

## Contact Information

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### Community Learning Centre South Frontenac

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### Ontario Works Assessment Office

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## Kingston Literacy's Staff

Carynne Arnold (Executive Director)

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Anne Jackson

Anastasia Knechtel-Silver

Alanna Larsen

Kate Lightfoot

Clara Lovatt

Darren MacDonald

Karen McGregor

Debbie Nesbitt-Munroe

Ursula O'Dell

Catherine Owen

Susan Ramsay

Sheila Round

Cheryl Robinson

Martha Rudden

Rose Strohmaier

Carolin Taguchi

Donna Vinkle

Shirley Urbanski

## Kingston Literacy's 2007-8 Volunteer Board of Directors

John Brown	John Conrad	Arlene Cronin (President)
Noni Cumming	Chris Durant	Sarah Fraser
Allison Handelman (Vice President)	Nancy Jones	Bonnie Livingstone (Secretary)
Nancy Scovil	Marilyn Shurtleff	Lars Thompson
Steven Ward	Mike Welker (Treasurer)	



Opening Doors to Learning

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## Kingston Literacy's Mission Statement

Kingston Literacy  
further the development  
and growth of adult and  
family literacy in  
Kingston and  
neighbouring  
communities.

# Words Worth

The Quarterly Newsletter of Kingston Literacy

Volume I, Issue I

Fall 2007

## Education and Real Estate

When we decided to make the focus for this issue of our newsletter real estate, I started doing a bit of reading, and was surprised to learn how much ongoing education is involved in being a good realtor. When I thought about it, however, it made a lot of sense, given how markets evolve, government legislation changes and new technologies impact the industry. To be a successful realtor, one must be a life-long learner, willing to invest time and effort. It is wonderful to see a field where such training is encouraged and readily available.



Realtors Mark Sinnett and Paula Wiltse began donating 5% of their net commissions to Kingston Literacy in June 2007.

Life-long learning is a very important concept that unfortunately has not taken hold with everyone. For many people, once they have left school, either because they graduated or for another reason, more education is not perceived as an option. For those who

could really benefit from further learning, this is very unfortunate.

According to the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (May 2005), 15 per cent of adult Canadians, age 16 to 65, have serious problems dealing with any printed materials; an additional 27 per cent can only deal with simple reading tasks. That means that roughly

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## Message from President

Unless you are in the market for a new home or business space, it is easy to forget the importance of the real estate industry. When you are in need of a new space, however, your very future can depend on the skills of your realtor. This is something that Kingston Literacy knows all too well.

As we approach our 30th anniversary in October, we face the prospect of relocating two of our main sites. Our Family Literacy Centre, previously located in Rideau Heights Public School, had to move this summer, due to the school's

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## Education and Real Estate (continued)

9 million Canadians struggle with low literacy. Sadly, less than 10 per cent of those who could benefit from literacy upgrading programs in Canada actually enrol. (ABC CANADA Literacy, 2001) It's as if people have the perception that there is a set time during which you should learn, but if you miss that opportunity, it's lost.

As we know at Kingston Literacy, it is never too late to learn. Our adult students range in age from 19 to 64, with the bulk being between 25 and 44. While some of our students' goals are further training or employment search, a number have jobs, and are getting training to help them to either do their jobs better or move ahead in their workplace.

It is great to know that some fields, like real estate, encourage their members to upgrade their skills and knowledge on an ongoing basis. The Ontario Real Estate Association website sums it up nicely: "Completing required courses is just the beginning of a journey that requires continuing education to maintain your edge and professional credentials." If only we were all so open to ongoing education, the stigma surrounding adult upgrading and literacy might diminish significantly...

**Want to learn more about Kingston Literacy?**  
Visit our website at  
[www.kingstonliteracy.com](http://www.kingstonliteracy.com)

## Message from the President (continued)

need for additional space. In mid-summer, we worked with our tireless commercial realtor, Paul Chapman, to find a new space. Happily we were able to find suitable temporary accommodation.

We are also looking for a new home for our Community Learning Centre Kingston, currently located in the basement of Calvin Park Public Library. With the construction of a new branch for this library, we have been asked to leave the current building by the fall of 2008. Although the Library would like to continue to support our programs, they are unable to finance a larger building to accommodate us. The estimated cost to add additional space to the new library would be approximately \$1.2 million dollars—way beyond either of our budgets. We are now hoping to find a space large enough to hold both our Family Literacy Centre and the Community Learning Centre Kingston for the fall of 2008. Co-locating these sites could be wonderful for all programs.

So what would this shared space look like? If we were in real estate heaven, it would be:

- 7,500-8,000 square feet;
- centrally located;
- on or very near a bus route;
- at a low cost; and of course
- wheelchair accessible.

The Space Planning Committee has met with representatives from a number of possible partners, and will be kicking things into high gear soon if we have not found a suitable site. If you have information about an excellent, reasonably priced location, please contact Kingston Literacy at (613) 547-2012. We hope to have good real estate news for you in our next newsletter.

*Arlene Cronin, President of the Board*

## LINC Program News

In late May 2007, Kingston Literacy became a new provider of LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) services, with funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Within just a few weeks, our LINC class at the Community Learning Centre Kingston was full, and our class at our west end site (1755 Bath Road) is growing. This program has added 6 new staff positions to Kingston Literacy, and also a fresh, international flavour to our sites. We are happy to welcome our new students, and know that we will all learn a lot from them. Service for more advanced LINC students is available through KEYS at St. Lawrence College, and will also soon be available at KEYS' downtown site as well.



*Local field trips help our LINC students to learn more about our community.*

## Our Own Real Estate Industry Heroes

- ★ In the mid-90s, the Kingston Area Real Estate Association made Kingston Literacy the beneficiary of its *Homes for Hope* program. They sold lovely unique broaches in the shape of homes, and gave the balance of the proceeds to Kingston Literacy. This initiative, headed by Mark Fisher (Royal Lepage ProAlliance Realty), raised important funds for Kingston Literacy.
- ★ Since 2003, Bob Winsor (ReMax Realty Concepts Corp.) and associates including Marcia Jones, Jan Patterson, Carol Hinton and Hilary McKenna (Hometown Realty Kingston Corp.) have fielded teams for our Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee. Thank you for all your "beesiness", folks.
- ★ Over the years, when we have needed to find accommodation, Paul Chapman (Rogers & Trainor) has been incredibly resourceful in finding us suitable space.
- ★ Prudential Town Centre Realty's Mark Sinnett and Paula Wiltse began donating 5% of their net commissions to Kingston Literacy in June 2007.



## Community Learning Centre South Frontenac (CLCSF) News

The Community Learning Centre South Frontenac (CLCSF) in Hartington, started this new fiscal year in April with over 24 participants improving their skills in English, math, computers and science, as well as preparing for employment. As part of a partnership agreement with St. Lawrence College, we have been delivering ACE level programs here since January. Given that travel can be a significant barrier to people seeking upgrading, especially in rural areas, we are excited to be providing this much-needed service to students in South Frontenac.

A group of CLCSF students have also been working hard on a calendar to sell to the public in the early fall. This year's calendar will feature cars of Frontenac County. The centre has

published and sold student-created calendars very successfully for the last two years. In 2006, the calendar featured historic buildings in South Frontenac, while in 2007, the calendar focused on heritage recipes. The calendar project has been an excellent exercise for the students, including research, writing, desktop-publishing, job-costing and sales.



## Family Literacy and Family Learning Centres News

The start of this fiscal year has been a busy one for Kingston Literacy's family literacy programs. From April to June, we offered a number of different programs, including Reading And Parents Program (RAPP, our flagship family literacy service), Great Results After School Program (GRASP), and a bookmaking workshop. Most of our family literacy programming ended for the summer, but will start up again in the fall.

That is not to say that the family literacy staff were not busy. Our Family Literacy Centre, which has been located in Rideau Heights Public School for the last nine years had to move this summer, due to expanding classes at the school. We were very fortunate to have another space offered to us by the Limestone District School Board, at LaSalle Secondary School. After much sorting, culling and packing, we made the move in early August and look forward to operating in our new space in the fall.

We greatly appreciate the support of the Limestone District School Board, and the staff at both Rideau Heights Public School and LaSalle Secondary School.



**Last year, 283 volunteers contributed over 5,800 hours to Kingston Literacy, as tutors, Board and Committee members, fundraising helpers and family literacy volunteers. To find out more, check our website ([www.kingstonliteracy.com](http://www.kingstonliteracy.com)) or call 613-547-2012. Thank you for your interest.**

## K.L. News and Announcements

**In June 2007**, Prudential Town Centre Realty's Mark Sinnett and Paula Wiltse began donating 5% of their net commissions to Kingston Literacy. We greatly appreciate their incredible generosity, and wish them well in their new endeavors (and not just because they are donating to KL). If you would like more information about their services, they can be reached at (613) 389-9511.

**Welcome aboard:** At our Annual General Meeting on June 27th, Kingston Literacy welcomed three new Board members, Chris Durant, Nancy Jones and Marilyn Shurtleff.

We also bid a fond farewell to our outgoing president, Jerry Bullock, as well as library representative Deanna MacDonald.



**Welcome new staff:** Because of expanding programming over the last five months, we have hired five new staff members. We would like to welcome Carolin Taguchi, Clara Lovatt, Ursula O'Dell, and Ilse Contois to our LINC program, and Amber Gibson to our Family Literacy programs.

## Thank you

Kingston Literacy could not carry out its work if it were not for the help and support of many people, businesses and groups. While we cannot possibly thank them all here, we would like to recognize some who have contributed significantly in the first quarter of this fiscal year.

**Words and Wisdom:** This fundraising series of readings in the Wilson Room ended in May with a wonderful presentation about Vimy Ridge by author and broadcaster Ted Barris. The audience was delighted by his incredible energy, not to mention the delicious treats supplied by Bread & Butter. In April, we were fortunate to have Frances Itani as our featured author, with wonderful desserts from Starbucks. We greatly appreciate all of their support, as well as that of Indigo Books and Music. In addition to helping promote these events, and selling tickets in the store, Indigo sold books at each of our readings and donated back a portion of the sales. We are very grateful for all their support.

**Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee:** On May 10th, we held our most successful Bee to date at the Days Inn, raising over \$18,000 for our family literacy programs. A huge thank you to all the teams, donors, sponsors, volunteers and committee members who helped to make this event such a hit!

**Limestone District School Board:** For the last 9 years, our Family Literacy Centre was housed in Rideau Heights Public School. This space proved to be an excellent site, in the heart of an area we wanted to serve. The Board gave us this space at no cost, and we would like to say a huge thank you to them, and the staff at Rideau Heights for providing us with such a great home.



## Events and Fundraisers

**Writersfest:** In October 2006, Indigo Books, the Kingston Frontenac Public Library and Kingston Literacy joined forces to present our very first Writersfest. We presented readings by Larry Scanlan, Ron Hotchkiss, Michelle Wan, Terence Dickinson, Jean-Benoit Nadeau and Julie Barlow. For our first year, this modest presentation was successful, and funds raised by voluntary donations were divided between the Friends of the Library and the United Way.

In 2007, we are planning a slightly more elaborate program between October 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, including readings, workshops, receptions, and a "Speed-Dating with Literary Agents" fundraiser, again with the proceeds going to the United Way and the Friends of the Library.

**Kingston Reads and Writersfest:** To promote Writersfest, a writers festival we are co-hosting with Indigo Books and the Kingston Frontenac Public Library between October 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, we are holding a "Kingston Reads" campaign in early fall. High profile local figures will champion their favourite books by living Canadian authors. We will present a list of the works, along with a brief pitch by their promoters to the public via our respective websites and through the media at large. The public will then have the opportunity to vote for their favourite book at each of our sites, up until October 8<sup>th</sup>. The winner will be unveiled during Writersfest. For more details, visit: [www.kingstonliteracy.com](http://www.kingstonliteracy.com) or [www.kfpl.ca](http://www.kfpl.ca).

## Project News and Updates

**Centre for Expertise in Family Literacy (CEFL):** Kingston Literacy has received funding from the National Literacy Secretariat to continue developing as a resource for family literacy programs in Eastern Ontario. Since 2003, we have supported development and training for agencies through: our consulting service; a conference held in partnership with Queen's University; training opportunities for the field; and our website, [www.familyliteracyexpertise.org](http://www.familyliteracyexpertise.org). We look forward to carrying on this important work, and helping others to develop programs that will support and encourage reading in families.



**Child Care Assistant Curriculum Development:** In April 2006, Literacy Link Eastern Ontario (LLEO) released a series of occupational curricula focusing on the Essential Skills needed in eight specific areas of entry level employment, which were designed for adult literacy students. Kingston Literacy has been contracted to develop a new curriculum for people interested in becoming a child care assistant.

**Essential Skills Assessment and Training in the Context of Ontario Works and LBS Levels 1-3:** Building on our partnership with the City of Kingston's Ontario Works Department, we are developing tools to assess client skills in the area of problem-solving, decision-making, working with others and oral communication. Once this assessment tool is complete, we will then develop a training framework with activities in these areas.

## Community Learning Centre Kingston (CLCK) News

It has been a busy summer at the Community Learning Centre Kingston. To date this has been Kingston Literacy's main administrative site, as well as our adult upgrading location in Kingston. In May we added a Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) program here, which added a whole new and exciting dimension to our make-up. Perhaps in a way it is good that we are in the process of looking for a new home (see story on page 2), because at times it feels like we are bursting at the seams!

While we do have continuous enrolment, more people sign up for school in September (and January) than at any other time of the year. We will again be offering a full schedule of upgrading

in Essential Skills communications, math and computers. In addition, we have 13 occupational curriculum training modules to help introduce students to the Essential Skills needed in a number of entry level positions including: call centre employee, personal support worker, taxi driver and skilled trades labourer.



## Community Learning Centre Napanee (CLCN) News

In addition to the regular adult upgrading programming offered here, since January, as part of a partnership agreement with St. Lawrence College, CLCN has been an ACE delivery site. As such, we offer training to students who will eventually attend the College's upgrading program. This service has helped to make this very vibrant centre even more active.

Another program CLCN has been offering is the Great Results After School Program (GRASP) in Napanee. Funded by the Napanee Community Foundation, this homework club, staffed mainly by volunteers, provided tremendous support to a group of youngsters in Napanee from November 2006 to April 2007, and will begin anew in October.

At the end of this summer, CLCN is bidding farewell to Literacy Basic Skills instructor Meredith Ware, but welcoming back Kate

Lightfoot in her place. Kate was the project coordinator last year of our distance education program, which ended in November 2006.

**If you would like to receive an e-notice when our latest newsletter gets posted on our website, email us at [info@kingstonliteracy.com](mailto:info@kingstonliteracy.com). Rest assured that we will not share your data with anyone else.**