

The Link

Connecting Canada's Newcomers from Coast to Coast

2012-2013

Executive

President

Adele DuPlessis
Sarnia, ON

Past President

Suzanne Brett Welsh
Calgary, AB

Registrar / Treasurer

Suzanne Hebert
Niagara-On-The-Lake

Secretary

Margaret Patrick
Burlington, ON

Newsletter Editor

Vacant

Web-Site Editor

Verna Dennis
Mississauga, ON

Eastern Liaison

Beryl Keilty
Truro, NS

Central Liaison

Lisa Mina
Sarnia, ON

Western Liaison

Vacant

Alumnae Representative

Meryl Hadlow
Waterloo, ON

Member at Large

Bonnie Barber
Ottawa, ON

2012 AGM Success!

The Burlington Newcomers/Alumni Clubs tremendously enjoyed the experience of hosting the AGM. By doing this, we really felt a part of the National Organization. We had fun doing it and learned a lot as the planning progressed. We certainly honed our organizational skills and we all came out knowing more than when we started. The event for us started on the Friday night with our welcome reception. We enjoyed ourselves and that is usually a pretty good sign that things went well. It was a great opportunity to meet the delegates from other Clubs and have a chat. We thank Spencer's On the Waterfront for making this a memorable night, from the Observatory looking over Lake Ontario to the wonderful food that they served and their friendly and helpful service. We also have our wonderful sponsors to thank. Without them this evening would have not been possible. To Mary Kay Cosmetics Canada, our platinum sponsor for their very generous donation, for supplying the items which we raffled off for three months to raise money and for their donation of a door prize. To our silver sponsors, Brant Florist who created and donated most of the perfect and beautiful flowers and also novelties for our goody bags and \$10.00 off coupons, and Park Property Management for their generous donation and their addition to our goody bags. Also to our Bronze sponsors Leony de Graff of de Graff Financial Strategies and Karl Zimmerman of The PPK Financial Group for their generous donations as well as Karl's kind donation of thirty books. Saturday proved to be a very interesting day. It started with the President's and Newsletter Editor's meetings and then progressed to interesting reports and informative round table discussions. The old Executive was thanked and the New Executive announced. Of course we had a little food thrown in there. Thank you to the Holiday Inn Burlington for all their help and support.

And to the members of our Organizing Committee, Margaret Patrick, Ann Reed, Audrey Smith, Bonnie Charbonneau, Brenda Turino, Dianna Porter and Rae Collins a huge thanks. Our thanks go also to our volunteers and Burlington Tourism for their help as well as those who donated to our goody bags. So many people, so little room. Our thanks to all who attended for making this such a special time for us.

See page 5 for photos from the event!

NNCC Executive News

It is our pleasure to introduce your new Executive for the 2012-13 year, as elected/acclaimed at the Burlington AGM: President **Adele DuPlessis**; Past President **Suzanne Brett Welsh**; Registrar/Treasurer **Suzanne Hebert**; Secretary **Margaret Patrick**; Eastern Liaison **Beryl Keilty**; Central Liaison **Lisa Mina**; Western Liaison **VACANT**; Alumni Representative **Meryl Hadlow**; Member-at-Large **Bonnie Barber**; Newsletter Editor **Jennifer Erxleben** (subsequently resigned with regrets); and Web Site Editor **Verna Dennis**.

We thank **Jennifer** for stepping forward and offering assistance to National. Personal obligations made it difficult for her to continue in the position of Newsletter Editor. If you are interested in helping National out as Newsletter Editor or Western Liaison positions, please contact Adele at president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca Please contact any of the executive with questions, comments or concerns via friends@newcomersclubcanada.com or their individual emails.

SAVE THE DATE!
October 18-19, 2013

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.

Adele Du Plessis - President



Welcome to our Newcomers friends from all across Canada, wishing you a fruitful and fun-filled year ahead.

Thanks and congratulations to our Newcomer friends that hosted the AGM in Burlington, it was a roaring success! Many new friendships were formed and existing friendships renewed with our special Newcomers glue that will last a lifetime. You should attend an AGM to experience friendship like nowhere else... how about seeing you at the AGM in Ottawa in 2013?

