

The TV universe now consists of hundreds of channels with nothing on. But many specialty channels have appeared in this maelstrom; The Women's Network, The Aboriginal Network, Home and Gardens TV and the creative caloric culinary channels.

Now Canadians have a network that includes all of us.

AMI, Accessible Media Inc, is a not-for-profit multimedia organization with offices across Canada. It is the world's only open described video and closed captioned network available on the basic digital package.

With two broadcast services, AMI-TV and AMI-Audio, and a website, www.ami.ca, they provide content that is accessible to Canadians that are blind, deaf, vision and hearing impaired, mobility impaired, learning disabled, otherwise print-restricted or even those learning English as a second language.

Their mission is to make all media accessible to all Canadians. "Television that includes everyone" is their broadcast logo.

Many cable and satellite TV service providers incorporate AMI into their basic digital service. Tune to channel 555 on Cogeco and channel 48 on Bell TV. A full guide for both AMI-TV and AMI-Audio can be found on their website.

Programs broadcast include movies, popular TV shows such as *All in*



Andrew Tutty

the Family, Corner Gas, and DaVinci's Inquest to name a few.

I personally like *Accessibility in Action*, a program that has important disability information, interviews, as well as stories of inspiring disabled Canadians. I'm sure you will find programming that suits your interests and tastes.

Using volunteer readers, AMI-Audio provides local, national and international news and information accessible to Canadians and is the world's largest broadcast reading service. Their programming is extensive and includes community events, sports, arts and entertainment, and gardening tips. You name it, you'll probably find it.

Check the website FAQs and for specifics on where you can find this channel and what's on.

Andrew Tutty is a member of the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee

Celebrating Adult Learners Week March 24 - April 1st



The Canadian Commission for UNESCO is again this year inviting Canada's Ministers of Education and its other lifelong learning partners to celebrate International Adult Learners' Week (IALW) in Canada from March 24 to April 1, 2012.

The Adult Learning Centre in Halton Hills would like to celebrate IALW in this community by sharing a couple of success stories from recent students:

"I was behind in reading and writing, and spelling was a challenge. I joined the program because of an injury that happened at work. I needed to learn computer skills and upgrade my reading and writing so that I could do things confidently myself. I feel I have more confidence now in reading and writing. Now I can understand what I am reading and I enjoy reading a lot more than I did before. The dictionary is my best friend. My tutor helped me to learn how to spell words better and

to understand their meaning. I have challenged myself to a whole new way of learning."

"I am newly unemployed for the first time in almost 30 years. In order to compete with the 60,000 other job seekers I need to update my skills. When the job banks state computer courses are required to apply for work, I would like to be proficient with the computer and its software. If we don't upgrade our skills we will not be able to get the positions we are applying for. The computer is becoming a very important tool and I need to get trained to keep up and get back into the working world."

Do you know someone that could benefit from our Adult Learning Programs?

All classes are part-time day and evening and are offered in either a one-on-one basis or small group format.

Check out our website at www.literacyhills.org or give us a call, 905-873-2200 for more information.



Ask the Professionals DIRECTORY

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."
~ Anne Bradstreet

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