

Live & Learn

Spring & Summer 2006

The Newsletter of the PEI Literacy Alliance

Golfing for Literacy



Poet Laureate Cynthia Dunsford jokes around with Paul Kiley of the winning Corkum & Associates team at our 2006 PGI Golf Tournament.

Photo courtesy of The Guardian

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Live & Learn

The Newsletter of the PEI Literacy Alliance

Live & Learn is published by the PEI Literacy Alliance.

Edited and designed by Catherine O'Bryan and Norman Finlayson.

We would like to hear from you if you have:

- learners' stories
- creative writing by learners
- articles or news about teaching adults
- upcoming events
- new resources for adult education

Please send your material to:

Live & Learn
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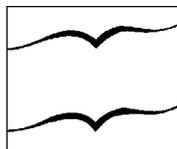
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PEI
Literacy
Alliance

*This publication is made possible
by funding from the
PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy.*

Summer in PEI - it doesn't get better than this!

The Alliance had a very busy year and we decided to combine the Spring and Summer issues of our newsletter.

In April we moved our office to the Sherwood Business Centre at 161 St. Peters Road (the former Ellis Bros). We are on the ground floor on the left, up the hall from the flower shop .

Things are moving on the literacy front. More and more people are becoming aware of our literacy issues. Our government is engaged in drafting a literacy and learning strategy for PEI. The Alliance has provided input to this process and will be involved with drafting the final document.

Our Summer Tutoring Program for Kids is in full swing with twenty-four tutors helping school-aged children from Souris to Tignish.

As you will see inside our fund-raising golf tournament was a success with 140 golfers, entertainers and volunteers participating. Andersons Creek is a beautiful place to spend the morning and we just about had everyone off the course before the rains began.

This summer take a book to the beach, visit your local library or tell stories to your kids. Remember literacy is the key to all learning!

- The Editor

Highlights of community consultations

The PEI Literacy Alliance held meetings in Mill River, Summerside, Charlottetown and Montague to gather public opinions about literacy.

Community members understand the literacy issues facing PEI.

- ✓ *The participants recognize literacy as the basis of our overall economic and personal well-being.*
- ✓ *Literate citizens are the foundation for growth and development of communities.*
- ✓ *Literacy is understood first as the basic skills of reading and writing.*
- ✓ *Participants also know that literacy goes beyond basic literacy to include numeracy, computer literacy, health literacy and lifelong learning.*

Our communities will do their part.

- ✓ *The participants at these four community consultations were pleased to be part of this consultation process, but several expressed frustration, and even anger, at being asked once again how to improve low literacy in their community.*
- ✓ *They assured the facilitators that they have done many things in the past and will continue to support, promote and lobby for increased literacy for all.*

Leadership is needed from our key decision- and policy-makers.

- ✓ *The sense of frustration on the part of participants centred on the need for leadership across the province to solve the literacy issue once and for all.*
- ✓ *In particular, the call for government leadership was repeated as essential if we are to move forward.*
- ✓ *Without government leadership though consistent and accessible programs and financial resources, the cycle of low literacy rates will continue.*

The time for action is now.

- ✓ *The issue of systemic low literacy is an urgent one, and these community members sense that if something doesn't happen soon, Prince Edward Island will not be able to sustain its way of life.*
- ✓ *These communities told us: We've done our part; it's time for government to take action.*



2006 PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

Thanks to everyone for
another successful tournament!

Dedicated volunteers: the
“Crew from Montague”
have been coming back
year after year to make
things run smoothly



Corkum & Associates
entered a team for the first
time and won the trophy!



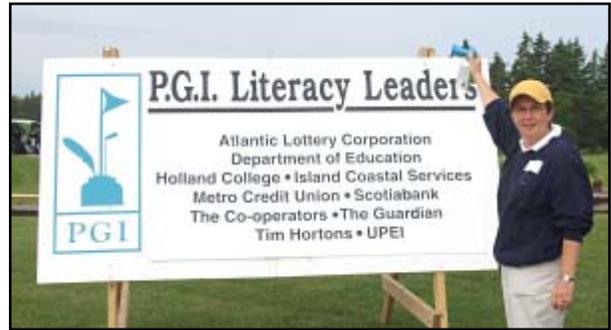
Gordon Belsher thrilled the
crowd with his new band
“Sasafrax”



MC Kevin Lewis kept things rolling at the banquet



Joanne Ings sounded the horn in front of the Literacy Leader Board. Our ten Literacy Leaders made a special contribution to the tournament.



