



THE NEWCOMER

ISSUE 1
FALL 2013



WELCOME TO YMCA NEWCOMER SERVICES

Welcome to the YMCA Newcomer Services newsletter called "The Newcomer". The newsletter will be published four times a year and will provide you with information about what is happening here at the centre but also what is happening in Simcoe County. We would also welcome any stories that you may want to share with us.

In the first issue we thought we would tell you about us, our staff and the services we offer to you. For over twenty years our dedicated settlement staff, care for Newcomer Children staff and ESL teachers have been assisting newcomers to Canada to settle and adapt to life in Barrie, Bradford and throughout Simcoe County. YMCA Newcomer Services ensures eligible newcomers to Canada receive appropriate English language training and settlement services including assessment of needs, orientation, information and referral in order to feel welcomed in the community and to participate socially, culturally and economically. These services are funded and supported by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Government of Ontario Citizenship and Immigration.

Financé par :

Funded by:



Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada

Citizenship and
Immigration Canada



Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
Ministère Des Affaires Civiques Et De L'Immigration

Building healthy communities



The Staff

Some of the people that you might see or hear from at Newcomers

At the YMCA Newcomer Services we have over fifteen dedicated staff working to take care of your needs. Here is a list of the staff and what jobs they do.

Linda Schut: Linda is our team leader, the person everybody wants to see, even our children always want to see Linda!

Ru Cao: Ru is the first face you will all see in the morning, Ru's friendly personality makes her a favourite with our students.

Yana Skybin: Settlement Counsellor. Yana has been here for over four years and is a wealth of knowledge for our clients.

Jonathan Duncan: Settlement Counsellor. Jonathan is the new boy, he is currently covering for Suzana Petrov who is on maternity leave.

Isabel: Is our Settlement Counsellor in our Bradford office, Isabel is a great resource to our clients in the Bradford area. Isabel has been with us for over 10 years.

(Settlement Counsellors help people settle into their local community, provide support, help complete forms and give information on social services, schools, health care, housing and recreational facilities)

We have three classrooms which teach English from level 1 to level 5. Our dedicated teachers have many years of experience:

Diane: Diane is our lead English teacher, and has been teaching ESL at Newcomers since 2005.

Deborah: Deborah is another one of our ESL teachers. Deborah has been with Newcomers since September 2000.

Margaret. Margaret is another one of our hard working teachers Margaret has been teaching at Newcomers since 2005.

Our Care for Newcomer Children staff look after our precious children who can be as young as 6 months old to as old as 6. There is always lots of laughter coming from that room (except at nap time!)

Lesa: Child Care Supervisor. Lesa is new to Newcomers and very excited to be working with such a wonderful group of children.

Michelle: Is our always happy child care teacher and Michelle has been with Newcomers since 2008.

Nalda: Nalda has been a supply teacher for a year with our program. Nalda will now be working with our child care full-time until Viviana returns from school in January 2014.

Mei Yun Liu: Mei is a recent graduate of the Early Childhood Assistant program at Seneca college and she speaks 4 languages.

Fakhra: One of our new additions to the child care team, Fakhra is a former student at our language classes at the YMCA !



What's on guide FALL 2013

Barrie Latin Fest

Date: August 24, 2013

Location: Centennial Park, Downtown Barrie

Contact: (705) 727-2794; www.barrielatinfest.com

11th Annual Barrie Dragon Boat Festival

Date: August 24, 2013

Location: Heritage Park & Kempenfelt Bay

Contact: (705) 728-1010; www.barriedragonboatfestival.ca

Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre Annual Pow Wow

Date: September 7 - 8, 2013

Location: Sainte-Marie Park, Off Hwy 12 & Wye Valley Road, Midland

Contact: (705) 526-7838; www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca

4th Annual Great Canadian Beaver Race & Festival

Date: Sunday September 22, 2013

Location: Heritage Park, Downtown Barrie

Contact: www.barriebeaverfestival.com

Franco-Ontarian Day

Date: September 25, 2013

Location: Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, 16164 Highway 12 East, Midland

Contact: (705) 526-7838; www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca

Barrie's 5th Annual Oktoberfest

Date: September 27 - 28, 2013

Location: Eastview Arena, 453 Grove Street East

Contact: www.barrierotary.com

16th Annual Barrie Film Festival

Date: October 18 – 27, 2013

Location: Uptown Theatre, 55 Dunlop St. W.

Contact: www.barriefilmfestival.ca

Barrie Santa Claus Parade

Date: November 16, 2013

Location: Downtown Barrie

Contact: (705) 721-5000; www.barriechamber.com

Does your community have a special event happening? Let Jonathan know and he will include it in the next newsletter.

705-797-2020 x 23 or email: jonathan_duncan@ymca.ca

Building healthy communities



YMCA Newcomer Stories

A new life in Canada

Every year, thousands of people come to Canada to begin a new life. Many people who come here have no friends or relatives to help them. Many do not speak English very well. Many are uncertain about how to find a job and provide for themselves and their families. At the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, we are committed to helping Canada's newcomers settle into their new life. Today, many of the people we helped are now active members of their communities. Thanks to them, we have so many new stories of success to share. Stories like these:



The memories I share with you provide the basis for what I think is the kind of inclusive society that we all desire. If we are going to have a healthy community, we all have to take responsibilities to understand each other little better. That is why I always try to encourage newcomers to take an interest in Canada's society.

My marriage was arranged. My potential in-laws were in search of a suitable match for their son who was already living in Canada. One of their conditions was that the bride be well suited for Canadian society. Perhaps by Indian standards, the fact that I was bold, frank and athletic by nature, was seen as making me a good candidate for life in Canada. Qualities which are normally not highly valued in potential Indian brides where adherence to cultural norms and domestic skills are of paramount importance. Anyway, I'm sure much to the surprise of traditionalists I made the short list of potential suitable girls! And happily for me, my husband, our children and a grand daughter the rest is history!

So here I was, a young woman married and excited at the prospect of coming to Canada, with an energy that could conquer Mount Everest. However, Canada turned out to be quite a surprise. My privileged and sheltered youth had not prepared me for the culture shock I was about to face.



YMCA Newcomer Stories

A new life in Canada

I arrived in Canada in the middle of Summer 1973 wearing a heavy woolen coat thinking that everyone in Canada lives in Igloo, my eyes greeted roads, highways, multiple lanes with traffic lights and not an igloo in site! Soon after I settled in, I realized that in order to do anything or to see anything in Canadian Society, you have to be mobile.

Wishing to visit the nearest mall, I walked to the corner bus stop. A bus arrived and I was on my way. I naturally thought that the bus driver would stop at the bus stop at the mall. To my surprise, he drove right by! At this point, I panicked and thought for sure I will be lost. So I marched up to the driver and said, "You forgot to stop at the last bus stop". He looked at me and said, "Well, you didn't ring a bell to alert me." Bell? I looked around to see a where the bells were hung, because the only bells I had ever seen before were door bells or the temple bells that hang over your head at temple entrances that you ring before entering and upon leaving temples. Thank Goodness, I had a sympathetic bus driver, noticed my distress and said, "Are you new to Canada?" I shyly replied "Yes". So at the next stop he showed me how one alerts the driver when it is their stop.



His kindness is a good example of the sort of experiences that soon made me feel more at home in my new land. It wasn't always easy, mainly because even simple differences in the use of English easily lead to misunderstandings.

I remember during my first winter in Canada I was at the department store looking for some warm clothes. I went to a clerk and asked where I could buy a muffler. She shrugged and after a pause said "why don't you try Canadian Tire." I nervously asked her again, thinking that she misunderstood me. No, no I wasn't looking for tires, but need a muffler. She chuckled when she directed me to the Canadian Tire. Later I learned that in Canada what is known as a muffler in India is known as a woolen scarf, and what is known as a silencer to us is known as a muffler in Canada. Simple things such as food, I remember when friends offered me buffalo wings I politely said, "no thank you I don't eat beef" to which everyone laugh so I learned that buffalo wings don't come from beef.



