



# BCHLA NEWS

Fall/Winter 03/04

Newsletter of the BC Home Learners' Association

Vo. 18 No. 1

**BCHLA**  
**BC Home Learners'**  
**Association**

**By Homeschoolers**  
**For Homeschoolers**



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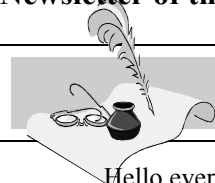
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## President's Pen

Hello everyone! What an honour it is for me to introduce myself to the membership and to tell you about the work that the BCHLA is doing on behalf of the home learners of British Columbia.

My husband and our two children live in the fast growing community of Maple Ridge and are looking forward to our 5th year of homeschooling. We are so thankful that we made the decision to dedicate ourselves to providing an environment in our home that is conducive to educating our children. We don't just teach them, we lead them in the art of learning. We have found that by encouraging our children to stretch themselves academically, as well as interpersonally, it has fostered a deep desire within them to expand their horizons and to draw from the areas that they find most interesting. What a wonderful way to afford them the opportunity to achieve personal success in the years to come. It is the same for our children, as it is for us as adults; when we love what we do, we do it wholeheartedly.

The educational rights that we enjoy here in British Columbia are the basis for the work that the BCHLA does. No matter what religious or philosophical background you come from, BCHLA is there to represent the home educators of this province. The passion that I have to maintain those rights was the precursor that led me to become a part of this association and, subsequently, to serve as President. It is my personal mandate to uphold the philosophy of the BCHLA and to serve the membership to the best of my abilities.

The work that BCHLA has done since its formation in 1988 is evident in the fact that we are recognized by the Ministry of Education as an organization through which the Ministry can communicate with home educators. Together, let us continue this work in order to preserve the freedom we have to educate our children in a style be suited to their needs, to foster strong family ties, to teach them the value of becoming a good citizen, and to provide them direction in becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

Susan Rothenbush, President

**This issue is dedicated to homeschooling teens around the world  
and in our province. You are innovators, motivators and an  
encouragement to all homeschoolers, young and old.  
Hats off to you all!**

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# The Profile: Susan Rothenbush

Susan Rothenbush resides in the the Fraser Valley with her husband of 18 years and their two children. This will be the family's 5th year of independent homeschooling.

As well as being instrumental in organizing an executive committee for her fast growing, local homeschool support group, Susan served as Treasurer for a one year term. She also provided assistance with field trips, guest speakers, and the newsletter

Susan's love of homeschooling led her to open a home-based educational resource bookstore in January, 2002. She greatly enjoys helping new and established

home educators seek out curriculums and styles that best meet the needs of their children.

"During the past year and a half, my involvement in providing educational materials to the homeschool community has afforded me the opportunity to meet and be encouraged by so many moms and dads with a strong conviction to provide their children an education by leading them in the art of learning. What an honour it will be to preserve the interests of all homelearners in British Columbia by serving as President for the BCHLA during the next two years."

Welcome Aboard!



## Mailbag

*(Editor: This portion of the newsletter is open to submit questions, state opinions, or provide information on any issue related to home*

I have really appreciated the BCHLA during the last year...and especially in the last months, while I have been sorting out options for my 13 year old daughter. I have never posted anything or emailed or talked to anyone, but reading through others' struggles with similar issues has brought a lot of peace. I guess that is what 'support' is all about! ~ Ann Grover, Chetwynd, BC.

**BCHLA Loves to hear your comments! If you have something to say please send it to**



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# BCHLA Financial Statement

	2003	2002
<b>Revenue</b>		
Memberships	4720	3920
Information packs	652	282
Donations	133	595
Advertising	536	440
Interest-T-Bill Fund	85	91
Total	<b>6,126</b>	<b>5,328</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Advertising	0	361
BC Convention	300	423
Brochures	0	414
Honorarium	0	120
Internet	289	146
Newsletters	915	1424
Office Supplies & Photocopying	257	575
Postage and Courier	774	827
Resource Paks	584	0
Sundry	60	25
Telephone	229	506
Travel	339	783
Total	<b>3,747</b>	<b>5,604</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue over Expenditures</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>-276</b>
	<b>August 31</b>	<b>August 31</b>
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
Cash-operating account	3,627	2,820
Cash-T-Bill	4,826	4,741
Total	<b>8,453</b>	<b>7,561</b>
Less Memberships paid in advance	1,000	2,320
Advertising paid in advance	60	227
<b>Members' Equity</b>	<b>7,393</b>	<b>5,014</b>

# Ministry Notes

\$1.94M APPROVED TO TEST INDUSTRY TRAINING IMPROVEMENTS

VICTORIA – Government has approved \$1.94 million to fund 25 pilot projects that will explore innovative ways to help more high school students move into trade and technical careers, as well as develop new assessment and training methods.

