

Tutoring Program to Start in September 2006

We have applied for funding to develop a tutoring program. We plan to train volunteer tutors on how to work effectively with students with learning disabilities through content and strategic tutoring. Our tutors and students can meet at one of the Greater City of Sudbury public libraries for the tutor session. We also hope to have tutors available to train students in assistive technology.

For further information, input or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer tutor, please contact Jennifer at LDA Sudbury at 522-0100 or e-mail resource@ldasudbury.ca.

President's Message

The LDA Sudbury Chapter is poised to continue delivering the information, support and guidance necessary for students and adults with learning disabilities to succeed. Our partnerships in the Community and with the Education providers are solid. These "links" allow for each of us to provide the best services possible while being fiscally responsible.

The "Bridges to Learning" assistive technology room at the Library will have introduction sessions to help the community become familiar with the "tools" available on the computers. This will enable everyone, not just those with LD, to access the technology.

Our Board is committed to building a sustainable Chapter. The partnerships we build must include individuals, their families, teachers and employers. A portion of the LDAO membership cost is returned to our Chapter. These funds help us provide our services. Please consider joining LDAO – there is a wealth of knowledge to be shared!

Looking forward to another year of "Working Together for Rising Stars"

Janet Guembel, Board President

Contact LDAS

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Executive Director's Report

A new and exciting year lies ahead for our Chapter... and we have some new folks here at LDAS to make it happen! The Board of Directors joins me in welcoming Jennifer Dolson our Resource Facilitator, and Marianne Savage, our "Young Leader on Board" from the United Way. A new volunteer, Amanda Riley, fourth-year student from Laurentian University, joins us at the office in support of our programs and services as well. Along with our Board of Directors, we have a super team!

We are also celebrating the start of a new year with some additional corporate sponsors and donations. We would like to acknowledge the significant contributions over the holiday season from National Bank Financial (Robert Mazzuca) at 10 Elm St. and from Horizon Partners (Bob Hibbs and team) at 888 Regent Street. We are also grateful for donations from Mike McKean of our Board and other individuals which contribute financially to our ongoing program support. Checkout our web site at www.ldasudbury.ca to find out more about "supporting us".

In November, our dedicated Board of Directors approved our annual plan for 2006. We will be focusing on improving our existing services and developing new programs in the coming year. Stay tuned as we unfold these new programs and community outreach events.

We are certainly looking forward to serving you in 2006. Stay connected with us through our web site and join our e-mail distribution list.

Ron Lessard, Executive Director

Local Talent!

The LDA Sudbury website (www.ldasudbury.ca), this newsletter, and all of our other publications were designed and developed by Scott Buckingham.

Scott specializes in websites and web applications, but also offers graphic design services, office support services, computer software training, and much more!

Visit his website at www.scottbuckingham.com or call him at (705)677-6099 to discuss how he can help you!

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Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury

Working Together for Rising Stars!

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Quarterly Newsletter

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Looking Forward to Serving You in 2006!

As we reflect upon our last year, the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers at LDAS can be proud of our achievements. We provided information and support to hundreds of individuals with learning disabilities, to parents and to educators. In partnership with the City of Greater Sudbury Library and the Lions Club of Sudbury, we expanded the "Learning Disability Section" at the Mackenzie Street Branch. The only section of its kind in a library in Ontario, an extensive collection of books, videos and other materials on learning disabilities and can be accessed through the 13 branches of our municipal library system. In October, we opened the "Bridges to Learning" assistive technology room at the library. The latest technology, including Kurzweil version 9 with over 500 curriculum textbooks from the education system, are accessible to individuals with learning disabilities and other exceptionalities. Over 20,000 hits on our web site last year reflects how we are trying to connect with community needs. Providing support and information to meet those needs is very important to all of us at LDAS.

We have some exciting plans to continue developing programs in 2006! Subject to funding, we will launch a comprehensive tutoring program in the fall. This program will include a catalogue of tutoring resources available in the community, a roster of tutors available, and our trained volunteer tutor program for students with learning disabilities delivered in partnership with

the Greater Sudbury Public Library. We will be hosting 6 community outreach sessions for parents, students, educators and adults with learning disabilities. Topics will include advocacy, transitions, building resiliency, and the use of assistive technology.

