

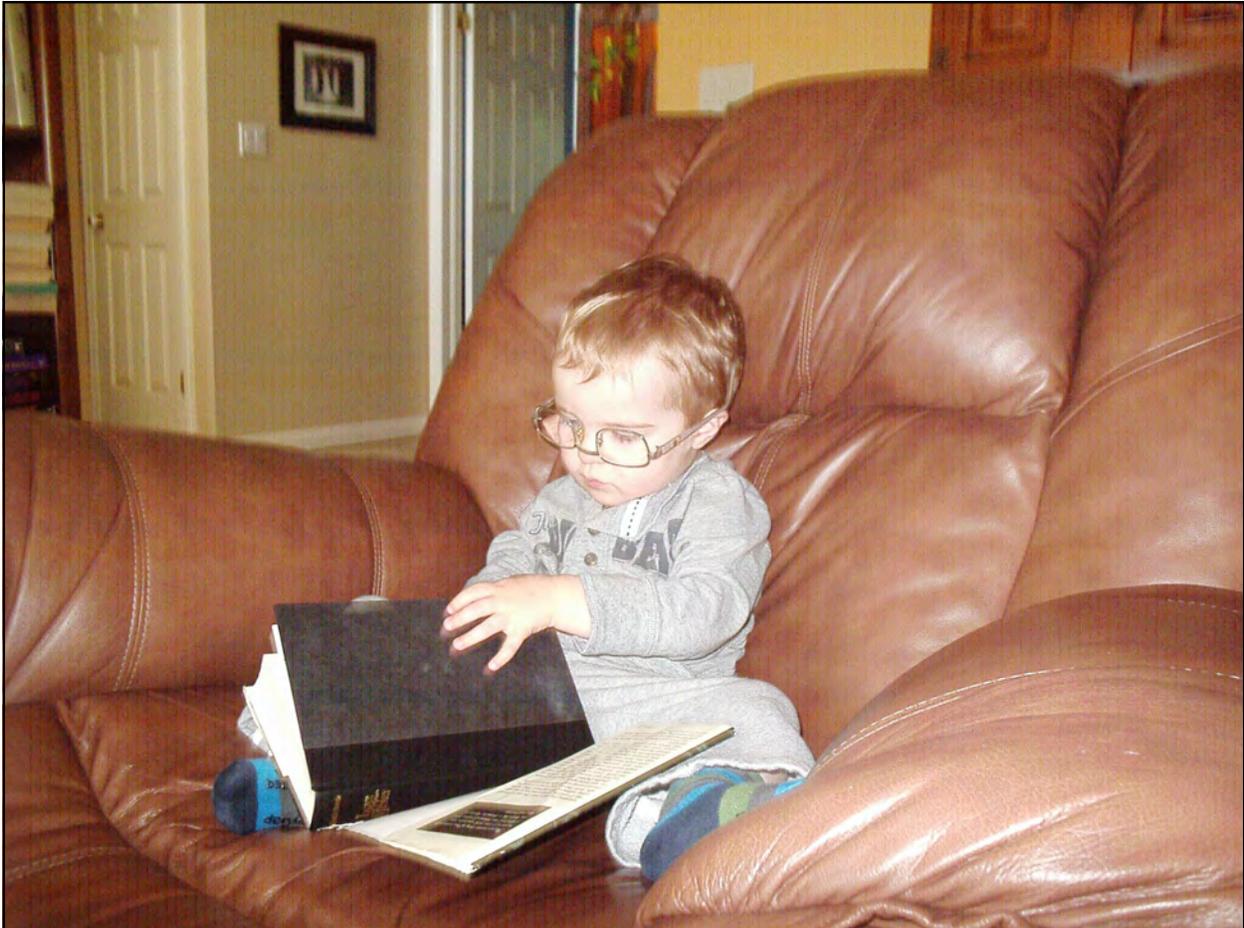
# ***Live and Learn***

Winter 2011

The Newsletter of the PEI Literacy Alliance

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## **Getting an Early Start**



*Photo by Ruth Welton*

When it comes to books, Sam Taylor of Summerside doesn't believe in starting out small. Parents Susan and Aaron Taylor predict a bright future for Sam, but he may have to get those glasses adjusted.

### ***What's inside***

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# ***Live and Learn***

The Newsletter of the PEI Literacy Alliance

Published by the PEI Literacy Alliance.

