

2013 AGM ~ News from Ottawa, Ontario



The capital city of Ottawa, is the venue for our 2013 AGM. Ottawa is our country's showpiece, boasting the world's longest canal, museums, galleries, theatres, markets, and miles of green space...it's just waiting for you to come and explore. Ottawa Newcomers' and Ottawa Newcomers' Alumni are planning a wonderful weekend for you.

The 36th AGM will be hosted by the Ottawa Newcomers' and Alumni Clubs on Saturday, October 19, 2013. There will be a Friday evening Welcome Reception at the Ottawa City Hall Councillors' Lounge. On Saturday, a full day of meetings, elections and entertainment will be held at the Albert at Bay Suite Hotel.

Hotel rooms have been 'set aside' in the name of Ottawa Newcomers' - National Conference at the Albert at Bay Suite Hotel. In addition, members of Ottawa Newcomers' and Alumni will be opening their homes for billeting.

Further information will be published at the end of April, in an extra addition of The Link, including the registration form and the tentative agenda for the AGM.



Adele du Plessis ~ President

Now, what happened to 2013! We all have some or other secret wish or resolution that we truly hope to keep to during the year ahead of us ... and it is when we realize that we are not keeping up to the expectations that we set for ourselves, that we share our 'failure' with our friends. How about this year? How did you do? Let's pretend that the first three months does not count for this year and focus on the rest of the year.... Let us make only one wish, and that is to be somebody's friend and to offer true friendship. Wishing to be friends are quick work and sometimes easy, but friendship is deep and steady, always there when you need it, even across great distances.

The President's conference call meetings have been successful with as many as 18 clubs calling in. Valuable information was shared, good discussions of interest, and above all we could talk to each other from coast-to-coast. If you have not yet joined a conference call, please consider joining us for the next call which will be on Sunday, May 5, 2013 at 11 am ET.

Welcome to Rosemary Sorfleet from Ottawa who made herself available as Newsletter Editor, we know that The Link will be in good hands. Thanks to Suzanne who for the past few years has taken care of The Link over and above her other duties.

Welcome also to our new Western Liaison Executive member Cindy Dixon from Comox.

Friendship is such a precious gift and so easy to give, and yet in our busy lives we seldom find the time to really look at the person standing next to us. When was the last time we took the time to pay a little attention to the people around us? Have we forgotten what it feels like to be new in the community, to be alone, to be 'lost' amongst people and without friends? I have a personal request to our Newcomers' members: Next time when you buy your groceries, or stand in line at the bank, etc., look around you, say hello to a stranger and who knows, that stranger may be a new person in your community. If any of you happen meet with newcomers in your community, write us about your experience and what the outcome was, we would love to share it in the next newsletter.

Don't forget about the AGM, October is around the corner and Ottawa will be lovely in the fall. As always, I am eager to reconnect with the friends made over the past years and to meet new friends.

Suzanne Hebert ~ Registrar/Treasurer



Greetings from Niagara-on-the-Lake!

Until this winter, the Niagara peninsula described itself as Canada's banana belt. Trust me: the banana is now officially frozen and none of us can remember a winter with this much cold and this much snow. Our local Newcomers' interest groups are probably one of the main reasons that our 300 members have not all moved south. Friendships, and a lot of local wine, keep us warm.

For the last few months, the job of Treasurer for our national organization has not proven excessively demanding. This is a very good thing, since I am new to the position, and still learning. The bank balance as of December 1 – the start of our fiscal year – was \$3,780, a very healthy position. We will be contacting you soon for membership renewals. In the meantime, let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Suzanne

Margaret Patrick~ Secretary



Happy Spring Everyone!

I have nothing to report at this time.

Margaret
secretary@ncc.ca

Bonnie Barber ~ Member-at-Large



Happy Spring to Everyone,

Now that spring is around the corner, we may be thinking of appropriate thank you gifts for club executive and/or members at year end. The **Newcomer, Alumnae, or Alumni pins** make a lovely gift. The order form may be downloaded from the National website, and will be filled immediately upon receipt of payment, with shipping costs included in the price. Please send order form to: Bonnie Barber, 34 Gillespie Cres. Ottawa, Ont. K1V 9X8.

Cheers,

Bonnie Barber,

memberatlarge@nccc.ca

Meryl Hadlow ~ Alumnae Representative



Happy Spring Everyone!

I have nothing to report at this time.

Meryl Hadlow
alumnirep@nccc.ca



Hello from Ottawa. I am the new editor for The Link and am looking forward to getting to know about all of our clubs across Canada. I will read your club newsletters with interest and pass along ideas that I glean from them in future issues of The Link. In addition, I would be happy to hear from any member with a story to tell or a photograph to share.

Rosemary Sorfleet
newsletter@nccc.ca

Cindy Dixon ~ Western Liaison

Whether you call him Balzac Billy, Winnipeg Willow or Warton Willie, the groundhog did not see his shadow this year thus predicting an early spring. I can tell you it has arrived here in the Comox Valley on beautiful Vancouver Island. Even though the first day of spring is not officially until March 21st, the tulips and daffodils are in bloom and there is the promise of new life in the air. Many of us are anxious to get into the garden and start digging and planting, looking forward to the fruits of our labours later in the season. If spring has not yet arrived in your area, Mother Nature will not forget you.

