



Investing  
in People

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL  
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



Summer 2018

g a z e t t e

Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community



JUNE 15-16-17  
JUNE 22-23-24

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**In this issue:**

20 Years of Sammy	2	Community Building Project	10
Helping newcomers make connections	3	Carrousel schedule	10, 11
Student reporters	4	MCC Summer blog	11
Summer plans	6	Health Access Day	12
Herb Gray Gala 2018	8	Harmony Action Day	14

# NEWS



April 28th was a special day at MCC East End; Sammy Savaya, the English Language instructor for CLB (Canadian Language Benchmark) Level 1, celebrated his 20th anniversary of teaching at MCC.

Originally from Iraq, Sammy came to Canada in 1992. In Iraq, Sammy was a college level English instructor and wanted to continue teaching in Canada. When he started working at MCC on April 28, 1998, Sammy started working with the higher level English speakers (CLB 5). Throughout his 20 years at MCC, he has taught all CLB Levels and worked with 6 different Program Managers. Sammy notes that while there have been many government-driven changes to the curriculum and program, the one constant is the students. "They are so happy to be here," Sammy says. **"The best part of my day is seeing them build their confidence because we give them the skills they need to succeed in Canada."**

Sammy's students have gone on to lead successful lives in the Windsor/Essex area. Three of his former students even work at MCC East End: one in Administration, one in Childminding for Newcomers to Canada, and one as a fellow English instructor. Recently, during a visit to Met Hospital, Sammy was happy to see one of his students working as a nurse in the emergency room.

Sammy says his favourite thing about working at MCC is, "dealing with people from so many different backgrounds and cultures. Seeing them smile when they learn something new. I just love it!"

Thank you Sammy from the Board and your co-workers at the MCC.

## CELEBRATING

# 20

## YEARS OF SAMMY!

### Fun Fact

*The 9 English Language instructors at the East End have a total of 88 years of teaching experience at MCC between them. Keep up the GREAT work!*

# HELPING NEWCOMERS MAKE CONNECTIONS



Windsor Express Game

***“When people get busy, just having a friend to turn to is a huge weight off their shoulders.”***

***- Ian Sandie***

Trying to settle in a new community is a difficult task. MCC's wonderful staff make it easier, but sometimes our clients could use a different kind of personal help.

That's where the new Canada Connect program comes in. Through one-on-one matches (or family to family), newcomers will be paired with Canadians or "settled immigrants". These connections will help them learn about Canada, get help with settlement-related activities, practice English and, most importantly, develop lasting friendships in their new home.

According to Ian Sandie, MCC Connect Coordinator, the concept isn't necessarily new, but it's always a challenge for people to find the time. "We're developing a program that provides newcomers with the support they need, but doesn't require a massive commitment for those involved. When people get busy, just having a friend to turn to is a huge weight off their shoulders."

The benefits of course aren't just one way. Sandie notes that it's an excellent way for these volunteers to meet new and interesting people, learn about other cultures and contribute to our community's well-being in a direct and tangible way. "It can be as simple as talking over a coffee at Timmies, visiting a museum or hanging out at the park," continues Sandie. "As much as we're hoping for volunteers to support the newcomers, we'll be there to support the volunteers and help everyone make it a success."

If you are interested in volunteering with Canada Connect, please contact Ian Sandie, MCC Connect Coordinator at 519-255-1127 ext. 224 or [isandie@themcc.com](mailto:isandie@themcc.com).

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## FIFA World Cup Spirit at the MCC

By: Edyta Pletnia, Rima Ichaya, Aubrey Garir

If you are a young soccer fan then you are in luck! This coming summer the Community Connections Staff of the MCC will be arranging a special program in line with the World Cup.

If there is something common amongst the members of the youth group, their love for soccer definitely tops the list. The World Cup will be running from June 14 till July 15 of this year and it will be held in Russia. The youth group will be watching some of the games on a big screen and will also be provided with some refreshments. In addition, they are organizing a couple of friendly games at a nearby park to let

their "inner Messi" shine through. Aside from the activity in line with the World Cup there are more activities in store for the youth group this coming summer. There are plans for different field trips and leadership training and everyone between the ages of 14-24 are encouraged to register at the front office because some of the activities have limited spots. The youth program is headed by Jimela Hall and, during the school year, they meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-5:00 P.M. For more information about the special summer programs, please don't hesitate to contact the program staff.





