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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 Winter 2002
Message from Denise Morley, Program Coordinator

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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.



BSLN volunteers Sheila Keizer and Janet Hallet enjoy the punch at the Annual Winter Party at the Bedford Superstore Community Room December 5.

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!

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!



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, including ESL students. Through a series of writing 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!

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: March 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.

Members of the BSLN were saddened by the recent passing away of PGI founder Peter Gzowski January 24. The PGI has been an important contributor to literacy networks across Canada. Thank you Peter and farewell.

Bedford Sackville Literacy Network

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