



Pam Iype comments on stats

Days after being elected as the new President of Laubach Literacy of Canada, Pam Iype said “our volunteer tutors are working one-on-one with Canadians who have significant literacy challenges, and the work we do is making a difference.”

Ms. Iype was elected at LLC’s Annual General Meeting on June 3 in Moncton, N.B. “Forty-

two per cent of Canadians do not have the literacy skills they need to meet the demands of modern life,” said Ms. Iype, referring to the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS), released in May 2005.

Although literacy scores for Canadians surveyed in both 1994 and 2003 did not shift in any

dramatic way, the new statistics reveal that the number of Canadians in Level One—the lowest level of performance—has fallen from 17% in 1994 to 15% in 2003.

“Our methods, which aim to reach those with the lowest literacy skills, are making a difference!”

See pages 3 and 5 for photos of Ms. Iype.

Laubach responds to Minister’s tour

As announced in early June during her speech to a Laubach audience in Moncton, NB, the Hon. Claudette Bradshaw launched a July tour of the literacy community in Canada. Her goal was to find out what literacy programs need from the federal government.

Laubach Literacy of Canada responded to the announcement by inviting Councils to voice their concerns and needs.

When the Minister held a series of Roundtables in 12 cities and towns, Laubach was represented at 4 locations: Vancouver, Edmonton, Moncton and Halifax. In late June, the National Office also sent the Minister details of the innovative ideas Laubach Councils had provided in writing when the tour was first announced.



**Hon. Claudette Bradshaw,
Minister of State,
Human Resources
Development**

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Our mission:

As a national charitable organization Laubach Literacy of Canada works to improve basic literacy skills to meet changing Canadian needs.

President's message by Pam Iype



It's an exciting time to be President of LLC, and I'm looking forward to working with our National Board and our staff to implement strategies that will allow LLC to thrive.

As President of LLC, and as a longtime Laubach tutor and trainer, I believe that literacy is a basic human right.

While the economic fabric that holds individuals, families, communities and our country together will be strengthened by improved literacy, our organization's strength is in providing literacy skills to people who are not always part of the paid workforce. This is where Laubach methods, which are basic and personal, can really make a difference.

The release of new literacy statistics tells a tale in numbers. I know that numbers are important. I also know that behind every number is a human being with hopes and dreams.

We would not be working with students if we did not believe in their potential. We do it with faith, hoping that we can help them make their dreams come true.

I know that with hard work and everyone's cooperation, our national organization can also make its dreams come true.

Executive Director's message by Gay Hamilton



Over the past few years, LLC publications have documented the organization's strategic planning efforts and the tremendous contribution of volunteers to this process.

We hope that readers of this newsletter are getting a clear sense of the new direction LLC is taking and of the many changes happening in the areas of training, student support and our relationship with our grassroots.

LLC is now implementing a long-term action plan. Staff is working hard to keep pace with an ambitious timeline. Issues which will be our focus this year are: 1) promoting our national profile 2) diversifying the funding base 3) finalizing the training and certification update 4) bringing tutor training on-line 5) connecting more widely with the literacy community, and 6) supporting the national Student Caucus.

At the request of Minister Bradshaw, LLC is also participating, with other national literacy groups, in the development of a national literacy strategy. We hope that our collective efforts will be useful to the Minister when she prepares a memorandum to Cabinet in September. Hopefully, her interventions will result in the first major changes to the literacy strategy in Canada since the National Literacy Secretariat was created in 1987.

New student brochure supports work of Student Caucus by Gary Porter, National Student Representative



I was elected National Student Rep for 2005-2007 in June in Moncton, New Brunswick. I look forward to working with the Board of Directors, and with the Student Caucus that elected me to this position.

One of the first things that the Student Caucus wanted to do was to create a new student brochure to help Literacy Councils attract students. Staff at the National Office

helped to get the brochure ready based on ideas from the Student Caucus. In early August, all members of the Caucus were asked for their comments on the draft brochure.

If you are a Laubach student, and have feedback about the new student brochure, please feel free to contact me at 1-877-872-8685.

I'm also excited about International Adult Learners Week. It will happen from September 8-14. See page 6 for more information.

LLC launches on-line tutor Forum

As of August 31, you are invited to join an on-line Forum for tutors.

The Forum is easy to use (it comes with a HELP function that guides you through registration), and LLC hopes it will give our tutors and trainers from across Canada a chance to interact in a new and exciting way.

