



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

Teachers of English as a Second Language

www.teslhw.org

Fall 2010– Winter 2011

President's Message

Another school year has begun!

I wish you the best in the coming months – may you have a wonderful journey with your students and your colleagues!

I am thankful for the interest, enthusiasm and support you continue to show for the activities of the Hamilton affiliate. At the moment, your TESL Hamilton Executive is planning the TESL Spring Conference 2010.

Fall 2010 has been quite busy for TESL members in Ontario and especially in Hamilton. We had a wonderful TESL Hamilton Wentworth A.G.M. dinner with David Booth. Thanks to all the TESL members (Adult ESL & LINC, Elementary ESL, and Secondary ESL) and other Professionals in Childcare that at-

tended. We had a very successful outcome! Your support is much appreciated as we all work for one grand community in Hamilton!

We also had our annual TESL Ontario Conference on October 27, 28, 29, 2010. It was great to see our TESL professionals sharing and mingling with others. The workshops were very educational.

If this wasn't enough, I know that some of you also devoted valuable time to commemorate ESL Week with your students. I know that our students were enthusiastic to share their many customs with others from all over the world. Many schools in Hamilton celebrated with such enthusiasm the ESL WEEK !

May you have a joyful peaceful Holiday season! May all your wishes come true!!

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year!

by Ellis Parker Butler

Little cullud Rastus come a-skippin' down de street,
A-smilin' and a-grinnin' at every one he meet;
My, oh! He was happy! Boy, but was he gay!
Wishin' "Merry Chris'mus" an' "Happy New-Year's Day"
Wishin' that his wishes might every one come true—
And—bless your dear heart, honey,—I wish the same to you!

TESL Hamilton President

Happy holidays

Nelia Nowakowski

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Special points of interest:

- Read about St. Charles' students success in local TOEFL programs
- Gain a new perspective about immigrant women's experiences in Canada
- Print out an intermediate level quiz for your class in the new year

TOEFL at St. Charles' Adult Education Centres



St. Charles Adult Education Centres are currently running 2 TOEFL classes at the Mountain Centre on East 5th from 9:00 am. to 3:00 pm. from Monday to Friday and evening classes that run on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

The Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is an English proficiency test that is given to foreign students entering any college or university institution and who have been in Canada for less than 2 years.

The St. Charles TOEFL program is a test-preparation program that will not only educate and challenge the student but also continuously test and evaluate them on all four language components of

proficiency: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

The St. Charles TOEFL instructors have developed a unique curriculum that will motivate and insure the participants' with a 95% success rate. The intense course is fast-paced and requires each learner to enter the program with a minimum of CLB - 6 in all components. The material is all academic in nature and therefore imitates the post-secondary school environment, both in tasks, skills and expectations in assignments. Students are given a 4-hour TOEFL exam on a monthly basis with instructor feedback and evaluations of each students' strengths and weaknesses.

Students returning from the actual TOEFL exam have expressed gratitude for the meticulous preparation and the useful simulations of the test itself that are practiced in the classroom at St. Charles.

Our education centres have always been instrumental in some of the successful learners going out into our community and the TOEFL program is one more "feather in our hat".

Lily Pietra

St. Charles, Mountain
TOEFL Instructor

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Celebrating English as a Second Language Week Across Ontario

The 5th Annual St. Charles ESL Extravaganza 2010

Celebrating English as a Second Language Week across Ontario (October 24-30)

"Harvest of Cultures" celebrating the rich heritage of students from around the world was the theme of this FABULOUS EVENT.

St. Charles Adult and Education Centres offer ESL programming to roughly 2,000 adults every year, making it Hamilton's largest ESL service provider.

Day in and day out students come to our schools for language instruction but there's another kind of learning that takes place at our centres," said Master of Ceremonies Lily Pietra, an ESL Instructor at St. Charles East 5th: "the learning, acceptance and tolerance of different cultures that we see before us today." That diversity was on display in a Parade of Cultures, which featured students in native dress "from the runways of the world to our St. Charles stage," said Germes Orellano, who co

-hosted the event. The costume parade was followed by ten musical acts, including a closing salsa dance by students from St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School.

"I am exhausted from the energy in this room," said Superintendent of Education Mary Cipolla in closing remarks.

"From the theme 'Harvest of Cultures', I know we can look forward to many more of these celebrations."



