

Roadways

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Heroes' Students Participate in first-ever Family Literacy Day World Record Attempt




Every year on January 27th, families and communities across Canada celebrate Family Literacy Day, a day to celebrate reading and


promote the importance of learning together all year round. The prelude to Family Literacy Day 2009 was a great success—more than 190,000 Canadians signed up to participate in the national attempt to break the Guinness World Record™ for **Most Children Reading With an Adult, Multiple Locations.**

If successful, this will break the current U.S. record of 78,791 adults and children reading together. Schools, libraries, literacy groups, families, and other organizations all read selections from Robert Munsch's *Munschworks2* for 30 minutes, during a 24-hour time period.

Locally, 113 students from Heroes' Memorial school participated in the Canada-wide effort. Heroes' teacher, Louise Smith, says "It was amazing to see children of all ages caught up in the act of active listening. They repeated phrases, laughed and were totally enthralled. They were glad to be part of a World Record attempt, but they didn't need that incentive to enjoy the reading process."

Co-organized by the Yamaska Literacy Council, the event underscores the importance of the role of the family as a child's first teacher.

 *Children aged 2 to 3 who are read to several times a day do substantially better in kindergarten at the age of 4 and 5 than youngsters who are read to only a few times a week or less. (National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Statistics Canada, 1996-1997).*

 *Having a parent or other caring person read aloud with their children helps children learn listening skills, vocabulary and language skills, as well as develop imagination and creativity. (Family Literacy Foundation; 2001).*

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Announcements

Tutors! Please send us your latest Tutor Record. It should be submitted quarterly:

- **September 30th** • **March 30th**
- **December 31st** • **June 30th**

Details to be included are:

- **date** • **preparation time**
- **tutoring hours** • **travel**

There is also a section for you to add comments about the lesson, the materials or any questions that need to be addressed by the Coordinator. It is available on the website and in the Appendix in the back of the tutor manual.

The NEW! Basic Literacy Tutor Manual is available to tutors. If you were trained before 2008 and would like a copy, please contact the office so that we can prepare one for you.

Students! YLC is piloting a weekly small group class, hosted by Susan Reininger, starting in January. The class will be held at the YLC office. If you would like to know more about the class contact the office.

St. Patrick's Day Parade—LVQ will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day parade, Sunday, March 22,



2009 and they are looking for volunteers. If you would like to be part of the fun, email Joani at:

info@literacyvolunteers.qc.ca



Promotion in Action: **STENCIL-ART COMIC STRIP**

Together, the YLC and Le Sac à Mots have collaborated with artist **Ramon Vitesse**, Cultural Agent for Cowansville on a project to reach people with low literacy skills. Using a stencil-art comic strip, the message is clear: "We can help you read better". Ramon's artwork was launched at the *Festivale de la Bande Dessinée (Comic Strip Festival)* held in Cowansville, December 1st - 7th. The promotion plan is to distribute bags and posters imprinted with the comic strip and contact information.



Don, YLC Vice-President

Donald J. Davison has a Bachelor of Commerce from Concordia and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario. In addition, Don is an Accredited Financial Counselor and has a Queen's Commission in the Canadian Army. His work experience includes banking, lending, real estate development, lecturing on financial planning to the public, and service and counseling to bankrupts. In his spare time he reads, sings, skis, plays golf, and enjoys a life-long love for photography. Recently, he wrote and published an historical novel, *Raise the Flag & Sound the Cannon*, and a financial trade publication entitled *Take Control of your Money*. He sings with the *Georgeville Occasional Choir* and the *Coeur Classique de l'Estrie* in Granby. He has acted in a



number of local musicals, directed the *Mouse Trap* and participated in *Chickasaw*, *The Elixir of Love* (a musical comedy based on his historical novel). Don has been a very active member of YLC since 2002 as a tutor, director, treasurer and currently, Vice-President.



Writer's Challenge



LVQ is issuing a challenge to all students: Each month a student submission will be picked at random from those submitted and the writer will win a \$25 **Chapters** gift certificate. The winning submission will be posted on the LVQ website. www.literacyvolunteersqc.ca

- Challenges: February— **Valentine's Day**
- March— **Who the heck is St. Patrick anyway?**
- April— **How do you know it's spring?**
- May— **Mother's Day**
- June— **Father's Day**

Send submissions to Joani by email-
info@literacyvolunteersqc.ca
 or by fax: **1(450) 243-6812**

Criteria: between 100 and 400 words **Deadline:** the last day of each month

"Books are the quietest and most..."

Students and tutors: *Do you like public speaking? Are you passionate about literacy? Do you have a story to share? Has literacy changed your life?*

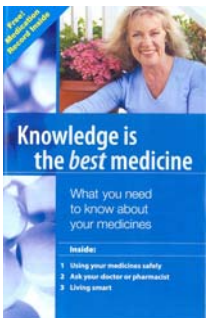
If you have answered yes to any of the above, maybe you would like to do some public speaking for the Yamaska Literacy Council. The council will host an orientation, and work with you to provide tools and skills to help you talk about and promote YLC programs... to community and service groups, employers, to new YLC trainees, etc. Maybe you are affiliated with a group that would like a presentation about literacy? Let me know if you are interested, we'll talk!



Wendy

THE FREDA HUDSON READING ROOM—*Come in and browse through our resource room. Bring back materials you are not currently using and borrow new. We have new dictionaries as well as the resources mentioned below.*

KNOWLEDGE IS THE BEST MEDICINE is a consumer awareness program designed to promote healthy living and educate Canadians about the safe and appropriate use of medicines and vaccines.



Medicines can improve your quality of life, as well as prevent and cure disease. They can also help you to avoid hospitalization or surgery. But when medications are overused, underused or misused, they can pose an avoidable risk to your health and increase the burden on our health care system.

YLC has a supply of booklets that tell you what you need to know about your medicines, including:

1. Using your medicines safely
2. Questions to ask your doctor or pharmacist
3. Ideas about living smart
4. a **Medication Record**, that is easy to read and carry with you

If you want to preview the publication, the booklets are available at the following website: www.canadapharma.org

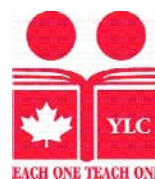


JUMP Math: Entering the world of JUMP Math means believing that everyone has the capacity to be fully numerate and to love math. Founder and mathematician John Mighton has used this premise to develop his



innovative teaching method. The program is presented on the JUMP Math website: www.jumpmath.org. The program has eight levels with both student workbooks and teacher's guides. The teacher's guides are also available on the website for free use.

Yamaska Literacy Council



239, rue Principale
Cowansville, QC J2K 1J4

Phone: 450-263-7503
Toll-free: 866-337-7503
Fax: 450-263-7209

E-mail: yamaskalit@endirect.qc.ca
Website: www.yamaskaliteracy.ca