



# Tutor Connection

Spring 2022 Edition

By Carol Anne Maloney, Coordinator of Volunteers

Spring is in the air. The earth is beginning to awaken from its slumber. Everything is anew. With the beautiful weather, we are thankful Covid-19 levels seem to be lessening in our community.

## Seniors learning computers

In the One-on-One Tutoring Program, we have seen several seniors who want to increase their knowledge of digital technology. Seniors without technology during the pandemic have been more isolated from family and friends and experienced a lack of access to information. A Government of Canada report showed that an estimated 30% of Canadian seniors are at risk of becoming socially isolated (Keefe, J., Andrew, M., Fancey, P. and Hall, M. 2006). Online appointments, Internet banking, electronic kiosks, and Smartphones are realities of today's world. With many families separated by distance, technology offers new ways to foster relationships and break isolation. Libraries and community centers are offering services online such as exercise classes, workshops, and courses.

The following are tips for teaching computer skills to seniors:

- **Avoid jargon** – Put effort into translating your knowledge into simple, everyday language.
- **Tailor to their interest** – You should actively work to capture their attention by playing to their interests. Get to know your student.
- **Familiarize through touch** – To overcome the psychological barriers older adults face, encourage them to play games online. A popular game is Wordle.
- **Exercise patience** – Be positive and kind. Go slow.
- **Practice, practice, practice.** Repetition is how we learn new things.



Tri-County Literacy Council is a community-based, non-profit organization that enriches both community and individuals by specializing in adult literacy instruction based on essential skills training.

*“We can be of service by bringing some kindness, care, groundedness, and balance to those around us.”*

*-Sebene  
Selassie*



101 Second St. West  
Cornwall, Ontario  
K6J 1G4

PHONE:  
613-932-7161

FAX:  
613-932-5121

Visit us online!

[www.tricountyliteracycouncil.ca](http://www.tricountyliteracycouncil.ca)



Basic computer skills to learn include:

- Knowledge of computer parts such as mouse, USB port, camera
- Navigating a mobile device or Personal Computer
- Opening and closing files and applications
- Internet browsing (e.g., using Google Chrome)
- Basic Email usage (i.e., signing in, opening, and replying)
- Creating, saving, and printing documents and spreadsheets
- Maintaining files and folders
- Performing basic network activities like connecting, uploading, and downloading
- Understanding security risks
- Adjusting device settings such as volume and view (e.g., zooming in/out)
- Using Social Media such as Facebook and You Tube
- Making video calls, messaging
- Using online calendars

## Advice for ESL students

Another segment of learners attracted to our One-on-One Tutoring Program are ESL (English as a Second Language) students that cannot attend traditional ESL classes. Claudia Pesce offers the following advice for tutors:

- Every student has a reason for learning English. Make sure he/she never loses sight of what that is.
- Help the student set a goal and timeframe.
- Students must do their share of the work after class (e.g., reading extra material, listening to audio, watching videos, composing email, and working on whatever skills they need to improve).
- Students must be clearly aware of what they need to work on. This way, they can focus their afterschool efforts towards improving that which needs extra work.

*“Food for the body is not enough.  
There must be food for the soul.”*

*-Dorothy Day*