“These pilot projects are targeted to two specific elements that are key to the success of our new industry training model – better links between high school and the trades, and skills assessment based on competency,” said Minister of Advanced Education Shirley Bond.

“They’re building on the projects we funded in last year’s budget, which are already helping us define a modern and innovative industry training system that allows more British Columbians to participate in our growing economy.”

Fifteen of the new projects smooth the transition of trades and technical students from high school into post-secondary training and jobs, and give them a head start in their careers.

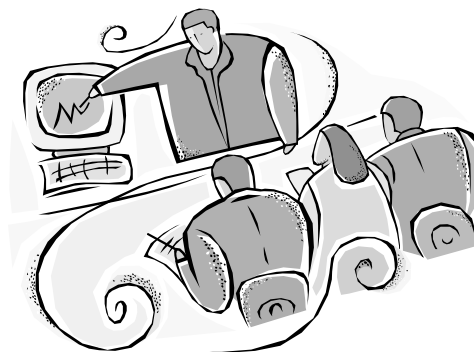
“Students succeed when their courses are relevant to their individual needs, and studying a trade often provides a tangible reason to learn math, physics or communications skills,” said Education Minister Christy Clark. “These pilot projects tie in to our government’s changes in the graduation program to ensure courses in grades 10, 11 and 12 are more relevant.”

The other 10 projects focus on new ways to train in modules and assess skills based on competency. The 25 projects range from horticulture and culinary arts to carpentry and welding, and were chosen from 60 proposals to meet specific local skills needs.

In cash and in kind, school districts, post-secondary institutions and industry are contributing \$2.2 million to the 25 new projects. Most of the new round of pilot projects will get underway this fall and wrap up by spring 2004. The first round of 16 projects was announced last December and January.

Bev Briscoe, chair of the Industry Training Authority board, said the government’s decision to involve industry more closely is already proving its merit.

“The board encourages educators and employers to work together to develop practical training options that will attract more young people into the trades,” Briscoe said. “Because employers know the trends in their industries, they can help educators by predicting where the jobs will be. They’re also contributing time and money to make these pro-



jects successful.”

The Business Council of B.C., which publishes regular updates of *The Third Option*, a report on careers in trades and technology, says the province’s changes to industry training will pay dividends to everyone in the province.

“These pilot projects are a good way to test the new industry training model and to continue addressing the demand for skilled workers,” said Jerry Lampert, president of the Business Council of B.C. “They provide a valuable opportunity for high school students and parents to learn more about trades as a career option.”

Government has set a target of increasing the number of trainees by 30 per cent over three years, which would bring the total to 30,000. The new industry training model is also being designed to reduce the apprenticeship dropout rate, which is currently about 50 per cent, by creating new pathways to obtaining qualifications, and making training more flexible and accessible.

For Immediate Release: 2003MAE0039-000857  
Sept. 29, 2003  
Ministry of Advanced Education

**Disclaimer:** “This article is for information only and comes from the Ministry of Education website.”

There is also a link that shows which trade and tech. fields are needed and what is involved in getting into these fields.  
[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm\\_news\\_releases/2003MAE0039-000857-Attachment1.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2003MAE0039-000857-Attachment1.htm)

# Canadian University and College Admission Requirements for Home Learners

by Susan Rothenbush



## UNIVERSITY

presentation, "Paths to Graduation," I contacted a number of Universities and Colleges from across Canada and asked what their admission requirements were for those who have been educated at home.

Following is a compilation of the responses I received from four Canadian institutions. In order to meet the newsletter deadline I was under time constraints and, therefore, my research was somewhat halted. However, if you want to look at a much greater listing that has been compiled by The Ontario Federation of Teaching Parents, go into the following link,

<http://www.ontariohomeschool.org/postsecondaryadmissionsprojectframes.html> and click on "Canadian Admission Policies." (I highly encourage you to look through the information that has been compiled in this site.)

To ensure that the requirements for the Colleges and Universities had not changed since the OFTP had conducted their research, I did a personal study in order to receive as much updated information as possible. I hope that these findings will aid you and your family in making decisions regarding post-secondary possibilities for the future.

### University of Regina

The University of Regina has had an admission procedure in place for homeschoolers for approximately a year and a half now. Susan Husum, Assistant Registrar for Admissions, informed me that, "home-based learners who have been admitted are doing very well."

