



Special points of interest:

- Mark your calendars! Our AGM is Friday October 21. See committee members for your tickets.
- We listen! Read the summary of the Spring Conference survey results
- New language assessment centre! Book appointments for your clients today
- Community Mobilization Teams can make a difference in your community! Read about the program in Hamilton

Spring & Summer 2011

## President's Message

I would like to thank all our TESL Members who attended the TESL Conference in MARCH 2010! We had such wonderful feedback from our Hamilton TESL members.

A good number of TESL Hamilton members attended the TESL Hamilton Spring Conference held March 26<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the Hamilton Convention Centre and came back invigorated.

Our thanks go to those who contributed articles and produced this newsletter to keep our over 215 TESL Hamilton members and the ESL/LINC community informed. A special thanks to Jennifer for keeping our website up and running. She does such a fabulous job with the site and to Nina for working diligently

to get our newsletter running.

I am grateful to you, the members, for your support and attendance!

The next upcoming event will be our Annual General Meeting at the **Olympia Banquet Centre** on October 21, 2011. I urge all TESL Hamilton members to attend. Please watch the website for updates.

TESL Hamilton Executive is getting ready for a busy AGM in the fall. As usual it promises to be a great evening with our guest speaker and dinner. It is Always a Night to remember with our TESL Hamilton enthusiastic members. This is a great opportunity to see our LINC/ ESL community socialize and mingle! Hope to see you there!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer member of the TESL Hamilton executive, please visit our website to find out how to apply. Executive members must be available for our monthly meetings as well as our Spring Conference and AGM.

Finally, I would like to thank the TESL Hamilton Executive for their dedicated work in organizing these professional development workshops and for representing TESL Hamilton in the ESL and LINC community.

See you all at the Special Event and Annual General Meeting. Here's wishing you a long, relaxing summer. See you in October.

Nelia Nowakowski

Inside this issue:

Community Mobilization Teams 3

YMCA ISS Language Assessment Centre 4

AGM Information 5

Call for Executive Committee Members 5

## Spring Conference Survey Results

Thank you to all of you who participated in the survey monkey regarding the TESL Spring Conference. These surveys not only tell us, the Executive, what you

thought, but helps improve the organization of future conferences. This article is to address some of the questions that were asked in the survey.

It is not always an easy task to satisfy a large crowd; however, we are happy to say that the majority of the participants were quite pleased with the overall



**Congratulations  
to Marie  
Robbins, lucky  
winner of the  
\$50 VISA card  
at our TESL  
Hamilton Spring  
Conference!**

conference. Most of you said that the conference was very good, helpful and enjoyable, well organized and even the word excellent was thrown in several times. We thank you for your encouraging comments.

It was decided to have a hot breakfast rather than lunch because of the time restraint. "Hot" because you deserved it and honestly, it was cheaper than lunch. We would also like to thank those who noticed that healthy options were available. We even received a "wow". You have to remember that we are not given carte blanche but must choose from the menu provided and happily you approved.

With regard to full day versus half day, most felt that since it was the weekend, half day was effective, perfect and helpful for some people's schedules. However, with it being only a half day, it restricted the number of workshops that could have been provided.

An early start time was decided upon to allow people to meet,

mingle and catch up. It also allowed participants to eat at a leisurely rate and in the end, if you start early, you leave early. We had anticipated the publishers being there early too, but were later informed that there was an accident on the highway which caused major delays. These are unfortunately, uncontrollable mishaps. As to regulating cold temperatures in a room, this too is out of our control, so may we suggest bringing an extra sweater next time?

We also appreciated your comments on the various workshops that you attended. We have taken note of some recommendations and will attempt to implement them in future conferences. We opted not to have a keynote speaker so that more workshops could be offered in lieu of the keynote. The majority agreed with this.

In place of doling out bags with pens and other paraphernalia, the Executive, with your approval in the past, has chosen to

make a \$350 donation to Hamilton Food Share.

Again thanks to all of you who attended the conference, especially those of you who found time to complete the survey monkey or a written evaluation form. Without your attendance, there would be no conference.

It will again be time to re-elect a new President and Vice President at the next AGM in October. We would welcome your voice and your input in helping us plan for the upcoming conference by joining the Executive Team. Please come out and join us.

Lastly we encourage you to send in your questions and comments to any of the Executive members. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your voice at our next AGM in October.

Please check the website for more information about our upcoming fall AGM and Spring Conference.

# COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION TEAMS

Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI) has been working very closely for a community leadership and empowerment program, Community Mobilization Training (CMT), with the St. Charles Adult Learning Centers at all of the five locations in Hamilton since 2008. The participants of the program are already in the English Language Skills development programs such as ESL and LINC programs at St. Charles.

The aim of the program is to develop leadership skills of the marginalized communities and peoples of diverse ethno specific backgrounds through imparting knowledge, educating them on matters of civic awareness, information on how, when and where to get the public resources, how Canadian political system works at local, provincial and federal level, volunteering with Agencies, Boards and Committees, and how to engage civically, politically and socially in the community.

