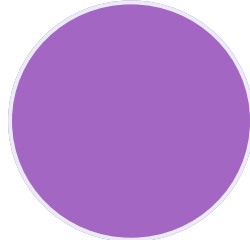




**Leeds & Grenville
IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP**



Spring 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

Did you know?

- **Leeds and Grenville communities host many fairs, festivals, and cultural events during the year:**

- **Brockville**

Multicultural Fair

May 3-4

Community Colours Springs Forward!

Spring has sprung in Eastern Ontario! This is such an amazing time of year bringing it with new life, change, and hope. It seems particularly symbolic of the decision that newcomers have made to begin their new life in Canada.

As we all welcome the fresh new season, we hope this newsletter will offer some insight into the blossoming multi-cultural activities that are popping up throughout our Leeds and Grenville communities. These communities, built by generations of dedicated individuals and families are now welcoming an increasing number of people from around the globe, to share in the opportunity, beauty and small town living that make this part of Canada so special. Newcomers, from countries such as the Philippines, Mexico, Zimbabwe, China, South Korea, India and Columbia are quickly becoming integral parts of our communities as doctors, nurses, business owners and students. We hope that everyone, whether you have been here one week, one year or your entire lifetime, take advantage of the opportunities to enjoy learning about new cultures through speaking, learning, dancing and eating. Continue reading our newsletter to learn more...

Inside this issue:

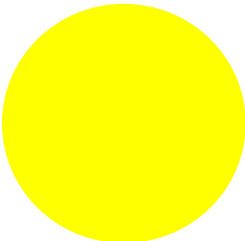
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Membership Initiative

A major focus of the Leeds Grenville Partnership Council is to build a strong, sustainable network of individuals, agencies and services which support newcomers. We have launched a Members Initiative to identify a range of people and organizations which support the goals of our Partnership, and which are willing to encourage, assist and refer newcomers to the services that they need. We are currently seeking out new Members. For more information, visit our Portal, at leedsgrenvilleimmigration.ca or email

Diversity.Matters@uwlg.org





Bea Singh

Bea Singh has been a valued member of our LIP Council since its inception in 2009 when she accepted the invitation to represent the Brockville and District Multicultural Council. Bea moved from the Netherlands to Leeds Grenville in 1966, first living with her aunt in Prescott, and then moving to Brockville where she met her husband-to-be at Brock Tel where they both worked.

She recalls being a shy young woman who had to make a concerted effort to break out of the family cocoon and become more confident. With the support of her spouse and their extended family within the Indian community, she became involved in the fledging multi-cultural group, eventually serving as Program Director for 10 years.

Bea continues to play an active role in the Multicultural Council from which she laughingly claims she isn't "allowed" to retire. She believes that the annual Fair, now in its 32nd year, has created better communication among



Bea relaxing at her Brockville area home

community members, helping to deepen the understanding of multiculturalism in Canada, and promote pride in their heritage among different cultural groups. Bea thinks that among the greatest achievements of the Leeds and Grenville Immigration Partnership Council is the networking among community agencies and members to support

newcomers. Her message to newcomers is straightforward: "Get involved as community members; go and ask how people can help, and learn to accept that help."

The Partnership Council thanks Bea for her many years of service to our community!

- North
- Grenville
- Wine & Food
- Festival in June
- Fort Wellington
- 1812
- Garrison
- Weekend
- May 19-21
- Merrickville
- Fine Art
- Festival
- May 17-20

International Students' Appreciation Day



The walls echoed with laughter on Saturday, March 16, when a group of international student participated in a special day designed to show appreciation for their volunteer efforts in their adopted communities. Hosted by the Youth Volunteer Crew and The Local Immigration Partnership, the day of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by the students, all of whom are part of the Upper Canada Leger Centre International Education Program.

Brockville Public Library recently launched *Conversations*, a free English Second Language conversation group for newcomers and ESL students, led by a volunteer TESL instructor. The program is free and available to anyone learning English as a Second Language and meets at the library on Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:30pm.

In addition to the new conversations group we have also added **Mango** an online language-learning system that you can access for FREE with your Brockville Public Library card! **Mango** has courses in 35 foreign languages including Spanish, French, and Japanese as well as ESL courses. You can also download the free mobile app (iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad) and learn on the go. Visit the library to find out how to get started today.



Education Bridge International

Ming Shan Gu is the President of Education Bridge International Inc. which assisted in making the connection between the Upper Canada District School Board and Zhengzhou No.9 High School of China; a joint Canada High School Diploma Program has been established since Oct. 2010.

“We introduced Brockville to the parents of Zhengzhou No. 9 High School with a lot of highlights and pictures of this area; both parents and students were attracted by its natural beauty, location, convenience, and distinctive culture.

Since September, 2012, 14 students from Zhengzhou No. 9 High School have come to their second home, Brockville, and stayed with local host families. Here their study journey began.

All the teenagers have been facing varieties of challenges, such as language barrier, cultural shock, homesickness, etc., but if you ask any one of them about their experience in Brockville,

here are the answers:

“It is so beautiful, I like the blue sky and river, clean air”

“People are so friendly and helpful!

“Hosts are so kind and caring, just like our parents!”

“Teachers and classmates are nice and helpful!”

“I love the YMCA!”

In the last 7 months, the students had the experience celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter holidays with their hosts and tasted the charm of a different culture, and also celebrated Moon festival and Chinese New year with the help of UCLC and Education Bridge International to relieve their homesickness.

When you ask if there is

anything they hope will happen during their adventure in Brockville, you will hear their voices:

“I hope there will be more activities and events we could participate in”

“I hope school could have events for both us and local students since we would like to make more friends.”

Overall, the experience of the students is positive. With the promotion from Education Bridge International, more and more parents and students know about Brockville and its hometown charm, and would like to send their children to Brockville as their study destination in Canada.”

- Brockville Tall Ships & 1000 Islands Wine & Food Festival June 14-15

- Thousand Islands Family Ribfest & Happy Canada Day Celebration

s



Leeds & Grenville IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP



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E-mail:
diversity.matters@uwlg.org

[www.
leedsgrenvilleimmigration.ca](http://www.leedsgrenvilleimmigration.ca)



[Our LIP Staff—Melissa Francis and Elizabeth Stratton](#)

LEEDS GRENVILLE IMMIGRA- TION PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

- Brockville & District Multicultural Council
- Chinese & Canadian Heritage Cultural Association
- City of Brockville
- CSE Consulting
- Employment & Education Centre
- Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario
- Fulford Academy
- Leeds Grenville United Way
- North Grenville Chamber of Commerce
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
- St. Lawrence College Saint-Laurent
- 1000 Islands Workforce Development Board
- T.R. Leger Immigrant Services
- United Counties of Leeds & Grenville Economic Development Office
- Upper Canada Leger Centre
- Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence-Rideau
- Youth Volunteer Crew

Melissa joined the Immigration Partnership as Program Manager in the Fall of 2012. Travelling and volunteering overseas drew her attention to the importance of recognizing and celebrating differences in cultures. As a long time resident of Leeds and Grenville, she is excited to be working in a position where she can welcome immigrants to the area and encourage local communities to learn from, and embrace the exciting differences that make newcomers an enriching part of the area.

Elizabeth migrated to Canada from her native Jamaica, and has had the good fortune to live, study, and work in several different countries. She believes that Leeds Grenville is on the cusp of exciting growth opportunities and that newcomers will have an important role to play in spurring that momentum.

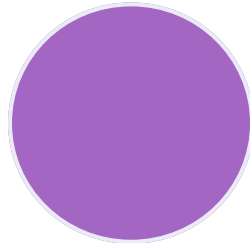
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Immigration Canada



Summer 2013

Volume 1, Issue 3

Did you know?

Leeds and Grenville schools and colleges host students from all around the world.

Their presence enriches the cultural diversity of our community and broadens the depth of experiences for local students.

Summer in Leeds and Grenville

The lazy, hazy days of summer have arrived in Leeds and Grenville. School halls echo hollowly, families dig out their camping gear, the tantalizing aroma of backyard barbeques waft through the air, lawn mowers hum, residents and visitors alike flock to the waterways to enjoy the stunning beauty of our parks and rivers. Nature in all her glory shines, and we are reminded that we live in one of the most magnificent places on earth. The Immigration Partnership wishes all our readers a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing summer, and we encourage everyone to visit a park or explore one of our picturesque municipalities. Welcome our visitors with a smile and keep spreading the word that we support and encourage immigration to our communities.

