

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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The Leaf



Newsletter of the Bedford Sackville Literacy Network • Winter 2004

Message from Denise Morley, Network Director

Happy New Year and Happy Anniversary to everyone at BSLN!

2004 marks the 10th year of service at this community learning network, and I think it is a perfect time to reflect upon all the learning and growth that has taken place over the years. One of the greatest strengths of this organization is the combination of experience and new energy we have in our staff, volunteers and learners. Board Members such as Ethel Cunningham and Sheila Keizer have been involved with BSLN almost since it's beginning, while new staff such as Valerie Getson and Rosemary Jost provide much-appreciated enthusiasm and ideas to our programs. In my experience with BSLN, I have been continuously impressed with the high level of skill and dedication shown by all those who work or volunteer as instructors, tutors and Board Members. The level of support we receive from partners such as the NS Departments of Education & Community Services, Literacy Nova Scotia, and most importantly of all, our hard-working learners, clearly shows that we are a community-based network with much to be proud of. From helping our students in writing their very first letter to achieving their GED, I am pleased with every success and all that we have learned together.



Sandy Martell celebrates at the annual BSLN Winter Party with (from left) Ethel Cunningham, Denise Morley, Carole Poirier, Rosemary Jost and Karen Harding

Do you have experience with non-profit boards? 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 to find out more about upcoming meetings. 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



The Department of Education, Skills and Learning Branch, is pleased to offer congratulations to the Bedford-Sackville Literacy Network on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. BSLN has provided assessment, free one-to-one tutoring, classroom and other supports to over a thousand adults in the Bedford-Sackville community. Through the excellence of service provided by volunteers and staff, adults have had the opportunity to meet their learning goals. Congratulations to everyone involved in the Network: the students, tutors, instructors, coordinators and Board members. Well done!

-Lynne Wells-Orchard
NS Department of Education

Happy Anniversary to the Bedford Sackville Literacy Network. You do a great job of helping the students to reach their goals. Keep up the good work.

-Garth Whittaker, Level 4 NSSAL student

BSLN Tutor Peer Support Evening Planned

Do you have a favourite resource you use while tutoring? Why not share your tips and experiences at the BSLN Tutor Peer Support Evening scheduled for 7 PM on Tuesday, April 27th at the Bedford Public Library. Call 869-383 for more information.

Some useful web-sites for you to check out!

Family Literacy Day: www.abc.canada.org/fld-jaf
Family Literacy Advisory Group for NS: www.cehlibrary.ednet.ns.ca/pages/famlit/index.html
Halifax Region Municipal Literacy Association: www.hrmliteracy.org/
Literacy Nova Scotia: www.nald.ca/literacyns

Congratulations to BSLN student **Sandy Martell**, whose story on Hurricane Juan, was chosen as the **National Adult Literacy Database** (<http://www.nald.ca>) Story of the Week in December. Sandy is a student in Rosemary Jost's Communications class and also works with tutor Carole Poirier. Sandy is also one of the more than thirty BSLN students whose work is featured in *Over the Mountain 7*, a collection of stories and poems created by adult learners with the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning. Well done!

In Our Words: a writing workshop for BSLN students.
Wednesday, March 3rd 6PM-9PM, Opportunity Place

BSLN is pleased to host a workshop for aspiring writers with poet Jenni Blackmore, author of *Counting Crows*, as part of the Word on the Street's In Our Words project. Students who participate in the writing workshop will be given a chance to submit their poem or story to be published in the In Our Words book to be launched at Word on the Street in September. If you would like to take part in this workshop, call 869-3838 for more information.



BSLN Tutor and Instructor Training starts March 23rd

BSLN will offer the NS Department of Education Tutor Training program with instructor Allan Banks beginning March 23rd. This ten-week (30 hours in total) course provides literacy tutors with practical advice and tools to teach adults basic reading, writing, math and life skills. The course will take place at Basinview School, 273 Basinview Drive, Bedford on Tuesday evenings from 6-9 PM. Space is limited and volunteers already working as tutors with BSLN are given first seats. To register for this excellent training opportunity, call 869-3838.

