



Roadways



The one true freedom in life is to come to terms with death, and as early as possible, for death is an event that embraces all our lives. And the only way to have a good death is to lead a good life. Lead a good one, full of curiosity, generosity, and compassion, and there's no need at the close of the day to rage against the dying of the light. We can go gentle into that good night.

~William Sloane Coffin~ (a favourite quote of Frances)

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GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

This past summer, two YLC founding members passed away. YLC remembers two remarkable women.

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REMEMBERING BETTY ROWBERRY

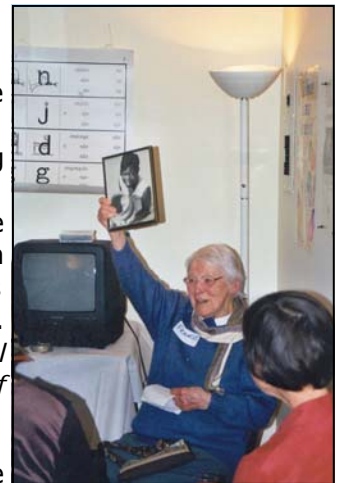
Few of our current YLC volunteers actually knew Betty, and yet in many ways the organization that they now know, was very much shaped by her conviction and hard work. I remember Betty as the person who first introduced me to literacy. Betty assigned me to my very first literacy student, a woman who shared as much with me, as I did with her. Together we learned— with my help, my student learned about the wonders of the printed word and the freedom it gave her; from her, the mother of a newborn baby and three older children, I found a safe place to share my fears and dreams about my impending journey into first-time motherhood. That first

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REMEMBERING FRANCES WALBRIDGE

Frances Walbridge dedicated her life to teaching people to read and she had quite a few adventures along the way. Originally from Montreal, a graduate from McGill, Frances decided to go to Africa as a missionary, setting sail the day Pearl Harbour was bombed. When she finally arrived in Africa, they had to travel overland from South Africa to Angola where they were denied admittance. After a long, tense wait they were allowed in and then Frances had to learn, through immersion, Portuguese and Umbundu. Frances spent most of 25 years travelling village to village teaching women literacy. *"There was often a transformation with them—they would come to school illiterate and they would leave with confidence to be a leader in the village of even a teacher."*

Frances continued to fight for literacy when she returned to the Townships. She joined YLC in 1985 and continued to tutor children at Butler Elementary School in Bedford for many years. *"People who can read forget how hard it was to learn how to do it."* Her own love of reading is what came across when she was teaching someone else. Frances will be missed. A remarkable woman and a friend to many.



I was working for Laubach Literacy of Canada when I first met Frances. The Laubach national office was located in Bedford, QC, just a few minutes away from the home of the legendary Frances Walbridge. New to literacy, and eager to learn as much as I could, I made a tentative call, to ask Frances if she might spare a few moments to talk to me about her pioneering literacy work. She opened her home and her heart, sharing with me memories of working in Angola, stories of individual lives and communities transformed through literacy. She worked alongside the Laubach

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Who Am I ?

Jim Barrie, 2009

Even though I fight with myself,
The anger in me blows out of proportion.
It becomes a fight
That goes on for days.

It hurts so bad I break down and cry!
And I'm so blocked out of my feelings
I ignore everything that surrounds me.

Fighting with myself isn't getting me
anywhere.
I looked in the mirror and face myself
And said to myself,
"Is this who I want to be?
No!
This is not me!
I'm full of love and peace.
That's who I am!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ↪ **30th Anniversary to be celebrated in 2011** What?! 30 years already? Do you like parties? Maybe you have been a member of YLC for many years, or perhaps you are new to the game. If you would like to contribute to the planning for YLC's 30th year celebrations in any way, we welcome you. Contact the YLC office.
- ↪ **Bring back any books** you aren't using, come and check out the library for more materials.
- ↪ It's never too late to submit your **tutoring hours**.

International Literacy Day, Sept. 8th.



