



G.E.D. Preparation Learner Testimonial



That's Cody D'Heilly-Labelle, outside the Tri-County Literacy Council building, proudly displaying a Grade 12 equivalency diploma, thanks to the GED preparation course.

second graduate of the GED course program launched by Tri-County Literacy Council last fall.

It also got him a public speaking gig. On Thursday morning, D'Heilly-Labelle was back at Tri-County Literacy Council building in downtown Cornwall, talking about his experiences with current students in both the GED and Literacy Basic Skills program.

"This place is so effective, D'Heilly-Labelle said. "They taught me how to do (math) quadratics in just a couple of days."

The new program offers adult learners an opportunity to upgrade their academic skills in preparation for the GED test to attain their Grade 12 equivalency diploma. Dina McGowan, the Executive Director at the agency, explained the GED test was quite popular in the United States, but for some time was an unknown in this region.

Cody's Story

Singing the GED's praises at Cornwall's Tri-County Literacy Council

Todd Hambleton, Cornwall
Standard-Freeholder

What did taking the General Educational Development (GED) preparation course do for Cody D'Heilly-Labelle?

A lot of things, beginning with the 29-year-old attaining a Grade 12 equivalency diploma.

"This opens up a whole new world for me," said D'Heilly-Labelle, the

“I was quite surprised, to be honest, that it was so unheard of here (in Cornwall and area), in that we’re a border city,” she said.

By offering the preparation course, it made Grade 12 graduation more of a possibility, as the GED course can help learners identify their strengths and weaknesses, study for the test effectively and learn policy and procedures involved in the GED test.

Basically, the GED route provides learners the opportunity to achieve their Grade 12 equivalency diploma at their own pace, eliminating the need to return to traditional classrooms.

“It was completely at my own pace,” said D’Heilly-Labelle, who struggled as a kid in the traditional school classroom setting in Montreal where he grew up.

He said he suffered from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and kept dropping out. At age 17, and with just a Grade 9 level of education, he dropped out of his adult education classes to take a job as a computer technologist in Montreal.

“I got a taste of the working life (and never finished high school),” D’Heilly-Labelle said.

But times changed, so did his career, and D’Heilly-Labelle in June got a truck driving licence.

But, “it was difficult to get a job, (employers wanted original high school transcripts),” he said.

D’Heilly-Labelle decided it was time to take advantage of GED in his new home of Cornwall.

“I was in a rush to get employment,” he said.

D’Heilly-Labelle stayed with the GED preparation course for less than a month this past summer, but he got all he needed out of it, writing the high school equivalency test at Algonquin College in Ottawa, his marks in the top-25 percentile among traditional high school graduates.

“I absolutely recommend (GED),” he said. Even if you’re already employed, why not (take the course)?”

The preparation course provides each learner with assistance in the subjects covered in the GED test – including math, science, reading, writing and social studies – as well as instruction on effective studying and test-taking strategies for taking the GED test.

For more information on the course, or for an assessment to begin the process, contact Tri-County Literacy Council at (613) 932-7161.