



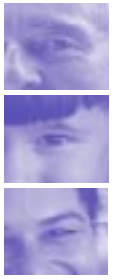
Literacy Partners of Manitoba

WRITE ON!

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Sponsors line up for literacy



Lloyd Axworthy, Poet Laureate, PGI 2005

What do **Great West Life, Bob FM, Canada Post, Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg, Workplace Education Manitoba Steering Committee** and **Manitoba Lotteries** have in common? They are just a few of our National and Local sponsors for the 2005 Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament for Literacy.

Lloyd Axworthy and **Ian Ross** will join golfers at the 15th annual Peter Gzowski Invitational (PGI) golf tournament. Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, the University of Winnipeg President and Vice-Chancellor, has signed on as Poet Laureate and Ian Ross will reprise his much loved character, "Joe from Winnipeg".

Every year, corporations throughout Manitoba and Canada provide the Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament for Literacy with financial sponsorship and in-kind donations. This type of generosity is critical to generating important funds that go directly to the bursaries that Literacy Partners of Manitoba provides to adult learners in the province.

This year the PGI committee under the leadership of Wally Stewart is able to welcome back several of our local and national sponsors. Without the generosity of these sponsors a golf tournament of the calibre of the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy would not be possible.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of so many local businesses, organizations and individuals including Berkshire Securities, Manitoba Blue Cross, Tribal Councils Investment and Winnipeg Women's and Winnipeg Men's Magazine. These sponsors have contributed thousands of dollars to support literacy over the years. Many also contribute the time of employees who serve as volunteers on the PGI committee. If you know of a potential sponsor or would like to donate your time to the Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament for Literacy contact Wally Stewart at (204) 771-4997 or email pgimanitoba@literacy.ca.

Write On! goes electronic

This is the first electronic edition of *Write On!* We are emailing it to all members who have given us their email address, and mailing it to those who do not have Internet access. We save money in mailing costs and you receive up-to-date information. When you receive our email with the newsletter or newsbulletin, you have several options:

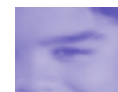
- Delete it. We hope you won't do that, but at least we'll be saving paper.
- Read it on your computer screen. In this way you will be able to follow Internet links and email addresses directly without having to type them into your computer later.
- Print it off and read it at leisure, perhaps in glorious technicolour.

Some of you have said they have not been able to open our PDF attachments. Perhaps you don't have the latest version of Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. You can download this from <http://www.adobe.com>.

Keeping you informed

A member has asked us to develop a quick and simple way for literacy practitioners to check out items of interest to them. We already have a solution. One page on our website is devoted to LPM news and events. Check it out now at www.mb.literacy.ca/whatnew.htm. Make this page your home page.

Here's what to do. Go to this page. On the toolbar of the browser, click on Tools and then Internet Options. Then in the Home Page box, click on "Use Current Page". This will make our LPM Events page your Internet home page.



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LPM on the move

Letters to the editor



LPM's new premises at 321 McDermot Ave. We're on the fourth floor.

Our lease at 1555 St James Street comes to an end in June. We want to thank CanWest Global for their generous donation of this office space for the past 19 months.

We have been very fortunate to find a bright and sunny space at 401-321 McDermot Avenue between Hargrave and Adelaide, west of Main Street. It is a refurbished warehouse building – double walls, new windows, electrical and plumbing. Our neighbour on the 4th floor is Lewis Communications – they won an award for their office space. The Elizabeth Hill Counselling Centre is also here – it is U of M's counselling affiliate.

We know bus service and parking are always a concern. We have checked with the counselling centre before signing the lease and they assured us their clients don't have transportation or parking problems. Buses run on all the major streets.

Parking

There are lots of parking options – two-hour metered parking right beside us on both sides of Adelaide between Notre Dame and William. Metered parking is also available on McDermot, Bannatyne, Notre Dame, Princess and Hargrave. Another parking option is a coin-operated parking lot at the corner of Hargrave and McDermot right beside the building.

We look forward to receiving a host of visitors in our new premises. Stay tuned for more updates on our move. We will keep you informed!!