To view the *Admissions Profile for Home-Based Learners* go to <http://www.uregina.ca/studserv/admissions/forms/AdmissionProfileHBL.pdf>

### University of Ottawa

Homeschoolers are considered at the University of Ottawa based upon the level of studies the student plans to join and the category of candidate you fall in: Graduate or Undergraduate Domestic or Undergraduate International. As their website

notes, "All applications are processed fairly and promptly in a professional manner by our Admission Officers."

Patrick Courcelles (contact for Admissions) points out that, "If a student who is home-schooled can come into agreement with a school board to recognize the home schooling, admission is much easier. Otherwise, evaluation is done on an individual basis."

### Acadia University (Wolfville, NS)

As per a response from Anne P. Scott, Manager of Admissions, here is her breakdown of the guidelines for homeschool student admissions.

"We do not have admission criteria set for homeschooled applicants because they must be evaluated individually based on their non-traditional academic background. I ask homeschooled applicants for as much academic information as possible - some are able to provide as much as a transcript, grades and course outlines. I also encourage them to write SAT's and provide a covering letter or essay and a letter of reference."

### University of Guelph

Hugh Clark, Admissions Coordinator/Admission Services, for the University of Guelph, responded in kind to my query with the following information.

"Homeschooled students wishing to apply to the University of Guelph may pursue an independent curriculum to the grade 11 level, however we strongly encourage students complete six 4U/4M courses, including any prerequisites prior to their application to the University. These 4U/4M courses may be completed via correspondence, night-school, day-school, or any combination thereof. All courses must be completed by the end of June, prior to the September to which they wish to apply. Providing that documentation is submitted to us indicating that the student has been homeschooled to the grade 11 level, we would waive the OSSD requirement."



# Student Highlights

Finding a Middle Earth in Montana

By DINITIA SMITH

Published: October 7, 2003

ARADISE VALLEY, Mont., Oct. 2 - Christopher Paolini, who has never been to school, was only 15 when he wrote his fantasy novel "Eragon," about a boy who finds a magic stone that is transformed into a dragon and then sets out to avenge the death of his uncle and to defeat an evil king. Now four years later, "Eragon," published by Alfred A. Knopf, is third on the New York Times hardcover children's chapter books best-seller list, outselling four of the five Harry Potter books.

Mr. Paolini, who was home-schooled by his parents, Kenneth and Talita, lives with them and his 17-year-old sister, Angela, in a modest beige-shingled house on the edge of the Yellowstone River, which runs through here. He invented a magical land for "Eragon," including a country, Alagaësia, inspired by the jagged Beartooth Mountains and dense forests that surround this broad, sweeping valley.

At the moment, Mr. Paolini, who is eerily precocious but still has echoes of the boy in him, is building a Hobbit Hut in the backyard and digging an eight-foot hole underneath.

He loves Wagner and holds forth learnedly on the "Ring" cycle. His agent's idea of a publication present was a recording of the entire "Ring." He keeps Seamus Heaney's translation of "Beowulf" by his bed. Despite his lack of formal schooling he invented three languages for his characters of dwarves, elves and humanoids, some based on Old Norse, some from scratch. (His sister is no slouch, either. Angela, who is editing her own novel, said, "I will be releasing it to Mom and Dad sometime soon." Meanwhile, she is reading the dictionary, learning words she doesn't know.)

Mr. Paolini began the book with all the innocence and uninhibitedness of childhood. "I decided to try and write something I would enjoy reading," he said. "The first draft came so easily, it was like a dam had broken." The story of the title character, Eragon, who has a mysterious parentage and wields a magic sword, was inspired, he said, by "Le Morte d'Arthur," "Beowulf," Norse and Icelandic sagas, the "Ring" cycle and the fantasy books he loves: Bruce Coville's "Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher," about a boy who buys an egg that hatches into a dragon; "The Worm Ouroboros," by Eric Rucker Eddison; and the "Dragonriders of Pern" series by Anne McCaffrey.

The key to the children, inevitably, lies partly with their parents. Kenneth Paolini and Talita Hodgkinson met as members of the Church Universal and Triumphant, a survivalist group with a doomsday philosophy. It owned a ranch in Corwin Springs, about 40 miles from here, and broke apart after its leader retired in 1999. There are still some members in the area.

While hiking through the crater of the Haleakala volcano in Maui on their honeymoon, the Paolinis vowed that

"one of the templates for our relationship would be that our family would come first," Kenneth Paolini said. "All our financial decisions were based on how we can stay together."

They lived in Montana and in Alaska, where he worked for a publishing company. In 1987, they left the group, and in 1991 settled here. "We weren't willing to surrender our family to the group," he said. Kenneth Paolini made money doing Rolfig, a form of massage. In 1997 the Paolinis started a publishing company, Paolini International L.L.C., bringing out two books critical of cults, and one on the educational philosophy of Ms. Paolini, a trained Montessori teacher.

