



Releasing the Power

Mission Statement

To support all individuals with learning disabilities in reaching their full potential in a community that values their unique abilities and contributions.



**United Way
Centraide**
Sudbury and/or District

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Looking Back!

As we echo our national motto “the right to learn, the power to achieve” here in Sudbury and across Northern Ontario, we look forward in 2011 to building on the momentum of our theme launched in the fall. **RELEASE THE POWER** is our community response to collectively support students with learning disabilities. At the launch of our initiative held in the School of Education at Laurentian University, over 100 educators, future teachers, students and community leaders joined to celebrate “release the power” by working together in supporting students. Laurentian University President and Honourary Co-chair Dominic Giroux challenged everyone in his statement: “Our goal is to raise awareness and to gain community support for individuals with learning disabilities, so they are able to reach their full potential. By releasing their power, students with learning disabilities have the ability to succeed in life and school, to pursue post secondary education, and to find meaningful and exciting careers in the workplace.”



As well, Honourary Co-chair, Krissy Battistoni, 1st year student in the Sport Psychology and Concurrent Education Programs at Laurentian, emphasized that “it takes a town to raise a child everyone working together at home, at school and in the community, to support success by releasing the power of students with learning disabilities.” One of The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury’s most powerful partnerships is with the School of Education. Over 100 third-year Concurrent Education students receive 16 hours of training in special education focused on learning disabilities and are then matched as coaches mentoring Grade 7, 8 and 9 students or placed in classrooms to help release the power of students with learning disabilities.

Moving Forward—Releasing the Power in 2011!

Our Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that two community members have come forward to be Co-chairs of October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month for 2011. Both of these individuals are already community champions supporting children and youth with learning disabilities in Sudbury. Collectively, these individuals represent the 3 critical elements of our organization - family, education and community. One is a Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) and Student Success Leader at a local high school, the other is an individual who was born in West Germany and has lived in Vancouver, Okanagan Valley, Nipigon, Thunder Bay and Owen Sound before moving to Sudbury. Both have roots in the police service and are community leaders.

Our 2011 theme is “the Right to Learn, the Power to Achieve” these two 'powerful' individuals are joining us as we release that power and support our rising stars. It is indeed our pleasure to introduce you to..... **hint on page two.**

YOUTH AND STUDENTS

The Coaches' Corner

Because coaching is an exercise in trust, the positive emotional connection between a coach and a student is critical for the success of the relationship. For young people with learning disabilities, such trust is essential, but often difficult to develop. This year's concurrent education students at Laurentian University are focused on building trust in their pre-practicum placement choice of the Coaching Program. 58 third year university coaches have been paired with students from Grades 7, 8 and 9 of the two local English school boards, meeting once a week for an hour and a half at city public library locations.

In preparation for their coaching sessions, the university students, under the leadership of Laurentian's Carolyn Crang, have been involved in presentations given by local experts

from the field of education. Topics covered have included learning differently, special education in Ontario, the brain, resiliency, IEPs, and assistive technology. With this beginning knowledge, the coaches are working one-on-one with their younger partners, all the while building relationships of trust.

In general, feedback from parents and coaches has been positive. Parents' comments confirm that their children's coaches are supporting the learning by building trust and confidence. Coaches are sharing personal learning strategies as well as ones introduced in class presentations. To assist parents as they support their children in their learning, the coaching program parent liaison from the LDAS office has maintained contact with parents via email.

Thus, the program is evolving well this term, and will continue into the new year. LDAS will carry on with its role, supporting parents and coaches, because most importantly, our young people will gain trust in their personal abilities and trust in the caring adults around them who want them to succeed.

Hint for our Honourary Co-chairs

One enjoys motorcycles, the other likes being close to the water.
Any Ideas? Keep reading!

A Parent Writes

"At this point, I can only tell you how grateful I am and appreciate this program. I love being kept in the loop. Keep those emails coming".

Coaching Program Comments from Parents

"I am very pleased with the work they have completed and the relationship that they are building."

"We are really happy with the coaching program. Our son and his coach really seem to have connected."

"Our daughter has a great coach... she is enjoying her sessions."

"Our coach is well prepared and organized for the sessions."

"What a great program. Our daughter loves her coach."

Mark Your Calendar

Coaching Program
Graduation Ceremony
March 31, 2011



Self-Advocacy Leads to Personal Power

2010 LDAS summer students, Krissy Battistoni & Jennifer Harrington, have created a Self Advocacy Workshop for high school students that can be linked to through our web site: www.ldasudbury.ca.

The presentation takes a fun-filled approach to the skill of self-advocating as it parallels the challenges faced by the main character in the movie, *Billy Madison*.

With clip art and references to the movie, the key points describe self advocacy:

1. Identify how your needs are not being met & set a goal to resolve it;
2. Get in touch with your strengths and use them to express your needs;

3. Stay focused and overcome the obstacles that may stand in your way;
4. Surround yourself with supportive people;
5. Problem solve with the effort being on finding common ground; and
6. Celebrate successful attempts at self-advocating / learn from times that are not.



“Personal Power is the ability to achieve what you want. More than anything else, it is personal power that brings you success and happiness.” www.buildfreedom.com

The Sky is the Limit - Randolph Sealy

In October, a former member of the Canadian National Track and Field Team and national record holder for the 50 m sprint, Randolph Sealy, stopped by Cambrian College to talk to almost 100 high school students with learning disabilities from the Rainbow District School Board and the Sudbury Catholic District School Board. These students were getting information on transitioning to post secondary education in colleges and universities across the province. No, Randolph wasn't here talking about his athletic skills, but about his academic achievements and success in life. Mr. Sealy is now a professional social worker with the Toronto District School Board. Having grown up with all the challenges associated with a learning disability, he suggested to the students that by working with your strengths and self-advocating for what you need to achieve, you can succeed on and off the track. Mr. Sealy was extremely impressed with the facilities and programs provided by the

Glenn Crombie Centre for disability services.

At an evening workshop for students, parents and educators, he described that of all children in Canada with disabilities, 59.8% have learning disabilities. “The Canadian statistics talk about one in 10, the American statistics talk about 1.5 in 10; and it is a life long diagnosis,” said Sealy. But he was quick to add that they all have great abilities and power because they have average to above average intelligence. They just need support in releasing that power.

During his visit to Sudbury he also spent some time at Laurentian University, School of Education (and the track where he competed). The following excerpts are from an article by Andy Veilleux, Assistant Editor of *Lambda*, in the December 9, 2010 edition of the biweekly student newspaper at Laurentian University. Mr. Sealy elaborates on releasing the power.

Sealy believes that students with learning disabilities can excel if they have access to the proper tools in order to excel. “I think once they have the knowledge of the diagnosis they know what they need in order to learn,” Sealy says. “Once they know what they need to learn, the sky is the limit... I'm not saying it's going to be perfect, or the most wonderful all the time; it doesn't take away from all the other stuff you have to deal with in life, but it means your potential to learn, and the barrier to reaching all that potential isn't as big.”

Quotations

Fear paralyzes:
curiosity empowers.
Be more interested
than afraid”.

**American
Educational
Psychologist,
Patricia Alexander**

Courage doesn't
always roar.
Sometimes courage is
the quiet voice at the
end of the day saying,
‘I will try again
tomorrow’.

**American Writer,
Mary Anne
Radmacher**

P A R E N T S

Parent's Power to Achieve

Wendy Larouche, our Resource Facilitator will work one on one with you to answer questions, provide resources to help you make informed decisions and offer advocacy support as you navigate the school system.

We want to work with you as you transition through each stage of your child's development and success. Our "Power to Achieve" resource binder is tailored to your needs, whether you are in the early stages of seeking support for the identification of a learning disability or transitioning to high school and beyond. We want to walk the journey with you, providing you with the resources you will need to help release the power of your child in reaching their full potential.

