



North Bay & District Multicultural Centre

Immigrant Settlement Services

NEWSLETTER

From Don Curry, Executive Director

Meeting with MP Jay Aspin

Fellow North Bay Newcomer Network Co-Chair Marla Tremblay and I met with our new MP, Jay Aspin Aug. 13, along with Settlement Counsellor Cindy Collins from our office and Jay's executive assistant, Scott Mannering. It was a great opportunity to define roles and make sure we work together on immigration and settlement issues. We appreciated the offer to use their Temiskaming Shores office when meeting with clients from that area. MP Charlie Angus has a similar arrangement with us for his Kirkland Lake office. Our Timmins office settlement counsellor, Andrée Fortin, visits Kirkland Lake each week.

Official Opening in Timmins

Speaking about Timmins, we held the official opening of the new office there June 7 and Mayor Tom Laughren not only cut the ribbon and the cake, but adroitly sectioned the very large cake into individual slices. It obviously wasn't the first cake he's cut. The Timmins & District Multicultural Centre now has its own website at www.timminsmulticultural.ca. Our Citizenship and Immigration Canada Settlement Officer Shawn Gingras attended the event and helped hold the ribbon for the mayor to cut.



Mayor Tom Laughren cuts cake

Diversity Day at Shania Twain Centre

Andrée Fortin assisted Timmins Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator John Okonmah in hosting the Diversity Day event May 18 at the Shania Twain Centre. Now that Shania has signed up for 60 shows a year at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, starting in December 2012, there should be renewed interest in the Timmins centre. Well worth visiting if you're a Shania fan, and who isn't? I watched her whole series on Oprah's network and enjoyed the Timmins and Huntsville segments. I played one of Shania's CDs on the



way to Timmins with Program Coordinator Deborah Robertson, and she told me Shania is still big in England.

Summer ESL Classes Popular

Once again this summer Melanie McVeety's students at the English as a Second Language program operated by the Near North District School Board didn't want to quit at the end of the school year. Many are continuing with morning classes in our board room all summer. Volunteer teachers use Melanie's curriculum to keep the eager beaver newcomers moving forward with their language skills. We have a great group of volunteers and I hope they get as much out of the experience as the students do.

Three New Interns

We have two Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and one FedNor intern working with us now. Shaye Belanger is working as a settlement counsellor and Meg Ramore and Johnathan Thackray are both working on employment issues through the North Bay Newcomer Network. Shaye is reporting to Program Coordinator Deborah Robertson while Meg and Johnathan report to our Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator Laura-Jane Coté.

Program Coordinator

Deborah Robertson is now our Program Coordinator. We removed the "Acting" part of her title when Ann Welsh told us she is not returning to work after her maternity leave. Deborah sits on the North Bay Newcomer Network Executive Committee as chair of the settlement committee. We are trying to keep Ann engaged from her perch in Toronto through a new project we are hoping to launch.



Deborah Robertson

John Nadeau Chairs Welcome Committee

Professor John Nadeau of Nipissing University is the new chair of the Welcome Committee of the North Bay Newcomer Network. John and I are the North Bay representatives on the Governing Council of the province-wide Welcoming Communities Initiative and John will be using the WCI 17-point framework of what constitutes a welcoming community as he moves his committee forward.

Cathy Ellis Joins Board of Directors

Cathy Ellis, Director of Community Economic Development with the Timmins Economic Development Corporation, has joined the board of directors of the North Bay & District Multicultural Centre. Cathy will make sure the Timmins & District Multicultural Centre office gets its share of board agenda time.

George Burton Returns to Canadore

It was great to see a familiar face when the Canadore College Board of Governors announced that George Burton is the new president. George and I worked together at Canadore up to 1992. Our board chair, Susan Church, and board member Gary Gould were all part of the excellent student services team we had back then as well. I've had a couple of meetings with George since he took over and I look



forward to working with him and Canadore in the future as they increase their international student numbers. The board of governors chose well.

Great Day for Golf Tournament

The weather was perfect for our second annual charity golf tournament June 30 at Osprey Links and we were just a few golfers shy of a full field. Everyone had a great day on the course and the multicultural buffet at Partners was again a huge hit with the hungry throng. Thanks to our staff and volunteers who made it happen and to all those who sponsored a hole, entered a team, or donated an item for the silent auction. The only down side was Partners host and board member Dennis Mong was stuck in Toronto and was unable to attend.



Golfers from left, Vic Fedeli, Keith James, Don Curry, Dan Boland enjoyed the day

Canada Day Multicultural Showcase



Part of the crowd at Multicultural Showcase

The day following our golf tournament was Canada Day, which means we organized the multicultural showcase at the waterfront once again. The entertainment was terrific, there were hundreds of people and our master of ceremonies Jules-Pierre Fournier did an outstanding job of hosting and entertaining in both official languages once again. We thank him and Ecole secondaire publique Odysée for the sound equipment and technical support person Luc Ayotte for his work all afternoon.

Belgian Journalist Visits

Belgian journalist Jelle Henneman visited North Bay and I enjoyed his interview with me. He also talked to Marla Tremblay of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development and the North Bay Newcomer Network. He is working on both a book and a series of magazine articles on immigration, and is focusing on what Canada is doing right, compared to what Europe is doing wrong. He came to North Bay because he was told we are a strong example of what a smaller city is doing regarding immigration initiatives.

International Cooking Club May Expand

Our International Cooking Club monthly events at the Golden Age Centre continue to be hugely popular. Participants are now working on a cookbook, and we have submitted a funding application to expand the activity to other communities.





Immigration Numbers

In 2010, 280,681 new permanent residents landed in Canada. Within the decade, immigration is projected to be the sole source of Canada's labour force growth. It is expected to account for more than two thirds (67.5%) of the population increase by 2015 and 100 per cent of the population increase sometime after 2025. A study released by the Conference Board of Canada in 2010 found that immigrants drive innovation and economic growth. For example, although immigrants represent about 20% of the Canadian population, 35% of university research chairs are foreign born.

Maryline Pillet Extended

FedNor has provided funding to lengthen the contract for Maryline Pillet, who is doing francophone outreach work in the region. If you belong to a francophone organization and Maryline hasn't contacted you, give her a call at our office at 705-495-8931. You can reach her by email at mpillet@nbdmc.ca.

Check Our Websites

If you have any questions about our services check us out at www.nbdmc.ca and www.northbayimmigration.ca For Timmins check www.timminsmulticultural.ca and www.immigrationtimmins.ca.

