

NNCC EXECUTIVE 2003-2004
newcomerscanada@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT

Donna Carignan
32 Armitage Place
Brampton ON L6W 4M6
905 453-7527

REGISTRAR/TREASURER

Bev McCann
872 Manchester Rd
London, ON N6H 5H3
519 472-2856

SECRETARY/PUBLICITY

Susan Owen
46 - 6 Wellesley Place
Toronto, ON M4Y 3E1
416 925-0709

WESTERN LIAISON

Diana Scott
6432 Eagles Drive
Courtney, BC V9J 1V4
250 338-0208

EASTERN LIAISON

Beryl Keilty
22 Saxonhurst Dr
Truro, NS B2N 6L2
902 893-2398

CENTRAL LIAISON

Joan French
399 Wicklow Rd
Burlington, ON L7L 2J1
905 634-6527

ALUMNAE REP

Darlene Smith-Ferguson
140 Spruce St
Toronto, ON M5A 2J5
416 944-0479

NEWSLETTER

Linda Waldron
32 Meighen Cres
Brockville, ON K6V 3J7
613 345-0815

PAST PRESIDENT

Sandy York
5 Colonial Cres
London, ON N6H 4W5

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Jeanne Stoness 613 546-1293

My goal was to have this newsletter out in mid February, but sometimes life is not kind to editors. My apologies. L



THE LINK

National Newcomers' Council of Canada Newsletter

WINTER ISSUE 2004

The Golden Chain of Friendship

Friendship is a Golden Chain
The links are friends so dear,
And like a rare and precious
jewel

It's treasured more each year...
It's clasped together firmly
With a love that's deep and
true,

And it's rich with happy
memories
And fond recollections too ...

Time can't destroy its beauty
For, as long as memory lives
Years can't erase the pleasure
That the joy of friendship gives
For friendship is a priceless
gift

That can't be bought or sold,
But to have an understanding
friend

Is worth far more than gold...
And The Golden Chain of
Friendship

Is a strong and blessed tie
Binding kindred hearts together
As the years go passing by.

From your President,
Donna Carrignan

A warm welcome to all our members as we get through our winter season. The months have certainly gone by fast, Christmas, New Year's and now we are looking forward to Spring and the new growth and new beginnings as our Newcomers and Alumnae clubs continue to attract new members across our beautiful country.

In February's "spirit of friendship" theme and I would like to take you back to the beginning of Newcomers' Clubs in Canada. I am thankful that Newcomers clubs are around as they have certainly made a great difference in my life and I have met many new friends along the way.

Have a great Spring and feel free to drop us a note at any time.

The Beginning and Purpose of Newcomers!

Mrs. Kay Dant, a new arrival to Calgary, met two women who shared with her their experiences of belonging to a Newcomers club outside of Canada. Kay proceeded to contact the club for details on the purpose and goals of this "Newcomers club". She immediately saw what a benefit such an organization would be in her new hometown. A "friendship" club to assist women new in town, to make them feel welcomed and help create new friendships which, in turn, made it easier for these women to adjust to their new environment.

Mrs. Dant founded the Calgary Newcomers Club in early 1961 and recruited her Executive. The Club was registered in the Province of Alberta under The Societies Act and officially incorporated on 30th June 1961. Hence, the beginning of Newcomers Club in Canada. Two years later in May 1963, the Calgary Nu Grads Alumnae Club was formed. And the rest is history!

Thanks to Mrs Dant's initiative, enthusiasm, and sensitivity for other women in the same situation, there are Newcomers and Alumnae clubs all across Canada today.

Mrs Dant has since passed on and the data and scrapbooks of the Calgary Newcomers' Club's early days, which Mrs. Dant meticulously and lovingly kept, are now preserved in the archives of the Calgary Genbow Museum.

So let's all remember what a great example and organization Mrs. Dant set up for us as members of Newcomers/Alumnae clubs across Canada as we continue to carry on the tradition, in her memory, of welcoming new friends and making them feel at home, at all times.

Donna .

From the Registrar/Treasurer
Bev McCann

Please contact me if you wish to register your club as a member of the National Newcomers' Council of Canada.

Last year, we changed the deadline for renewal of membership to June 30th, so get your information to me by that date to enable our newsletter editor to add your Club to the Registry. We have enclosed a membership renewal form with this newsletter for your convenience.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about membership in the NNCC.

Bev

Secretary/Publicity
Susan Owen

National Newcomers Council of Canada invites Member Clubs to contribute their stories:

In the Newcomers' great spirit of friendship, may we invite all Member Clubs to share a little about the history of their clubs, any special announcements or items of interest to Newcomers anywhere in Canada?

We will gladly post your news on our national website or add items to our newsletter, as space allows.

In this age of global mobility, Members move often and far. It would be so much more welcoming for them, when approaching a new city, if they already knew a little about the Newcomers' Club in their new locale. After all, welcoming is what we do so well.

Susan

Newsletter Editor
Linda Waldron

Thanks to all the clubs who sent me articles on their clubs. I ran out of room in this issue to print them all, but please keep them coming...we may just have to go to print more often! I would really like to know what you think of monthly issues by email in addition to the quarterly mail outs. Of course it is dependent on receipt of articles, recipes and information from all involved

Linda

Eastern Liaison Officer
Beryl Keilty

Beryl contacted me last week when she was on a stop over in Cornwall on her way to Florida. She had mailed me an article but unfortunately it never made it to Brockville.

Beryl had called me just to say "hello". It was such a nice gesture and I encourage any Newcomer that is travelling to give a sister club a call...perhaps you'll just be lucky enough to attend one of their meetings.

Beryl wanted to especially thank everyone for the support, telephone calls and cards when her husband was so sick after returning to Nova Scotia from the AGM. He is well and happy now to be basking in the Florida sun.

Central Liaison Officer,
Joan French

To the clubs who were unable to send representatives to the A.G.M this past fall - we missed you!

Congratulations must go to the Toronto Newcomers Club for hosting a well-attended and lively potluck supper on Friday and meeting on Saturday. I am sure we all agree that the guest speaker, Sally Armstrong, was the highlight of Saturday's meeting. Her talk on the plight of the women of Afghanistan was so informative. Great job Toronto!

At that meeting I assumed the position of Central Liaison for the National Newcomers Council of Canada for 2003-2004. In this position, it will be my responsibility to assist Newcomers' Clubs and their members in Ontario and Quebec with situations, that may arise and require clarification.

We all know how great it is to belong to a Newcomers' Club. If you know of anyone who would like to start a new club - simply send a note to the Council's new hot mail email address or contact me directly and I would be pleased to send them a "how to" package and assist them in any way I can.

Western Liaison Officer
Diana Scott

The Newcomers and Alumnae clubs in the Western Region continue to grow and develop. They provide to hundreds of people each month, both friendship and a connection to their new community. Each club provides a wonderful variety of activities, several of which we are sharing with you in this issue under the "Regional News."

This is but a small sampling of the offerings in the Western Region. The clubs are welcoming and supportive and encourage anyone moving to their area to get in touch!

Regional News



Central Canada

In the true meaning of friendship, the Mississauga Alumnae (ACORN's) extended a warm welcome to the Mississauga Newcomers' Club to form a temporary amalgamation. Newcomers' will be faced with a severe drop in membership this fall as more than half of their members have completed their three years and will join the ranks of the Alumnae. They are presently holding discussions between the Clubs and the City to come to an equitable solution until the Newcomers' membership has a chance to grow again.

**KUDOS TO THE GALS IN MISSISSAUGA WHO REALIZE THAT THE GROWTH
OF BOTH CLUBS IS INTERDEPENDANT AND HAVE WORKED HARD TO
MAINTAIN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP**



Western Canada

The Calgary Newcomers' Club has been in existence since 1961. One of the many activities that caught my attention from their web site is called Variations where a different activity is scheduled each month. Some of the Variations include dog sledding in Kananaskis in March, a visit to a Hutterite Community in May, and going to Canada's Cowboy Festival Christmas Show in December. What fun!

The Comox Valley Newcomers' Club will be taking interested members on a day trip bus tour this spring, highlighting the history of their new community. Leading the tour will be a local historian who is well known for his broad knowledge of the area as well as his humour. Members who have taken this trip in past years have raved about it, and a larger bus has been required each time it is offered.

Regular Friday Coffee Morning is one of the popular activities The Edmonton Newcomers' Club enjoys. Members volunteer to be the hostess -- supplying tea, coffee and fruit juice. Goodies are optional so that the job of the hostess is as comfortable as possible. They already have hostesses signed up until the end of April! The coffee morning is open to Alumnae as well, which provides an opportunity for friends from both groups to keep in touch as well as to create connections for those Newcomers who will be moving up to Alumnae. The hostess is "at home" from 9.30 am till noon, anyone is welcome, dress is casual, you don't have to let the hostess know if you are coming, and you can pop in for the whole morning or just for half an hour if you wish. Often the whole coffee group decides to meet later at the movies or for lunch the next day or arrange to go to some exhibit in town together. It becomes a wonderful support group and often someone who has had a baby, is sick, experienced a death in the family, moved house, etc will find themselves surrounded by the supportive coffee girls visiting them, cooking meals, you name it. The group always has Friday morning to look forward to and finds now that Friday Morning Coffee is a must!

