

Montague Adult Education program celebrates a new location

by Stella Shepard

The Holland College Adult Education program in Montague has recently moved to the Down East Mall. The welcome mat was out during an Open House celebration in February. Adult learners and staff proudly gave tours of the new facility to members of the public.

“As soon as you walk through the door, you notice the brightness and space, and you get a feeling of welcome,” says **Natalie Worthen**, Program Manager. “The new facility is very inspiring and motivating for learning.”

The new facility has five large classrooms. There’s a full computer lab, offices, a staff lounge and separate kitchen facilities for the students. The facility houses **The Employment Journey**, a **Literacy Enhancement** service and **The Reading College** (Kaplan SpellRead program). It’s all on one level and accessible for people with disabilities.

Adult Education Island-wide

There are seven Island-wide Holland College Education programs. The locations are **Tignish, Westisle, Summerside, Charlottetown, Montague, Morell** and **Souris**. About 600 learners are enrolled Island-wide. Last year, more than 80 learners



from left, back row: Educators **Linda King, Bernadette Schellen-Graham** and **Susan Conohan**. From left, front row: **Natalie Worthen**, Program Manager for Adult Education, and **Cheryl Kerr**, Learner.

applied to 15 different Holland College programs. Some enrolled in university, while others were able to secure better employment opportunities.

“About 50 learners are enrolled in the day and evening classes at the Montague Centre,” says Natalie. This location gives more visibility to the adult education program.”

The programs

There are a variety of opportunities available for adults to help improve their reading, writing and math skills so that they can meet the requirements of post-secondary or skills training programs. Programs are offered in the day time, and some locations have evening sessions.

Montague learner

Cheryl Kerr of Belfast enrolled in the Montague Adult Education program in 2008. She is upgrading high school credits. Cheryl plans to enroll in the **Environmental Applied Science Technology** college program in 2009.

“I feel that the new facility has a much more efficient learning environment than the previous location,” says Cheryl. “Although we are in a new facility, something that remains unchanged is the educators. They are very dedicated and encouraging. The educators make people feel welcome as soon as they enter the door.”

f For more information about **Adult and Community Education**, contact the central office at **566-9628** or call toll-free **1-800-446-5265**

Multi-tasking becomes a way of life for adult learner

by Stella Shepard

Jeanne Roche flashes a bright smile when she talks about her children ages 7, 9, 14, and 16. “My children are my priority,” says Jeanne. “They influence the decisions that I make in life.”

Jeanne and her husband **Tony** live in the Bay Fortune area. Jeanne became a stay-at-home mom after the birth of their youngest child.

Challenging economic times caused Jeanne to consider reentering the workforce. However, she didn’t want to return to low paying employment.

“Our children are now in school,” says Jeanne. “I started thinking about the future and making a financial contribution. I knew that I had to upgrade my education to make it financially worthwhile to leave my family to go to work.”

Article leads to a career

In 2007, Jeanne read an article about a lab technologist program in *The Employment Journey*. She found out

more about the program and it sparked an interest in the Bioscience sector.

“I graduated from high school 19 years ago and was uncertain if I could handle both school and family life. But I went ahead and enrolled in the **Holland College Adult Education** program in Souris in April 2008. I am upgrading English, science, and math for the entrance requirements to the Bioscience Technology program.”

Family life changes

Last fall, Tony left for western Canada for employment. For the first time in their 18 years of marriage, Jeanne and Tony were apart. It was an emotional adjustment for Jeanne and the children.

“Our youngest told me that he forgot what his dad looked like,” says Jeanne. “He worried that his dad might not come home. It was an emotional time and an adjustment and challenge for all of us.”

“I was carrying total responsibility for three boys in hockey and a teenage daughter. I couldn’t handle much more. I waited until we were comfortable with

the family routine before I returned to the adult education program this past January. I’m determined to enroll in the Bioscience Technology program in 2010.”

Scheduling classes and home

“I not only had to schedule classes around the children but also around our heating source,” says Jeanne. “I had to leave class in the middle of the day to return home to add wood to keep the furnace going. It was a juggling act dealing with keeping the house warm, running the children to hockey, attending class, and studying, but I managed.”

“My family is very supportive of my career goal. My son teases me that I am becoming a science geek. I laugh and tell him, I hope so.”

Jeanne Roche peers through a microscope in a science class at the **Holland College Adult Education** program in Souris. She’s determined to secure a career in the **Bioscience** sector. “I am in my mid-thirties aiming for a science career,” she says. “It’s never too late for anyone to learn.”



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