What Does It Mean To Be An Immigrant Woman Here In Canada?

It means that we have left our family and friends, our homes and professions, everything we knew and loved in order to find a better life. We have left not necessarily because we wanted to, but because we had to.

Whether it was a personal or political reason, we left to get away from the violence that could befall, not only us, but our children and our children's children. For some of us they are the ones we fight for, and they are the ones that we want a better life for; this is why we have gone through everything.

We have crossed borders and some of us have crossed oceans in order to find that life for us and for them. When we arrive, we take a big breath in and say, "We are safe", but the fight is not over. Like the Berlin Wall, there are obstacles we need to overcome; and like a wall, we cannot go through them, but we need to find a way around it.

For an Immigrant woman that has gone through a lot already these obstacles might seem like an impene-

trable wall where we cannot see the end or the top of it. However, just like the Berlin Wall, if we chip away at them one at a time we can bring them down. These obstacles are the governing system of Canada which is aimed at protecting Canadians. This system is understandable not at helping Immigrants with the language and cultural barriers that we as Immigrants are not willing to give up, nor should we have to give them up.

In Canada, we are a mosaic. We do not need to assimilate. We need to break down, go around, or change the way we are perceived by others either because they are racist themselves or because they choose to believe the prejudices of others.

For some of us we are challenged by our own confidence, which we might have lost in the struggle of coming to Canada. Some of us have our own personal troubles which might be too many to count.

We are strong, intelligent women and we need to use both to get at the answer to one

question: how do we do this? If we want to regain our confidence we must break down our problems by talking about them, otherwise they stay inside and it is our confidence that will suffer.

In order to change the way people perceive us will take time, but it can be done by not allowing their prejudices to make us act in a negative way so that they will see how unjust those ideas are.

We must go around our language and cultural barriers by learning to come together with people who do not speak our language like we do with people from our own background, and in this way practicing English without losing our own language and culture.

The governing system in Canada is changing. It is not where it should be just yet, but little by little and with the help of Immigrants like us it will get there.

Written by: Lidia Urrutia, a participant in the Enterprising Women's Program at the Immigrant Women's Centre



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English for Specific Purposes



ST. CHARLES OFFERS WORK EXPERIENCE FOR NEWCOMERS

Hamilton's immigrant population is growing and provides our multi-cultural economic community added value. Our new Canadians bring with them their worldly experience. As the top educational facility for adults in the City of Hamilton it is our obligation to ensure that all of our students are equipped with the tools to become productive and happy citizens. As such, it is incumbent upon us to provide unique programming

that will secure language acquisition with work experience.

This became a reality with St. Charles' Specialized language Programming. We have developed employment sector language specific terminology in Medical, Business and Hospitality and have added a work placement component.

Over the last several months many of our students in our current Hospitality Program, have been so successful at their placements that they were offered work. To date there are 10 students who were hired by their co-op employer. Several oth-

ers were offered to stay on as a volunteer after the program was finished. Others have gone on to other things but through the program they now have garnered some "Canadian Experience".

We are grateful to our community employers and trust that the community at large appreciates the specialized language training component that is offered through St. Charles' E.S.L. programming.

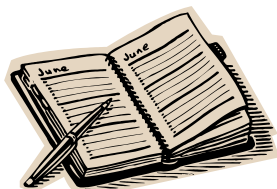
Our website offers current information and welcomes your visit to www.stcharles.ca

Keep your e-mail address updated through TESL Ontario to receive regular updates from TESL Hamilton.

Mark your calendars!

Our TESL Hamilton Conference will be

**Saturday, March 26th at
the Hamilton Convention Centre.**



Check your e-mail in the new year for the conference and registration package. Information will also be posted on our [website](http://www.stcharles.ca).

A Bit Of Fun For Your Intermediate Speaking Class

Quiz

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.

2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?

3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?

4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?

5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?

6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.

7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you

name at least half of them?

8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.

9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

4. The fruit with its seeds on the outside ... Strawberry.

5. How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? It grew inside the bottle. (The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.)

6. Three English words beginning with dw Dwarf, dwell and dwindle.

7. Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar. . Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.

8. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh Lettuce.

9. Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with 'S'. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.



“Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.”



Answers To Quiz:

1. The one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends . Boxing

2. North American landmark constantly moving backward. Niagara Falls (The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.)

3. Only two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons .. Asparagus and rhubarb.