



Investing
in People

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



Winter 2016

g a z e t t e

Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community

HERB GRAY HARMONY AWARDS GALA

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 20, 2017



IN THIS ISSUE:

Chatham welcomes refugees
- pg. 2

AGM & Volunteer appreciation
event - pg. 6

Learn about new program C6
- pg. 8

Private refugee sponsorship
information session - pg. 3

Top Festival in Ontario - Carrousel
of the Nations - pg. 10

ATTRACTIONS



SUPPORT

THE MISSION AND VISION
OF
THE MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL!

BECOME THE MCC MEMBER

TODAY!

pg. 12

MCC FALL events

Chatham welcomes refugees



This past year has been a remarkable one for the Multicultural Council (MCC) and the community we serve. Our Windsor Resettlement Program (WRAP) settled over 1,000 government assisted Syrian refugees. The Government of Canada's commitment to resettle Government Assisted Refugees continues with a new initiative known as Welcoming Community. This program encourages smaller communities to provide supports and services to refugees.

Chatham-Kent applied to the Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for this designation.

Currently, Chatham is the only municipality in Canada selected to be part of the Welcoming Communities Initiative. Chatham-Kent can receive refugees identified by IRCC as destined to either Windsor or London where there are resettlement centres like the Multicultural Council. Chatham's Adult Learning Centre works in partnership with the municipality to

support the new program.

What does this mean to the family who recently arrived?

For instance, on Thursday, November 17th, a family of eight arrived at Windsor's airport. The family included a mother, father, and six children whose ages range from 6 months to 16 years old. They're Syrian refugees who travelled from Turkey to Toronto to Windsor with their final destination Chatham-Kent.

Two of MCC's resettlement staff travels to Chatham to assist the family's initial transition into Canadian life. They're impressed with the response people and organizations in Chatham have to the newcomers.

The family's reaction to their new home is that Chatham is truly a welcoming place to live. This new approach, to resettle refugees in smaller communities, is not without its challenges. However, it sets the stage for a more successful integration of refugees coming to this part of Ontario.



Private refugee sponsorship information session



Information Session was held at the Canterbury College

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, in partnership with the Sponsorship Support Program hosted the second Private Sponsorship Information and Networking Session which took place on October 27th, 2016. This partnership was established with the intent of better supporting new groups in the community who may be interested in becoming refugee sponsors.

The event was held at Canterbury College, the guest list was an interesting blend of current and potential refugee sponsorship groups in Windsor/Essex, with over forty people in attendance.

The main goal of this session was providing accurate information on refugee sponsorship process, as well as to connect people at different stages of the process.

After the initial introduction and presentation of the partners and their roles, the training portion of the event was led by Melissa Scott from the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program in Scarborough Ontario. Melissa has extensive experience in delivering sessions across the country on private sponsorship and was able to answer many questions that came from the participants and made it clear to the participants what were the steps needed in

order to pursue their intentions of becoming private sponsors. Following the formal presentation, participants had an opportunity to mingle and network with members of local Sponsorship Agreement Holder Groups, ask questions to the both MCC staff, University of Windsor Faculty and Students, as well as interact with the main presenter, while enjoying delicious refreshments generously provided by the Faculty of Law. The MCC was very pleased with the outcomes and looks forward to continue to assist the community members, current and future sponsors and newcomers to our community.

Creating a welcoming community



One of regular activities of the Windsor Resettlement Assistance Program is to hold orientation sessions with Government Assisted Refugees upon their arrival. These sessions include information on federal and provincial programs, help to locate and move into permanent accommodations and financial and general orientation.

On November 18 & 19, the WRAP staff provided sessions to 13 clients and activities for 32 children with a help of MCC volunteers. Being in a hotel as their temporary accommodation without much place to play, children were very excited to enjoy fun time with staff and volunteers and simply be kids.

In addition to parents with new knowledge and information they need to start new life in Canada, children with a special day full of fun, and MCC staff continued to strive to deliver services and programs that continue to make Windsor Essex a welcoming community.





Conversation Circles

Date and Time:
Tuesday & Thursday
3 - 5 pm

Location:
7651 Tecumseh Rd. E.

Eligibility:
 Permanent Residents,
 Convention Refugees
 (18+ years old)

Friendly conversation and social time while you practice your English skills!

conversation circle newcomers

English practice fun to friends improve classroom learn free

Funded by: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Financé par: Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

245 JANETTE AVE. WINDSOR, ON N9A 4Z2 • 7651 TECUMSEH RD. EAST WINDSOR, ON N8T 3H1
 519.255.1127 • WWW.THEMCC.COM

After School Program

The After School Program (ASP) resumed on October 3, 2016 at the Multicultural Council.