On problem-based learning from sunny BC

Hello, wonderful Manitoba colleagues and friends from your western export. I think the literacy field would benefit from a new publication I've seen out here. It's a summary on the technique of "Problem-Based Learning" or PBL. It's a method very popular and effective in adult education, that springs from the work of Paulo Friere and is now seeping into the institutional contexts as well. Go to www.uvic.ca/terc to see articles that are based on a university setting, but can easily be adapted for adult literacy classes.

Click on the link to the latest newsletter for March 2005 of the Innovative Teaching Centre, called *ITC currents*, to find some great readings:

- an overview on how to get student buy-in, as it is more work to think and carry out authentic tasks, something that the portfolio and Stages curriculum requires of adult learners
- an interview with two instructors on how to "bite your tongue and stay in the background" in the biology and medical training areas
- a listing of 12 resources for further reading in this area (page 14) a general structure and lesson plan for PBL (page 15)

Take a peek into best practices! Many of you have been doing this type of hands-on, experiential learning for years. It's interesting to see it branded in this way. Best wishes for a great spring. You deserve it, after that cruel winter!

Marg Rose

On university admission for adult learners

Recently I happened to call the Registrar for the University of Winnipeg regarding a student who has a Mature Adult High School Diploma.

I was informed that the U of W does not recognize this diploma. My student will be admitted as a mature student, but as such, must take a reduced course load. This, despite the fact that the Mature Adult Diploma requires **four** 40S credits, surely a qualification for a full university load.

It seemed to me during this conversation that something was amiss. Why hasn't there been a concerted push by the AL&L office and ASEC to negotiate recognition for this diploma? If they have not been successful in the past maybe it is time for Literacy Partners of Manitoba to take a leadership role. Many learners restart their academic careers in a Literacy Program and therefore LPM has a vested interest in this issue.

Bob Thompson, Stevenson-Britannia

Library News: from Bunny's desk to yours

Thank You

Three cheers for Premiere Van Lines (formerly AMJ Campbell Van Lines)!! Thanks to them, the Library is up and running once again. Once our flood-soaked walls were repaired, we had no one with the strength to move the bookcases back. [OK, so we're a bunch of wimps.] One quick call to Premiere and we had two burly types down here and the bookcases in place in less than an hour. Many thanks to Dave Shayna and crew.

Raise-a-Reader

The books donated to Raise a Reader last year have finally been sorted, stickered, picked, packed, and distributed. In all, approximately 3500 – 4000 books were given to family literacy programs throughout the province. Many thanks to Board member Trevor Surgenor, who is in charge of Thompson Public Library. He distributed books to northern programs and communities, which made life much simpler for us.

The Raise a Reader book drive was supported by CanWest Global who organized the drive, and Premiere Van Lines who collected and stored all the books until they could be sorted and distributed. Both organizations deserve a big thank you (hint, hint). For CanWest Global, you can email Cindy Dowse, cdowse@canwest.com. For Premiere Van Lines, email Dave Shayna, dshayna@premierevanlines.com.

Stay tuned for the next book drive, and remember that the book request forms are sent out over the listserv – so if you're not signed up, get crackin'!

Websites to peruse and use

For many reasons, there have been no new additions to the library collection, so I'm sharing a number of interesting educational websites I've run across. Some have already been put out on the listserv; please excuse the duplication.

Adult Literacy Education Wiki http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Main_Page

This is a Web site to share information about a large range of adult literacy issues. There are also links to research. Lots of good stuff here. Take a look at the table of contents on the Main Page.

Math TV.com Practice Tests <http://www.mathtv.com/tests/index.htm>

“Free 10-problem practice test worksheets and video solutions to each problem.” Tests include various math topics [whole numbers, decimals, etc.], algebra, and one test for trigonometry

Office Ergonomics. 5th edition <http://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/pdf/ergonomicssampleguide.pdf>

This one is for you, not for your learners. It's only 10 pages long, but has some good info. Prepared by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

The Atlas of Canada <http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/sitemap/index.html>

Includes lesson plans and a curriculum guide – I'm not sure of the audience. Maps cover the Environment, People & Society, Economy, History, Climate Change, Freshwater, and Health.

Virtual Museum Canada <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca>

Web gateway to Canada's museums. Includes an Image Gallery, an interactive Fun and Games section, a section on Community Memories, and a Teacher's Centre.

National Center [sic] for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy. Teaching and Training Materials.

<http://www.ncsall.net/index.php?id=25> Free pdf materials for learners and for you. This page will probably include new stuff from time to time. Free is good, right?

Jenny Horsman's Website <http://www.jennyhorsman.com>

Includes articles, bibliography, research, links on the impact of violence on learning. Articles are in the public domain and may be copied and shared.

Adult Literacy and Technology Network. Teacher / Tutor Resources by Category

http://www.altn.org/techtraining/teatut_category.html#curricula

Gateway to full-text articles and to other Web sites with information about the use and / or integration of technology in adult literacy lessons.

News from the Regions



From the Interlake

by Carol Goossen (ceeg@mts.net)

Interlake Adult Learners' Conference

The Interlake Adult Learners' Conference was held Saturday, April 16, at the Ashern Central School in Ashern. About 75 people from Selkirk, Gimli, Arborg, Lundar, Eriksdale and Ashern attended the conference, along with representatives from programs in adult literacy, family literacy, English as a second language, and workplace education. Our theme: Life is a Highway! The day began early for the Selkirk participants. The tour bus was ready to roll at 8 am. From Selkirk, the bus picked up conference-goers in Gimli, Arborg, Poplarfield and Eriksdale, to arrive in Ashern at 11 am.



Elsie Kiesman (l), Linda Schroeder and Margaret Chambers at registration table

Opening ceremonies proceeded with greetings from **Councillor George Granburg**, Fieldstone Ventures board member **Linda Fletcher**, and **MLA Tom Nevakshonoff**. An excellent lasagna lunch was provided by the **Ashern Ladies of the Royal Purple** before the workshops got under way. All of the workshops built on the travel theme of the conference.

Excellent workshop presentations kept everyone fully occupied for the afternoon. Workshops included:

- RCMP Travel Tips - Corporal Ernie Arns
- First Aid on the Road - Cindy Arns, Public Health Nurse
- Karate/Self-defense - Walter Kolodka
- Interlake Tourist Sites - Jacques Bourgeois, Oak Hammock Marsh
- Safe and Healthy Food for the Road - Thelma Blahey, Home Economist
- Travel.com, Search the Internet - Glen Timchishen, computer programmer
- Keep Kids Happy: Travelling with Kids - Carol Goossen, Janaya Tomchuk, family literacy facilitators

Following the workshops, everyone enjoyed tea and bannock, and the great sounds of the **St. Laurent Fiddlers**. We ended the day with some draw prizes and a rendition of "Happy Trails to You"!

Riverton Friendship Centre Rainbow Reading Room

On Friday, April 15, the Riverton Friendship Centre celebrated the grand opening of their Rainbow Reading Room, which was created with a grant from the Literacy for Life Fund.



Peter Bjornson, Honorable Minister of Education, reads to children in the new Rainbow Reading Room at the Riverton Friendship Centre.

Weaving Family Literacy

The Weaving Family Literacy project participants reunite for a follow-up conference in Ottawa, May 15-17. This gathering precedes the Family Resource Programs (FRP) Canada Synergy Conference. **Shirley Skogan, Waltraud Grieger, Carol Goossen** from the Interlake region will be attending. **Julie Ruban MacDonald** (Katherine Aird Hamilton bursary winner) from the Carmen Family Resource Program, will also attend.

Joint Manitoba/Saskatchewan Training

Two new modules in Foundational Training in Family Literacy will be introduced at a 3 day training session, May 10-12 at Elkhorn Resort, MB. Several practitioners from the Interlake will be attending. **Carol Goossen, Judy Baker, Kim Hetherington** and **Lynne Mourot** will be leading the training, supported by a Raise-a-Reader grant.

