

2008-2009 Executive

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The Link is the official newsletter of the National Newcomers' Council of Canada. It is published three times a year and is distributed electronically to all registered Newcomer Clubs across Canada. Please contact the editor regarding deadlines and content republication.

Connecting Canada's Newcomers from Coast to Coast

2009 AGM - News from Cornwall!

The 32nd National Newcomers' Council of Canada Annual General Meeting is being held on October 17th, 2009 at the Cornwall Civic Complex and is being hosted by the Cornwall Newcomers Club.

By attending the AGM you will be able to visit lovely Cornwall. Cornwall was established as a Loyalist colony on the shores of the St. Lawrence River in the 1700's and played a key role in the War of 1812. During the October AGM, you will experience a piece of Canadian history and enjoy the splendid autumn colours and the magnificent view of the river.

A special reception will be held on October 16th to welcome all out-of-town

members at the home of Executive Member Lise Marvell (and NNCC Member at Large). The AGM will be held at the Cornwall Civic Complex on the waterfront. Rooms have been set aside at the nearby Ramada Inn at a special conference rate.

**SAVE THE DATE!
OCTOBER 17, 2009**

*Continued on
page 2.....*



NNCC Call For Nominations

As per the bylaws of the National Newcomers' Council of Canada, the current executive are permitted to stay in their positions for a one year term. At the 2009 AGM in Cornwall, a new slate of executives will be elected by the attending membership.

We would like to invite our members from across Canada to consider serving on this wonderful council in any number of ways: as newsletter or web editor; as a regional liaison; as secretary; or as registrar/treasurer. The only restrictions are related to those representatives of certain regions (the representative member should reside in the related region), and the current registrar/treasurer is incumbent president.

It is not a requirement to be able to attend the AGM (although it is a great time to meet and get to know

each other a bit) and teleconferencing has replaced face-to-face Executive meetings. Computer access or skill is recommended but not essential unless you are newsletter editor or web editor. If you would like more information about these positions please feel free to contact President Susan Lotherington (president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca).

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...issues on the east coast echo through central Canada and out to the west...



NNCC
2009 Annual
General Meeting
Cornwall, ON
October 17th,
2009

Susan Lotherington ~ President

As I sit down to write this I have to reflect on the last seven months. It has flown by so quickly that it seems surreal. I have had the pleasure of speaking with several presidents of different clubs throughout the country and the issues on the east coast echo through central Canada and out to the west. With the busy lifestyles of our members we are experiencing the same problems as other groups: filling executive positions; increasing membership; implementing change; insurance; and burnout of conveners. The NNCC is busy preparing for the AGM in Cornwall and several of these issues will be on the agenda. By

sending representation to this annual meeting your club has a voice and hopefully the members who attend will come away with fresh ideas.

This year at our meeting there will be a change proposed to our bylaws (see page 5 for more information) in addition to the election of officers. Each club has a vote and I would love to see as many as possible represented. To find out more about the agenda check our website regularly (www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca); it is updated regularly. A registration form can be found on the website as well as on page 8.

Lisa Mina ~ NNCC Secretary

How to make friends in a new city

No matter if you're new to the city because you've just changed jobs or moved because you needed something new in your life, moving to a new city can be fun at first and a nightmare afterward.

Making new friends is very difficult for most, so here are a few tips on how to make friends in a new city!

Locate a Newcomers Group in your area!!

Radiate positive energy. Smile, be funny and confident because your behavior will attract people to you!

Work buddies. The best way to meet new people in a place you've never been before is the place you spend the most time during the day: work or school. These are the first people you meet and could be the start of your friend search.

Activities Another great way to meet people sharing the same interests as you! Whether it be sports, social or cultural, and whether or not you join or just attend events. For families the easiest way to meet new people is through our kids. Join activities at their school or enroll them in sports; this gives you an opportunity to meet other parents.

Overcome your shyness! Make sure everyone knows you're a newcomer! They will be more open and welcoming and you'll feel better too!