Canadian Multiculturalism Day

Canadian Multiculturalism Day – June 27, 2013 - presents an opportunity to celebrate our diversity and our commitment to democracy, equality and mutual respect, and to appreciate the contributions of the various multicultural groups and communities to Canadian society. Let's celebrate together the multiculturalism in Leeds Grenville ! This year, our host secondary schools and St. Lawrence College acknowledged the contributions made by international students by posting a special message on their electronic boards. Be sure to keep an eye out for new and returning students in the Fall, and to say a special word of welcome to them.

Inside this issue:

Dragon Boat Festival **2**

ESL Conversation Circle BBQ **3**

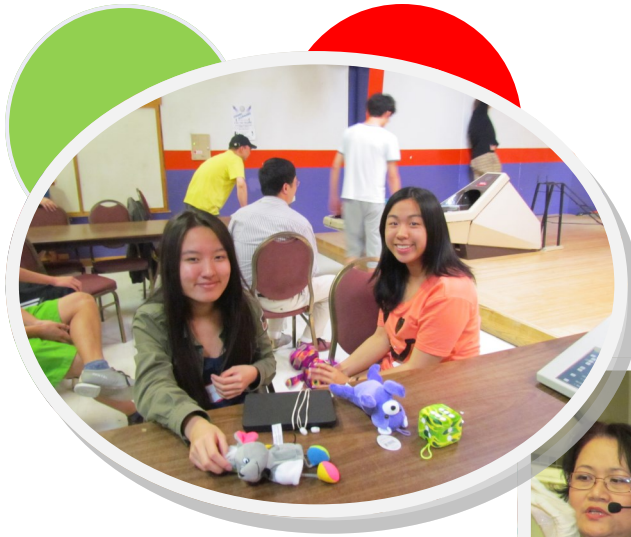
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Dragon Boat Festival

Community
Colours



Athens District
High School

Brockville

Collegiate Institute

Fulford Academy &

Fulford

Preparatory

College

North Grenville

District High

School

Leeds Grenville International Students, homestay families, members of the Chinese community and friends celebrated the Dragon Boat Festival together on Sunday, June 9. Following a riotous bowling session, a crowd of over 80 people gathered at the 1000 Islands Mall in Brockville to hear about the origins of the festival, learn how to prepare “Zongzi” dumplings and sample other delicious Chinese treats. The Festival commemorates a legendary Chinese poet, Qu Yuan, who 2000 years ago drowned himself in the Mi Lo River to protest against the rulers and stop corruption. Out of respect for the poet, the Chinese people throw dumplings into the river to scare away the fish so they will not feed on the poet’s body.

The Immigration Partnership extends its thanks to the Chinese Canadian Cultural Heritage Association and the Upper Canada Leger Centre International Program for the role they played in organizing the celebration.

For more photos, visit our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/LGimmigration>

Please **LIKE** our page while you are there!

Summer BBQ

Volume 1,

St. Lawrence Park was the perfect setting for a BBQ as members of the Brockville Library's ESL Conversational Circle got together with their teachers, community friends, and Immigration Partnership staff to share a meal and say adieu for the summer.



South
Grenville
District
High School



St. Lawrence
College-Saint
Laurent
Thousand Islands
Secondary
School

From an International Student's Perspective

We asked one of the departing international students, Lee, to share his impressions about his year in Canada. Here's what Lee had to say:

"People at Canada are very friendly. They will be shy when they first meet you. They won't come to you and talk to you right away. When you are listening to some music, someone comes and says, " Oh, it's a good song!" then they will start to talk with you. Sometimes if you don't understand something, you ask questions, they always try to help you out.

Now, I came back in China for my summer holiday, what I remember most about living in Canada is my host family. We spent a lot of festivals together. We had Christmas together, we went on islands camping together, we had a Thanksgiving Day together. They treat me as same as a member of family. I had a wonderful time with them! I love them very much! "

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Employment & Education Centre
Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario
Fulford Academy
Leeds Grenville United Way
North Grenville Chamber of Commerce
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
St. Lawrence College Saint-Laurent
1000 Islands Workforce Development Board
Scotiabank
T.R. Leger Immigrant Services
United Counties of Leeds & Grenville
Economic Development Office
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Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence-Rideau
Youth Volunteer Crew

