

The Link Winter Issue~

Connecting Canada's Newcomers from Coast to Coast

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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.

President's Message

With the New Year comes the usual range of resolutions and good intentions to be a better person in some way shape or form. Newcomer clubs always have the good intention of extending a warm welcome to those who need one and offering friendship when they can. If I can only achieve one resolution in the year 2011, it will be to increase awareness of Newcomers and all the good that it does for people new to each town and city. I am sure we all have the same recollection of the warm welcome we received when we joined Newcomers. Many of our members recall the feeling of being "saved" by Newcomers as they had not met anyone else and were lonely and dispirited. That we do such good for so many is not known very widely. So while I try to shed a few pounds, get into better shape, and be a better person, I will also be working to raise the profile of Newcomers clubs and all the good that we do.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

All the best always, Suzanne Brett Welsh



Congratulations to the new NNCC Executive, wishing you all the best for the term ahead. Thank you for your vote of confidence in me, I hope that I can fill the very big shoes left behind by Suzanne. Thanks to all the members for all your attendance and support at the AGM hosted by Sarnia Newcomers Club, we loved having you here in our hometown.

Should there be any groups of newcomers that you think will benefit by joining the NNCC, please forward their information to me....I believe that with the new insurance package available and the group benefits that they will see their way clear to join or re-join.

Remember Newcomers is about friendship, about reaching out and being there for not only one another, but specifically to be there for the new and not so new people in our communities. To quote Mark Twain "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see".

Adele DuPlessis, Registrar-Treasurer



Please feel free to contact me at:
liaisonwest@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

Greetings from the West: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba!

2010 has been a busy year, but a productive one, too. I would sum it up as a 'getting to know you' year: getting to know our clubs in the West and getting to know my colleagues on the National Newcomers' Executive. And how this year has flown!

The 2010 AGM in Sarnia was an event to remember. It was my first experience of a National AGM and the Newcomers of Sarnia, our wonderful hosts, made us 'out-of-towners' feel so welcome, with their special brand of Ontario hospitality. It was also my first visit to Sarnia and top of my local sightseeing list was the historic Bluewater Bridge, which spans the St. Clair River and is one of the crossings between Canada and the USA. What an awesome sight it was, beautifully illuminated at night! While in Ontario, I also took the opportunity to reconnect with some of my dear Newcomer friends in Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge.

The next AGM, in September 2011, goes west for the first time and coincides with Calgary Newcomers' Golden Jubilee celebrations – don't miss what promises to be the Newcomers' Event of the Year. Details will appear on the NNCC website and in *The Link* as they become available. Good luck, Calgary Newcomers and Calgary NuGrads, with all your preparations. Get ready for that stampede that will hit town in September!

I wish each and every one of you, my friends and fellow Newcomers and Alumni, a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Irene Nevill, Western Liaison

December 2009 ~ November 2010 NNCC Financial Report

Opening Balance		\$3,504.94
TOTAL REVENUE		\$5,535.57
	AGM Registration	\$1,785.99
	Membership Registration	\$2,895.00
	50/50 draw	\$62.50
	Pin Deposit	\$792.08
TOTAL EXPENSES		-\$5,600.22
	AGM Printing Expense	-\$205.00
	AGM Travel	-\$1,900.68
	Bank Charge	-\$37.08
	AGM Venue	-\$1,755.56
	Executive Appreciation	-\$49.27
	Pin Purchase	-\$821.00
	Postage	-\$50.67
	Telephone	-\$640.94
	Web Hosting Renewal	-\$140.02
Balance Forward		\$3,440.29



2010 was a wonderful year to meet new friends. I've been a "Newcomer" since 2001 and I'm still meeting the most wonderful people. Being active in the club helps. I've also been attending the conferences and the opportunity is even bigger. Looking forward to next year's Calgary Conference. Hope to see you there.

Every month I've been in contact with the Central Newcomers/Alumni clubs by sending a monthly message. 2011 will be another year to enjoy, participate and make contacts. Let's all make a New Year's resolution to get involved and make new friends.

