

Moose Jaw
Multicultural
Council

Annual Report
2007-2008

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has passed with new developments in programming and funding for the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council and its Board of Directors. My thanks of support go to the dedicated volunteers on the boards of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council and the Motif Multicultural Festival Committee.

This year has been a challenging for our Executive Director with the expansion of the child daycare into a licensed daycare program, allocation of funding from the Provincial and Federal Governments, workshops and conference attendance for further administrative skills to keep updated along with personal development for the administrative staff.

The Moose Jaw Multicultural office has continued to expand and renovate the premises to accommodate the various departments to work more efficiently and to maintain client /staff confidentiality.

We continue to maintain a close liaison between the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCOS) , the Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society(SCES), the Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages(SOHL) holding position within these organizations and attending meetings to further our cross-cultural working interests, keeping abreast of new changes being made in their policies and how they relate to us.

I cannot say enough “THANKS” to all our volunteers who have continued to support and work for improvements within our organization.

Motif continues to be one of our community's best supported venues. Countless volunteers bring about three festival filled days of family participation in cultural entertainment, lip-smacking food dishes, children's craft demonstration, all in an inviting outdoor setting under the trees. Come out and join us.

Mary Tkach Vangsnes

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

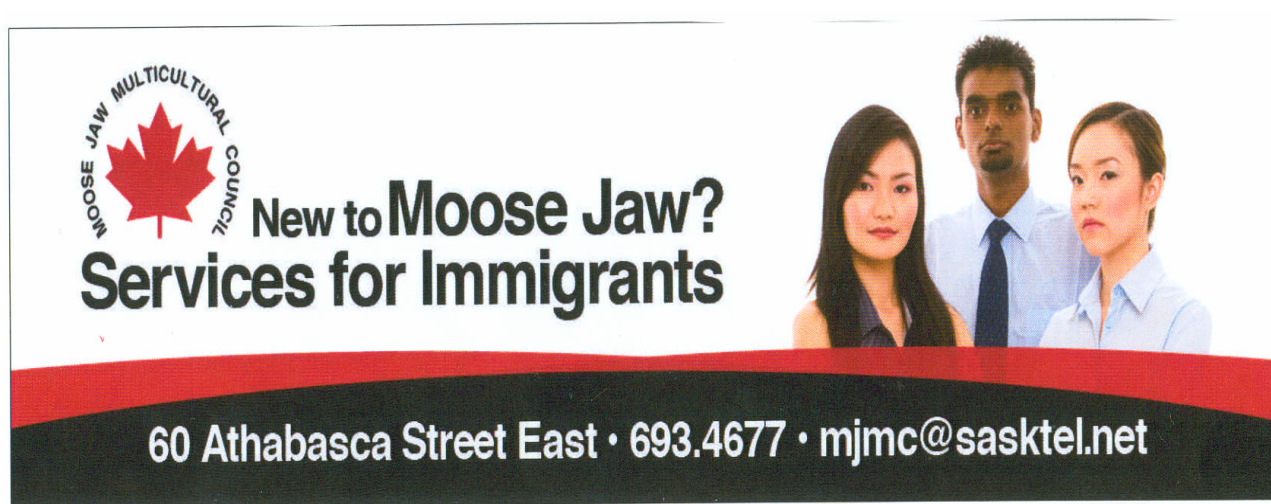
Once again the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council has completed a successful and busy year. This year we experienced more growth and change as we are always enhancing programs to meet the needs of our clients. Some of the highlights of 2007-2008:

- The daycare celebrated its first anniversary. The change from childminding to a licensed daycare has proven to benefit our clients and agency. The children are participating in an enrichment program to prepare them for school and the parents can transition from ESL classes to the workplace seamlessly and without removing their children from our centre.
- In June 2007, MJMC welcomed 24 Karen refugees, all of whom arrived on the same evening. Six staff went to welcome, orientate and help settle the clients for their first night in Moose Jaw. The clients are settling well and we would like to see more group resettlement like the Karen refugees in Moose Jaw.
- July brought the 33rd annual Motif Multicultural Festival. We implemented some changes this year such as using wristbands for patrons instead of passbooks and offering a one-day pass. As with anything new there were some complaints and kinks that need to be worked out but the festival was successful and we had the highest attendance in Motif's history.
- In July and August we coordinated the summer program for school aged children and had 27 children enrolled. Most of the children had arrived in June and spoke very little or no English. At the end of the summer the children were learning the language and making lots of new friends.
- September saw the addition of the Saskatchewan Nominee Assistance Program (SNAP). With funding from the provincial government we have a staff person that will meet the needs of nominees who are arriving in our province to fill labour shortages.
- By Christmas we were in renovation mode again by constructing two more offices to accommodate the two settlement staff and ensure client /worker confidentiality.
- In February and March we received funding to coordinate the first school break program for newcomer children.

