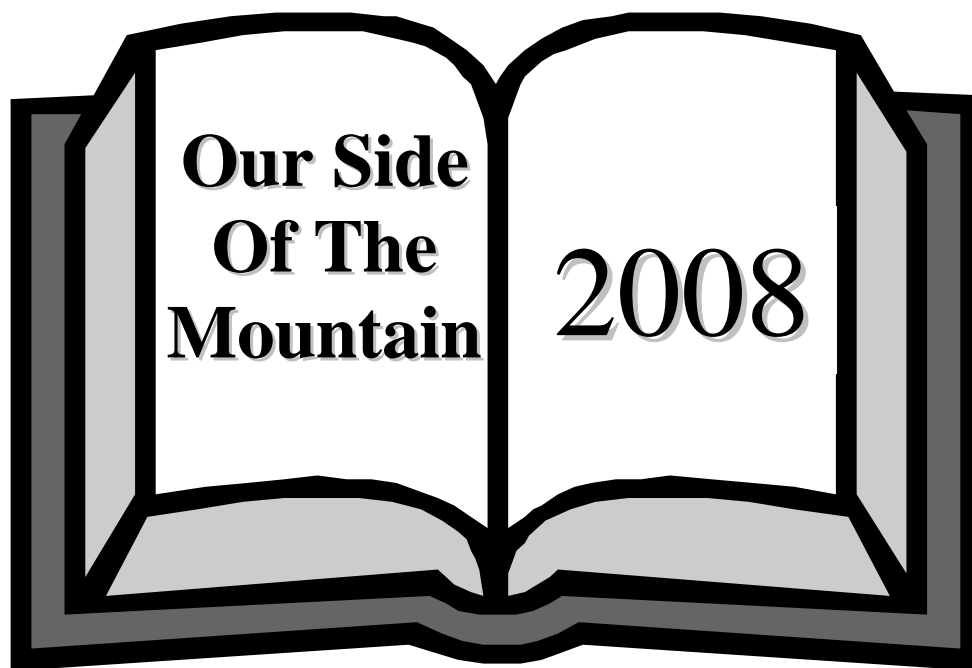


# ADULT LEARNING ASSOCIATION

*Making Learning Possible*



**Tara Bate – Billy Saccary – Kevin Coones – Mark Williams – Mary Hutchison – Gary Brogan – Sydney Evening 2 – Mark MacLean – Siobhan Stewart – Janie MacLeod – Krystie Power – Damian Peck – Gail Desmond - Amanda Steiger – Pam Dandy – Erin Peters – Carl Gerrow – Jacqueline Young – Carole Bennett – Kathy Doucette – Sheldon MacLeod - Shirley MacDonald - Cathy Besso - Jamie Lundrigan – Cathy Head – Sydney Evening 1 – NonaLee Lawrence – James Williams**

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Hello readers.

Welcome to the ninth edition of *Our Side of the Mountain*. This is a collection of stories, poems and ideas written down by adult students of the Adult Learning Association of Cape Breton County.

Some of these published writings are inspiring, others are informative and some are darn funny.

We hope you will enjoy reading, and give a thought to the hard work, life experience and pride that went into the crafting of these pieces. Some people find writing difficult, but I think all of these writers will agree that it is very worthwhile. Congratulations to all the writers, and enjoy the published version of your writings!

Karen Blair  
Coordinator

# Our Side of the Mountain 2008

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**The thing I couldn't live without is...**

*The single most important thing that I couldn't live without would be sharing my love with my family and friends.*

It means being there when they need me.

It means giving them my time and devotion.

It also means listening to them.

It means helping them with their troubles whenever possible.

It means doing things with them and celebrating their joys.

It means returning the love they gave me over the years.

**My family**

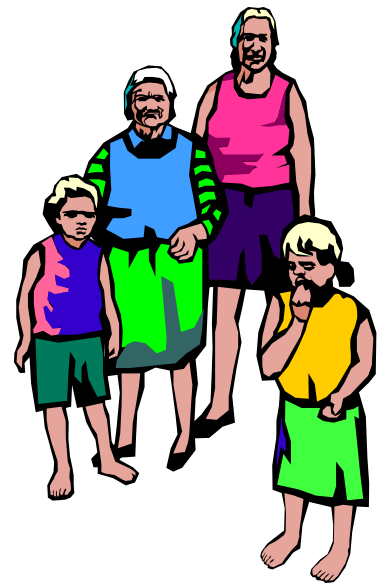
My family and I love to share,

We have great ideas and not so great hair.

We laugh and we cry and we talk a lot,

But most of the time we are there with each other,

And that's the family we got!



Mary Hutchison,

New Waterford 2008

*Our Planet*

Our planet is very sick.  
Our planet is crying for help.  
Our planet is getting very mad.  
Our planet is crying for help in bad way.  
Our planet is paying us back for what we did to her.  
Our planet is getting warmer everyday in some parts in the world.  
Our planet is asking us for help.  
Our planet is not smiling on us any more.  
Our planet is sick and in bad health these days.  
Our planet is called Earth.

*Gary Brogan*



# Family

The one thing that I could not live without is my family. Whenever I need advice or help with something, I know that I can count on my family to help me. Life without my family would be lonely. I didn't have many friends growing up and felt like I couldn't trust or count on the ones that I did have. Not in the same way I could count on my family that's for sure. If someone in my family needs something done I'm good to help them in the same way they help me. Friends come and go but your family is your family FOREVER.

**Tara Bates**  
**New Waterford, 2008**



## The One That Got Away



Markus loved to fish; fishing was in his blood. Every year as long as he could remember Markus and his family would head down to the old fishing hole. This summer would be different. Markus had entered his name and his father in a fishing derby.

After reading about the fishing derby he was surprised to learn about the grand prize. He couldn't wait to get started. He ran back to the camp and let his family know about the thousand dollar prize for the largest fish caught on the bank.

The money would last him all summer. If he was smart he would put it aside for Christmas. Plus there would be a big write up in the local paper with a black & white picture to boot.

There was one fish that lived in this large fishing hole that got every body's dander up. He could never be caught. He would always manage to break the fishing line and taunt the fishermen; this would only give them a bigger reason to go after him. Markus was one of those people, He set his sights on catching this large fish. Markus was bragging just how he planned to catch this fish once and for all.

With the help of his father, they got the fishing gear ready as well as the boat. Early in the morning they both sat in the boat cold and bored. By lunchtime they were ready to pull their hair out. It's really hard to keep quiet and keep still in a large fishing boat. You don't want to scare off the fish on your very first day out.