Special thanks to NNCC's past Executive for their contributions and a warm welcome to our new Executive - wishing you success in your new roles as Executive.

The word 'Newcomer' brings so many memories to mind and I am happy to share the good ones. Our family made Canada our new home June 2001 and settled in a small town called Wallaceburg. After 5 years, our only friend was the real-estate agent that sold us our house, also the only person that invited us into her house. Cannot tell you how many people invited us to their various churches, but God was already our friend, we needed Canadian friends.

We moved to Sarnia October 2006. We once again experienced the same loneliness, until a fellow-Newcomer invited me to a Sarnia Newcomer's meeting in September 2007, a whole year later ... from that day our lives changed. I found friends, friends who were in the same miserable friendless boat that I was in. That soon changed, I met wonderful women, my husband met wonderful husbands through our club activities, and today most of our friends are friends made through Newcomers.

Getting involved with Newcomers means to give of oneself, and within a year I was on the executive of Sarnia Newcomers as stand-in Secretary and then President for 3 years. In 2009, I became involved with the executive of National Newcomers Council and held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and President. I am passionate about Newcomers, I know that Newcomers make a difference to so many people's lives, so let's get out there and do it! As newcomers to Canada and communities, mistakes are made, confusion experienced, misunderstandings are plentiful, and opportunities to laugh stop one from crying.

For years I offered my sympathy, condolences and encouragement when I was told how someone 'lucked-out'. I admired Canadians for having such a positive outlook on life when things do not always go the way expected. Great was my astonishment when I learned that to 'luck-out' was actually a good thing ... it means that you were in luck. How confusing ... when you are lucky, and in-luck, and when you win, the term 'luck-out' is used - whereas to Newcomer immigrants, the understanding is that you were unlucky, out-of-luck and lost. So next time someone offers their condolences when you 'lucked-out' be kind and explain to them the Canadian way ... you will do them a favour and they will have 'lucked-out' by finding a caring friend in you.

Have a great winter, a wonderful Christmas, a roaring New Year, and do not forget to keep your Newcomers' friendships warm and toasty.

Warmest regards, Adele

Email: president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca



The purpose of the National Newcomers Council is to act as an advisory body, facilitate the exchange of ideas between clubs, promote and/or publicize newcomer organizations....



Suzanne Brett Welsh - Past President

I had a wonderful time at the recent AGM hosted by the lovely ladies of the Burlington Newcomers and Alumni Clubs! It was fantastic to mix and mingle with so many of our sister clubs, sharing ideas and working through so many issues that affect all of our clubs.

We hope your club has found the many things National does in terms of general support and information (through your regional representatives as well as The Link) and the affordable club insurance program, helpful and relevant. We are constantly looking for ways to connect with Clubs and do more for you, and recently offered **regional teleconferencing with club Presidents** as a way for club executives to “meet” and discuss any issues their clubs may be facing. This teleconference was such a wonderful way to connect with clubs from coast to coast that Adele will be offering it again in early March.

I would like to extend a quick welcome to our newest clubs - Niagara-on-the-Lake Social Club and Nanaimo 21st Century Newcomers Club! It is lovely to have you join the National Newcomers Council family of clubs. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns—I love to hear from you (pastpresident@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca).

Margaret Patrick - Secretary

My first experience with Newcomers was in 1980 when we moved from Montreal to Oakville, Ontario. It made the transition so much easier and the interest groups gave me the opportunity to meet people who had similar interests.

In 1992 we moved to Dallas, Texas. Oh I wish there had been a Newcomers Club there. So when we moved back to Canada and settled in Burlington, Ontario in February 2001 Newcomers was something I was looking for. However, it wasn't until November that I actually found Newcomers and joined. The following June I was President of our Club. Talk about diving in headfirst but what a great experience it turned out to be.

After three years in Newcomers I moved up to our Alumni group. There I served as First Vice President twice and second Vice President. Now for the second year I am serving as President and I love the job. Not only have I made friends but the personal growth I have experienced serving in different capacities on the Executive has been tremendous. Without this, I do not think that I would have ever dreamed of taking on the AGM. That was a great experience and we had lots of fun doing it. This was my first experience with National and I am sorry that it took me so long to do so.

