



# Literacy in Action

The Bulletin of Literacy Alberta

April/May Practitioner/Volunteer Edition Page 1

## Mark Your Calendar!

### April 11 to May 13, 2005

Hardwired for Hope, an electronic conference about effectiveness in ABE/Literacy practice, hosted by Literacy BC and Capilano College in partnership with Literacy Alberta and eLit.ca.

<http://www.nald.ca/fulltext/hwired/cover.htm>

### April 17-23, 2005

Volunteer Week across Canada  
[www.volunteer.ca](http://www.volunteer.ca)

### April 29-30, 2005

"The Discipline Dilemma: Challenges and Choices" family conference  
Calgary AB  
403-205-5180

### May 9-12, 2005

Western Fundraising Conference  
Calgary AB  
<http://www.aafre.org>

### June 3-4, 2005

People in Motion 2005  
Canada's Largest Exhibition for Disabilities. Free admission.  
Toronto ON

## Announcements

### Welcome new Board Members!

In March 2005 we held our annual election to bring in new Board members to Literacy Alberta. This election process enables all members to mail in their votes for candidates wishing to be on the Board. Of our 485 members, 34.9% voted. We are very happy to announce the results as follows:

Practitioner Director: **Bonnie Ireland**

General Director: **Beverley Norman**

Student Director: **Daniel Haines** (acclaimed)

President **Elaine Cairns** (acclaimed)

Congratulations and welcome to the Board!

Do you have a comment about the 2005 election process? If so, please write, email, fax or call the Literacy Alberta office.

### Recent Board Activities

We continue to work on the strategic plan with an emphasis on the role of advocacy and on ensuring that we are aware of our members' voice. The Board is excited about two things that happened recently. First, a committee of learners has been formed to provide input to the conference organizing committee. Thank you, learners, for your ideas.

Second, Literacy Alberta has the full support of the Minister of Advanced Education, The Honourable Dave Hancock, for the development of a new literacy strategy for Alberta. Look for more information about this soon.

The Board looks forward to getting to know our new Board members and meeting all of you at the upcoming Provincial Literacy Conference in November.

### BLASTing On

The Bureau of Learners from Alberta Speakers Team (BLAST) is back! The students are eager to come and speak to your group. To book a speaker, call 1-800-767-3231.



**Literacy**  
Alberta

## New Resources in the L.A. Library

**Complete Learning Disabilities Handbook** © 2001, Joan M. Harwell. Ready-to-use strategies and activities for teaching students with learning disabilities.

**The Level Descriptions Manual** ©2000, Susan Toews, Ontario Literacy Coalition. A learning outcomes approach to describing levels of skill in communications and literacy.

## Surfing Sites

- <http://www.libraryspot.com>: free virtual library resource center for educators and students, librarians and their patrons, families, businesses and just about anyone exploring the Web for valuable research information.
- <http://www.soyouwanna.com>: tongue-in-cheek, easy to read site that claims to teach you how to do all the things nobody taught you in school.



## Did You Know About?...

### Edmonton Region News

Hello from the Edmonton region STAR team! Edmonton is different because we have a STAR "team". The "team" is five people who work together. We have three people who are literacy students and two people who are adult literacy teachers. Together we plan and carry out activities in the Edmonton region to help students and tutors do their job better.

We want everybody to know that working on a STAR team is a great way to meet other people who are involved with adult literacy.

### Red Deer Region News

The Red Deer region one-day student and tutor conference was on April 9, 2005. Thirty students and tutors attended the conference at the Kerry Wood Nature Centre. Eight workshops were offered. Lil Gallant, a BLAST speaker with Literacy Alberta and a member of the Edmonton STAR team, was the keynote speaker. The Edmonton team also facilitated two workshops. The facilitators for all of the workshops did an excellent job. Bonnie Ireland, coordinator for Stettler Read & Write and new board member with Literacy Alberta, was the organizer for this conference. Bonnie is the STAR for the Red Deer region. It was a great day! Thanks so much for supporting this activity.

### Whitecourt Region News

The Whitecourt Region one-day student and tutor conference will be held on April 23, 2005 in Westlock. Phil Beakhouse, a BLAST speaker with Literacy Alberta, will give a speech. Phil is also a member of the Edmonton STAR team who will be putting on a workshop. Please support this activity. It is a wonderful opportunity for practitioners and programs to encourage their students and tutors. Call Teena Pankonin at 780-349-6333 for more information.

### Literacy Help Line: 10 Years and Counting!

The Literacy Help Line of Alberta is celebrating 10 years of service to Albertans. The Help Line's toll-free number is now available across Canada! For help or to help, call 1-800-767-3231. The Help Line's Fundraising Casino is May 31 and June 1 at the Elbow River Inn and Casino in Calgary. Come and support the Help Line!



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### May 17-20, 2005

Synergy: A National Conference  
on Integrated Approaches to  
Family Support  
Ottawa ON  
[www.frp.ca/synergyconference](http://www.frp.ca/synergyconference)

### June 3-5, 2005

Literacy Coordinator Retreat  
Terratima Lodge AB  
[Candice\\_Jackson@eLit.ca](mailto:Candice_Jackson@eLit.ca)

### June 9-11, 2005

Vitalize Conference  
Calgary AB  
[www.cd.gov.ab.ca/wrf](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/wrf)

### Literacy BC Summer Institute 2005

Online Conference June 20-July  
15  
Face-to-Face workshops July  
18-22  
<http://www.literacy.bc.ca>

### August 22-26, 2005

Family Literacy Models Training  
Edmonton AB  
[http://www.famlit.ca/training/  
index.html](http://www.famlit.ca/training/index.html)

### November 3-5, 2005

Provincial Literacy Conference  
Edmonton AB  
[Margaret\\_Eastwood@eLit.ca](mailto:Margaret_Eastwood@eLit.ca)



**Literacy**  
Alberta

## Professional Development Training News

It's been great to travel around the province a bit this spring and attend some of the regional meetings for coordinators. The meetings that I have attended have offered PD that is thought-provoking, informative and very relevant to the work that literacy coordinators do. And the networking opportunities continue to be a very important part of regional meetings.

The SPPD project (Strengthening Pathways to Professional Development) is continuing to develop the framework for a program of studies for literacy coordinators. We are interested in hearing from coordinators who would like to be involved in writing a module, or reviewing part of the curriculum content. Please contact Judy Murphy, [Judy\\_Murphy@eLit.ca](mailto:Judy_Murphy@eLit.ca).

There are still spaces available at the Retreat planned for literacy coordinators June 3-5. The location is the beautiful Terratima Lodge near Rocky Mountain House. The cost is very reasonable. The Retreat offers you the opportunity to step out of your everyday commitments and take time to be refreshed and rejuvenated. If you are interested, please let me know.


The Provincial Literacy Conference is in the planning stages. The conference offers a number of opportunities for professional development and networking. If you have a suggestion for a topic or speaker please contact me. If you are interested in presenting, the Call for Proposals is enclosed with this bulletin. It is also posted on the Literacy Alberta web site at [www.literacy-alberta.ca/whatwedo.htm](http://www.literacy-alberta.ca/whatwedo.htm).

~Candice Jackson

### Alberta's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Literacy Alberta is celebrating Alberta's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We will be making a list of our favourite "100 Greatest Books". If you have a favourite book that you would like included in this list, tell us the title, name of the writer, and year the book was published. We will share the list at the Provincial Literacy Conference in November. Thanks for your help!

What are you doing in your community to celebrate? Literacy Alberta would like to know! Send us your event details to [office@elit.ca](mailto:office@elit.ca).




New Address?

New Information?


Just want to talk to us?

You can contact us by ...


 **Mail**

If you have changes to your mailing information, just send us your mailing label along with the correct information to:


Literacy Alberta  
302, 1300 - 8 Street SW  
Calgary, AB T2R 1B2

 **Phone**

1-800-410-6584 Toll-free  
Calgary and area call  
403-410-6990  
Call between the hours of  
8:00 am & 4:00 pm

 **In Person**

Come and visit our office in downtown Calgary – we'd love to see you!

 **Fax**  
403-410-9024 **Email**

Send emails to:  
office@eLit.ca

Check out our website at  
[www.literacy-alberta.ca](http://www.literacy-alberta.ca)

Send submissions to:  
office@eLit.ca

## New Changes to Bursary Process

Students and tutors will soon have a new way of applying for a bursary to come to the Provincial Literacy Conference. The "Student and Tutor Bursary" is now called "Adult Learner and Volunteer Tutor Bursary". A new application form and brochure will be mailed to members later in the summer, when the PLC brochure is mailed out.

Both the PLC registration form and the bursary form **must** be mailed to the office at the same time. Students who need assistance filling in both forms are to work with their program coordinator. If you have questions about this new process, contact Candice Jackson at 780-416-8210 (local) or 1-866-416-8210 (toll free).

## A Message from Advanced Education

The review of Annual Reports and Business Plans (ARBP) has been a high priority for Carol, Michael and me since the middle of February. Congratulations to all Literacy Coordinators for a job well done. Your Volunteer Tutor Adult Literacy Program (VTALP) reports are rich with statistical information and learner success stories. We applaud the work that you have done in 2004 and celebrate the collaborative and innovative projects that you have created in communities throughout Alberta. Watch for the data from the VTALP 2004 reports that will be rolled up and reported on in the 2004/5 CALP Annual Report - available in July 2005.

Literacy Alberta is contracted by Advanced Education to provide professional development and regional network supports for coordinators of community adult literacy programs. It is timely to announce that a number of new initiatives, with additional funding supports from the Ministry, include the research and development of tutor training materials, an expansion of professional development activities and the development of a strategy to increase awareness of community learning opportunities throughout the province. With these projects on the drawing board, along with the other ongoing initiatives of Literacy Alberta - 2005 certainly looks like an exciting time to be part of the very important work of literacy.

Carol, Michael and I look forward to meeting with you over the next few months, at regional meetings, Best Practices Seminars, New Coordinator Training or at an on-site visit. Please call us directly if you have a question, want to do some problem solving, to discuss an idea or if you simply want to talk. North-East region: Michael (427-5721); South region: Carol (427-7514); West-Central region: Bev (427-5625).

~Bev Sochatsky

*In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but how many can get through to you.*

~Mortimer J. Adler