A special message for the new year!

12 months happiness, 52 weeks fun,
365 days laughter, 8,760 hrs good luck,
525,600 minutes joy, 31,536,000 seconds success,
So wishing you a Happy New Year!

Reina Vipond, Central Liaison



I hope everyone had a wonderful Festive Season.

Here it is 2011 and already I'm planning our trip to the National Meeting in Calgary. I have attended every National Meeting since 1996 which was in Saint John, New Brunswick that year. I've been involved with Newcomer's for 30 years - what a great organization to belong to - and I have met so many wonderful girls across Canada and have kept in touch with some of them. We have two very active clubs here in Truro - Newcomer's and Alumnae, and I like to hear from other Eastern groups. I hope some of the Atlantic Clubs are planning to attend the 50th Anniversary of Newcomer's in Calgary this Fall. In September, my hubby and I will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary. Start saving your "Toonies" for Calgary !!

Happy New Year !
In Friendship,

Beryl Keilty, Eastern Liaison

Annual Cross-Country Photo & Story Contest 2011

Check out the details on the National Newcomers Council of Canada website!

<http://nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca>



Happy New Year Everyone!

Here is little about myself. I am originally from Charlottetown, PEI. I moved from Montreal to Mississauga in 1977 and am still here.

I am a Past President of the National Council, Past President of the Mississauga Newcomers & ACORN Club (and past pretty much everything else! I am current Newsletter editor of Mississauga Newcomers & ACORN Club Here are some of my other interests: Condo Board Treasurer, Public Relations Officer and Web Editor for Royal Canadian Legion Branch 139Streetsville (Mississauga). I am married to Harvie and have 3 children.

I am currently your Website Editor and welcome any feedback and ideas for the National Newcomers Council website. Please contact me with your ideas!

Verna Dennis, Website Editor



I am a person who likes to be outdoors - playing tennis, hiking, skiing, swimming in the ocean (not in the winter) kayaking, working as a watershed steward and so on. Recently I have taken up curling and Scottish dancing and painting to keep me busy in the winter. I moved to the Courtenay from West Vancouver 6 years ago, having tried out Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal before West Vancouver. I like Courtenay the best! My background was in computers, having become a programmer in 1969, when the industry was a little different from now..

Cheers

Sheila Precious, Secretary



Happy New Year to All!

Beverly McKee, Member at Large

Make a resolution to be a better "Newcomer" friend in 2011!



In 2006, my husband Terry and I decided it was the time to really start having fun so we packed our bags in Calgary and headed to the Comox Valley vacation/playground area on Vancouver Island and haven't looked back!

We are not alone if the Comox Valley Newcomers Club is any indication of how popular this area really is. The club averages over 200 members annually with at least 60 new members joining each year. I quickly got involved with the club and held the positions of activity coordinator and President. I enjoyed the "Newcomer" experience so much, I also became active in the National Newcomers Council most recently as President which was an incredible experience for me. It seems my suitcase has had wheels on it for most of my life as I was born in Winnipeg, raised in Espanola in Northern Ontario and taught High School in Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary.

I'm now an Island Girl but still enjoy heading back east to visit family and friends with plans for attending the 60th Anniversary of the Espanola High school in July and of course the 2011 National Newcomers AGM in Calgary in September. The whole "Newcomer Experience" has been a very powerful one for me and the friends I have made since moving here are priceless!

Judy Francis, Past President National Newcomers Council of Canada



It was great being at the AGM in Sarnia. Hats Off to all the hard work that Lisa Mina and Adele DuPlessis did to put this great event together. Beryl Keilty and myself gave a session on Alumni. We received a lot of positive feedback and it was a great time hearing about all the different Alumni Clubs across Canada.

Everyone should attempt to attend next year and if Calgary is too far perhaps when it is closer.

All the best for the New Year!

Lise Marvell, Alumni Representative

"The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time."