BSLN Honour Roll

Many thanks to the following individuals and organizations for their support of BSLN activities:
David Peverill of Acadia Recreation Hall for providing us with daytime program space there.

BSLN tutor Allen White for providing technical support for (amongst other things!) the production of our newsletter.

Diane Swanzey, Rosemary Jost, Karen Harding, Ethel Cunningham, Avril Lewis and Jeanette Holland-Jones for donating their time or door prizes to the Winter Party.

The staff of the Bedford and Sackville branches of the Halifax Public Library for their support including use of space in which to run BSLN programs.

Jane Welling and the staff of the Bedford Superstore for providing the community room for BSLN activities and the \$100 Superstore voucher which is very much appreciated.

Wendy Christmas, Liz Doirion and Janice Kidd, staff of the Royal Bank of Canada for arranging the generous donation of \$500 to support BSLN programs.

Bedford Place Mall and the Sunnyside Mall for providing free space for BSLN displays during Literacy Action Week and Family Literacy Day.

John Slor and everyone at The All Saints Bedford Players for offering us the opportunity to sell tickets to a performance of Murder at the Howard Johnson's as a fundraiser for BSLN.

Reflections on Six Years with BSLN by Avril Lewis

My involvement with BSLN began in 1998. Not quite sure what lay ahead, I began teaching a class of eight learners two evenings a week at Sackville High School. There were just two possible classes, two instructors and no more than 15 learners attending classes in a week. Soon a classroom tutor began helping out. In those six years, the number of learners, classes, instructors and tutors have multiplied. The Network does so much more now. The members of that first class had me hooked immediately with their zest for learning. They had the courage to come forward and face their difficulties even though they had often faced frustration in school. As I taught them, they in turn shared their knowledge and talents. Although I am not teaching now, I always feel confident in telling anxious newcomers that the class will make them feel just as welcome as they made me feel. Soon the quietest person is smiling, speaking up and reading aloud. It is good to know that as we have grown, some of the best things about the Network have stayed the same.



Happy Anniversary BSLN

The staff of the Bedford Library wish to extend our congratulations to the Bedford-Sackville Literacy Network on ten years of great service to the Bedford and Sackville communities. The Bedford Library is pleased to offer meeting space to the tutors and students of BSLN and our staff have enjoyed giving some BSLN students their very first library card.

Keep up the great work, BSLN!

Sharon Haley-Mancini
Branch Head, Bedford Public Library

Student Writing

My favourite thing to do is to be helpful to neighbours. I like to help them because it makes me feel good. I help my neighbours with their groceries. I like to help people whenever I can. Helping people is important because it shows that we care. By caring, we make the world a better place to live.

by Steven Adams

My favourite time of year is summer. I like it because it is warm and hot. I like to go biking and swimming in the summer. I like the summer because my daughter is out of school.

by Elden



BSLN Network Director Denise Morley presents Janice Kidd of the Bedford Royal Bank with a certificate of appreciation on Family Literacy Day. The Bedford Royal Bank generously donated \$500 toward supporting BSLN programs.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

February 4th: Science of Reading workshop sponsored by the Metro Council on Continuing Education.

Check www.mcce.ca for more details on this and other PD opportunities

February 17th: 9 AM-1PM Adult Learner's Expo, Dartmouth Sportsplex

February 17th: 6:30 PM BSLN Board Meeting

March 3rd 6-9 PM: In Our Words writing workshop, Opportunity Place

March 8th to 12th: Saint Mary's University Literacy Week

April 19th-26th: National Volunteer Week

April 17th: Literacy Solutions (more details coming soon)

April 27th 7 PM: BSLN Tutor Sharing Evening, Bedford Library

June 7th: BSLN Year End Party!

Bedford Sackville
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