

newsletter of
literacy link eastern ontario

LLEO

LINES

Fall 2011

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LLEO LINES

is produced
by Literacy Link Eastern Ontario



To all those who contributed to this newsletter...

Thank You!



'We need a metamorphosis of education - from the cocoon a butterfly should emerge. Improvement does not give us a butterfly only a faster caterpillar.'

Learning to Learn

www.learningtolearn.sa.edu.au

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LLEO CELEBRATES A MILESTONE!

On March 24, 2011 LLEO held a special celebration and Annual General Meeting at the Days Inn in Kingston in recognition of more than 20 Years in Literacy.

We were pleased to have many special guests join us, including, Ann Osborne, Betty Butterworth, Isabel Lesarge, Steve Knowles, Kathy Horton, Carol Keeler, Brenda Allen, Louise Conley and Mary Wiggin, ED of OCCL and Lesley Hamilton, ED of LOCS.

The audience was also taken on a stroll down memory lane during Linda Conley's presentation of LLEO's history over the past 20 plus years! Linda Conley is Treasurer of the LLEO Board of Directors.

Thank you Linda for putting all of this material together. It was a great presentation!



Linda Conley shares some of LLEO's history with the audience.



Ann Osborne, Betty Butterworth & Carynne Arnold



Ann Osborne and Mary Wiggin share a chuckle while Louise Conley looks on.



Guests Isabel Lesarge and Steve Knowles, past employees of LLEO

Doug Noyes, Executive Director, LLEO, unveiled the new Frances Lever Memorial Writing Contest plaque, displaying the names of all of the first place winners' names engraved on it as a permanent record of their accomplishment. The first contest winners were announced in 2002.



Also on display was a binder of all of the winning entries from 2002 through to current date.

New LLEO Website & Logo

Doug also announced the new LLEO web site and the new LLEO logo was shared for the first time. The logo was created by Pat Kenny of Black Cap Design. Pat was also responsible for the updated look of the LLEO web site. The website can be found at www.lleo.ca



Shown here is the celebratory cake displaying the new LLEO logo. Kakes by Krista created this for the special day.



Jim Beattie, Loyola Open Book, Keith Harford and Christine Chapman, PELC enjoying the celebration

Overall, everyone appeared to be having a great time reminiscing and just taking a few minutes to mingle with other folks.



Dina McGowan, ED Tri-County Literacy stands next to The Story Quilt



Kathy Horton, guest and Laurie DesLauriers, KL & S, Napanee



Lesley Hamilton, ED, LOCS and Doug Noyes, ED, LLEO



Board Members: Carolyn Eva, Barbara Petepiece and Karen Scott

Congratulations to winners of the draws held at the Celebration!

LLEO gave out 4 draw prizes during the day with a grand prize draw at the end of the day.

Individual winners of a Pandigital Reader :



Laurie DesLauriers – KL&S



Kristina McDermid -
Tri-County



Brenda Allen – guest



Chris Pleizier—CLA

AND THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER!

Kingston Literacy & Skills was the program winner of the grand prize, a Toshiba net book & accessories!



Annual General Meeting

Anne Davis, LLEO Board of Directors Chair, praised LLEO for its many years of guidance, innovation, success and dedication in her message to the membership.



Barbara Petepiece, who resigned from the Board of Directors, effective March 24, 2011 received emeritus status at the AGM. Barb was recognized for her many years of service with the Board of Directors. Below, Doug Noyes, ED LLEO, presents Barb with a certificate.



Although we will miss Barb at our meetings, she has indicated her continued interest in participating on the Francis Lever Memorial Writing Contest Committee.

Thanks Barbara!

Board of Directors Farewell and Hello

At the Board of Director's follow up meeting in May, Michelle Rosebush announced her resignation from the Board due to her busy schedule and Jim Beattie. Jim teaches ESL beginner classes with Open Book in Kingston. He also teaches Essential Skills in the afternoon with LBS, some of which are in Amherstview. LLEO would like to thank Michelle for her contribution to the board of directors and welcome Jim as the newest director!

Canadian Literacy and Learning Network (CLLN)

Committee of Adult Literacy Learners (CALL) News Article

By: Patricia Ashie Vice-Chair CALL Lansdowne, Ontario

E-mail: patricia_ashie@yahoo.ca

I am very proud to be a member of the CALL committee, because each member is dedicated to the betterment of self, literacy and society. The CALL committee is comprised of adult learners from across Canada who are, or have been, successful participants in community-based literacy programs, school-board literacy and essential skills programs or college literacy preparatory programs.