Photo courtesy of Karen Smith

ILD is observed globally to remind the international community of the barriers faced by people around the world who cannot read, including members of our own local communities. 49% of Quebec adults lack basic literacy skills. This year, *Le Sac à Mots* and the *Yamaska Literacy Council* organized a *FLASH MOB—Share the Word*. On September 8th at 11 am, a committed contingent gathered in Cowansville to raise awareness of literacy. Pictured here, Cowansville Mayor, Arthur Fauteux, proclaims International Literacy Day.

YLC Annual General Meeting



WHEN? October 27th, 2010, 5-7 pm

WHERE? YLC office, 239, rue Principale, Cowansville, QC

Come and meet new friends and re-acquaint with old. Celebrate our activities of the past year, and learn about what's in store for the upcoming year. YLC will award the Pat Lafreniere Memorial Award to a deserving volunteer who has made outstanding contributions to the council. Your voice matters, so please join us at the YLC Annual Meeting. Encourage your student to attend.

RSVP by October 15th, 2010

continued from page 1, Betty Rowberry experience was profound, and it has given me empathy and insight into every student-tutor match that I have helped and supported over the years.


In a 1998 edition of YLC's *Roadways* newsletter, Betty spoke about her lifelong connection to the written word:

"I came from several generations of people whose lives were enriched by reading. My Canadian grandparents, pioneer missionaries in BC, read to "spread the gospel" and to entertain themselves. My English grandmother had nurtured a love of Shakespeare in my father. Every Saturday we went as a family to the library to choose an allotted number of books for the week. There has never been a time in my life when I have not read for pleasure. As a nursery school teacher, story-time was my favourite part of the program. My three daughters read for recreation. Another generation, my grandchildren are all avid listeners to a daily story".

"I cannot think of a greater satisfaction than to help an adult learn to read who, in turn, is able to read to his or her children. So GIVE A GIFT OF LITERACY."

Betty, we thank you for your many gifts! What an honour to have known you, a remarkable woman.

~Wendy~

 Starting with the council as a volunteer tutor and like Wendy, unsure about what I had to contribute beyond my own love of reading, Betty sent me to conferences and had me room with a senior tutor who became a mentor to me. Betty watched my development and encouraged me to apply for her position when she retired.

In addition to her ability to nurture tutors, Betty believed in seeing students holistically, as a person with strengths, challenges and a usually proven ability to overcome adversity. It was due to this that I continued her practice of assessing students' needs in their homes, often a humbling experience. In one case, a very shy student was an accomplished artist. I would probably have never known this had I not seen the paintings on her walls—art became the jumping off point for her reading development. Another student was a highly skilled wood-worker whose beautiful pieces almost made me weep. When I asked how he managed without being able to read, he replied "Whenever I'm shown something, I only have to see it done once." Unfortunately, this ability is not often seen in those of us who can always resort to written instructions!

During the course of my eleven years as coordinator, I witnessed many special and enduring relationships between students and their tutors and was happy to have played a small role in pairing them. Whenever I was having a bad day at the office, I would ask myself "What would Betty do?"

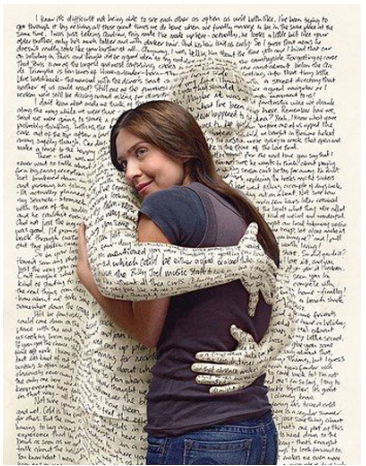
Thank you, Betty for all that you taught us by just being you.

~Donna Ross~

Measuring Non-Academic Outcomes in Adult Literacy Learners

The Yamaska Literacy Council is participating in a provincial project to pilot tools that will help to measure student progress that is not exclusive to academic performance. Simply stated, as tutors we all know that learning to read is a life-changing experience, and we have all noted incredible changes in our student's lives that extend beyond literacy levels. For instance, the student who speaks more clearly and looks at people directly, or who will go a meeting with their child's teacher, or feels more confident to ask questions.

