



Investing  
in People  
**MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL**  
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



Winter 2013 Issue

# g a z e t t e

Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community

## MCC presented with the ICG Replica Medal

**O**n October 15, 2013 Lisa Kolody, Director of Programs and Operations accepted on behalf of the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (MCC) a wonderful award, an ICG replica medal from the City of Windsor Mayor Eddie Francis and Warden of County of Essex, Tom Bain. The event was held at Caesar's Windsor

to recognize approximately 1000 community partners, corporate sponsors and volunteers.

In honor of the International Children's Games (ICG), the MCC hosted Passport to the World, a community celebration organized by the MCC with support from the Windsor Family Credit Union (WFCU). The event held on August 16th



Pictured from left: Eddie Francis, Mayor - City Of Windsor, Lisa Kolody, Director of Programs and Operations - The MCC, Tom Bain - Warden - County of Essex

welcomed more than 1600 athletes, their delegates and guests to experience the tastes, sounds and traditions of the various cultures in our region.

In addition to the Passport to the World, the MCC with financial support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, organized

the Team Ambassador volunteer component for the International Children's Games. The multilingual volunteers assisted the delegates, athletes and their families from over 81 different cities, in their own language, throughout their stay helping to advance better communication between the international visitors and our community.

## MCC News

### AN EVENING OF EXCELLENCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH HARVEST FESTIVAL AT POLONIA CENTER

You say Thanksgiving, I say Dozynki...

The Dozynki or Harvest Celebration is considered by far to be one of Poland's most revered and anticipated traditions. It has been celebrated for over 1000 years in every village and town across the country. Much importance was placed on the harvest because it represents the fruits of the farmers' labour, as well as their ability to sustain themselves during long and cold winter months. The farmers' gratefulness was expressed in forms of garlands of wheat and flowers as well as dancing and singing.

Windsor's celebration of Dozynki, which took place on October 18, 2013 in Dom Polski, was a night to celebrate excellence, hard work, dedication, passion, and involvement in the community at large.

I was mainly impressed with the group of young graduates who received awards in educational achievements, involvement in the community, and leadership qualities.

As always, the MCC was present to show their support and appreciation, and to confirm their everlasting encouragement, collaboration and recognition of the multiculturalism and harmony in action.

By Margaret Holec



## MCC News

### VITAL SIGNS

One of the goals of LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) is to prepare students for life in Canada, both in terms of language and cultural awareness. In order to do this, we often bring the community to the classroom. That was the reason for integrating WindsorEssex Community Foundation's Vital Signs into the lesson planning for Level 5/6/7 at the Multicultural Council. The Foundation has supported the development of classroom materials explaining the MCC's Harmony Ribbon campaign, so it seemed natural to bring their materials to our classroom. The students used the report of our community's "vital signs", various quality-of-life indicators, to enhance their English skills and to learn about their new home.

Day 1 challenged the students to answer questions about the introduction and welcome letter. The structure of the "quiz" was similar to that of a high-level English proficiency test. According to their instructor, Ian Sandie, the task "gave the students a good understanding of the project while helping prepare them for a test that many will take."



While the first day engaged them more in reading and writing, day two was more about speaking and listening. Each group of three or four students was assigned a particular quality-of-life marker to present to the class. They spent time reading about and discussing their topic, such as Lifelong Learning, Availability of Arts, Culture and Recreation, and Health and Wellness. After this, they "reported" to the class in their own words and added their perspective on the subjects.

Overall, students enjoyed the blending of school and community. One student, Saba Babar, said "I liked [the exercise] for the information about Windsor and the history it mentioned, like about the baby boomers relating to today."



## We Celebrate!



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.

## MCC News

### GROUP SESSIONS FOR LANGUAGE AND SKILLS PROGRAM

October was a month packed with group activities, youth engagement and fun at the MCC. In our Language and Skills Programs we held different group sessions to our LINC clients. In the beginning of the month we held our annual Student Orientation Sessions, followed by our "Getting Ready for Winter", in which clients were reminded of the importance of wearing appropriate winter gear, specially for the kids.

