

yamaska literacy council

ROADWAYS

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MOVIN' ON DOWN THE ROAD: STRATEGIC PLANNING

January 31st, the YLC Board and staff met at the Lakeview Inn to chart a course of action for the next three years. Frances Ravensbergen, of COCo, facilitated the meeting. Here is a brief outline of our plan:



Strategic Priority Areas for 2008-2011

(These areas have not been prioritized)

- Defined, developed and maintained relationships of 2-way contact that promote YLC's work
- Established, on-going, regular and effective communication plan
- Recruited, trained, retained and supported adequate number of volunteers
- Recruited and supported students
- Effective management

A Communications Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to develop a 3-year Communication Plan for the Board to be presented at the April Board meeting.

TUTORS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

YLC tutor chat - May 1st, 10-12am

- orientation of new Tutor Handbook
 - great company
 - good food
- celebrate volunteer week



RESERVE YOUR PLACE!



It's finished!!!

Wendy and Vicky have finally finished revising the Yamaska Literacy Council Basic Literacy Tutor Handbook. It will be piloted

at the Tutor Workshop April 5th and 12th. Trained tutors will have an opportunity to look at the new handbook at the Tutor Chat to be held May 1st.

NEW RESOURCES in the Freda Hudson Reading Room

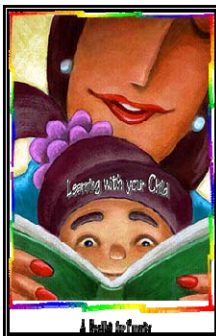
- **CANADIAN FORMS MADE EASY** - a look at a few different forms and how to fill them in
- **LIVING ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET** - Dorothy Silver shares her common sense values and traditions

NEW RESOURCES On-line Tutor Resources

(Let YLC know if you find these websites useful)

- **Sadlier-Oxford** www.sadlier-oxford.com
 - Lots of online activities, a particularly good phonics activity
 - Look for the links that say activities
- **Adult Learning Activities -- California Distance Learning Project** www.cdllonline.org
 - Read stories along with a recording
 - Many different topics

LEARNING WITH YOUR CHILD - A BOOKLET FOR PARENTS



Thanks to a grant from Townshippers' Foundation, YLC and Literacy in Action have produced a new family literacy booklet, *Learning with Your Child*. It provides information about creating a positive learning environment and offers practical tips and suggestions of reading and writing activities parents and caregivers can do with children. If you know someone who would like a copy, contact the office.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION IN THE CLASSROOM

QELA is offering a professional development course March 10th to April 30th focusing on identifying and evaluating the many resources available and the benefits of technology in the classroom. The course will be delivered through the *Google Groups* discussion forum, giving participants the opportunity to discuss these topics and work collaboratively using a new communication tool. Topics to be covered are the relevant theory on technology and learning; technology evaluation; online resources and literacy classroom tools; tutorials; electronic portfolios, rubrics and concept-mapping, etc. For more information or to register, contact **Kelly Maurice**: kelly_maurice@sympatico.ca

STUDENT COMPOSITIONS...

As we update our website we would like to update our student page. We invite students to submit compositions, writings, ideas, etc. to the office to be posted on the website and published in Roadways. Tutors please ask your students if they would like to contribute, it can be something that has already been written or something totally new. Have fun!

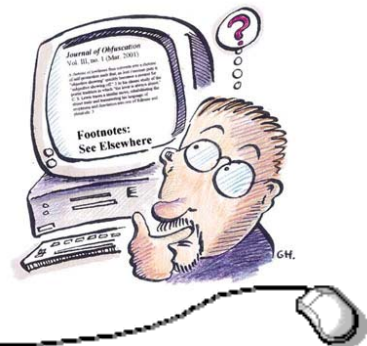
Our World could be a Better Place

If every man and woman had a plan.
If every person knew a good man.
If people worked together for the plan.
Our world could be a better place.

If no one won?

If we could all just have fun.
Our world could be a fairer place.
Our world would be a better place.

Don Raphael



STATISTICS CANADA ANALYSIS GIVES CLEARER PICTURE OF CANADIAN LITERACY NEEDS

On January 9th Statistics Canada released its analysis of a 2005 follow up study of an international literacy survey. The International Study of Reading Skills (ISRS) study reassessed about 2,000 Canadians who had participated in the initial study, with a focus on individuals whose literacy scores fell in levels 1 or 2, the lowest of five. Level 3 is considered the desired threshold needed by adults to participate fully in the knowledge economy. According to Statistics Canada, "*The purpose of the ISRS was to describe in greater detail the reading abilities of the least-skilled adult readers in society to better understand their instructional needs*".

ABC Canada, a national literacy charity, issued a press release stating that the study is a good first step in mapping the demographic, socio-economic characteristics and the various learning needs of Canadians with low literacy levels. The president of ABC Canada, Margaret Eaton, stated that further analysis will be conducted by the organization on the data to shed more light on these issues and help direct future investment and initiatives.

"... in 2003, nearly 3.1 million Canadians aged 16 to 65 were at proficiency Level 1 on the prose literacy scale (below middle school skills), while another 5.8 million were at Level 2 (below high school skills). The new ISRS re-tested about 2,000 of these adults, most of whom had low proficiency in literacy.

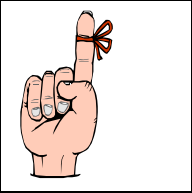
The objectives of the ISRS were, first, to provide national population estimates (excluding territories) of specific reading component skills among adults 16 to 65 with low literacy level and to compare them with adults with greater literacy levels; second, to identify the relationship between specific reading skills and general reading ability as well as other adult characteristics; and third, to identify sub-groups based on patterns of performance on reading activities.

To attain these study objectives, the ISRS measured performance on four reading component skills: word recognition, vocabulary, listening comprehension, and general reading processing skills and examined the relationship of these specific skills to general reading ability represented by prose and document literacy."
(see [The Daily, January 10, 2008](#)).

Published on Voluntary Gateway (<http://voluntarygateway.ca>)

KNOWLTON SANTA CLAUS PARADE 2007 PICS





RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR ADULT LITERACY

The awards: Two awards for learners, of \$125 each, plus a framed certificate, one in the community sector and one in the school-board sector

The purpose: To recognize the courage of adults who know it's never too late to learn to read and write or to improve their reading and writing

Deadline for submission: Midnight, March 10, 2008

Winners will be notified by March 24, 2008 and awards will be presented at the ATEQ Springboards 2008 Conference on April 7, 2008. For an application form contact the office or check on-line on the *Centre for Literacy of Quebec* website:

<http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca>



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