Thanks to you...PGI Lob Ball Tournament a success!

On September 8, 2018, International Literacy Day, YLC hosted its first-ever PGI Lob for Literacy and Gala. Six teams battled it out for the first championship title. It was a beautiful day, spirits were high and over a hundred people gathered to play and support literacy. *Forever Young* came away with the title, and everyone left the tournament with smiles and great memories. Thank you to all donors, volunteers, players and everyone who turned out to support literacy and make this day a success!

Ernest Turner, Winner of the 2018 PGI Learner Achievement Award

Each year an adult who has demonstrated commitment to improving their literacy skills is chosen to receive the PGI Learner Achievement Award. At the evening Gala, the 2018 Learner Achievement Award was presented to Ernest Turner, a YLC student who has worked with volunteer tutor Martha Shufelt since 2013. Ernest has improved his literacy skills while struggling with low vision. He has written about the history of his family and produced a book of short stories about his Jersey cows, *My Girls*.

Congratulations and continued success Ernest!

Upcoming events:

- **Tutor Chat**: Learning with Games
  Thursday, October 4, 10 am-12 noon
  Join us and get to know some of the fun new tools and games we have in our library. RSVP by October 1 to reserve your muffin!
- **Learning Difficulties Workshop**,
  presented by Marie-Hélène Lebeault
  Thursday, October 25, 10 am-12 noon
  This workshop addresses the challenges tutors and teachers face and tools they can use when dealing with adults with learning and attention difficulties.

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PGI Quebec *Lob for Literacy* Awards

The *Gzowski Award* is presented to the participant who brings the most goodwill and cheer to the PGI. Wayne Picken definitely earned the honour for his enthusiasm during the games and working the field!

The *Dirty Pants Award* was presented to Jeremy Chisolm for the most slides into home, the *Out of the Ballpark Attitude* was earned by Jeremy Singfield & the *Strikeout King* of the day was Josh Roy.

Thank you to all the teams and players who made the event possible!

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YLC has wonderful volunteers!
Whether you tutor or are tutored, spread the word at an event, pour beer for tips (Brome Fair beer tent: $1118), swing a bat or solicit donations (PGI 2018 over $7000), you make YLC what it is. Thank you all for your support!
YLC Annual General Meeting

All YLC members are encouraged to attend YLC’s Annual General Meeting. Tutors invite your students to come. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by October 16th.

WHEN? Tuesday, October 30, 2018, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
WHERE? 505, rue du Sud, suite 203, Cowansville, QC

It’s NOMINATION time for the YLC BOARD

There is one opening on the YLC Board of Directors. Specifically, the Nominations Committee is looking for a candidate that has treasuring skills or experience (for a complete job description, contact the office). Elections will be held at the YLC Annual General Meeting to take place on October 30th at the YLC office. Contact the YLC office for information and nomination forms. Closing date: October 16, 2018.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES: Board members are expected to participate at 6 board meetings a year, be active on at least one committee, support YLC’s mission, and promote the aims and objectives of YLC, etc.

Reminders

• Please respond to the YLC membership renewal notice. If you would like to remain as a YLC volunteer and you have no changes to make to your contact information or volunteer status, please let the office know before October 31, 2018.

• Tutors, please submit your quarterly tutoring hours record sheet for March-June 2018. If you need a form for the fall session, let us know.

• If you have materials you are not currently using, please return them to the YLC library.

• Tutors, please share this newsletter with your students and invite them to the Annual General meeting
Nominations are being accepted for:

• **Pat Lafreniere Award**

_Nominate a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to literacy_

The Pat Lafrenière Award is presented every other year in memory of a wonderful and warm-hearted volunteer. Pat was a devoted and vital member of the Yamaska Literacy Council as well as a treasure to her many students.

**CRITERIA:** The award will be presented to a volunteer who has made

• an outstanding volunteer contribution;
• a difference in the life of a student(s).

To nominate a volunteer include your name, the name of the person you are nominating and why you are nominating them. Submissions received before **October 16, 2018** will be considered.

• **Janet Persons’ Memorial Award**

_Nominate a student writer_

In 2004, YLC student Janet Persons won a VIP Festival Package in the Blue Metropolis Anecdote Contest for people engaged in literacy learning. She had written a short text about memory, the theme of that year’s literacy festival (see Janet’s entry below). It was a moment in Janet’s life of which she was extremely proud. In memory of Janet, YLC inaugurated the Janet Persons’ Memorial Award to recognize student writers.

**CRITERIA:** Nominee must have been a YLC student within the past 2 years and have written some materials.

**Talk about memory lapse** by Janet Persons

_Last summer, I was outside working on my flowerbed. I took my cordless phone outside, in case somebody called. I put it on the bumper of the truck. My husband was working in the garage. I went to visit my friend, then he got in the truck and drove off. When he came back I asked him, “Where’s the phone?” He said, “It’s in the house.” I said, “No, it was on the truck.” We looked and looked but never found that phone!_

To nominate a YLC student, send their name, a short description of their writing efforts and/or a sample of their writing to the YLC office before **October 16, 2018**. The award recipient will be announced at the AGM, Tuesday, October 30, 2018.
PGI Poet Laureate: Maurice Crossfield

Poetry is an important part of the spirit of celebration at the PGIs across Canada. Over the years, the poet laureate writes a poem to conclude the evening. It is and always has been the final defining moment of the evening.

This year’s poet laureate was born and raised in Quebec’s Eastern Townships; he spent nearly 15 years as a daily newspaper reporter at The Sherbrooke Record. He then struck out on his own to work as a professional writer, translator, and editor of Harrowsmith’s Almanac and Harrowsmith’s Gardening Digest. Maurice is the author of the Granby Liar, a novel full of politics, intrigue and murder…

In a world where nuance is often the first casualty
Literacy is more important than ever.

Literacy today is more than being able to read a simple form, to fill in the blanks.
More than reading a stop sign or writing a quick thanks.
It has moved beyond the understanding of words assigning a task.
To encompass computer codes, algorithms, Google and every question we might ask.

Fake news, the conspiratorial subject of the day,
Can take in the most careful among us.
Only through considered and critical thought (which all starts with reading),
Can we tell if it is true, or totally bogus.

Literacy today provides a living connection to where we came from,
our own family histories so incredible and diverse.
Tales of people great and small,
Who moved through this same universe.

In the midst of it all come the YLC volunteers,
Armed with pages, paragraphs and passion.
Teaching folks from all walks of life,
The value of letters, and that knowledge never goes out of fashion.

I once got to witness those same volunteers,
Marching into the Cowansville Pen.
These tiny little teachers
Bringing the gift of letters to some big, scary looking men.

Literacy today is defining our species,
Guiding our race towards what comes next.
Scientific discovery, information, misinformation,
Human contact? Send me a text.

Yes, literacy has moved far beyond that first printing press,
To become the cornerstone of all we do.
How we rationalize thought, how we perceive the world,
And maybe, just maybe, how we can save it, too.