The CMT program has 6 modules to be completed by the program participants:

**MODULE I:**  
'UNDERSTANDING AND IMPLEMENTING CIVIC INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT'

**MODULE II:** 'COMMUNITY STRUCTURE'

▶ Hamilton – Demograph-

ics, Structure and Overview

- ▶ Understanding 'Community'
- ▶ Community Assessment – Practices And Processes

**MODULE III:**  
'STRENGTHENING AND BUILDING COMMUNITIES'

- ▶ Developing Community Teams
- ▶ Enhancing and Developing Community Capacity
- ▶ Linking with Grassroots and other Community Groups
- ▶ Creating Partnerships and Collaborations

**MODULE IV:** 'LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY'

- ▶ Developing and Enhancing Leadership Abilities
- ▶ Facilitation Competencies
- ▶ Public Speaking and Making Presentations
- ▶ Conflict Resolution and Transformation
- ▶ Evaluation
- ▶ Accountability
- ▶ Project Management and Reporting
- ▶ Finding and Using Resources

**MODULE V:** 'ENGAGING COMMUNITY'

- ▶ Understanding and Influencing Policy
- ▶ Community Environment
- ▶ Social Engagement
- ▶ Political Engagement
- ▶ Making Change Happen
- ▶ Engaging the Media

At St. Charles HCCI has recently concluded its fourth

cohort of the 'Community Mobilization Teams' which is consisting of students from St. Charles Centers in LINC level 4 and above classes. The participants were from the ethno-specific communities. Now the CMT graduated teams are ready to be engaged in promoting social inclusion and civic engagement. CMT members are ready to work with the other community members to undertake initiatives that will lead towards empowerment. Furthermore, actively facilitate and promote capacity-building initiatives, leadership development, political and social engagement.

HCCI believes that Community Mobilization teams will also serve as a bridge between HCCI and the community by recruiting and mobilizing new community members, sharing information on upcoming events, activities and community and/or HCCI initiatives.

## GOAL

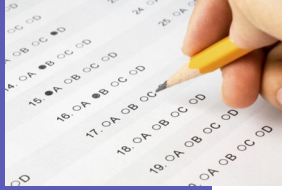
To foster inclusive, equitable and enduring civic leadership and civic participation across the ethno-racial and ethno-cultural groups in Hamilton.

## PURPOSE

To promote and facilitate full participation of Hamilton's ethno-cultural and ethno-racial communities in decision-making processes affecting the city and its institutions, in line with principles of inclusion and the civic importance of fostering leadership and maintaining the vitality of the democratic process.

***CMT members are ready to work with the other community members to undertake initiatives that will lead towards empowerment.***

# YMCA ISS Language Assessment Centre



*Certified  
Language  
Assessors  
administer  
standardized  
tools based on  
the Canadian  
Language  
Benchmarks.*

The Immigrant Settlement Services Language Assessment Centre provides eligible clients with free language assessment and referral services.

Assessments are provided to help newcomers determine their existing level of language proficiency.

Referrals are made to all **LINC** (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada), **ELT** (Enhanced Language Training) and **OSLT** (Occupation Specific Language Training) providers.

Hamilton Training providers include:

- College Boreal
- Circle of Friends
- Community and Continuing Education (HWDSB)
- Hamilton Public Library Learning Resource Centre
- Immigrant Women's Centre
- Mohawk College
- St. Charles Adult Education Centres (HWDCSB)
- Distant Education (Home Study)

Eligible clients must be:

- a permanent resident of Canada, or
- a Convention Refugee, or
- a person in Canada whose application for Permanent Resident status is being processed in Canada and who has been informed by a letter from Citizenship and Immigration Canada of the initial approval of your application subject to an admissibility assessment (this means you have approval -in-principle);
- of legal school-leaving age within your province or territory (in Ontario, age 18)

At the Centre certified Language Assessors administer standardized tools based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks.

To refer clients, call or visit the ISS Language Assessment Centre to book an appointment.

905-526-8452  
25 Main St. West Suite 105

# TESL Hamilton AGM

Featuring

**Carole Bertuzzi Luciani**

*A Mood-ivational  
Speaker*

Friday, October 21st , 2011

4:30 – 7:30 pm

**Tickets**

TESL Members \$25.00

Non TESL Members \$30.00

For tickets, contact an [Executive Committee Member](#) at your work location, or send cheque payable to “TESL Hamilton” to Cathy Coruzzi at 17 Province St. South, Hamilton, ON, L8K 2K7 and pick up your ticket at the door.

**No ticket sales at the door.**

Tickets must be purchased before October 7, 2011.

Check our [website](#) for updated information and more details about the AGM.

## **Would you like to join the TESL Hamilton Executive Committee for 2011 to 2013?**

There will be many positions opening this fall for any interested individuals. More information will follow about which positions are available.

Click here for the [position descriptions](#).

Join us at our next meeting on Thursday September 23rd at St. Charles, 45 Young St., at 4:15 or contact a committee member for more information.