



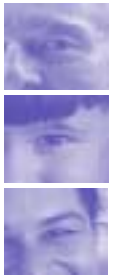
Literacy Partners of Manitoba

# WRITE ON!

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## Thanks a Million! Literacy for Life Fund Launched



Mayor Murray, Senator Fairbairn, Justice Kroft, Lisa Conway and Marg Rose launch fund

**F**amily literacy programs across Manitoba will be able to offer more sessions and provide more resources, thanks to a new literacy endowment fund and a remarkable challenge grant from the federal government.

**The Winnipeg Foundation, Literacy Partners of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Public Library** have teamed up to create the Literacy for Life Fund ó a permanent endowment fund that the three partners, along with community support, aim to build in the coming year, thanks to the challenge grant from the **National Literacy**

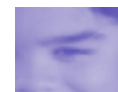
**Secretariat (NLS) of Human Resources Development Canada.** We are half-way there already!

Raising the necessary capital for an endowment fund often requires a significant collective effort. To make \$100,000 available every year for grants, we require a capital pool of \$2 million. This is why the Federal Challenge of matching dollar for dollar is so important. Without question, it provides a wonderful incentive. It makes this goal achievable! said Winnipeg Foundation Board member **Justice Guy Kroft.** The Winnipeg Foundation has already allocated \$370,000 this year to the Fund.

Another \$60,000 came from the **Moffat Family Foundation.** LPM added \$5000 from the Raise-a-Reader campaign of **CanWest Global Foundation.** A further \$2000 came from the **PGI 2002** proceeds. Donations made by the community and private organizations will have a double impact because of the federal grant.

Family literacy programs help us reach and teach two generations at once. They achieve double duty dollars for community programs. That's twice the impact, said Marg Rose, Executive Director of LPM, as she beamed in delight at this major achievement. See page 3 for details.

*Continued on page 2*



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# From the President's Desk

by Marilyn Day



This newsletter article has two aims: to describe the role of the federal literacy coalition, the Movement For Canadian Literacy (MCL); and to seek information and leads from members of Literacy Partners for Manitoba, so that we may find a new location for the Winnipeg office.

## Movement for Canadian Literacy

The Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) is the national non-profit organization which represents literacy coalitions, such as Literacy Partners of Manitoba (LPM), at the federal government level. MCL represents organizations and individuals from every province and territory in Canada.

The mission/role of MCL is to be the national voice for literacy for every Canadian. MCL uses various ways to accomplish its mission: networking, research, governmental connections, learner development activities, collaboration with people and organizations, and support to individuals and organizations working in adult literacy education.

MCL's Board of Directors is made up of territorial and provincial representatives and learner representatives from the national organization, the Learners' Advisory Network. Its administration team and office is in Ottawa. MCL has a user-friendly web site at [www.literacy.ca](http://www.literacy.ca).

## Thanks a Million (continued from page 1)

A separate granting stream will support new resources for the 20 branches of the Winnipeg Public library. With an initial grant of \$10,000 from the Literacy for Life fund, the Winnipeg Public Library has purchased a new collection of dual language books, books and tapes in Aboriginal languages and adult learning materials. The City of Winnipeg may contribute up to \$1500 of matching funds for each of its eligible participating branches for materials and programming each year.

As the Manitoba MCL representative, my role and responsibility is to present literacy issues which are of concern in our province. Therefore, I invite you to email these concerns to me at [mday@drcs.ca](mailto:mday@drcs.ca). Please include enough information so that I am able to demonstrate the history and the need for federal action on the issue(s). The MCL spring meeting is in May so I need your thoughts by April 10, 2003. This schedule will give me time to organize the issues so that they may be presented at the meeting.

## Looking for a New Home

Second, you may or may not be aware that Literacy Partners is currently paying \$14,000 rent for its office space in downtown Winnipeg. (We have just been hit with an additional 40% increase!) Each year the Board and Staff spends valuable employment time and energy to rise this money. The outcomes are significant. For example, all LPM projects have to reflect their share of this overhead cost; delivery, materials and hours devoted to the projects are shortened; and the two full-time staff members are working over capacity. The end result is that LPM full-time and part-time staff are forced into an exhausting schedule and non-satisfying working conditions. My request to you, as concerned LPM members, is to talk to your friends or colleagues about other possible locations for 2,000 square feet of library and office space. If you have suggestions, call me at 261-6337.

Thanking you in advance for your active participation in LPM and MCL work.

Mayor Glen Murray said, "Winnipeg's future rests in the unbridled imaginations of our children. It's about adults and kids together, learning and celebrating the cultural differences that make each of us special. I can't think of a better idea than that."

The Literacy for Life Fund will be a permanent special endowment fund administered by The Winnipeg Foundation. Interest will be awarded in grants annually. For more information, visit [www.wpgfdn.org](http://www.wpgfdn.org).