YMCA Newcomer Stories

A new life in Canada

While these stories conveyed some sense of my personal journey towards a Canadian identity, they illustrate the difficulties our newer residents face in getting to feel at home in Canada let alone getting them to appreciate the rich history that Canada has to offer. It's understandable that newcomers have different sense of priorities. As first and foremost, they must meet the needs of family, roof over their heads and food on their table. But like the Institute, as Canadians we all have a role in helping them gain a better understanding of what makes US.

In my case, early on in my Canadian adventure I got involved helping newcomers get adjusted to their new life in Canada. I didn't recognize it at the time but it was these volunteer efforts that opened many doors for me. I soon learned that every task joyfully undertaken lead to meeting other Canadians who sought the common good. Indeed, there is no better way to learn about Canada and to meet your fellow citizens than to take part in community activities. It doesn't matter what ones particular interests or skills might be, or what the task --- for if we are to promote a knowledge of Canada in our citizens, then we must take every opportunity to make our newcomers welcome and encourage them to take their full part in Canadian society.

I attribute much of my happy journey to a willingness to reach out and I ask you all to reach out to those who like me had much to learn about the history and culture of this beautiful country.

There is no prouder Canadian than yours truly and on the upcoming bicentennial celebration of Sir. John A. MacDonald's birth in 2015 you will find me waving a Canadian flag in the front row celebrating our first Prime Minister! Thank you.



This Newcomer story was previously published on the Durham Immigration Portal.

Do you have a story to share? Please let Jonathan know and he we will include it in future newsletters. E-mail jonathan_duncan@ymca.ca

Building healthy communities



YMCA Newcomer Services

Newcomer Services pictures

At the end of each school term Newcomer Services has a celebration which involves our staff and students bringing food for a pot luck. The last celebration coincided with the retirement of Susan Green who was the program director here for 23 years. Below are a few pictures from the past few occasions and pictures of our hard working students.



Do you have a photo to share? Please let Jonathan know and he we will include it in future newsletters. E-mail jonathan_duncan@ymca.ca



YMCA Newcomer

Multicultural Holidays

Here are just a few Multicultural Holidays coming up in the next few months. At Newcomer Services we would like to help celebrate these holidays. Please let us know what we can do to celebrate these days.

August 28, Krisha Janmashtami - Hindu

An annual commemoration of the birth of the Hindu deity Krishna, the 8th avatar of Vishnu.

September 1st, Ecclesiastical Year begins - Orthodox Christian

This is considered the date for the start of a new church year

September 2nd— Labour Day

This is an annual holiday to celebrate the achievements of workers in Canada.

September 5th & 6th- Rosh Hashanah - Jewish

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Jewish new year and is a two day celebration which begins on the first day of Tishrei, the first month of the Jewish calendar.

September 10th- Paryushana Parva - Jain

This is one of the two most important festivals for the Jains, Most of the Jains observe fast and Ekasan (meal/boiled water at once in a day) and soak themselves in the rituals associated with the event and try to ready themselves for a virtuous life.

September 14th- Yom Kippur - Jewish

Yom Kippur is also known as Day of Atonement and is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jewish people traditionally observe this holy day with an approximate 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services.

October 5th—13th Navaratri - Hindu

Navaratri is a festival dedicated to the worship of the Hindu deity Durga, The word Navaratri literally means nine nights in Sanskrit, nava meaning nine and ratri meaning nights. During these nine nights and ten days, nine forms of Shakti/Devi are worshiped.



YMCA Newcomer

Multicultural Holidays

October 14th— Canadian Thanksgiving

Is an annual Canadian holiday which celebrates the harvest and other blessings of the past year.

October 15th—18th- Eid al Adha- Islam

Eid al Adha is an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide to honour the willingness of the prophet 'Ibrāhīm (Abraham) to sacrifice his young first-born son Ismā'il (Ishmael) as an act of submission to God's command and his son's acceptance to being sacrificed, before God intervened to provide Abraham with a Lamb to sacrifice instead.