Volunteering is fantastic. Depending on what your profession is, you are sure to find a charity that could use your skills, and/or energy and time. There should be a community service organization in any city which should be able to give you contacts for charitable organizations. If you have a hobby or a talent or skill to share, find an agency which gives classes. You will definitely find people with common interests!

2009 AGM - News from Cornwall!

Continued from page 1

Billeting with Cornwall Newcomers is also available.

Our goal and mission of this event is to connect our members from coast to coast in one room. Networking opportunities will be plentiful, starting with the welcome reception on Friday night. In addition to new workshops, the traditional Presidents' Meeting and Newsletter Editors' Meeting will also be held in the morning. This year we will be holding duplicate workshop ses-

sions so that our participants are able to attend more than one session during the day.

The very modest registration fee of \$35 covers the reception, breakfast and lunch, as well as the entertainment and guest speaker and door prizes!

Register by September 1st for an early bird draw for a free registration to the 2010 AGM in Sarnia! A registration form is on page 8 - please be sure to share this with all of your members!

SAVE THE DATE!
OCTOBER 17, 2009



Newcomer clubs across the country are linked together by joining the *National Newcomers' Council of Canada*.

The easier (or more fun) positions generally fill fastest, with positions perceived to be more difficult filling last.

Judy Francis ~ Registrar/Treasurer

Two things are arriving across the country at this time of year- a much anticipated Spring season and the annual *National Newcomers' Council of Canada* membership forms. Annual membership entitles each club to Canada wide national exposure on the website which is often an invaluable resource used by members when they find they are moving to a new area. Several members have moved a number of times, belonged to several clubs and always consult the website when they are relocating.

Individual members also have access to the website and find great ideas for meetings, activities, highlights from clubs across the country and various fund raisers. Newcomer clubs across the country are linked together by joining the *National Newcomers' Council of Canada*. We share ideas with each other, work with new clubs that are forming and assist clubs that are struggling. Wonderful friendships have been established by belonging to Newcomer Clubs and we will continue to provide strong support for this wonderful organization.

Recruiting Club Executive

In late winter or early spring, clubs across the country begin the sometimes difficult task of recruiting new people to their executive. This task can fall to a specific person, at times the Past President, or to a group of individuals. But from reading the many newsletters the running theme is that it is a difficult task to encourage members to step forward into an executive position. I know from a local perspective that it took until almost the last minute for my club to fill the President's position for 09-10. Some clubs will go an entire year with positions unfilled, and others on the executive filling in or sharing in the duties.

Each club is different in method and requirements. Some clubs have strict term limits while others are more flexible. Some joint newcomer/alumnae groups restrict the alumnae from running or staying on the executive, presumably because without such restrictions, new people will not be encouraged to take on an executive role. Even the positions differ depending on the number of members and overall needs of the club. Monthly dinner meetings, door prizes, and websites are all areas where each club has different needs and may or may not require an executive to fill a position.

Regardless of number of positions or the responsibilities associated with the position, each club faces a sometimes daunting challenge to fill the shoes of those that step down. The easier (or more fun) positions generally fill fastest, with positions perceived to be more difficult filling last. Even at NNCC, we have difficulty finding new people for some of our positions, either leaving them empty or requiring us to bend our bylaws and have some executive remain in the same position for years (versus our one year rule). We hope to change this as we believe new blood is good for the heart and soul of every organization.

It begs the question of how to successfully fill an executive. We seek input from the clubs regarding their strategies which could be shared with the rest of the country. Your responses will be compiled for a future issue of *The Link* and will also be posted on the website. We look forward to hearing from you! Send your responses to newsletter@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca.

STRESS MANAGEMENT from NOVA Club May Newsletter

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

Never buy a car you can't push.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because you won't have a leg to stand on.

Since it's the early bird that gets the worm, sleep late.

What Does NNCC Do For Your Club?

The *National Newcomers Council of Canada* was formed in 1978 in answer to the growing need of new and existing Newcomer clubs to connect with each other and find general administrative support. The NNCC is not a governing body and cannot set the rules by which each club operates. Each club is self-administered: by-laws are set according to a minimum provincial requirements, and each club can further establish procedures through standing rules. The NNCC provides assistance in the formation of new clubs, and will promote existing clubs through the national website (www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca).