- Last but not least at the end of the fiscal year we received funding from the provincial government to start an evening language class. The class is geared to enable working clients to continue to learn and improve their English abilities. We offer two levels four nights a week and a drop in class on Saturdays along with childminding services.

We said goodbye to some staff who moved on and welcomed new faces to our team. The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council experienced more representation in our community as we were invited to participate on the Regional Intersectoral Committee (RIC) and we became members of the Regional Economic Development Authority (REDA). We also launched a campaign to advertise the services of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. Some of you may have seen the “New to Moose Jaw? Services for Immigrants” signs on the back of the city buses. I would like to thank the Board of Directors and staff for their hard work and ongoing support as we move into another year.

Tara Blanchard
Executive Director



MJMC MISSION STATEMENT

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council:

**welcomes and integrates newcomers to
Canada, and**

**develops harmonious relations among
Canadians,**

**through programs and activities that recognize,
respect and promote the positive aspects of
cultural diversity, and that seek to discover,
encourage and develop commonalities among
peoples.**

BACKGROUND

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council is a non-profit organization and acts as an umbrella organization for other cultural groups in the city of Moose Jaw and surrounding areas. The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council was formed in May 1974 and is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide direct settlement, adaptation and integration services to all refugees and immigrants in Moose Jaw and district.
- To discourage racial and cultural discrimination by encouraging an understanding of and an appreciation for our cultural diversity.
- To act as a forum in which immigrants' and refugees' issues and concerns can be collectively raised.
- To promote awareness and understanding between the newcomer to Canada and the community.
- To promote co-operation and mutual understanding amongst Canadians.
- To promote and to encourage the retention of language and cultural traditions as essential components of Multiculturalism.
- To act as a consultant for cultural and ethnic groups or any other groups with an interest in ethnic and cultural matters.
- To represent the interests of member groups in Provincial, cultural, ethnic, and folk arts events and festivals.

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council is a non-profit organization serving Moose Jaw and the surrounding area. We are an umbrella organization for seventeen cultural groups and operate by a volunteer board of directors with elections held every year.

Our office is centrally located in Moose Jaw at 60 Athabasca Street East. We are open from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. from Monday to Friday.

HOST PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

April 2007

The first Conversation Circle of the year was held. The topic was the differences in Canadian kitchens and kitchens in their former country.

At the monthly Ladies Night vegetable seeds were planted and discussions on growing things in Saskatchewan were held.

May 2007

Heather Carruthers from Quilters Haven demonstrated a quilting technique at the monthly Ladies Night,

June 2007

On June 16, 2007 the Annual Host BBQ was held in Happy Valley Park. One hundred and forty eight people attended. We ate BBQ hamburgers, potato chips and watermelon. McDonalds' Orange drink and ice tea were served. There were baseball and soccer games. We had water balloons, bubbles and a sprinkler.

HOST BARBEQUE – September 2007

The Host Fall Picnic was held on September 15, 2007. It was a beautiful autumn day and ninety people attended. We had a lunch of BBQ hotdogs, veggies and dip, potato chips and the ever popular Tim Bits.



Hallowæen Party- October 2007

The annual Host Halloween Party was held on October 27 at the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. There were several games set up for the children with candy prizes. We decorated pumpkin cookies and had some light refreshments. It was a great afternoon with sixty five people attending.



November 2007

On November 24th there was a “Fish Fry Fundraiser” held at Bobby’s Place with all proceeds going towards the Host Program.

December 2007

The Christmas Party was held on December 1 at SIAST. We had snacks and were entertained by the Moose Jaw Festival Singers. Santa visited and had gifts for the children. Ninety-five people attended.

SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

Enhanced Assessment and Referral (EARP)

All new clients of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council may participate in an intake process that will identify barriers that may keep newcomers from achieving goals such as language training or employment. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year sixty-nine clients went through this process. Some of the needs identified were transportation, employment, training programs and family reunification.

Saskatchewan Nominee Assistance Program (SNAP)

Provides guidance and support to nominees and their families and in the form of orientation to the community, referrals, assistance in locating permanent accommodations and document filing. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year the Moose Jaw Multicultural served forty SNAP clients and provided sixty three services.

