

Lazy, Hazy Days of Summer (Not)

It's been a very busy summer for us at the Training and Learning Centre. For the first time, we have been open part time in July and August. We gave two very successful workshops in July: Dealing with Conflict, and Good Communications and Customer Relations. If you are interested in either of these, or have other workshop suggestions, please let us know.

We co-sponsored, with the Bonnechere Union Public Library, our most important annual fund raiser, the Bonnechere Authors Festival. We had great turnouts for each evening, and even managed to attract a very appreciative audience for our author, Douglas Gibson, who was scheduled in the middle of the heavy rainstorm and power outage. Our fundraising isn't over yet for the summer. Once again, Bonnechere Caves is graciously hosting an evening of musical entertainment on Thursday August 22, from 7 to 10 PM. Admission is \$10 at the gate, so bring your lawn chair and treat yourself to some amazing local talent, all for a very good cause.

Have you always wanted to be more comfortable speaking in public? If so, TLC is offering a Toastmasters Speechcraft seminar, beginning in September. It's designed to help those of us who dread speaking up in a group setting to conquer our fears and learn to enjoy sharing our stories and ideas in public, be it at work, in the community, or even in a volunteer capacity. Watch for upcoming information in the Leader and on our FaceBook page.

We're planning to continue to offer essential skills training in Killaloe (where we will be hosted by the Community Resource Centre) and in Barry's Bay where we enjoy the hospitality of Tyerman and Daughters, Rural Outreach Employment Services. And, of course, our Eganville classes resume the week of September 9.

Last but not least, we are excited to share great news about an upcoming project we've just received funding for from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. We'll be looking for expertise to help us undertake a feasibility study and build a business case for a mobile learning lab that would bring our essential skills training beyond Eganville, Killaloe and Barry's Bay to other locations in Renfrew County. We'll have more to tell you about this exciting initiative when the project is officially launched later this fall.

For more information on anything in today's column please contact Sue Rupert, TLC's Program Manager at 613-628-1720.