I want to extend a warm welcome to Joy Bricker, President and the other members of the Saskatoon Newcomer's club who have recently joined the National Newcomer's Council family of clubs. Welcome and best wishes. I encourage you to contact me if there is anything I can help you with to make your club successful. If there is an event or something you think other Newcomer clubs would be interested in, please contact me and I'd be happy to share. As this is my first submission to The Link, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome. I look forward to connecting with the Western clubs in the near future and creating a strong association between all of us and the National Executive Council.

Cindy Dixon - l.west@nccc.ca

Beryl Keilty ~ Eastern Liaison



I have been involved with Newcomers for over 30 years and on the National Executive for 17 years. My husband(Al) and I retired in Truro N.S. after living in many cities across Canada. I am a founding member of the Truro Club and very involved in the Alumnae Club. In 2014, we are planning to host the A.G.M. and hoping many Newcomers will attend.

Truro was nicknamed "The hub of N. S more than 100 years ago when railways linking Nova Scotia met here. It also became the hub of provincial highways. We are 45 minutes from the international airport, 100 km from Halifax and only 3 hours from the beautiful and colorfull Cabot Trail. Start planning an Atlantic Holiday in 2014. See you in Ottawa in October.

In friendship.

Beryl Keilty - l.east@nccc.ca

Lisa Mina ~ Central Liaison



I currently live in Sarnia, Ontario and am an active member of our local Newcomers Club. I have also been part of the National Newcomers Council since 2008, holding the positions of Secretary, Newsletter Editor and this year as Central Liaison.

What is my role?

My role as Central Liaison for the National Newcomers Council of Canada is to act as the bridge between the National council and the individual Newcomer groups across the Central Region of Canada. I will be here to communicate with you, answer any questions you may have and help you should you have any problems that need resolving.

As the liaison for the Central Region, I have access to the Newcomers clubs in our region, therefore can utilize all of their ideas and resources. I will also work to achieve a mutual understanding of what Newcomers is all about and work towards unifying our efforts.

I believe strongly in the Newcomers Club, giving women the opportunity to meet and develop friendships with others in the new city that they now call home. I look forward to being your representative this year, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime.

Lisa Mina - l.central@nccc.ca

We need a new logo for National!!

Please HELP! We would like to upgrade our **National Logo**. We're really looking forward to a 21st Century, elegant logo to feature in the LINK and on our web site .

We are putting it out to all of our clubs to help us with a new and inspiring logo that captures the **essence** of National.

Please send logos to our President. Adele Du Plessis,
president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca

The deadline for this contest will be **August 31st 2013**,

With the unveiling at the **October AGM in Ottawa**.

Prize will be a friendship pin for the winning entry.

Some samples of our clubs logos for inspiration:



Harbour
City
Newcomer's
Club

MISSISSAUGA
Newcomers
& ACORN

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).

Recently the NNCC established a very low cost/affordable general accident/liability insurance policy for all clubs across Canada. Details have been shared with each club's executive and premium information is on page 16 of this issue of The Link.

The NNCC provides support, opinions 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 may also be able to provide website space to member groups at a lower cost than other providers. Please let us know if you are interested.

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; life-time 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.



News from Across the Nation

- **Brockville** has a Paddlers Kayaking Group that promotes exercise, photography, picnics, short hikes and lots of camaraderie.
- **Regina** has a Shutterbugs photography group who are issued a monthly challenge.
- **North Vancouver** has a member who collects used stamps and any that she or her stamp club can't use are donated to charity. The Cancer Society has raised several thousand dollars annually from these used stamps.
- **Kingston** has a Canasta (Hand and Foot) Group, where members will teach the game in private before you join the group...sounds intriguing!
- **White Rock/Surrey** have a GOGO (Give One Get One) Box at their monthly meeting, where fill in a card with your details and drop it into the box at the start of the meeting and draw a different one at the end of the meeting. It's an opportunity to socialize with a different newcomer on a one-to-one basis each month. They also have The Buddy Program, where members help newcomers to the club.
- **Ottawa** is busily preparing to host our 2013 AGM.
- **Cornwall** has a comment book that circulates at the monthly meeting and is then taken for discussion by the executive.
- **Comox Valley** has been participating in a Clean Out The Clutter initiative, where they donate gently used clothing, kitchen and household goods to the CV Transition Society. They also have a Motorcycling Group for exploring their area and other parts of Vancouver Island.
- **Burlington** has a New Breakfast Club for Grads and Newcomers.
- **London** has a Unique Pubs of London Group...not hard to figure out what they do!
- **Guelph** has a Travel Discussion Group where members can share experiences and offer advice from their experiences.
- **St. Catherines** has a Foreign Affair Group who have potlucks featuring Ethnic cuisine.

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.



National Newcomers' Council of Canada

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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.

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 2013 AGM in Ottawa 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). 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 Adele Du Plessis (president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca).