

## Continuing Education Certification Program now open to all LAA members

By Sandy Campbell, Diane Clark, Andrea Emberley, and Allison Sivak

Following the highly successful Continuing Education Certification Pilot Project, undertaken on behalf of The Partnership, the Library Association of Alberta has decided to continue the program for its own membership.

The Pilot formally ended on August 31, 2010. Over the coming months, the Pilot Project Team will undertake an evaluation of the program (including a survey for participants) and make recommendations to The Partnership concerning broader applications. In the meantime, the program has been so well received by Pilot participants, that LAA Board has agreed to continue it within the Association.

Over the course of the Pilot, many LAA members have expressed interest in joining the program. As of September 1, the program is open and able to receive new participants. The Pilot participants who have successfully met the program requirements will be able to continue in the program, counting their Pilot year as the first year of a three-year cycle. Over this cycle, participants will need to collect 100 continuing education points (minimum of 30 per year). Points are collected in a variety of subject or practice categories (e.g., technical services, advocacy, or facilities and equipment) and through a variety of different learning activities (e.g, workplace learning, study leave, or service to LAA).

New participants may join the program by e-mailing Diane Clark [diane.clark@ualberta.ca](mailto:diane.clark@ualberta.ca). They will receive an enrolment package, including a project outline, descriptions of program requirements, and forms for recording continuing education activities. All participants should be aware that after the Pilot review and evaluation, some of the processes may change. Current participants have already recommended some positive changes and the survey will undoubtedly point to others. The Partnership may also find other efficiencies and improvements, working at a national scale.

For further information on the LAA website, see the FAQ on the LAA home page under the Continuing Education tab, <http://www.laa.ca/page/certification%20program%20pilot.aspx>

LAA member Karen Labuik has really gone all out in her retirement . . . all the way to the Republic of Georgia!

She is living with a host family in the village of Sachthere and teaching English in the village of Chorvila. You can read about her adventure on her blog at <http://klabuik2.wordpress.com>. Here is an excerpt:

*“The children call me Miss Karen. Most of them wear uniforms to school – the younger girls have grey skirts with red plaid inserts in the pleats and grey or red plaid vests. The older girls have similar uniforms, but in two shades of grey. The boys wear dark grey pants and light grey jackets. Completing the look are white blouses and socks or leggings of every imaginable colour and pattern. When the children want to attract the attention of a teacher, they use a two finger wave which begins at the elbow. The letter ‘v’ is very difficult for most of the kids – I think they try to blend it with ‘w’, which has no equivalent in the Georgian alphabet. We drilled ‘v’ today – put your two top teeth on your bottom lip and say ‘vuh’! A Prairie Alphabet saved us today, as the workbooks have not arrived for all of the grade 11 and 12 classes. Much of the vocabulary was new to them – gopher, dugout, Quonset – and we had fun defining (demonstrating) ‘knuckle.’ I only had four classes today and so had time to begin some work for teaching the little kids – small posters of numbers up to eight – 1 apple, 2 boys, 3 chickens, 4 dogs, etc. I can now draw a chicken. Every day, I wish that I had brought more books, posters and flashcards with me.”*