

# The Link ~ Fall 2010

*Connecting Canada's Newcomers ~ from Coast to Coast*

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*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.*

What an honour it has been to be the President of the National Newcomers Council of Canada!

The support you have given me and the efforts you all have made, be it on the National or your own local level have made my job a truly rewarding experience. I am a great supporter of Newcomer and Alumni Clubs and have thoroughly enjoyed working with clubs from all across Canada. We've had fun with lots of new ideas for activities, meetings, contests, met some challenges and solved some problems, introduced a much needed Liability Insurance Program and even updated some bylaws.



Newcomer/Alumni Clubs are about people and making people feel comfortable in their new surroundings. This is done with a cast of literally thousands of volunteers across the country who run the various activities, coordinate Christmas parties, 'appy' nights, coffee parties, barbeques and sit on the executive. They all deserve a "Thank you" and a huge hug. A club is only as good as the people in it! The friendships that form within these clubs are very special and will in many cases last forever. I will never forget my first Newcomer meeting as it was probably one of the most frightening things I had ever done. I will be forever grateful to the wonderful Newcomers who welcomed me, got me started as an active Newcomer and it seems, I haven't looked back.

Newcomers especially have many challenges through their first few years in a new location and need the friendship and support the Newcomer/Alumni Clubs have to offer. I truly believe in caring for people, getting involved in my community, good friendships, having fun, a sense of humour and a drive to enjoy each day to its fullest.

I wish you all the best,  
Judy Francis

## Fall is Here!

As summer slowly slips by, many Newcomers groups are now back in full swing. Most clubs are already geared up with interest groups galore! It is nice to see that everyone had a great summer, but are ready to get back into Newcomer events. Many are already planning Christmas and Valentine Parties!

Fall is a spectacular time to organize a hiking trip, drive in the country to see the leaves changing color or diving into the wine tasting and gourmet groups.

I guess the theme is.....organize activities for your groups to keep your members interested and busy!

## 2010 AGM - News from Sarnia, Ontario

The 33rd National Newcomers' Council of Canada Annual General Meeting is being held on October 16th, 2010 at the Sarnia Best Western- Guildwood Inn and is being hosted by the Sarnia Newcomers Club. By attending the AGM you will be able to visit beautiful Sarnia. Sarnia is located in Southwestern Ontario.

Discover our exciting corner of the world with the scenic backdrop of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. Situated in the centre of the Great Lakes region and only 2 1/2 hours from Toronto! Sarnia is a place where you will surely experience all the small town hospitality with the excitement and amenities of a big city.

Occupying a small portion of Lake Huron's southern-most shoreline, Sarnia is strategically placed just east of the Bluewater Bridge, a busy international crossing connecting Sarnia to ports in Michigan and Ontario. **So, don't forget to bring your passports and do a little cross border shopping in Port Huron, Michigan, just a hop, skip and jump from Sarnia, if time permits.**

Sarnia has always been known for its spectacular beaches, incredible sunsets, unlimited recreation and entertainment, dynamic live theatre, fine dining, unbeatable shopping, unique heritage and cultural attractions, galleries and championship golf courses.



*Don't walk in  
front of me,  
I may not follow.  
Don't walk  
behind me,  
I may not lead.  
Walk beside me  
and be my friend.*

**Life is ten percent what you make it and  
ninety percent how you take it!**

### **NNCC Constitution and Bylaws Proposed Amendments**

With every new council, the opportunity comes to make changes and improvements to the existing bylaws. This council sought to do just that and went through the bylaws with a fine tooth comb. Many of these changes are simply grammatical or clarifications, and will not be listed in detail here. What we would like to do is highlight the changes that go beyond grammar or clarity. Due to the scope and language used in bylaws, all we can do here is provide summaries of these larger proposed changes. All proposed changes can be found on the website ([www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](http://www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca)).