We also provided information on other services and event available in the community, such as Coats for Kids.

On October 22nd our Citizenship Preparation Workshop series started with great enthusiasm and expectations from new and current clients.



### MEADOWBROOK COMMUNITY IN ACTION PROJECT

The Meadowbrook Community in Action (MCIA) project at the Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County began in April 2013 who is a proud funded partner of United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County. This neighbourhood engagement project enhances the capacity of individuals and families to build and sustain strong, healthy communities and increase leadership amongst residents of the Meadowbrook Community.

On October 4, 2013, the Meadowbrook community residents and families came together for a night filled of excitement, popcorn and togetherness to watch



Monsters University in the Meadowbrook Optimist Park. It was an outdoor movie event that brought the community together to learn more about the Meadowbrook Community in Action Project and to become involved.

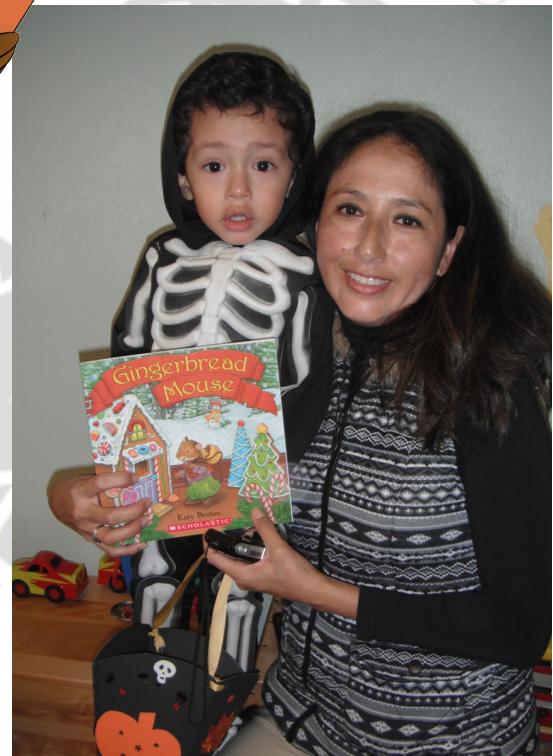
For more information on this initiative or if you want to be involved in this project please contact Shannon Ciampa or Sladjana Lazevski at 519-255-1127 ext. 155.



## MCC News

### BOOKS FOR YOUTH

Chrysler Canada partnered with United Way and Scholastic to donate 10,000 New Children's Books to Windsor Essex County Youth". The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (MCC) was pleased to receive 200 of these books to distribute to children from 2-14 throughout the various programs it offers to the newcomer clients and their children. We were able to distribute a number of them to the children at our Halloween festivities and below are a few pictures of the children with their new book. MCC offers a great big thank you to Chrysler Canada and United Way for this generous donation.



## Client's Corner

### OPEN LETTER FROM LINC STUDENTS

One of the most difficult decisions we've ever made was to leave our country behind and look for new horizons in another. We have made the decision to come and live in Canada, and the experience has been wonderful, enriching, full of surprises and, sometimes, a little stormy.

When I came to Canada with my wife, we found the first big surprise a few blocks from our new home - an invaluable assistance from the government in orientation, social assistance, participation and welcome to any newcomer no matter where he/she came from or their reasons. This warm hug to a stranger is not common in other countries and here was a surprise. One begins to know a lot of people from different cultures, languages, races and beliefs that open a new universe of knowledge, understanding and tolerance for others. Our conception of the worlds is wide and enriches us in both cultural and human terms.

However, not all is happiness, the greatest stumbling block that we found upon reaching Canada is the language. For those who don't know it, it presents a barrier to communicate with native people and to find a good job. Despite this, Canada will make it easier for you and invite you to learn English for free. They give you the tools to have Canadian experience and thus achieve a job. Wonderful things that only happen here.

