

NEWSBREAKING STATISTICS

ADULT LITERACY AND LIFE SKILLS SURVEY (ALLS)

The challenge to improve literacy performance among Canadians is far from over, according to the first round of a major new survey that measured literacy skills among individuals aged 16 to 65 in Canada and six other

countries in 2003.

As in 1994 a significant number of Canadian adults had low-level literacy skills which may have had an impact on their participation in society and in the economy.

It found that the average literacy score for Canadians had not changed significantly during the nine-year period since the last major survey was conducted in 1994.

However, there was a noticeable positive change in average scores among the 5% of adults with the lowest literacy scores. Overall, the survey found a slight decline in the inequality gap between adults with the lowest literacy levels, and those with the highest.

In Canada, about 58% of adults aged 16 to 65 possessed skills in the top three literacy levels on the prose scale, indicating that they could meet most everyday reading requirements.

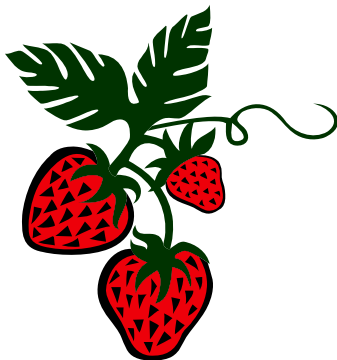
In general, the average performance of Canadian adults was in the middle of the pack on all four scales, prose, document comprehension, numeracy, and problem-solving.

There is an apparent decline in literacy scores among Canadian youth and parents' level of education had a significant impact on the literacy scores of their children. At the same time, there are fewer youth with low educated parents today than there were nine years ago, so the overall performance of youth in Canada as a whole is relatively stable.

Literacy skills had a large impact on earnings in all participating countries. As literacy is becoming increasingly important as technology advances, the survey found in Canada, respondents who had medium to high literacy skills, and who were high-intensity computer users, were five times more likely to be in the top 25% of personal income earners than those with low literacy and used computers infrequently.

If you would like to read this article in full, it can be found at this internet address:

<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050511/d050511b.htm>



You are invited to a

Strawberry Social & Book Exchange!

June 22nd, 5-7pm

to be held at the

Yamaska Literacy Council Office

239, rue Principale

Cowansville

This will be our year end bash.

We will be serving a light supper with strawberries for dessert.

Please bring a book or two to exchange.

Tutors please talk to your students about coming!

RSVP by June 11th.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2005-2006

In April, the YLC Board of Directors met to renew its current strategic plan and develop an action plan for 2005-2008. Ten goals were identified:

- To ensure that trained tutors are available to service all sectors served by the council
- To increase matches by 10%
- To recruit youth students and train tutors for this group
- To develop a plan to address prevention
- To develop a network of community resources and social services that already service the English-speaking communities in our territory.
- To participate in community radio
- To increase awareness of the literacy issues through events and activities
- To promote student success stories
- To increase opportunities for tutors to meet
- To improve communications with community and church groups

The next step, when the Board meets in June is to prioritize these goals and put specific actions to each goal.

NALD Weekly Update

Have you ever wished that you could effortlessly keep informed about valuable literacy resources and information? A new service developed by The National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) has made it easier for users to stay informed. Members of the literacy community are invited to subscribe to NALD's free service of weekly updates. Designed to provide accurate and timely information, subscribers will be notified about new resources added to NALD's *Full Text Documents* and *Literacy Collections*, new websites of literacy and literacy-related organizations, the latest learner's story in *Story of the Week*, *Headline News* items and recently published national and provincial/territory literacy newsletters. Available in separate English and French versions, these updates are intended to make it easier for all users to stay informed about changes and additions to the NALD website. We encourage you to sign up for the free weekly update at

<http://www.nald.ca/update/>

What's more, we invite you to share this information widely among your literacy colleagues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

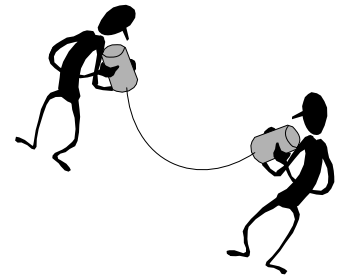
STUDENTS!

YLC is looking for student input on the Board. To see what it is all about you are welcome to attend a meeting. Call the office for more information.

TUTOR HOURS

All active tutors, please submit your tutoring hours as soon

as possible. If you need a form, you can download one from our website or call the office to have one sent to you. *Thanks!*



CARD MAKING SERVICE

Would you like to make a special card or invitation? At the YLC office we have some fun computer programs, Hallmark Greetings Workshop & Printshop 12. You can make your own stationery with our help, or you can play around with them on your own! Call the office to set up a time.

Everyone is welcome!



ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS!

You have been sent a volunteer agreement form for 2005-06, either through the mail or email. Please fill out the form and return it as soon as possible. This information let's us know whether your circumstances have changed and what you are able to commit to in terms of volunteering. We look forward to hearing from you.



PEER YOUTH TUTORS, IS THIS FOR YOU?

The YLC is hosting a week-long summer reading camp for Cycle 2 students, August 22-26th. The goal of the camp is to help children improve their skills in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Each student will receive one-on-one tutoring. Would you like to be a tutor? Call the office for more information.



A fond farewell.... to Karine Liebrecht, who has been a volunteer with the Yamaska Literacy Council since 1987. Karine is relocating from Sutton to Courteney, British Columbia - land of totems, umbrellas and gum boots! Good luck with your move!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you to all who entered Family Literacy Challenge 2005—My Community. The top stories from each category are as follows:

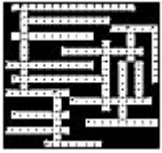
YLC Student—Donna Woodard
 High School—Joshua Bouthot, École J.J. Bertrand
 Cycle 3—Anne Bouthot, Heroes' Memorial
 Cycle 2—Ashley Hume, Knowlton Academy

The entries were varied, interesting and entertaining, as are the communities in Brome-Missisquoi. Thanks also to the judges—Fran Corry, Joan Seys, Sandra Garvey, and Pat Lafreniere.



community /ke'mju:niti/ a. (p1. ies) **1 a** all the people living in a specific locality. **b** a specific locality, including its inhabitants. **c Cdn (Nfld & PEI)** a small incorporated municipality. **2** a body of people having a religion, a profession, etc., in common (*the immigrant community*). **3** fellowship of interests etc.; similarity (*community of intellect*). **4** a monastic, socialistic, etc. body practising common ownership. **5** joint ownership or liability (*community of goods*). **6** (prec. by *the*) the public. **7** a body of nations unified by common interests. **8 Ecology** a group of animals or plants living or growing together in the same area. **9** (attrib.) = COMMUNITY ACCESS (*community channel*). [Middle English from Old French *comuneté* from Latin *communitas-tatis* (as COMMON)]

*The Canadian Oxford Dictionary © 2001



HOT POTATOES!

Several tutors from YLC spent a day learning how to make interactive word puzzles using a computer program called Hot Potatoes. There are five different kinds of puzzles—cloze, crossword, matching, mix (a jumbled sentence exercise), and quiz. Anyone can download the software for free by visiting the Hot Potatoes Homepage. Once installed, there is an easy tutorial you can follow.

web.uvic.ca/hrd/halfbaked

If you would like to try some Hot Potatoes puzzles made by someone else, visit the QELA website (once you enter this page, you will be able to choose from many categories, select one, then select a hot potatoes activity).

www.qela.qc.ca/Activities.htm

*this crossword is interactive in the website newsletter

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Each One Teach One

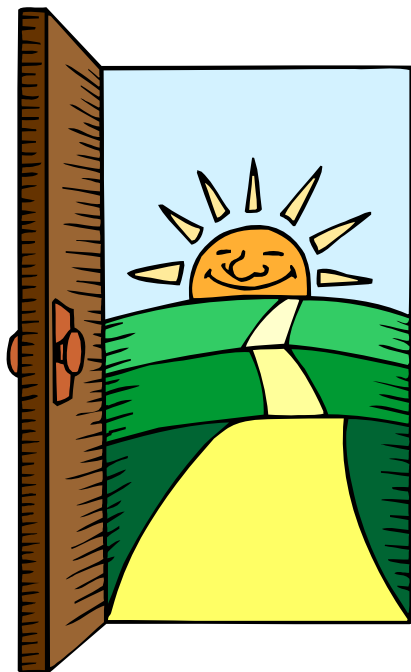
1-866-337-7503



What do you call a boomerang that
doesn't work?



YLC SCHEDULE ~ Summer 2005



- Board Meeting June 8th 10 am
- Strawberry Social June 22nd 5-7 pm
- **Office Closed July 1st—August 15th**
- Storytelling Festival August 20th & 21st
- Summer Reading Camp August 22-26th
- Brome Fair September 2nd—5th
- International Literacy Day September 8th
- Townshippers' Day Bedford September 17th

Tutors and Students: If you would like to sign up to man a booth for any of the above fairs or festivals, please call the office.