

TESL WW NEWS

Doom and gloom commentary about climate change aside, we have all been eased into autumn. Few of us can claim the same about the fall teaching term, as we find ourselves in the icy grip of midterm exams, report cards, and countless other deadlines. For these reasons, we promise to keep this edition of the newsletter brief. But please, take a few minutes to get to know our new WW-TESL president, Dara Lane, and familiarize yourselves with our other new executive members; see what PD opportunities lie ahead this year, and become aware of ways in which we can all celebrate what is so often taken for granted – ESL teaching!

Our executive is growing! Thank you to our committee members for volunteering their time and serving as committee members for our affiliate.

TESL WW committee members for 2007-2008.

(President)	Dara Lane	daralane112@yahoo.ca
(Past President)	Julia Williams	jpwillia@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca
(President Elect)	Maggie Heeney	mheeney@rogers.com
(Affiliate Director)	Kathryn Brillinger	kbrillinger@conestogac.on.ca
(Treasurer)	Lorraine Lasmanis	llasmanis@sympatico.ca
(Membership Secretary)	Lisa Mitchell	lizajanemitch@hotmail.com
(Newsletter Co-editor)	Keely Cook	keely@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca
(Newsletter Co-editor)	Elizabeth Matthews	ematthew@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca
(Secretary)	Kim Burrell	burrellk@rogers.com
(Secretary)	Carrie Baumken	cbaumken@admmail.uwaterloo.ca
(Member at large)	Pat Skinner	skinna@golden.net
(Member at large)	Stefan Rehm	srehm@warts.uwaterloo.ca
(Member at large)	Deborah Andre	deborah.andre@sympatico.ca

A Message from our President

Greetings TESL WW Members,

I hope this message finds you well. It is hard to believe that we're almost in November! By now, no doubt, you have all settled into your work routine and are looking forward to events of the near future.

To begin with, I would like to inform you that Laura Stoutenberg has had to resign as our Affiliate Representative. Her new responsibilities as Chair of Conestoga's English Language Institute are preventing her from taking on extra curricular responsibilities. We wish Laura all the best. In her place, Kathryn Brillinger has agreed to take on those responsibilities. Kathryn has served TESL WW in the past, so we're all glad that she has agreed to serve again. At this time, I would also like to welcome our new members-at-large, Debbie Andre and Stefan Rehm.

Your TESL WW committee has already met twice this fall in order to organize the next conference. There won't be a fall workshop because the attendance numbers would indicate that it would be best if we provide one full-day conference early next year rather than a rushed half-day fall workshop this year. Therefore, we are working toward this one-day conference, which will take place on Saturday, February 9th, at Conestoga College. So please mark that day on your calendar. More details will follow. Of course, this conference does not preclude the AGM.

If any one of you would like to present at that conference, please send me a 300-word abstract on your topic by Monday, November 26th. This would allow the committee to make informed decisions.

On behalf of all the members of the committee, I wish you a wonderful fall term, and look forward to seeing you in February.

Dara Lane
WW TESL President, 2007-2008

Celebrate Excellence... Celebrate Success

Congratulations to Betty Thiessen who, in May was awarded the W.T. Townshend Award of Excellence in teaching. Betty has dedicated much of her life (35+ years) to delivering quality ESL instruction to young language learners and their families in the KW area. Currently at Rosemount Public School in Kitchener, Betty is committed to improving the learning experiences of her students both in the classroom and the community at large. For her obvious love of the profession, and her tireless efforts, we have much to celebrate in Betty's accomplishments, and so many ways to be inspired! Thank you Betty, and Congratulations!!!!

And if you, personally, draw inspiration from any of your colleagues, consider nominating them for their teaching successes. **WW TESL Book Award** nominations will be available at our upcoming P.D. event in February, and honourees will be announced at the AGM in May. In addition, students, those who make our work, and often our lives, so rich and rewarding, will also be honoured. Please share your stories of any students deserving of a book award by filling out a nomination form in February.

Celebrate ESL Week!

The WW TESL Book Awards are a small, but symbolic gesture of appreciation for teachers and students, but for those wanting to celebrate on a larger scale ESL week, November 17 – 24, provides you and your institution with an opportunity for grander gestures of gratitude for the work that we do and the students we share it with. Visit the TESL Ontario website to learn of the variety of ways other TESL Ontario members have decided to mark this auspicious occasion!

A Message from our Outgoing Affiliate Director

The board of TESL Ontario is currently undergoing a review of its structure and process, with a view to increasing the board's effectiveness and accountability to its members. More information on this process will be featured in the next TESL Ontario e-bulletin, which will be out before the November conference AGM, where the board will introduce a motion that we update the structure and function of the TESL Ontario Board. Hope you come out and vote at the AGM!

This is my last report as Executive Director. I'm currently on the ad hoc implementation committee that is examining ways in which the board could be restructured to respond to the input from board members and to advice from an expert in governance retained by TESL Ontario. After the November AGM, Kathryn Brillinger will take over as the new affiliate director. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact me at lstoutenburg@conestogac.on.ca

It's been a pleasure to serve the TESL WW Membership.
Laura Stoutenburg

A Call to our Members...

If you have something interesting that you would like to teach fellow members, or if you've completed a research that would be of interest to everyone, please submit a 300-word summary/abstract of what you would like to present on, so the executive committee can make informed choices. The deadline for submission is December 10th, 2007.