



North Bay & District  
**Multicultural Centre**  
Immigrant Settlement Services

## NEWSLETTER

From Don Curry, Executive Director

### Immigration Portal Launched

January 11 was a milestone event in North Bay when the city officially launched its immigration portal. More than 30 people turned out at the Best Western for a morning of professional development on immigrant employment issues with Dr. Lionel Laroche, the portal launch just before noon and a North Bay Newcomer Network

strategic planning session in the afternoon. Mayor Vic Fedeli, MPP Monique Smith and MP Anthony Rota were all



Monique Smith was on hand at the Best Western Hotel in North Bay January 11, 2010 for the launch of the North Bay Immigration Portal



Marla Tremblay, economic development officer for the city and co-chair of the North Bay Newcomer Network, was a driving force behind the development of the immigration portal.

present and spoke passionately about the need for immigration as the baby boom generation retires. Thanks to Marla Tremblay and Chelsa Mayhew of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development for all their work on this initiative. While the city developed the site, it will be maintained by the North Bay & District Multicultural Centre through a content management system. If you haven't visited the site yet, check it out at [www.northbayimmigration.ca](http://www.northbayimmigration.ca) All those great photos are of local people. I spotted a few of our staff members.



## **International Food Festival**

If you have never attended the International Food Festival at Nipissing University mark Saturday, February 6 on your calendar. Doors open to the main cafeteria at 11:30 a.m. and food sampling begins at noon. Your \$10 admission, payable at the door, entitles you to 10 food samples from around the world. It's great fun visiting the booths to see what's on the menu and chatting with any of the hundreds of people attending. Proceeds go to the World University Service of Canada Student Refugee Sponsorship Project. There will be entertainment and a silent auction, with results at 2 p.m.

## **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination event winds up with the Evening of Applause at Odyssee high school Wednesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. The four district school boards, Canadore College, Nipissing University, Nipissing Secondary School and the North Bay & District Multicultural Centre organize the event. It is the longest running International Day event in Canada. Nominations remain open to the end of February for the Nipissing District Human Rights Hall of Fame. Send your nominations to me at [doncurry@nbdmc.ca](mailto:doncurry@nbdmc.ca) We will be honouring Students Who Make a Difference and anti-racism poster contest winners that evening as well. The event is free to all.

## **Olympic Torch Relay**

We were thrilled to be a small part of the organizing effort in bringing the Olympic Torch Relay to the city December 30. Erin Vaughan of city hall and her dynamic committee did a fantastic job with the Vancouver Olympic Committee folks to create a memorable event in the city. Thanks to all who performed on stage that night. You did the city proud.

## **Anti-Racism Lending Library**

Our anti-racism lending library is in place and looking for users. We have resources geared mainly to schools, but available for any community group. There is no charge for using the materials, that will help make North Bay a welcoming community for newcomers. A full listing of resources is available on our website at [www.nbdmc.ca](http://www.nbdmc.ca) Click on Lending Library on the menu on the left.



### Three New Faces at NBDMC

January 4 saw two Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and one Ontario Public Service intern begin work at the North Bay & District Multicultural Centre. Cindy Collins



Cindy Collins



Aaron Fallon

and Aaron Fallon are both St. Joseph-Scollard Hall and Nipissing University bilingual graduates, and André Dukhia came to Canada from Guyana in 2008. He brings a wealth of experience as a community development specialist (see his bio on our website) and is working on the Community



André Dukhia

Immigration Retention in Rural Ontario (CIRRO) project that involves North Bay, Brockville and Chatham-Kent. Cindy is working as a settlement counsellor, mainly assisting clients who do not qualify for service under Citizenship and Immigration Canada regulations, and Aaron is involved in community outreach activities.

### Dennis Mong Joins Board

We are pleased to announce that well-known North Bay realtor and businessman Dennis Mong has joined our board of directors. We're looking forward to his Chinese New Year celebration January 23 at Partners on Main. We'll be ushering in the Year of the Tiger. For Tiger Woods...not so much.

### Charitable Status

We received word from Revenue Canada in late December that our application for charitable status has been approved. We are now able to issue income tax receipts for charitable donations and apply for special project funding from organizations that fund charities only. We thank Greg Ducharme and Lori Drolet at Wallace & Klein for their assistance in obtaining a speedy decision. We also thank board member Gary Gould for our first donation!

### Canada Ontario Immigration Agreement

The Canada Ontario Immigration Agreement, due to expire in November, 2010, has been extended for another year. The Province of Ontario requested devolution of federal immigration funding to the province and the extension gives the two governments time to sort out details. For us, it is business as usual with funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada