

MALONEY, MIKE

20 centres operating across Canada using Belleville-based model

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QLC, Maloney mark learning milestone

By Intelligencer Staff

Michael Maloney is finding it hard to get the strains of Happy Birthday out of his head.

It's because Maloney is the founder of the Quinte Learning Centre at 208 Front St. and the centre is celebrating its 25th birthday this month.

It was born out of the frustration that Maloney said he felt when, working for the Hastings school board, the board discontinued some remedial programs for children at risk, a casualty of cost cuts in 1978.

Maloney and Eric Haughton had



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devised a system that, when used by children with learning disabilities, showed marked improvement in their learning, Maloney said. He thought he could sell the system directly to parents and the Quinte Learning Centre was created.

The system was presented and marketed across North America. In all, 20 centres based on the QLC model are currently operating in Canada, the United States and Iceland.

Along the way, QLC and its founder have garnered many

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plaudits.

Computer programs Math Tutor and Mighty Math, originally developed for QLC students, became the leading line for Scholastic Inc. of New York. Math Tutor won several international awards.

Teach Your Children Well, written by Maloney in 1998, became a best-seller and is in its

third printing. Chapters selected the work for its Write for Canada award in January 2000.

In 2001, Maloney and co-authors Lynne Brearley and Judie Preece produced a 20-book reading series

for homeschooling parents called Teach Your Children to Read Well.

Maloney was named winner of the Canada Post Literacy Educator award for 2001.

The OHAHASE Learning Centre of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory has introduced the reading and math programs for special needs students, he said.

Despite its track record internationally, QLC still focuses on delivering services to children and adults in the Quinte region, Maloney said.

Its new program, WebCam Tutorials, allows people to learn at home while connected visually with a QLC teacher by computer.

“This is without a doubt the most exciting project we have ever undertaken,” Maloney said in a statement.

“It is the vehicle that will carry our work forward for the next 25 years.”