- The first change was to the Purpose (**Article II**). The Purpose, while adequate, lacked a fresh perspective. For this reason, we are asking to replace the “**Purpose**” with a “Mission and Vision” statement, more in keeping with what other groups do. The **Vision and Mission** statements provide broader and more inspirational guidelines, which better represent the manner in which the NNCC currently operates and assists Member Clubs.
- Article V details the duties of the Council’s officers. Minor clarifications or shuffling of duties have been made in this article, as a means to better reflect the current reality of how the Council officers assist the Council and Member Clubs.
- **Article VI** contains a major revision to the **Term of Office**. The current bylaws are written in a way which could be interpreted to allow Council members to stay on indefinitely in one position. The majority of the Council officers have voted to change this to a fixed term of 2 years in any one position, with re-election required after the first year. This is a significant change, which we hope will encourage healthy Council turnover, further encouraging participation by more clubs in more regions across Canada. It is also more reflective of our Member Clubs, most of which have an executive position term limit in place. If a Council Officer wishes to serve on Council beyond a two year term, it is hoped that they will consider other Council positions.
- **Article VIII** also contains a major revision to the **Nominations and Elections** process. All future nominations will be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting. The Chair of the AGM will not present names from the podium, other than Registrar-Treasurer and Past-President. We also clarify that standing Council Officers may be challenged in their re-election bid by nominations from the floor, in which case a secret ballot vote will be taken.
- **Article X** contains a clarification regarding the handling of the Annual General Meeting and refers to a new “terms of reference” document which we are creating to help host clubs in their efforts.
- We suggest subtle but important changes to the annual financial review in Article IX, the timing of executive meetings in Article X, and executive expense claims in Article XI. All of these proposed amendments are available for full review at the website ([www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](http://www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca)).

**These amendments will be voted on at the October AGM in Sarnia. Attending member clubs will have one vote on the proposed bylaws. Because of the scope of revisions, the bylaw amendment will require the complete retraction of the existing bylaw document, and the full implementation of the new bylaw document. Please contact Judy Francis, Council President, for more information or clarification of any of the proposed amendments ([president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](mailto: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....



## **Susan Lotherington-Past President**

Where has the time gone. It seems like only a year since I came on the national council but in fact it has been 6 years. I have cherished my time on the Council along with the friends I have made over these years. As I step down from the position of Past President I look at all the positions I have held. Member at Large, Secretary, Ontario Liaison, Reg. Treasurer, President and the last one Past President. All a different challenge but no one any more rewarding then the other.

Even if you do not attend the National AGM you can still stand for a position and I urge you to consider one of the executive positions available, you will not be disappointed. At this time I would like to thank all the members I had the pleasure to work with, the different Presidents I have spoken with and most of all the executive members over the last 6 years that I have had the honor of working with - THANK YOU AND KEEP IN TOUCH

Yours in friendship, Susan Lotherington



## **Reina Vipond- Central Liason**

"Looking for another idea to bring your members to your meetings?

The Ottawa Alumni Club are having a magician/comedian at their next meeting. Sounds like a lot of fun. Give it a try.

TO ALL ONTARIO CLUBS: If you have any questions please feel free to contact me @ [reinaVIPOND@symptatico.ca](mailto:reinaVIPOND@symptatico.ca)"

***STRANGERS ARE SIMPLY FRIENDS YOU HAVEN'T MET YET  
(Burlington)***

## Suzanne Brett Welsh-Registrar/Treasurer



T'is the season of change as September and Calgary's yellow glory is here. Hopefully our briefer than usual summer will give us a longer than usual fall. I am sure the colours of fall are being experienced by all from coast to coast. One of the amazing things about NNCC is that for all of the differences between each club, we have so much in common as well.

The NNCC executive has had a very busy year and as a result of Judy's hard work, we are now able to offer clubs liability and directors insurance. While not something each club is seeking, it is a relief for many other clubs to have affordable insurance available to them through a national plan. We have had over 60% of our clubs renew with insurance and a few clubs have joined National in order to take advantage of the insurance plan. We welcome all clubs, new and renewing.

On the horizon we have the upcoming AGM being hosted by Sarnia's Newcomers Club. We are looking forward to this event, and hope to see many of you there. An agenda and registration form can be found on the national website ([www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](http://www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca)). Sarnia has been working hard to put together an interesting agenda and once again we have ensured that there is time available for networking outside of the workshops. Sarnia is a very pretty city with much to offer besides the AGM. We hope you can visit for more than the day. We have extended the "early bird" registration date and have eliminated the late fee. If you are in the area during the weekend of October 15 / 16 we hope you will join us.

If clubs are wondering about the selection of AGM locations, we would like you to know that we rely on clubs stepping forward to volunteer as an AGM host. We have Calgary online for the 2011 AGM, but would like clubs to start thinking about the 2012 AGM. We deeply appreciate what each club does to host an AGM and will support the effort in whatever way we can.

At the AGM, we will be electing a new National executive. If you would like to volunteer for an executive position, but are unable to attend, we will gladly present your name in absentia. Please email Judy if you are interested and require more information ([president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](mailto:president@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca)). See you soon!

