



# The Reader

## *Achievements*

**By Paulette N.**

There are a few different reasons why I decided to come back to school as an adult. My first reason is that both of my kids are in school now so it makes it easier for me to be here.

My second reason is that I would like to move on to college so I can get a good job and give my kids a good life. The third reason is I would like to set a good example for my kids so that

they will see how important education is and will not drop out of school.

Going back to school has helped me in many different ways. It has helped me with my confidence. It has helped me so I can help my son with his homework and it has also helped me get over the fear of doing something new. I think this is the best choice I can make for me and my kids' lives.

Next year I plan to go to NSCC's Akerley Campus to



continue my learning. After I get my grade 12 I plan to go on to nursing so that I can give my kids and myself a better life.



**GOING TO SCHOOL  
BY HEATHER C.**

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER  
AT SCHOOL I HAD A  
PROBLEM LEARNING. MY  
SISTER WOULD HELP ME  
TO LEARN MY LESSONS.

NOW, I AM BACK IN  
SCHOOL. I REALLY LIKE  
TO LEARN. LEARNING IS  
FUN. I LIKE THE CLASS I  
AM IN. THE PEOPLE I  
LEARN WITH ARE MY  
FRIENDS. WE ARE ALL  
LEARNING TOGETHER. IT  
IS NOT EASY TO LEARN,  
BUT IT MAKES ME HAPPY  
WHEN I LEARN  
SOMETHING NEW.

I AM GETTING BETTER  
EVERY DAY AT MY  
READING, MY WRITING  
AND MY MATH. IT IS  
MAKING ME VERY HAPPY.

## *Education is the Answer*

**By Wanda B.**

My name is Wanda B. I was born in North Preston. I have five sisters and two brothers. My mother taught me how to cook and clean. When my father went in to town he took me with him in his truck. My grandfather Garfield left school at an early age to help his family. He realized the value of education and encouraged me to stay in school.

I completed junior high school. I became a single parent and raised three children. I love them dearly.

As a mother I wanted to give my children and myself a better life. I knew that education was the answer. I attended the Dartmouth Work Activity Program. This is where I learned to make eggrolls. This led to a home catering business. I began to cook eggrolls and chicken wings

for events. I also attended the N.O.W. Program where I did upgrading, met new people and was given the opportunity to work with a catering company. I am taking an active role in improving my health.

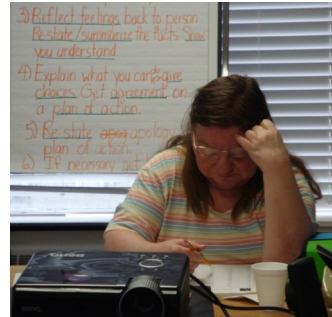
I am currently at the Dartmouth Learning Network to continue my upgrading. I am enjoying the learning process while I upgrade my reading, math and computers.

## My Grandmother's Story

**By Debbie I.**

When I was young my grandmother told me a story during a lightning storm. I was about 8 or 9 years old. She was going around pulling every light and plug in the house out of the wall and I asked her why. She told me that one February there was a thunderstorm. Lightning hit the electric wire and her house caught on fire.

Sadly, the people downstairs didn't tell her that the house was on fire. They got all their things out of their own apartment before they told my grandmother about the fire. My grandmother had five kids. One of the kids was sick. She barely had time to grab the kids and get out of the building before the building went up in flames.



She got another apartment but to get to her apartment you came in at the street and went up a set of 6 stairs, opened a door and went up another set of stairs to her apartment. Shortly after the fire and their move into this new apartment, there was a knock on the door. My grandmother opened the door and a woman dressed all in black was standing at the door. The woman had a black veil covering her face. She

came in and handed my grandmother an envelope and told her not to open it until she left. She said I will take him with me, and then she left.

My grandmother watched her leave. She heard her go down the stairs, open the door, go down another flight of stairs, then she opened the door to the street. The door opened but nobody went out. My grandmother checked on her son. He was dead.

My grandmother then opened the envelope. In the envelope was enough money to bury her son in the ground. She told me that the woman was her dead mother. She used her son's crib for his gravestone because she didn't have enough money to buy a gravestone.



