

SPRING 2005



Laubach Literacy of Canada

Literacy Connections

New president in June

The LLC Board of Directors will elect a national president at this year's Annual General (AGM) meeting and regional conference.

LLC and Laubach Literacy New Brunswick (LLNB) will jointly host this year's AGM and regional conference June 2-4, 2005. Both events will be held in Moncton, New

Brunswick on the campus of l'Université de Moncton, which was the venue for the formal beginning of LLC in 1981.

A conference planning committee has developed an exciting program of workshops and seminars for students and tutors. Everyone associated with LLC is invited to Moncton

to experience the warm welcome and hospitality offered by E-O-T-O volunteers in the Atlantic region.

Details of the program and a registration form are posted on the What's New section of LLC's national website:

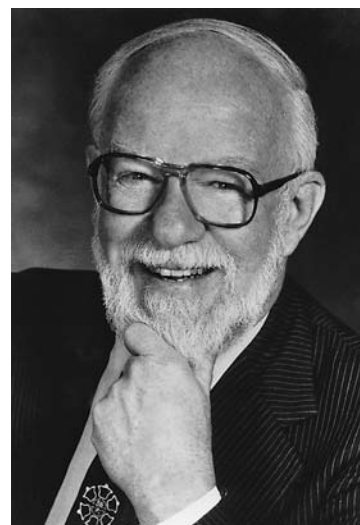
www.laubach.ca

"Dr. Bob" Laubach honoured in Ottawa

Dr. Robert Laubach, the 86-year-old son of literacy pioneer Frank Laubach, was granted honorary membership in Laubach Literacy of Canada at a special luncheon held April 1 at LLC's National Office in Ottawa.

The Board of Directors welcomed more than 20 guests, including Senator Joyce Fairbairn, staff from the National Literacy Secretariat, and both the President and Executive Director of the Movement for Canadian Literacy.

Although he had planned to attend, "Dr. Bob" had to send regrets. The luncheon was also the official opening of the National Office. Visit our national website to view photographs.



Dr. Robert Laubach

Inside this issue:

The Student Caucus	2
Messages & farewells	3
National News Briefs	4
Family Literacy Day	5
Student Report	6
New Readers Bookstore	7
Doing good is good for you	8

Our mission:

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

A new force in LLC: the Student Caucus

LLC created the Student Caucus in 2004. It will be the voice of LLC students from across Canada.

Each LLC Member from a Province or Territory chooses one Student Delegate to sit on the Student Caucus.

The Student Caucus meets at LLC's Annual General Meeting and elects a National Student Representative to sit on the LLC Board of Directors.

The first Student Caucus will meet at LLC's Annual General Meeting in Moncton, in June 2005. Gary Porter, a student with the Barrie Literacy Council, and former member of the T.R.E.E. Committee, is acting as the National Student Representative until the first Student Caucus meets and an election is held this June.

In an interview, Gary said he believes the Student Caucus will make a difference for students because Student Delegates will be able to voice the concerns and challenges of students in each Province or Territory, and share their success stories. Gary also

believes that students can help other students by sharing what they learn at the Student Caucus. Anyone who becomes a Student Delegate will develop as a person through what they learn as

members of the Student Caucus, he added. For more information on the Student Caucus call Gary Porter at this toll-free number: 1-877-872-8685.

Message from Gary Porter, National Student Representative:

The New Brunswick regional conference to be held in Moncton this June is a chance for all Laubach students to share experiences and attend interesting, helpful workshops. Gary says:

"One of the most important benefits for students attending the regional conference is to realize that that you are one of many people working to improve your writing and writing skills. And of course, the conference is a way to make new friends that you will want to stay in touch with."

Student wins Canada Post award



Raymond Duguay (right) was awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment from the Canada Post Literacy Awards. Working with a tutor from the Laubach council in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Raymond travels from Stanley, NB into Fredericton to meet his tutor. **Dan Hurley** (left) presented the certificate to Raymond on behalf of Canada Post.

May 9 is deadline for Dr. Bob Laubach Student Fund

Since 1998, Canadian students who are learning to read with a Laubach tutor have had the chance to create interesting projects funded by the Dr. Bob Laubach Student Fund.

This year, LLC will provide \$2,500 for projects led by

students. The deadline for 2005 proposals is May 9th.

Councils received information about the Fund from National Office in early April. That same information is also available on the national website. Go to www.laubach.ca and click on

What's New.

See page 6 of this newsletter for a report from two of last year's winners.



President's message

by Bessie Merrigan



It is hard to believe, but this will be my last message as President of Laubach Literacy of Canada. It has been a very exciting and challenging two-year term of office.

During my time as President, I was encouraged by the dedication of many great volunteers and dedicated staff. Each time an organization moves forward, certain tasks must be performed. For us, it involved saying good-bye to dedicated and professional staff across the country, especially at the Development Office. I personally knew all the staff that was laid off, so it was an especially difficult task to perform.

