

Funded by the NS Department of Education Community Learning Initiative, BSLN is one of 27 provincial Learning Networks that offer adult literacy programs to students in their community.

The Leaf

Newsletter of the Bedford Sackville Literacy Network
Message from the Program Coordinator

Fall 2001

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BSLN moves to Opportunity Place



Welcome back to everyone at BSLN! I hope you've had a great summer and are ready for another busy year of learning. It has been a time of growth at BSLN as August saw the move from our space at the Teachery to our new office at Opportunity Place,

506 Sackville Drive. Opportunity Place is a career resource centre that offers free workshops in resume preparation, transferable skills and much more. It is hoped that BSLN students will benefit from the resources offered at Opportunity Place including classroom and tutoring space. Many thanks to all of those who helped with the move and to our partners at HRDC, the NS Department of Education, the Halifax Regional School Board, and Community Services. We truly are growing together.

We have also had staff changes at BSLN: former instructor Avril Lewis is now working as the Classroom Coordinator and Liz Webster will be

teaching Levels 1 & 2 Communications. Computer whiz Linda Beaver will be returning to teach Computer Basics. I am sure our programs will greatly benefit from the expertise of these individuals. BSLN has many events planned for this term and I hope you will mark your calendars and continue your much-appreciated support to the field of literacy. Our volunteers are the greatest!

- Denise Morley

Word On the Street Becomes Word on the Pier

Due to previous weather challenges, this year's annual Word on the Street Festival, scheduled for Sunday September 30, will be held indoors, at Pier 20 on the Halifax Waterfront. In addition to a BSLN display, we will be holding our annual book sale and need your help.

If you have books to donate, please drop them at the BSLN donation bins located at:

- Opportunity Place, 506 Sackville Drive
- Bedford Public Library, 15 Dartmouth Road
- Sackville Public Library, 636 Sackville Drive

We will also need volunteers to work the BSLN table in the literacy tent. If you are able to work a 2-hour shift, please call Denise at 869-3838.

Mission Statement

The Bedford Sackville Literacy Network is committed to addressing adult learning needs by providing learner-centered, results-oriented services through one-to-one tutoring or small group study.

BSLN
Bedford Sackville Literacy Network
Growing Together!



International Literacy Day

BSLN marked International Literacy Day on September 8th with the launch of a display at the Sackville Public Library. The display will remain there until September 21 and will hopefully reach both potential students and volunteers. BSLN was also represented at the NS Department of Education event held at Pier 21 on September 10. Premier Hamm read an International Literacy Day proclamation and both literacy students and volunteers were presented with awards of recognition.

jjj

Congratulations to BSLN students Michael and Jeanne who won Metro Council Literacy Scholarships. Best of luck with your studies.

BSLN Tutor Training

An orientation session for new tutors is planned for Wednesday, September 26 from 7-8:30 PM at Basinview School, Bedford. If you are interested in learning more about BSLN or volunteering your time as a literacy tutor, please call 869-3838 to register. There may also be an opportunity for BSLN tutors to participate in the NS Department of Education 10 week Tutor and Instructor Training Program. Please contact Denise to find out more.

Need Books?

The BSLN resource collection is now located at Opportunity Place, 506 Sackville Drive and will be accessible on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 and other times by appointment. Don't forget that the Halifax Regional Library has an extensive collection of adult education materials also.

Tutor Peer Support Group

This year, BSLN is offering an informal peer support group for tutors. The group will meet monthly to discuss various issues that are of concern to volunteer tutors. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11 from 7-8:30 PM at the Bedford Public Library. Please feel free to come along and recommend a resource or discuss your experiences with other tutors.

Over the Mountain 5

Congratulations to the eight BSLN students published in Over the Mountain 5, a collection of stories and poems created by adult learners enrolled in Community Learning Initiative programs across Nova Scotia. Well done!

Community Outreach Project

As you've probably noticed, BSLN has undergone a "face-lift" in the past year with the development of a logo, slogan, web-site and many new promotional materials. This work was part of the Community Outreach Project, which was made possible through a grant from HRDC. We are pleased with our new look and will be sorry to see staff Rick Janson and Wendy Pearcey go. Thanks for all your hard work!

School for Adult Learning Update

NSSAL is a new adult learning initiative created by the NS Department of Education that will allow eligible students to upgrade their literacy and numerically skills, through free classes, and eventually achieve a Nova Scotia High School Diploma for Adults. If you wish to learn more about NSSAL, an information session is planned for Tuesday, October 2 from 9:30-12:30 PM at Prince Andrew High School in Dartmouth.

Oral Transcription Tutor Workshops

Everyone has a story to tell, but how do you demonstrate oral skills through writing? Come and find out from oral history expert, Seana Kozar. This workshop, designed for literacy tutors who want to learn strategies for recording their students oral stories, will be held at the Bedford Public Library on Thursday, November 8 at 7 PM. Please call 869-3838 to register.

Prior Learning Assessment

Again this year, BSLN is partnering with the PLA Center and the Dartmouth Literacy Network to offer portfolio development sessions to network members. This is a unique opportunity for literacy tutors and students to recognize their accomplishments and complete a portfolio. If you are interested in participating in this project, please call 869-3838.

BSLN Student Writing

Autumn Thoughts

by Elaine

October is my favorite month because the air is cooler and leaves turn bright red and colourful. October is the

BSLN T-shirts For Sale!

Show your support for BSLN by wearing the official Growing Together t-shirt, available in sizes Medium and Extra-Large. T-shirts are \$15 and all proceeds go to BSLN.

Call 869-3838 to order yours!

Bedford Sackville Literacy Network

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time for putting away summer clothing and savoring every day of sunshine before the snow comes.

October is the time to think about Thanksgiving and family coming home. October is the time for taking long walks along the beach and finding that special something along the water's edge. October is just the time for flowers to be in their brightest bloom and time for garden harvests. October is a time for watching birds like blue jays and squirrels gather things before the cold weather.

October can be a brilliant time and is what you make of it.

Back to School

By Dianne

I never thought I could go back to school at my age. I am 47 and my kids are already finished school. I decided it was time to do something for myself so I called the literacy network. Going to Sackville High the first time was the scariest thing I've ever done. But everyone was really nice, especially my tutor. Now I like Monday nights because I know I will learn something new. You're never too old to go back to school!

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