Contact our office to book an appointment at (705) 522-0100 or resource@ldasudbury.ca

Looking for resources or advocacy support for your rising star?

Look at our Parent Brochure!
We are here to help!

IPRC Breaking News... A New LDAS Service for Parents/Students

Effective February 1, 2011 a representative of LDAS, at the request of a parent or guardian of a child with a learning disability, will attend the initial Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC) meeting with them, at the time and location scheduled. The representative has received training and accreditation from the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario and has experience in the IPRC process. The purpose of our attendance with a parent/guardian is to offer them support, encouragement and understanding of this recent and significant development in their child's education.

Consistent with the recently released document "Parents in Partnership: A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools", LDAS wants to contribute to the essential relationship between parents and schools, particularly with students receiving special education programs and services. LDAS also wants to demonstrate that by working together and focusing on the individual needs of the student, the partnership between learning at home and school can be extremely beneficial to our children with learning disabilities.

Growing Success through Progress and Provincial Report Cards

There is a new look to how schools report on your child's success. The Ministry of Education introduced new Progress Report as well as Provincial Report Card templates for the September 2010 school year.

Elementary Progress Report Cards are used between October 20 and November 20 of the school year. Elementary Provincial Report Cards are sent out twice per year: the first between January 20 and February 20 and the second towards the end of June.

Secondary report cards are issued two times a semester: the first report is issued in October/November and the final is issued in January/February for first semester. March/April is the first reporting period for second semester with the final report being issued in June.

Parents should note the following information when reviewing their child's progress:

IEP with Accommodations Only

If the student's IEP requires only accommodations to support learning in a subject and/or strand, teachers will not check the "IEP" box. The letter grade or percentage mark is based on the regular grade expectations.

IEP with Modified Curriculum Expectations

The IEP box must be checked if the student is working with a modified program. This (letter grade/percentage mark) is based on expectations in the IEP that vary from the grade "X" expectations (and/or) are an (increase/decrease) in the (number and/or complexity) of curriculum expectations.

To learn more about reporting student's achievement click on the link <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/forms/report/1998/report98.html>

PATHWAYS — LEARNING DISABILITIES CONFERENCE

Thursday, May 5 and Friday, May 6, 2011

At Cambrian College's main campus in Sudbury, Ontario

Cambrian College – The Glenn Crombie Centre, in partnership with Nipissing University – Counselling and Disability Services, is hosting the most comprehensive learning disability transition conference in Northeastern Ontario.

Participants (secondary students, parents, and educators) **will receive information about:**

- Planning for postsecondary education
- Understanding learning disabilities
- Understanding psychological tests and assessments
- Surviving college and university
- Assistive technology
- Enhancing the learning experience and supporting students with learning disabilities in the classroom

Cost

Parents & Educators: One day **\$90** - Two Days **\$160**

Secondary students: One day **\$40** - Two Days **\$70**

For more information, contact Marlene McIntosh at:

Cambrian College
The Glenn Crombie Centre for disability services
1400 Barrydowne Road, Sudbury, ON P3A 3V8
Phone (705) 566-8101, extension 7219
Fax (705) 566-5452
marlene.mcintosh@cambriancollege.ca
www.cambriancollege.ca/disabilityservices

For Parents, Students, and Educators

EDUCATORS

Workshops

The following 3 workshops complement and build upon each other.

The presentations were created to provide professional development opportunities for teachers, EA's and special education staff.

Through experiential and tactile examples, these fun workshops are intended to support “the principles of universal design and differentiated instruction ensuring that planning is flexible, supportive and adjustable” and that they increase the access to the curriculum for all students. (Ministry of Education *Learning For All K – 12*)

EDUCATOR I: I Learn Differently, Please Teach Me Differently

(1 ½ Hours)

Goal: To understand what a learning disability is, what it is not, and what it feels like.

Rationale: To build awareness and empathy regarding the challenges faced by students with learning disabilities.