SNAP also promotes the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council as the one-stop “Gateway to Community Settlement”. We have commissioned Moose Jaw City Transit signs, placed newspaper ads, designed and distributed SNAP brochures, posted “New to Moose Jaw” signs at numerous points of entry and articles on the Discover Moose Jaw website.

ISAP Immigrant Settlement & Adaptation Program (ISAP)

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council delivers the Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program to government-sponsored refugees and any eligible immigrants who arrive in Moose Jaw. This year the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council received a total of 70 new immigrants and refugees.

There were 52 government assisted refugees (this does not always coincide with destination number because of fiscal year start and end dates), 3 were family class, and 15 independent. There was a total of 1340 ISAP services.

We assisted all classes of newcomers with filling out applications such as Saskatchewan Health Cards, Social Insurance Numbers, Child Tax Benefit and GST.

RAP Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council provided immediate essential settlement and orientation services for government sponsored immigrants and refugees within their first 4 – 6 weeks of arrival in Canada. This year, 54 newcomers received RAP services through the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council, of the 54, all were Government Assisted Refugees.

Direct Immediate Settlement Services

- **Reception for government sponsored immigrants and refugees at the Regina Airport and their transportation to Moose Jaw.**
- **MJMC has an agreement with Public Health to provide immediate health assessment of all newcomer clients. The nurses come onsite within seven days of the clients' arrival to interview the clients and gather data such as family history. The nurses also record the clients blood pressure, weight, and height. The clients are then referred to a male or female doctor for a follow-up appointment to assess any further health needs. Clients that need immediate assistance are referred to a doctor without delay.**
- **Arrangements are made for an interpreter and community residents at reception, if required.**
- **Upon arrival in Moose Jaw, temporary accommodations and the immediate needs such as food or medical attention are attended to.**
- **A brief orientation regarding the city, their location, food store, and who to call if a problem arises is explained.**
- **The following day, the newcomer is assisted to cash their cheque at the bank and shop for any items they are in need of. The newcomer is brought to our office and the steps that will be taken to settle them in our community are outlined. Any concerns are addressed and sorted out by our staff. Major issues are referred to the Citizenship & Immigration office in Regina. Interpreters/translators are used at this time if required.**

Welcome Package Materials

- **A yearly calendar**
- **Saskatchewan Health pamphlets**
- **A Newcomer's Introduction to Canada**
- **Moose Jaw Multicultural Council brochure**
- **Canada Food Guide**
- **Settlement Worker's Business Card**
- **City bus route map**
- **Moose Jaw city map**
- **Moose Jaw Tourist information**
- **Canadian Human Rights Commission (translated copies)**
- **SGI (Keep Them Safe) pamphlet.**

- **“Know Your Rights” booklet**
 - **Colour photocopy of Canadian currency**
 - **Address book**
 - **Local emergency phone numbers**
 - **Information on Canada's income tax system**
 - **How To Become a Canadian Citizen pamphlet**
 - **Canada Flag lapel pin for each member of the family**
 - **International Women’s Day bookmark**
 - **Canadian National Anthem bookmark**
 - **Nutritional labeling information**
 - **Directory of Places of Worship**
 - **“Energy Efficiency in the Home” booklet**
 - **Hepatitis C booklet (translated copies)**
 - **Host Program Brochure**
 - **“Summer Safety” brochure**
 - **“Home Fire Extinguishers” pamphlet**
 - **“Knowing is the best medicine” pamphlet**
 - **Canada’s Physical Activity Guide for Children**
 - **Canada’s Physical Activity Guide**
 - **Names and address of pharmacies that honour IFH claims**
 - **“Gathering Information” pamphlet (translated copies)**
 - **Parenting in Canada (translated copies)**
 - **“Living in Canada” pamphlet**
 - **Taking Good Care of Yourself in Canada**
 - **Cashing Your Government Cheque for Free**
 - **Choosing the Right Banking Service Package**
 - **Life Skills Manual**
 - **Settling in Saskatchewan**
 - **Life Skills for Women Manual**
 - **We provide space and an interpreter/translator for the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Counselor to do documentation with government-sponsored newcomers.**
1. **There are on going support and solution focused counseling for refugees and interpreters/translators are called when there is a communication barrier.**
 2. **For all government sponsored refugees, assistance is provided in locating an apartment or house suitable to their family size and within the federal government rental rate guidelines.**
 3. **Arrangements are made for the purchase and delivery of furniture and household articles.**
 4. **Assistance is provided with the utility hook-ups: this includes gas, electricity, water, and telephone.**
 5. **Assistance is provided to move to permanent accommodation and introductions were made to the landlord and tenant rules and regulations were outlined, (if required, translation was provided).**
 6. **We are available for dealing with their physical and mental health needs. Counseling, referrals, arranging for doctor and dental appointments, and medical lab work is coordinated through our office.**

7. Arrangements are made to accommodate medical appointments in Regina through the Moose Jaw Volunteers Drivers' Association.
8. Arrangements are made to enroll the children in school and assist the family in finding childcare if required.
9. Newcomers are escorted to a local bank to set up an account and apply for a banking card.
10. Through referrals, the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council develops linkages between the newcomer and available resources in the community.
11. Referrals include the economic, social cultural, and health areas, which are crucial to initial, long term settlement success.
12. Workshops are held to inform newcomers about Canadian society, they include financial budgeting, immunization, and other health issues, block parents, etc.
13. We assist newcomers to fill out an application to attend English language training. We notify Canada Immigration and arrange a space and time for newcomers to be tested for their eligibility to enroll in LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada).
14. Students are assisted in arranging for transportation to English classes such as where and how to take a bus.
15. We encourage all classes of immigrants to share their cultural traditions with our community and ensure that they are informed about Canada's laws and traditions.

In Class Driver Training for Newcomers to Canada

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council is constantly creating new programming and trying to be creative when meeting the needs of newcomers to Canada. The most recent example is that of the graduated driver's license program through SGI. New drivers in Saskatchewan have to pass the class 7 test at SGI, then go on to complete 6 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of in-car instruction while practicing for a nine-month period before trying the road examination for a class 5 license. In November 2006 MJMC identified 15 individuals that were ready to start classroom instruction. With funding from SGI through a grant for driver training, MJMC was able to offer the training at no cost to the clients. Instructor Corinne Neff of ABC Driver training came onsite to deliver the classes over a three-week period. Special thanks to Marie Braithwaite of SGI and Corinne Neff of ABC Driver Training for their help in making this project possible. Next steps for these drivers to be? Taking on the streets of Moose Jaw for the six hour in-car instruction.

Longer Term Settlement Services

- 1. Our Council members invite newcomers to take part in the Council's activities and to contribute to the Community's Canadian life style and customs.**
- 2. Our office has a resource library that Newcomers can access. We have books, videos and computer software on Canada, looking for a job in Canada, English as a Second Language, the health care system, etc. Many of our resources are available in different languages.**
- 3. The first Tuesday of every month Public Health sets up at the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council to immunize and educate the clients on communicable diseases. The third Thursday of each month Public Health comes to the centre to do a presentation for our students, topics include such things as: nutrition, discipline, car seats, parental skills, to name a few.**
- 4. Our staff assists newcomers (within their first year in Canada) in completing their first income tax return at no cost to the client.**
- 5. Community volunteers and staff support new Canadian families emotionally and encourage them with friendship, counseling, and patience as they adjust to Canadian society.**
- 6. We integrate newcomers into Moose Jaw's Community life. Our volunteer participation sets a good example for newcomers as they attempt to settle in Canada.**
- 7. We are also responsible for communication between Citizenship & Immigration Canada and the newcomer.**
- 8. Newcomers access our office for assistance in filling out applications for Canadian Citizenship, passports, travel documents, and the Permanent Residence Card.**
- 9. Our clients receive many generous donations over the year from Moose Jaw and the surrounding community. During the year, we receive many donations of clothing and household items.**
- 10. Our office has ten computers available for Newcomers to access a variety of English As A Second Language software, which is available to LINC students.**
- 11. Newcomers are welcome to work on the computers to improve their English skills, prepare for the Canadian job market or prepare to return to school.**

CONFERENCES and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development Day – Regina October 25, 2007

Laura Butt and Carol Moran attended the Benchmarks Orientation Workshop presented by the Saskatchewan Literacy Network in partnership with Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment and the Saskatchewan Literacy Commission. We looked at the new literacy benchmarks, learning outcomes and tasks, theme planning and contextualized learning. There was encouraging emphasis on learner driven planning for adult literacy. Overall, the benchmarks are descriptions of the general skills adults need as family and community members, learners and workers. There are points of reference that serve as a basis for assessing learner performance over time and standards that learners should be able to reach at each level. Saskatchewan Adult Literacy Benchmarks Levels 1 and 2 were presented as part of the Circle of Learning. Each benchmark has four quadrants including communications, numeracy, lifelong learning, and interpersonal skills. Through the day long orientation focus was placed on consistency and portfolio production so students could leave the program with a record to apply to their next program or to show to a prospective employer. We appreciated the opportunity to attend this orientation so we could keep abreast of what is new in Saskatchewan Literacy and to learn how we could use this information to our own classes.