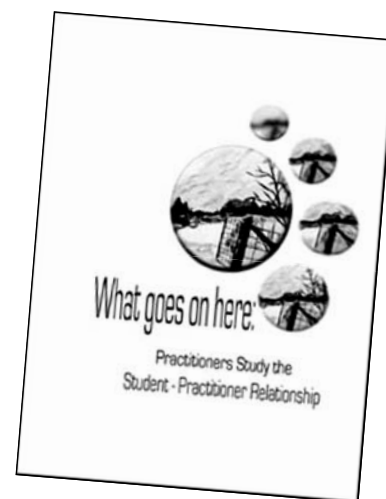
The friendly staff at the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD), helped LLC create the Forum.

One of the first three topics will be a discussion of the report *What Goes On Here: Practitioners Study the Student-Practitioner Relationship*.

The report tells the story of a group of 13 literacy practitioners

from the Peterborough area in Ontario. Together, they explored questions they had not previously asked themselves about the way two people interact during the journey of learning.

You can access the Forum website (see below) 24 hours a day. And you can download a copy of the report from: www.nald.ca/fulltext/whatgoes/cover.htm.



Visit the on-line Forum today at

www.laubach.ca/tutorforum/

Corry Wink: profile of a research participant

Throughout her life, Corry Wink has held this maxim from Greek philosophy in high regard: *The unexamined life is not worth living.*

During the 8 months she spent as part of a group that focused on the student/tutor relationship, Corry had a lot of time to examine what she has been doing for almost 20 years of her life.

As a long-time tutor, tutor trainer, former Executive Director of the Trent Valley Literacy Association in Peterborough, Ontario, and Past President of the Ontario Literacy Coalition, Corry was excited to be a participant in the research group that created the report ***What Goes On Here*** (see above).

"I thought it was a good idea," she remembers. "I thought it was a very creative way to do research...it was certainly different from the qualitative methods than only involve statistics."

Members of the "research circle" had to make

journal entries on a regular basis—something that created a challenge for Corry. "My way is to get going on many things at the same time. I had to struggle to find journaling time," she recalls.

Because her commitment to the project was strong, she forced herself to spend time writing in her journal. The kinesthetic process of writing by hand made her understand how "...the first thing that comes to mind isn't always the final answer."

Corry also recalls her time as part of the research group as "intense." It was a valuable experience that provided her with "some really important insights."

Corry plans to participate in LLC's on-line Forum. She will be sharing her ongoing insights with others she meets on-line. Visit the Forum website today to participate: www.laubach.ca/tutorforum/

The Forum is free of charge and will be moderated by LLC National Office staff.

“Dr. Bob” Laubach honoured in Windsor

During the June 18th banquet at Laubach Literacy Ontario (LLO's) Annual General Meeting, LLC presented Dr. Robert Laubach with a plaque and gift as mementos of his honorary membership in LLC.

“Dr. Bob” was a founding member of LLC, and has been a lifetime advocate of literacy efforts around the world.

Earlier that month, award recipients for the **Dr. Bob Laubach Student Fund** were announced at LLC's AGM in Moncton, NB. Students at the following 3 councils will be able to launch projects in support of student activities.

Council #1—Bonavista Literacy Council,
Bonavista, NL \$900.00

Council #2—Midland Area Reading Council,
Midland, ON \$1,100.00



Sue Bannon, Ontario Member Rep on the LLC Board of Directors presented **Dr. Bob Laubach** (the 86-year-old son of Dr. Frank Laubach) with a plaque and gift.

Council # 3— PALS (Project-Adult Literacy Society)
Edmonton, AB \$500.00

Students and tutors make their mark

Winners of the Canada Post Literacy Awards for 2005 will be announced on Aug. 30, just about the time this newsletter gets to you.

The finalists (who might become winners!) were announced on July 13, and more than a dozen Laubach tutors, students and Councils made it to this exclusive list. Canada Post received more than 223 nominations this year, so the following Laubach people are already “winners” by being named finalists.

For Individual Achievement (Students): Beverly MacKinnon, Edmonton, AB; Dean Christie, Central Hainsville, NB; Larry Mann, Fredericton, NB; Clarence Blanchard, PEI; Keith Allen, North Bay, ON; Maria Petrilli, Chateauguay, QC.

Educator Award (Tutors): Dorothy Lagacy, Middle Hainsville, NB; Bessie Merrigan,

Pasadena, NL; Constance Morgan, Barrie, ON.

Community Leadership (Councils): Hamilton Literacy Council, ON; Literacy Council of York Simcoe, ON; Windsor Public Library Adult Literacy Program, ON; Yamaska Literacy Council, QC.