The Largest trout had been spotted flying through lake on high speed. About half a fleet of fishing boats were out with every kind of gear that can and could be used to catch this fish. There were accidents whoever you looked. Markus and his dad played it smart by staying in a little alcove in the lake. While the other fishermen were going after the trout they managed to catch a good size trout themselves.

The fishermen finally gave up trying to catch this big trout and set their sight on other fish and the thousand dollar prize. The hardest part of this trip was just knowing that this large trout was out there just waiting to be caught by one of them. Markus's father looked



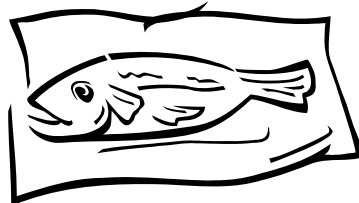
down at him and smiled. He made this strange remark, “I guess this is the one trout that got away! Maybe we will have better luck next year son.” At the end of the weekend they took their catch into be weighed and measured by the officials.

All the others had followed soon after Markus and his dad. It was late in the day when everyone got word on who won the fishing derby. All the boats were tied up at the wharf being cleaned by their owners while they waited. On the beach a bonfire roared and there was food as far as the eye could see. Music played on a nearby radio and they all enjoyed their last few hours before heading home.

Over a loud speaker one of the officials announced the winner of the different prizes. The winner of the grand prize to his surprise was Markus. All his waiting and patience had paid off in the end. Markus decided to share the money with his dad. Dad Said, “This was one long weekend that we will never forget son. Next year will be even better when we catch the trout that no one else can catch. That’s my promise from me to you.” Every year after as long as Markus could remember they both tried to catch that darn trout to no avail. Now it was Markus’s turn to teach his son just how to fish. He had told the story about the trout that got away. Andrew looked up at his father and said “I’m going to keep granddad’s promise to you and catch that darn trout if it’s he last thing I do.”

That summer out on the lake in the very alcove where he and his father fished Andrew kept his promise not just to his dad but to his grandfather as well. He caught that darn trout thanks to watchful eye and quick reflexes. Andrew won the top prize of a thousand dollars and the biggest trophy he had ever seen. It was even bigger than him and just as tall.

*Kathy Doucette*



## Adult Learning Association

### The one thing that I would not want to live without...

*Students in Sydney Evening 2 classes were asked to think about the one thing they would not want to live without. This is what each person has come up with...*

Allan would not want to live without **LOVE**.

Lorraine would not want to live without **TELEVISION**.

Ruth would not want to live without **KINDNESS**.

Lisa would not want to live without **FAMILY**.

Tommy would not want to live without **SPORTS**.

Norma Jean would not want to live without **MUSIC**.

Eddie would not want to live without **BOOKS**.

Joan would not want to live without **LOVE**.

Patricia would not want to live without **ROOMMATES**.

Sheri would not want to live without her **TEACHER**.

Kevin would not want to live without his **TEACHER**.

Dallas would not want to live without **FRIENDS**.

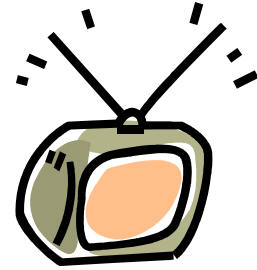
Robert would not want to live without **MONEY**.

Andrea would not want to live without **BOOKS**.

Janice would not want to live without her **STUDENTS**.

Anita would not want to live without her **GRANDCHILDREN**.

Karen would not want to live without her **PILLOW**.



*Sydney Evening 2, 2008*

## My Return to School

My return to school was a scary experience.  
It took a lot of courage to go back.  
After thirty-one years out, I felt scared and alone at first.  
Then I met new friends.

And of course I met new teachers too.  
I remember thinking this is going to be hard work.  
And it was.  
Writing essays, reading novels, and doing Math.  
Lots of work was in order.

It came a little easier after awhile and the months went by quickly.  
The teachers were great and made a big difference.  
They actually sat down to explain things to me that I didn't understand at first.  
They went over it and over it until I knew it.

*My ending to this note is to let all of the teachers who helped me over the years know that they are all very special angels to me and I couldn't have done it without them.*



Mary Hutchison,  
New Waterford, 2008

## *Aleah*

In the past year I had a great change in my life. My daughter, Aleah Faith, was born on January 6, 2007. She weighed 6 pounds 6 ounces and she had a little bit of hair on the top of her head. When I first held Aleah, I was happy for having her in my life but scared not knowing what I was going to do next. I felt sad and angry at the same time.

The reason for being sad and angry was when I was four and a half months pregnant with Aleah, her father passed away and he did not know about Aleah. It made me upset knowing that I was going to be a single parent and that I had another life to take care of.

While we were in the hospital, my family and friends all came to visit. My mother stayed with me until visiting hours were over. Mike's family came to visit as well.

Aleah and I were in the hospital longer than we should have been because Aleah was having some health problems and so was I. The doctors wanted to keep a close watch on us. But after being there for the extra few days, we were fine and we went home.

When Aleah and I first got home, it was hard, different and new. My Aunt Raylene stayed with me for a few days to help out with everyday things and with Aleah. I got some help from my mother as well.

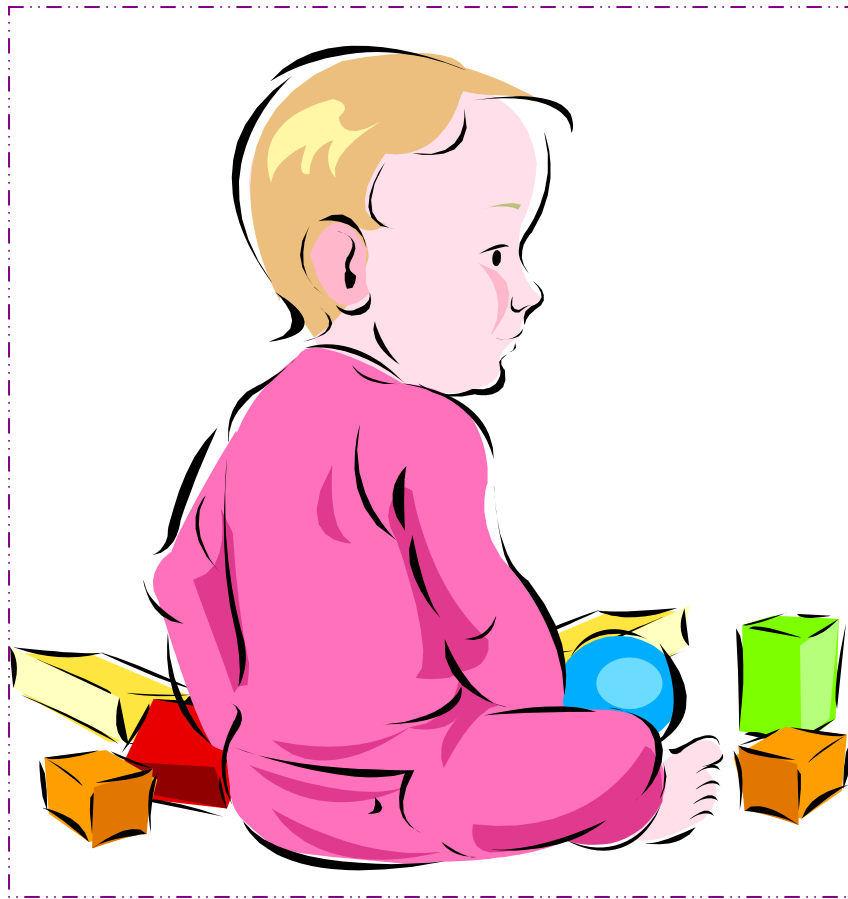
For awhile, I didn't want any of my friends or other family members around until I got use to things with Aleah and myself. But when my family and friends did start coming around, they all said that Aleah looked just like me when I was a baby. When Mike's family came to see her, they all said that she looked like Mike, which was true. Aleah did and still does look like the both of us.