Edited, written and designed by Catherine O'Bryan, Norman Finlayson and Jinny Greaves.

We would like to hear from you if you have:

- learners' stories
- creative writing by learners
- articles or news about teaching adults
- upcoming events
- new resources for adult education

Please send your material to:

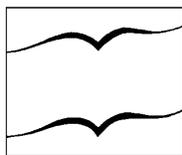
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**PEI  
Literacy  
Alliance**

*This publication is made possible by funding from the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy.*

## **Literacy Remains a Priority**

Ministers from the Atlantic provinces responsible for education and training have reaffirmed their commitment to promoting and improving literacy. At a recent meeting the ministers reviewed progress made in the implementation of their 2009 plan, *Literacy: Key to Learning and Path to Prosperity – An Action Plan for Atlantic Canada 2009-2014*.

The meeting was attended by Doug Currie, PEI Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development; and Allan Campbell, PEI Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning.

The ministers highlighted the Atlantic adult literacy campaign, *Literacy: It means more than you think*, launched on November 1, 2010, as a way to improve the quality of life and increase literacy and essential skills of Atlantic Canadians.

They emphasized that literacy is more than reading, writing, and numeracy. Literacy affects every aspect of a person's daily life, whether as a learner, employer, worker or parent. The campaign underlines their commitment to work together to promote the social and economic benefits of literacy throughout Atlantic Canada.

## *From the Canadian Literacy and Learning Network*

Articles that might interest you:

### 1) Literacy in the Cities

CCL's report: The Future of Literacy in Canada's largest cities (Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa). This was published in December.

[http://www.ccl-cca.ca/pdfs/ReadingFuture/FutureLiteracyLargestCities2010\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/pdfs/ReadingFuture/FutureLiteracyLargestCities2010_EN.pdf)

### 2) Financial Literacy

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, CICA, the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants released a paper with the results of a survey conducted on its behalf. According to CICA, Canadians signal strong need for financial literacy education at all ages and see financial literacy as an essential life skill. The federal government's task force on financial literacy is expected to detail new education strategies in its upcoming report. Some provinces are taking matters into their own hands. Starting September 2011, Ontario schools will teach students from grades 4 to 12 about saving, spending and investing.

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/January2011/05/c8542.html>

### 3) Digital Literacy

HRSDC has defined nine Essential Skills for life and work in Canada. One is named Computer Use but for obvious reasons, that name has become quite quaint. It is no longer just the relationship between a user and a personal computer as new devices like smart phones emerge to challenge us in new ways. By the way, the next name of the Computer Use Essential Skill is rumoured to be 'digital literacy'.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/life/digital+literacy+matters+newcomers/4060997/story.html>

### 4) More Digital Literacy

Here is the link to a related article in the Globe and Mail: "We're overdue for a digital economy strategy". <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/were-overdue-for-a-digital-economy-strategy/article1849831/>

### 5) PISA Data

Statistics Canada assists Ireland in studying Irish Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) data [www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/](http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/1217/1224285736168.html)

[ireland/2010/1217/1224285736168.html](http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/1217/1224285736168.html)

## Member profile

### PEI Businesswomen's Association

#### Mission

Our mission is to empower and inspire women to succeed in their business endeavors by providing support, education and opportunities to connect with other women in business.

#### Vision

We are recognized as the leading Prince Edward Island association and resource for women in business through our ability to create, inspire and cultivate opportunities for personal and professional growth, development and success in a supportive environment.



Joan Fleming, executive director

#### Purpose

To provide women with a provincial organization that will:

- Support and promote women business owners
- Provide information and educational opportunities for women business owners
- Increase community awareness regarding women active in business across the province
- Become the recognized voice for women business owners in Prince Edward Island

#### Activities

PEIBWA offers a variety of business skills development activities and networking activities throughout the year across PEI. These include:

- Women in Business symposium
- Lunch and Learn Seminars
- Business Mixers

Contact: Charlottetown  
Phone: 902-892-6040  
Toll free: 1-866-892-6040  
Email: office@peibwa.org

Summerside  
Phone: (902) 436-0386  
Toll free: 1-877-268-2111  
Email: elizabeth@peibwa.org

# Bursary Winners



Paul Curtis won the APM bursary.



