

# ***Live and Learn***

Spring/Summer 2008

The Newsletter of the PEI Literacy Alliance



Alliance chair Angela Larter welcomes Guardian editor Gary MacDougall to our semi-annual meeting in March. Gary spoke about the paper's history and its promotion of literacy. The Guardian supports Newspapers in Education, the Raise-a-Reader campaign and our PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy.

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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:

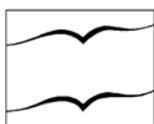
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PEI  
Literacy  
Alliance

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

## Sponsors

We would like to thank the generous sponsors of our 2008 Summer Tutoring Program for Kids:

- PEI Department of Education
- PEI Provincial Library Service
- Eastern School District
- Western School Board
- French Language School Board
- Charlottetown Rotary Club
- Service Canada's Youth Employment Strategy
- Royal Bank of Canada, through RBC Foundation
- CanWest Raise-a-Reader - The Guardian newspaper and Journal Pioneer

Service  
Canada



Eastern School  
District



Journal Pioneer  
The Guardian



Western School  
Board



## Project News

### Meet Susan Gillespie

Susan Gillespie is the coordinator of our 2008 Summer Tutoring Program for Kids. In May she returned from a student teaching assignment in Egypt and immediately began working with the PEI Literacy Alliance. She completed the BEd program at UPEI in May 2008 and may be teaching Grade 4 children in Egypt this fall.



Susan was a French tutor with the Summer Tutoring Program for Kids for three summers and is thrilled to be coordinating the program this year. When she's not working, she loves watching Morgan Freeman movies, being outside and spending time with her boyfriend, family and friends.

Susan enjoys travelling and has visited Cuba, Italy and Switzerland. She has two older brothers. She is proud of her new nephew. This summer she is living with her parents in Sherwood.

Susan hopes to teach English as an additional language (EAL). Her dream is to one day have her own classroom. She is a great asset to our program and we wish her luck in the future.

### Study Skills Workshop



Holland College instructor Karen Ford Doyle presented a study skills workshop on April 4. Her workshop was the result of an admissions review at Holland College over three years. The review indicated that students were prepared in the areas of content and maturity, but lacked basic study skills. Shortly after learning these results, Karen attended an action research workshop sponsored by PEI Literacy Alliance. It gave her the opportunity to outline a project to provide a series of workshops on specific study skills and link those skills to individual learning styles.

At the study skills, workshop participants were introduced to skills such as SQ3R, mnemonic devices, concept mapping and preparing audio/visual resources. They also determined their learning style (auditory, visual or kinesthetic) to help determine how to apply the skills.

## ***PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy***



We had a fine PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy this year. Despite the cool and windy weather everyone was in good spirits and we raised \$30,000 for Island literacy. Some of the money goes to bursaries and scholarships. Above, Wendell MacDonald receives the Gzowski Award from committee chair Joanne Ings. Below, Workplace Learning PEI Inc poses for their team picture.



## Scholarship and Bursary Winners



Two of our \$1500 PGI scholarships were announced at Holland College recognition ceremonies this spring. On the left, Catherine O'Bryan presents Jennifer Dymont with the Harry MacLauchlan Memorial Scholarship. On the right, Norm Finlayson congratulates Bethany MacDonald on her Peter Gzowski Memorial Scholarship.



Congratulations to our March \$500 bursary winners. From left to right are Ericka MacDonald, Cindy Newcombe, Simone Arsenault, Joanne Hannah and Nora Richard. Simone was a double winner – she also received the **2008 Co-operators Learners Award** which was announced at our PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy.

### \$500 Bursaries for Adults

The next bursary deadline is November 14, 2008.

For information and an application form, please visit our web site at [www.pei.literacy.ca](http://www.pei.literacy.ca) or call us at 902-368-3620.