Aleah is now one year old. It's still hard being a single parent but I just take life day by day; it's the only way I get through raising Aleah. I still have some help with Aleah from family and friends. Aleah is growing up so quickly. Everyone told me that it wouldn't be long before I'd be taking her to school. I tell everyone not to rush it but it's true.

## Our Side of the Mountain 2008

Aleah is very smart for her age. She is friendly, soft hearted, sweet, and she is just a joy to be around. Aleah is everything to me. I don't know where I would be without her in my life. Even though her father isn't with us, I know that he is watching over both of us and that helps me make it through the days as well. Aleah and I will always have each other and that's all that matters to me.

**Siobhan Stewart**



*As a Learner*  
By  
*Amanda Steiger*

It wasn't many years ago that I was in school. I really never spent much time in the classroom doing what I was supposed to be doing that is for sure. I was young and didn't listen to my teachers and became frustrated easily. Now I know that it wasn't the smartest thing to do to put me on the right road to life. I should have attended classes and listened to my teachers more. And, I should have put in a better effort to do the work that was given to me.

The reason I say this is because, here I am now years later back in school as an adult and a single parent trying to learn. I realize now that education is the most important thing in life. When I first made the decision to come back to school I was afraid. Afraid that I wouldn't be able to do the work, and that I would drop out again. Now that I am here, I know that it is the best thing for my daughter and me. I am going to try my hardest to stick with it no matter how long it takes.

Some people may say why bother trying to learn as an adult. They say if you couldn't do it then what makes you think you can do it now. Well now I know that without a grade twelve diploma it is very difficult to do anything in life. You can't go to college or get a very many jobs. Most jobs these days require at least a grade twelve. Without an education you can't go very far. Plus I want to set a good example for my daughter.

I know that my return to school won't be easy. Trying to juggle between school and taking care of a child. But I think I am doing the best thing for both of us. How would I be able to tell my daughter to go to school if I didn't myself? How would I be able to help her with homework if I didn't know the work myself? I know that some subjects will be hard and that some days I won't feel like going to school. But all I can do is take it one day at a time and think about the benefits of getting an education in the long run. Everyone has a right to an education and I am taking advantage of that right. I plan to finish what I have started and I think I am finally on the right road to life.

**Amanda Steiger**  
**New Waterford Class, 2008**



## *Spring*

I am so happy that spring has finally arrived. Spring means the end of the snow banks and the ice-covered sidewalks. I can wear lighter clothing and I no longer need boots, scarves and gloves. I've already started buying my new spring and summer clothes.

I can see the signs of spring everywhere. The buds are coming out on the trees, the crocuses are in bloom. Small birds have returned and are busy building nests for their young. I see people preparing their lawns for the new green growth of grass. The days are getting warmer and longer.

Spring also brings the Easter weekend. Easter is a time of renewal when the Lord is worshipped, as He should. I enjoy going to the Easter services and sharing Easter Sunday dinner with my family and friends.

I like spring because it uplifts my spirits to a point where I have the energy to do my spring cleaning, an annual ritual. As well, I look forward to the warmer weather so I can enjoy my 40-minute walk each day.

An exciting highlight of spring for me this year is that in June, our group is going on a five-day vacation to Inverness. We will visit the old church in Cheticamp, go whale watching and eat at restaurants. A special treat is the steak and lobster supper on our last evening there. I can't forget the shopping that we will do there either, and hope to find some bargains.

To me, Spring is a happy time when I feel rejuvenated, and the earth becomes alive with new creatures and new growth.

*Pam Dandy*



## **Our Cat Ralph**

My family got Ralph from the SPCA when he was a full grown cat. We think he was 2 or 3 years old. He was called a stray but when we got him home he was neutered and declawed so we think he might have been a runaway.

Ralph's weight was twelve pounds. He is now thirteen years old. My mother makes quilts and Ralph is always her helper. He likes to see the needle on the sewing machine go up and down and sleeps in the middle of the quilt. Ralph makes sure the lines are straight when she hand quilts.

Ralph has a thyroid condition and takes two pills a day. He likes to be waited on so he screams at my mother when he wants to eat. He knocks on the door of my mother's room every morning when he wants to go out. He sits on my father's lap but will wait until my father says it's ok. We all love Ralph.

## **Erin Peters**







***The Air That I Breathe***

**He is the one that brought life to me  
He is the one that wakes me in the morning  
He is one that brings me his love  
He is one that helps me through the day  
He is the one that picks me up when I am down  
He is the one that I hunger for  
He is the one that will take me home one day  
Jesus is the air that I breathe**

**Carl Gerow**

## Bingo

*The thing I most love to play is bingo. My mother first took me to a game when I was 6 years old. We went to the old Star Hall bingo where the Delta stands today. It is 34 years ago, since then I never stopped going. I like going cause I might win or lose I'm still happy just to get out of the house for couple hours.*

*Today I go to small bingos like at K.O.C. on George Street, or the Pensioner's Club near the cinemas, and the Iona Legion. I used to go to Membertou until they upped their packages to 30 dollars, so I stopped going there. The little games, you don't need a package. Twenty dollars and you're set to play all the rounds and get a slice of pizza and a pop.*

*Oh, and I got a call to go New Brunswick bingo in May. That game is a big game. I'm so happy to go. I always wanted to go. I was booked on another bus last month, but the bus tour woman said if I didn't pay the full fare by the end of March I couldn't go. So I got my deposit back from her. When I called New Brunswick to see if I can drive up he said he knew a tour bus from Truro had a couple seats. So I called Truro and sure enough she had one seat left and she sold me it. She said send my deposit next week and come to Truro next month and catch her bus at the Acadian Lines place.*

*My family said they'll all chip in for my trip. It is a two day trip. I can't wait to go. This is why I love Bingo.*



Jacqueline Young  
April 10, 2008



### ***I Love Chocolate***

It is good to eat. It is good for the family to share. I would like to learn how to make it how was it made long ago. A lot of people love chocolate. Some people cannot eat chocolate.

The chocolate that I like best is Black Forest cake. It is made with cherries, white cream, chocolate frosting and coconut. I love dark chocolate. When I get one I get to have it all to myself because it makes my parents sick because they are diabetics.

The Easter Bunny comes once a year. I catch him every time. I like getting chocolate for Christmas. I really love it.

**Carole Bennett**

## ***The First Time***

Making a good impression makes you feel better inside. Good impressions show that you are a good human being. It shows your strength and that you can do it if you put your mind to it. It helps to do lots of practice in front of a mirror; this can help you with your self-confidence.

**Jamie Lundrigan**



### Cathy As A Learner

This is my story about me as an adult learner. My name is Cathy Head and I am from New Waterford, Nova Scotia. For many years I wanted to go back to school. Always thinking I was too old or not smart enough, I put the idea out of my head for a long time. But it was always there in the back of my mind. Finally I started to ask people in my community if they knew of any programs available for someone like me.

“Someone like me”, means someone who had been out of school for a long time, someone who was older than the average student, someone who didn’t always get the best grades in school. I wanted to go back to school for a few reasons.

I wanted to go back so that I could have better grades. I wanted to go back so that I could learn the things I missed years ago. I wanted to go back to learn new things. And I wanted to go back so that I could eventually get my grades 11 and 12.

In 2003, a friend of mine told me about the Cape Breton Literacy Network now known as the Adult Learning Association of Cape Breton County. I set up an appointment, went for an interview and started class. Before coming back I had been out of school for twenty-seven years. I was really scared at first. But it became easier as time went by. My teachers and classmates helped to make things easier.

For the first three years I attended classes, I had a teacher by the name of Robin. She taught me a lot. Then I had a man teacher named Dan, he was a nice teacher and taught me a lot too. This year we have another woman teacher and her name is Janice. She is also a nice teacher. We do a lot of work in her class. Janice helps us if we need the help. We have a good time in her class.

I am still learning new things every day. Janice goes over the work until we know and understand it. Then she moves on to the next lesson. I still have some trouble with math. I find it hard to do but I try my best.

I have friends who attend the class I am in. Some have been coming a long time, some not so long. We all get along well. Nobody makes fun of one another. Going to school here is not stressful like school use to be for me all those years ago.

The teachers we have had have been easy to get along with. They taught us a lot since we started back to school. I am still hoping to get my grade eleven and twelve. I have been going to school for five years now and don’t plan on stopping anytime soon.

I hope you have enjoyed my story about me as an adult learner and always remember that you are never too old to learn or to go back to school.



Cathy Head  
*New Waterford, 2008*

## I Am

I am a comedian and irresistible  
I wonder what it would be like to be an astronaut  
I hear the whole world laughing  
I see a mirage  
I want to have my high school diploma  
I am a comedian and irresistible

I want to have my high school diploma  
I pretend to be a fighter pilot  
I feel good  
I touch my father's picture  
I worry that I will not get my high school diploma  
I cry that people don't get enough to eat

I am a comedian and irresistible  
I understand that I have a mother  
I say the world is round  
I dream about winning the lottery  
I try to have an effort in English and math  
I hope for my high school diploma  
I am comedian and irresistible

Kevin Coones



# Spring

## *What we like about spring...*

**Mary Margaret** enjoys going for walks, picking and planting flowers, and shopping for new spring clothes.

**Danny** likes going for walks in the spring air.

**Paula** likes the flowers and being outdoors during springtime.

**Sandra** enjoys going to school, planting flowers, and going to visit people in the spring.

**Marion** likes the sun and the new flowers of spring.

**Alicia** likes going to see her mom in the spring.

**Trevor** enjoys the warm days of spring and knowing summer is just around the corner.

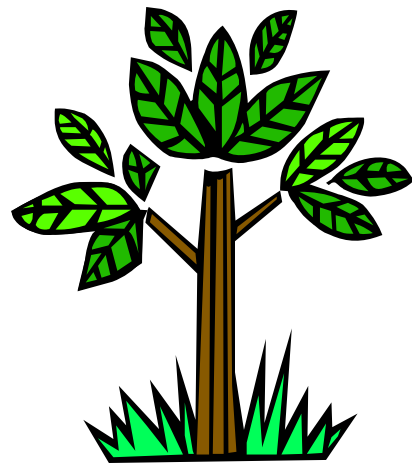
**Angie** likes the hot sun of spring.

**Pat** enjoys the springtime sun.

**Patsy** enjoys the nice weather of spring.

**Linda** loves walking in the spring weather.

**Janice** likes the longer days of spring.



**Sydney Evening 1 Class**



### ***Damian's Accident***

On March 1983, my mother was working at a store and my father was in the woods. I asked my older brother if Barry and I could go across the street. He said to call mom and I did. My mother said to look both ways before I crossed. I didn't and a car hit me. Barry sat next to me then he got up and ran to my grandmother and said, "Damian was hit by a car." My grandmother called an ambulance. Then she called my mother. It took the ambulance about half hour to come. A man put his jacket around me while I was on the road.

When we got to the hospital the doctors told my parents I would not live. My parents said to take me to Halifax and they did. The doctors in Halifax said if I lived I would be a vegetable, but look at me now.