### FIELD TRIPS BY JOE C.

WHEN I WAS MUCH YOUNGER, MY FAMILY LIVED IN TORONTO. I WENT TO THE CN TOWER WITH MY SCHOOL AND WE TOOK THE ELEVATOR DOWN TO THE BASEMENT. THEY HAD A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS TO SEE. THE PROGRAM THAT MY CLASSMATES AND I TOOK WAS CALLED THE TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, OUR SCHOOL HERE WENT ON A FIELD TRIP. WE WENT TO THE PLANETARIUM AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY. I REALLY ENJOYED THE TRIP. MY FAVORITE THING TO LEARN IS SCIENCE, AND I REALLY LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT THE UNIVERSE AND ALL THE STARS AND PLANETS. IT WAS A GREAT DAY OF LEARNING AND IT REMINDED OF WHEN I WAS A YOUNG BOY AND I WENT TO THE CN TOWER.

### SCHOOL

BY ANTHONY W.

WELL, TODAY WAS A GOOD DAY  
I WOKE UP WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE  
TIME TO GO TO SCHOOL AND LEARN SOME ALGEBRA  
IT IS COMING SLOW BUT I'M STILL LEARNING.

NSCC SOON  
TO GET MY GRADE 12 DONE  
IT'S GOING TO BE HARD BUT WHAT ISN'T IN LIFE?  
HOPE I HAVE EXCELLENT TEACHERS WHEN I GO  
I HAVE THE BEST TEACHERS HERE  
IF THEY ARE NOT AS GOOD  
I STILL HAVE TO LEARN  
SO I WILL.



## *Spending Time With Stompin' Tom Connors*

**By Terry W.**

It was during the late 1970's on a Wednesday, later in the afternoon in a small village in Saskatchewan which was about 40-50 miles from Saskatoon. I can't remember the name of the unique village, but I do remember the name of the Hotel we were at, which was called The Red Deer Hotel. Sitting across from me was Stompin' Tom Connors. I felt happy that he was there, and that I could meet him.

While I was eating my supper in the booth across from Tom Connors, there were two guys going up to Tom asking him for autographs for this person and that person every two minutes. When I finished my supper I asked Tom Connors

if I could come over to sit with him and his bodyguard to talk. When I went over to talk to them the two guys stopped harassing him for autographs, and he was very grateful for it.

Well after awhile talking to Stompin' Tom Connors and his bodyguard, I felt like I knew him for all my life time. Tom was a very down to earth person; he asked me if I was going to the concert that he was doing on Friday night which was across the street.

I said to Tom "that the welfare paid for Wednesday night;" well he said, "I will pay for you until Saturday morning." When Friday night came along Tom took me back stage where I stayed until the concert was over. I felt

great being back stage and being the only one that did get in for free. I had a wonderful time.

All of Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning we talked about where we lived and how both places where we were from were unique and beautiful. Stompin' Tom Connors and I become very good friends, after all that talking. That's the only time I met him in person and I consider myself lucky. After that I learned that he was a very nice guy that would give the shirt off his back to somebody in need. I learned from the Halifax Metro newspaper that he was brought up by foster parents just like me. That's why we got along so well.



**BEEN THERE, NOW  
WHERE?  
BY MARY S.**



**THESE ARE MY  
FOOTPRINTS  
AND  
THIS IS MY PATH  
I'M ON A JOURNEY  
TO SOMEWHERE...**

## *Into the Woods*

**By Melessa C.**

Jim Smith went for a walk in the woods on a nice sunny day. As the young boy was getting deeper and deeper into the woods, he saw something moving closer and closer to him.

It was a black bear.

Jim was scared so he started to run away and got out of breath. He saw a large pine tree so he climbed the tree

quickly to get away from the black bear.

As Jim was climbing the tree he fell and broke his right arm in two places. Then the bear chased the young boy back out of the woods and into his back yard.

Jim called out for his dad who was in the kitchen at the time. Jim's father ran to get his gun that was in the closet then got out of the back door to shoot the big black bear.

Jim's dad missed the black bear so it ran off into the woods.

Jim had to go to the hospital to get his arm wrapped and put back into place. He had a hard time trying to get over what happened to him in the woods. Now Jim doesn't go out in the woods until his father Bruce goes on hunts.





## A Ghost Story



**By Elvida A.**

It was a dark night with no street lights where we visited and no lights in the houses. There were only oil lamps.

My sister and I were out walking and visiting my friends. On our way to Grandmother's house we had to pass by an old house. Nobody lived there anymore.