Parent members from our Board of Directors will be actively working on the Special Education Advisory Committees for each of the local school boards. This is a very meaningful way to support and build special education programs for students with learning disabilities, and other exceptionalities, to assist them in reaching their potential.

We are committed over the next year to work closely with the Glenn Crombie Centre at Cambrian College. Some creative support mechanisms for entrepreneurs and individuals with disabilities in the area of self-employment will be developed. Hopefully here in Sudbury, we can support the next generation of individuals with learning disabilities to follow in the footsteps of Walt Disney, F.W. Woolworth, Thomas Edison, Agatha Christie and John Lennon.

Last, but certainly not least, we look forward to providing support and guidance to parents of children with learning disabilities. Whether it's providing advice on "navigating" the educational system, providing support with building resilience and self advocacy skills, or meeting specific individual needs, we are here to serve you!

We welcome our new Resource Facilitator

Hi, my name is Jennifer Dolson. I am the new part-time resource facilitator at the Learning Disability Association of Sudbury. I also work part-time as a Learning Skills Advisor/Assistive Technology Trainer at The Glenn Crombie Centre for Disability Services at Cambrian College. I am a graduate of the Bachelor of Arts degree program at Laurentian University with a major in Psychology. I also have the Learning Disability Specialist Certificates from Cambrian College, in both learning strategies and assistive technology. I am very excited to learn more about

Learning Disabilities in the elementary and secondary school systems. I am excited about meeting and working with parents, community agencies, and individuals with LD. I welcome any calls or e-mails to resource@ldasudbury.ca.

ldao

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
Sudbury

"Young Leader on Board" Joins Our Team!

Hello, my name is Marianne Savage. I became involved with LDAS through the Young Leader on Board Program, a new initiative offered by the Leadership Development Services of United Way / Centraide Sudbury & District. I will be graduating from the francophone Social Service program from Laurentian University in June of this year. I became

a volunteer at LDAS because I recognize the value of this agency and the importance of supporting children and their families with a LD. I am striving to meet the opportunities that this organization will encounter. I want to thank the LDAS for welcoming me with such warmth and enthusiasm.

Maybe You Can Celebrate Income Tax Time This Year!

On Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00p.m. at Lockerby Composite School, Ramsey View Court, in the south end of the city, we will be hosting a combined Disability Tax Credit Seminar and Advocacy Workshop. Parents of children with special needs, adults and students with disabilities will be particularly interested in these sessions.

In partnership with the Rainbow District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee who are hosting this evening presentation, you are invited to attend these informative and interactive presentations.

Learn more about the potential to benefit from the disability tax credit by attending this workshop. Not everyone with a disability is eligible, but a better understanding and support through the process may assist you with the application.

Leading tax expert Ryan Minor with the firm BDO Dunwoody LLP will discuss the disability tax credit. Each year, thousands of dollars of tax credits are missed because taxpayers

and medical professionals do not understand the tax law. Attendees should not despair because a taxpayer may claim the credit as far back as ten taxation years. Ryan has helped taxpayers get back more than \$10,000 in missed disability related tax credits. For more information on this workshop, Ryan can be reached at 671-3336.

In a second workshop, Ron Lessard of the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury will facilitate an interactive session on advocacy. The Golden Rules of Advocacy for parents to advance the interests of their children in the educational system will be explored. Keys to working together with teachers, school boards and community support agencies to build partnerships in their children's education will be shared. You won't want to miss this evenings dialogue! Please join us. Everyone welcome!

For further information on the sessions, please call 522-0100 or email us at info@ldasudbury.ca.

Education for All

The Report of the Expert Panel On Literacy and Numeracy Instruction for Students with Special Education Needs, Kindergarten to Grade 6.

The Ministry of Education released the "Education for All" report last year. It is an excellent report with ten significant recommendations on the following themes: Professional Development, Assistive Technology, Program Planning and Implementation and Teacher Education.