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News from our Community Partners

Fulford Academy offers a four-week ESL Summer program for students to learn English in a boarding school environment. The program teaches English through Canadian curriculum (Math, Science, History, Geography and English Literature) but focuses more on conversation and listening skills with many sports activities, off-campus activities, Canadian cultural experiences and an overnight weekend excursion to Toronto / Niagara Falls.



www.fulfordacademy.com/Summer_School.html

The 1000 Islands Region Workforce Development Board has launched its first quarterly newsletter, "A Newsletter", containing labour market activity, workforce data pertaining to employment and demographics in our area.

www.workforcedev.ca



Saturday, July 27th marks the first ever Brockville **Music and Dance (MAD) Festival** presented by the Youth Volunteer Crew, a program of the Employment Education Centre. The Festival will feature the best and brightest, talented young performers from the region and far beyond and give them a great platform to showcase their skills. Live



music performances will include covers and original works, including unique and fantastic Ottawa rapper and motivational speaker "The Joynt" who enralls audiences with his blend of original rap music and storytelling.

www.brockvillemadfestival.com

Museum Passes are now available - For FREE

Brockville Public Library now offers its members FREE family day passes to the following museums in Ottawa:

Aviation & Space | Science & Technology | Museum of Civilization
War Museum | Agriculture Museum



www.brockvillelibrary.ca

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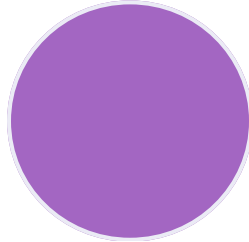
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Leeds & Grenville
IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP

Community Colours



Fall 2013

Volume 1, Issue 4

Our heartfelt thanks to the following contributors to our Newcomers' Welcome Package:

- Brockville Arts Centre
- Brockville Museum
- 1000 Islands Playhouse
- 1000 Islands Mall
- Brockville YMCA
- Goodlife Fitness
- Pricedex Software Inc..
- Galaxy Cinema
- Fulford Place Museum



Students from Spain, China, Mexico, Brazil and Germany participated in the special Orientation Day held at Thousand Islands Secondary School on August 30, 2013. We extend a warm welcome to Leeds Grenville and hope they will enjoy the school year.

Inside this issue:

- Immigrant Services & ESL Classes **2**
- Newcomer Fall Tour **3**
- Leeds Grenville Immigration Statistics **3**
- News from our Community Partners **4**

Newcomers' Welcome Package

The Immigration Partnership is excited to introduce a FREE Newcomer Welcome Package designed to give newcomers to our community an introduction to a variety of cultural, dining, and recreational spaces in Leeds and Grenville.

Newcomers to Canada (less than 3 years) who now live in Leeds Grenville can register for the package at www.leedsgrenvilleimmigration.ca or by calling 613-342-8889.

Once registered, you and your family will obtain a package that will allow you to either gain free or discounted entrance into different services and activities across Leeds Grenville. This helps you to familiarize yourselves with a variety of organizations in our community. Do note that many passes/coupons are valid for a specific time period and cannot be renewed upon expiry.

Welcome Package contributors have an excellent opportunity to increase your exposure to the growing numbers of newcomers who are calling Leeds Grenville home. We encourage you to sign up as a partner even if it is free to access your facilities. Join local businesses, organizations, and events in diversifying the profile of your audience/clientele!

TR Leger Immigrant Services provides free settlement services to permanent residents, live-in caregivers and convention refugees. It is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and administered by TR Leger School, part of the Upper Canada District School Board. Julie Case is a settlement worker in this area. She is available to help newcomers with the many issues of becoming established in their communities including:

- help with government forms, applications for citizenship, child tax credit, PR card renewals etc.
- registering children in schools
- finding employment counselling or credential assessment;
- learning about volunteer, social and recreational opportunities
- referring clients to free TR Leger ESL classes to improve their English skills (see below).

Julie Case



Julie will meet you privately for assistance with these or other matters. Please do not hesitate to contact her at the Brockville office (613-342-1127 ext. 211), on her cell phone at 613-803-0653, or by email at julia.case@ucdsb.on.ca. She will be happy to respond to you as quickly as possible. Appointments can also be booked at www.trimmigrantservices.ca. If you have an emergency and cannot reach Julie, TR Leger Immigrant Services has its main office in Cornwall. Settlement workers there can be reached toll free at 1-877-412-2472.