## Literacy for Life Fund – FAQs

1. *Who is eligible to apply to the Literacy for Life Fund for the new \$3000 community grants for family literacy support?*
  - i Charitable organizations that need more resources for family literacy program expansion or enhancement
  - i Charitable groups that wish to add a family literacy component to their work with parents and/or children in inner city type neighbourhoods across Manitoba
2. *How do I get an application form?*
  - i Go to the Winnipeg Foundation website [www.wpgfdn.org](http://www.wpgfdn.org) for a PDF form you can download. Print the form and follow the application instructions. If you have trouble printing the form or prefer to have it mailed, contact Kerry Ryan at the foundation at 944-9474 Separate forms are available for branches of the Winnipeg Public Library, under another part of the Literacy fund.
3. *How can I donate to the fund, and see my investment double?*
  - i Contact The Winnipeg Foundation at 944-9474 for an informational brochure. Charitable tax receipts are issued for all contributions. Every gift is important. The federal government has agreed to match dollar for dollar all donations made, until we hit the million dollar target!
4. *When are the deadlines for applications?*
  - i The steering committee will review applications each month as they are received, except during the summer. Part of the process includes a pre-screening by the provincial advisor to the evaluation committee, Judy Baker. Contact her at 945-8142 to review your application before submitting it for consideration.
5. *How many groups will be helped this year?*
  - i Three grants have already been awarded to Orioles, Playgroup Partners and the Luxton Family Program to help kick off the fund. There will be at least eight more grants to family literacy groups between now and the end of September 2003. More program support will come available in future years, depending on how quickly the endowment fund grows.
5. *What kinds of projects does the Literacy for Life fund support?*
  - i The community grants portion of the fund will support up to \$3000 per grant towards the purchase of materials, volunteer and learner supports, networking, training initiatives, promotion and outreach. The goal is to see more learners access better programs, for a stronger impact of this type of intergenerational programming.
6. *Can two programs in one community band together and submit a joint application for \$6000?*
  - i The fund is aimed at grants being spread to as many different family literacy groups as possible.
7. *Can I still submit other grant applications to The Winnipeg Foundation?*
  - i Yes, the Literacy for Life fund and resulting \$3000 community literacy grant awards were set up to help family literacy groups and new community partners interested in getting involved in literacy initiatives. It does not affect a charitable organization's application for other Foundation support.
8. *Can we get class sets of materials or themed units to use with our learners?*
  - i Well, why not use the titles available free from your local library or the LPM library? A donation from the Junior League of Winnipeg of the Book Bridges reading materials allows us to send you out 15 copies of the same book in dozens of titles, or different books on topics like Holidays/ Difficulties Children Face, etc. (See the FLIB article on page 6).
9. *Why does The Winnipeg Foundation support family literacy initiatives?*
  - i The Foundation supports charitable organizations across a wide spectrum, including community services, health, education, arts, heritage, culture, and the environment. The Foundation's vision statement is a Winnipeg where community life flourishes reflects their commitment to all facets of community development. The evidence shows that family literacy initiatives are a way to achieve double duty dollars and help at least two generations at once. Improved literacy skills are correlated to improved health practices, better jobs, less crime and higher self esteem. Literacy makes cents/ sense!

## News from the Regions

### Margaret Chambers Wins Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Literacy



*Margaret Chambers accepts the award from Lieutenant Governor Peter Liba (Photo courtesy Tracy Goncalves).*

*Margaret's official official citation follows.*

The recipient of this year's medal, Margaret Chambers is the coordinator of the Interlake Adult Learning Association. She coordinates adult literacy, family literacy, adult language training and specific projects within the Interlake.

Mrs. Chambers was a volunteer tutor with the Interlake Adult Learning Association when it began 11 years ago. She was the first instructor to teach the Gimli adult literacy program. After teaching the program for five years she moved into her current position as coordinator.

Mrs. Chambers established local committees in several Interlake communities to identify literacy needs and recruit learners into the programs. She provided orientation and training to committee members.

The professional development of literacy practitioners has benefited from Mrs. Chambers' expertise in the provision of workshops and curriculum development. She has written a [Guide for Tutors and Learners](#) for the Stage One and Stage Two Certificate in Literacy and Learning. This project received support from the National Literacy Secretariat and Adult Learning and Literacy.

Mrs. Chambers was recently honoured by Literacy Partners of Manitoba with a Literacy Service Award of Merit for her many years of dedication and leadership in the field of adult and family literacy.

### From the Interlake by Rob Sarginson



So where's the Global Warming? Did El Nino miss the bus? It's cold and hard on people trying to get to class. Glad to see everyone at their posts presenting their learners with great lessons and warm company.

**Delight Knapp's** class in Ashern is doing very well. Student are really centred on their learning goals. It's a big group of hard workers. Delight works the hardest of all, motivating and reinforcing.

Selkirk has been blessed with the hiring of **Marcie Cherniak** as the evening instructor. She is so helpful and dynamic that her classes are just buzzing with positive energy all of the time. Both GED and pre GED learners are working well and making great steps forward.

**Shirley Skogan** and **Delores Michaluk** infuse their classes in Selkirk and in Gimli with good humour and good practice. It is a pleasure to visit their classes and witness the advances that the learners are making under their tutelage. Shirley and Dolores are helping to plan the next Interlake Learners' Conference (Saturday, March 22, in Gimli). Their wise input is greatly appreciated.

**Carol Goossen**, who has now organized the Learners' Conference four times is in the midst of the latest edition. The Theme "iLearning: for the Health of it!" was chosen to reflect the importance of literacy in being able to access health information. The conference will offer health information and sessions at which healthy eating, lifestyle choices and medical concerns can be discussed.

An extensive set of displays from a dozen organizations will be part of this year's noon hour activities. Besides sessions on women's health and diabetes, participatory workshops on yoga, reflexology, and Tai Chi are on the agenda. Registration forms can be obtained from Carol (642-7027). *Continued on page 5*

## News from the Regions

Another step along the path to improving life for low literacy people in the Interlake was the Literacy and Health workshop presented in Arborg on February 19 by **Charles Moody, Shirley, Carol, Margaret, Dorrie** and **Leo** discussed the issues of better communications with nurses and administrators from health facilities across the Interlake.

The biggest event of the winter has been the honouring of our beloved colleague, **Margaret Chambers**, with the Lieutenant Governor's medal for Literacy on February 21. Margaret is a deserving and overdue winner. Her contributions to the field and particularly to the Interlake have been tremendous. We are all very proud of Margaret and her achievements. (*See story on page 4.*)

Margaret delivered a fantastic acceptance speech in a room full of decision-makers and confreres who know that her recommendations for one-stop literacy institutions are exactly what is needed. Any adult should be able to get help at any literacy level (from basic to university) at the same location in his/her community. Margaret has certainly pointed the way.