The NNCC is unable to provide more than an opinion or general advice on major issues but our coast to coast executive can be called upon to assist if requested at the local level. The NNCC is currently investigating directors and officers insurance, as well as liability insurance, that could be made available to our member organizations at a reduced cost (currently some groups pay close to \$2,000 per year for insurance coverage). The NNCC may also be able to provide website space to member groups at a lower cost than other providers. Please let us know if either insurance or website assistance would be of interest to your club. We hope to have an update on both of these topics in the next of *The Link*.

Interest Groups ~ Coast to Coast

Interest Groups are the life blood of Newcomers' from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The range and variety of these groups generally reflect the geography and demographics of each club. Some interest groups are common from club to club: bridge & games (someone will have to explain Kalookie to me), book clubs (Kingston Alumnae circulate their books), breakfast and coffee groups and walking groups, golf and hiking groups, mom & tot get togethers, movie nights, bowling, dinner/lunch groups (variations include with spouses or without; progressive; in home or out on the town; and pub nights); and crafters. Some clubs are mixed gender, and have groups for men or women only.

But you don't have to look very hard for something a little different. Lethbridge Newcomers held a Road Rally (a treasure hunt by car) in Pincher Creek, AB in May. Comox Valley encourages art enthusiasts with studio tours and local art events, and the musically inclined with a supportive jam session once a month. Comox Valley, BC also have very unique "geocaching" and home décor groups, and members can explore their family history in the "Genealogy" group. Some groups have plant exchanges, while others have gardening groups to help with the establishment and success of gardens.

Oakvilles' "Ravine (Sc)Rambles" explore the Niagara Escarpment and when not rambling, Oakville Newcomers can meditate, lawn bowl, or learn to dragon boat! Oakville Newcomers are also heading up a cookbook project as a charitable activity. The Capital Region is unique in its opportunities and Ottawa Newcomers participate in Winterlude, Tulip Festival, cycling along the Ottawa River Parkway, and the National Art Gallery. The White Rock/South Surrey Newcomers have a very novel "Drumming & Chanting Circle" group. Calgary NuGrads keep busy with badminton, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. Volunteering and scrapbooking are popular with Toronto Newcomers. And Langley was the only club to host a "Sushi" group!

Interest groups are a large part of what appeals to members about the Newcomers organization. And it is our members who create and run these groups as convenors. We appreciate the energy and time that these members devote to all interest groups. As with all volunteer based organizations, Newcomers is best described as the sum of its parts. And when we look at the sum of all of our clubs, it is an awesome sight. Thank you to all for all that you do!

Buddy Program of White Rock/South Surrey

I love the sound of this program!

The Buddy Program is offered to newly registered members of the White Rock/South Surrey Newcomers Club. Buddies are 2nd or 3rd year members of the Newcomers Club or recent graduates of the Club who now belong to the Alumni Group. They have volunteered their time as a Buddy in order to welcome our newest members to their community and to share information and friendship on a one on one basis. The purpose of a Buddy is to introduce our newest members to some of the activities of the club and to facilitate the meeting of members as quickly as possible.

Editor's Note: Oakville Newcomers has a similar program called "Bridging the Gap" which helps graduating newcomer members transition to the Alumnae group! What a terrific way to help members adjust to change!

Beryl Keilty ~ Eastern Liaison



Beryl Keilty
Eastern Liaison

Our Truro and Area Alumnae is very busy planning our "Meet and Greet" night for May 20th. We invite the Newcomers Club and get to know the Graduates who will be joining our group in September. Then in June, we invite the Graduates to our closing Lobster night, which is a lot of fun, and we really get to know the other half (spouses !!!).



St. Patrick's Night at the Pub
(Truro Alumnae Newcomers Club)

The Newcomers Club is holding their closing dinner in early June, and I plan to attend.