## Lise Marvel -Alumnae Representative



I would like to welcome everyone back and to the new members welcome as well. Hope your experience being an Alumni will be a wonderful and rewarding experience as you continue sharing activities with members you know and members you will get to know. Hope to see you all at the AGM in Sarnia October 16th. If you have never attended it is something you need to put on your calendar as it is an educational and fun filled time of sharing ideas. It is also a time for perhaps seeing old friends from other places or making new friends.

## Beryl Keilty - Eastern Liaison

This photo appeared in the Colchester Regional Hospital Foundation Newsletter recently. Beryl Keilty (Eastern Liaison) and Jessie Fox, CRH Auxiliary Members and dedicated Foundation Volunteers, were on hand for the Hospital Foundation's annual *On Course Fore Health* Golf Classic fundraiser dressed as "candy strippers" and giving away goodies on the 7th Hole, having a great time, in spite of the cool, rainy weather that developed.

Beryl is looking forward to seeing everyone at the AGM in Sarnia in October - which she feels is a wonderful way to meet new friends and renew friendships with "old" Newcomers.

*In friendship,  
Beryl Keilty*



## Cecilia Gilbert - Member at Large

Greetings to everyone from Kitchener-Waterloo! It is hard to believe that another year is almost over and our thoughts are once again turning to the AGM in Sarnia in October! I have enjoyed being part of the Executive team this year and helping with Friendship Pin sales and special projects. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Sarnia on October 15th & 16th!

## 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, makers of fine jewelry for over 60 years; lifetime guarantee.
- Approximately 1.5 inches
- Made of bronze and plated with 25K brushed gold. The pin will not tarnish.
- \$15.00 each including taxes.

Friendship Pins are available at the AGM in Sarnia or by order form.

You can find an order form at [www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](http://www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca). Quantities are limited



### Lisa Mina - *The Link* Editor

I can't believe a year has come and gone. I wish to thank all the newsletter editors of each club for all their hard work in putting together a monthly newsletter for their clubs. This is not always an easy task!

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading about your clubs and the very interesting activities and clubs you offer to your members. The LINK is a very informative and useful publication that allows all the clubs across Canada to read about other clubs, learn new ways of keeping their members involved and active and keep in touch on the happenings across the country.

As this is my last LINK, I would like to say thank you to all and if you are interested in this position, please put your name forward to the National Council, it is a fantastic position to hold!

Email your club newsletters to [newsletter@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](mailto:newsletter@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca)



### Verna Dennis - Web Editor

Please let me know of any changes to your club info as it appears on our website [www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](http://www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca) and please, please, please send your club photos to [info@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](mailto:info@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca).

## Calgary Newcomers' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and NNCC 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in 2011

The first Newcomers' Club in Canada was established in 1961 in Calgary by Kay Dant. To celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the National Newcomers Council of Canada AGM is being held in **Calgary September 23 to 24, 2011**.

The Newcomers' and NuGrads' Clubs of Calgary are co-hosting the National Newcomers' AGM to celebrate our "big 5-0" birthday. We are asking for Newcomers' Clubs from across Canada to help celebrate by putting together their own time capsule or scrapbook that reflects their organization. We plan to showcase the history and memories of each club at this most fantastic event. If you are interested in participating in the 50th AGM time capsule event, please contact Suzanne Brett Welsh, Chair of the 2011 Jubilee Organizing Committee through [sbwelsh@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sbwelsh@ucalgary.ca) or phone 403-836-5631.

We are asking for Newcomers' Clubs from across Canada to help celebrate by putting together their own time capsule or scrapbook that reflects their organization.

### Calgary Newcomers Golden Jubilee Update

The Golden Jubilee Organizing Committee has some fantastic news to share. We have finalized our venues for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Newcomers in Canada. Our Friday night welcome reception will be held at the Calgary Petroleum Club with the generous sponsorship of a member's husband. We are thrilled to have the CPC as our first event venue. The AGM will be held at the downtown Marriott Hotel, followed by the Gala at Heritage Park's Gasoline Alley. Time capsule guidelines are still being developed and will be released shortly. We have developed a new website and will start to use social media such as Facebook to promote our event. [www.calgarynewcomersgoldenjubilee.ca](http://www.calgarynewcomersgoldenjubilee.ca). (contact: [sbwelsh@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sbwelsh@ucalgary.ca); 403-836-5631).

## FEATURED CLUB OF THE MONTH

### COMOX VALLEY NEWCOMERS

This month I would like everyone to check out the fantastic website of the Comox Valley Newcomers Club.