Two thousand and ten was a very busy and productive year for CALL members; we donated approximately 3,033 In-kind volunteer hours in the last six months of 2010

One of the CALL committee initiatives, together with Chris Harwood (Instructor/ practitioner), the CALL facilitator, was to create a Study Guide for the adult learning curriculum. The Study Guide is based on a book written by Ellen Szita called Ellen's Story. We strongly believe that other learners will embrace the Study Guide because it reinforces and supports personal and career development leading to employment. Students working through the Study Guide will improve in the nine essentials skills necessary for the workplace and demonstrate increased competency.

Being part of the CALL committee and a board member of CLLN introduces us to people and places that enrich our awareness and knowledge, providing us with the ability to be professional, productive and proactive. Some examples of these linkages for me are:

- The International Adult Life Long Learning Advocacy (IALLA) organization, which is part of the International Council for Adult Learning (ICAE) where I became the first adult learner to attend their three-week social advocacy course in Montevideo Uruguay
- Global Learners Network Scotland I contributed to the development of the Adult Learners Charter, which was presented in Brazil at Confintea VI
- Canadian Health Literacy, Financial Literacy Task Force, Canada Without Poverty
- Make known to government officials, which has provided me with communication linkages

In my opinion, adult learners are the most under-utilized asset for the promotion and further enhancement of adult learning, literacy programs and initiatives. Quite often, the perspective of adult learners is not sought and we are spoken for, thought for and done for. Our participation is limited to being instruments of survey or for demonstration purposes. I wish to thank the Canadian Literacy and Learning Network for being inclusive of adult learners in a manner that is constructively participatory, and which promotes the collaborative achievements of learners (subject matter experts), instructors (practitioners) and the community of literacy.

Patricia Ashie is a former LBS student who attended St. Lawrence College, Kingston

Eighth Annual Frances Lever Memorial Writing Contest Winners 2011

The Eighth Annual Frances Lever Memorial writing contest was a huge success. LLEO received 49 entries from across the region. The stories were based on a painting by Canadian artist, Ellen Cowie, of Peterborough, Ontario.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers and teachers who supported their students in this contest. We would also like to thank the judges Rosemarie Coughlan, Barbara Petepiece and Janet Shannon, for taking their personal time to read each and every entry.



The Winners of the 2011 contest :

<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
1 st Place	Jackie Mathieson	Limestone Community Education	Jane Etherington
Honourable Mention	Nagima Sherpa	Limestone Community Education	Tammy Hagerman
Honourable Mention	Robert Koralew	T.R. Leger, Almonte	Sarah Snelling
<u>Level II</u>			
1 st Place	Brenda Lalonde	T.R. Leger, Cornwall	Karin Touchette
Honourable Mention	Monica Dupuis	Literacy Plus Eganville	Gayle Timm
Honourable Mention	Asma Ajmal	Limestone Community Education	Tammy Hagerman
<u>Level III</u>			
1 st Place	Jessie Shepherd	T.R. Leger, Alexandria	Lea Emard
Honourable Mention	Jack Moon	Limestone Community Education	Tammy Hagerman
Honourable Mention	Raven MacLeod	Limestone Community Education	Jane Etherington
<u>Level IV</u>			
1 st Place	Marie Lehman	Literacy Plus, Eganville	Gayle Timm
Honourable Mention	Colleen Yuke	Literacy Plus, Eganville	Gayle Timm
Honourable Mention	Diane Felske	Literacy Plus, Eganville	Nancy Ord
<u>Level V</u>			
1st Place	Debbie Hinch	T.R. Leger, Kemptville	John Tenbult
Honourable Mention	Kyle Frederick	Kingston Literacy & Skills	Mary-Anne Deanike
Honourable Mention	Sherri Provost-Williams	College Prep., SLC, Kingston	D. Weese

Each **1st Place** winner received a \$50.00 cheque from Literacy Link Eastern Ontario
and their entry is showcased in this edition of LLEO Lines

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!

Level I Winning Entry

Author: Jackie Mathieson
Limestone Community Education
Instructor: Jane Etherington

Any Girl

My name is Jackie. I'm twelve years old. I'm looking at the chickens. They are brown and red. I'm feeling happy because I like chickens. Once before a chicken sat on my shoulder just for fun. I wasn't afraid. Up in the corner is a cool spider web. The spider lives there. Her name is Charlotte. She likes the chickens. I like spiders, too.