I was scared when we walked by the old house, and my sister started running. We were sure we saw a ghost in the window. We were so

scared and we didn't look back. We ran all the way before we stopped. We were happy when we got to Grandmother's house because we knew we were safe.

Grandmother got my sister ready for bed and I was up for a little while. Grandmother got me ready for bed and when we reached the top of the stairs, there was an oil lamp. Nan took the lamp into the room. I got in the bed. Nan left the room and took the lamp with her. My sister

was fast asleep next to me. I got up and looked out the window. It was so dark out there and scary. I'm sure I saw more ghosts. I lay back in bed and went to sleep.

The next morning it was so different. You could see light all around, and it wasn't scary anymore. The darkness was all gone.

When tonight comes, I will be scared again and run to the safety of Grandmother's house where I know I will be safe with Nan.

## Happiness

**By Lauren H.**

My happiness is having my family and friends around. It is having a great home to live in and having food to eat daily, and a great job that pays good. Even having an education, freedom, and peace. I love seeing the beau-



tiful colors of the trees in the fall. I love seeing children

making snow angels in the winter time. My happiness is being loved by that special someone who cares about me and to always be there for each other no matter how hard life gets. Happiness is to keep moving on with life and what I want for a better future.



**THE HALIFAX  
EXPLOSION: 1917**  
BY MARK F.

THERE WERE TWO SHIPS  
IN THE HARBOUR. THEY  
WERE THE IMO AND MONT  
BLANC. THE SHIPS HIT  
EACH OTHER. THIS  
STARTED A FIRE. THEN  
THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION  
WHICH DESTROYED MOST  
OF THE TWO CITIES.

## Unhealthy Habit

**By Trina C.**

Drinking lots of pop is bad for you. That pop you are drinking has lots of sugar. It also has lots of caffeine in it.

The pop you're drinking can put weight on you. That pop has a lot of calories, fat, sodium and so forth.

If you stop drinking it, you will be much healthier.



## February Fantasy

**By Mona S.**

This cold month of February is for sure the time of year I'd rather be on holidays sun tanning with my colorful red sunglasses and lying on a large striped beach towel with my friends staring at the muscular hot stuff stretched out near us, while we bury our little toes deep in the lovely coarse burning sand. Also, we'll gawk at the

youngsters surfing every foaming blue wave they can see as we sip on some orange iced tea! But I know that's not possible, so we'll have to settle with bundling up warmly, so my hands are wrapped around fluffy mittens and a scalding mug of hot chocolate. Then perhaps we'll look at healthy gorgeous males skating on the new oval.



## Happiness, Take Two



**By Jessie B.**

Happiness for me is when the rain is coming down on the roof as the window is opened and the warm rain is gently misting on my me as I wear a tank top. I get this sense of peacefulness and security.

One other thing I like that makes me happy is when it

gets dark at night and how the moon shines on the water as the fog rolls in. The water has a special shadow hovering over the top.

One other thing is when my two children are playing nicely, and they are really having fun. Their belly laughs are happiness.

## The Departing of Debby's Guess Jeans

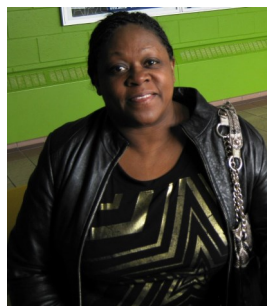
**By Debby D.**

On March 21, 2011, I laid to rest my favorite jeans. They were made by a well-known designer called Guess.

The reason for departing with them is that they no longer fit. They were pre-

deceased by a black pair and a white pair. We lived together for three beautiful years in Dartmouth.

You can view the remains at The Salvation Army Store in Halifax on Gottingen Street. I pray that they find a better home.



### BUS PROBLEMS

**BY TYRELL S.**

I HATE WAITING FOR THE BUS  
IT TAKES TOO MUCH TIME;  
IN MY MIND I LOSE TRUST.  
I EITHER TAKE THE 1 OR  
THE 52 OR THE 20  
BUT STILL THE BUS MAKES  
ME RUN LOW ON MONEY.  
ALL THE DIFFERENT  
PEOPLE YOU SEE AND THE  
FINE HONEYS  
I'D RATHER DRIVE A CAR  
OR HIT UP THE BAR  
EVEN THOUGH THE BUS  
GOES SO FAR.