This club has spent a lot of time and effort to make their club shine! The website design is very well done and very informative. They have a lot to be proud of! If your club is still contemplating on whether or not to have a website, this site will confirm that having a website along with a monthly newsletter is a very valuable tool.

As you know, the world wide web is a very powerful tool. More and more people rely on getting their information via the internet. As a newcomer to your city, it is the internet is most commonly the method that most people use for their research. Some clubs in our organization have also included their link on their city's website.

Please take the time to check out this superb website! The link is below.

<http://www.cvnewcomers.blogspot.com>

## Irene Nevill - Western Liaison

Greetings from the Western Region! I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

The approach of September brings with it a flurry of behind-the-scenes activity as club committees and conveners and organizers around the country prepare for another busy and exciting Newcomers' year. Soon a range of activities will once again be under way.

Let's spare a thought for those individuals who will work hard throughout the year to ensure our clubs run smoothly and successfully - with a little help from the rest of us now and again. That's what Newcomers is all about: friendship, fun, support.

So, another year is about to begin. Let's make it a good one and let's enjoy the Newcomer experience as we welcome new and returning members and look forward to new friendships and plenty of socializing.

Many of your clubs are affiliated to the National Newcomers' Council of Canada (NNCC). As Western Liaison, I am your 'voice' on the NNCC Executive, linking your club with the NNCC. You can read more about me, and the NNCC, here on this website.

I encourage you to visit the NNCC regularly to keep up with what is happening nationally in Newcomers. If you are a newcomer to the Western Region you can also look for a club near you. The Western Region currently covers the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

Finally, congratulations to White Rock/South Surrey Newcomers' Club for their prize-winning entries in the recent Photo Contest. They are featured on this website.

Please feel free to contact me with any news, suggestions, feedback, etc., or just to say hello. I look forward to hearing from you. [liaisonwest@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](mailto:liaisonwest@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca)



## Congratulations!!

The West Vancouver Newcomers Alumnae is heading into its 27th year!

Many friendships and fellowships have formed through the group in this "the best place on earth".

### WEST VANCOUVER NEWCOMERS' ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION



Daytime Book Club!

## From the Halifax Newcomers Club- Past President Sharon Smith

"I fully understand what I've heard from so many ladies as I have attended National AGM's. I don't know what I would have done without Newcomers when I moved to wherever. I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't found out about Newcomers. There is an echo to this as you meet ladies from across the country and from other countries. I realize now that is what makes the members of Newcomers, Alumnae and National want to take on Executive positions and attend AGM's. The desire to keep the Clubs Active and Alive for the next person who is going to be moved to a community that they don't know and have no friends or family nearby."

A club is only as good as its Members. Newcomers isn't about one person or the same people it's about all members being involved to feel a part of things."

*Well said Sharon.....and I encourage everyone to consider being on the executive of your club, or as a member of the executive on the National Council. We need you and your great ideas to make us successful.*

## Volunteering in your Community!

As a newcomer to a city , offering your services as a volunteer is a great way to meet new people. The Burlington Newcomers Club encourages all their members to give back to the community. This is a great idea, and can be something you can offer your members.

**"I am very passionate about giving back to our community and would like to take the opportunity I have as your**

**President to encourage you to volunteer in Burlington. It is a wonderful way to become more familiar with Burlington,**

**meet others with similar interests - all while helping our community! Throughout the year I plan to provide**

**information to our members about the many volunteer opportunities we have here in Burlington . . . so stay tuned!"**

## From the Guelph Newcomers Group

### Calling All Groupies !!

The **Getting To Know Guelph** tours were extremely fun and interesting last year! Many thanks to those newcomers who stepped up to lead the various excursions , and thanks for supporting them, members!

**What great way to introduce the city to your new members. Organize a tour of the city and surrounding areas!**

## ***RECIPE CORNER***

# **Warming Autumn Soup**

1/2 pumpkin, cubed  
 1 carrot, sliced  
 2 sticks celery (celeriac), sliced  
 1 onion, chopped  
 1 potato, chopped  
 4 cloves garlic (minced)  
 salt  
 freshly ground black pepper  
 2 tbsp olive oil  
 2 tbsp fresh coriander or chives, chopped  
 1 litre vegetable stock (1.8 pints, 4.2 cups)



Heat the olive oil in a saucepan and fry the pumpkin, carrot, celery, onion and potato for 3-4 minutes. Add the garlic and fry for another 2 minutes. Add the stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Season to taste. Transfer to a blender or food processor and process until smooth. Serve with freshly chopped coriander or chives.



### **National Newcomers' Council of Canada**

friends@nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca  
 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.