Traditionally, educational progress and success has been measured using standardized, objective tests. These tests are used to evaluate whether a student has achieved a certain level of knowledge in order to i) advance to the next level or ii) receive a diploma or certificate. However, many of these tests are not designed to capture the indicators of progress that we see with many of our literacy students in the community sector.



If you are interested in learning more about piloting these tools with your student, contact Wendy at the YLC Centre.

LVQ STUDENT SOLIDARITY FUND

The LVQ Student Solidarity Fund grants money to pay out of pocket expenses (i.e. travel) adult learners enrolled in adult literacy programs.

- **Who can apply?** Adult learners (16 years of age and older) enrolled in an LVQ member community-based literacy program.
- **What costs are covered?** Any cost you have to pay to attend an LVQ community-based literacy program will be considered. *Costs covered under another program will not be considered.*
- **How much money is available and how will it be awarded?**
 - A maximum of \$1,000 will be awarded each year.
 - A maximum of \$200 will be awarded to each learner.

Learners that receive a grant must sign a contract agreeing to fully participate in the literacy program in which they are enrolled. If they do not, they must pay back all the money received from the Fund.

➤ **How to apply?**

Contact YLC **before September 30, 2010**. Applications will be reviewed and decisions made by October 31, 2010.

continued from page 1, Frances Walbridge family of literacy missionaries, using the same *Each One Teach One* method of teaching literacy that continues to transform lives today. That first visit felt like a trip to a nether world. Tea, cookies and a walk through her family's nature conservatory and renowned barn—I came to know the kind and non-judgmental woman who gave so much of herself to make the world a better place.

Frances, you touched my life, as you touched the lives of countless people around the world. Literacy was a skill you shared, but your gift was enriching the lives of the people you reached out to, a remarkable legacy.

~Wendy~



presents

Learning Disabilities Conference 2010

-for Tutors and Staff of adult literacy students

Saturday, November 6, 2010

9 am-4 pm

Maritime Plaza Hotel, Montreal

(Metro Guy-Concordia)

Featuring:

Betsy Alkenbrack, training coordinator with the "Whole Life Approach to Learning Disabilities in Adult Literacy Settings" project at Literacy B.C.

Dee McRae, regional literacy coordinator with Northwest Community College, in northwest B.C.

To register contact YLC:

450-263-7503

866-337-7503

yamaskalit@endirect.qc.ca

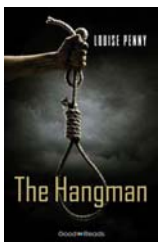
Through a series of small group discussions and hands-on activities, participants will explore the following topics:

- ☞ Putting a face on LD
- ☞ Considering the realities of life with LD
- ☞ The Four R's for LD: an approach to teaching and working with adults who have LD
- ☞ Rethinking your Practice: strategies you can try on Monday morning
- ☞ The Whole Life Approach to LD in Adult Literacy Settings: Website and Resources



GOOD READS

New books in the Freda Hudson Reading Room!

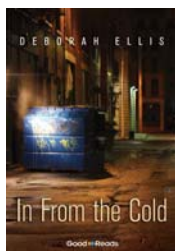


THE HANGMAN, Louise Penny

On a cold November morning, a jogger runs through the woods in the peaceful Quebec village of Three Pines. On his run, he finds a dead man hanging from a tree.

The dead man was a guest at the local Inn and Spa. He might have been looking for peace and quiet, but something else found him. Something horrible.

Did the man take his own life? Or was he murdered? Chief Inspector Armand Gamache is called to the crime scene. As Gamache follows the trail of clues, he opens a door into the past. And he learns the true reason why the man came to Three Pines.