EDUCATOR II: Teach Me Differently with Differentiated Instruction

(1 ½ Hours)

Goal: To explore what differentiated instruction is and to align with the requirements of responding to the variance among learners in the classroom.

Ministry of Education *Learning for All K – 12* referenced throughout.

Rationale: “The educator approach is now ‘**how they learn**’ as opposed to ‘**how I teach!**’”
Barry Finlay, Ontario Director of Special Education

EDUCATOR III: Universal Design for Learning (Created in partnership with RDSB)

(1 ½ Hours)

Goal: To model the UDL approach for educators while reinforcing the messages regarding this teaching approach as outlined in the Ministries: *Learning for All: K – 12*.

Rationale: UDL - “What is essential for some is good for all”, ensures that individual students are taught based on how they learn, with the bonus of, additional clarification or strategies that are readily available for **all** learners.

For additional information contact:

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury

Angie DeMarco (705) 522-0100

Community Outreach & Education Coordinator

communityoutreach@ldasudbury.ca

Workshop Feedback

EDUCATORS RDSB PD Day - UDL Nov 19, 2010

Fast paced, interesting and meaningful to ALL teachers Education Assistants & students. Definitely the most meaningful and informative PD Session I've been to in my 8 years of teaching...I feel armed with knowledge and motivated to do more!! My faith in PD is restored. Thank you!

EDUCATORS SCDSB PD Day – DI April, 23, 2010

Incorporating bodily kinesthetic activities gave me ideas for teaching. It was informative and it was easy to follow. It makes a sceptical teacher a believer in D.I.

PARENT GPS Workshop

Oct. 27, 2010

There are many learning opportunities and points that can be used and conveyed to families with children with learning disabilities. The GPS was a very well addressed presentation. Keep up the great work!

Laurentian Students, 5th Yr. Concurrent-Ed

Sept 28, 2010

Very informative and motivating! The presentation directly affects us as future educators. It was an engaging presentation where it was easy to stay focused.

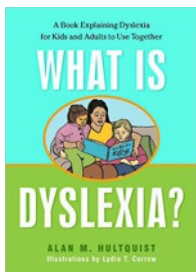
Recognizing Powerful Teachers with our Educator of the Year Award

Nominations are now being accepted by our Board of Directors to recognize outstanding teachers who work day in and day out releasing the power in the classroom! The award will be presented to our 2011 Educator the Year, at the Cambrian College Pathways Conference on Learning Disabilities being held May 5 and 6. Nominations will be accepted until

April 15, 2011 and can be submitted by e-mail to info@ldasudbury.ca or by fax (705) 522 2289.

Nominations will include contact information of the individual teacher, parent or student making the nomination and the identification of the Nominee, along with supporting documentation of 300 words or

less describing the above and beyond efforts of this teacher to warrant their recognition of supporting their efforts to release the power of students with learning disabilities. Testimonials from students/parents may also be included. This is a great opportunity to recognize exceptional teachers!



NEW Resources at Mackenzie Street Library:

Thanks to our partnership with The Greater City of Sudbury Public Libraries, we continue to re-fresh the Learning Disabilities Resource Section at the Mackenzie St. Branch. One of

the latest acquisitions is the following book:

What is Dyslexia - A Book Explaining Dyslexia for Kids & Adults to use together – By Alan Hultquist

In a clear, concise fashion the author communicates that dyslexia is caused by a brain difference, and when children have dyslexia, their brains are different but not

broken or damaged. Alan Hultquist's main message is that people with dyslexia are courageous and smart. When we all understand what dyslexia is, we can then appreciate the differences and work with their strengths.