### *From the North* by Margaret Allan



Family Literacy Day attendance continues to grow in the north. This year saw the biggest turnout ever for Flin Flon's activities, and in Thompson more than three hundred parents and children turned out for the Teddy Bear Picnic, Story Time and Teddy Bear Clinic at the City Centre Mall.

To celebrate Family Literacy Day and I Love To Read Month, LPM member Lynda Paziuk once again arranged for 50 book bags to be donated to new mothers at the Thompson Hospital. Approximately 700 babies are born in the hospital every year and Lynda's Books for Babies project is always well received. Lynda is hoping to expand this project so that all the new mums can take delivery of a book bag along with their babies.

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Thompson has targeted literacy this year and I have been invited to talk to their members in April. This busy club holds several fundraising events each year and makes donations to community causes and organizations, as well as offering scholarships to young women graduating from RD Parker Collegiate.

LPM member Pat Kuby's request to the Burntwood Parent-Child coalition for funding to develop a Thompson family literacy program was unfortunately turned down. But other proposals are in the works in the hope that later this year there will be a family literacy program offered in Manitoba's third largest city.

With a seemingly unending bitterly cold spell, thank heavens for books to read to take us off into other worlds.

### *From the West* by Alanna Hillis



The Learners' Conference for the West Region has grown with the inclusion of several programs from the north. A huge welcome is extended to The Pas and Flin Flon. We hope you enjoy our southern hospitality.

Workshops to be offered this year include first aid, learner speakers' training, tours of Maple Leaf and Simplot, rubber-stamping, writing out loud, eLit training, several family literacy sessions, and several more to be announced.

The regional coalition has invited learners from the three adult literacy programs in the city to participate on the planning committee. Learners have already come up with some good ideas for the decorations, entertainment, food and workshops. I look forward to working with them. Hotel rooms have been blocked at the Redwood Motel and as a reminder, please phone and book your rooms. Telephone number is toll free 1-877-728-2200. The rooms need to be booked before April 7, 2003. If you require any further information please contact me.

# Family Literacy in a Box

by Linda Dubasov



The Literacy Partners of Manitoba Library, with generous funding from The Winnipeg Foundation, has developed five Family Literacy in a

Box kits. When making our selection from the many program models available, we used the following criteria:

- ï the model is currently being used in the province
- ï a local expert is available for consultation

Each kit provides an in-depth overview of a different family literacy program model and contains manuals, books and/or videos, cassettes and/or CDs, craft samples, instructions and a variety of other materials. We have also included an autobiography and contact information about a local expert in the particular model.

## Kits Available

These kits are currently available:

- ï **Rock and Read.** This kit provides an overview of the Rock & Read Program, which was created to meet the needs of parents and caregivers in developing and maintaining an early learning environment in their homes. A broad selection of books that may be used with this program is included.
- ï **Parent-Child Mother Goose.** This kit contains a video and a manual which provide an overview of the program. This model focuses on the use of rhymes, songs and stories with babies and young children. A good selection of support resources for additional rhymes and stories is included.
- ï **Read to Me.** This kit includes an extensive manual which provides a complete overview of the Read to Me Program. It contains ideas about how to involve children in reading, meaningful intergenerational activities, and effective parenting skills. The kit also contains a broad selection of support materials, including books, craft samples, and a parenting video.
- ï **Harry Potter.** This kit includes a handbook for two completely developed theme day events. Activities are based on the novels and designed to include opportunities for reading, writing, speaking and listening for 6-12 year olds. This kit also includes an

activity binder for 8-14 year olds in such areas as writing, reading, mathematics, arts and crafts.

- ï **Storysack.** This kit includes the video and four manuals outlining the program. The intent of the Storysack is to give a parent the confidence to enjoy books and reading with their child. With the support materials a storysack offers, all parents can successfully share books with their children. This kit also contains a completed Storysack for Grandma and the Pirates, including a copy of the book and all supporting materials.

## Booksets

In addition to these kits, we compiled a variety of book sets. We have multiple copies of thirteen different titles. For example, 10 copies of Grandma's Secret and 13 copies of Miss Rumphius are available for loan. As well, we have collections of books on particular themes.

Our themed sets provide materials in the following areas:

- ï **Aboriginal legends** (25 volumes). A collection of various aboriginal legends and folktales, lavishly illustrated, is grouped together in this set.
- ï **Family life** (21 volumes). Topics covered in this set include: friendship, cultural issues, immigration and differences between people.
- ï **Holidays** (13 volumes). Holidays from a variety of cultures are explored in this set of books, including: Hanukkah, Easter, St., Patrick's Day and Chinese New Year.
- ï **Multicultural legends, fables and folktales** (25 volumes). From Aesop to Africa to Aztec culture, these books provide a broad overview of the world's folklore.
- ï **Struggles children face** (23 volumes). The books in this grouping cover topics such as: death, quarreling, handicaps, blended families, weight, bullying, illness, alcoholism, divorce and AIDS.

If you have any questions, want more information, or would like to book any of these materials, please call the Library at 1-866-947-5757 or email us at [dubasov@mts.net](mailto:dubasov@mts.net).

## Raise-a-Reader Proceeds Available for Literacy



LPM president Marilyn Day and Gail Asper of Can West Global Foundation



New champions for literacy step up to the plate! LPM is proud to announce that we have been asked by the Can West Global Foundation to distribute \$10,000 from the proceeds of the Raise-a-Reader fund.

It is our sincere hope that the local Raise-a-Reader programs in each city meets with the same outstanding success as the initiative in Vancouver and receive the same level of community support," said Gail Asper, President, CanWest Global Foundation. "We believe this program has the potential to make a tremendous contribution to the advancement of literacy in Canada – particularly among children," she concluded.