Proposed NNCC Bylaw Amendment

As per the National Newcomers' Council of Canada Bylaws, we need to inform our membership of any proposed Bylaw amendment that will be presented at the October Annual General Meeting.

Please be advised that the following amendment will be presented for vote by the attending members:

To rename the position of website coordinator to website editor and further modify the website editor's position so that it is a voting director position.

This would make the website position an executive position, equivalent to all other directors. This was passed by motion at an executive meeting. It now requires a vote by the general membership at the AGM for inclusion in our bylaws. A bylaw amendment request will also have to be filed with the Province of Ontario. Please direct any questions to President Susan Lotherington (president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca).

Web Updates



Verna Dennis
NNCC Web Editor

Verna would like to remind members to send club updates and executive changes

to friends @ nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca. Please note that our new website domain name is www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca. Be sure to check it out!

The Link ~ Connecting Your Club!

Thank you for your very positive feedback regarding the new look of *The Link*. I am pleased so many took the time to let me know they enjoy the new format. I am now receiving newsletters from approximately half of our membership and I hope that number continues to grow!

This issue was a bit of a challenge for me in that there were so many interesting events and stories from across Canada. To choose was very difficult! In some instances, I chose to summarize ongoing issues (executive recruitment and the cost/benefit of dinner meetings) or profile interesting activities from various regions.

I have also included a summary from a very popular AGM workshop: "Dealing with Change". This workshop was held two years in a row and we are pleased to present an abridged summary of that workshop on page 7.

I hope to meet many of you at the October 17th AGM - this is the networking opportunity of the year for Newcomers from coast to coast! There is a newsletter editors meeting that is always well attended and very interesting. All current or prospective newsletter editors are welcome to attend!



Suzanne Brett Welsh
The Link Editor

Email your club newsletters to sbwelsh@ucalgary.ca

Lise Marvell ~ Member-at-Large



Lise Marvell
Member-at-Large
Cornwall, ON

Our Member-at-Large Lise Marvell shared these wonderful pictures of her lovely sheep. She takes the wool from her sheep and washes, cards, and spins the wool. Lise sent me this note: "I put on a spinning demonstration at our Williamstown Fair in August and have a sheep shearer who puts on a sheep shearing demonstration using my three sheep of course. Sheep are usually sheared once a year in the Spring; mine wait until August to be done at the fair. People worry that they must be very hot in 80 degree weather but actually the wool acts as insulation. I will also put on a sheep herding demonstration for the first time at the fair this year. Again I will be bringing in a sheep herder as this, as well as shearing, is quite the specialty."



Lise's sheep are Timothy Ross, next is his mother Heidi, and then Abigail a very spoiled old aunt who is the star at our 200th oldest fair in Canada.

Sharon Smith ~ Alumnae Representative

I have been involved with Newcomer's since 1996 upon moving to London, Ontario. I have been in Newcomers in Oakville, Sarnia, Newmarket and since 2001 have been with Halifax Newcomer's and Alumnae. I'm President of Halifax Alumnae and this is my second year of being on the National Newcomer's Executive. Last year I was Member-At-Large and at present Alumnae Representative. Alumnae Representative involves being available to Clubs across the country that need help in any way regarding starting an Alumnae or if they have questions regarding Alumnae.

Newcomers and Alumnae have been very special in my life. I'm involved in a lot of social activities with friends I've met in Newcomers. I'm also in contact with many friends in Ontario from my days in Ontario Newcomers. Being on the National Executive and attending 3 AGM's in recent years has been a very rewarding experience. I would certainly encourage members to get involved and enjoy the experience of friendship that comes with these positions.



Sharon Smith
Alumnae Rep.

Newsletter Names ~ from None to Novel

Reading newsletters from coast to coast can give one a unique perspective on how things are similar and yet very different. Newsletter names are but one of the many differences from club to club. Not all clubs have named their newsletters. Most are simply "Newcomer News". For a unique identity, some clubs have implemented a logo and/or a motto on their newsletter. For instance, Sarnia Newcomers Club uses the motto "Your Bridge to Friendship" with a bridge logo. On the East Coast Halifax Alumnae call their newsletter "The Graduate" and on the opposite side of the country the West Vancouver Newcomers put out "The Welcome Mat" on a monthly basis. The Kingston Alumnae publish the "Limestone Link" while Burlington Newcomers publish the "Burlington Key". St. Catherine's and District Newcomers Club title their newsletter "News to Muse". These names reflect the nature and purpose of Newcomers.

