

Dartmouth Learning Network



Changing the face of literacy in Dartmouth.

► **The Literacy Challenge...**

Literacy in its most basic form is the ability to read and write. The holistic perspective of literacy is more than that. It is the ability to understand what one is reading, to articulate verbally or in writing what one wants to say in such a manner that the receiver understands the message being relayed. The Adult Learning Program (ALP) assists adult learners to achieve this ability. The ALP is comprised of four levels.

Level 1

Have severe difficulty in understanding simple written material and rely heavily on sight vocabulary.

Level 2

Have a functional vocabulary with difficulty in reading and writing.

Level 3

Can read and understand everyday written material and language but still have difficulty with comprehension.

Level 4

Can understand complex ideas and have strengthened writing skills.

More than four in 10 Canadian adults, aged 16-65 cannot read, write, do arithmetic or solve problems at the level required to participate fully in today's economy. 50% of Canadian adults lack the ability to manage numbers. And, literacy and numeracy skills decline with age.

More than half (55%) of Canadians aged 16 to 65 do not have levels of health literacy adequate to read nutrition labels, follow medication directions, understand safety instructions, or make informed and adequate choices for their own healthy living.

From "Report on learning in Canada '07."

52% of Atlantic Canadian function at Levels 1 & 2. Level 3 is considered the level required to function successfully in today's economy.

In Nova Scotia 48% & 50% are below Level 3 for literacy and numeracy respectively.

Aged 16-65 years:

240,000+ below Level 3 in Nova Scotia.

Level 1 (75,000)

47% employed
53% unemployed / not in the labour force

Level 2 (168,000)

58% employed
42% unemployed / not in the labour force

(LMA / LMBA Labour Market Initiatives Community Information Sessions March, 2009)

Cost of illiteracy:

>\$10 billion each year to Canadian society as a whole.

\$4 billion in direct costs to businesses each year.

"Literacy Counts, Burt Perrin, National Literacy Secretariat, Sept. 1990."

What Can We do?


Improve literacy rates.

A 2004 Statistics Canada study reported that a 1% rise in literacy scores would boost labour productivity by 2.5%, output / capita by 1.5% and GDP by \$18.5 billion.



CONTRIBUTION FORM

I would like to help Dartmouth Learning Network with my donation of:

Please check 

\$250 \$200 \$150 \$100

\$50 \$10 _____ Other

to be used as follows:

Operating Costs

Program Resources

Special Events Publications

Thank You for your kind donation!



Please mail my income tax receipt to:

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code _____

Phone Number (Area Code): _____

Please make your cheque payable to:

**DARTMOUTH
LEARNING NETWORK**

And mail to:

260 Wyse Road, Suite 203, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3A 1N3





DARTMOUTH LEARNING NETWORK
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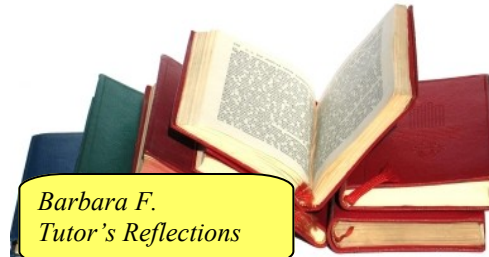
► Objectives

- To provide and maintain an educational environment enhancing and promoting learning.
- To evaluate each learner's educational strengths and weaknesses.
- To develop individualized tutorial programs to meet the learners' expressed needs.
- To work closely with associated agencies and educational resources in the community.
- To promote programs and projects educating the public and employers about literacy.
- To encourage coordination and cooperation among the various community agencies concerned with literacy in the Dartmouth area.

► Volunteers

Dartmouth Learning Network utilizes a strong core of dedicated volunteers: tutors, board members, fundraisers, etc. The volunteers are encouraged to be innovative as they help and support people wanting to improve their literacy skills

- Orientation sessions.
- An information center available with materials to suit learners.
- Direction and support as needed.



"When I volunteered to be a literacy tutor, I expected to do a lot of giving. I was not prepared for what my learner would give me."

► Funding

Funding for The Dartmouth Learning Network comes from Government agencies such as the Department of Labour & Workforce Development, the Labour Market Agreement, as well as community organizations such as Literacy Nova Scotia.

Projects are written and funded by other community organizations such as Health Boards and other government agencies.

Fundraisers are also a source of funding, as well as donations.

Location

260 Wyse Road, Suite 203, 2nd Floor,
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3A 1N3

FACT: In 1996, Siegel found that 82% of homeless adolescents in Toronto had unidentified/untreated Learning Disabilities—a contributing and reparable factor to their societal situation.

► Programs Offered?

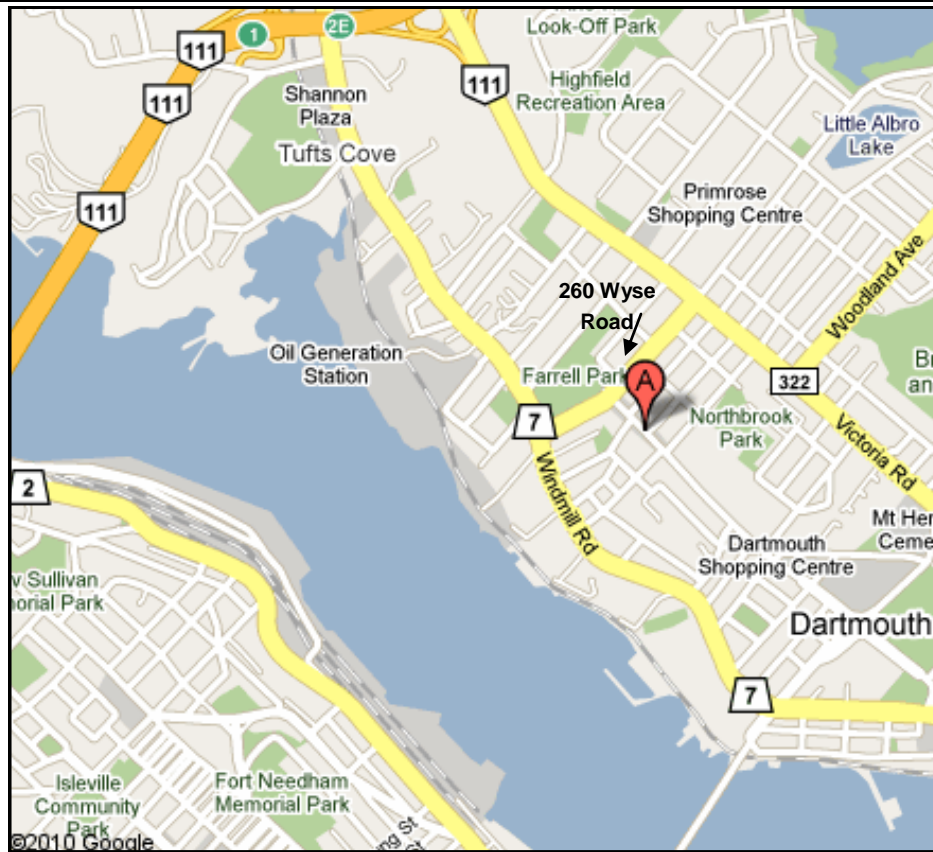
Since 1985, DLN has been involved in adult literacy programs, through the coordination of community volunteers.

DLN provides an opportunity for adults, over 19 years of age, not enrolled in the regular school system and live in the Dartmouth area, to become involved in a basic education program

DLN started with one-on-one tutoring programs and moved to small group facilitation which included computer training.

The one-on-one program takes place in various Dartmouth area locations. The donation of tutoring time given by volunteers allows students to learn at their own pace. All programs are learner-centered and free of charge to the learner.

An individualized curriculum is planned for each student based on skill level, interests, and learning style. Learning materials, training, resources, and staff support are provided as required. DLN's programs allow adults to gain skills important to them and are often a stepping stone to more formal, structured learning.



► How do we define success?



The ultimate goal of the Dartmouth Learning Network is to assist learners to achieve their personal learning goals. Therefore, we define success differently from the traditional academic programs.

In addition to improved literacy skills we strive for:

- Improved life skills
- Improved work skills
- Improved ability to function independently
- Improved self esteem

Teach the parents and you help the children:

"I took math to update my math skills and to help my children with math. To get help with fractions, multiplication, measurements, also with word problems."

"English to write better sentences, to use rhyming words or recognize rhyming words. To make better stories. To understand what I read and to learn to take notes. I want to learn synonyms, antonyms and spelling."

A Mother

► Literacy - It's Everybody's Business

"Higher literacy can boost the economic and financial success of individuals and the economy as a whole. It can reduce poverty, improve health, lift community engagement and lead to a higher standard of living. In fact, it is hard to identify any other single issue that can have such a large payoff to individuals, the economy and society."

- Craig Alexander, VP & Deputy Chief Economist,
TD Bank Financial Group



They called Laurence Stuthard stupid—he wasn't

As a small boy, his life was "grim" and "hard". Laurence was raised in a poor family with an alcoholic father, not much of a childhood. He didn't get a chance to get his education. He was hauled out of school in Grade 4, to cut and haul ice for 25 cents a day.

Eventually he married and had children. Now 74 and retired, he is finally learning to read and write, something he was deprived as a child. Stuthard's determination is stunning, because our society sticks people who cannot read and write with a vicious stigma.

"The Daily News, 1994"

► **Some testimonials of our learners.....**



Our teachers help make it all happen!

"I have learned so much already that I thought was totally out of reach. I have been out of school for 35 years and never thought I would return to school. I have a goal to become a correctional worker and have had nothing but support all the way around from all of the instructors and administrative staff at DLN. I feel this is a great institution and I am very proud to be a part of it."

By Rose

"I really enjoy coming back to school. I have been out of school a long time. I left school at sixteen to look after two sick parents. When they passed, I had my daughter. I had no me time. And now I do. I'm trying my best in school. I still have a hard time with Math. So I hope to get my high school diploma. It really helps to have a good teacher who is so helpful."

By Sherry



"I think Dartmouth Learning Network is a great program and I have learned a lot from coming here for the last 3 years. I have done work that I never thought I could do. By coming here and having the help and support, I have come a long way. I am able to move forward in my life and go on to reach my goals I have set for myself."

By Heather

Coming to Dartmouth Learning Network boosted my confidence about getting my education. From the time I started here, I think I only missed about 2 or 3 days. So that shows you I definitely want to get my education. Now I have a goal for when I get my G.E.D.

By Doug R.