Windsor Airport, my first stop was Toronto. I was in this airport for about four hours. While I was there, Delores Sampson, who was by baby-sitter from years ago came to the airport to see me. When she got to the airport I was pre-boarding the airplane for Halifax. The security guards were kind enough to let her come on the plane to see me. She and I talked for about fifteen minutes before the flight attendant asked her to get off the plane as we were going to Halifax.

I had about an hour stop in Halifax and then it was onto my final stop in Sydney, where my parents were waiting for me.

When my uncle took me to the airport in Windsor, the temperature was one hundred degrees and when I arrived in Sydney, the temperature was around five degrees. This was really a trip of a lifetime for me, anyway, it gave me a chance to get to know my uncle better and to spend some time together with him.

Submitted by Murray Morris
Sydney Day Class

You'd Have to be Crazy to Spend \$1,000,000 (So We Did!)



We know that there are many practical things to spend a million dollars on. We decided to get creative and think of other ways we could spend it . Here are some of the crazy things we came up with. We had fun doing it.

- People could try to guess the weight of the money in quarters. Closest gets it all.
- Make a money tree and make a map for people to try and find it.
- Have people guess the weight of a huge chunk of meat (or chocolate) and they have to eat the amount they guessed to get the money.
- Put the money in a straight line and have people guess the length, or in a circle and have them guess the circumference. Closest guess wins the money.

- Get a tattoo or piercing
- Learn to sky dive or bungee jump
- Buy an ultralite airplane
- Learn to skateboard
- Go on a hot air balloon ride

- Buy a year's supply of your favorite meal
- Turn your bedroom into a ball pit
- Build an amusement park in the backyard
- Take your friends to Canada's Wonderland
- Rent Ski Ben Eoin and take your friends sledding
- Fill a truck full of jelly beans
- Put bumper cars in the basement

- Put a huge billboard with the Pink Panther on it in the middle of nowhere
- Throw it out of an airplane
- Dye a farmer's cows different colors
- Leave it in a bag on the corner and watch
- cover your house with the bills
- Glue it together and make a work of art
- Learn to belly dance
- Build an indoor pool and fill it with fish
- Buy a house for your worst enemy
- Burn \$100,000 or pay someone to do it



Submitted by: Sydney Day Class Room 3
Dana Pitchuck, Anne Hill, Frank Barter, Wanda Coles, Mary Theresa MacDonald, Lynn Mac Pherson, Brenda Sibley, Margie St. John, Linda Mac Phee, Murray Morris

ISS Program Receives a Failing Grade



ISS is a name put on a detention room which students are put in if they have been causing trouble. ISS stands for In School Suspension. It seems like the majority of the people that are put in this are people who have been smoking on the school property. Mostly ISS causes people to have mental stress also to use inappropriate verbal language.

The room is very small and confining, feelings of being trapped and overwhelmed. There are cameras in this room as well as a teacher. In a room 12 by 12 there are two cubicles, a divider wall, a teachers desk, a TV, the bathroom is in the same room.

The ISS program causes the students to act out in many different ways. Some mental stresses caused by ISS program are increased rebellion, decreased trust, an increase in anger and frustration it seems to cause more problems for teachers in the long run. ISS program is not really getting to the root of the problem that the kids are having, instead it is just placing them in a room.

Students are being punished because they go off school grounds so that they could go somewhere to have a smoke. If the teachers and principals make a designated smoking area there will be fewer problems and fewer students in the ISS program. Not addressing the fact that nicotine is an addictive drug is a problem that is leading to most of the behaviors that land students in ISS program.

Some simple solutions are to sit down and talk to the students to find out why they are behaving in such a way, designate a smoking area, and address the fact that nicotine is an addictive drug. These solutions are simple and cost effective but time consuming. Perhaps the teachers cannot afford time and understanding.

Submitted by: Glace Bay Day Class Level 2
Michael LeBlanc, Carl Dean, Melissa MacNeil, Martin Lynk, and Cindy Fraser

WINNING THE LOTTERY GOOD OR BAD?



If I won the lottery I would buy a house and a new car. I would travel around the world and meet people of different cultures. I would make sure my family was looked after. I would adopt a few kids. I would open my own business. I would help needy people and I would open a house for kids with problems and I would donate to charities. Money would not change how I am today, people think money can buy happiness but it can't.

Submitted by Gerard Lynk
Glace Bay Day Class

JOE RICH



A friend of mine told me a story about a man named Joe. This was a kind man. He donated his time as a big brother and at the YMCA as a hockey coach. His family and friends say he was a caring person. He liked to see children happy and healthy. He thought of himself as an ordinary Joe. One night Joe bought a lottery ticket, as he did every week. The next morning Joe got a call from a guy saying that he was from the lottery company. The man told him that he was a lottery winner. He told Joe that he will bring the money to him in three weeks on April 1. Within a week life changed for Joe. He stopped going to the YMCA. He thought that he had no more time for Big Brothers. Joe became a selfish, greedy person. His wife divorced him. His friends left him but he didn't care. He thought he needed only his money. Two days before April 1, Joe decided to buy a new car and sell the house and live with his mother until he got his money. On April 1 Joe waited for his money. At 2:45 p.m. there was a knock on the door. Joe ran to the door. He thought it was his money but it wasn't, it was Joe's old college friend who screamed April fool. Joe didn't win any money. It was an April fools joke by his old friend. It turned out Joe was already a rich man before he thought he won money.

Submitted by: Donnie Mac Donal
Glacé Bay Day Class

Kindness Works Both Ways



My friend Allan is so kind to me because he does things for me. Allan has let me borrow his truck and he fixed my truck. When we were going to pick up a car one day we stopped at a store to buy two pop. Allan paid for the pop and bought two bags of chips for us. It was his treat. Allan has told me he is proud of me going to school. He has also given me good advice.

I made him a gun rack in woodworking class in Dominion School. I put the rack in Allan's truck and drove to where he worked. I told Allan that his truck door didn't close and I asked him to come out to see if he could close it. He said nothing is wrong with this door and then he said who owns this gun rack? I said you own it. I made it for you. He was very surprised. He was good to me and I was good to him and he is one good friend.

Submitted by: Troy Christoff

IF WE WON THE LOTTERY...

If I won the lottery, I would not tell anybody because people would bug me for money. I would be stunned at first and I would not know what to do. I would give some to the church because the church will give it to people who need it. I would buy some furniture and clothes because I need it. My life wouldn't change because I wouldn't be selfish. I would put the money in the bank and live off it. People would be my friend until the money runs out. If one of my friends need help with money for bills I would help them out. I would go out more often maybe to bingo.

Submitted by: Karen James
Glacé Bay Day Class

Kindness



One Sunday afternoon, I went to visit my relatives. Out of the blue, Blaise, my brother-in-law told me that he had something to tell me. I didn't know what to expect. I was nervous. Blaise told me that he was proud of me because I went back to school to get my upgrading. He didn't want to embarrass me by telling me that he was proud of me. Blaise was the only brother-in-law that told me that he was proud of me. It made me feel so good to hear that from him. He said something that he didn't have to. This is why it meant so much to me.

Submitted by: Rosemary Murphy
Glace Bay Day Class

KINDNESS



Kindness is an act of caring.

My friend Judy asked me for help to stop drinking one night when she was drunk. I called my mom to drive her to detox. My mom drove her to detox that night. Judy quit drinking for four years.

I helped my friend Judy and it made me feel good.

Submitted by: Shelly Fraser
Glace Bay Day Class