

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.

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Newsletter of the Bedford Sackville Literacy Network • Fall 2003

Message from Denise Morley, Network Director

As we begin another busy year of learning at the Bedford-Sackville Literacy Network, I would like to say thanks to everyone who is returning as a student, volunteer or staff of the Network. I am gratified by the continued support of so many members of the Bedford-Sackville community. I am especially pleased that Avril Lewis, Karen Harding, Linda Beaver and Betty Savoie will be returning to their positions at BSLN. Their combination of enthusiasm, experience and dedication to adult education is a valuable asset to this Network.

I would also like to welcome all of the new students and volunteers who will be participating in BSLN programs this year. Your energy and new ideas are very much appreciated. This year, we will continue to offer Level 1 & 2 Adult Learning Program classes as well as one to one tutoring in the Bedford-Sackville area. Extra classes and resources will be made possible this year through a grant from the NS Department of Community Services. Thanks to Rob Watkins for his support of this project.

Last June, BSLN said farewell to popular math instructor **Kim Hutchison** who has moved to Windsor. In addition to being an excellent teacher, Kim has always been active in Network activities and we will miss her greatly. Good luck in your new endeavors, Kim!

Please take a few moments to note the many examples of success celebrated in this newsletter. As you can see, despite many challenges, we continue growing together!



This year, BSLN welcomes two new Board Members: Ray Fernandes of the Halifax Regional Library and Don Hall. If you are interested in participating in the BSLN Board or being involved in a subcommittee such as fundraising, call the BSLN office at 869-3838. We would love to have your help!

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

Well Done!

While all BSLN students have worked hard to reach their educational goals, the following students deserve special mention:

Congratulations to **Pam Cooper** for passing the GED exam. Pam's tutors include Jane Blandin, Roger Moreau and math whiz Allen White, who all share in her success.

Congratulations to **Garth Whittaker** who received the Susan Jackson Memorial Metro Council on Continuing Education Scholarship in June. Garth is now attending the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning working toward the High School Diploma for Adults.

A special thank you to BSLN student **Michael Stephen** who spoke at the International Literacy Day event organized by the NS Department of Education. Michael has been a great literacy advocate and in addition to many other community activities, he is now a member of the Board of the Halifax Regional Municipal Literacy Association.

BSLN Receives PGI Grant

BSLN is pleased to announce that we will receive \$2,900 in funds from the Peter Gzowski Invitational golf tournament through Literacy Nova Scotia. These funds will be used to purchase much-needed resources for BSLN programs.

The Write Stuff!

Many BSLN students have written poems or stories to be published in the book ***Over the Mountain*** and three students have been chosen for inclusion in the book ***Learning To Live***, a project of the Annapolis County Learning Network. Congratulations to Don, Bev and Michael who were all invited to the launch of ***Learning To Live***. Well done!

Tutor Resources

The BSLN office at Opportunity Place is open on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 till 9 for tutors to drop in and borrow books and other times by appointment. **If the door is locked, please ring the BSLN doorbell.** The Bedford and Sackville branches of the Halifax Regional Library are also a great source of materials for literacy tutors. Check out their easy readers, ESL and literacy collections and the non-fiction found in the Youth Services section for books that will interest your student. If you are having trouble finding appropriate materials, call Denise at 869-3838 and I will put together a selection for you.



NALD : a literacy library at your fingertips

Congratulations also to BSLN student **Donna Horne**, whose story Starting Over (see below) was chosen as the **National Adult Literacy Database** Story of the Week in June. NALD (<http://www.nald.ca>) is an excellent resource that provides information on literacy programs across Canada, upcoming adult education events and literacy materials for every level of learner. You might also want to check out the Story of the Week section, especially if your student has a story to share.

Other websites for literacy tutors :

International Adult Learner's Week	http://www.adultlearning.unesco.ca
Movement for Canadian Literacy	http://www.literacy.ca
Learning Disabilities Association of NS	http://ldans.nsnet.org
Spelling It Right	http://www.spelling.hemscott.net
Key News	http://www.keynews.org

Starting Over

by Donna Horne

I liked working at Canso Sea Freeze Ltd. because I enjoyed working around a lot of people and friends. There were about three hundred people working there. I had worked at Canso Sea Freeze Ltd for twenty-two years. And one day they just said they were closing the fishing industry, because the species were disappearing. The fish species would have to be allowed to expand and the young fish grow. Now I have to start over and decide what I want to do in life.

So now my husband and I are planning on selling our home down in the country and getting something around the Lower Sackville area. We don't like to have to make this long move, but we had to decide to do something. My husband has two tickets. One is second-class refrigeration and the other is fourth-class bailer, so he won't have too much trouble finding a job.

But I am deciding to upgrade and work to become a personal care worker. I have twenty-two years left in the work force and I have to try to better myself.

About four years ago the government was telling us to get out of the fishing industry and relocate and they would help us, but we didn't listen. We thought they were foolish. We just weren't going to listen to them. We didn't think it was going to happen. Now we see today. We are now laid off. There are a few still working, but very little. They may work about three months out of a year. It will be years before the species ever come back. So now we have to try and start over.



NLS Project Produces Excellent Resource

In September of last year, the National Literacy Secretariat provided funding for BSLN to partner with the Halifax Community Learning Network to develop a resource for new tutors. The result, **Ready, Set, Know : A Handbook for New Tutors** is an excellent and much-needed introduction to the world of adult literacy that I know will be well used by new volunteers. Thanks to Project Coordinator Dave Caufield and Tylor McDuff for all of their work on this resource and thanks also to the many BSLN volunteers who provided support on this project.

PD Ideas Needed

Do you have an idea for a professional development event for literacy tutors and teachers? In the past, BSLN has hosted workshops on volunteering as an ESL tutor, using the NALD web site and many others. Please contact Denise with your suggestions.

Tutor Orientation Evening

Would you like to find out more about volunteering with BSLN? An information session for new tutors will take place at **7 PM on Tuesday, September 23** at Basinview School, 273 Basinview Drive, Bedford. Please call 869-3838 for more information.

The ABCs of Literacy : a guide to frequently used acronyms

ALP	Adult Learning Program
BSLN	Bedford Sackville Literacy Network
CLI	Community Learning Initiative
ESL	English as Second Language
GED	General Educational Development
HRL	Halifax Regional Library
HRMLA	Halifax Regional Municipal Literacy Association
MCCE	Metro Council on Continuing Education
MISA	Metro Immigrant Settlement Association
NALD	National Adult Literacy Database
NLS	National Literacy Secretariat
NSSAL	Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning

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