News from the Regions



From the West

by Alanna Hillis (alanna_hillis@elit.ca)

Once again we are having a Spring Learners' Conference. This year it will be hosted by the A.P.P.L.E. program on April 28-29 in Virden on April 28-29. The conference will kick off with a banquet and parade of Banners on April 28th at 6:00 pm. This is always such an exciting time for the learners of the programs. Old friendships are renewed and new friendships are made. Representatives from Adult Learning and Literacy, Literacy Partners of Manitoba, and West Region Coalition will be on hand to welcome the learners from the various programs within the West Region. Workshops being offered are

- Tour of the Antique Auto Museum
- Career Start Workshop
- First Aid
- Healthy Living
- Writing Out Loud
- Family Literacy Presentation
- Tour of Boundary Lane Hutterite Colony
- Hands on Art

A huge bouquet is sent to the Staff and Board of the A.P.P.L.E. program for hosting this conference.



From the North

by Yvonne Jordaan (Yvonne_Jordaan@eLit.ca)

The Life Long Learning Centre in The Pas have some short courses coming up:

May 9-10: Basic Resume and cover letter workshop, in partnership with Partners for Careers.

May 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26. Basic Computer skills, computer use, and Internet use.

May 16-17: Diabetes awareness in partnership with Aboriginal Partnership for Healthy Living.

In **Flin Flon, Myrna Ducharme** has moved on to a new venture from the Adult Basic Education program at the **Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre. Dolly Charlette** is now the instructor of the the program.

In **Cross Lake, Delia Erickson** is teaching Entrepreneurial skills with her Adult Basic Education program. Next year the program will run for ten months.

Norway House Adult Training Centre offers Adult Basic education, upgrading, mature student credits, and GED. There is also an array of trades and university courses including Preparation for trades and technology Small motor preparation, Training for licensed practical nurse, and Early Childhood Education

Events Roundup



Participants revise their documents in plain language at a training session given by LPM in Beausejour on March 16. Part of a series of workshops on building your business, the session was organized by the Beausejour Brokenhead Development Corporation. Plain language sessions are tentatively planned for Brandon and Minnedosa.



LPM president **Mary Switek**, workshop presenter **Chris McKinnis**, and Health Minister the **Honourable Tim Sale** eat lunch at LPM's Literacy and Health Conference, "Prescription for Change". Mr Sale spoke to participants about the links between low literacy and poor health. Workshops followed in the afternoon.



Long-term volunteer **Susan Hamilton** accepts a gift from LPM in recognition of her loyal service over many years. She recently spent many hours of hard work getting Raise-a-Reader books out to the programs. Susan is always willing to pitch in and help out at whatever needs doing. She has been volunteering with us since 1998.

The Courage to Dream

by Jan Graham



Agnes Gabori (front left), instructor Linda Smith, Daphne Prince and Irene Parentea (back left) and Debra Brandon of the Aboriginal Literacy Centre

Jan Graham is a retired English and Drama teacher with 20 years of experience. This was the first time she had trained the learner speakers. She vows that it won't be her last!

Public speaking is rated as the number one fear for a huge percentage of the population. Imagine how difficult it would be for adult learners who have spent years hiding their weaknesses in reading and writing to find the courage to speak about their experience in public. Eight courageous women, who attended the graduation reception for Literacy Partners' Learner Speakers' Bureau training session on March 19, 2005, did just that.

Nine women, representing three centres, The Aboriginal Literacy Foundation, Employment Projects: Bridges to Employment, and Open Doors Adult Literacy Program, completed the training this year. (One woman missed the graduation because of an emergency. Her teacher from the learning centre she attends read her speech.)

In training these wonderful women, I was assisted by three alumni of the Learner Speakers' Bureau, Flora Harper, Sim Sellars, and Don Fournier, who presented their speeches to the new group on the first day of training. These speeches acted as models for the new group, teaching them the format of the speech they were about to write and the characteristics of a good presentation.