I look forward to serving on the NNCC Executive this year as Secretary. Not only will it be interesting but also a wonderful opportunity to meet new people from across Canada.



Email: secretary@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

NNCC
2013
Annual
General
Meeting
Ottawa, ON!
October
18-19, 2013

NNCC STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENSES

Year ending November 30, 2012

| | | |
|---|------------|-------------------|
| Membership Dues | | \$3,215.00 |
| Friendship Pin Sales | | \$439.00 |
| AGM Registratins | | \$3,300.00 |
| Insurance Premiums | | \$573.77 |
| Fundraising | | \$195.00 |
| 50/50 Revenue | | \$100.00 |
| Subtotal Revenue | | \$7,822.77 |
| Bank Fees | | \$53.62 |
| Teleconferencing | | \$139.97 |
| Netfirms - Website Hosting/Domain Name | | \$143.38 |
| Postage | | \$31.25 |
| Friendship Pins Purchase | | \$1,235.30 |
| AGM Travel | | \$1,180.00 |
| AGM Venue/Food Expense | | \$3,581.65 |
| AGM Printing and misc costs | | \$439.86 |
| Insurance Premiums | | \$573.77 |
| Miscellaneous | | \$47.11 |
| Subtotal Expenses | | \$7,425.91 |
| Surplus/Loss for the Year | | +\$396.86 |
| Opening Bank Balance (Dec 1/11) | \$2,101.01 | |
| Estimated Closing Bank Balance (Nov 30/12) | | \$2,497.88 |

Suzanne Hebert - Incoming Registrar/Treasurer

I am very happy and proud to serve on the Board of our national Newcomers organization in the upcoming year. The Burlington Conference was my first experience with "National", and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I know that serving on the Board will be a great personal experience, an opportunity to make new friends and to learn from others' experiences. It is energizing to meet members from other clubs across Canada, who have a keen interest in keeping their clubs active and exciting.

I moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake 12 years ago, from Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Hong-Kong and other far away places. I immediately joined the local Newcomers club, got involved on its Executive. The friends I made 12 years ago are still very much part of my life.

As registrar/treasurer, I hope to develop relationships with members of various clubs across the country, and to ensure that our National organization remains financially healthy and vibrant. We all know that "Newcomers" is important locally - it's often a life-saver for people who move to a new location where they have no circle of friends. I now understand that it is also important nationally, as a mechanism to learn from each other, share ideas, and create a thriving community.



Email: registrar-treasurer@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

Photos from the Burlington AGM



Meryl Hadlow - Alumnae Liaison

Hello to the Alumnae Clubs across Canada. I am Meryl Hadlow President of the Waterloo Region Newcomers and Alumnae Club and I will be the Alumnae Liaison for National this coming year. I would love to hear from you on any ideas or suggestions on keeping our clubs running in an interesting and informative way. Please feel free at any time to contact me.

A very merry **Christmas** to all of you and a happy and healthy New Year.

Email: alumnirep@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca





Beryl Keilty - Eastern Liaison

Look for Beryl's message in the next issue of The Link!

Email: liaisoneast@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

Mona's Mother's Mother's Best Friend's Favorite Cookies

By Az G on November 30, 2008; <http://www.food.com/recipeprint.do?rid=340105>

Photo by BakinBaby

★★★★★ 7 Reviews

✳ Prep Time: 15 mins ✳ Total Time: 30 mins ✳ Serves: 12, ✳ Yield: 24 cookies

"Yes...that is the name in the cookbook, I checked when I was given the recipe :o) These are light and tasty. Mixed in one bowl. Yeah for that."