November 1st- All Saints Day - Christian

In Western Christian theology, the day commemorates all those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven. It is a national holiday in many historically Catholic countries

November 3rd- Diwali - Hindu - Jain - Sikh

Diwali is popularly known as the "festival of lights", the most significant spiritual meaning behind it is "the awareness of the inner light"

November 28th— December 5th—Hanukkah - Judaism

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple. The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a unique candelabrum, the nine-branched Menorah or Hanukiah, one additional light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night

December 1st— December 24th— Advent

Advent is a season observed in many Western Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas

Do you celebrate days not included here? Please let Jonathan know and he we will include them in future newsletters. E-mail: jonathan_duncan@ymca.ca

Next edition will be available in December. Submission deadline 30th November, 2013



YMCA Newcomer

Fun Corner

Newcomer Services is not all about learning and providing services, we also like to have fun and enjoy ourselves. To show you we have included a few jokes, a teaser and a Newcomer word search. Have fun!!!

Where do library books like to sleep?

- Under their covers!

Why can't a bicycle stand up by itself?

- Because it's two-tired!

A man came into town on Thursday and stayed for three nights and left on Thursday. How is this possible?

(For the answer ask Jonathan!)

Word Search (See the next page for the grid)

newcomers

settlement

inclusive

YMCA

childcare

respect

Canada

values

honesty

teacher

caring

responsible

linda

english

learn

citizen

resident

fun



YMCA Newcomer

Fun Corner

i h e f l n r t e n i u e
s a u l n r e s r s r o e
r n e z i t i c l e e s i
e l b i s n o p s e r r e
m l i t i e d i l c a y e
o n c n n m d a a a c r i
c n a t c e p s e r d h n
w c n n n l v r n i l e s
e a a t i t u a g n i i s
n n d a y t c s l g h a t
t e a c h e r a i u c e v
e h o n e s t y s v e d s
y m c a e n l a h o e s a



GLOSSARY

to help people understand the terms we may use

Authorized representative : A person, paid or unpaid, named by an applicant and authorized to: receive information about an application, **and** act on the applicant's behalf.

Canadian citizen : A person described as a citizen under the *Citizenship Act*. This means a person who: is Canadian by birth (either born in Canada or born outside Canada to a Canadian citizen who was themselves either born in Canada or granted citizenship) **or** has applied for a grant of citizenship and has received Canadian citizenship

Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) : The Canadian standard used to describe, measure and recognize English language ability of adult immigrants and prospective immigrants who plan to live and work in Canada.

Citizenship test: A test that applicants aged 18 to 54 must pass to in order to meet the knowledge requirement for Canadian citizenship. The test is usually written, but is sometimes taken orally with a citizenship judge. The test assesses: knowledge of Canada, **and** knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship.

Convention refugee : A person who is outside of their home country or country where they normally live and fears returning to that country because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Family Class : An immigration category that includes any family members sponsored to come to Canada by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

Foreign Credential Recognition (FCR) : Foreign credential recognition is the process of verifying that the education and job experience obtained in another country are equal to the standards established for Canadian professionals. Credential recognition for regulated occupations is mainly a provincial responsibility that has been delegated in legislation to regulatory bodies.

Health card: A document that allows a person to receive public health care in a Canadian province or territory. Newcomers can apply for a health card when they arrive in Canada.

Immigration status : A non-citizen's position in a country—for example, permanent resident or visitor.

Permanent resident: A person who has legally immigrated to Canada but is not yet a Canadian citizen.

Protected person: A person who has been determined to be a Convention refugee or person in similar circumstances by a Canadian visa officer outside Canada, a person whom the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada has determined to be a Convention refugee or in need of protection in Canada, or a person who has had a positive pre-removal risk assessment (in most cases).

Refugee claimant: A person who has applied for refugee protection status while in Canada and is waiting for a decision on his/her claim from the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.