Damian Peck

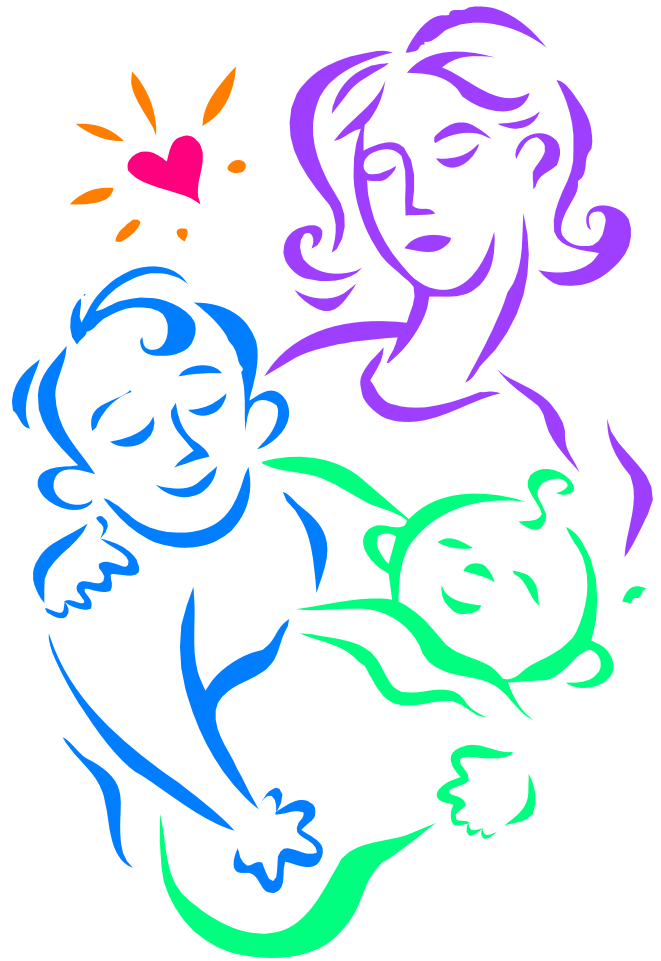


**My Mother**

**Written by: Krysti Power**

**ALACBC Student, North Sydney**

When I smile  
When I cry  
As the days go by  
When I think of you  
And your laughter  
Up in heaven  
Were you are  
I admire you from a afar  
I know you're watching me  
As I am you  
You will always be in my heart  
My mother my rock.



## My School Year

My school year has been great. This year I attended two computer workshops in Sydney and got a certificate for both. Earlier in the year my classmates and I went to a Shakespeare play at Cape Breton University as well as a visit to the art gallery. We had lunch at the university and it was a great day. I have taken some courses through Alphonse online learning and this was a great learning experience. I have been getting certificates for these. I also entered a creative writing contest and was chosen as one of the nine finalists. This felt good. Recently I went to a health fair at Marconi campus in Sydney and enjoyed it. There were so many displays to see. My classmates and I helped to staff the booth for the Adult Learning Association. Lunch was included that day and it was delicious. My teacher in New Waterford this year has been very nice and helpful. I understand some of the work that I didn't understand before like fractions. We did more activities this year than last year. I met a few new people in my class. All in all it has been a really good year and it isn't over yet.



Tara Bates  
New Waterford, 2008

**Love**

**Love is red**

**It tastes like chocolate strawberries**

**It sounds like a voice of a loved one**

**It smells like the scent of a man**

**It tastes like a freshly baked apple pie**

**It feels like butterflies in your stomach**

**It looks like a rainbow**

**Fear**

**Fear is gray**

**It feels like an electric shock**

**It smells like putrid flesh**

**It tastes bitter**

**It sounds like thunder**

**It looks like disaster**

**Happiness**

**Happiness is the colour of an orange Lamborghini**

**It feels like sex**

**It smells like Febreze**

**It taste like fresh baked bread**

**It sounds like a supped up engine**

**It looks like a smile**

**Anger**

**Anger is black**

**It feels like scratchy wool**

**It smells like rotten fish**

**It taste like sour milk**

**It sounds like nails on the board**

**It looks like violence**

**Cathy Besso**

## *My Rocky Trip*

In late August one year my father, mother, and I boarded a train from Sydney Mines, Cape Breton to Sudbury, Ontario. We stayed on the train for two nights. We went to visit my father's sister's family, which consisted of eight children. Three of them still lived at home while we were there visiting. The other five had grown up and left the nest.

Everything on the train was all right until night time fell. We had to sleep in berths which were stiff and short in length. My father's feet hung over the edge of the bunk. My father stands over six feet tall and the bunks were not that long. I climbed up to the top berth by way of a ladder, and there was a black 100% woolen blanket up there for me. I itched all night. It was cold and the motion of the train kept me awake all night as well as my parents.

The morning started off very cold and it got worse from there on in. My father made his way to the miniature sized bathroom to shave. No water came out of the rusty taps. He gave up in frustration due to the rocking motion of the train. It was difficult to walk on the train because of the rocking, you had to walk slowly and hang on for dear life.

We made our way to the dining car for breakfast. We sat down at a long counter which had stools instead of chairs. Dad ordered a hard boiled egg. The prices of the food in the dining car were ridiculous even for the year of 1970. The egg which cost my father a dollar came in an eggcup. When he reached out to get the egg, the train suddenly lurched ahead, knocking the egg out of the cup. It rolled down the length of the counter and onto the hard dirty floor. My father was in awe, he had a look of total disbelief on his face. Eating on a rocking and rolling train was a challenge for all of us on this great adventure.

We reached the Sudbury Train Station the next day at 2 am. My Uncle Jim picked us up in an old rough looking car. We wondered if we should sit in it and if it would make the journey to their home. We took the risk (really, what else could we do) and he began to drive very fast. We were on a dirt road and Uncle Jim was very quiet. My mother was in the back seat looking scared to death, hanging on to my father for dear life, giving my father the "what is this" look that we both knew so well. Well, it was his side of the family after all.

## Our Side of the Mountain 2008

Within an hour we arrived at their small house. We entered the back door that led into a tiny kitchen, to which led a little bedroom. Surprise, it was for the three of us to sleep in. It consisted of one double bed for all of us. I was eleven years old at the time. I slept in the middle between my parents. Oh, lucky me! How long is this trip again? Oh yeah, one whole week, seven days.

Our first night was an adventure. As the three of us curled in the bed together and began to fall asleep there was a loud rumbling sound and the whole house shook. I rushed to the kitchen window and there was a train rushing by. The house was below a cliff and above it there was a train tract. Trains passed by several times a day, creating the loud noise and repeating the shaking of the house. Nice!

When we got up another surprise was in store for us. Their house was set off from all other homes, really kind of isolated and it was very flat and barren looking. Not exactly the adventure of going to a big city I had in mind. I left Cape Breton to go to a smaller and even more remote place.

My aunt and uncle took us to the zoo, and the shopping mall. My aunt had a strange sense of humor. For some reason she bought my father an ornament that was a miniature toilet. I can still remember that and I wonder why she would buy such a thing. I had a camera with me and took many pictures on our big trip.

My uncle was retired from the army and he also had worked in an iron ore mine. He was a man of few words; his wife did most of the talking. He gave me an iron ore sample to take home with me. I suppose his military training was the reason they ran the house like it was on a military schedule. Everyone had to get up at a certain time, eat at certain times, and even the television was rationed. I guess everyone has their own way of doing things. However, being so young I didn't understand it at the time and thought them to be very strange.