Funded by United Way/Centraide of Windsor and Essex County, the goal of the ASP is to provide a healthy, safe, supportive environment by strengthening academic skills, supporting healthy behaviour and physical well-being of youth, and fostering consistent and positive relationships with peers, adults, and a sense of community. The ASP includes a homework club with daily academic support, enrichment and recreation component, as well as nutrition. We are looking forward to the many activities that

will take place throughout the term. This year we are planning themed weeks that will include language, art, science, math, computers and drama activities. After School Program is running five days a week: Monday – Thursday from 3-5pm and Friday 3-4pm from our East End location, 7651 Tecumseh Road East. All children ages 7-12, regardless of their status (Canadian citizen, permanent residents, etc.) are eligible for this program.

To register, please contact Kelly Pukay, Youth Program Coordinator at 519-255-1127 ext. 219

Conversation Circle: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00-5:00

- ▶ On a waiting list for language classes but not yet in school?
- ▶ In language classes but want to improve faster?
- ▶ Can't attend language classes but still want to opportunities to practice your speaking and listening?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you would be more than welcome to join the bi-weekly conversation circle at the MCC. Topics are chosen by participants, so we're always focusing on what is important to you



THANK YOU notes from our youth



Mcc have good staff to help you with ~~your~~ your problems. It is the best Place to learn new things.

"I'm very thankful for everything that Mcc have done for us. Specially, providing a place to help us with homeworks also providing food."

Thank you Jesse for allowing us to utilize your room for art projects!

- We'll make you something soon.

Thanks to Shara for always staying positive and participating in the Homework Clubs. 😊

All I want to say is I

Love You's

Stadina ♡

Much love for you!

MCC is not an institution but a home to me. I can come here to get help with nearly anything. MCC is beautiful, helpful, and for me a friend indeed.

MCC is my second home and all the staffs in Mcc are my second family members. lots of love for everyone.

I like the MCC because I feel free to express myself in a safe environment. Being part of a Youth program gives me a sense of community.

16/4/16



Annual General Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Event 2016



2016 Carrousel Winners

1. Italian Village
2. Scottish Village
3. Chinese Village

The Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County's 2016 Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Event took place on Monday the 20th of September, 2016. We saw the retiring of two of our valued board members Cal Little and Dan Fantetti, who made great contributions to the MCC. Our new board was nominated and seconded at the event. We look to our new board to take us into a new year of helping our clients.

The Event was held at the beautiful All Saints Church and catered by Koolini's. We would like to thank these two groups for sponsoring the venue and food for the event. Our volunteers were treated to a delicious meal and baklava for dessert.

We recognized community partners and sponsors at the AGM. In particular we thanked the various people and groups who worked with us during the 2015-2016 Syrian Influx to our area. Also, we showed our appreciation to all of our community sponsors.

Our Carrousel of the Nation's partner villages were in attendance to see who was the very best of the best villages this year. It was with great pride that we recognized our winning villages at the party.

The winners were, in first place the Italian Village, second place went to the Scottish Village, in third we had the Chinese Village and our new village the Bavarian garnered an honourable mention. The villages that won the awards did a great job this year. We would just like to say that all of our village partners put on excellent events during Carrousel each year.

It was a wonderful evening had by all. We did some business, recognized community partners, had fun and got ready to start a brave new year of helping people. We would like to give a special thanks to all of our sponsors and volunteers. Without you we would not be able to run our events or programs that help so many in our community.



TUNE IN FOR SENIORS



For the past six months the Tune In program taught seniors how to create podcasts. Fifteen participants enrolled in the program and had a great time learning the fundamentals of audio production. Each lesson was interactive, hands-on, engaging and entertaining. The participants developed a better understanding of the Internet and greater awareness of what podcasts offer.

One significant and unexpected benefit of the Tune In program was that seniors gained insight on thinking about the media they consume. These skills gave them a way to be engaged, think critically and analyze the medium's message; whether accessing news and entertainment from podcasts, magazines, newspapers, radio, Internet or television.

The official training is now complete but the program continues to offer seniors (50+) podcast information:

1. Seniors can tell their own story or learn to create digital content for podcast. Tune In instruction is available. Contact rporter@themcc.com or call (519) 255-1127 ext. 140
2. A FREE podcast booklet has been developed to provide an overview of podcasts: what they are, how to find them, etc. To get a FREE podcast booklet contact rporter@themcc.com or call (519) 255-1127 ext. 140

PODCASTS



What are they?

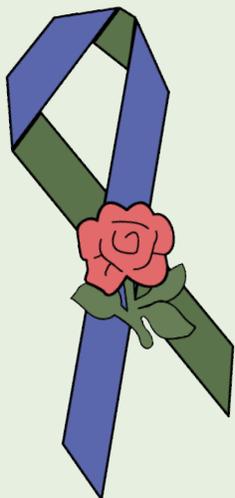
Where to find them.

How to choose one.

When to listen.

Why they're popular.

Did you know?



In 1995, the MCC introduced the Harmony Ribbon Campaign to raise awareness of cultural diversity and to promote a harmonious society.

The HARMONY RIBBON is worn as a visible symbol of the mutual respect and understanding that we have for one another and as a sign of our desire to live in a community that is free from racism and discrimination.

The colors of the ribbon, **GREEN** for the land and **BLUE** for the sky and ocean, represent our unity as citizens of Earth. **RED** roses represent love, respect, and courage. Together they symbolize the beauty and harmony created when our diverse community comes together.

The Harmony Ribbon has been feature in five local murals down Wyandotte Street, Canadian army camps in Bosnia and Afghanistan, and back home to Parliament and the House of Commons. The Harmony Ribbon continues to promote a regional, national, and international symbol of beauty and harmony.

Community Connections

Thank you Windsor Essex Community Foundation

A sincere THANK YOU to the Windsor Essex Community Foundation for a \$35,000 contribution to the Multicultural Council. Donation is coming from Community Foundations of Canada's Welcome Fund for Syrian refugees in support of local settlement efforts.

Photo: Lisa Kolody, Executive Director WECF (left) and Kathleen Thomas, Executive Director, MCC



The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County is excited to announce the launch of the C6 program.

At its core, C6 is a program that matches newcomers to Canada- GARs and PSRs, with families here in Windsor and Essex County. The name represents the words that came up when we thought about what the program should represent- Community, Connecting, Culture, Collaborating, Coaching, and Cooperating.

C6 is designed to encourage a two way cultural exchange, with newcomers and Windsor-Essex residents sharing their family customs and activities. The program will also assist newcomers with their integration, as volunteer can introduce aspects of the

Windsor and Essex County communities. The matched individuals and families are encouraged to meet weekly for self-planned social and community events, and are expected to remain actively matched for a period of four months. During this time, the MCC will support the matches and hold monthly get-togethers, but will leave the planning and interaction to the individuals themselves. We are currently actively recruiting both newcomers and volunteers for the program, and look forward to facilitating many successful matches.

For more information on the C6 program, or to volunteer for the program yourself, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Lyn Bain at 519-255-1127 or lbain@themcc.com

C6

New Program at the MCC



Prevention abuse and violence against women



The Neighbours Friends and Families (NFF), the province wide campaign with the goal to raise awareness about the warning signs of woman abuse, has been running successfully over many years. The funding provided by the Ontario Women Directorate, the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County extended the Campaign within diverse communities and has started delivering the Neighbours, Friends and Families in Immigrant and Refugee Communities (NFF IRC) Campaign. The goal of the MCC NFF IRC Campaign is to provide culturally competent information and strategies for immigrant and refugee communities to know the warning signs of abuse, to support women

who are impacted by abuse and to make the community a safe place for women.

The woman abuse has been identified as a determinant of health and as such, it is a preventable health risk. It is an issue where everyone in our community should and can play a role in preventing. Multicultural Council of Windsor Essex County has recruited Peer Educators to teach and to raise awareness in their communities on recognizing the warning signs of abuse and how people can support women who are impacted by abuse. Campaign helps diverse communities identify the signs of woman abuse and equips those closest to a woman with the skills to intervene effectively. Each community has different experiences with woman abuse, and has its own unique features, risk factors and safety issues to be considered. In order to promote the NFF IRC Campaign effectively and with

cultural competency, the MCC works collaboratively with community partners and peer educators who best understand their community's needs.

The Campaign uses accessible, relevant products and activities to reach diverse immigrant and refugee communities. The forming of a Committee consisting of local community agencies and various members of ethnic communities with the goal to determine together how the Neighbours, Friends & Families Immigrant & Refugee Communities Campaign will work the best within Windsor Essex diverse community.

For more information on the MCC Violence Prevention Initiatives please contact Richale Singer, Neighbours, Friends and Families Coordinator
Email: rsinger@themcc.com
Office: 519-255-1127 Ext.145



Left to right : Bashar Y, Richale S, Amjad S



Left to right: Odour A, Richale S, Debra F, Adelina B, Amjad S, Naw S, Irma N



Rebecca S.