Ron Robinson, a CBC Radio announcer who has provided support for Literacy Partners in many ways over the years, dropped by on the third day of training to give the group a few pointers about making a public presentation.

During the writing process, five volunteer scribes, Marilyn Day, Lorna Barley, Susan Hamilton, Silvia Kristal and Lorri Apps, worked with the learners, helping them to get their thoughts down on paper.

I chose to conduct the four days of training Thursday and Friday of two consecutive weeks. This helped the group to focus and to bond.

The first part of the training was dedicated to speech writing. I asked the learners to write a speech about their early experiences in school, why they returned to school, and how this decision had affected their lives. After two hard days of writing, sharing, and revising, the final written copy was typed. The women learned that it was inspiring to see your own story in print. It looked good, and since these women had really caught on to the concept of revision, they wanted to make it look even better! I had never experienced such enthusiastic writers before and certainly had never said, "Stop writing!" to any other group of learners.

The second part of the training was spent reviewing the list of characteristics of a good presentation based on the alumni speeches made the previous week, listening to Ron Robinson's tips about speech presentation, participating in some voice training, and practising, practising, practising. The learners developed their self-confidence by speaking, first one-to-one, then in a small group, and finally in front of the whole class. The results were amazing. Eight proud, confident women, who at first were nervous about speaking in front of a small group of peers, spoke with apparent ease to a room full of people at their graduation.



Instructor Margaret Banasiak (left), Lorna Barley, Linda Henderson and Susan Johnson of the Open Doors Adult Literacy Program

The Courage to Dream (continued)

It takes courage to follow your dreams, especially when you have to make a dramatic change in your life, such as emigrating to another country. Three women in the Learner Speakers' training chose to come to Canada to follow their dreams.

One woman travelled from Hong Kong with two young daughters to give them the opportunity to learn in a happier environment. After staying home for eight years because she was shy and her English was poor, she decided it was time to follow her personal dream of learning English and getting a job.

The other two women came to Winnipeg as teenagers to attend high school, one from Hong Kong and the other from war-torn Liberia in West Africa. Leaving family and friends behind to start a new life is difficult at any age. Imagine how you would feel if you were young, unable to speak English, unfamiliar with our culture, and on your own. Today, both are attending an adult learning centre and are determined to improve their English and their academic status.

All have faced many new challenges in Canada with courage and dignity.

Sometimes an educational system can be the hurdle a learner must leap over in order to reach her full potential. This was true for three of the participants in the Learner Speakers' Bureau training.

One recalls the sense of losing her voice when attending a residential school as a young girl because she was never allowed to speak or ask questions. When she returned to school as an adult she was amazed to discover that her teacher was approachable and wanted to hear her opinions.

The traditional way of life of a second woman conflicted with the school she attended. When she was in grade three and old enough to travel with her parents and her older siblings, her parents took her with them as they worked around Manitoba picking sugar beets, wild rice, and potatoes. She returned to school at the end of September each year to the same grade – Grade 3.

A third woman was placed in a special needs classroom when she was young. She was never challenged to reach her full potential. She decided to challenge herself at mid-life and return to school. She feels proud of herself for having the courage to return to school and says that it has made her realize that there is nothing that she cannot do.

It takes courage to overcome years of neglect by an unfeeling educational system.



Esther Hung (left), Instructor Joan Mollins and Cassandra Yip of Employment Projects: Bridges to Employment

Age fourteen seems to be another hurdle many of the women failed to clear in their early educational experience. This was the age of many who dropped out of school because they felt like failures. Some of them were already pregnant and most had their children when they were young. They became trapped in the cycle of working at low-paying jobs to help support their family while they cared for their children, their parents or grandparents, and finally their grandchildren. It took incredible courage for them to say, "Enough! Now it is my turn to follow my dreams. I need to return to school."

It sometimes took several attempts, but today they are determined to achieve their goals. One woman said, "I wish I knew when I was younger what I know now, because I would have found a way to stay in school in my child-bearing years." The younger women in the group were doing just that with a fierce determination to better themselves for the sake of their children.

