

## WHAT'S HAPPENING – AUGUST 2005

At Literacy BC we use a variety of methods for disseminating news and information to the field. Yet, still more information passes through our office that we would like to pass along. To that end, we have a service called What's Happening in Literacy. What's Happening is a compilation of abbreviated information about new projects, upcoming conferences, funding opportunities, teaching resources, general news, and much more. Previous issues are archived on our website at:

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/pubs.htm>

### Kudos!

- Congratulations to the **Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy** on becoming the first recipient of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award! CBAL formally came into being in 1999, after years of informal networking. Among many additional responsibilities, the Alliance finds and distributes funds for local literacy initiatives and raises awareness about literacy. Visit their website at <http://www.cbal.org/>

### Events and fundraising

- **August 20<sup>th</sup> Literacy Nanaimo** is having a "Laugh for literacy" at the Nanaimo Museum. This unique event includes a Fine Arts Show, a silent auction, and a tea expert from New York as special guest!
- How can anyone forget that **September 8<sup>th</sup> is International Literacy Day?!** Stay tuned to Nald's ILD page for events in British Columbia: <http://www.nald.ca/literacyevents/annual/IntLtDay/IntLtday.htm>

International Literacy Day also marks the start of International Adult Learner's Week, which runs until the 15th. The Canadian arm of UNESCO may be posting extra tidbits of information at <http://www.unesco.ca/> closer to the date.

- **The Vancouver Island Dyslexia Association** is having a formation meeting in Nanaimo on **September 13<sup>th</sup>** to establish needs and discuss a vision for the organization. Contact VIDA at (250) 753-5644.
- Come to **Victoria Read Society's** (<http://www.readsociety.bc.ca/>) Scrabble Scramble for Literacy on Saturday, **September 24<sup>th</sup>**! It is a fundraiser for their literacy Bursary Fund.

### Funding opportunities and awards

- The Toronto-based **Knowledge Development Fund**, which supports research in volunteerism, has launched a funding competition with a **September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 (5:00 p.m. EST)** deadline. Visit the Fund's website at <http://www.kdc-cdc.ca/> for more information.

- The Vancouver-based pharmaceutical company, **QLT**, also sponsors community-led projects. Of potential interest to literacy practitioners in Vancouver is that QLT will consider sponsoring projects that improve the quality of life for the disadvantaged through social, athletic, artistic or cultural endeavours. The funds are distributed twice a year, and the applications are due at the **end of August** and January. Visit their website for more information at <http://www.qltinc.com/>, select the heading "Corporate" and go to "Sponsorship".
- The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities' Health Literacy Network gives an annual *Access to Health Awareness Award* to individuals in recognition of outstanding work that supports access to health information and services for people with disabilities. The nominations must come from a person with a disability living in BC. The deadline is **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005**.

### **Call for presenters or proposals**

- Keep an eye out for the call for proposals for "Developing a framework for research in practice in adult literacy", which is due in August. More information is available at the NALD website: <http://www.nald.ca/fulltext/framework/page1.htm>
- The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) and The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, Ontario Ministry of Education are presenting a **Pan-Canadian forum on Literacy and Numeracy** in November, 2005, and are looking for workshop presenters. Find the submission information on their website at: <http://www.forumcmec.ca/public/InfoLanguage.asp> The application deadline is **August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005!**

### **Call for volunteers**

- The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities is looking for volunteers to act as "Consumer Health Literacy Advocates" and work with the Health Literacy Network (HLN). They would act as information advocates to connect people with disabilities to health information and services. The volunteer should be a person with a disability or a family member or caregiver. For more information call Shelley or Claire at the Health Literacy Network at 604-875-0188 or 1-877-232-7400 or email at [wdi@bccpd.bc.ca](mailto:wdi@bccpd.bc.ca)

### **Fun websites**

- Do you have that relative who always beats you at trivia? Depending on your knowledge of literature, you may or may not want to play this game with them: <http://www.whosaid.org/index.htm>. The "Who said" website allows you to listen to a quote from a book and if you know what character from literature is being quoted, there is an entry form to fill out with your guess.

- Looking to be inspired by writing projects? Check out the Chicago-based Neighborhood Writing Alliance's *Journal of Ordinary Thought* at <http://www.jot.org/> It is an organization that encourages people to write by organizing writing groups, workshops, and author readings.

### **New acquisitions at the Literacy BC resource centre**

There are complete lists of new acquisitions at the Resource Centre webpage at <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/resources/newresc.htm>

#### **Literacy Happens: A Resource Manual For Community Literacy Awareness Training.** By Ruth Hayden and Maureen Saunders, 2002.

This manual provides community workers with "core materials to understand how literacy is learned, developed and used within community and family contexts.... The manual provides the background information needed to present literacy awareness workshops to a range of audiences." It is directed at those with a literacy background.

**A Practical Approach to Literacy Program Evaluation.** John Anderson and Literacy Link South Central, 2000. "The intent of the manual is to propose methodology, and to provide information and tools concerning the collection, analysis and application of data related to the evaluation process....You will find definitions, suggestions for sampling instruments and data collection tools, sample forms, and methodology for analyzing data." (Foreword).

**Problem-posing At Work: English For Action and Popular Educator's guide.** Nina Wallerstein and Elsa Auerbach, 2004. *English for Action* is an ESL textbook that draws on popular education and Freirian methods, which integrate learners' experiences into the learning process. The *Popular Educator's Guide* can act as a guide to the ESL textbook, and as a guide to problem-posing, critical reflection, and action for people in many fields, including literacy and community development.

**Reading Work: Literacies In the New Workplace.** Mary Ellen Belfiore, et al., 2003. "Reading literacies" bridges theory with practice and is aimed at practitioners who want to further examine the complexities of workplace education. The researchers each spent several months in diverse locations studying and interacting with employees, and their analysis places workplace education within the social context of people's lives.

**Summer Reading Club: Outreach Library Service Through A Neighbourhood Storytent Program.** Prepared for the Saint John Free Public Library by Cheryl Brown and Wendell Dryden, 2005. The Storytent Program is a literacy support program for children and families, and does double duty as library outreach. Brown and Dryden document the best practices for operating a storytent program, which, just as it sounds, involves conducting reading programs under small tents.