I KNOW THIS IS KIND OF  
DRAMATIC  
BUT IF I HAD MY OWN CAR  
IT WOULD BE FANTASTIC.  
TAKING THE BUS SINCE I  
TURNED 16 WAS SO  
DRASTIC.  
PEOPLE TALKING ON THE  
PHONE  
I'M LISTENING TO MY MUSIC  
ON THE BUS AND THEY  
WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.  
I AM SO HONOURED WHEN I  
REACH MY HOME.

GETTING ON THE BUS WITH  
NOT ENOUGH CHANGE  
THE BUS DRIVER LOOKS AT  
ME SAYING,  
"YOU THINK THIS IS A GAME?"  
NO, SIR, I JUST WANT TO  
GET TO MY DESTINATION.  
SORRY, I'M NOT PAYING  
SO THE BUS TOOK OFF.  
I GOT ON MY KNEES AND  
STARTED PRAYING.

**BUS PROBLEMS!**



### **KITTENS** **BY ALLISON R.**

KITTENS, KITTENS, 1 2 3  
OR MAYBE 4  
MANY COLORS  
2 OR MORE  
HOW I LOVE THEM,  
THAT'S FOR SURE.

SO I BEG YOU PLEASE  
BE KIND  
FOR THEY WILL COME  
BACK IN TIME  
IF I PUT OUT A REWARD  
FOR A DIME  
THAT WOULD BE UTTERLY  
DIVINE!

## *My Story About My Crafts*

**By Elizabeth C.**

This picture is of a pillow sham that I made. I like to knit and sew. Sometimes I even sell my crafts and make money off of something that I like to do. I never price my knitting or crafts too high. Sometimes I sell them in my front yard. Sometimes I go to the flea market.

I don't use patterns for most of the crafts that I



make. I learned how to knit from my aunts, my grandmother and some of my friends. With my knitting, I make blankets, mittens, slippers, pillowcases, dishcloths and pillow shams.

I really enjoy knitting a lot. It keeps me busy. When I don't have anything else to do in the house or out of the house, it is good to make things. You can always look back on what you have done and take pictures of them to put in a photo album. If you have kids, they can see the good work you did and pick up on it. If you don't have a job, it is a good way to have money on hand when you need it.

## *Riding My Bike*

**By Caroline W.**

From the time that I was a little girl, I loved to ride a bike. Once, I fell off my bike. Ow! Ow! Did it ever hurt!! I should have gone to the hospital, but I didn't. It healed by itself.

It is so nice to get out on a bike. You get to see how pretty it is outside. You get to

see people walking their pet.

Me and my Dad always went bike riding. We even went on rainy days. We would go down to the waterfront and hang out along the places on the waterfront. We wanted to take our bikes on the train to the USA, but my dad passed away.

My family will buy me a new bike to ride. I am really



looking forward to getting the new bike. I can go bike riding again!!



### **BRIGHT NIGHT** **BY ANDY E.**

THE STARS SO BRIGHT  
LIGHT UP THE NIGHT.  
WILL THEY EVER BURN OUT?  
THEY MIGHT...  
BUT NOT TONIGHT.

OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL  
SIGHT  
THEY GIVE ME SO MUCH  
DELIGHT  
THE THOUGHT OF THE  
STARS LEAVING...  
FILLS ME WITH FRIGHT.

## *The Three Elves*

**By Mona K.**

Once upon a time there were 3 little elves who lived in the woods. The elves worked hard all year round. They would gather things like acorns, dry wood, pine cones,

and other things throughout the year. They made toys and decorations for boys and girls. They were so happy doing this for Christmas. On Christmas Eve Santa would take them to all the little people around the world.





## *I Know I Will Succeed in My Latest Journey of Learning*

**By Toney D.**

I started school in a culturally and racially distinct community. My reflections revealed a social and academic system rooted in flawed policies and social misperceptions centered on race and equality. Most of the teachers paid little attention to the people they were supposed to teach.

I didn't learn anything.

I, without consultation with me or my parents, was told when I completed Grade 9 that I would finish my education and would go to Community College to "take a trade". Everything had all been "arranged" and I could have my choice of a limited

number of vocations for which the authorities "deemed him suitable".

I decided on a printing career, and after a two year program, and despite a limited academic background, I graduated. The training program was largely hands-on, and computerization had not yet been adopted in this industry. I did not have any problems getting work and through my first two employers, who recognized my skills and my attitude toward work.

