

The Adult Ed Edge

**YOUR SOURCE FOR ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY,
NEWS, AND PROGRAM INFORMATION .**

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**Madawaska/MSAD #33
Adult & Community
Education**

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Madawaska Celebrates Adult Education



Madawaska/MSAD # 33 Adult & Community Education recognized

from all area communities enrolled in programming, including Madawaska, Grand Isle, Frenchville, St. Agatha, and Sinclair.

Adult Education Director, Christine Cowie, congratulated learners on their accomplishments saying, "[Returning to school] takes determination and courage. It isn't always easy . . . when your past experience may not have been one of success and enjoyment. Education has changed and you have changed. Come and visit us, you may rediscover the fun in learning."

the academic accomplishments of learners during an end-of-year dinner held at MMHS on May 23. During the 2012-2013 academic year, learners participated in Vocational Training including C.N.A. certification, College Transitions, High School completion, Foreign Language study, English Language Improvement, & Computers and Technology Training. Learners



Jamie, Alesha, Monica

4 Graduate with Diplomas

Madawaska Adult education offers learners 2 paths to a HS credential, the GED & Adult HS Diploma

The highlight of the adult education celebration was the graduation and awarding of High School & GED Diplomas. This year's graduates were Alesha Kelley, Jamie Gendreau, Monica Sirois, & Casey Violette. Christine Cowie addressed the graduates saying, "Adult learners face many challenges. Our graduates tonight faced the challenges, stayed focused, and tonight they realize their dream." Monica Sirois, 2013 GED graduate and keynote speaker, had this to say about her experience, "We needed discipline to attend classes . . . We had to summon up courage, take the next step, and no longer be ashamed . . . I don't know what the future holds, but it's looking a lot brighter."

College Transitions



The goal of the College Transitions Program, subsidized by grant funds, is to support adults in reading/writing, math, & computer skills as they prepare to enter college. College Transitions also helps students with financial

France McDermott aid applications, study skills, & time & stress management skills. We have served a total of 90 college-bound learners in the past 6 years & have funding for the next fiscal year. This year 17 adults participated; many have already completed college classes.

France McDermott, 2013 graduate of College Transitions, shared her experience at this year's graduation banquet, "One day I was out of a job and my thought was, 'Why not return to school?' Nothing was stopping me . . . With hard work, anything is possible. . . I got the foundation I was looking for."

Faces of Adult Ed - Learner Testimonials



Verna Levesque

Therese Daigle and Verna Levesque, who both returned to school after their children were grown with families of their own, spoke about their years of attending adult education, years that started with learning English as a Second Language and progressed to improving their oral and written English Language skills as well as learning math. Both ladies came from a primarily French background and have not only been able to learn from what Adult Education has to offer, but they have also helped enrich the educational experiences of their peers and instructors. Therese said, "I always enjoyed learning . . . Understanding any language opens up a new world with connections to other people . . . I am meeting new people and keeping my brain active as I become a lifelong learner." Verna spoke these personal words, "I was ashamed and embarrassed because I did not have an education . . . I felt like I was carrying a disgraceful secret. I avoided [people]. . . I took advantage of adult education classes. I am now more comfortable with people. I now read every day. I look forward to enrolling in adult education classes again this fall."



Therese Daigle

DID

Maine trails the rest of the nation in college-going - both among recent high school graduates & adults - and 4-year college graduation rates. College Transitions can help you have the college success you deserve.





**DID YOU
KNOW . . .**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts above average job growth for nursing & psychiatric aides between 2008 and 2018 due to baby boomers getting older.



Adult Educator of the Year

Madawaska & MSAD #33 Adult Education added a new item to this year's graduation banquet agenda to honor a veteran adult education instructor. Gert Thibodeau, St. John Valley art instructor for over 25 years, was awarded the Madawaska Adult Educator of the Year award for her years of dedicated teaching. Gert's Art and Painting class, a staple in our adult education programming, once again provided samples from this year's classes in their display of student paintings at this year's banquet.

Gert encourages a mix of talents and mediums in her art classes, from the beginner just exploring their artistic abilities to the seasoned artist. She uses a variety of methods with her students, helping them gain confidence and knowledge in their individual abilities and styles. She also offers 1:1 classes for those who want to further develop their talents.



Gert Thibodeau

Madawaska Adult Education Volunteers / Partners: Helping Make It All Possible

Adult education spans a wide range of topics and interests. We could not offer this wide variety of programming without partners and volunteers. Maine Educational Opportunity Center and Women, Work, & Community and their representatives, Teri Morse and Suzanne Jandreau, have worked with our College

Transitions program for the past 6 years providing support in career counseling, financial aid, stress and time management, and study skills.

The Long Lake Public Library staff, Jackie and Joan Ayotte, 2 retired educators, are the forces behind grants that have provided our program with trade books that match GED curricula. This year, they assisted in organizing and recruiting for a new grant-funded course entitled "What To Do About Senior Health". Other partners this academic year included Connie McClellan, retired dietician, who shared her knowledge and expertise of diet and nutrition, introducing the new USDA website "My Pyramid.gov". We also have the privilege of partnering with current high school teachers who provide their knowledge and experience which benefits adult learners.



Adult Education
College Transitions

2013 C.N.A. Graduates: 10 from Madawaska & MSAD #33

The St. John Valley Adult Education Collaborative, which consists of a partnership between Madawaska & MSAD #33 and Fort Kent, sponsors C.N.A. training in the St. John Valley. The C.N.A. course prepares learners to give basic nursing assistance under the supervision of a registered nurse. It provides opportunities to learn skills that enable the nursing assistant to maintain a proper physical and emotional patient environment, report and record observations, provide assistance in personal hygiene, assist with nutrition, elimination and emergency situations, and general patient care. The course consists of 180 hours of instruction including 90 hours of classroom instruction, 20 hours of lab, and 70 hours of clinical practice.

Upon the completion of the course, participants have the opportunity to sit for the State of Maine Certified Nursing Assistant certifying exam. After passing this exam, individuals may apply to be added to the State of Maine Certified Nursing Assistant Registry qualifying them for employment as a CNA in the state of Maine.

This year's 2 classes graduated 10 Madawaska & MSAD #33 students: Mindy Chamberland, Dana Cyr, Charles Edge, Elizabeth Guerrette, Shelbie Guerrette, Samantha Long, Samantha Morneault, Cindy Ouellette, Andrea Picard, and Anne Marie Picard.



Adult Education & Congress Mondial 2014

Madawaska Adult Education has invested efforts into helping promote the 2014 World Acadian Congress. We started off the year with our first Grosses Têtes class, which was so popular, we created a second one to accommodate the number of enrolled participants. The class spilled over into the spring semester, with students from the fall finishing their projects and helping new students begin new projects.

The graduation banquet stage was full of samples from the Grosses Têtes

class. Mrs. Victorine Dionne, retired art instructor, donated hours of her time and expertise in this immense project, which has produced dozens of Big Heads, all unique in design and personality.

When Mrs. Dionne was unavailable, Nicole Plourde helped keep the projects moving forward. Nicole will be leading the next session of classes scheduled to begin in the fall of this year.

Another class dedicated to promoting the 2014 World Acadian Congress was the Acadian Cooking class led by local chef and author of Recipes from Cafe de la Place, Mike Corbin. This was a demonstration class with samples of tasty treats each week. We welcome suggestions for other course ideas relevant to the World Acadian Congress and Acadian history & culture.