Special thanks to our Golf Course Sponsor:
Atlantic Lottery Corporation



Bursary Winners Spring 2006

Amber Lyn Cudio

Amber is a young mother with two pre-schoolers. She juggles the demands of being a full-time student with those of looking after her children. According to her instructor, Paula Silliker “she comes to class each day and always has a smile on her face...she works hard on her academic studies...she is a great candidate for this bursary.”



Angela Gaudet

According to her tutor, Anne Mellish, Angela is very focused on her goals and works independently. She is very determined to get the skills she needs to be a mechanic. Her goal is to get the skills she needs to be financially independent and have a positive family life.



Kimberly McGrath-Myers

Kimberly is a bright single mother of five who has a strong desire to improve life for her children and herself. Her instructor Anne Morrison says that this bursary will be a help Kimberley reach her goals while providing for her family..



Dolores Laybolt

Dolores came back to school after many years. After becoming a widow she set to work to get her GED diploma on her way to becoming a resident care worker. Dolores hopes her education will help her finish her working years in a career she will love.



Charles Seymour

Charles went back to school so he and his family could have a better life. He wants to be a millwright. Georgene Smith, Charles' instructor, says he leaves class every afternoon with three or four books under his arm. He and his wife Tammy are doing a lot of studying home together. Charles stands out as someone who deserves this bursary.



Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners:

Dorothy Peters, winner of the Peter Gzowski Scholarship

Kathie Stevenson, winner of the Harry MacLauchlan Scholarship

Learner's Story



Leigh Chaisson is the winner of The Co-operators Learner Achievement Award presented each year at the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy. Here is the essay he submitted with his application for the award.

My name is Leigh Chaisson and I am an Irish Moss harvester. I am 48 years old and before the year 2000 had only attended one-room school houses. I am currently attending the adult education program at Westisle Centre through Holland College to fulfill my future career goals.

When I was younger I went to a one-room school in Pleasant View. I went up to grade 7 there and then they put me in grade 8 at the St. Edwards mobiles. I didn't quite finish my 8th grade. I started to work and never went back to school until the year 2000.

I went to Palmer Road to take up my GED and wrote in the spring of 2001 passing it. I was told to keep going farther. I did not know where to go or what I wanted to do. Career

Bridges was suggested to me by Career Development Services. In Career Bridges I found out that I would be well suited to the health care field.

For the last two winters I have been taking my academic English and Biology at Westisle Centre. I have applied to Holland College to take the Practical Nursing Course in September. I also applied to the Resident Care Worker course, in case I do not get into the Practical Nursing Course.

When I become a Practical Nurse I would like to work in West Prince if I can.

My biggest goal is to find full-time employment. Rather than seasonal work I want to work year-round in a field that I am truly interested in and enjoy.

Editors note - Leigh gave a rousing thank you speech during the golf tournament awards luncheon at the New Glasgow Lobster Suppers on June 15th.

He thanked all his teachers for their work and encouragement. Leigh remarked that at each step in his adult education he thought he was too old to go back to school or go further.

With the support and encouragement of his family, teachers and friends Leigh has completed his necessary academic credits and is on the waiting list for the Practical Nursing program at Holland College.

Leigh got a standing ovation after telling his story.

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Meet Lori Johnston

Lori Johnston is the coordinator for the 2006 Summer Tutoring Program for Kids. She first became involved in the program last year as a tutor for ESL students.

Lori has had a wide variety of experiences in the field of education. She has been a student, supply teacher and an ESL instructor in Hong Kong. Lori has worked with adult learners and has an extensive background as a sports coach and player.



Lori's goal is to obtain a full-time teaching position where she can continue her commitment of enhancing the lives of students and their families. This fall Lori will join the staff of a private school in the Maritimes.

IALSS Presentation

On May 31st the Alliance hosted a presentation of the 2005 International Adult Literacy Skills Survey results at the Charlottetown Hotel.

Satya Brink provided us with general information about the survey along with comparisons between PEI and the other provinces and territories.

Her presentation focused on the implications of the findings for Prince Edward Island:

- 51,000 people had low numeracy, about 35% of them at level 1
- 40,000 people had prose literacy scores below level 3
- the proportion of the population aged 16-65 below level 3 in prose literacy was 50% while it was 61% in numeracy
- women performed significantly better than men in prose literacy and tended to do better in other domains as well
- the majority of seniors have low literacy skills



Satya Brink, Director of National Learning Policy Research, HRSD (left) with Ray Doiron, chair of the PEI Literacy Alliance

- about 46% of youth have literacy scores below level 3
- people with less than a high school degree should be a major concern for policy makers

If you would like a copy of Ms. Brink's presentation please contact the Alliance at 902-368-3620.