Next year's Raise-a-Reader day has been proclaimed for Thursday, September 25th. Celebrities and volunteers will solicit donations for special editions of the *National Post* and the *Winnipeg Sun*, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in downtown Winnipeg. To sign up, please contact [cdowse@canwest.com](mailto:cdowse@canwest.com)

LPM President Marilyn Day attended the CanWest Global anniversary dinner to network with community leaders and media magnates. She felt that a positive

relationship with CanWest Global has been forged that will benefit programs locally for the years to come. She noted that all 11 CanWest Global urban newspapers and TV stations, the *National Post*, and Canada.com are supporting the campaign with a \$3.5 million national effort.

Application forms for LPM member programs are included in this issue. "Amounts of support will vary, so we are waiting to see the range of requests that come into the committee," said LPM Board Director Susie Shepherd. "We are very happy to partner as a way to fulfill our mandate of providing resources to the field." For more information, please go to [www.raise-a-reader.com](http://www.raise-a-reader.com)

### Closing the Gap: Developing Aboriginal leadership Linkages in Literacy

We are still working very hard on the Closing the Gap project. **Alanna Hillis**, **Margaret Allen**, and **Rob Sarginson** have gathered names and have contacted people from their regions. **Marg Rose**, and **Yvonne McKellep** have also made contacts in Winnipeg and The Pas. We have gathered more than thirty potential advisors and have narrowed the names down to two people per region to sit on the Aboriginal Leadership Team.

Each member of the Aboriginal Advisory Team will then be invited to the regional Learners' Conference to meet learners and practitioners.

The goal is to hold a small gathering of the Advisory Team in the spring. This will allow members of the team to meet each other and come together to discuss their needs and priorities in literacy.

Yvonne has spoken to **Carol Didyk** about funding agreements between First Nations Reserves surrounding Swan River. Yvonne found that because literacy can be granted up to four credits according to code 9964 in the Subject Table Handbook, the Indian and Northern Affairs will cover fees for literacy or credit courses.

## Promoting Literacy and Health

by Charles Moody



Trevor Gonsalves of Victor Mager Adult Literacy Program examines a Literacy and Health manual with Luba Bereza and Brenda Friesen of WRHA

In recent weeks, I've been travelling across the province, giving workshops at Regional Health Authorities (RHAs), spreading the message that literacy is the prime determinant of health, and helping health care workers develop new techniques to reach their hard-to-clients.

Marg Rose has often accompanied me, illuminating the discussion with her literacy knowledge and insight. Marg hopes to write her Master's thesis on the outcomes of this project.

I have given ten workshops, five remain. More than 200 health providers have learned the importance of using sound teaching techniques and simple, clear pamphlets to reach their low literacy clients. Twenty literacy practitioners have also attended the workshops. They have described their programs and explained how health workers might refer low literacy clients to the learning centre. They have also looked at health materials that they might incorporate into their curriculum.

For this is our purpose: to break down barriers on both sides – barriers to health workers trying to get vital health information across to their low literacy clients, and barriers to adult learners who may be nervous or afraid of health issues and the health care system. We hope that literacy and health people will work together to overcome these barriers.

Adult learners have attended the sessions as well – **Lorna Barley** from Winnipeg, **Shelley Ringrose** from Flin Flon, **Hazel Mink** from The Pas, **Tara Duncan** from Brandon, and **Leo Peloquin** from Lundar – to answer questions about their programs. Participants have been moved by their stories of how going back to school made a difference to their lives.

Our project has fitted in well with the RHAs' own professional development objectives. One RHA used our sessions to kick off their own literacy program, as they developed a means of assessing the literacy levels of all their patients.

Others have scheduled their revision of handbooks and pamphlets around our training sessions. In fact, many participants have bravely submitted their documents in progress to the scrutiny of the group, as it examines their work for clear design and plain language.

A peer-group review of any document has several benefits. Not only does it simulate an audience who will read the document from the point of view of the target group; it provides an opportunity for critical thinking and creative discussion. It is both practical and educational.

From the workshops, health care workers have learned the importance of using plain language in their documents. Almost without exception, they have commented on their new determination to write simply and clearly and keep in mind the reading level of their audience.

Some had not realized that their clients might not be able to read the pamphlets they handed out. One public health nurse commented during a workshop that in future, as she visited homes, she would spend time going through the information she gave out to new mothers. She had assumed until that moment that they all could read the pamphlets she gave out.

Visit [www.health.mb.literacy.ca](http://www.health.mb.literacy.ca) for resources and frequent updates on the project.

## Certified Literate Community Program Update

by Charles Moody



Brenda Kryshchuk, Chair Doug Sobering, Executive Director Linda Baxter at a meeting of the Beausejour Chamber of Commerce

The Certified Literacy Community Project (Beausejour/Brokenhead) continues with exciting new developments under the wing of the Beausejour Chamber of Commerce. Literacy Partners of Manitoba's role as sponsor, as well as project funding under the Canadian Rural Partnerships program, ends on March 31. The project will continue under a new board as a sub-committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

At the Chamber meeting on March 5, **Marg Rose** gave an update on recent developments of the CLCP. **Charles Moody** gave a brief plain language presentation and gave out tools to help members keep their communication short and simple.

Learning for Life coordinator and LPM member **Brenda Kryschuk** travelled from Neepawa to attend the meeting. She is working on behalf of a community group that will submit a request for support to set up a Certified Literate Community project there.

**Larry McGonigal** is the chair of the new CLC Board, with **Fred Kazina** vice chair, and **Al Tymko** secretary-treasurer. **Linda Baxter** is the interim coordinator.