Level 2 Winning Entry

Author: Brenda Lalonde

T.R. Leger, Cornwall

Instructor: Karen Touchette

A New Foal

When Laura was a little girl her Pa bought a couple of horses. Laura over heard her Pa tell her Ma that the new foal would have to be sold to buy more grain for the winter to feed the other horses. Laura yelled, “ no, don’t sell the foal !” Pa told Laura that he had to because the horses wouldn’t have enough grain for the winter. Laura ran to the barn and grabbed a burlap sack and put some grain in it. Then she ran off into the forest with the foal. When Laura got back she went into the barn pretending that nothing was wrong. She was looking at the chickens when her Pa came in to feed the animals. He noticed that the foal was gone. He asked Laura if she knew where it was. She told her Pa that she let it go in the forest because it was going to be sold. Pa told Laura to go and find him and bring him back. When she got back Ma & Pa told her that she could keep him as long as she helped around the farm. So she named the foal Bunny.

Level 3 Winning Entry

Author: Jessie Shepherd

Program: T.R. Leger, Alexandria

Instructor: Lea Emard

Memories on the Farm

Does the sound of a rooster crowing or cricket chirping in the night bring you back to your childhood? Those sounds bring me to a time when life wasn't so fast and complicated. Life was slow and full of innocence and happier times.

For two weeks every summer, I went to visit my grandparents on their farm. There was a lot more freedom than in the city. I experienced things in the country that most city kids never got to see.

A fond memory of mine was when I went with my grandfather and got my first pet. It was a goat! Her name was Nuisance; she was white and very small. I had to bottle feed her. I remember standing on a bale of hay so I could do it. I was too short if didn't. Nuisance would follow me everywhere. Sometimes she was better than a dog. She would head butt anyone who got too close to me. My sister, Carrie, got few of those head butts.

One year my grandfather brought me to the county fair with my cousins and my sister. He gave us all five dollars to play the games and ride the rides. When we stepped out of the car, we could hear the rides going around and the people screaming with enjoyment. The smell of buttery popcorn was in the air. We knew before we left the fair that day, we had to have some of that sweet tasting cotton candy melting in our mouths.

As the sun was going down, I loved to sit on the front porch and talk with my grandparents. I would listen to stories about their childhoods. Even though their youth was full of hard work and long days, they felt blessed to have a roof over their heads and food on the table.

I now find myself sitting on the front porch telling my daughter, Jasmine, about happy times on the farm. The memories that I share with her bring the generations together.

Level 4 Winning Entry

Author: Marie Lehman

Literacy Plus, Eganville

Instructor: Gayle Timm

Mornings

I sit here in the cool morning air just waiting for the rest of the world to wake up enjoying the peace and quiet while I can.

Now, I can hear some stirring from the upstairs bedroom; the day is really starting. Small little feet are hitting the cold floor of the old farm house. I can hear her banging around talking to herself, looking for shoes and socks. The next thing she is doing is running down the stairs out through the old screen door, down the wooden steps, and across the yard through the flower bed to the rickety little hen house. “Chick, chick”, I can hear her call in her little soft voice. Then down they come from their night roost, three little red hens waddling over to her the way only fat little hens can. Their feathers are all ruffled and their red combs are standing straight on their little heads. Peeping and stretching, they make their way over to the old wired- up door of their hen house.

Slowly my little girl opens up the hen house door and steps inside. She heads straight to the little hens’ roost looking for the eggs. Nothing is there to see. The disappointment is evident on her face. No eggs! Sadly she turns and looks at her little red hens and starts to talk to them. What is she saying? No one knows, but the three little red hens all seem to be enthralled with what she is saying to them. They follow her around the cramped little hen house like three little pups, clucking and bobbing their heads as she talks to them, perhaps trying to convince them they should be laying some eggs for her. Slam goes the hen house door. Out she comes, heading off to get the water and feed for her hens.

As I sit here each morning watching as my little girl scurries back and forth with the weight of her responsibility for her three little red hens on her shoulders, the world seems so small and safe. My pleasure from the quiet mornings is made even better because of the joy I have as I watch my little girl growing up.