Who would have thought that it would require courage to survive age fourteen?

These are an incredible group of courageous women who have overcome many odds to continue their education. They have all volunteered to be ambassadors for literacy by formally joining the Learner Speakers' Bureau. As members of the Bureau they will be asked to speak to government officials, business and community leaders, the media and other adults with low literacy skills. Perhaps they will inspire others to find the courage to go back to school and continue their education.

Upcoming Events

April 28-29, 2005. Western Region Learners' Conference. Virden. Contact alanna_hillis@elit.ca.

April 29, 2005. Let's Talk about Learning Disabilities. Literacy Works invites you to join literacy practitioners and others who share a common interest in discussing issues related to adults, youth, and learning disabilities. For more information, phone 786-1212 or email litworks@shawbiz.ca.

May 3, 2005. ESLL Rock & Read. Bookmates (<http://bookmatesfamilyliteracycentre.ca> or 582-1804).

May 3-4, 2005. Manitoba Library Conference. Visit <http://www.mla.mb.ca/conference/2005/sessions.html>

May 4-5, 2005. Out of the Box. Conference of the Manitoba Association for Volunteer Administration (MAVA). For more information, visit www.mavamanitoba.ca.

May 5 - June 23, 2005, every Thursday, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Literacy tutor training conducted by the St. Amant Centre. Contact Alyson Bulloch at bulloch@stamant.mb.ca for further info and registration form.

May 12, 2005, 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. Frontier College's Connecting Communities Conference 2005. The theme is Critical Literacies in Communities. The conference will be held at 670 Ellice Avenue (at Agnes St.), Winnipeg. Download the agenda and registration form, or contact crystalgartside@gmail.com.

May 13, 2005. AL&L training: Just What is "Adult" about Adult Learning. Swan River. Contact MMatheson@gov.mb.ca.

May 13-14, 2005. Puppet Power 2005: Puppets Promote Literacy. Calgary, AB. Info and registration on-line at www.wppuppet.com. Contact: Celeste A. Peters, Executive Manager, WP Puppet Theatre Society, celeste.peters@shaw.ca.

May 16-17, 2005. Essential Skills in Action: Contributing to Canada's Workforce. Fairmount Winnipeg Hotel. Visit <http://www.skillplan.ca/English/2005conference.htm> for conference information.

May 17-19, 2005, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Volunteer Management Introduction (Level 1). Volunteer Centre of Winnipeg, 3rd Floor, 5 Donald Street (at Stradbrook Avenue). Info & registration: 477-5180 Ext. 221 or e-mail: registervcw@mts.net.

May 30-31, 2005. Family Learning FUNDamentals. Bookmates (<http://bookmatesfamilyliteracycentre.ca> or 582-1804).

June 2, 2005. Getting Your Child Ready for School. Bookmates (<http://bookmatesfamilyliteracycentre.ca> or 582-1804).

June 6-9, 2005. Nobody's Perfect Facilitator Training. Winnipeg. Nobody's Perfect is an education and support program designed to strengthen parenting skills. For registration and information, call (204) 231-3208 or visit www.nobodysperfect.ca.

June 13, 2005. PGI Golf Tournament. Elmhurst Golf Course.

June 18-19, 2005. LiteracyWorks Book Sale. Kildonan Place, Winnipeg. To donate books, phone 786-1212.

June 20 - July 22, 2005. BC Summer Institute: More Learning Less Teaching. An on-line conference followed by on-site workshops. Visit <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/whatsnew/si2005/si05.pdf>.

June 27-29, 2005. Summer Institute 2005. Adult Basic Education and Literacy, Media and Technology: Points of Entry, Points of Connection. The Centre for Literacy, Montreal. Visit www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca.

August 16-19, 2005. Summer Institute on Teaching in the Multi-age/Multi-level Classroom. University of Brandon. Contact Julie Anne Kniskern at kniskern@brandonu.ca or (204)727-9679 for more information.

For a full list of Literacy Events, visit <http://www.mb.literacy.ca/litevents.htm>.



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