Ingredients

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ✳ 1 cup white sugar | ✳ 1/2 cup brown sugar |
| ✳ 1 eggs | ✳ 1 cup butter |
| ✳ 1 1/4 cups flour | ✳ 1 1/4 cups quick-cooking rolled oats |
| ✳ 3/4 cup coconut | ✳ 1 teaspoon baking powder |
| ✳ 1 teaspoon baking soda | |



Directions

Preheat oven to 350°F. Beat egg in a medium bowl. Add butter and both sugars. Cream well. Add remaining ingredients and mix to combine. Drop onto baking sheet and flatten slightly. Bake for 12-15 minutes, until golden.

Lisa Mina- Central Liaison

Newcomers has been a part of my life since 2007. When my family moved to Sarnia, ON in the summer of 2007, I did not know a soul! I found the link to our local club on the City of Sarnia website. I could not wait for the 1st meeting to take place in September! What I found at Sarnia Newcomers were other women who were just like me! I was looking for friendship and a connection to the new city I moved to. Since that day, I have met so many wonderful women who have become dear friends.

I joined the National Council a couple of years later, and have held the positions of Secretary, Newsletter Editor and this year, as Central Liaison.

It is my mission to have clubs interacting more with each other and providing guidance to the clubs in the Central Region. I look forward to serving the Central Region clubs, and to making more friendships!

Here is what **NEWCOMERS** means to me.....

N- Never be in a new city without any friends!

E- Expect fun, learn interesting new things and meet new people (one cannot have too many friends)!

W- Women know how to have fun!

C- Choose how many interest groups you would like to join!

O- Over abundance of friendship, and camaraderie shown to others!

M- Make everlasting friendships!

E- Every region; Eastern, Central or Western, there's going to be a club near you!

R- Remember to always tell others about Newcomers!

S- Share your ideas, to make your club stronger!

Email: liaisoncentral@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca





Verna Dennis - Web Editor

Originally from PEI, I've been on National Council since I joined as Registrar-Treasurer in 2005, at the request of my friend the late Linda Waldron.

I've really enjoyed the past few years volunteering with all the various council members from across Canada to keep our clubs vibrant. Newcomers' idea of friendship to people 'from away' always makes life so fun and interesting!

Hope to hear from lots of you in the Photo Contest, and please let me know if you would like any changes/corrections to our web site

www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

Looking forward to seeing all who can make it to our next AGM in Ottawa in Oct, 2013.

In friendship, Verna

Email: web@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

2013 Photo and Story Contest!

Topic for 2013: Fun Food & Friendship ...

The winning Newcomers'/Alumni Club will receive a complementary Friendship Pin to be awarded to the entrant at your next General Meeting to the member who submitted the photo/story.

Contest deadline - in time for our Newsletter "The LINK" Fall, 2013.

Please send your Club's story (2013 - Can include recipe!) and photo (as .jpg attachment) by email to web@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca.

2012 Winners: Congrats to Winnipeg Alumnae and Toronto Newcomers. Each received a pin to present to the winning entrant. See page 9 for the winning entries!

*Connecting Newcomers from
Coast to Coast*

DID YOU KNOW?

The NNCC Friendship Pin was a Millennium Project for the National Newcomers Council of Canada. We have recently added to this offering with the Alumni/Alumnae Pin. A similar pin which is distinguished by a plaque denoting Alumni or Alumnae (this can be changed to suit the individual order or can be ordered by a club to reflect its name). Many thanks to Lise Marvell of the Cornwall Alumnae Club for conceptualizing and bringing this idea to National!

These pins are manufactured in Canada by Bond Boyd, making jewelry for over 60 years; lifetime guarantee, are made of bronze and plated with 25K brushed gold - guaranteed not to tarnish - and are 1.5" wide. The regular Newcomer Friendship pins are sold for \$20 at the AGM or \$25 including shipping & handling to any address across Canada. The Alumni/Alumnae Pins are also available at the AGM for a price of \$27 or by mail for \$32. Order forms are online at www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca. Please remember to stipulate if you are ordering "Newcomer", "Alumnae" or "Alumni" pins. Thanks!



Bonnie Barber - Member at Large

I have been a member of Ottawa Newcomers since 1985, and the alumnae (ONAC) since 1988. It, as we all say, has been a lifesaver for us. In that time, I have held various positions on the Executive, recently VP, President, PP, and now Treasurer. It is all a steep learning curve!!