On Aug. 11, Beverly Arbeau
of Burt's Corner, NB was
named winner of a new
Literacy Award created by the
Council of the Federation

For details, visit: www.councilofthefederation.ca and
www.laubach.ca

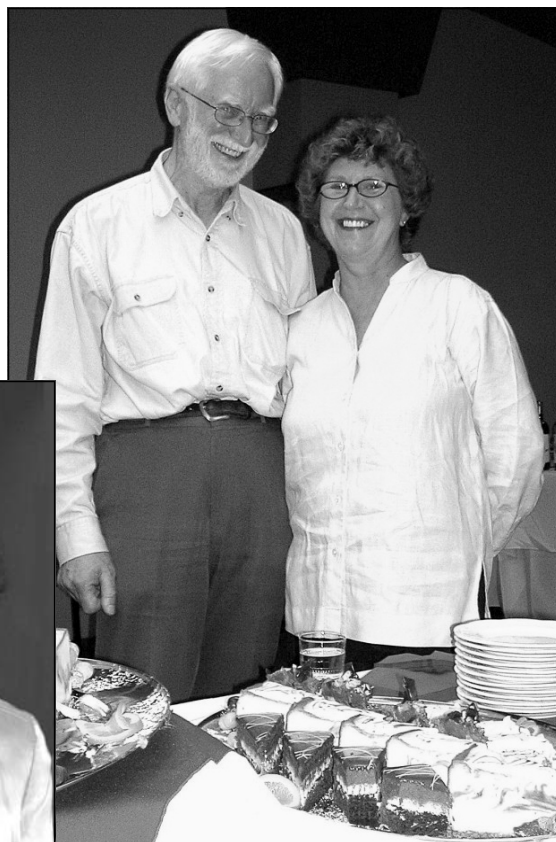
Memories of the Moncton conference



Robyn Cook-Ritchie (left) came from Ontario to lead a workshop on LETS (Laubach Enhanced Training System), while Deanna Allen, Executive Director of Laubach Literacy New Brunswick (right), seemed to be everywhere during the conference.



Pam Iype of Saint John, NB is LLC's new President.



Peter Sawyer (left) was a key organizer of the conference workshops. **Lynne Lalonde** of the National Literacy Secretariat asked his advice on the local desserts.

The Moncton conference was sponsored by Laubach Literacy New Brunswick. LLC's Annual General Meeting was held at the same time and place.

Manon Fortin (centre) of Canada Post Corporation, was keynote speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. She met both **Gary Porter**, left, National Student Representative and winner of a 2003 Canada Post Literacy Award, and **Edna Kenny**, right, Canada Post Literacy Award winner in 2004.



National news briefs

International Adult Learners Week – Sponsored by the United Nations’ UNESCO, the week will be celebrated Sept. 8–14. A short article about LLC’s National Student Rep, Gary Porter, is included in this year’s information kit. For more info, go to these websites: www.laubach.ca or www.unesco.ca.

Literacy Action Day— This annual event brings literacy advocates and students to Parliament Hill for face-to-face talks with politicians. It will be held Oct. 27.

Writing Contest for

Students—Laubach Literacy Ontario (LLO) invites students in that province to tell their stories. Prizes include free registration to the 2006 LLO conference, books from the New Readers Bookstore, T-shirts, and publication of the winners’ stories in various LLO publications. Deadline is Oct. 21. Winners will be announced in early November. For more info, contact your local Council, phone LLO at 1-866-608-2574 or visit: www.laubach-on.ca/contest/

“Irish triplets” and other stories — The former Lt. Gov. of Prince Edward Island and current LLC patron, the Hon. Marion L. Reid, will publish her memoirs in November this year. The book will be called *Lessons Taught and Lessons Learned*. “It’s the story of my life,” she said in a recent interview. “I hope it will provide

inspiration for all women.” Along with the story of her success in politics, Mrs. Reid will tell more personal stories, such as how she gave birth to 3 children in less than 1 year (a set of twins and a single child—the infamous “Irish triplets”). In November, please visit www.laubach.ca and click on *What’s New* for details about the book launch and how to obtain a copy of the memoirs.

New edition of
The Learning Edge

is on-line at

[www.thewclc.ca/edge/
issue5/index1.html](http://www.thewclc.ca/edge/issue5/index1.html)

TUTORS: Visit this website with your student for a unique learning experience!