**Karen McDougall** acted as unofficial secretary of a small but enthusiastic group of residents who believed in the project, and met regularly at the Primary Health Care

Centre to map out the future. This core of committed residents included **Bruce Schade**, **Al Tymko**, **Fred Kazina**, and **Daphne Schmidt**. An LPM representative (Marg Rose or Charles Moody) also sat on this planning committee.

### Local Learn Line Established

A major development has been the installation of a LEARN line at the Adult Learning Centre, a number which adults wishing to upgrade their skills can call. A coordinator will put them in touch with appropriate programs or volunteers for one-to-one help with literacy skills. The number will be publicized when the tutors have been trained.

Shirley Skogan, veteran literacy instructor, will train the tutors at the Adult Learning Centre over four Tuesday evenings, beginning on April 8. Anyone interested in learning how to help adults improve their reading and writing skills should register for this session by phoning 268-1816.

Once the tutors are trained, flyers will be distributed to every resident in the area, advertising the new education service. Referral cards will be included in the Chamber's Welcome Kits for new businesses in town.

The CLCP is focusing on Family Literacy as well. The board is seeking additional funding to support the Mother Goose program sponsored by the Beausejour Library.

### Lessons Learned

The CLC project has been an interesting one and LPM has learned some valuable lessons. These will be presented in a manual/final report on the project at the end of March. This will be available to other communities, such as Neepawa, which is considering joining the program.

We thank the members of the former steering committee, and the residents, agencies and businesses of Beausejour and Brokenhead for their support over the past 18 months. Good luck to the new board!

# Teaching Materials for Literacy and ESL Learners in the Food Industry

by Margarite Roger

## Tackling the Microbiol Mafia



***Clostridium perfringens! Yersinia enterocolitica!  
Staphylococcus aureus!***

*What do you do if you can't read well, and yet you have to tackle words like these in order to become a certified food handler with the City of Winnipeg?*

Well, you get yourself a copy of the UFCW Training Centre's *Safe Food Handling Training Manual*. Not only is it written in plain language, but it has vocabulary lists, reading comprehension questions, test-taking and study tips, and even sample tests to help you through the microbiology and food safety information you will need to know.

The *Safe Food Handling* project was initiated because it became clear that workers with lower levels of literacy or ESL could have a very difficult time passing the City of Winnipeg's FoodSafe test. The City offers exams orally and in a number of other languages, but the challenge of recording and retaining information in the lecture-style course would still be significant for many people.

Yet workers often need to have the FoodSafe certification to get jobs or promotions. This means that workers with lower levels of literacy or ESL, or workers who have lost confidence in their ability to learn or write tests, do not have equal access to training and a useful

credential. Similarly, they exclude themselves from further upgrading because training is not presented in a way that they can manage.

The basic idea of the Safe Food Handling project, then, was to integrate as many learning supports as reasonable in order to make the required content more accessible and learnable. In essence, it was a matter of creating an alternate route to a recognized credential. This was done both by modifying the original lecture-style delivery format to include both classroom and independent-study options, and by replacing the Western Sanitation Code document with a learner-friendly training manual.

The classroom-based course was designed to allow for smaller groups of up to 12 people to learn about safe food handling practices through discussion, experiments, games (matching micro-organisms to vulnerable foods) and interactive teaching. Visuals, worksheets and hands-on interactive activities (like litmus-testing foods for PH levels) reinforced the content. This appealed especially to visual and concrete learners, and improved retention of the material. Frequent sample tests allowed participants to get used to test-taking and to reduce their anxiety.

Through small group and large group activities, participants interacted with each other, with the instructor and with the content in a dynamic way that ensured that information was not just memorized but understood. It created an atmosphere of shared learning and peer support. Confidence grew in leaps and bounds, and individual strengths became evident.



## Tackling the Microbial Mafia (cont.)

The Training Manual for the course was also designed to address both content and learning issues. The text was written in clear language, and accompanied by different reading supports. Each section contains a vocabulary list, graphics, unit outlines, pre-reading texts, side-bar support questions, review texts, exercises and tips. Answers and additional resources are provided in the appendices.

The Training Manual is set up in modular format to allow for the greatest flexibility of use. It serves as a textbook for the classroom-based course but can easily be used as an independent study course for those people who want to work on their own. Instructor support can then be made available as needed. The manual can also be used as literacy instruction materials for workers from food-related industries.

Finally, materials can be excerpted from the manual for in-house training and display by companies in the hospitality or food processing sectors.

The hope is that through these materials and courses, more workers will have access to an industry credential. Having refreshed their learning and studying skills, they may even gain confidence for other upgrading or training ventures.

Throughout development and piloting, the City of Winnipeg was extremely helpful, providing suggestions and guidance. The City of Winnipeg (986-2443) now sells the Safe Food Handling Training Manual to the public. Information on the materials, courses or curriculum planning process is also available through the UFCW Training Centre at 775-8329.

## PGI Money Available for Learner Bursaries. Apply Now!

### Who may apply?

Learners may apply if

- 1 They attend a Community-based, not-for-profit adult literacy program.
- 2 They have been attending a literacy program for at least 6 weeks
- 3 They have been *assessed* at less than Stage 3 level (i.e., at *literacy*, not *ALC* level). They do not, however, have to be working *on* their Stages Certificate.
- 4 They show a need for emergency funding (1 month assistance) in one or more of the following areas: childcare, transportation, supplies
- 5 They complete and sign an application

### Partnership Approach

They have a program coordinator/instructor who is a LPM member to act as a support to:

- i Supply a letter of reference
- i Confirm the need (number of days attending program, number of children needing care, cost of local transportation) for Literacy Partners of Manitoba's file;
- i Give out the funds to the learner as appropriate (e.g.,

distribute bus tickets, weekly taxi fare, assist with purchase of materials etc.);

- i Write a follow-up report of the learner's progress by May 31, to then qualify for an administrative fee for this help

### Who gets the money?

The cheque will be written to the Literacy program which will then pay out supports as needed. Once the learner has received the bursary and spent the money, the Bursary Committee would like to hear how this money helped make a difference.

### When can we apply?

Now! Bursaries are given out each month.

### How do we apply?

Please use the enclosed form. Joyce Kehler, financial manager, reviews applications monthly. There is still more than \$5,000 available to give away this year. Check the criteria closely. Call 947-5757 or 1-866-947-5757 if you have any questions.

## “Fore” Months to Go: A PGI Update

What do the **Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba Hydro, Boeing of Canada, and Berkshire Investments** have in common? They have all agreed to be major Gold or Silver sponsors of the 2003 PGI in Manitoba.

Founder Peter Gzowski would have been proud to see the tradition continue for a 13th year. They join our National Sponsors that **ABC Canada** has secured for another year: **Air Canada, Great West Life/London Life, Canada Post, The Cooperators and Epson.**

Chair **Wally Stewart** and his committee have secured Local Hole supporters, including **Manitoba Lotteries, Starbucks Coffee Company, The Winnipeg Foundation, Cambrian Credit Union, the Manitoba Pork Council** and others, in the support of adult literacy in Manitoba.

When Peter Gzowski started the PGIs in 1986 he had a dream of a network of tournaments across Canada raising money for, and awareness of, literacy needs in the communities across the nation. What is Peter's legacy? Fifteen tournaments which raise, annually, over \$600,000 for the cause he so fervently championed.

The 2003 Manitoba PGI hopes to raise over \$25,000 and at the same time build stronger relationships with businesses, community agencies and individuals that have grown to be such an important part of the literacy movement in Manitoba.

The PGI is a fundraising project of Literacy Partners of Manitoba. They use the proceeds each year to provide much needed support for Learner Bursaries, Learn Line Referral Service, and Learner Speakers' Bureau, and for acquisitions for the provincial lending library.

The **2003 PGI** takes place on **June 16** at our host golf course, the beautiful **Elmhurst Golf and Country Club**. We expect to be sold out again, and why not? Where else can you get a great round of golf on one of Manitoba's

best golf courses, poetry provided by our poet laureate, Dean Jenkinson (CBC, Comedy Fest), great music, exciting and fun on-course activities, free food and beverage sampling throughout the day, a great dinner, PLUS, valuable prizes for every golfer?

And the best part ñ everyone involved is contributing to Adult and Family Literacy in Manitoba.

### How to Help

How can you help? We still need volunteers to help the committee:

- ï Solicit items for the golfer goodie bag
- ï Solicit or send names of businesses who would like to support the PGI as hole sponsors or prize sponsors
- ï Find sponsors for the cost of the poet laureate and the musical entertainment
- ï help set up, clean up and assist with activities on golf Day ñ June 16

And, of course, we still need **more golfers** to join us on the 16th. What a great way to network, support literacy, have a great day of fun and win some great prizes!

For more information on how you can get involved as a sponsor, prize contributor, golfer or volunteer, contact Wally Stewart, 2003 PGI Chair, phone 284-1011 or email [wallystewart@shaw.ca](mailto:wallystewart@shaw.ca)

*The PGIs bring together so much that matters to me: friends, laughter, poetry, music ñ all playing to make a better world. Thanks to the thousands of golfers, corporate sponsors, and hardworking volunteers, the PGIs have become a network that stretches, as I am proud to say, from sea to sea to sea. We've raised millions of dollars to help people learn to read and write or just make their lives a little better. And we are going to keep on doing it.*  
Peter Gzowski 1934-2002

## Learn Line Rings in New Year with New Coordinator

by Val DeVries

*LPM is pleased to welcome long-time member Val DeVries as the new LEARN line and Speaker Bureau coordinator as a part-time contractor. She brings a wealth of adult education experience and public relations to this position. Val's report follows.*

The last three months have been busy working with 144 callers. Return calls to learners totaled 271. I made a total of 155 referrals to adult upgrading programs, since some learners are referred to more than one program, if possible. More and more literacy centers, like Stevenson-Britannia and SALLSA, are ending their programs in March due to funding issues, and others like Literacy Works are full to capacity. As a result, there are repeat callers seeking guidance too. Other programs are struggling with the numbers referred to programs vs space available.

The Global advertisements and Mathworks TV spot are prompting most of these adults to make that call for the first time.

Here's an example of a learn line caller profile. The name and places to which the caller was referred has been left out to ensure anonymity.

The caller is a sixty-two year old person who speaks and writes both French and English. He has had the same job for a number of years but is no longer able to do this job as a result of illness. A recurring problem has left him unable to work and on disability. His education is at a grade 4-5 level. An attempt to take the GED at Red River College was not successful as the pace of the course was too fast. Now on disability, he wants to attend a program; both the time and desire to upgrade are right at this time. He hopes to return to a previous employer with some new skills and a new job. I referred him to a couple of literacy centres; distance was not an issue as he drives a car.

I would like to hear from more programs about any seats you have open at this time, or not. Please call me at LPM on Thursdays at 947-5757, or email me at [valdevries@shaw.ca](mailto:valdevries@shaw.ca) anytime.

I've also been busy compiling requests for volunteers from various programs. We are preparing a new poster for distribution to the public. Let me know if you have specific needs and we will refer willing hands on deck to help you out. We need your help to keep our database up to date.

Hope to see you soon!

## Nominate a Hard working Learner for The Co-operators Award 2003!

Once again, The Co-operators are sponsoring the Learner Achievement award as a way to recognize adult learners in literacy programs.

### Criteria

The cash award of \$200 will be given on June 16 at Elmhurst Golf and Country club to a Manitoba learner who:

- i has attended an adult literacy program for at least 6 months
- i shows regular attendance
- i has plans to continue his/her education
- i can attend the PGI tournament banquet with his/her teacher on June 16th

### Preparation of Statement

To apply, learners can work with their teacher to prepare a one-page statement that answers these questions:

- 1 Why did you sign up for classes?
- 2 What have you learned?
- 3 How would others around you say you have changed?(family, friends, or your instructor)

A selection committee of learners will read over the submissions on May 10. Send the story and the name, address and phone number of the learner to: Learner Achievement Award, LPM, 998-167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, R3M 0V3, by May 18, 2003.

# Literacy News in Brief

## Free Resources: Just a Mouse-click Away

*The National Adult Literacy Database is a warehouse of websites, contacts, and unique resources for the literacy field. New changes at NALD make searching for resources even easier. Charles Ramsey writes:*

ï We have modified, with end-user convenience in mind, the search engine over the NALD Literacy Collection and Full Text Documents. These collections are now searchable by Title, Author, Date, Key Word (consistent with the Canadian Literacy Thesaurus), and Subject. A few months ago, I worked with a group that suggested that it would be helpful to be able to download the complete list of resources from the two collections. I'm happy to be able to report that, as of yesterday, a user can now download a copy of each collection in pdf format ordered either by title or by author. These pdf files are generated automatically every night, and the new files are available throughout the following day.

The revised search facility is being translated and will be available for the French collections within the month.ï

## Story of the Week

Brandon Adult Learning Centre announces that their student **Candy Crox** was the featured ïStory of the Weekï on the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD). The story of the week feature allows adult learners to share their original stories. Visit NALD at [www.nald.ca](http://www.nald.ca) to hear Candy's and other learner stories.

## Literacy Links in Rotary District 5550

Elaine Elliott reports that Rotary Clubs are expanding their ties to literacy programs, resulting from an information campaign over the past few years. She writes, ïIt is really awesome as I see the extensive projects that Rotary Clubs are becoming involved in. Swan River gave \$1000 to produce 70 Storysacks. The Pas has partnered with their library and three schools and are going after big dollars to bring in software for literacy. Selkirk is taking aim at Target Reading which is based on a reading recovery program, plus some other take-offs from this. I really am grateful to see the way that Literacy has taken off in

our Rotary District and it is because this year the District Governor constantly reminded the clubs of the need to partner. It is a great year for me to step down, leaving the Literacy Portfolio in such great shape and passing the torch to an extremely capable literacy replacement.ï

## Vacancy on the Board

Due to the recent resignation of Maurice Montreuil, the Board will make an interim appointment. To suggest a nominee for this vacancy until an official appointment at the November AGM, contact Sylvia\_Provenski@elit.ca

## Literacy volunteers to be honoured on May 22nd

More than 350 volunteers across Manitoba donate thousands of hours of time, energy and expertise annually to literacy programs and LPM. These volunteers work in a variety of roles including tutoring, board leadership, technical assistance, and at special events and fundraisers.

Literacy Partners of Manitoba will be celebrating their achievements with a special volunteer appreciation event on **Thursday, May 22**, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the **Centennial Library**, 251 Donald Street (2nd Floor Auditorium) as a service to programs.

Winnipeg and surrounding area program coordinators are asked to send in the names of volunteers they would like to bring to the event. Rural programs are also asked to send in the names of their volunteers, so that they, too, can be recognized with a certificate.

The deadline for registration is April 25. Watch for more information and registration forms to the event coming by fax to each program.

## Scribes Needed for Two Short-Term Projects

LPM is looking for volunteer **secretaries** for two LPM fundraisers/special events:

- 1 The Manitoba PGI golf tournament for literacy is coming up on June 16. Committee meetings are once every month (often more closer to the event) in evenings at Chairman Wally Stewart's house in River Heights.
- 2 A new LPM special event, styled after ABC CANADA's highly successful ïChicks with Sticksï women's pool tournament/networking evening. Our

## Literacy News in Brief

networking event is set for February 12, 2004, but we want most of the project plan and chairs in place in order to approach partners this spring. Ten creative women committee members meet at lunch, every three weeks. The next meeting is March 12 at LPM offices over lunch.

Volunteers will be asked to spend 5-6 hours per month for PGI, 3-4 hours per meeting for Networking night. For more info, contact Susanne at [smagyar@mts.net](mailto:smagyar@mts.net)

### Heroes and Heroines of Adult Literature

Think of how access to basic adult education has changed over time. How many of you have a *grandfather* or *grandmother* who did not finish high school? How many of you have a *parent* who did not finish High School? How many of us completed Grade 12? How many of us would accept our *children* not finishing High School? The numbers decrease with each generation. Yet, do we know any of the landmarks in literacy that led to these improvements?

These questions were posed as part of one of the Family Literacy Day activities on January 27. Visiting scholar Dr. Allan Quigley presented a lecture that illustrated the roots of adult literacy in North America. His two-hour tour through history, sponsored by the U of W and LPM, hit many highlights. He used video clips, humour, stirring anecdotes, photographs and profiles of key programs and leaders in literacy to prove his point that adult literacy education has been a powerful phenomenon that has had an emotional as well as a long-term impact.

### Call for Proposals from NLS

As part of the federal government's commitment to support literacy development in Canada, the National Literacy Secretariat, HRDC, has made \$648,050 available this year for projects that address materials production, research, improving access to literacy programs, networking and information sharing within the field and to the general public. **This year the deadline for application is April 25, 2003.** Since this initiative is carried out in collaboration with the provincial Adult

Learning and Literacy branch, please call Barbara Wynes 945-1053 or [bwynes@gov.mb.ca](mailto:bwynes@gov.mb.ca) to discuss your ideas and obtain further information locally. The NLS project officer for Manitoba is Dominique Lafaille, at 613-957-9860 if needed. There are usually three times as many requests for support as money available, so projects with multiple partners and large impact are advised.