Guelph Newcomers' highlight their mission statement: "To welcome women new to the Guelph area, acquaint them with their new city and promote friendship among members". This mission is echoed in each club across the country. The Calgary Newcomers' Club invited members to submit artwork for their logo - this brought out some very friendly competition and creative energy! The Calgary Newcomers' Club has the motto: "Newcomers Just Want to Have Fun" in addition to a White Hat logo (the traditional welcome for newcomers to Calgary) on their newsletter "Between Friends". Calgary borrowed the newsletter name from their sister club the London Alumnae. Regardless of name, each newsletter is full of fabulous news and information, events and interest groups that bring newcomers together and help make a newcomer feel at home in their new town or city.

For a unique identity, some clubs have implemented a logo and/or a motto on their newsletter.

DEALING WITH CHANGE – 2007 & 2008 AGM Workshop

By Jeanne Stoness, President, Kingston Newcomers Alumnae

Change is constant in today's world. Because everything we once knew and depended on is changing, it can be overwhelming. When major change occurs, people have similar reactions of fear, anxiety, self-doubt, and a lack of control. We need to differentiate between change and transition. Change is situational. It is the event, such as a new house, a new job, or the loss of a family business. Transition is the psychological process one goes through in adapting to change. Unless a successful transition occurs, change will not work. Since change is often beyond our control, it is important to focus on how individuals respond to change, or make the transition.

Implementing Change Is Not Always An Easy Process.

Follow these easy steps: LOOK closely at the current state of your club; LISTEN to input from members; LEARN where problem areas exist; RESPOND by implementing appropriate changes.

Negative cliques and club politics can leave members feeling left out and resentful. It is one of the reasons members drop out of their clubs. You can pick up on issues by observing your memberships' interactions during meetings and activities. Try to keep things fresh – always make new members feel welcome. If we stick with these basic methods, your membership will respond in kind.

If your club feels that change is essential, you need to answer the following questions: What is the issue? What is the required change? What will the outcome be? How will the change be implemented? When will it be implemented? How will the change affect members?

Strategy

Identify need for change. Create a vision of the desired outcome. Decide what change is feasible. Choose who should sponsor and support it. Broad based support is important (both formal and informal support). You need to identify target individuals and groups whose support is needed. You should also identify where each key player is on the continuum (from "no commitment", "may let it happen", "help it happen" to "make it happen").

Recipients

Consider who is the largest group who must adopt and adapt to the change. How will it benefit everyone? If it is a new structure or a new culture, what impact will it have on the membership as a whole.

Most change inside organizations disrupts fragile relationships based on power. Some may gain power and status, some may lose. This is no small thing. When our power is threatened, people may do any number of things. They may wilt and approach work with a "what's the use" attitude. Others may fight to hang on or make sure they come out on top. Others get caught in the political crossfire.

Implementation—Let's Make it Happen

You will need to develop a non-threatening and preferably participative implementation process: communicate and skillfully present plans; involve people and be honest and make information readily available; and where possible there should be meaningful dialogue that gives people a stake in the change.

Listen and respect divergent points of view. People change what they do less because they are given an analysis that shifts their thinking than because they are shown a truth that influences their feelings. The purpose of any change experience is to motivate action. It means finding a way to have others connect with the need to change on an emotional level.

You can achieve this by explaining the benefits for end users. You need to start small and simple and go for quick wins. You also need to publicize and create a sense of urgency. Your best route for success is high energy and broad spectrum discussion.

Follow Up

Always provide a post-hoc analysis of the process and the outcome. What is working well? What is not working well? Be flexible and allow for adjustment and modification.

Lock in the New

If the new change is working well and has provided the sought after outcome, it should be included in your Club's working documents, be they the bylaws, the operating procedures or standing rules.