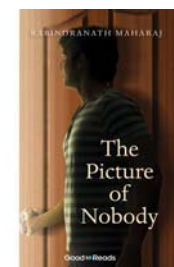


IN FROM THE COLD, Deborah Ellis

Rose and her daughter Hazel are on the run in a big city. During the day, Rose and Hazel live in a shack hidden in the bushes. At night, they look for food in garbage bins.

In the summer, living in the shack was like an adventure for Hazel. But now, winter is coming and the nights are cold.

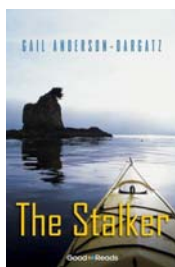
Hazel is starting to miss her friends and her school. Rose is trying to do the right thing for her daughter, but everything is going so wrong. Will Hazel stay loyal to her mother, or will she try to return to her old life?



THE PICTURE OF NOBODY, Rabindranath Maharaj

Tommy lives with his family in Ajax, a small town close to Toronto. His parents are Ismaili Muslims who immigrated to Canada before Tommy was born. Tommy, a shy, chubby seventeen-year-old, feels like an outsider.

The arrest of a terrorist group in Toronto turns Tommy's world upside down. No one noticed him before. Now, he experiences the sting of racism at the local coffee shop where he works part-time. A group of young men who hang out at the coffee shop begin to bully him. In spite, Tommy commits an act of revenge against the group's ringleader.

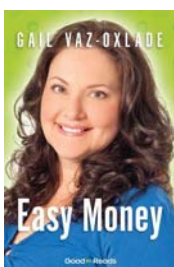


THE STALKER, Gail Anderson-Dargatz

Very early one Saturday morning, Mike's phone rings. "Nice day for a little kayak trip, eh?" says the deep, echoing voice. "But I wouldn't go out if I were you."

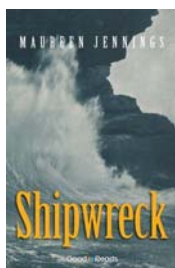
Mike's business is guiding visitors on kayak tours around the islands off the west coast. This weekend, he'll be taking Liz, his new cook, and two strangers on a kayak tour. Soon, his phone rings again. "I'm watching you," the caller says. "Stay home."

Mike and the others set off on their trip, but the stalker secretly follows them. Who is he? What will he do? The Stalker will keep you guessing until the end.



EASY MONEY, Gail Vaz-Oxlade

Wish you could find a money book that doesn't make your eyes glaze over or your brain hurt? *Easy Money* is for you. Gail knows you work hard for your money, so in her usual honest and practical style she will show you how to make your money work for you. Budgeting, saving, and getting your debt paid off have never been so easy to understand or to do. Follow Gail's plan and take control of your money.



SHIPWRECK, Maureen Jennings

A retired police detective tells a story from his family's history. This is his story...

On a cold winter morning in 1873, a crowd gathers on the shore of a Nova Scotia fishing village. A stormy sea has thrown a ship onto the rocks. The villagers work bravely to save the ship's crew. But many die.

When young Will Murdoch and the local priest examine the bodies, they discover gold and diamonds. They suspect that the shipwreck was not responsible for all of the deaths. With the priest's help, Will—who grows up to be a famous detective—solves his first mystery.

Literacy in the Media

Read books and watch films about literacy.

YLC has a collection of books and movies that have a literacy related theme, including:

- and 100 square feet into a company called Kinko's (*book*)
- Hank Zipzer—A Brand-new Me!** A book from the series inspired by the true life experiences of Henry Winkler (The Fonz)
- Precious**, an overweight, illiterate teen who is pregnant with her second child is invited to enroll in an alternative school in hopes that her life can head in a new direction
- Freedom Writers**, a film about inner-city kids and their teacher who fight to make the classroom matter

If you have suggestions of books, movies, songs or poems that have a literacy connection, please forward the title to YLC and we'll try to add them to our collection.

Copy This! How I (Pat Orfalea) turned Dyslexia, ADHD,

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