Seeking to improve my lot in life, I headed to a large central Canada city and was able to very quickly secure employment with a local printing firm. The owner told

me that I knew more about the printing business than he did and quickly adopted my skill sets in running the business. Twenty three years, marriage to a woman from my community and three children later, I wanted to return to my home province.

With aspirations to seek trades training in another area, I realized I would have to earn a GED in order to gain acceptance to a community college. Despite a nervous start, I have applied myself vigorously and am concentrating on areas where I know I have deficiencies.

Every story usually comes full circle, and I'm no exception. I continue to progress in



GED, and, through a local employment initiative program with a cultural focus. My focus now is on my relationship with my wife and children, particularly my older son, who is now involved in sports in the local community. My great hope is that my children will grow up in a kinder and gentler world.

## *Promotion Day*

**By Phillip C.**

Mike lived a pretty happy-go-lucky life but on January 23<sup>rd</sup> it all changed.

First Mike woke up late for work. Then, he had to try and rush to work because today was his promotion day.

He didn't have any clean clothes and the water to his shower was cold. He then proceeded out the door ready to head to work.

Mike thought he would stop and get some breakfast. They said to him they'd stopped serving breakfast

four minutes ago, so he just got a coffee.

As he was nearing closer to work in his car he grabbed his coffee to take a drink and he hit a bump and his coffee spilt all over him.

"Great," he said. "What else could go wrong?"

Mike entered his work office and sat in the conference room for his promotion. Mike knew for sure he was getting the CEO promotion.

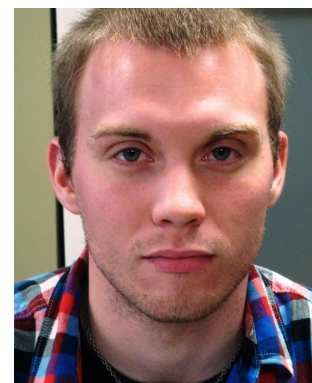
So as they all sat quiet, the head CEO came in and said, "I have thought long and hard about this." Mike's smile

on this face grew. "And the person getting the promotion is..." Mike stood up and was just about to thank his boss when his boss said... "Charlie Gibson."

Mike was stunned. He had worked so hard for that promotion. Then he heard a loud beeping.

"What is that?" He said to himself as he woke up from a horrible dream. "Wow. What a nightmare." Checking the clock, "...OMG," he said. "I'm late for work."

It was January 23<sup>rd</sup>.



MY NAME IS NEIL F. AND RETURNING TO SCHOOL ABSOLUTELY SCARED ME TO DEATH. I WAS VERY SHY ON THE FIRST DAY UNTIL I MET ALL THE STUDENTS, THEN ALL THE INSTRUCTORS. I FOUND THE QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION IS VERY INFORMATIVE AND EXTREMELY HELPFUL. THIS PROGRAM IS AMAZING BECAUSE THE KNOWLEDGE I'VE GAINED GAVE ME THE CONFIDENCE TO REWRITE THE MILITARY APTITUDE TEST. WITH THIS TEST I WILL BE ABLE TO ADVANCE IN A NEW CAREER WHICH WILL CHANGE MY FAMILY'S LIVES IN THE FUTURE.

## *Cloudy Days*

*By Lee-Ann G.*

On a cloudy day, I used to say, "Oh, darn, nothing but grey for today."

Today I look outside from my window and see once again another grey, cloudy day.

I say, "Hurray for today, for today is a great day!"

Why do I say "Hurray" for a grey day? Because for these kind of days give me one day to see beyond what I like to see as perfection and see beyond the imperfection.

For optimism is my key to true happiness.



The key to seeing perfection is to be seeing beyond the inside of myself and my outside surroundings.

To surround myself with grey clouds gives me another day to allow my inner beauty to come out and shine with all that my Father gave to me

both from within myself and outside to enjoy my life.

The sun shall gleam for every which day it is "I" who chooses to see beyond outside imperfections and to center in on the inside of my true beauty which will reveal sunshine every day.



**Learning Becomes US**

Learning Changes Lives and the Dartmouth Learning Network celebrates the success of all our learners.

**Dartmouth Learning Network**

200-260 Wyse Road Dartmouth, NS B3A 1N3

**Phone:** 1 (902) 463-9179

**Fax:** (902) 464-3052

**e-mail:** [admin@dartmouthlearning.net](mailto:admin@dartmouthlearning.net)

**Website:** [dartmouthlearning.net](http://dartmouthlearning.net)