Note from the Editor: This is an abridged and edited version of Jeanne's very popular AGM Workshop: Dealing With Change in Your Club. You can find the complete text on the website. We thank Jeanne for leading this workshop and hope you find this summary helpful.



REGISTRATION FORM NATIONAL NEWCOMERS' COUNCIL OF CANADA

**32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 2009
CORNWALL, ONTARIO**

Name _____
 Address _____
 Email _____ Phone: _____
 Name of your Club _____
 Executive Position (if applicable) _____

REGISTRATION FEE -\$35.00 non-refundable (includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch on Saturday). A late fee of \$5.00 will be charged for registration after September 16th. Please register early, as tickets are limited. An 'early-bird' prize of a free registration will be drawn at the meeting from all the people who have registered before September 1st.

FRIDAY EVENING GATHERING, OCTOBER 16th - 7:00 p.m. (Welcome reception: appetizers)

Hosted by the Cornwall Newcomers Club Planning Committee to welcome NNCC Executive, out of town delegates and billeting hosts to be held at the home of Lise Marvell, R.R.1, Williamstown, ON K0G 2J0; phone: 613 931-9095.
 Will attend? Yes _____ No _____

SATURDAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – OCTOBER 17th – 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cornwall Civic Complex 100 Water Street East Cornwall, ON K6H 6G4 Tel: 613-938-9400. Fax: 613-938-7750.

Luncheon menu: Minestrone soup, Chicken Chasseur, Baked potato, French style green beans amandine, apple crisp with whipped cream, dinner rolls etc or a vegetarian meal which is vegetarian spinach & ricotta cannelloni instead of the chicken.

Please indicate choice of entrée: Chicken ___ Vegetarian ___.

Any specific dietary concerns? _____

BILLETING

Do you wish to be billeted? Yes _____ No _____ Do you wish to share a room? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, with whom _____

Arrival date and time: _____ Smoker: Yes _____ No _____

Allergies: (specify – pet, etc.) _____

Are you carpooling? Yes _____ No _____

If so, names of carpooling members: _____

Carpool contact person: _____

Email _____

HOTEL

Rooms have been "set aside" in the name of **Cornwall Newcomers Club -Joyce Monk** at the Cornwall Ramada Inn and Conference Centre, 805 Brookdale Ave. Cornwall, Ontario K6J 4P3 Toll Free: 1-888-900-5762 Tel.: (613) 933-8000 Fax: (613) 933-3392. Each room has 2 Queen size beds and cost is \$119.99 per night. We have a limited number of rooms set aside and the reservations must be made by September 1st, 2009 .

Please complete form before September 16th and enclose your cheque in the amount of \$35.00 (\$40.00 if after September 16th) made payable to "National Newcomers' Council of Canada", and mail to:

**Judy Francis
2428 Stirling Crescent
Courtenay BC V9N 9W6**



NATIONAL NEWCOMERS' COUNCIL OF CANADA
APPLICATION FOR COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
2009 - 2010

Club Name _____

Please check one

New (welcome new friends) _____ *Application for Associate membership _____

Renewal (welcome back old friends) _____ Updating of records only _____

PRESIDENT (Contact 1) Name _____

Address _____ City/Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Area Code-Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP (Contact 2) Name _____

Address _____ City/Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Area Code-Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

NEWSLETTER (Publications Contact) Name _____

Area Code-Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

CLUB WEB SITE _____

Club E-Mail Address _____

Year Founded _____ Number of Members _____

ANNUAL DUES - Dues are payable by May 30th, 2009 Dues Enclosed _____ \$(amount)

Up to 25 members.....\$10.00 126 to 200 members\$50.00 26 to 50 members.....\$30.00 201+ members\$60.00
51 to 125 members ...\$35.00 Associate members*.....\$ 5.00

*An Associate membership is open to any person whose term with a Newcomer Club has expired and there is no Alumnae group, or to a person who was affiliated with a Newcomers Club and moves to a place where there is no Newcomers Club available.