(Enjoy the passage of time with your friends)

James Taylor



The LINK ~ Connecting your club!!

It is my pleasure to once again be serving the National Newcomers Council of Canada as your Newsletter Editor of THE LINK!

Last year was challenging as far as learning a new publishing program, and I would like to thank Suzanne Brett Welsh for all her help!

I look forward to hearing from your clubs this year and as always, I am amazed at how many talented people we have in our organization.

I will try to publish as much as I can about your clubs and club ideas. Please feel free to contact me at any time. I would also like to encourage anyone with an interesting idea or article to forward it to me for our LINK issues throughout the year.

Lisa Mina- Newsletter Editor THE LINK
newsletter@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

National Newcomers Friendship Pin



Did you know?

The **NNCC Friendship Pin** was a Millennium Project for the National Newcomers Council of Canada. These pins are:

- Manufactured by Bond Boyd, making jewelry for over 60 years; lifetime guarantee.
- Approximately 1.5 inches
- Made of bronze and plated with 25K brushed gold. The pin will not tarnish.
- \$25.00 each including taxes and shipping and handling.

Friendship Pins are available at the AGM or by order form.

You can find an order form at www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca. Quantities are limited.

Thank you!!

National Newcomers Council of Canada would like to thank all the members of the former executive. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our organization!!



Well it seems that we all have the same theme throughout the winter months. December brought a flurry of Christmas luncheons, dinners and pot luck get togethers to celebrate good friends and great times in our Newcomer Clubs across Canada. So..... it stands to reason that a lot of the January newsletters are full of New Year's resolutions to eat less, and exercise more!! Many clubs have stepped up their activities that include walking, hiking, line dancing, zumba and a variety of exercise themed events to kick start a the new year in eating healthy and staying fit!

- Many of the clubs across Canada have speakers at their monthly meetings. January, February and March would be great months to invite a Nutritionist, Personal Trainer or Health Food establishment to give a talk to your group. Many of us would welcome some good advice or tips on eating healthy and staying fit.
- London and Sarnia Newcomers Clubs have all managed to survive "Snowmageddon" and have emerged from all that snow! It did slow them down, but didn't stop them from attending their Christmas events!
- Barrie Newcomers have included a Mall Walk group, to solve the problem of walking outdoors on the wintery, slippery roads and sidewalks. What a great idea!
- Burlington Newcomers has a 50/50 draw at their monthly socials that benefits a local charity. They also have a "Get Physical" theme which includes groups for hiking, bowling and badminton.
- Cornwall hosted a "Victorian Christmas Tea" with the event being hosted in a Victorian home and members dressing in Victorian clothing!
- Kitchener/Waterloo has a interest group "Writers Group" for those who like to write or share what they have written with like minded newcomers.
- Mississauga Newcomers interest group "The ROMEO Club-(Retired Old Men Eating Out).
- From the Ottawa Newcomers Club- At the beginning of every New Year, most people make resolutions. Why not resolve to try an activity that is new to you? Don't hesitate to get out and meet new people. Remember: 'Every good friend was once a stranger'.
- Comox Valley Newcomer club has a Home Décor group that gets together to share their experiences, successes, flops and advice relating to our homes, with a focus on renovations.
- Thornhill Newcomers group reserves a "Community Events" section in their newsletter for anyone who wishes to share an event with everyone in the group.
- Regina has a babysitters roster! What a great idea, for those members who need a sitter to attend an event or monthly meeting. Pool resources from your own group!
- Welcome to Winnipeg who is now sharing their newsletter with me, it looks like a very active group with many fun activities planned every month. I look forward to reading about your events!

NNCC Contest- Photo Story!

National Newcomers Council of Canada is holding a photo story contest: So if you have a great photo and a great story from your activity group to go along with it, you could win! Funny, dramatic, informative- all stories are welcome! Judy Francis, Past President of National, will be our judge and the best 2 pictures and stories will receive a friendship pin.