This book will be especially useful if it is read with/ to a child who is undergoing testing as the book explores the likelihood of a learning disability. Go to www.amazon.ca and key in the title and author to view a sampling of its contents. Note that on Pg. 92, The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada is listed, which would then link to our web site: www.ldasudbury.ca

LDAS Services we provide:

THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO



**United Way
Centraide**
Sudbury and/or District



**ldas • Learning Disabilities
Association of Sudbury**
The right to learn, the power to achieve

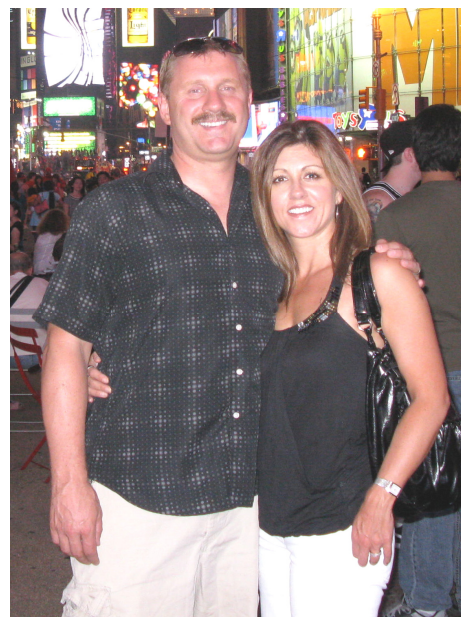
PO Box 21038
1935 Paris Street,
Plaza 69
Sudbury, ON P3E 6G6

Phone: 705-522-0100
Fax: 705-522-2289
info@ldasudbury.ca
www.ldasudbury.ca

- **One-on-one resource/advocacy support** to families as they “navigate the school system”
- **Development and delivery** of workshops and presentations designed to raise awareness through our Community Outreach Program
- **Extensive resource library** offered through our partnership with the Greater Sudbury Public Library
- **Gr. 7 & 8 Coaching Program** in partnership with Laurentian University
- **School Age Presentations:**

Happy Feet	Gr. 2 - 4
LD 101	Gr. 5 - 8
Self-Advocacy	Gr. 7 - 8
- **Edu-Kinethetics** an interactive workshop to address anxiety and negative emotions
- **Newsletters** “Working Together for Rising Stars”
- **Representation** on School Board SEAC Committees, RDSB & SCDSB
- **Web Site:** www.ldasudbury.ca

Introducing this year's Honourary Co-chairs



**Police Chief Frank Elsner
and his wife, Sue Elsner**

Representing You at the Table in the Community

Two very important advocacy roles we play in Sudbury are at the Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC) of the Rainbow District and Sudbury Catholic District School Boards and the City of Greater Sudbury Accessibility Advisory Panel.

For many years we have been active participants on SEAC.

These committees have an important legal role in providing advice and input into special education budgets, programs and services provided by local school boards across the province. Our representative of the recently appointed SEAC at the Sudbury Catholic District School Board is Giulia Langlois. Ron Lessard LDAS Executive Director, and Wendy Larouche, Resource Facilitator sit on the Rainbow District School Board SEAC and represent the interests of

students with learning disabilities.

Both Giulia and Ron are chairs of their respective committee. Information about SEACs and the School Board Special Education Plans can be found on both school board websites: www.rainbowschools.ca and www.scdsb.edu.on.ca.

With the new Municipal Council recently elected, we are awaiting the Application Process for appointments to the City of Greater Sudbury Area Accessibility Advisory Panel for 2011. Membership appointments are made for up to twelve (12) members, the majority of whom shall be persons with disabilities as defined in Section 2 (1) of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. The mandate of the Accessibility Advisory Panel is to provide to Council on matters related to accessibility for

persons with disabilities. Such accessibility areas include infrastructure/buildings, transportation, employment, information and communications. Advice is also provided to the City of Greater Sudbury.

The Accessibility Plan and other municipal matters are defined in the terms of reference. In recent years, LDAS has provided information to the panel, but this will be our first opportunity to apply for membership on this important community panel.

For further information, link to:
[http://
www.city.greatersudbury.on.ca/
cms/index.cfm?
app=div_councilagendas&lang=en
&currID=6680](http://www.city.greatersudbury.on.ca/cms/index.cfm?app=div_councilagendas&lang=en&currID=6680)