## Congrats, Grads!

By: Yu-Ju Shih, Rand Youssef, Jane Raffi, Ruba Abusway

The start of a new school year is often one of the most important transitions in a child's life. The MCC provides a fantastic platform for immigrant children to cope with this difficult phase and the potential challenges by developing essential skills in the Early Childhood Education program to prepare them for junior kindergarten.

This year, the MCC and ECE program is proudly graduating 14 children. "My daughter has gained

increased independence, greater self-confidence and developed stronger communication and language skills since starting the program," said Jane Raffi, mother of Celina, a four-year-old getting ready to transition to the school system. "The MCC is a wonderful organization that provides a secure and welcoming English immersion learning environment for both parents and their children. Thank you!"



## Gym Time!

By: Marija Mihailovic, Aurora Sanchez, Lisandra Perez

Early childhood is a time of extraordinary physical, cognitive, social and emotional development. Development in the first years of a child's life is of immense importance to health, learning and achievements for the whole life. The Early Childhood Education team at the MCC uses the recently completed gymnasium area to fully promote the healthy development of children. In the well-equipped gym children participate in organized games

to improve their gross motor and fine motor development. "The ECE program at the MCC hosts 62 children who are further divided into different age groups. The main rule regarding gym activities is that every day toddler and preschool groups have to spend at least half-an-hour in the gym," stated ECE supervisor Elena Apelian. This fantastic new space really gives students a chance to move around and have fun while learning!

# SUMMER PLANS

## Fedda Alhourany - CLB (Canadian Language Benchmark) 5



In the summer, I like to plant some vegetables and flowers in my garden. Every year, I prepare the land for planting. In addition, I divide our backyard into parts for planting different plants and flowers. I always grow vegetables like green onions, cucumbers, tomatoes and parsley that are necessary to make my favorite plate of "fattoush". These veggies have a very delicious taste because they are organic and fresh. Moreover, I grow some flowers that reflect nice colours during the whole time of summer. My favorite flower is Purple Coneflower. This flower grows so fast and attracts birds and butterflies to our backyard. Also, we grow flowers that are called Asters. This dainty flower can withstand heat, and adds a soft touch to our garden. I like this season because these flowers and plants give us a beautiful and wonderful look.

## Yamuni Koirala - CLB 5



Summer is a time to relax and have a fun. During the summer vacation I plan to do a lot of different things. First, I will start to plant some vegetables in my garden and some different kinds of flowers around the garden. Then, I will start out with going to the pool with my children because it will start to get very hot and I will need a place to cool off. The second thing I would like to do would be going to a water park called Splash Island. At Splash Island I could swim, play and slide with my children all they want. The third thing I want to do is go to Myrtle Beach with my family it will be the most fun part of my summer. The next thing I plan to do is go diving. I would like to see a sea turtle while I am diving. I think my summer will be really fun.

## Greta Nagelschmidt - CLB 5



Hello reader,  
I would like to tell you about my summer vacation. After I finish school, I will start summer classes, which will take, up most of my free time. But, it does not matter because I can practice my language skills and learn new things such as finding and applying skills in tourism, computer skills and a lot more. Also, my mother is coming to visit us during that time. My summer school is at the same time as my mother is coming but my son and my husband will stay with her and show her around but I think my son will be the one who will be staying the most with her and he will make sure that she is alright and happy. When she arrives, we will stay two days in Niagara Falls where we will go with the boat under the waterfall, visit the Hard Rock Cafe and the wax museums around. When we get back in Windsor, we will show her Point Pelee and the places near us. I think we will even go to the USA. At least one day of the weekend we will be just for us to relax at home. This summer will be a busy one but me and my family will try to create an unforgettable experience for my mother.

# WHAT IS YOUR TALENT?



**Marija Mihailovic - CLB 6**

I am not sure that I have the ability or real talent for singing but I like to sing very much. I sing every time I have a chance; at home, when driving, while I bathe, cook, or clean the house. I really enjoy singing but I have never sung in public for an official event, just in front of my friends. Music is a very important part of my life. I think that it is very helpful for me every time I feel sad. My day begins with music.