Although Laubach Literacy is a completely revised and revitalized organization, it remains the only national literacy organization that has structured recognized training to ensure that students receive the best tutoring possible. As LLC moves forward, I hope that students will remain the focus.

As I leave this position, I urge the Board and Provincial Laubach organizations to continue working together toward a common goal of a more literate Canada. I have enjoyed meeting so many people through my current and previous terms on the Board, and I hope to stay in touch with you. Laubach has truly been a rewarding experience for me. Thanks for the memories!

Executive Director's message

by Gay Hamilton



This edition of the newsletter arrives on the heels of a significant federal budget announcement—the addition of \$30 million to the National Literacy Secretariat's budget over 3 years (\$5 million in Year 1, \$10 million in Year 2 and \$15 million in Year 3).

These funds, in fact, double the federal agency's budget. The announcement was deemed to be a "surprise" to bureaucrats connected with literacy initiatives within government. The national non-profit literacy organizations, including LLC, have applauded the new money and will keep a watchful eye on the fate of such an important influx of funds. Some of the wording of the announcement may cause concern, as the government expressed a need to look for "creative and innovative" ways to use the funds.

LLC and other literacy stakeholders maintain that nearly 20 years of work and planning in the field, culminating in the June 2003 House of Commons Standing Committee Report, *Raising Adult Literacy Skills: The Need for a Pan-Canadian Response*, as well as a national strategy developed by the Movement for Canadian Literacy and its partners, clearly outline the needs and priorities associated with literacy in Canada when it comes to new money. There is, indeed, no need to reinvent the wheel!

LLC Board pays tribute to Development Office staff

Longtime staff from the Development Office in Bedford, Quebec came to Ottawa in late November to attend a dinner with the LLC Board of Directors and to be honoured for their dedicated service.

The Development Office closed on December 31, 2004.

From left to right in the photo are: Karen Smith, LLC President Bessie Merrigan, Karen Ingalls and Sara Mills.



National news briefs

Sign the petition – The Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) and Frontier College still need literacy tutors and students to “stand up and be counted.” If you have not already signed the petition that was being circulated last fall, it’s not too late! Signed petitions that are returned to MCL will be delivered to key politicians later this year. Visit www.literacy.ca for details.

Change of Minister – The National Literacy Secretariat is part of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). With the departure of Hon. Joe Volpe as HRSDC minister in December, the Hon. Lucienne Robillard assumed responsibility for this department. Mme. Robillard has held 4 portfolios in the federal Cabinet in recent years. Visit: www.luciennerobillard.parl.gc.ca/

Weaving the Web – The Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs has published a series of booklets called *Weaving Literacy into Family and Community Life*. The five booklets include *A Literacy Workers Guide to Family Resource Programs* (23 pages). It is aimed at literacy tutors who want to know more about Family Resource Programs and the partnerships they offer in communities like yours, all across Canada. Cost for the booklet is \$7. To order a copy, visit www.frp.ca and click on “Publications.”

Patron honoured – Since becoming a LLC patron, John W. Irwin was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law (LLB) from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Mr. Irwin, now retired from his work with Irwin Publishing, is one of 6 national LLC patrons.

Plain Language – LLC has a proud legacy of producing plain language books for students. Our national Communications & Liaison Officer, Debra Huron, will represent LLC and offer a 3-hour plain language workshop to people involved in Family Resource Programs. Their national conference will be held in Ottawa May 18-20. Visit www.frp.ca and click on **Synergy Conference** for more info.

Pierre Berton – LLC sent condolences to the family of Pierre Berton after his death in

December 2004. Mr. Berton became a LLC patron in 2002.

National Volunteer Week – This annual event, sponsored by Volunteer Canada, is a chance for all voluntary sector groups to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of volunteers. Visit our national website to see a tribute message to Laubach volunteers (www.laubach.ca).

Internet Forum for Tutors – If you are an experienced tutor and enjoy using the Internet, would you be willing to act as a resource on a national Internet Forum set up by LLC’s National Office? New tutors can benefit from the knowledge and experience of more experienced tutors. To learn more, please contact Debra Huron at dhuron@laubach.ca or call 1-888-248-2898.

SUMMER INSTITUTE 2005

Adult Basic Education & Literacy, Media and Technology

International Conference June 27- 29, 2005

Montreal, Quebec

For more info, visit:

www.nald.ca/litcent.htm

Phone: (514) 931-8731



**The Centre
for Literacy
of Quebec**

Laubach participates in Family Literacy Day (FLD)

Laubach students across the country are part of families. How many times have students

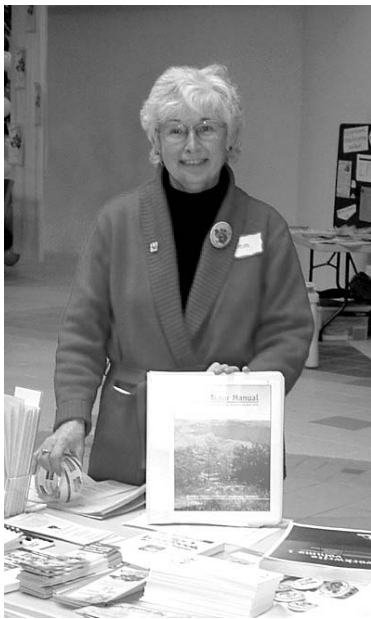
told you that they want to learn to read so they can help their children with homework, or read

books to their grandchildren?

North Bay Literacy Council in Ontario once again organized its FLD Ice Capades. It was a big success, with more than 200 people skating, reading and enjoying hot chocolate. The Council's Executive Director **Jane Jackson** and treasurer, **Guy Rocheleau** (pictured here) had as much fun as the kids.



Laubach Councils and our National President took part in many Family Literacy Day (FLD) events in January. Sponsored by the ABC Canada Foundation, Family Literacy Day (FLD) is one of two national literacy events celebrated each year. The other is Literacy Action Day, held in Ottawa in October.



Lee Torvi from Eganville, Ontario was part of a successful FLD partnership in Renfrew County, Ontario.



National President, **Bessie Merrigan**, read to children in Cornerbrook, NL during one of many FLD events in that community.



Friendly is the mall mascot at the largest mall in Pembroke, Ontario where **Lee Torvi** (see photo on left) and other literacy groups created a cool day full of events (when the temperature was -35°C). Renfrew County in Ontario had a whole week of FLD celebrations.

Students report on “You Can Do It” promotion

This report was produced by Doug and Bruce, students at the Hamilton Literacy Council in Ontario.

We want to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We are all in a literacy program. We want to open the doors for people who are afraid to face their fear of going into a classroom, or asking for help to learn to read.

We began by contacting a local publishing company to have magnets with the Hamilton Literacy Council logo and phone number made up.

Next we put together 10 Literacy Start-up Kits for a draw. Each kit had a binder, paper, pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters and a \$10 coupon. The coupon was good for the purchase of a book of choice from the Literacy Council.

On December 15th, 2004, with the help of Val Louter, Hamilton Literacy Council's Community Relations Officer, we set up an information booth in the downtown mall. We encouraged people who

couldn't read to get help; and those who could to help those who couldn't. We handed out the magnets and pamphlets. We also invited people to come to our Council's Christmas Open House.

At the Open House we chatted with tutors, students and visitors. We drew for the Start-Up Kits. Winners were very excited. We presented the kits to the winners that were there and called the others to come to pick up their prize. It was a great success!

We are continuing to remove barriers and open doors by encouraging people to get help. We know from our own experience that they will feel better about themselves and their future when they learn to read better. One day they may even help someone else to read.

We want to thank Dr. Bob Laubach and the Fund Committee for their contribution of \$900 to get us started on our goal to help the less fortunate. We also want to thank Val Sadler, Executive Director of the Hamilton Literacy Council for her support.

LLO conference/AGM in Windsor

“**Live and Learn**” is the theme of this year's annual conference, to be held **June 17-19** at the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario.

The event is a joint project of Laubach Literacy Ontario (LLO), the Windsor Public Library's Adult Literacy Program, and the Learning Disabilities Association

of Windsor-Essex County.

The conference brochure will be posted on www.laubach-on.ca. Links to on-line registration will be available on the University of Windsor's website.

Call LLO's office in Waterloo, at 1-866-608-2574 for more information.

This year, the deadline for proposals for the Dr. Bob Laubach Student Fund is May 9. Winners will be announced in June at the AGM/conference in Moncton.

See the story on page 2.

Canada Post deadline is coming

LLC National Office sent information about the 2005 Canada Post Literacy Awards to all Laubach Councils in late March. If you know of a student or a tutor who deserves special recognition, please feel free to nominate that person for an award. Your Council has information about how to do this. Alternatively, you can contact National Office to request a nomination package of your own. Canada Post will announce the winners in late August. The deadline for nominations is **May 27, 2005**.



The inside story at New Readers Bookstore...

by **Gay Hamilton**

LLC Executive Director

Until recently, the **Strategic Plan** was the focus of LLC activities. As the volunteers working on changes to the organization realized, strategies are only a starting point.

Each strategy must be translated into action. LLC has now developed a multi-point tactical plan which enables us to move forward and show clear progress.

During the last few months of 2004, the logistical aspects of this plan were front and centre: the closure of the National Development Office, the move to

Ottawa, the initiation of the project funded by the National Literacy Secretariat and building our new team at National Office.