Meanwhile, they home-schooled Christopher and Angela, because, they said, the children were precocious and worried that they would feel out of place in a formal school. Kenneth Paolini said he wanted them to have time "to watch the clouds, to have thinking space." Still, their schooling was exacting.

Talita said: "We were always looking for information. I tried to tailor the lessons around their interests. Angela likes cats. I gave her a book of Victorian cat stickers and she would write stories about all the cats."

Angela said, "They taught us how to think."

When Christopher became interested in pirates, "I made a pirate map," he said, "and soaked it in tea and singed the edges so it looked like a real pirate map."

He said he had read more than 3,000 books but knows "nothing about math."

The children watched little television but every night screened one of the family's collection of some 4,000 movies. "They learned all different ways of telling stories," their mother said. Her son said that "Eragon" began as a film idea.

There were also computer games. "No one can beat me around here," Mr. Paolini said. The children became very close. "Angela and I can hold conversations with one-word sentences," Mr. Paolini said. "Angela," the feisty healer in "Eragon," is based on her.

Mr. Paolini began "Eragon" after obtaining his high school diploma through an accredited correspondence course. He was accepted at Reed College in Oregon but deferred entrance.

"I didn't have too many activities aside from the ones I invented," he said. "A lot of writing is about getting the time and space."

To create the languages for "Eragon," Christopher consulted Web sites. "My sister and I would talk about stuff, like whether or how the possessives should be formed," he said.

He used Old Norse dictionaries for the book's ancient language. Eragon utters a blessing: "Atra gūlai un ilian tauthr ono un atra ono waise skölir frá rauthr" (translated in the back of the book: "Let luck and happiness follow you and may you be shielded from misfortune").

The book is full of odd words. "We had a huge ar-

## Student Highlights Cont'd

gument about the word scry, which means in the book 'to see at a distance, usually through a mirror or a pool,' " Mr. Paolini said. "Then we found it on an online dictionary. It comes from the word descry."

Two years and two drafts after starting the book he showed it to his parents. His father recalled: "Talita read it and said, 'Ken, you really need to take a look at this.' I was amazed." The family began editing it. "My parents didn't suggest changes in the plot line," Mr. Paolini said, but suggested moving sentences, correcting grammar, fixing continuity. "I learned so much. I feel like I had an education."

In 2002 the Paolinis published it. A paperback original, it was \$22.95 retail, \$14 for students. The Paolinis contracted out the printing and began marketing it. "We have a very acute understanding of marketing," Kenneth Paolini said.

They contacted hundreds of schools and bookstores, setting up readings. Dressed in medieval costume, Mr. Paolini put on a show, "Why Read? Why Write?"

"We went to places that never had an author," he said, "places hungry for this." Soon the house was filled with books for shipment. "We had reached the point where we couldn't handle it personally."

Then, last summer, the novelist Carl Hiaasen was fly-fishing in Montana with his wife and stepson, Ryan. Ryan read a copy of "Eragon." He seemed captivated, and Mr. Hiaasen told his publisher, Knopf, about it. Knopf made an offer. The Paolinis found an agent through a chat group online, and the book was sold. A spokeswoman for Knopf said the price was in "the middle six figures."

Christopher's editor at Knopf, Michelle Frey, left the plot in place, but cut 20,000 words, Mr. Paolini said. As for the money, his father said, "We are operating a family business, and we will all share in the proceeds." So far, the publisher has printed 250,000 copies.

Now Mr. Paolini is writing the second volume of what he says will be called the "Inheritance" trilogy. Only Angela and his agent, Simon Lipskar, know the ending. After the trilogy is finished, "I might go to college," Mr. Paolini said. "Or I might take a vacation and have a nervous breakdown. I have a lot of reading to do, "Ulysses," Dostoyevsky, the rest of Tolstoy."

*(From this homeschooling mom-WOW!)*

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## For Your Information

### BCHLA Advertisement Fee Schedule

All ads must be prepaid and received by the submission deadline.

#### Deadline:

Spring/Summer issue ads must be in by February 15, 2003, Summer by June 1, 2003

#### Display Ad Rates

Business card (Email or hard copy)=\$20

1/8 size (1/2 size of business card)=\$15

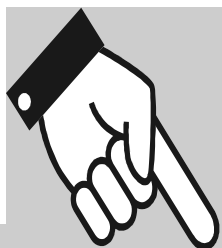
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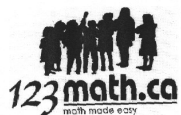
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