Every day the septic would back up and the smell! It would penetrate every room, especially the bedroom that we three shared. My mother grew wary of it all and our seven day trip ended after three days. In spite of all that went wrong there were three children around my age that I was enjoying being with and I was disappointed when we left. I would have stuck it out for a week. Kids can be very flexible.

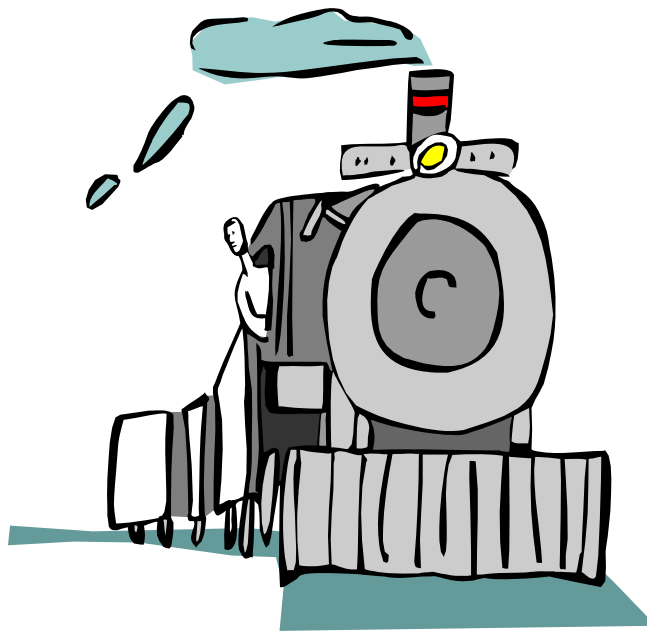
When we boarded the train to return to Cape Breton it was pouring down rain and rained the whole way home. The train ended up having to stop

## Adult Learning Association

because of a washout due to a flash flood. We stopped in Antigonish. We were put up by the railroad into a hotel for the night. Best of all, I had a whole double bed for myself.

Finally we returned home, it was an eventful trip that I will always remember. I will never forget those few days. To top it off, when I went to get my vacation pictures developed, none of them came out, and they were all blank! The flash wasn't working on the camera. Another surprise, go figure. Think twice before going on a long trip again.

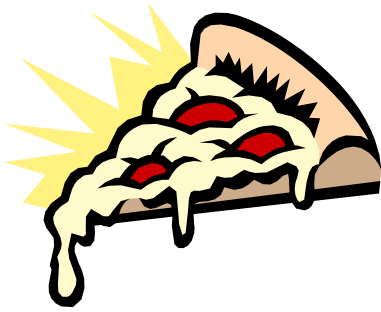
**Janie Lee Macleod**  
**April,15,2008**



Emotions

Love

Love is color like Teal.  
It feels like Warmth.  
It smells like Pizza.  
It tastes like Pizza.  
It sounds like a Soft Cat.  
It looks a Mountain Scene.



Hate

Hate is color like Black.  
It feels like Sand Paper.  
It smells like Rotting Eggs.  
It tastes like Vomit.  
It sounds like a Bomb Exploding.  
It looks like Murder.

Joy

Joy is a color like Blue.  
It feels like Rain.  
It smells like Pizza.  
It tastes like Ice Cream.  
It sounds like Laughter.  
It looks like Fire Works.

Sad

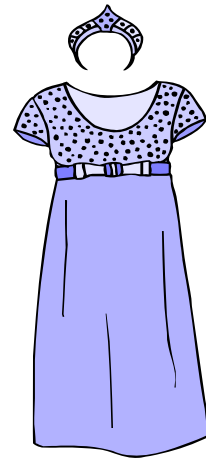
Sad is color like Red.  
It feels like Acid.  
It smells like Stinky Fish.  
It tastes like Brussels sprouts.  
It sounds like a Baby Crying.  
It looks like a Building Falling Down

**Carl Gerow**

## IWK FUNDRAISERS

My name is James Williams I worked at Highland Fisheries for 17 years. In 17 years I coordinated fundraisers for the IWK sick children's hospital. Before I worked there my daughter went to the IWK because she had a hole in her heart and a heart murmur. So she had an operation on her heart. The Doctors and staff were very helpful and I did not forget what they did for my daughter.

So when the IWK started approaching companies for donations I got involved. There were many ways to fundraise. We had about 200 people working at the Plant at that time so I asked every employee to donate 1 dollar a week off their pay for the IWK and got an excellent response. We sold tickets on even splits, sold tickets for a week off work with pay for 10 dollars each donated by Clear Water Fine Foods. Sold tickets for 24 lobsters and 24 beer for 5 dollars also donated by Clear Water Fine Foods. We put on Fashion show, men dress as women it was a great hit every year. The Merchants of Glace Bay were very helpful by donating prizes for the fashion show.



Over the past 17 years we at **Highland Fisheries** raised more than **150,000 dollars** for **IWK**. We also came in second place over all Atlantic Canada for our way of fundraising which was a fashion show where men dress as women. I was proud of all the employes and office staff of highland for a job well done.

**James Williams**  
**Glace Bay**





# MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

## **Love**

**Love is red.  
It feels like love is in the air.  
It smells like a bed of roses.  
It tastes like sweet apple pie.  
It sounds like a bluebird singing.  
It looks like a new car.**

## **Fear**

**Fear is black.  
It feels like sadness.  
It smells like rotten socks.  
It tastes like sour cream.  
It sounds like a car squealing.  
It looks like a bad car crash.**

## **Happiness**

**Happiness is a bright blue.  
It feels like friends around me.  
It smells like a good home cooked meal.  
It tastes like new potatoes.  
It sounds like everyone is asleep.  
It looks like the trees turning colours.**

## **Excitement**

**Excitement is bright yellow.  
It feels like I'm getting butterflies.  
It smells like fresh air.  
It tastes like bubbles in champagne.  
It sounds like fiddle music.  
It looks like many happy people.**

*Billy Saccary*

## *Blinker The Cat*



Once upon a time there was a cat called Blinker, she is long and skinny and her fur is fluffy and black. How I found this cat was funny and sad, but I'm glad that I did.

One day while I was walking, I noticed a little kitten in the bushes meowing; so I bent down to see if she was all right. And that's when I noticed that one of the kittens eyes kept blinking and I thought to myself that's not normal for a kitten to be doing.

Then I wondered what should I do, because I already have two cats at home. So I did what was right. I took the kitten home, cleaned, and fed it. Then I called the Animal Hospital to see why a kitten would be blinking constantly in one eye. The vet told me to take her in they will look at her.

When we get there I sat beside this lady who had a cat and it wouldn't stop meowing, all of a sudden Blinker poked her head out of her box and looked at me and suddenly jumped out of her box right into this other box with the cat that was meowing and started licking and cuddling with her. Then all of a sudden the other cat stops meowing and doing the same to Blinker.