To this we are now adding a long-awaited and much needed restructuring of the New Readers Bookstore.

Our staff at the NRB has done an excellent job running the bookstore. With support, so much more can be done to improve service, broaden the Bookstore's reach and make literacy materials more accessible.

A committee of volunteers from the Saint John, New Brunswick business community has been formed to review the NRB's

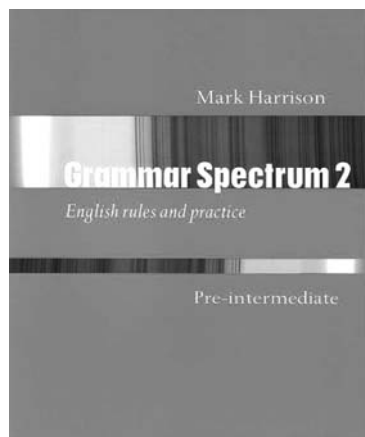
structure and to create a business plan. We hope to reestablish a publishing function, implement a comprehensive marketing plan and open the door to many new customers.

**New Readers
Bookstore
has more than
450 titles.**

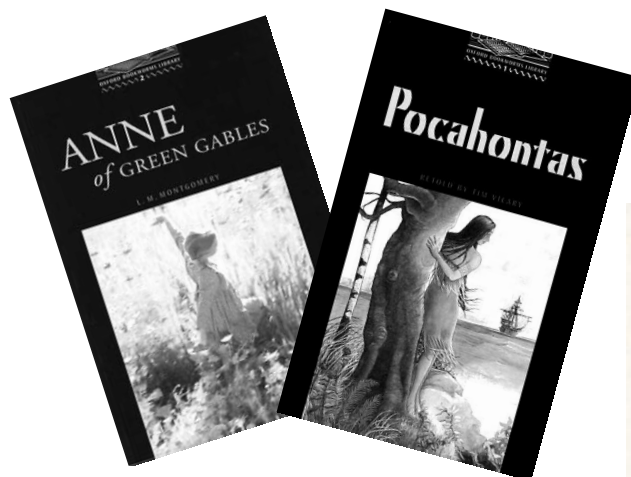
**View our
catalogue at
www.laubach.ca**

Most popular books include pleasure readers

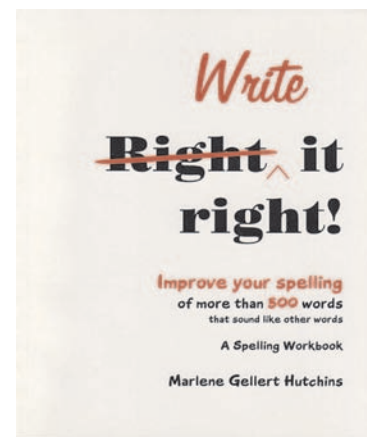
Sales at the New Readers Bookstore have been brisk in 2005. Some of the most popular titles are displayed here.



Grammar Spectrum offers extensive grammar practice at a learner's level.



Pleasure reading for students include titles like **Pocahontas** and **Anne of Green Gables**. These books are from 400 to 1,400 words long.



Write It Right ! is a new spelling workbook that focuses on homonyms.



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

Laubach Literacy of Canada

National Head Office

119 Ross Avenue, Suite 201

Ottawa, ON K1Y 0N6

Toll-free: 1 888-248-2898

Phone: 613 759-4949

Fax: 613 759-4948

E-mail: info@laubach.ca

New Readers Bookstore

70 Crown Street, Suite 225

Saint John, NB E2L 2X6

Toll-free: 1 877 634-1980

Toll-free Fax: 1 866 634-0944

Phone: 506 634-1980

Fax: 506 634-0944

newreadersbookstore@nb.aibn.com

Volunteering is good for your health

A report in the Globe and Mail says that doing "good deeds" helps helpers live longer, happier and healthier lives.

Researchers call it "the helper's high."

"A growing number of studies suggest this high can give the immune system a boost, speed recovery from surgery and cut down on those restless nights," says the report, which appeared on January 15, 2005

Experiments show that compassion registers in the brain's "pleasure zone." Good deeds make us feel more secure in our communities and they help to reduce stress.

In a recent survey of

British volunteers, half of those surveyed said their health had improved over the course of volunteering. One in five even claimed it helped them lose weight.

Another study cited in the report proposes that five altruistic acts per week is what it takes to substantially increase happiness.

National Office staff completes volunteer tutor training



Front row (left to right): Debra Huron, Elaine Quehl, Gay Hamilton, Cheryl Ledgerwood (National staff) **Back row** (left to right): Lianne Calvert, Carol Pritchard, Beryl Kerrison, Marilee DeLombard (trainers)

Our website has a new look !

Visit www.laubach.ca

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