Adult English as a Second Language classes began at TR Leger School of Adult, Alternative and Continuing Education on Tuesday, September 3. Classes are free for students who are permanent residents, citizens, live-in caregivers, or convention refugees, who were born outside of Canada and whose first language is not English or French. Classes are also available to other students on a fee for service basis. Classes are offered Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

In the English classes students study in small groups and individually, progressing at their own level and speed. They work on the four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing in many different ways, keeping a portfolio of their work and progress. Individual goals may be established with the instructor. If you have any questions, or if you or someone you know might be interested in attending full or part-time, please contact the instructor now to register.

or wish to join the class please contact the instructor, Donna MacNabb-Pardy, by phone at TR Leger School 613-342-1127 or by email (donna.macnabb-parody@ucdsb.on.ca).

Newcomers' Fall Tour

Volume 1, Issue 4

Several newcomer families recently participated in a “fam” tour of Gananoque and area. The goal was to introduce them to recreational opportunities, including national and provincial parks, hiking trails, the world-famous Sky Deck, the picturesque Parkway, and the historic town of Gananoque. Adults and children alike enjoyed a performance at The 1000 Islands Playhouse followed by a tasty supper at Smuggler’s Run in Ivy Lea. Fun and fellowship were the order of the day!

At the 1000 Islands Playhouse



Immigration Statistics

According to the latest Census Canada data, immigrant arrivals in Leeds Grenville have doubled since 2001 compared to the previous 10 year period. Brockville, Leeds and the 1000 Islands and North Grenville are three main centres for immigration activity. New Canadians represent 7% of the Leeds Grenville population. Brockville has the highest number of immigrant arrivals at 8%.

The largest proportion of Leeds Grenville immigrants are between 25 and 44 years of age. This age group is one of the smaller proportions in the non-immigrant population. The smallest proportion of immigrants is older than 44, whereas this is the largest proportion of non-immigrants.

The top three source regions for Leeds Grenville immigrants are Europe, the Americas and Asia. Africa and Oceania/other, contribute the remaining numbers. Compared to Leeds Grenville, Brockville has a slightly lower proportion of immigrants from European countries and almost double the proportion of individuals from Asia.

<http://www.leedsgrenvilleimmigration.ca/immigration-news>

Did you know?

Hire Smart: Putting Global Talent to Work is an exciting initiative funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and delivered by KEYS Job Centre. *The main focus of this project is on creating awareness and capacity within small and medium-sized businesses to recruit, train and integrate internationally-educated individuals into their workplaces.*

Congratulations to our own Dave

Paul, Director of Economic Development, City of Brockville, who was recently recognized as the "Ontario East Economic Developer of the Year" at the Opening Ceremony of the Ontario East Municipal Conference held in Kingston, Ontario.

LEEDS GRENVILLE IMMIGRATION

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Local Business Celebrates Success

Eagle Point Winery in Mallorytown celebrated the export of its first container of wines to Wuhai, Inner Mongolia, China in August 2013. This initial shipment of 1000 cases of wine signifies the culmination of years of incubating relationships which were started in 2008 when Mayor Frank Kinsella and past Councillor Tom Lawler of the Township of Leeds and the 1000 Islands, travelled to China in hopes of stimulating interest among the Chinese in investment in the 1000 Islands.

As a result of the Township trade expeditions of 2008 and 2010, interest was sparked and current Eagle Point Winery Owner, Zhongyi Du, travelled to the 1000 Islands in the fall of 2011. Having fallen in love with the area, Mr. Du purchased the waterfront estate as well as the Eagle Point Winery, vineyard and farm in April of 2012.

The multimillion dollar investment by the Chinese industrialist has resulted in positive changes at Eagle Point Winery and Estate. Six new jobs have been created, as well as the acquisition of new grape and wine processing equipment including 50 new premium French oak barrels.

"All over Eastern Ontario we suffer the loss of our youth, but with the recent investment into our winery we have been able to offer career opportunities to two young women, recent graduates from Post-Secondary Education, allowing them to remain where they grew up" stated Debra Marshall, Operations Manager. "We have received a great response from our local community as well as from representatives of the Chinese Government."



www.eaglepointwinery.ca

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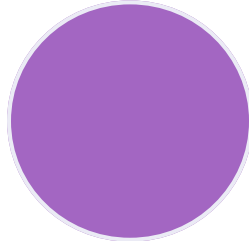
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**Leeds & Grenville
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PARTNERSHIP**

Community Colours



Winter 2013

Volume 2, Issue 1

Did you know?

Ontario has an Emergency Public Warning System which provides information during an emergency. It tells you what is happening and what to do to protect yourself and your family. You can receive warnings by RSS feed, text messaging, e-mail, Facebook and Twitter.

www.emergencymanagementontario.ca

On the Road Again!



Inside this issue:

Employment & Education Centre 2

The Immigration Portal 3

Sponsorship of Parents & Grandparents 3

This n' That 4

Brockville Bus Tour

Brockville and area newcomers recently participated in a unique orientation to community agencies and services. With the twin goals of helping recent arrivals learn about organizations, businesses and facilities housed in the city, and to feel more comfortable accessing them, they were offered the opportunity to join a specially-designed bus tour .

The “tour guides”, pointed out dozens of places of interest, explained the nature of the business/agency, and answered a barrage of questions.

There were three scheduled “stops” along the way to allow participants to become familiar with the facility, meet staff and learn more about the services offered. We are grateful for the warm welcome and take-away information packages provided by the Leeds Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit, YMCA of Brockville and Area, and the Employment & Education Centre.

Our thanks also to TR Leger School, the Brockville Public Library, Tourism Brockville and Howard Bus Company.

Community
Colours

The Employment and Education Centre: a one stop shop!

Did You Know?

The Leeds Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit offers:

- ◆ **Baby Talk and Breast-feeding support**
- ◆ **Prenatal Classes**
- ◆ **Positive Parenting Support**
- ◆ **Immunization Clinics**
- ◆ **Dental Services**
- ◆ **Well Water Testing**
- ◆ **Sexual Health Clinics**
- ◆ **Food Handler Certification Courses**
- ◆ **Environmental Health Hazards investigation**
- ◆ **Health Eating & Physical Activity information**
- ◆ **Help Quitting Smoking**
- ◆ **Rabies Immunization Clinics**
- ◆ **Public Health Nurses in Schools**
- ◆ **Sewage System Applications & File Searches**
- ◆ **Workplace Health**

...and much more!

www.healthunit.org/

Health Action Line:

1-800-660-5853

The Employment and Education Centre (EEC) in Brockville is a not-for-profit agency that has been providing employment services to Brockville and the surrounding area since 1985. They are committed to helping individuals reach their potential through education, employment, volunteering and financial counselling.

“Many people come to the EEC because they are not really sure what their next life step should be,” notes Sue Watts, the Assistant Director. “We work hard to help people figure out what their next move should be, whether it’s a job, going to school, volunteering or getting their finances in order.”

“In addition to helping people of all ages find jobs and access training and retraining opportunities, the EEC also offers several unique programs and initiatives which are not provided by any other organization in our area.”

One is the [NEWSTEP](#) program which offers job readiness training and the option of participants accessing higher education (this program ends at the end of March 2014). Another is the two-week pre-apprenticeship initiative designed to help folks of all ages to determine whether pursuing an apprenticeship is a good idea for them. The agency also offers the [Computers for Job Success](#) computer training program which allows job-seekers the opportunity to upgrade their computer skills and learn to use current Microsoft Office programs.

Whether you are in financial trouble or you just think your finances could use a little fine tuning, [1000 Islands Credit Counselling](#) can help you out! Get help to budget your finances and explore your debt settlement options with the EEC’s free professional service.

Other services and programs which EEC provides include:

- Workshops to assist with employment readiness. New ones include [Polish Your Image](#), [Survive and Succeed in Your New Job](#), [Restart Your Engine](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
- Resource Centre and job board
- Employment counselling and job development
- Youth Volunteer Crew initiative
- Roots to Wings mentorship program
- Summer Jobs Service
- Youth Employment Fund (YEF)

Services provided by the EEC are free of charge. The agency, located at 105 Strowger Blvd. in Brockville, is open each week day between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm with the resource centre open 8:30 until 3:30.

For more information, go to www.eecentre.com or call 613-498-2111.



