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Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community

# Celebrating 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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## CARROUSEL AROUND THE CITY



## MCC News

### Ontario Volunteer Awards

**B**renda Halim and Jeff Aguilar, MCC youth program participants, received the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards on April 11, 2013. Both Jeff and Brenda have been active volunteers of the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, participating in our different youth groups (Youth Leadership, Interact Club, Leadership 360, etc.), special events (Carrousel of Nations, etc.), and many volunteering and leadership activities in the community.

Brenda Halim began her journey with Host Youth Leadership, then continued to attend Leadership 360 and now Interact. She is a nursing student at the University of Windsor and is also the recipient of the MCC Youth Volunteer Award.



Jeff Aguilar and Brenda Halim

Brenda attended Catholic Central High School.

Our second award winner, Jeff Aguilar, attends Interact Club and in addition to being an active member, was also the club's Vice President last year. He attended Assumption High School and is currently attending the University of Windsor. Jeff has volunteered many times at community events as well (Random Acts of Kindness Day, Carrousel of Nations, etc.) and has assisted in tutoring youth with homework. Both Brenda and Jeff are strong advocates of youth involvement and leadership in our community. Always leading by example, they have been mentors to others, inspiring and motivating all to give back to one's community.

*Nazia, Youth Leadership Coordinator*

### Donations to Women's Group by Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland & Windsor-Essex's Indian Community



**H**aving travelled thousands of miles, from one part of the world to another, the women's group at the MCC, is a safe haven for our newcomer women and their children. A new country and a new environment, it is in this safe space, that women come together to share each other's joys and sorrows.

Mostly refugees, they have challenges galore but one area that they need much assistance in is having clothing for the different seasons in Canada. With limited funds and big families, spending on such items is challenging. When Aruna Koushik, member of the Windsor-Roseland Rotary Club, learned of this while attending one of our sessions, she wanted to help. And help she did!

In a matter of days, Aruna with the help of her fellow Rotarians and Indian community members, started a

donation drive for clothing, shoes, etc.

From winter to summer clothing, eastern wear to western wear, they inundated our newcomer clients with all of those items and much more.

On behalf of the MCC and our clients, our heartfelt gratitude to the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland and Windsor-Essex's Indian community for participating in the drive and donating so many items.

Last but not least, a very special thank you to Aruna Koushik for leading the project to warm the hearts of so many. For stepping forward and showering our newcomer clients with much love and support and giving them a wonderful welcome to the Windsor-Essex community, we humbly thank you.

## MCC News

### Language and Skills Program

#### LINC Graduation



The graduation of our LINC students took place on March 27th, with our traditional celebrations, and cheers. LINC staff celebrated along with the students their accomplishments in improving their English and further settlement in our community.



#### New Infant Room

We are pleased to announce that we will open a second infant room in the morning program. The classroom is large with plenty of space for children, chairs and tables, book stands and different educational and age appropriate toys. The infant room has bright colors, painted walls, colorful carpets and open play areas where all the infants will be safe, play and will have various learning experiences.

What the parents should know!

Infants (6 months - 18 months).

Infants need interaction to develop a sense of trust with their caregiver.

Individualized Attention

Infant room provides a variety of stimulating and nurturing experiences to help your child have a balanced and happy day. Our ECE staff gives your infant the personal attention needed to develop a warm and affectionate relationship while still nurturing a safe environment to explore.

Special thanks to Joanna for sharing her artistic skills!



### Multicultural Council of Windsor/Essex announces Meadowbrook Community in Action Project

A unique and innovative project that has begun at the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County. The project, called Meadowbrook Community in Action (MCIA) is a new initiative funded by United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County. This neighbourhood engagement project enhances the capacity of individuals and families to build and sustain strong, healthy communities, build social capital and increase leadership amongst residents of the Meadowbrook Community.

The project, which began in April, runs for the next 24 months and it is based on action research, community capacity building and support from community residents, organizations, leaders and local businesses. Residents of the Meadowbrook Community have an opportunity to become involved and thereby strengthening the community.

For more information on this initiative please contact Shannon Ciampa at 519-255-1127 ext. 155

## Earth day activities 2013

**April** is Earth Month and the Essex Region Conversation Authority (ERCA)

celebrated with EARTH DAY activities on Sunday, April 21st at the Little River Corridor just east of the WFCU Centre.