Level 5 Winning Entry

Author: Debbie Hinch

T.R. Leger, Kemptville

Instructor: John Tenbult

One Morning

My day started that morning as most days did, rather routinely. It appeared to be another glorious summer morning that day on the farm. The radiant sun was just rising over the crest of the hill that housed the largest most regal old oak tree my eyes had ever seen. Proceeding towards the barn, I began to sense a peculiarity in the air, a certain uneasy quietness never experienced before. Something didn't seem right!

Gazing towards the meadow, the tall grass was motionless; it usually danced in the breeze. The leaves on the oak tree hung lifelessly; they generally glided back and forth as if breathing. Oddly, the exquisite music of the birds singing their morning song was not to be heard. The stillness was ominous!

Approaching the barn, preparing to feed the chickens as was every morning, there arose a deafening silence. Normally, the baby chicks pleasantly chirped away anticipating my presence, yet, this morning the calm was eerie. Sensing they were in tune with my feelings of apprehension and uneasiness, I proceeded to pet them and offer food. They responded not out of hunger, but of the desire to be nurtured. They were fidgety and frightened and it was giving me shivers.

Suddenly, the morning sunlight grew dark. Glancing over my shoulder, you could see black clouds ferociously appearing in the glorious morning sky. I stood, walked out from the barns shelter and was startled to see a massive funnel looking shape in the sky. I knew it was a tornado!

Ravenously, gathering up the little baby chicks, I cuddled them in my apron and ran as fast as my feet

could carry me to the underground refuge near the old oak tree. The wind escalated! Moving forward seemed treacherous and impossible. At any moment we could be picked up and swept away. The noise from the twister grew exponentially louder!

Reaching the shelter, I struggled to open the door with only one hand for fear my other would unleash the tight grip on my apron exposing those innocent little babies to an unknown world. Finally, it unlatched! We climbed inside frantically closing the door behind us. Scurrying down the stairs to some foreign, dark, cold space below, we crouched nervously in the corner. The clamour escalated and the door that protected us appeared as though it would rip apart. I closed my eyes and prayed!

Time passed slowly. Ultimately aware that the thunderous commotion had ceased, I reluctantly and slowly opened my eyes. Looking upward there shone a beautiful beam of sunlight that crept through the crack of the decrepit cellar door. It felt as though God was shining his light on us. Climbing the stairs I apprehensively opened the cellar door and crawled out.

Debris and damage were everywhere! We sped back to the barn only to find the chicken coop totally demolished. Racing back to the farm house, I encountered my parents rushing toward me. Thankfully, everyone was safe.

Making our way back to the farm house, there wasn't a cloud in the sky. At that moment, the glorious music of the singing birds was once again heard, the tall grass in the meadow had resumed swaying and the glorious old oak tree once again breathed.

The precious baby chicks spent the next few days very comfortably, in an old crate by the wood stove in the kitchen until their coop was repaired. I'll never forget that one morning.



FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

Hello everyone and welcome back to another anticipated busy year!

LLEO has seen a lot of activity with the completion of the Essential Skills for the Trades project, a copy of which was sent out to all of the programs. For information on ordering this curriculum, please see our "new" website at www.lleo.ca under the Resources link.

LLEO is also in the process of wrapping up another two projects funded by MTCU, namely WESA (Workforce Essential Skills Assessment and SIM (Service Integration Model). Watch for more details at a later date.

We're also coming down the home stretch in completing the ESCFO materials (Essential Skills Curricula for Four Occupations). This material will be hosted by the NALD (National Adult Literacy Database) library and will be available to download for no charge.

Speaking of NALD, LLEO's resource Disks 1-6 namely, Assessment Tools in the Workplace, Call Centre, Hospitality, Retail, Skilled Trades Helpers & Labourers Curricula and Supported Job Search are now available for downloading from the NALD library free of charge. How's that for progress?

LLEO has revisited the policies and procedures for our Field Development Committee and with input from the board of directors, LLEO and committee members, we are now pleased to introduce the revamped **Field Development Advisory Committee**.

These four committee members are your voice for communicating your professional development training needs. You are encouraged to contact your representative with any questions or suggestions you may have for them.

