



# CONNECTIONS

*Connecting to Your World*



## Good Start

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Well the leaves have changed color and are falling to the ground. There is a bite to the morning air and there are flocks of geese heading south. Days are getting shorter and it is getting easier to stay in and do some homework and studying.

All our permanent staff, Evelyn, Kathy, Rosalie, and Johanna, have returned with vim and vigor. Eugene is also back with us this year. We have added assessor to his role as computer instructor. Gene is currently assessing all students. This makes it easier for Evelyn to provide the assistance in the areas most needed and merely reinforce those areas of strength.

Having the additional staff is also allowing us to expand our services to small business. We will provide computer training (ie: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Simply Accounting) and/or customer service basics. The training can

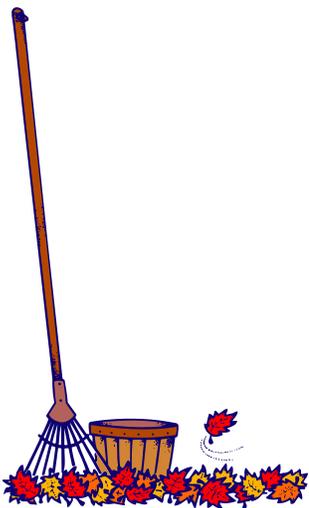
take place at the worksite or at our facility at 232 Howey St. This service may be free depending the size and nature of the business. Please call to see if you qualify.

Various computer classes are in full swing. The seniors' class was cancelled due to insufficient registration. Drop-in computer class continues to be very popular. Drop by Friday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and noon for an informal group. Have specific or general questions answered.

We have renewed our partnership with the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board to offer high school courses through the Lakehead School Board. **You're CLOSER than you think!**

We will be closed on Thanksgiving Monday, but then on October 12<sup>th</sup> we are back to business as usual.

To see what we have to offer or if there is something that you are interested in, please visit our website at [www.redlakeadultlearning.org](http://www.redlakeadultlearning.org)



## Literacy

“Literacy helps a student to get a good schooling. And to get good jobs. If it was not for the funding, a lot of students would not be in school.” ...*quote from an adult learner*



“I heard that our learning centre may have to start a waiting list soon because it is so busy here. That would be too bad. This has helped me so much that I will soon be able to go to college. There are a lot of people around here that are getting laid-off and will need some place like this to go.” ...*quote from an adult learner*

### Life Literacy

“Life Literacy” signals the importance of life-long and life-wide literacy and learning. It’s the literacy skills you need to live your life and the new skills you need to acquire throughout your life. Workplace, family and community are important areas in your life where developing your reading, writing and math skills can result in a more productive and more successful life experience.

### Workplace

Have you considered taking a course to upgrade your career skills? The new ‘knowledge economy’ has led many employers and unions to plan and develop the skills of their people. Improving literacy skills in the workplace has a major impact on productivity, teamwork and personal fulfillment.

### Family

Family literacy is a powerful way to support parents by showing them how they can help their children become confident and effective communicators. Promoting learning activities at home ensures that children acquire the reading comprehension, writing and math skills that prepare them for productive and fulfilling lives.

### Community

Raising the literacy skills of individuals will create major benefits for thousands of Canadian communities from coast to coast.

### Investing in Literacy and Basic Skills

The Ontario government, through the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, funds the Literacy and Basic Skills and Academic Upgrading program. This program provides funding for literacy agencies to help adults improve their literacy skills. LBS/AU programs are part of Employment Ontario – Ontario’s employment and training network.

The MTCU provides more than \$63 million annually to support delivery of the LBS/AU program at more than 300 sites throughout Ontario. The program supports literacy upgrading for English language, Francophone, Native, and Deaf adult learners, over 50,000 each year.

However, over a ten-year period prior to 2009 core funding remained the same, no increase. As a result, programs and adult learners experienced serious program capacity issues and hardship such as growing waiting lists, reduction in hours of service, and insufficient staff to fully support all adult students.

In 2008, the Federal Government provided a two-year funding increase to Ontario. This made new resources available to the training system.