I am now in my second year as Member at Large for the National Newcomers Council of Canada, and as such, have been directing email queries to our site, and also handling the sale of the Newcomer, Alumnae, and Alumni pins. To order these pins, please see the website to download an order form. They are a thoughtful gift to a newcomer or alumnae member!!

We, in Ottawa, are busy planning for the 2013 National Newcomers conference being held here on Oct 18&19. We look forward to welcoming our fellow club members to our wonderful city.

Until then, I wish everyone a Merry and Healthy Christmas and Happy New Year.

Email: memberatlarge@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca



Host Clubs for 2013 and 2014!

Host Clubs for National Newcomers Council AGMs are set for the next few years! Ottawa Newcomers Club (with the support of Ottawa Alumni) has offered to host 2013 and Truro & Area Alumni (with the support of its Newcomers Club) has offered to host 2014! We are having early discussions to perhaps bring the AGM back west for 2015 - perhaps with the help of one of our BC Clubs!

Hosting is a lot of fun - we give you lots of help - and your club gets the chance to showcase its beautiful town or city. If your club would like more information please contact

Suzanne via pastpresident@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca.

The Link ~ Fall 2012 ~ Photo and Story Winning Entries!

Toronto Newcomers Club - International Cooking Circle



Toronto Newcomers love to cook. Well, mainly we love to eat and our monthly international cooking circle is one of our most popular activities. Hosted by different members each month, the cooking circle chooses a theme and everyone works together to prepare a delicious meal. We then feel justified in sitting down and enjoying an amazing, long and lazy lunch together. At the end of the day we go away with a repertoire of new recipes and techniques from all over the world to try out in our own homes.

The culinary delights we have sampled this year have included Korean, Indian, Persian, Japanese and Italian specialities, all planned and prepared by our wonderful members. We are always amazed that out of the chaos of twenty women all trying to find a spot in the kitchen to prepare their part of the meal, an incredibly tasty and beautifully presented feast can emerge. Our Indian cooking circle hosted by Joy and Christina with Indrani in April this year was no exception. Our club has members from all over the world and sharing our cuisine and culture has proved to be a wonderful way to deepen our friendships.



Winnipeg Newcomers' Alumnae Club
Royal Wedding Coffee Morning April 29, 2011

We, like many other ladies' groups, celebrated the wedding of William and Kate, but we can't imagine that they had as much fun as we did. Our hostess for the event, who is British, had her home decorated with posters, flags, pennants, table covers, etc, which her Mom sent from England, and we were even greeted by a flag draped bulldog, Winston [Okay, he wasn't real, but he was big.]

As you can see from the photos, there were many fantastic hats and fascinators, including a very clever one made from a green plastic plate.

AND—the Queen was also in attendance. Now how many had her at their party?

We had our coffee and tea in china cups, the food was wonderful and very appropriate for the occasion. We watched the wedding ceremony, which had been recorded, and toasted the newlyweds with champagne.

We had a "fascinating" time and still talk about it a year later.

Photos by Gloria Zacharias and text by Janet Grunsten [Her Royal Highness]





National Newcomers Council of Canada

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.

E-Mail:

friends@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

Newcomer Clubs & Fun by Suzanne Welsh

Newcomer and Alumni/ae Clubs are great organizations which help women who are new to their towns and cities through activities and meetings. Here are a few words reflective of these groups and all that they do!

- ACORN
- Activities
- AGM
- Alumnae
- Alumni
- Associations
- Books
- Club
- Coffee
- Connected
- Connections
- Crafts
- Dinners
- Entertainment
- Executive
- Fresh Start
- Friendly
- Friends
- Fun
- Global
- Group
- Happiness
- Hiking
- Home
- Laughs
- Lifesaver
- Local
- Members
- Mom n Tots
- Movies
- National
- Neighbours
- Networks
- New Beginnings
- New City
- Newcomers
- Newsletter
- NuGrads
- Recreation
- Roots
- Skiing
- Speakers
- The Link
- Theatre
- Volunteering
- Walking
- Warm
- Wonderful