Please send your pictures and stories to pastpresident@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca.

Deadline for pictures and stories is **March 1, 2011** for our April Issue of THE LINK.

National Club Family Tree

At the Calgary AGM we hope to have a family tree of clubs based on the date the club started. It is unlikely that we will have a complete tree as many clubs don't belong to National, and some clubs have folded and the information is not available any longer as to when the club started. Despite these challenges, it will still prove to be interesting to have a current family tree of clubs and we hope you will help us by sending us this information. A picture of the current executive would be welcome for this project! Information and pictures can be sent to memberatlarge@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca.

NNCC Past Presidents Project

The NNCC executive has a few projects that will involve clubs in for the 2011 AGM. One is a compilation of past National Council presidents. If you or someone you know has been a President of National, please let us know the year and which club you belonged to at the time. A photo of the Past President then and now would also be a fun addition!

Please send any information related to this project to Suzanne at president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca.

National Newcomers Council Club Calendar 2011-2012

For the Calgary AGM the NNCC and the Calgary Jubilee committee are interested in putting together a 16-month calendar of clubs. These high quality calendars will be available for pick up at the AGM or for a small fee we can mail them to members from coast to coast. The online website for the AGM will accept orders, and we will also accept cheques and order forms. You can send photos with captions to Suzanne at president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca.

2011 AGM Update – Calgary Newcomers Golden Jubilee

Plans are coming together very quickly for the 34th AGM that will be hosted by the Calgary Newcomers' and NuGrads' Clubs September 23 and 24, 2011. This event has been in the works for five years as Calgary has been preparing for its 50th Anniversary as the first Newcomer Club in Canada. Friday night's welcome and reception will be held at the Calgary Petroleum Club, Calgary's prestigious private club. Attendees of the AGM as well as guests from out of town who won't be going to the AGM are all welcome to attend this event. AGM attendees will have Friday Night included in their registration fee; guests will have a small fee to help cover costs. The Saturday AGM will be held at the downtown Marriott Hotel. This lovely hotel is well situated for those interested in doing a little sightseeing or shopping. The hotel has set aside a small number of rooms at a reduced rate of \$119 for single or double occupancy. Billeting will of course be offered as well. The main event will be the Saturday night Gala that will be held at Heritage Park's Gasoline Alley. All visiting members and guests are welcome, but we do have a 400 limit for Heritage Park. On Sunday we will work with a local company and if enough guests are interested there will be a day trip to Banff arranged.

Time capsule presentations will be incorporated in the AGM agenda. We hope to have many clubs represented and welcome either electronic or poster presentations. Please let us know if you are planning on having something to share. Attendance is not required for time capsules as we will include all presentations.

Registrations will open **April 1, 2011** and will be available online with credit card purchase. Registrations will also be accepted by mail and cheque as well. For more information and updates, please check our website: www.calgarynewcomersgoldenjubilee.ca. Or you can reach Suzanne at 403-836-5631 or celebrate@cngj.ca.



National Newcomers' Council of Canada

friends@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

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.

New NNCC Executive

It is our pleasure to introduce your new Executive for the 2010-2011 year; President Suzanne Brett Welsh (Calgary NuGrads); Past President Judy Francis (Comox Alumnae); Registrar/Treasurer Adele DuPlessis (Sarnia Newcomers); Secretary Sheila Precious (Comox Alumnae); Eastern Liaison Beryl Keilty (Truro Alumni); Central Liaison Reina Vipond (Ottawa Newcomers); Western Liaison Irene Nevill (North Vancouver Newcomers); Alumni Representative Lise Marvell (Cornwall Alumni); Member-at-Large Bev McKee (St Catherines Newcomers); Newsletter Editor Lisa Mina (Sarnia Newcomers); and Web Site Editor Verna Dennis (Mississauga Newcomers & Alumni).

Each of the executive have provided reports and/or introductions in this issue of *The Link*. Please contact any of the executive with questions, comments or concerns via friends@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca or their individual emails.