It is important that this two year funding become core funding. This way community-based literacy and basic skills programs can properly address the growing enrolment.

**Literacy Fast Facts**

**Literacy and Families:** Parents play a vital role as their children’s first teachers. The higher the level of a parent’s education, the higher the likelihood the child will succeed in school.

**Literacy and the Recession:** Lower skilled workers in Canada have been amongst the hardest hit by the economic recession.

**Literacy and Justice:** Upon arrival at correctional institutions, approximately 65% of offenders test at a level lower than Grade 8.

**Literacy and Skill Shortages:** Due to our aging population and progressively lower birth rates, Ontario will start to experience a severe skill shortage in the near future. Improving literacy rates will be critical to our province’s future economic health.

**Literacy and Unemployment:** People with low literacy skills are more likely to experience unemployment and they are about twice as likely to be unemployed for six months or more.

**Literacy and Income:** People with low literacy skills earn considerably less than those with high literacy skills and they are also more likely to receive social assistance from the government.

**Literacy and Seniors:** In Ontario, more than 80% of seniors have low levels of literacy. This exposes them to increased health and safety risks that can result in higher health care costs and diminished quality of life. It can also reduce their ability to make informed choices about their health care, finances and other key decisions.

**Impact if Enhanced Funding for Literacy is Discontinued.**

The two-year literacy budget initiative funding from the Ontario government is currently slated to end on March 31, 2011

The years prior to 2009, when LBS agencies had not received a funding increase in more than a decade, were extremely detrimental to agency capacity. Even with the passion of adult literacy providers and volunteers, and their ability to manage scarce resources, many literacy programs have become overcrowded and overextended. Community Literacy of Ontario, along with our members and various partners in the literacy community, are deeply concerned that if Literacy and Basic Skills agencies are forced to return to the funding levels of ten years ago as of April 1, 2011, that many Ontarians with low literacy skills may find themselves unable to access the upgrading services that they need to help them find work, continue their education and meet day-to-day needs.

**Quick Corn Chowder**

- 1 bacon strip diced
- 1 med onion, diced
- 14½ oz can chicken broth
- Cups water
- 1g potatoes peeled and diced
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- 15 oz can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup milk, divided
- ¼cup flour
- chopped fresh parsley, optional

In a 3-qt. saucepan, cook bacon until crisp; remove to paper towel to drain.

Sauté onion in drippings until tender, add broth, water and potatoes; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 15 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Add salt and pepper; mix well. Add corn and ¾ cup of milk.

Combine flour and remaining milk until smooth; add to soup. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes.

Garnish with bacon and parsley if desired.

Yield: 6 servings.

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We're on the Web!

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## Sponsors for 2010/2011

"It is not how much you give or do, but how much you put into giving or doing." ...and we are very grateful for those people in our lives.

Here is a list of this year's Corporate Sponsors.

- Contact North
- Dr. Matthew Walkiewicz
- Goldcorp – Red Lake Mine
- Hotel 105 Bar and Grill
- Keewaytinook Okimakanak
- Lundy's Foods
- Red Lake Marine Products Ltd.
- Red Lake Lions Club
- Royal Canadian Legion – Red Lake
- Russel S. Smart, Barrister and Solicitor
- Sobey's – Red Lake
- Subway
- The Water Buffalo



If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor for the 2010/11 year, we have an information package available to anyone interested. Please contact our office for more information.

Given the extreme importance of literacy to the economic and social well-being of Ontario, Community Literacy of Ontario requests that the two-year enhanced provincial investment in Literacy and Basic Skills programs continue at the current level of investment, and that this investment be converted into permanent, core funding.

## Open House

We will be having an open house here at the Adult Learning Centre in Red Lake, to say thank you for the grant that we received from the Federal Government's Enabling Accessibility Fund. With that grant we have made our building more handicapped accessible. We put in chair lifts to the upstairs and the downstairs. We also changed our bathrooms so the doors are larger and you can also put a wheel chair up to the sink. Our computer lab has been renovated to provide easier access.

Now we would like to show off. We would like to have you come and see what we have done. Join us on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the afternoon. Refreshments will be served.