## ***Essential Skills for Life***

The PEI Literacy Alliance has expanded its mandate to include both literacy and essential skills promotion. Essential skills have been identified for the workplace but they are also used in the family and community. Here is our interpretation of how we use essential skills to take care of our health:

<b>Essential Skill</b>	<b>Used to:</b>
Reading Text	Identify important health information from many sources Evaluate health information for credibility and quality
Document Use	Fill out medical and consent forms Read warning signs Read food labels and Canada's Food Guide Read exercise diagrams Read medicine bottle instructions
Numeracy	Calculate medicine dosages Determine body mass index (BMI) Determine a serving size of food
Writing	Track symptoms over time
Oral Communication	Explain concerns and symptoms accurately to health professionals Ask health questions Understand spoken medical advice or treatment directions
Working with Others	Develop relationships with health professionals
Thinking Skills	Locate health information Make decisions about health Remember health and medical information Analyze relative risks and benefits Manage a healthy lifestyle and finding time to exercise, reduce stress, and eat well Manage a chronic disease
Computer Use	Search the Internet for health information and evaluate websites
Continuous Learning	There is always more to learn about how to be healthy or how to manage a chronic disease.

## ***Introducing a Winner - Nora Richard's Story***

My name is Nora and I was born and raised in Richmond, PEI. I come from a large family of thirteen.

My early memories of school were bad ones. Both my parents were very bad alcoholics. Many times in school when I should have been listening to the teacher, all I could think about was the fighting that took place the night before. I had three younger brothers and two younger sisters to look after. At that time, our survival was more important than school. Eventually Children's Aid became involved and we were all placed in foster homes.

I left school and the foster home at age sixteen thinking that I knew everything. I was in for the surprise of my life. First thing I had to do was find a job to support myself. My older sister said if I wanted to live with her, then I had to work. I soon got a job in a factory, and after two months I was fed up with factory work and quit my job.

This time I decided to go to the Employment Centre to find better jobs that I would like. Every time I saw one that perked my interest I would check to see what qualifications were needed. It would always read "Must have grade twelve". This was very discouraging because I only had grade ten.

I have gone back to school two times since I have quit to get my grade twelve. However, I found it too hard, financially, to raise children, look after the house keeping and pay bills and I decided that school would just have to wait.

In 2002, I was elected as the Vice President of the Native Council of PEI. I wanted to resign the very day I was elected because I knew that I was lacking the education. I loved working with the Native Council and remained there for four years. Since that time, I have resigned to focus on my education.

In October of this fall, I returned to Holland College in Charlottetown to continue with my upgrading. I feel very fortunate to be given another chance to return to school. My goal is to get my GED and take further training at Holland College.

It has been thirty three years since I have quit school, and I am still trying to get my grade twelve. If I knew back then what I know now I definitely would have stayed in school.

*See Nora's photo on [page 5](#)*

## The Back Page

### Bouquets and Announcements

Congratulations to the UPEI Panther athletes for taking part in the APM School is Cool Program. They encouraged elementary school students to read for fun as well as learning.



#### Rotary Spelling Bee

An unidentified contestant waits for her word at the Rotary Spelling Bee in Summerside on July 8th. Approximately 70 contestants in three age categories competed for the right to call themselves the top spellers in the province at Credit Union Place. The PEI Literacy Alliance was pleased to be part of the event.



*-adapted with permission from the Journal-Pioneer*



### Literacy Grants Available

The Rotary Club of Charlottetown Literacy Foundation invites applications for grants from qualified groups and organizations that promote the development and delivery of literacy programs in PEI. Grants of up to \$1000 will be awarded.

Deadline for applications is August 15, 2008.

For application forms and information please contact: Catherine O'Bryan at 902-368-3620 or write:

The Rotary Club of Charlottetown  
Literacy Foundation  
PO Box 608  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7L3

#### PEI Literacy Alliance Annual General Meeting

**6:30—9:00pm Monday September 8, Delta Hotel, Charlottetown**

- Business Meeting
- Awards Presentation
- Guest Speaker—Marion Stordy “Exposing Regimes of Truth in ADHD: The Ancient Mariner Speaks”

#### Atlantic Summer Institute — August 19-22, 2008

The institute will provide you with an opportunity to develop skills, learn and share knowledge and work with others on programs, policies and services.

This year's theme is **“Reading Between the Lines: Health, Safety and Literacy.”** Please pass this along to anyone you know who might like to join us this year.

Please contact [asi@thequaich.pe.ca](mailto:asi@thequaich.pe.ca) or (902) 894-3399 for information.