

The Centre For Literacy

News from The Centre

Winter 2004

COMING EVENTS

**Blue Metropolis Montreal
International Literary Festival:
Community Writing and the Arts
A public session**
Friday, April 2, 2004
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Hotel
1255 Jeanne-Mance
FREE ADMISSION

**Community Writing/
Arts Workshops**
All workshops at Dawson College

Thursday, April 1, 2004

- 5:00 p.m.: Supper
- 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.:

Zippers Workshop

OR

Drawing out the Self

Saturday, April 3, 2004

- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.:

*Community Arts and Literacy:
Sharing Experience and Models*

- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.:

Lunch for both workshops

- 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.:

*Creative Media Cultures:
Learning Beyond the School*

Fees: (include meal & materials)

\$30/workshop

(\$20 for student with I.D.)

Any 2 workshops \$55

(student \$35 with I.D.)

Any 3 workshops \$75

(student \$55 with I.D.)

Registration forms at:

www.nald.ca/litcent.htm

or Call (514) 931-8731, ext 1415

Grassroots: Community Writing and Arts 2004 – Memory and Multiple Literacies April 1 – 3, 2004

Teachers, writers, producers, coordinators, artists, actors and animators who have created, performed, written or learned in community-based settings rather than institutions, and who have found unique ways to link literacy and the arts will not want to miss this year's Grassroots: Community Writing and Arts events. These events are ideal for teachers and group leaders to attend with their students.

The events will showcase some brilliant examples from Quebec, other provinces and the UK, of how the practice of multiple literacies can be used to reach more students. For the sixth year in collaboration with the **Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival**, we will share stories, poems, artifacts, performances and videos at a three-hour public session on Friday, April 2, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1255 Jeanne-Mance Avenue, at Metro: Place-des-Arts.

On **Thursday, April 1** and **Saturday, April 3**, The Centre for Literacy will offer a series of workshops * (Go to www.nald.ca/litcent.htm for detailed descriptions and registration forms)

Thursday, April 1, 2004 - Two concurrent evening sessions

- **Zippers** is a hands-on workshop creating 3-D sculptures from non-traditional art materials. Vancouver adult educator and artist Bonnie Soroce will facilitate.

- **Drawing out the Self** is a participatory workshop using art making, movement, singing and writing to explore holistic ways of learning and knowing. Mary Norton, Director of Edmonton's Learning Centre, and Judy Murphy, an adult education and art consultant, will facilitate.

Saturday, April 3, 2004 - Separate morning and afternoon sessions

Morning:

- **Community Arts and Literacy: Sharing at the Grassroots.** This workshop will feature our invited participants from the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival, who will share their experiences of using 'multiple literacies' to engage adult learners and at-risk youth. Linda Shohet will moderate. [Lunch included from 12:00-1:00 p.m. for participants in both sessions]

Afternoon:

- **Creative Media Cultures: Learning Beyond the School** This session will describe (E)online writing and film-making projects at an out-of-school community education centre in London, England, that has been in operation for 25 years. Workshop facilitator is author and media educator Julian Sefton-Green, WAC (Weekend Arts Center) Performing Arts and Media College.

* Workshops have been funded by the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, in collaboration with Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival. Julian Sefton-Green's travel is supported by the British Council.

Recent Events

Improving reading in the workplace: An innovative approach – This 3-day introductory workshop, held January 22-24, 2004, in Kitchener, Ontario, was the third done in partnership with SkillPlan BC. Peter Mosenthal received rave evaluations for the presentation; unfortunately, Michael Hardt was unable to co-facilitate this session. Mosenthal's model builds reading instruction on document design. Several participants noted that schools should be more aware of this approach as well. We will survey everyone who has attended introductory workshops to see if there is enough interest to offer an intermediate level workshop in Montreal later this year. If there is sufficient demand, we may also repeat the introductory level workshop.

Teaching reading to adults: A balanced approach – Pat Campbell's workshop, organized in collaboration with PROCEDE, the adult education directors group of the Quebec English School Boards, was the last of her Pan-Canadian series of sixteen. She presented on February 2 and 3, 2004, to a capacity audience. We hope to bring Pat back to Montreal.

To mark **Family Literacy Day** on January 27th, The Centre donated gift boxes of new children's books and art supplies to Elizabeth House, Auberge Shalom and The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal.

Upcoming

Giant Book Sales Inc. will hold another book sale on February 23 to 25, in the Atrium at Dawson College (Atwater metro entrance). Proceeds will go to The Centre for Literacy and to the Dawson Daycare Centre to purchase books and developmental toys.

A review of last year's Community Writing events at Blue Metropolis was included in *Literacy Across the Curriculum Media Focus*, 17.1. It can be accessed on our website.

The same issue of *LACMF* also has a chronological list by province of all the projects developed under the *Reading the Museums* program of the Canadian Museums Association from 1993 to 1999. The CMA is currently working with The Centre to identify models of community animation that might sustain links among initiatives in the arts, heritage and literacy sectors.

Literacy and health update

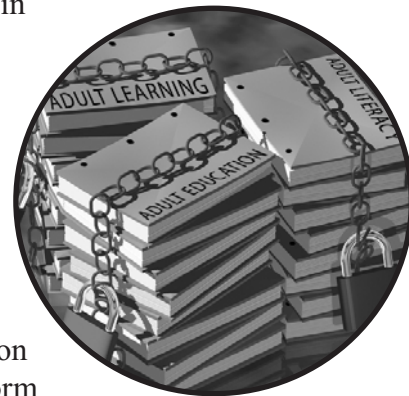
Workshop: But do they understand? Communicating with patients and caregivers – This workshop will be held on Friday, March 5, 2004, in collaboration with the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC). Effective health communication can occur when barriers such as language, low education, culture, and disability are recognized, when written and verbal communication are adapted, and alternative tools are used appropriately. Linda Shohet will facilitate this workshop. A few spaces are still available. Information: The Centre for Literacy at (514) 931-8731 ext. 1415



Plain language and patient education: A summary of current research is the first in our series of briefs that summarize evaluative research into the use of alternative means of health communication. These include plain language, audiotapes, videotapes, interactive media and visual images. The starting point for the literature searches was the communication needs of patients with low literacy or other communication barriers; the guiding question was: 'What impacts have been documented in relation to the identified target groups?' The second brief, *Audiotapes and literacy: A summary of current research*, will be published in March. Print copies of the briefs are available from The Centre for Literacy for \$3. Electronic versions can be downloaded from our web site.

Adult Basic Education: The Impact of Policy on Practice - International Perspectives

This year's Summer Institute is being organized in partnership with the Movement for Canadian Literacy. There is rising pressure from governments to develop and implement policies on adult literacy, but the complexity of the issue and lack of consensus about the boundaries of literacy challenge politicians to create policies that support responsive practice. Spaces are limited; if you plan to attend please send your registration early to guarantee a spot. Participation is confirmed when we receive the registration form with payment. Visit our web site for details.



The Centre For Literacy

3040 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec H3Z 1A4
Tel: (514) 931-8731 ext. 1415 • Fax: (514) 931-5181 • www.nald.ca/litcent.htm