Sue Watts, EEC
Assistant Director &
LIP Council Member

Our Immigration Portal

Volume 2, Issue 1

Potential or recent immigrants to Leeds Grenville, and the agencies which serve them, need look no further than the Immigration portal for up-to-date information on a wide variety of topics. The Portal provides municipal-specific settlement information and links to federal and provincial immigration websites.

Facts about coming to Canada and the many facets of living, learning, working and doing business in Leeds Grenville are available in English, French, Mandarin, Dutch, German, Korean, Spanish and Ukrainian. Our Calendar lists community events of interest to newcomers and our quarterly newsletters are available.

We invite you to browse our portal at www.leedsgrenvilleimmigration.ca



Parents and Grandparents Program

Canadian citizens and permanent residents wishing to sponsor foreign parents or grandparents under a special immigration program can do so beginning January 2, 2014. The federal government is reopening the door by accepting 5,000 sponsorship applications under the new Parent and Grandparent Program. The government froze applications in 2011 to deal with the massive backlog of wait times of eight years.

The sponsor of relatives hoping to immigrate to Canada must now meet new criteria to be eligible to apply including:

- Meeting an increase of 30 per cent in the minimum necessary income for sponsoring relatives. For instance, a family of three will now require a minimum income of \$45,039 to sponsor a relative, instead of \$34,646
- Showing they meet the new minimum income threshold for the last three years, as opposed to 12 months
- Sponsoring the parents and grandparents for a period of 20 years, a rise from 10 years

Parents and grandparents can also apply to visit their relatives in Canada up to two years at a time through a "Super Visa," now a permanent government program.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-accepting-5-000-parent-grandparent-sponsorship-applications-1.2481803>

For more information, go to www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/sponsor/parents.asp

Did you know?

The YMCA of Brockville and Area offers:

- ◆ Health & Fitness Programs
- ◆ Aquatics
- ◆ Day Camps
- ◆ Training & Leadership Programs
- ◆ First Aid/CPR
- ◆ Certified Personal Training
- ◆ Scuba
- ◆ Lifeguard Training
- ◆ Drop in Running Clubs
- ◆ Early Learning & Care
- ◆ Before & After School Programs
- ◆ Licensed Child Care
- ◆ Birthday Parties

...and more!

www.brockvilley.com

613-342-7961



LEEDS GRENVILLE IMMIGRATION

PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

Brockville & District Multicultural Council
Chinese & Canadian Heritage Cultural Association
City of Brockville
CSE Consulting
Employment & Education Centre
Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario
Fulford Academy
Leeds Grenville United Way
North Grenville Chamber of Commerce
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
St. Lawrence College Saint-Laurent
1000 Islands Workforce Development Board
Scotiabank
T.R. Leger Immigrant Services
United Counties of Leeds & Grenville
Economic Development Office
Upper Canada Leger Centre
Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence-Rideau
Youth Volunteer Crew

Look for the sign in our windows!

Chinese New Year



The 2014 Spring Festival falls on January 31. The holiday in China is from January 30 to February 5, 2014. This year is the **Year of the Horse** according to the Chinese zodiac.

Chinese Spring Festival, also called Lunar New Year, has more than 4,000 years of history. Being one of the traditional Chinese festivals, it is the grandest and the most important festival for Chinese people. Many Chinese Canadian families spend time together giving gifts, particularly red envelopes with money (*Hong Bao*, *Ang Pao*, or *Lai See*) that are normally given to children. Some Canadian organizations have also participated in Chinese New Year through various activities over the years. For example, Canada Post issued special stamps to welcome the Chinese New Year in previous times. The Royal Canadian Mint also marked Chinese New Year with a new series of coins in the past.

The Brockville Arts Centre will be hosting the China National Performing Arts Troupe on February 21 and 22,, so be sure to come out and celebrate the Chinese New Year!

The Local Immigration Partnership would like to extend best wishes to the many Chinese families throughout Leeds and Grenville who will be celebrating this special holiday!

www.timeanddate.com/holidays/canada/chinese-new-year

Cool Websites



- ◇ Canadian Newcomer Magazine www.cnmag.ca/
- ◇ Career Edge www.careeredge.ca/en/home
- ◇ Employment Ontario www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/employmentontario/
- ◇ Diversity in the Workplace <http://diversityintheworkplace.ca/wordpress/>
- ◇ Settlement Services www.settlement.org/



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