This year's event was a resounding success as hundreds of people joined ERCA's Team Green Challenge working towards improving air and water quality.

The Multicultural Council was represented with a team including Lana Gurbouzov, her mother, Nadezda, Fahim Bai, Carlos Ruiz, and his son Carlos. Two other MCC team members included Ara Gtalian and Parsu Ram Adhibkari an experienced volunteer having worked at last year's Carrousel.

It was a chilly, sunny day as everyone gathered in the parking lot near McHugh Park. The street was crowded with people carrying shovels, coats, boots, kid's strollers, etc.

All were filled with excitement and ready to tackle the huge job of planting 1,800 young trees.

The MCC volunteer team received a Certificate of Participation commemorating the celebrations and of helping to leave a legacy of a cleaner and healthier environment for future generations.

This was the third year Carlos and his 9 year old son participated. "It's an important experience to learn and understand the value of taking care of the environment" said Carlos. Together they dug holes and planted trees to help improve and beautify our environment. Carlos said his son is excited by the idea of planting new trees now and going back to the site in a few years to see how they've grown.

After all EARTH DAY is all about a thriving future.



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WFCU Supports

**THE MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY**

Supporting initiatives like this is just one of the many components of WFCU's Community Investment Program – a program, that over the past 3 years, has donated over **\$2.4 million** back to our community! WFCU – helping to make Windsor and Essex County a better place to live and work.

To find out more about WFCU's Community Investment program, call **519-974-3100** or visit [wfcu.ca](http://wfcu.ca)

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**MCC - Upcoming Cultural Competence Workshops**



## **All Workshops Are FREE!**

**Understanding Cultural Competency - June 26th**

**Media Messaging; Cultural Competent Advertising - July 10th**

**Creating an Inclusive Work Environment - July 17th**

**Cross Cultural Communication - July 24th**

**Health, Healing and Culture - August 7th**

**Making the Business Case for Diversity - August 14th**

**Involving Volunteers from Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds - August 25th**

**\*All courses begin at 9:00am.**

**For more information on any of the above workshops and for registration information  
contact Nigel Couch at 519-255-1127 ext.212**

**Email: [nigelcouch@themcc.com](mailto:nigelcouch@themcc.com)**

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## The 11th Annual Herb Gray Awards Gala



On Thursday, April 25th the Multicultural Council's "Midnight in Moscow" was an inspiring and successful occasion. The 11th Annual Herb Gray Harmony Awards and Gala recognized two very special individuals: Harmony Award Winner Sandra Pupatello and Champion Award Winner Dr. Fouad Tayfour.

The Gala was a huge success with over 500 guests attending this year at the Ciociaro Club. Both Ms. Sandra Pupatello and Dr. Fouad Tayfour spoke of their appreciation of the MCC and Windsor-Essex Community for recognizing their achievements. Each expressed thanks for everything Windsor - Essex has helped them achieve and stressed the importance of "Giving Back" to the community.

The Herb Gray Harmony Award recognizes those who have put into practice innovative strategies and actions to support and encourage a harmonious society in Windsor - Essex County. The Champion Award celebrates the significant contributions first generation Canadians make to our community.

"Leaving home and starting over in a new country is never easy" said MCC Executive Director Kathleen Thomas. "The Champion Award is for those who have overcome these hardships, built successful lives here and gave back to the community. We are grateful to the many people who volunteered to work behind the scenes. It was due to their efforts the Gala was such a wonderful evening. To see more pictures from Gala night go to [www.themcc.com](http://www.themcc.com)

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Thank you to our Harmony and Champion Award Gala Sponsors

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For 40 years the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County has helped thousands of newcomers settle into the community by providing essential settlement, language and welcoming services. The Multicultural Council continues to be the leader in the area of interpretation, diversity training, and special events serving the entire region.

Join us as we continue to celebrate diversity!