Cheques should be payable to National Newcomers Council of Canada.

Mail to National Newcomers Council of Canada, Registrar/Treasurer, Judy Francis 2428 Stirling Crescent, Courtenay BC V9N 9W6

Note: The Contact and Club Information that you provide above will appear:

1. In our Member Clubs Directory: "The Register" which will be distributed on paper to all attendees at our Annual General Meeting and emailed to all our member Clubs' Presidents, Membership Secretaries and Newsletter Editors.

2. On our National Newcomers Council of Canada Website: www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca (except email addresses).

Please provide contact information for any other Newcomers'/Alumni Club in your area

Club _____ Contact _____

If you have different requirements please indicate on this form. If you know of anyone in your Club who would be willing to serve on the National Council, please provide name and contact information below.

Four horizontal lines for providing contact information for individuals.



National Newcomers' Council of Canada

E-mail: friends@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca
Web: www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

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History of the National Newcomers' Council of Canada

In May 1978, the National Newcomers' Council of Canada (the "Council") was formed. Its aims are:

- (a) to act as an advisory body to member clubs;
- (b) to provide an up-to-date Register of paid-up member Newcomers clubs and their Alumnae clubs;
- (c) to facilitate the exchange of ideas between clubs;
- (d) to promote and/or publicize Newcomers organizations; and
- (e) to supply information and assistance to people wishing to establish a Newcomers or Alumnae club.

The **National Newcomers' Council of Canada** is not a governing body. Each Newcomers Club is self-administered with its own By-Laws and the Council does not interfere with the running of these clubs. The Council shall supply information, guidelines and advice as requested by interested individuals or clubs. For more information, check out our website: www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca.

Connecting Canada's Newcomers' from Coast to Coast

Monthly Meeting Challenges

Membership meetings are organized on a near monthly schedule for most clubs across Canada. These monthly meetings are important social events, and often showcase an interesting speaker. An overview of the newsletters provided a small insight into some of the ongoing challenges surrounding these events. One such challenge is the rising menu costs across the country related to food and fuel, and even room rental fees where none existed before. The end result in most cases was a 10 - 20% increase in meal costs to members in 2008-2009. As a result, Clubs have established some cost saving measures to creatively reduce or minimize these costs: a reduced meeting schedule, such as 8 instead of 10 meetings, reflecting member attendance patterns; joint meetings with Alumnae and Newcomer groups (where they are separate) can increase attendance, and can result in lower food cost; reduced menus such as wine and cheese or dessert also lower costs. Having one or two venues on a contract basis may reduce or eliminate room rental. Lower cost venues include community centres and church halls. Potluck events also result in a much lower cost to the membership. Most clubs offer some level of subsidization, to assist members and increase attendance. Hopefully costs have stabilized somewhat and membership meetings do not become a financial hardship for our clubs. If you have any ideas to share with the clubs across the country regarding how your club has made changes in its monthly meetings to address challenges, please feel free to share: [newsletter @ nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](mailto:newsletter@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca).

Calgary Newcomers' 50th Anniversary Celebration and NNCC 34th Annual General Meeting in 2011

The first Newcomers' Club in Canada was established in 1961 in Calgary by Kay Dant. To celebrate our 50th Anniversary the National Newcomers Council of Canada AGM is being held in **Calgary September 16th to 18th 2011**.

The Newcomers' and NuGrads' Clubs of Calgary are co-hosting the National Newcomers' AGM to celebrate our "big 5-0" birthday. Yes it sounds far away but planning has begun! We are asking for Newcomers' Clubs from across Canada to help celebrate by putting together their own time cap-

sule or scrapbook that reflects their organization. We plan to showcase the history and memories of each club at this most fantastic event.

If you are interested in participating in the 50th AGM time capsule event, please contact Suzanne Brett Welsh, Chair of the 2011 Jubilee Organizing Committee through sbwelsh@ucalgary.ca or phone 403-836-5631.

We are asking for Newcomers' Clubs from across Canada to help celebrate by putting together their own time capsule or scrapbook that reflects their organization.