



TVLA



Literacy Times

Winter 2011

TRENT VALLEY LITERACY ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Classes end December 16th. TVLA is still open for student/tutor pairs, computer lab use and contact with our staff.
- TVLA closes December 23rd. Enjoy the holiday season!
- TVLA reopens Tuesday January 3rd, 2012.
- Computer Classes begin January 15th, 2012

The Year at TVLA

2011 featured a number of changes as the Trent Valley Literacy Association reacted to challenges and opportunities in adult literacy. On the whole, we have a lot to be proud of, thanks to new programs, materials and equipment. Highlights include:

- Thanks to funding and cooperation from the Peterborough Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration, TVLA hosted an ESL class for 8 weeks this year. This marks the beginning of new ESL initiatives for TVLA. Partners at the New Canadians Centre are working with us to start a new ESL class in 2012.
- 2011 marks the beginning of changes to all of TVLA's programs to join Employment Ontario's vision for adult literacy in the coming years. All staff are training to work with new resources and reporting methods.
- We reinvested in TVLA's resources with new literacy materials, software, and computers. All of our lab computers are 2011 model Dell PCs, and laptops are available in case we need extra capacity. Our former lab machines moved into main learning areas, making computers more accessible to TVLA learners, tutors and the community. Our traditional print library includes new books and the latest versions of books our tutors have told us they find especially useful.

Not *everything* changed. We maintained our classroom and tutoring and computer skills programs, and implemented the popular Food Services program several times throughout the year. We hope that combining these mainstays with new opportunities will help us make an even bigger difference in learners' lives in 2012 and beyond.

From Teresa's Desk

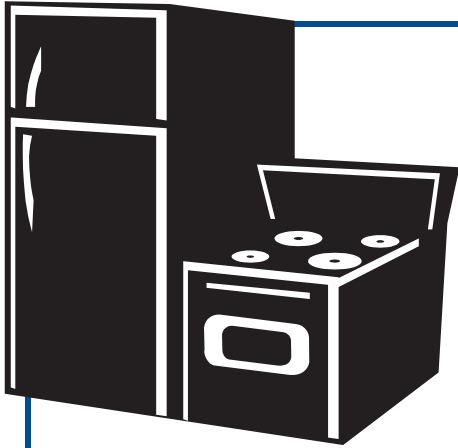
Goodness gracious, my head is spinning – and I'm sure I'm not alone in that! 2011 has had all kinds of change and excitement within it, and it's almost as though everyone is conspiring to squeeze a few more challenges in before the year winds up. However, that's what keeps life interesting, isn't it: the change in the weather, the change in the garden, the change in the menu ... change, change, change, CHANGE!!!

In truth, every change around us has the capacity to cause changes within us, and that can be a good or bad thing. What we have to remember is, WE are the ones who influence that response to change! We can go a long way towards making change less stressful, and ultimately more positive, by how we respond to it.

So, while my own head may still be spinning, I'm going to concentrate on enjoying these "special effects", because there's definitely a LOT I see that's positive! First of all, there are changes coming in the curriculum approach to adult literacy in our province, and that's a positive sign for our field and the learners we're here to help: this is a field that's not gotten a lot of attention over the years, and it couldn't be more deserving. Second, there are new folks stepping up to help our communities through these times of change: I'm thinking of **Jim Russell**, the Peterborough United Way's new CEO whom I've had the pleasure of meeting a number of times now, as well as two new members of TVLA's Board of Directors, **Mary-Pat Mathers** and **Louisa Vatri**. It occasionally takes time, or even more than one attempt, for these connections to be successfully made, but they are so worth the wait! Welcome and thank you to all three of these fine people.

Third, I'm not the same person I was when I started in my job almost three years ago. I feel (some days!) more tired, more overwhelmed, and more stressed than I was before coming to TVLA, **but** I also feel more **INSPIRED**, more **CONNECTED**, and more **CERTAIN** that the work that takes place at TVLA (by both learners and tutors/instructors alike) is important, impactful, and absolutely **BURSTING WITH CHANGE**, for the adults who are learning here, their lives when they leave here, and our community as a whole.

Change is not going to subside – oh no! – but it can, like a wave rushing in, lift us up and show us things we've never seen before. May you find a way to see the changes you're experiencing in your life is this same positive light!



Food Services Class Volunteers Ahead of Graduation

TVLA's Food Services students are almost finished! Right now, students are volunteering in professional kitchens in Peterborough. These placements provide hands on experience in addition to what they learn with our cooking and kitchen instructor, Edith.

We're very grateful to the local restaurants and other businesses that have allowed us to place Food Services students in their kitchens. They help prepare our students for the pace and practical aspects of working in the food services field, and reinforce all the training they've received throughout the course. When students graduate on December 16th, we know they'll be ready for the challenges the industry has to offer.

Who's That Guy? It's Mike!

If you're wondering who the man behind the reception desk is, wonder no more! Mike is our reception and office worker, and helps TVLA out on weekday mornings! Please say hello to him as you come in. It's his job to help people reach classes and staff, as well as perform essential jobs around the office.

Mike comes from a background in administration in both the Canadian Forces and in nonprofits in Peterborough. Welcome to TVLA, Mike!

Literacy Class Goes Online

TVLA's downstairs class is going online! Lisa and her students will integrate the classes offered by Contact North and the eLearning Hub into their studies starting in November and December.

Contact North helps literacy organizations find and register for online classes in multiple organizations. After learning to use Centra software, students can take courses in English, math, social studies, computer skills and more, based on the student's current skills and what he or she needs to learn.

The class offers online courses as part of its general program. To find out more about Contact North programs or TVLA's classroom learning program, call TVLA at 705-749-0777, email

instructor@trentvalleyliteracy.ca,

or drop by 139 Douro Street. Lisa also teaches at the Havelock TEACH Centre on Wednesdays to reach students who would find it difficult to commute down to East City, Peterborough.

Lost and Found

Looking for something you lost at 139 Douro Street? Please ask at the front desk or talk to another staff member.

If you find an unattended item, please hand it in at the front desk in the mornings or on other occasions, talk to a staff member.

Food Counter

If you ever see food at the counter above the dish cabinet (NOT the one by the sink), please take it! We leave snacks, canned goods and other items there for anyone to eat or take home. All we ask is that if possible, you leave some behind for anyone else who's hungry!



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Twitter: twitter.com/tvla

Facebook Group: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_209309509091700 (HINT: It's probably easier just to search . . . We have a Facebook page, too!)