The Vancouver Newcomer's Alumnae currently has 35 members, many of whom were founding members of the Vancouver Newcomer's Club in 1985. They have a strong bridge group comprised of mixed couples, ladies evening and 2 afternoon groups. A video night, afternoon teas at interesting restaurants, walks exploring the city and surroundings and many special events provide numerous opportunities for sharing and friendship. Last June's Strawberry Tea wind-up was a huge success with all the ladies sporting unusual hats for fun. They also aim to support a charitable organization each year, such as handing out 650

hard boiled eggs at Easter, preparing and delivering Christmas stockings (toothpaste, socks, soap, candy etc.) or collecting warm clothing for the homeless. Their members are wonderfully supportive of each other, especially in times of need, and they look forward to joining with the Vancouver Newcomer's Club in celebrating their 20th anniversary next year.



Eastern Canada

As many clubs do - Truro Newcomers' Club supports their local food Bank. In their February Newsletter they also mentioned a plant sale to benefit the CNIB.

Halifax Regional Newcomers Alumnae Club has a benefactor in the form of a moving company. The company pays the postage for the newsletters and, in turn, a small ad is placed on the last page.

I see from many of your newsletters, nominating committees are preparing and recruiting executive and activity convenors for the coming year. I believe the strength of our clubs is the ever-changing executive committees and fresh new ideas. Consider taking up a position in your club...you get to know other members on an entirely

If you would like to see your Club and City featured in a future issue, please contact Linda Waldron, Newsletter Editor at newcomerscanada@hotmail.com.

Kingston, Ontario is our "Featured City" this month.

The Kingston Newcomers Club and Alumnae Clubs will host the AGM this year on October 16, 2004. Kingston is situated where Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River meet, only a two-hour drive from Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. It features the amenities of an urban center with the allure of a small city. Kingston has two universities and a community college - highly unusual for a small city - giving it an intellectual strength that touches all aspects of the community.

Kingston's heritage is evident through its many impressive 19th century limestone homes and buildings and its red brick Victorian architecture that continues to dazzle visitors.

"There are no strangers here. Only friends we have yet to meet." Since 1976 the **Kingston Newcomers' Group** has been facilitating friendships and a wide variety of activities for new residents to the Kingston area and has chosen this motto as a reflection of our mission.

Monthly general meetings planned by an executive group and monthly special interest groups coordinated by conveners, provide a wide range of opportunities for people new to Kingston and help to enhance the process of becoming part of a vibrant community.

All of the Kingston Newcomers Group's activities are facilitated by an Executive group who work as a team and by several conveners who coordinate smaller interest groups which focus on the common interests of those who participate in them. In addition, a tangible link is formed with our new community through the financial contribution we make each year to a local charity.

We find that as we reach out to those who choose to join and participate in the group's activities new interest groups are suggested and attract more members. Our monthly general meetings are an interesting mix of opportunities for those who attend to socialize through structured activities or to learn more about Kingston and its rich history by hearing from a wide range of interesting speakers.

The Kingston Newcomers' Alumnae is an active women's group with a paid-up membership of 111. Prerequisite for Alumnae membership is a membership in a Newcomers group of a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 3 years.

The general meetings are monthly with the exception of January and the summer months. At the general meetings there is usually a special activity such as a pot luck dinner and/or a games night. For variety, if not an activity night, we will have an interesting local speaker.

Within the Alumnae organization, many activity groups are offered- approximately 20. Groups vary from Book Club, Bridge and Euchre Group, Movie Night, Stitch and Chat, Luncheon and Dinner Groups. In addition, there are groups that include husbands. Some of these groups are the Men's Breakfast (a group well attended and enjoyed by many husbands), Couples Bridge, Pot Luck Dinner and Wine Tasting Get-togethers. As well we enjoy International Dinner nights and Alumnae Outing Club.

Kingston and the surrounding area is a very popular retirement area and there are many people new in this vicinity looking for interesting and stimulating activities and new acquaintances and friendships.