Success story

Six recent immigrants to start new jobs in Kingsville

Through the ongoing efforts of the Pre-Employment Coordinator in partnership with Kyle Devine of Devine Personnel, employment has been secured for 6 clients at Kingsville Stamping Ltd over the next number of weeks!

Yousef Omro, Naem Masri, Haitham Abdul Latif, Mohamed Al Torkmani, Heni Sihyunus and Mohammad Alzab are scheduled to start work from November 22nd to December 20th, 2016! They are very excited about the opportunity as they will start working as Press Operators.

The Multicultural Council is excited to continue working with clients, employers and the community in assisting immigrants pursuing their goals.

All the best to all of you in your first employment job in Canada!



Carrousel of the Nations won Top Festival of the year Award by Attractions Ontario



The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (MCC) is very proud to announce that our own festival, Carrousel of the Nation, won the Top Festival and Event in Ontario Award given by Attractions Ontario.

The Award was announced at the Ontario Tourism Summit in Ottawa on November 22, 2016.

Ontario Choice Award celebrates the very best attraction in the province. This award is unique because the winner is chosen by the people who visited a venue. We competed in the Top Festival and Event category against the following finalists:

- Palmer Rapids Twin Music Festival
- Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek
- Great Canadian Kayak Challenge & Festival
- Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County
- Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues

- Voyageur Winter Carnival – Fort William Historical Park
 - Annual Bushplane Days Festival -Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre
- Based on Consumer votes over a span of 6 months it came down to the following 3 finalists:

- Great Canadian Kayak Challenge and Festival
- Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues
- Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County

At the end, thanks to many votes of Carrousel goers, we came first. Our sincere thank you to everyone who voted and supported Carrousel of the Nations. As a great multicultural city, we are proud of our festival and opportunity to celebrate diversity of our community.

See you at the Carrousel 2017!



Volunteers needed!



Volunteers play an integral part in the Multicultural Council. Many of our programs rely heavily on volunteers to ensure that events and opportunities for newcomers are organized, supervised, and safe.

Currently, the area which has the highest need for volunteers is working with children and youth.

As Government Assisted Refugees and Privately Sponsored Refugees arrive, they are provided with

assessment and orientation sessions. During these presentations, the parents are given important information to assist them in their resettlement. The MCC provides activities to entertain and supervise the children so that the parents can give the presentations their full attention.

Staff and volunteers lead the children in arts and crafts, puzzles, games, and other activities, and provide snacks. Because these activities aren't

always able to be scheduled well in advance, the MCC needs a pool of qualified, dedicated volunteers to assist. That way, when we find out that sessions have been scheduled for our newcomers, we can let our volunteers know, and ensure that the children are well supervised.

If you are interested in becoming a child and youth volunteer with the MCC, please visit our website for more details, or contact Volunteer Coordinator Lyn Bain at 519-255-1127 or lbain@themcc.com

Flu clinic

The Multicultural Council hosted a flu shot clinics for all clients and their families on Wednesday, November 23rd from 9-5pm at the DT office and Tuesday November 29th, from 12pm-5pm at the east end WECHC Pickwick office. As a result, total of 108 individuals



Morning Glory

The MCC is partnering with the WECHC for a "Morning Glory" series which began on Thursday September 29th, 2016. The group meets weekly on Thursdays at the MCC downtown office from 9:30am-11:00am. The program is for newcomer mothers and their children ages 0-6 years. Health education topics include parenting, stress, women's health, healthy relationships, etc.



Thank You

2016 Carrousel Sponsors



2016 Harmony & Champion Award Gala Sponsors



BECOME AN MCC MEMBER TODAY AND START ENJOYING BENEFITS

ADVOCATE FOR A HARMONIOUS AND EQUITABLE WINDSOR-ESSEX BY BECOMING AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER OF THE MCC TODAY AND REAP MANY BENEFITS!

**INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERSHIP**

\$20/year



**ORGANIZATION
MEMBERSHIP**

\$60/year

- Support the mission and vision of the Multicultural Council
- Access and discount to Special events
- Online edition of quarterly newsletter "Gazette". This publication provides you with inside access to multicultural news and events
- Exclusive voting rights at the Annual General Meeting
- Publication resources
- Education and diversity consult

- Commitment to change
- Organization members receive:
- 1 free advertisement in the Gazette - 4.75 x 7.25
 - 2 free advertisement on the MCC Web site under MCC member news
 - 3 events of your organization to be shared through social media

To become a member please visit www.themcc.com or contact Mira at: mgordic@themcc.com • 519.255.1127 ext. 220