Crystal and Paul Beaton with their instructor Karen Ford Doyle. Two winners in the same family — double congratulations.



Mihrije Braha accepts the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI bursary from Don Mackenzie With them is her instructor Jane MacMillan.



Terry Affleck and his tutor

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## \$10,000 in Grants Awarded

In December 2010 the Literacy Alliance distributed grants raised through the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy. To the right Leo Garland receives the grant for PEI People First from Catherine O'Bryan.



Here is a list of our winners:

Organization name	email	Operational or project funding	Description	Award
<b>PEI People First</b>	peipeoplefirst@eastlink.ca	Project	Knowing Your Rights: Teaching about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	\$2,000
<b>PEI Volunteers for Literacy</b>	peivol@eastlink.ca	Operational	Used for general operating expenses.	\$2,000
<b>Alberton Elementary Breakfast for Learning Program</b>	jessica_campbell442@hotmail.com	Project	To continue to provide a healthy, nutritious breakfast two days a week for as long as the funds and volunteers continue to be there.	\$2,000
<b>AIDS PEI Community Support Group Inc.</b>	director@aidspei.com	Operational	To develop a work-plan to address PEI's rising incidence of HCV and HIV/HCV co-infection	\$2,000
<b>Centre de ressources familiale Cap enfants</b>	actions@eastlink.ca	Project	To celebrate National Literacy Day in the francophone communities across the Island	\$2,000

You can find this tool as well as many others in the Essential Skills Toolkit at [hrsdc.gc.ca](http://hrsdc.gc.ca)

<b>Reading Self-Assessment</b>			
Read each statement and place a check mark in the column that <b>best</b> describes how well you can complete that task. <b>Tip:</b> Think about your work and life experiences. Review your response for each task. If you have checked five or more in the “Somewhat” and/or “No” columns, you may want to consider upgrading your <b>reading</b> skills			
<b>I can...</b>	Yes	Somewhat	No
Read and understand familiar names, words and simple sentences.			
Scan a short document, such as an email, memo or bulletin, and understand its meaning.			
Read and follow directions on a product label (e.g. on a prescription bottle).			
Read a paragraph to find a key piece of information.			
Read a catalogue to learn basic product information.			
Read and correctly follow written instructions (such as a recipe or job assignment).			
Read a product warning label and understand how to handle the product safely.			
Read several short documents, such as brochures or newspaper articles, to find new information (e.g. reading about a travel destination before a trip).			
Read and understand formal documents, such as a credit card agreement, employment contract or insurance policy.			
Refer to several resources, such as handbooks and manuals, to use a new piece of equipment (e.g. fax machine, printer, cellular telephone, dishwasher).			
Read a newspaper editorial and understand the issue.			
Refer to a variety of documents to compare information (e.g. product specifications, features and costs of different models of digital cameras).			
Refer to appropriate resources, such as policy or procedural manuals, when dealing with unfamiliar or unusual problems at work.			
TOTAL			

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## PUBLIC LIBRARIES TO LAUNCH NEW EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM

Families with young children will soon have access to new early literacy programs at their local public libraries, says Tourism and Culture Minister Robert Vessey.

Starting in January, free Preschool Story Time programs will be offered weekly at 25 branch libraries across the province. Each week, children aged three to five, along with a parent or caregiver, can visit their library for a 30-minute interactive program. The program will include stories, rhymes, music, finger plays, and felt board activities.

These programs will increase children’s mastery of six essential early learning skills, which are the building blocks for later success with reading and writing.

The enhanced Preschool Story Time program has been adapted from an early literacy program created by Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries.

## PEI LITERACY ALLIANCE IN TORONTO



In October, Alliance staff Norm Finlayson and Jinny Greaves presented a health literacy workshop at the *Spotlight on Learning* conference in Toronto.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Congratulations to Kofi Afari who won the William J Hancox scholarship sponsored by our PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy. Kofi hails from Ghana and hopes to have his family join him in Canada.

## FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

ABCLifeLiteracy has provided lots of great ideas for Family Literacy Day. Visit the website at <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/en/family-literacy-day> to find out about all the activities you can do and, at the same time, win some prizes.

The ‘Play for Literacy’ section has lots of great ideas on play-centred activities, along with tips and resources, promotional materials and public service announcements, as well as a complete event planning guide.