The implementation of these recommendations by the Ministry of Education, school boards, principals and teachers will be critical to the success of students with special needs. With the general philosophy of inclusion for all students, it is critical that we recognize that all regular classroom teachers are special education teachers. This entire report and recommendations are worthwhile reading. The publication is available at the Ministry of Education's website, at www.edu.gov.on.ca.

Assistive Technology - What's New

The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) is providing financial assistance to an Assistive Technology project that is being pursued by all six of the Northern Ontario Francophone School boards. This project will be pursued in several schools across Northern Ontario, providing training and appropriate technological tools to assist students with Learning Disabilities achieve improved literacy and numeracy learning opportunities. Additional information on this regional project can be obtained by contacting Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario (CSCNO)

Success Stories

In each edition of our Newsletter, we like to include a success story. This success story is a tribute to the many businesses, contractors and employers who provide on-the-job training, internship and apprenticeship placements, and employment opportunities to individuals with learning disabilities and other exceptionalities. All of these employers are to be commended for providing rewarding, meaningful and educational experiences to these young people! Our hats are off to employers who cooperate with the educational institutions to make the success stories a reality in building our community leaders of tomorrow.

LDAO Launches Online Workshops - January 2006

LDAO have launched four (4) online workshops starting in January. They are relevant to a wide range of participants and interested parties should take a look. They are free of charge.

Introduction to Learning Styles for Adults

This online workshop has been put together to provide adults with an introduction to the concept of learning styles. Participants will have the opportunity to explore their preferred learning style and identify some effective learning strategies to help improve the learning process in all environments. It is important to note that this workshop is meant as an introduction to the concept of learning styles. To date, there is no one definitive approach to learning styles. Use this workshop as a starting point to explore the various theories out there. January 6-April 7, 2006

Introduction to Learning Styles for Youth

Different people learn differently: that's a fact. Knowing how YOU learn and what works best for you gives you a great starting place from which you can approach your education- outside or inside of school. This course will give you a chance to explore your learning style, in a general way. There are many approaches to this topic out there in the wider world,

and different theories explain learning styles in different ways. The approach here is a general one, which we believe is a good place to start exploring how you learn. January 6-April 7, 2006

Introduction to Learning Disabilities: Part One

This workshop is a three part workshop series, and is intended for the classroom teacher. Part One provides an overview of Learning Disabilities and strategies to help support the student with a Learning Disability in the classroom. January 6-April 7, 2006

Parent Workshop Series, Setting Your Child Up for Success Part One: If Your Child is Struggling

This workshop is a three part workshop series, and is intended for parents. Part One provides an overview of Learning Disabilities, early warning signs, and strategies for effective parent-teacher relationships. January 6-April 7, 2006

Stay tuned for additional workshops and dates.

For registration information please visit the LDAO website at: <http://www.ldao.ca/courses>
Email: courses@ldao.ca
Telephone: 416-929-4311 x30

Reports from Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC)

In addition to looking at improvements to the Special Education Plan, the Rainbow District School Board SEAC is very pleased with implementation of the new "transition to high school" program for students with special needs. Preparing Grade 8 students with exceptionalities for high school will now be a lot smoother and more successful. "Success for all Students" and the high school "Pathways" initiatives will have substantial benefits for students with learning disabilities.

Lois Keenan and Wendy Larouche are working with other SEAC members at the Sudbury Catholic District School Board reviewing its Special Education Plan with the view of making recommendations to benefit all students with exceptionalities. The SEAC members are also looking at new

ways to provide better communications and information to parents. The Board has an excellent electronic news connection with parents and educators and you can sign up at www.scdsb.edu.on.ca/news.

SEAC Report - le Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario (CSCNO), prepared by Mr. Michael McKean, January 2006. CSCNO continues to develop their accessibility plan, which includes a strong component aimed at assisting students who have Learning Disabilities. CSCNO continues to be interested in a partnership - cooperation opportunities, and is pleased to advise that the Council of Ontario Directors of Education has recently agreed to fund an Assistive Technology (AT) project involving the six Northern Ontario Francophone School Boards.

LDA Sudbury Would Like to Thank its Platinum Funders



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