Then the vet called my name. So when the vet looked at Blinkers eyes he noticed there was a twig in her eye, so the vet finally gets the twig out of Blinkers eye she was fine. So I put Blinker in her box and was leaving the vets office. When the lady with the other cat stopped me and asked if I knew anyone who is giving or selling kittens, and then I just looked at Blinker and smiled, and then I said "yes, I have this little kitten I found when I was out walking and noticed there was a kitten in trouble" the lady went "Oh My!" What a sin!"

Then she asked "can I have her because I saw something before when Blinker jumped into my box with Snowball, that's my cats name." And I said, "yes, because I've noticed the same thing as well, they both liked each other's company," so I passed the lady Blinker and right away the both cats cuddled up together. Then that's when the lady told me about Snowball's problem and why she is meowing all the time. Here she lost another cat two days before.

I asked if she wouldn't mind keeping the name Blinker because that's what she was doing when I found her. So the lady did keep the name Blinker, everyday I go to visit them and they are all doing well.

**Done By: NonaLee Lawrence  
Wednesday/April 23/08  
Glance Bay Day**

## Our Side of the Mountain 2008

### AS A LEARNER...

When I made the decision to go back to school, I was scared and nervous. It's no wonder I had anxiety about returning to school. At that point in my life, I had been out of school for thirty years.

At first all I could think about was that I would be the oldest, and yes I was the oldest in my class. Then all I could think about was what if I didn't know the work, what if I couldn't learn, what if my teachers didn't like me? I began to tell myself that if I just gave it a chance everything would be fine.

Slowly the fear and anxiety went away after a few days back in school. Things were going well, I was making friends, getting along with my teachers and learning the work being given to me. Then all of a sudden the fear and anxiety returned. Let me tell you why.

After being in school for only six days, the teacher said, that we were going to have a test the next day. I looked over at my friend and asked her if I heard correctly. She said yes you heard right we are having a test tomorrow. I thought oh my God, not a test! What am I going to do now? I was scared again; I hadn't taken a test in over thirty years. I was weak for a moment or two. I even thought about skipping the test and forgetting about school altogether.

After some thinking about if returning to school was the right thing to do. I thought to myself "I can do this, I can handle this". It is only a test; I will study and do the best that I can. The next day came and off I went to school. We were given the test and it was hard. With plenty of studying and some help from good lord above I passed the test.

Since my return to school in September of 2005 there have been a lot of tests, and essays, and assignments and studying and homework too. The work has become harder and harder over the years. But I'm still here and I'm still doing it.

It hasn't been easy believe me. There have been days when I would be sitting in school watching the clock and just waiting for the day to end. There have been report cards and tests. There have been good grades and not good grades. I have walked to school in the rain, snow, and sunshine.

With help and support from my teachers and friends and my hard work things have been going well. Hopefully I will soon get to the next level and eventually get my grade 12. Then be able to proudly say, "I did it". Then I would be able to go from there and get the skills I need to get a job that might be waiting for me. But the bottom line is that, I will never give up on my dreams, I will keep trying to get what I set out to accomplish. If I can go back so can you and never say 'you can't' doing something always say 'you can'.

*Mary Hutchison  
New Waterford, 2008*

## My Feelings

*Joy is Carmel  
It feels like fur  
It smells like bread  
It tastes like cream  
It sounds like wind chimes  
It looks like colors in a rainbow*

*Patience is tan color  
It feels like warmth  
It smells like fresh flowers  
It tastes like cream  
It sounds like running water  
It looks like water on a lake*

*Moody is a red color  
It feels like pain  
It smells like smoke  
It tastes like sour milk  
It sounds like balloons popping  
It looks like fire*

*Sadness is a black color  
It feels like yelling  
It smells like smoke  
It tastes like slime  
It sounds like someone in pain  
It looks like sand shifting on the beach*

Janie L. Macleod



**Favorite Things**

**Sydney Evening 2, 2008**

*Each person in our classes to talk about two of their most favorite things and here they are...*

**Ruth** - cleaning and doing the limbo

**Dallas** - his coach and soccer practices.

**Norma Jean**- playing the guitar and watching DVDs.

**Eddie** - bowling on Friday nights and going to dances.

**Joan** - coming to night school and getting out and about more often.

**Andrea** - swimming and bowling.

**Allan** - spending time with his girlfriend and his teacher.

**Robert** - playing playstation and listening to music.

**Patricia** - taking a bath and listening to music.

**Kevin** - vacuuming and washing his hair.

**Sheri** - spending time with her boyfriend and watching Judge Judy.

**Lisa** - playing the guitar and doing crossword puzzles.

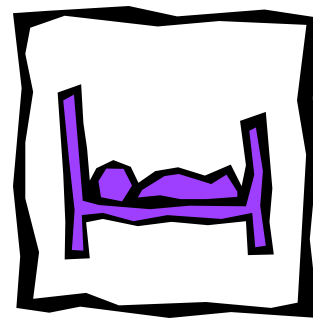
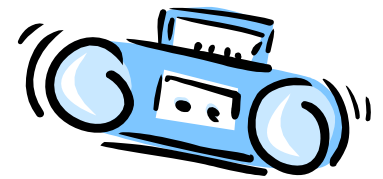
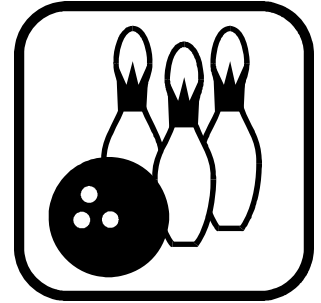
**Tommy** - speed skating and winning medals.

**Lorraine** - working and going on vacation.

**Anita** - cooking and gardening.

**Janice** - sleeping and talking.

**Karen** - payday and bedtime.



## ***Volunteer at the Bay View Community Police Center***

My name is GAIL Desmond, I am 42 years old I have two kids and a husband. One of the things I like to do is volunteer at the Bay View Community Police Center. The Bay View Community Police Center was started by Gary Fraser of the Glace Bay police and Benjie Devision of our area. It was started so the kids would have a place to go to, interest with others, learn, and have fun.

I like to volunteer with the kids and doing things with them. I really enjoy playing games and doing crafts with the kids. We also do puzzles, color, and go on the computer. There are pinball tables and pool tables that everyone can enjoy. We also clean the neighborhood up with the kids, we have grading day parties, Christmas parties, we go swimming, and sometime out to McDonalds. We do some fundraising like selling tickets on subs and pop and we have car washes. We are open three night a week the kids have to be five years old and up.



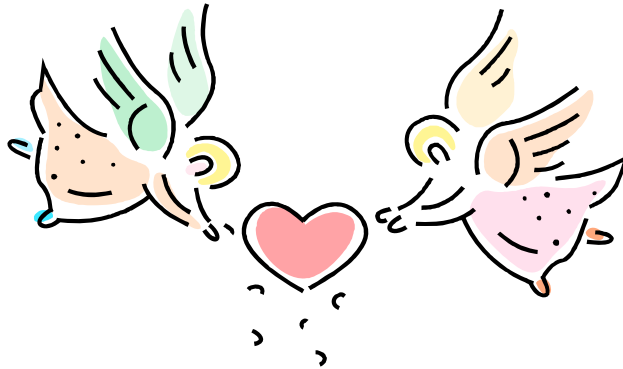
**Gail Desmond**  
**Glace Bay**

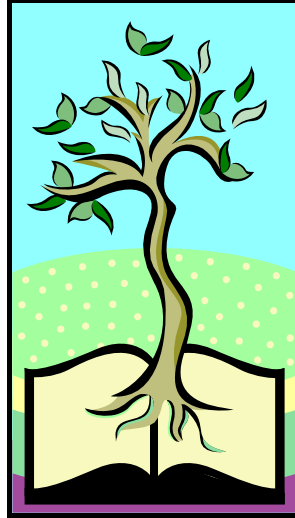
## *Emotions Poem*

**Love is** bright red  
It feels like silk  
It tastes like grapes  
It sounds like music  
It looks like a sunset  
It smells like spring rain

**Love is** sandpaper  
It feels like electric shock  
It tastes like baby spit  
It sounds like gunfire  
It looks like a grimace  
It smells like rotten eggs

Kathleen Doucette





## **Knowledge**

They say that knowledge is power. I believe this to be true. It is very important to be educated. The more education a person has the more money he or she can earn. There are always a few exceptions to that idea. Some people can leave high school and become millionaires, however in this day and age they are really an exception.

I returned to school after being away for 17 years. School was always difficult for me, it was hard for me to concentrate and remember. I came back to improve my skills and I hope for a better life for myself. I would like to be financially independent and have a stable income. It would be nice to do more than wonder how to make ends meet. I hope that other people in the community who share my concerns will find their way back to school and to continue learning. That is why I believe that knowledge is power.

Mark MacLean  
Sydney Day Class





## **My Olympic Dream**

My dream is to be a gold medal winner someday. I want the honor of bringing back home the gold to all my great fans. My team is the greatest. We work together like a machine and together we will bring it to Cape Breton. Winning a gold medal means the world to me. When I have it around my neck it will be the greatest day in my life.

**Mark Williams**

## My Neighbor

**Billy has a new neighbor. His name is Jason; he is from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. Jason moved in on Friday April 11, 2008.**

**He has a bull dog. Billy was talking to him, and Jason said, "I am going to build a dog barn for my dog."**

**Billy said, "I have a dog barn for you, it's out back by the garage."**

**Jason responded, "Thank you."**

**Billy said, "You're welcome." Then Billy asked Jason, "Where do you work at?"**

**Jason said, "I work at the pizza shop on Main Street."**

**Billy asked, "How long have you been working there?"**

**Jason replied, "I have been working there for two weeks." Then he said that when he moved in his house there were three busted hot water pipes.**

**Billy said, "Nobody lived there for six months."**

**Jason said, "I was fixing the pipes for three days and my father-in-law was helping me to fix them."**

**Billy said, "If you need any help just let me know."**

**Then Jason told Billy, "I am looking for a fridge. I do not have one."**

**Billy said, "I will look around for you."**

**Jason said, "I would appreciate that."**

**William  
Sydney Day Class**

## An Adult's Right to Learn

It doesn't matter how young or old you are it's never too late to learn. But sometimes it's easier to come back to school and learn as an adult. There are different reasons for this. People may give up on school and learning when they are younger because they may have a disability and are unable to understand their schoolwork. When this happens they usually fall behind their classmates and become frustrated. This causes them to quit school. Teachers can be cruel and less than helpful and not have the time to be helpful because they have too many children to teach. Sometimes the other children at school can be bullies and make fun of their classmates. This can cause people to give up on learning too.

When people come back to school as adults they don't have to worry about things like this. They are able to learn in a positive setting with an understanding instructor and other adults. Going back to school can be scary because some adults have been out for so many years. They may be afraid of being judged by others or the schoolwork may be too hard. But as adults, people often realize how important it is to have an education. Getting into college or looking for a job is hard to do without a high school diploma. Not knowing how to read makes life difficult. Asking for help and making excuses is embarrassing.

When people return to school as adults and get the right kind of help for their disabilities their self-esteem gets better. Because of this they have a better chance of finishing school and going on to college or getting a job. Some adults go through special education classes as children and receive a high school diploma but are still unable to attend the colleges that they wish they could. They are turned down because of their history in school. I feel there should be a place for everyone and everyone should have a chance no matter what his or her past was like. Young or old school can be for everyone with the right tools and supports. It's never too late to learn. It will be hard at first but once you get use to it the benefits will be worth it.



*Tara Bates  
New Waterford, 2008*

## Adult Learning Association

### Some Of My Favorite Pastimes

Some of my favorite pastimes are when I do plastic canvas at Christmas time. I always decorated my windows with special patterns made from plastic canvas. The other pastime I have is going to darts on Wednesday nights at the Caledonia Club. My other team members are very nice. This dart league is an all women league. I've been playing darts over 20 years now and still have a blast every week. I love when we have our dart banquet we all have fun with other members and there friends & family. My other pastime is going to play cards on Sunday nights with 9 other women, I've been playing cards over many years and its as fun now as it was when I first started. My best pastime is spending time with all my nieces & nephews and their children. My other pastime is doing homework and spending time with my boyfriend and his mother.

**Done By: Shirley MacDonald  
Glace Bay Day  
Wednesday/April 23/08**



**Patience**

**Patience is like the color red  
It feels like warmth  
It smells like fresh cut grass  
It tastes like apple pie  
It sounds like rain  
It looks like a spring day**



**Joy**

**Joy is the color of orange  
It feels like fresh cut flowers  
It smells like clothes off the line  
It tastes like chocolate chip cookies  
It sounds like a spring day  
Its looks like a mountain top**



**Frustration**

**Frustration is like the color red  
It feels like a train running trough  
It smells like dead fish  
It tastes like sour cream  
It looks like yarn thread**

**Moody**

**Moody is like the color gray  
It feels like sandpaper  
It smells like anchovies  
It tastes like sour cream  
It sounds like some one in pain  
It looks like a picture of war**

**Sheldon MacLean**