We do not regret immigrating to Canada. We are full of enthusiasm, with a desire to move forward and with the hope of giving back to Canada for what this country has done for us.

Carlos and Graciela

LINC Students  
Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County



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## MCC News

### THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

**O**n October 11, 2013, the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child.

The International Day of the Girl Child promotes girl's rights and highlights gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys. It is celebrated to acknowledge girls as a population that faces challenges including gender inequality and violence, child labor, early marriage and discrimination at home and work. This year marks the second International Day of the Girl Child with a focus on education.

Throughout the presentation and group activities, Sladjana Lazevski, the Leadership Coordinator at the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, engaged the girls from the Youth Program to share their personal stories about challenges they faced before they came to Canada as well as their current obstacles when it comes to education. They learned from each other and from internationally known examples of the girl child struggles.



### THE MCC YOUTH AT THE Y OLYMPIAN DAY



**O**n October 26, 2013, the youth from the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County participated in the Y Olympian Day event at the YMCA.

The Y Olympian Day is an event focused on health, fitness and recreation; promoting healthy & balanced lifestyles. This event seeks to promote community integration, community building and leadership development.

The youth were separated into different teams and they had to complete a series of challenges at various sites around the Downtown Windsor. Sites were hosted by agencies, organizations and businesses in Windsor. Each challenge was unique to site and was both fun and educational in nature.

We won second place!



## Upcoming Cultural Competence Workshops

Understanding Cultural Competency	December 4, 2013
Media Messaging; Cultural Competent Advertising	December 11, 2013
Creating an Inclusive Work Environment	December 18, 2013
Cross Cultural Communication	January 15, 2014
Health, Healing and Religion	January 22, 2014
Making the Business Case for Diversity	February 5, 2014
Involving Volunteers from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds	February 19, 2014
Health, Healing and Religion	March 19, 2014

**ALL WORKSHOPS ARE FREE!**

For more information contact Nigel Couch at 519.255.1127 ext. 212

Website: [www.themcc.com](http://www.themcc.com) Email: [nigelcouch@themcc.com](mailto:nigelcouch@themcc.com)

Funded by:  Citizenship and Immigration Canada  Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE HERB GRAY HARMONY AWARD 2014

The Herb Gray Harmony Award honours individuals and/or organizations whose efforts support and encourage a harmonious society.

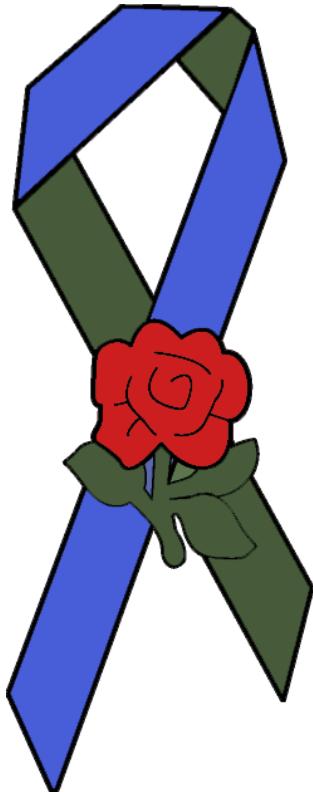
The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County is pleased to announce the nomination process for 2014 has begun.

This year's deadline for nomination is Friday, November 29th 2013 by 5 o'clock.

If you know an individual, a business or an agency in our community who contributes to the spirit of multiculturalism, the Herb Gray Harmony Award is an excellent opportunity for recognition.

For more information on the nomination criteria and to find the nomination form please visit our website at [www.themcc.com](http://www.themcc.com) or call 519-255-1127.

The 12th Annual Herb Gray Harmony Award Gala is on Thursday, April 24, 2014.



