

# Adult education paves the way to a rewarding career

by Stella Shepard

Adult Education

As Allan King of Covehead was trying to muster the courage to enroll in **Adult & Community Education**, he drove around the block past Montgomery Hall in Charlottetown five times. Giving up on the idea, he began driving home. In a split-second decision, he turned his car around and headed back to Charlottetown.

Allan enrolled in the GED preparation classes in 2006. The same year, he passed the GED tests and earned his PEI Grade 12 Equivalency Certificate. He continued with his studies and enrolled in the grade 11 academic English program. Allan completed his studies at the Adult & Community Education program in 2007.

"I always wanted to complete my high school education," says Allan. "It was embarrassing to write on job applications that I didn't have grade 12. When I heard the adult education advertisements on the radio, I knew it was what I wanted and needed."

## Working through the fears and myths

"I was very apprehensive about enrolling because I had no idea what to expect. Part of my fear was my negative experiences in high school.

"The instructors provided a very different learning environment from what I experienced in high school. They made me feel that I belonged in class.

"I also had a perception that adult education programs were for older people. Once I met the other students, I realized I was the same age as most of them. This certainly made me feel more comfortable in the classroom."

## Changing occupations

"I drove an 18-wheeler truck for 15 years," says Allan. "It was seasonal employment without any challenges beyond the usual daily job duties. I knew that I would have to upgrade my education in order to find a better-paying job that offered year-round employment. The first step was enrolling in the adult education program.

"After graduating from Adult & Community Education, I enrolled in an Information Technology college program. "I was just as proud of my GED accomplishment as I was when I graduated from a college IT program,"

In 2007, I graduated and secured full-time employment as a field service technician for a global communication company. I enjoy the challenging and interesting work and it offers a very good wage.

"I am also teaching basic computer skills two nights a week to students in the same adult education program I graduated from.



Allan King stands in front of the Adult & Community Education facility where he was once a student. He now teaches basic computer skills part-time to adult learners and workers full-time in the IT field. "Now I have challenging, rewarding, good paying, full-time employment."

"It's amazing that only a few years ago I was a student on the other side of the desk. My new career opportunities would not have happened if I had not turned my car around and drove back to Charlottetown to enroll in an adult education program."

## Advice for others

"Anyone considering enrolling in an adult education program should just do it," says Allan. "I think many people want to enroll but are scared that they are not smart enough. The reality is - they are smart enough.

"If a person has the opportunity to go back to school they should make the time to attend. I'm glad that I did because it's changed my life in so many ways."

For more information about **Adult & Community Education**, contact the central office at 566-9628 or toll-free 1-800-446-5265 (press 3).



## Are you thinking of going back to school to get your GED or to earn high school credits?

Adult Education has been welcoming students for the past 11 years.

Programs are underway, and students may choose to attend full-time or part-time.

Evening classes are also available in some centres.

We continually take applications, and it's not too late to start. There is no cost to students.

Contact the central office at 566-9628 or call toll free 1-800-446-5265. 

*Everyone is welcome!*