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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

Spring 2001

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Many programs offered this term

Happy New Year to everyone at BSLN! September to December was an especially successful term for BSLN programs thanks to both the hard work of BSLN staff and the commitment shown by our students and volunteers. As the new year begins, the following BSLN programs are being offered:

- Level 1a Communications: Anchor Industries
- Level 1b Communications: Anchor Industries
- Level 1 Communications: Opportunity Place
- Level 2 Communications: Opportunity Place
- Level 2 Communications / Computer Basics: Opportunity Place
- One to One Tutoring: various locations
- Prior Learning Assessment Portfolio: Opportunity Place

We are particularly pleased that we are offering a Communications / Computer Basics class to eight new students. Although they are all new to the world of computers, I'm sure that instructor Linda Beaver will have them surfing the net in no time.

The success of all of these programs depends upon the strength of our community partnerships with organizations like the PLA Centre, Anchor Industries, the Halifax Regional Library, Opportunity Place, and the dedication of our many volunteers. Thanks for your continued support.

This newsletter includes an inspiring piece of writing by BSLN student and volunteer, Michael Stephen. Michael has been with the Network for two years, and has made huge life changes and progress in that time. In addition to the many achievements he writes about,

Michael has also won a Metro Council Adult Learner Award, and is now participating in an eighteen week PLA portfolio course. He is a great asset to this community and we thank him for sharing his experience with us.

I hope you will take a few minutes to read this newsletter and mark upcoming events on your calendar. There's always lots happening at BSLN!

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. 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. The Resource Centre at the NS Department of Education Trade Mart Building is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays if you wish to borrow books.

If you are having trouble finding appropriate materials, call Denise at 869-3838 and I will put together a selection for you.

Book of the Month

One of the best goal-setting workbooks I've seen is *A Dream That Walks* by Myrna Hanna (Garlic Press). Although aimed at Level 1 & 2 literacy students, this workbook can be adapted for learners at any level,

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.



exercises, a learner can help identify their personality type, dreams and goals and eventually develop a goal plan that will work best for them. This book is part of the BSLN Resource Collection and can be photocopied for use with our learners. Check it out!

Metro Council on Continuing Education

The Metro Council on Continuing Education is committed to providing a voice for those concerned with the availability and quality of programs that meet the needs of adult learners. An MCCE membership costs \$30 per year and allows individuals access to adult education panel discussions, newsletters, and the opportunity to network with others in the literacy community. If you would like to become a member, please call Gail Boylan at 494-1468.

Over The Mountain Deadline: Feb 15

Again this year, the NS Department of Education will publish *Over the Mountain*, a collection of poetry and stories by adult learners. Tutors and instructors are encouraged to work with their students to help them produce a poem or story for submission. All of those who are published will receive a free copy of *Over the Mountain*. Please contact Denise at 869-3838 for an *Over the Mountain* application form.

Tutor and Instructor Training Class

Congratulations to BSLN tutors Dee and Beth for completion of the fall session of the 10 week Tutor and Instructor Training class. At present, 16 volunteers are enrolled in the winter session of this program at Opportunity Place. If you are interested in taking this class, please call Denise at 869-3838.

NALD: a literacy library at your fingertips

For tutors with Internet access, the National Adult Literacy Database (www.nald.ca) is an excellent resource. NALD provides information on literacy programs across Canada and access to literacy discussion groups, resource lists, and lesson plans. Tutors and their students may want to check out the Story of the Week page, where adult learners share their original stories. Perhaps your student has a story to share!

Family Literacy Day: January 27

January 27th is Family Literacy Day across Canada, and BSLN marked the date with a display at the Sackville flea market at Downsview Mall. Thanks to Rick, Rose, Mona, Avril and Karen for their help.

Literacy Action Week

The first week of November was Literacy Action Week and several BSLN students and volunteers took the opportunity to write a pro-literacy message to government officials. An event was held at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia where BSLN was presented with a PGI grant for \$1,600 which will be used to buy office supplies, bus tickets and books. Thanks to the Nova Scotia Provincial Literacy Coalition for organizing the distribution of PGI funds and a great event.

BSLN Winter Party a great success

BSLN members celebrated the end of term and the start of the holiday season with a Winter Party at the Bedford Superstore on December 5. Thanks to all of those who helped out by providing treats & music, working the registration desk, or being on the clean up crew.

BSLN Tutor Support Group Meeting

The next meeting of the BSLN Tutor Support Group is planned for Monday, February 25 at 7 PM at Opportunity Place. This is a chance for BSLN tutors to discuss issues and exchange ideas about volunteering as a literacy tutor. If you wish to attend, please call Denise at 869-3838.

BSLN Tutors Complete PLA Portfolio Course

BSLN has been involved in a partnership with the Prior Learning and Assessment Centre and the Dartmouth Literacy Network to offer a portfolio class to our students and volunteers. In the last year, several BSLN tutors and more recently, students have taken the opportunity to identify skills and achievements in their lives and produce a portfolio. Congratulations to BSLN tutors Patricia, Joelle, Josephine, Dee and Monica who presented their portfolios in December. Well done!

jjj

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

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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Human Resources
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Would you like to participate in a new literacy organization?

The Metro Literacy Steering Committee has evolved into a new organization, the Halifax Regional Municipal Literacy Association. HRMLA is a place for all people interested in literacy issues to come together and get involved. If you are interested in finding out more information, call Calinda Brown at 464-3141.

BSLN Board

Chair

Ethel Cunningham

Treasurer

Peter Nash

Secretary

Maureen Collier

Congratulations to BSLN Treasurer Peter Nash who was chosen as Volunteer of the Week by the Bedford-Sackville Weekly News. Peter has been a volunteer with BSLN since 1999 and has worked as both a tutor and member of the Board. In addition to the many hours Peter spends taking care of BSLN finances, he also volunteers with Junior Achievement.

Student Progress Forms

BSLN tutors will find a Student Progress Form included with this newsletter. Please let us know how your tutoring sessions are going by filling out a form each month and submitting it to the BSLN staff.

Are you interested in finding out about good program practices and evaluation? A Department of Education all day workshop will be offered on Feb 12. Please contact Denise if you are interested in attending.

Please note our new e-mail address and web-site:

bsln@chebucto.ns.ca

<http://chebucto.ca/Education/BSLN>

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