Your FDAC representatives are:

Kelly Cowdy, Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres, Sharbot Lake, 613-279-2499, email: nflit@frontenac.net

Keith Harford, Prince Edward Learning Centre, 613-476-1811, email: keithharford@hotmail.com

Jeanne Hill, T.R. Leger School, Smiths Falls, 613-283-5418, ext. 104, email: jeanne.hill@ucdsb.on.ca

Stacey McQuoid, Community Learning Alternatives, Belleville, 613-962-9615, email: Stacey_cla@cogeco.net

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Well we're coming up to that time of year again, when we all decorate our homes with jack-o-lanterns, flying ghosts and witches.

When I was a kid, my Mom, who was a great seamstress, offered to make our costumes. My three other siblings thought this was terrific, but not me..... I wanted a "store bought" costume that I had seen at a local department store. It was a fairy princess costume with a crown and a colourful outfit in pinks, purples and sparkly things. Mom gave in to my whim and I was so impressed with my look that I refused to wear a jacket over it, even though it was cold and calling for rain that night. I was going to be the prettiest princess out there, going from door to door to collect my treats!

Needless to say, it was cold and I froze and indeed it rained and my costume slowly deteriorated in both colour and form over the evening. Oh, I forgot to mention one thing.... The costume I adored was made of crepe paper and you sure as heck can guess what happened to this flimsy tissue like material when it got wet!!!!!!

Do you know the history of Halloween?

The actual origin of Halloween has been argued by various historians with some who believe that Halloween found its roots in the **Roman Pomona feasts** that celebrated the **Roman goddess of fruit and seeds** and some believe that Halloween found its roots in **Parentalia**, the **festival of the dead**. While these two festivals seem to give something to the story of Halloween; however, it is the belief of the majority that the holiday of Halloween actually derives from **Samhain**, the **Celtic festival** which celebrates the end of the summer and the beginning of the darker days of the year. The superstitious Celts believed that during the latter half of the year as the days became darker much more quickly that the boundary between the other world and ours became so thin that spirits were able to move through to our world and cause havoc.

During the **Celtic festival of Samhain** people would dress in costume in an attempt to **scare away the evil spirits**. During this time when spirits were believed to pass between worlds families would invite their ancestors in to their homes but do everything they could to ward off the more harmful spirits including wearing the costumes mentioned above as well as masks.

Also utilized to scare away the harmful spirits of Samhain were large turnips, which were carved much like today's Halloween pumpkins. These **jack-o-lantern turnips** would be placed in the windows of homes in an attempt to frighten away any evil spirits. It was the belief of the Celts that if they or their turnips resembled scary spirits then the spirits that crossed from the other world would avoid them and their homes in the belief that they had already been tagged by a spirit.

When is Halloween Celebrated?

The actual celebration of Halloween occurs every year on **October 31st**, also referred to as **All Hallows Eve**. In many religious sects the day following all hallows eve, **All Saints Day**, is a day dedicated to the celebration of all of the saints both known and unknown. A few days following All Saints Day comes **All Soul's Day**, a day dedicated to all the souls of those who believed who have now departed.

Where Does the Name Halloween Come From?

All Hallows Eve is actually the base of the origin of the name "Halloween" after the more commonly used phrase "All Hallows Eve" became "**All Hallows Even**" and then later it was shortened to **Halloween** in the 16th century. Throughout the years this holiday known as Halloween

came to be something of a melting pot of ideas contributed by various cultures and belief systems. Europeans came together and meshed Celtic ideas, Catholic ideas and the Roman religious rituals in to one day of celebration that fell around the time that the Celtic tradition of Samhain fell, the turning of the seasons when the world became a darker place by virtue of the sun's position in the sky. Combining the Celtic idea of Samhain, the Catholic beliefs of All Saints Eve and All Souls Day, and the traditional Roman celebration of Parentalia created the holiday we now know as Halloween.

Wearing Costumes and Masks

One such example of this is the wearing of costumes and scary masks during the night of Halloween. While many, particularly children, believe that the wearing of costumes is done in order to get candy and the "best" costume is the one that yields the most candy, very few actually understand the roots of wearing a costume on Halloween. Wearing costumes hailed from the Celtic tradition of Samhain and was done to scare away evil spirits that were thought to be able to pass through to our world during a time when the boundary between their world and ours became thinner due to the changing times of sun fall.

*This is an excerpt from
<http://www.exploringlifemysteries.com/origin-of-halloween>*



I hope you enjoyed the newsletter and I encourage you to submit any articles, ideas or suggestions to me at donna@leao.ca

Take care and happy haunting!

Donna Page



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Literacy Link Eastern Ontario
2011/2012

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