**Edyta Pletnia - CLB 7**



Talent can change your approach to life. I have never known that I have any talent. First of all, coming to Canada gives me an opportunity to know my soul better.

Everyone knows that newcomers have many obstacles at the beginning of our journey. I have had the same experience. Due to an awareness of my lack of fluent language skills, I have started to look for relief in painting. I saw that I have a talent to paint on canvas and paint on walls. A lot of people who saw my work expressed their admiration and delight. I was very surprised.

One moment stuck in my memory. I gave a dedicated painting on canvas to my son's teacher. She was so surprised that she started crying. She said that my art touched her soul. She moved me also. That was the most memorable moment for me.



**DiverseCity onBoard**



The MCC is proud to continue our commitment to DiverseCity onBoard.

In partnership with Ryerson University, the Multicultural Council will provide local coordination, support, and management for this dynamic program.

DiverseCity onBoard bridges is an internationally recognized program that provides governance training for everyone and connects qualified candidates from under-represented groups to not-for-profit organizations and public agencies, boards and commissions.

*If you or organization are interested in learning more about the initiative, please contact Pam Mady, Manager of Communications & Community Engagement.*

*pmady@themcc.com  
519-255-1127 ext. 203*

# HERB GRAY GALA 2018



Representative from Cogeco Robret Scussolin and Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County present Jasmin who is joined by her husband Jimy with the Champion

Over 500 supporters and partners of the Multicultural Council enjoyed a cool Icelandic evening of celebration at the 2018 Herb Gray Gala.

The event once again provided opportunity for our community to gather to recognize the recipients of the Harmony and Champion Awards. The Harmony Award is given to an individual or organization who has made an outstanding contribution to building a welcoming community for all. This year, the honor went to Caesar's Windsor

Cares for their continuing investment in Windsor. The Award will be presented to this generous and worthy organization at the later date.

The Champion Award celebrates the contribution that immigrants make to our community. The 2018 recipient was Mrs. Jasmin Reyes-Tjong for her dedication and generosity to various ethnic and community programs.

Also this year, to recognize the 45th anniversary of the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex



Ali and Hussein Mohammed received the MCC Inspire Award which was presented by Beth Ann Prince (left) from WFCU.





# Icelandic

EVENING



County, a new honor n- the MCC Inspire award- was established. Recognizing a newcomer for their determination, their resolve, and for overcoming fierce adversity, the Inspire award was presented to brothers Ali and Hussein Mohammed.

The MCC would like to offer tremendous thanks those who had a hand in making this evening such a success. Our appreciation goes out to the event sponsors, the Carrousel Villages and restaurants who donated the evening's appetizers, the silent auction contributors, the gala committee, the staff and management of the Ciociaro Club, and the many event volunteers.



# COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECT



Nearly 100 newcomers took part in the Community building project organized by the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County on April 21st at the Windsor Public Library. Together, the participants created a work of art which will be shared via the Global Art Project. MCC staff and volunteers were on hand to assist with the project, and were touched by the personal messages created by our clients.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Annette Dufresne, the program is now in its second year, and included both first-time and return artists. Newcomers added and decorated their own handprints, symbolizing unity, involvement, and encouragement for one another.

The event provided social engagement, community involvement, and family bonding, and was enjoyed by all. Plans are already underway to expand and develop the event further for next year.



## CARROUSEL

VILLAGE NAME	ADDRESS	June	15	16	17
Bavarian Village	1367 Drouillard Road	•	•	•	•
Caribbean Village	2410 Central Avenue	•	•	•	•
Filipino Village	935 Northwood Drive	•	•	•	•
Greek Village	3052 Walker Rd.	•	•	•	•
Hungarian Village	790 Hanna Street East	•	•	•	•
Macedonian Village	5225 Howard Ave.	•	•	•	•
Polish Village	1275 Langlois Ave.	•	•	•	•
Romanian Village	1960 Tecumseh Rd. E	•	•	•	•
Scottish Village	1340 Tecumseh Rd. E	•	•	•	•
Serbian Grachanica Village	6770 Tecumseh Rd. E	•	•	•	•

# MCC SUMMER BLOG

To help clients stay connected to what is happening during the summer months at MCC East End, we provide our English Language students access to a summer blog page:

[mccsummer.blogspot.com](http://mccsummer.blogspot.com).

The summer blog has links to different summer events in Windsor, English grammar instruction for various levels, sites for driving and citizenship practice tests, information about summer programs and office hours at the East End and much more! It also reminds students when English classes resume in the fall, September 10th.

## MCC Summer Workshops:

- *Senior's Program (1pm-2pm)*  
July 20, July 27, August 3, August 10
- *Women's Arts & Craft Group (12pm-2pm)*  
July 11, July 25, August 8, August 22
- *Field Trip to Michaels Store on August 29 (1pm-3pm)*
- *Newcomer Youth Group (3pm-4pm) July 3 - August 1*
- *Field Trip to Riverfront Car Cruise Show on August 17 (1pm-3pm)*

Contact Sladjana x 219 to register for the above  
You **MUST** register if you want to attend!  
Driving in Ontario (Available in English and Arabic)  
Citizenship Test Preparation

## Settlement Service Summer Hours:

Monday - Thursday (9am-6pm)  
Friday (9am-5pm)

## English Language Classes start

Monday, September 10, 2018

**NOTE:** Classes for 2019 start  
Monday, January 7, 2019



Call MCC for more information and to register: 519-948-3443  
Check out the MCC website - [www.themcc.com](http://www.themcc.com)

# SCHEDULE 2018

VILLAGE NAME	ADDRESS	June	22	23	24
Bavarian Village	1367 Drouillard Road		•	•	•
Caribbean Village	2410 Central Avenue		•	•	•
Chinese Village	1420 Tecumseh Rd. E			•	•
German Village	Fogular Furlan - 1800 North Service Road			•	•
Greek Village	3052 Walker Rd.		•	•	•
Scottish Village	1340 Tecumseh Rd. E		•	•	
Serbian St. Dimitrije	2690 Seminole			•	
Via Italia Village	Erie St. between Howard & Parent		•	•	•
Slovak Village	1520 Chandler Rd.				•

# HEALTH ACCESS DAY 2018

Each year, Health Access Day provides a single-stop health and wellness expo for newcomers. The health fair seeks to promote healthy personal choices, and to improve awareness of and access to local health and social services.

This year, nearly 900 visitors received information and learned about services from 48 community partners. English language students from nine schools were provided with transportation to the event, and took full advantage of the opportunity to connect with exhibitors and service providers.

For 2018, a new feature- MCC Engage- was added. An informal panel discussion held over lunch, MCC Engage offered community agencies and service providers the chance to hear about the direct impact their services have. A panel of six newcomers offered insights from their experiences, and gave advice as well as thanks to those who assisted this population sector.

The day was once again an overwhelming success, and the MCC would like to thank our event sponsor, the Windsor- Essex Community Foundation, as well as our partners the Windsor- Essex Community Health Centre, BANA, YMCA of Western Ontario, SAFE, the Canadian Mental Health Association, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, and City Centre Health Care.





Thank you for your partnership



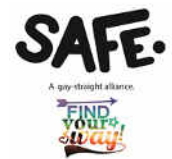
Windsor Essex Community Health Centre  
Centre de santé communautaire de Windsor Essex



City Centre Health Care  
A satellite site of the Windsor Essex Community Health Centre, operated by CMHA-WECB



YMCA of Western Ontario



# HARMONY ACTION DAY



In an effort to recognize and mobilize on the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County formed our inaugural Harmony Action Teams.

In honor of the 45th Anniversary of the MCC, these teams of staff and volunteers visited 45 community influencers and distributed Harmony Ribbons and a message of encouraging a multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-faith community.

The event was a social media phenomenon, generating interest and support from our staff, volunteers, partners, clients, and the community. Plans are already underway for the next action team guerilla campaign to support the programs and initiatives of the Multicultural Council. #HarmonyMCC





# PROUD SUPPORTER

OF THE MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WINDSOR & ESSEX COUNTY'S

## *Herb Gray Gala*



At WFCU Credit Union, giving back to the community is part of who we are and what we do. We're committed to supporting organizations, like the **Multicultural Council Of Windsor and Essex County**, that help create an inclusive and welcoming community through education, community engagement and the promotion of diversity and equality.

# THANK YOU

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