Places to go, things to do

Oct. 26 –29, 2005 — ProLiteracy Worldwide’s 2005 Annual Conference, Tuscon, Arizona. See: www.proliteracy.org/conference

Oct. 27 & 28, 2005 — 10th Transmountain Regional Conference: Hats off to Literacy! Sponsored by the International Reading Association. To be held in Calgary, AB. Visit: www.reading.org/associationmeetings/10th_transmountain.htm

October 2005— Health Literacy Month is celebrated in North America each October. Visit this website for comprehensive information about this important subject: www.healthliteracy.com/hlmonth/index.html

Towards Clearer Communications

(Full day plain language seminars)

www.clearercommunications.ca

St. John’s, NL — Sept. 15

Toronto, ON — Oct. 4

Montreal, QB — Nov. 3

Ottawa, ON— Dec. 1

Laubach will be represented at each of these seminars.



Where are they now?

Literacy Connections was wondering: what do Laubach tutors do when they are no longer Laubach tutors? Here's what two dynamic people told us about their lives.



Eleanor Millard and her dog, Lupin.

Eleanor Millard is a published author, a researcher/consultant, a former Member of the Legislative Assembly in the Yukon Territory, and one of the first people to start a literacy program for Aboriginal Canadians in the far north.

The inspiration for Project Northern Tutor in 1980-81 in Dawson City, Yukon, was partly Eleanor's own training as a Laubach tutor. She took the basic tutor training in September 1980 while visiting Nova Scotia for an orientation to the Masters degree in adult education she was pursuing via distance education.

That winter, with funds from the federal Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (as it

was then known), Eleanor set up a literacy program of her own design. The goal was to tackle both unemployment and low literacy while also demonstrating how tutors might be more successful if they came from the same culture as their students.

Eleanor was not paid by the project. Instead, she collected data for her Master's thesis and coordinated the program.

When the program ended 9 months later, Project Northern Tutor had trained 7 tutors and worked with 14 students.

Eleanor went on to found the Yukon Literacy Council and Project Wordpower (now Yukon Learn.) Although she is no longer an active tutor, she has worked as a plain language writer for Yukon Learn.

Tobias Keogh

"I hope he returned to school, like he wanted to. I hope he reads for pleasure."

Those are two wishes that Tobias Keogh holds in his heart for the man he tutored in 1993 in Montreal, Quebec.

"I took the Laubach tutor training because I wanted to give back to my community," Tobias recalls. "I think everyone should be able



Tobias Keogh

to read, and I chose Laubach because I liked the one-to-one approach."

A university student at the time he became a tutor, Tobias went on to graduate and to work as a fundraiser and volunteer manager in the non-profit sector. Then, he spent 8 years in the private sector, working for a firm that designed software to make forms easier to fill out.

In his current role as the project manager for Towards Clearer Communications at La Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français (FCAF), Tobias feels that he has returned to his "roots" in literacy.

Tobias is the proud father of two daughters. "We read together every night. One of the legacies of my training as a tutor is that it showed me how much joy reading brings to people."

NRB restructuring involves business plan

by **Gay Hamilton**

Since early this year, the business committee formed to restructure the New Readers

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Phone: 506 634-1980

Fax: 506 634-0944

newreadersbookstore@nb.aibn.com

Bookstore (NRB) has made significant headway. A graduate student has developed a business plan and Kelly Homer was hired to investigate how we might once again publish books and resources.

The committee's major recommendations will not be final until it reports to the national Board of Directors in October. However, some operational changes have already been made.

The annual NRB catalogue was published in June instead of September, and it is now on-line in a form that is easy-to-browse. (Visit www.laubach.ca). Volume discounts have been added, for customers who buy in bulk. Our prices are increasingly competitive and Laubach Councils continue to enjoy preferential discounts when they order from the NRB. The customer database is being

updated. New titles, with a focus on Canadian content, include 8 excellent made-in-Canada Volunteer Management resources.

The NRB's knowledgeable and friendly staff are kept busy answering questions and providing support to clients. Expect to see more of them at trade shows and conferences in the coming year.

Remember, the NRB is an important element in LLC's ability to be sustainable. Buying books from our bookstore helps fund LLC programs and activities such as training and student support.

LLC acknowledges and values the support of the National Literacy Secretariat.



Human Resources and
Skills Development Canada

Ressources humaines et
Développement des compétences Canada

National Literacy Secretariat

Secrétariat national à l'alphabétisation



NRB Staff: Colleen Bradford (left) and Sandra McKinnon.

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Publications Mail Agreement Number 40007867