Thank you to our Harmony and Champion Award Gala Sponsors



**THE WINDSOR STAR**  
[windsorstar.com](http://windsorstar.com)



## MCC News

### HALLOWEEN AT THE MCC

Our Clients and Staff gathered with great joy and lots of laughter in our Halloween Celebrations. It included full participation of our LINC students and faculty, as well as a fun-packed afternoon promoted by MCC's Youth Leadership Program. Regardless of the program, if client or staff, the day was filled with pumpkin carving, "Trick or Treating" from the kids of our daycare for Newcomer Children Program and delicious treats brought in by clients, staff and volunteers.

What a wonderful way to introduce Halloween to our newcomer clients!



### THE MCC YOUTH PROGRAM HALLOWEEN 2013

Hallowe'en is a festive time of the year for adults and kids alike. The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County offered a safe, positive event for youth to attend on October 31, 2013; setting an example of good, wholesome fun for youth who were engaged in different group activities.



## NEWS FROM THE MCC MEMBERS

### Domovina in Slovakia 2013

From July 3 to 20th 2013, the Slovak Domovina Dancers from Windsor performed at three festivals in Slovakia. Over a four-day period, July 4-7th over 1,000 performers - dancers, singers, musicians, actors and actresses from nine different countries plus Slovakia, took part in the World Festival of Slovak Youth in Kosice, the festival pod Polanou in Detva, and in the Halusky Festival in Turecka.

In the Halusky Competition Domovina's team took 4th place out of 17 teams - an excellent showing as they were



Pictured: Performance in Detva

the only competitor that was not from Slovakia.

This proved to be one of Domovina's best trips. Not only were they able to perform their dances to many appreciative audiences, they were also able to enjoy the breathtaking beauty of Slovakia and meet many warm and wonderful people. All came back to Canada with many fond memories, many new and renewed friendships and lots of renewed enthusiasm.



Pictured: Domovina team

**THE MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL CONGRATULATES THE SLOVAK DOMOVINA DANCERS ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY. THE DANCE GROUP WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL AT THEIR ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2013.**



Pictured: At the Mayor's office with the Mayor of Detva, Ing. Jan Sufliarsky, Irene Timko on the left and Anne Chauvin on the right

YOU CAN HELP!

## MULTICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY of ONTARIO



### Volunteers Needed at the Multicultural History Society of Ontario

The Multicultural History Society of Ontario (MHSO) is a not-for-profit educational institution and archive. It was established in 1976 by Professor Robert F. Harney to increase public understanding of the multicultural nature of Ontario's history.

The MHSO has amassed a collection that includes 9,000 hours of oral history interviews and approximately 60,000 historical photographs gathered from 54 different ethno cultural communities across Ontario. The interviews include the oral testimony of Ukrainians who came to Canada as displaced persons following the Second World War, former soldiers of the Polish Second Army Corps who were unwilling émigrés in 1946, family-sponsored Italians who joined an earlier wave of sojourners in search of a better life in Canada, Finns who were drawn to work in the mining and lumber towns of northern Ontario, Hungarian refugees who came to the province in the wake of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, American resisters and draft dodgers who sought refuge in Canada during the Vietnam War, Vietnamese 'boat people' who, after fleeing southeast Asia, were admitted into the country in 1979 and 1980 and many more. The photographs, which were collected from the individuals who were interviewed, depict people, activities and events related to the immigration and ethnic experience.

The Society is currently in the process of digitizing this collection and creating an online archive. It has been very successful in recruiting dozens of volunteers from all over the province to work on transcripts of the oral history interviews. MHSO is now in the process of extending their volunteer recruitment.

Many of the oral history interviews are in different languages. Transcriptions need to be prepared in these languages and then translate the transcripts into English. Consequently, there is a need of volunteers with language skills.

The languages that the MHSO needs help with transcription and translation are Armenian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Gaelic, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Sinhala, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

For more information contact:

Sarah Warner  
Outreach Coordinator  
Multicultural History Society of Ontario  
416-979-2973  
[sarah.warner@mhso.ca](mailto:sarah.warner@mhso.ca)

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## Become a MCC member!



### **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.

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:  
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