Rafih  
AUTO GROUP

WOULD LIKE TO  
**CONGRATULATE**

**CHAMPION AWARD WINNER**  
**DR. FOUAD TAYFOUR**

**HARMONY AWARD WINNER**  
**SANDRA PUPATELLO**

**For their outstanding achievements  
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**Event Includes:**

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### Deputy Minister's visit to MCC

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County hosted the visit of Deputy Minister Chisanaga Puta-Chekwe of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, on April 11th, 2013, who met Newcomer Settlement Program (NSP) staff from the Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County and partner agencies YMCA of Windsor & Essex County and Women's Enterprise Skills Training (WEST). NSP caters to the settlement needs of Refugee Claimants and Canadian Citizens born outside Canada to facilitate their social & economic integration and become fully engaged in all aspects of Canadian life-social economic, political and cultural.



Besides Deputy Minister Mr. Puta-Chekwe and Ghislaine Brodeur, MCI Regional Advisor, present in the meeting were Lisa Kolody, Marcela Diaz and Timpy Aulakh from MCC, Hugo Vega Lopez and Kamal El-Khaj from YMCA and Rose Anguiano Hurst from WEST to discuss about challenges and development of the Newcomer Settlement Program.

## Thank You to our Carrousel Sponsors



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# ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY! BECOME A TEAM AMBASSADOR TODAY!



**The MCC is recruiting volunteers for the 2013 International Children's Games, August 14-19<sup>th</sup>**

For more information call Lana 519.255.1127 ext.135

## NEWCOMERS CHANGE THE WAY THEY TAKE CARE OF THEIR HEALTH BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY LEARN AT HEALTH ACCESS DAY

This year, the annual Health Access Day was held on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Giovanni Caboto Club between 9:30 am and 2:30 p.m. Over 500 visitors – newcomers, students in the Language Instruction for Newcomers Classes (LINC) attended the event. The MCC provided interpreters in 7 different languages to help newcomers communicate better with service providers, to ask questions and participate in offered activities. The event focused on two goals: 1) promoting good health-physical and mental; and 2) improving access to local health and human services. There were 49 exhibitors - organizations that shared information about their services and, in some cases, offered screening and health promotion activities such as blood pressure readings and glucose blood test .

The Health Access Day has been traditionally supported by The Community Partners for Multicultural Health (CPMH), a joint venture of 15 health, social and newcomer organizations committed to improving access to health services in Windsor-Essex, with the Multicultural Council as a lead organization.

The theme of this year's event was "Chronic disease Prevention & Maintenance" and there were 2 workshops offered to students during the event with over 100 students in attendance.

Many attendees shared how valuable the Health Access Day was to them and how they gained knowledge about different organisations and support services that exist in our community, that they have never been aware of. This year's event would not take place without the generous financial contributions of the following organizations:



The Multicultural Council, AIDS Committee of Windsor, Alive! Canada, BANA, City Centre Health Care Centre, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Windsor Essex County Health Unit, WECHC-Teen Health Centre and the YMCA.



The MCC Board and Staff would like to congratulate **Maryan Amalow**, the Executive Director of the Organization of Part-time University Students on Exemplary Outreach Activity Award presented at the Second Annual Muslim Community Appreciation Dinner for outstanding Contribution.

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## OUR MISSION

To promote and encourage a harmonious society in Windsor and Essex County that is multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and multi-faith, and to work toward the social equality of all cultures.



### **Become a MCC member today and start enjoying the benefits!**

Advocate for a harmonious and equitable Windsor-Essex by becoming an Individual or Organizational Member of the MCC today and reap many benefits!

Acess to Special Events: Discount tickets to the Herb Gray Gala and Magical Masquerade!  
Carrousel of Nations by the River: Free passes to one of Windsor and Essex County's most anticipated festivals in Southwestern Ontario; Carrousel of the Nations!

Publications and Resources: The Gazette Newsletter: Distributed to over 200 organizations and individuals, with a readership of over 2000. This publication provides you with insider access to multicultural news and events. Organizational Members receive 1 FREE ½ pg. color advertisement a year!

Voting Rights: Exercise your rights at our Annual General Meeting.

Your Community (or Commitment for Change): Do it because you care about your community. Help us continue to create and sustain an inclusive community and support Diversity Programming in our community.

Organizational Member annual fee: \$60.00

Individual Member annual fee: \$20.00

**To become a member please visit [www.themcc.com](http://www.themcc.com) or contact Mira at: [mgordic@themcc.com](mailto:mgordic@themcc.com) • 519.255.1127 ext. 220**

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