### Preparing for Proposal submissions

Many literacy workers turn to outside sources to address the need for improved, specialized resources, or networking events, or research into practice. The April 25 deadline for the submissions to the National Literacy Secretariat is looming. LPM hosted a proposal brainstorm workshop on Feb. 28 with Dr. Robin Millar of the Centre for Education and Work. Fourteen participants explored eligible activities, criteria for funding, and then learned about research tools and sources of partnerships.

Master's candidate Anita Enns is willing to work with groups on developing projects. She sent in the following links that might help with research:

- i <http://www.cvgs.k12.va.us/DIGSTATS/> This site will help with the understanding of the language of stats.
- i <http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/index.html>. This is a resource for research proposal writers.
- i [www.nald.ca/ripal/](http://www.nald.ca/ripal/) Quigley and Norton's *It Simply Makes Us Better* looks at eleven research in practice networks that provide excellent examples of practitioner research.

See Anita's advertisement below.

### Attention! Proposal Writers

For those of you who want or need someone to write the literature review or the final report for your National Literacy Secretariat projects, I am able to provide that service. In addition, I am willing to conduct research for your programs. I am in the final stages of attaining my Master's degree in Education and have worked in the field of adult education, including adult literacy, for the past 12 years. Contact me, Anita Enns, at home: 786-7554, work: 477-9411 or by email: [dunger@mts.net](mailto:dunger@mts.net)

# Upcoming Events

**April 4, 2003, 2:30 p.m. ñ 4:30 p.m.** TGIF networking session for literacy workers at the Elmwood Community Resource Centre, 75 Brazier Street, Winnipeg.

**April 8-9, 2003. Rock and Read training session.** Bookmates, 582-1804

**April 16, 2003, 9:00 a.m. ñ 4:00 p.m. Literacy and Health workshop.** Deer Lodge Centre, 2109 Portage Avenue Winnipeg. Visit [www.mb.health.literacy.ca](http://www.mb.health.literacy.ca) or to register, call 775-4787 or email: [cmoody@nald.ca](mailto:cmoody@nald.ca).

**April 22-23, 2003. Parent-Child Mother Goose training session.** Bookmates, 582-1804.

**April 23, 2003. Canada Book Day, during Manitoba Book Week.** Contact the Assn. of Manitoba Book Publishers for ideas to mark this celebration of reading in Canada.

**April 24, 2003. Workshop on ESL and the Mature Student diploma** Hosted by Adult Learning and Literacy. Contact [literacy@gov.mb.ca](mailto:literacy@gov.mb.ca) for details.

**April 24-25, 2003. West Regional Learner Conference, Brandon.** Contact [Alanna\\_Hillis@elit.ca](mailto:Alanna_Hillis@elit.ca)

**April 25, 2003.** April 25: Deadline for requests for support from the National Literacy Secretariat for research, materials production, networking and publicity ideas. To obtain a form, contact Barb Wynes at 945-1053 or [bwynes@gov.mb.ca](mailto:bwynes@gov.mb.ca)

**April 28th, 2003. Getting Your Child Ready For School.** Bookmates, 582-1804.

**May 15, 2003. International Day of Families.** Community Expo, Winnipeg. Organized by the Centre of Excellence for Children's Well Being. Call Anita Enns for details.

**May 16, 2003, 10:00 a.m. ñ 4:00 p.m. Teaching Writing for Daily Survival: Writing and the Stages Curriculum.** Brandon. Contact Marie Matheson, [mmatheson@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mmatheson@gov.mb.ca) or 726-6027 or 1-800-262-3930

**May 20, 2003.** Deadline for nominations for The Co-operators Learner Achievement Award, to be presented at the PGI gala on June 16th. Contact [smagyarc@mts.net](mailto:smagyarc@mts.net)

**May 22, 2003. LPM Volunteer Appreciation Gala.** Centennial Library, Graham Avenue, Winnipeg. To reserve spots for literacy tutors, board members, learner reps, committee members and other volunteers, please contact [smagyarc@mts.net](mailto:smagyarc@mts.net)

**May 29-31, 2003.** MCL national meetings and AGM, Ottawa. Manitoba rep Marilyn Day needs your feedback. See [www.literacy.ca](http://www.literacy.ca).

**May 30, 2003, 2:30 p.m. ñ 4:30 p.m.** TGIF networking session for literacy workers hosted by the Transcona Literacy Centre, 260 Redonda Street.

**June 16, 2003. PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy.** Elmhurst Golf and Country Club. Shotgun start at noon; banquet at 6 p.m. Registration is open: call Tara to obtain a form at 947-5757 or email [smagyarc@mts.net](mailto:smagyarc@mts.net). Great food, golf and networking on the course to aid bursaries and resources for programs. Costs are \$250 per golfer; \$800 per four-some; \$50 banquet only. Limited seats available!

**November 8, 2003. Winnipeg.** LPM AGM and luncheon



<b>President:</b>	Marilyn Day
<b>Executive Director:</b>	Marg Rose
<b>Admin. Assistant:</b>	Tara Dufresne
<b>Library Coordinator:</b>	Linda Dubasov
<b>Financial Manager:</b>	Joyce Kehler
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<b>Northern Coordinator:</b>	Margaret Allan
<b>West Region Coordinator:</b>	Alanna Hillis
<b>Manitoba Learner Representative to MCL:</b>	Joe Dutra

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*Write On!* Is a publication of Literacy Partners of Manitoba circulated to members, funders, sponsors, and the public upon request. The goal is to encourage and support learners, tutors, instructors and programs in Manitoba by building and sustaining ongoing conversation and exchange of ideas and information among members, the literacy community, and the public at large.

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