Professional Development Class October 24 to November 10, 2007

The Cross-Cultural Awareness Classes were presented by the University of Regina as part of an ESL Certificate Program. This was the final time these classes would be available. Dr. Ya-Hong Song facilitated this course. Dr. Song was an immigrant from China eight years ago and she had just completed her PhD in Adult Education as of October of this year. The cross-cultural awareness course focused on concepts common to cross-cultural instruction and cross-cultural interaction. Students examined teaching strategies and discussed planning for instruction in cross-cultural settings. The program was divided into four main themes which allowed for discussion and learning about the reasons people need instruction that is culturally focused, the issues of identity in learning a second language, stereotypes, culture shock and the steps that settlement staff, clerks and teachers can use to make their instruction valid and effective with the inclusion of cross-cultural awareness. The course was an excellent opportunity to review, clarify and learn about new tools for planning, teaching and assessment. This program was 23 hours of instruction and 10 hours of commuting time that was time well spent. I would like to thank the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council Inc. for providing the opportunity for me to attend this course, the 13 hours of paid time and the transportation. I would like to suggest that Dr. Song would be a valuable speaker at a future professional development event at our center.

Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) Conference

Vancouver, February 19-23, 2007

Tara Blanchard, Linda Dirkson and Laurie Hunt attended the RAP conference in Vancouver in February 2007. The goal of the conference was to bring together RAP service providers to address common issues, barriers and to learn from each other through networking and presentations. Some of the presentations included housing issues, health care, funding, and income support for clients dealing with family dynamics and life skills.

Tara Blanchard presented on the Life Skills Manual and Life Skills for Women Manual that were developed through the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council with funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Tara presented along with Fiona Corbin (CIC Headquarters, Ottawa), Morteza Jafarpour (Settlement Integration Services Organization, Hamilton) and Fariborz Birjandian (Catholic Immigrant Society, Calgary). The presentation was to explain the role of life skills training for clients and to share best practices and policies.

The highlight of the conference was a banquet and presentation of certificates to each agency for outstanding service and dedication to helping refugees start their new lives in Canada.

The Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies (SAISIA) Forum

Cedar Lodge, April 11-13, 2007

Tara Blanchard, Patricia Davies and Laurie Hunt attended the annual SAISIA forum that was held at Cedar Lodge in Blackstrap Provincial Park. The first day consisted of the SAISIA Annual General Meeting and regular meeting followed by a meet and greet. The second day was a presentation on Life Skills “train the trainer” that was provided by two people from the settlement agency in Hamilton, Ontario. The third day consisted of agency updates, a briefing from the president of SAISIA and networking. This was a great opportunity to get together with colleagues from other settlement agencies in Saskatchewan and learn and share best practices.

The Canadian Council for Refugees Conference (CCR)

Edmonton, May 24-26, 2007

This year due to some additional government funding and the close proximity of the conference, Laurie Hunt, Patricia Davies, Wendy Goodnough and Tara Blanchard traveled to Edmonton to attend the CCR conference. We were part of a delegation of 25 workers from agencies that provide services to newcomers. The Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies (SAISIA) provided some funds so we were able to charter a bus for all 25 delegates to travel together. To keep our costs down most of the delegates stayed in the dorms at the University of Alberta. The theme of the spring CCR consultation was *The Successful Integration of Refugees and Immigrants* something that each agency strives to provide for their clients. Some of the session highlights were: Racial profiling and Canada’s Security Agenda, Child Soldiers, a meeting with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) head of resettlement services in Geneva Vincent Cochetel, Settlement of Refugees from Protracted Situations, Blue Ribbon Panel and the settlement service sector and Durable Solutions for African refugees. Each MJMC staff brought back valuable information as well as brochures and booklets that help us in our work to provide services to the refugees and immigrants that come to our agency each day.

SCENES Annual Conference and AGM - STAST Woodland Campus and Prince Albert Multicultural Council May 25 and 26, 2007

Thank-you for the opportunity to attend the SCENES Conference and annual general meeting. As the SCENES representative for MJMC, I attended the pre-conference board meeting and dinner on Friday night at the Prince Albert Multicultural Council facility. On Saturday I attended a keynote address presented by Fatima Pirbhahi-Illich (PhD) of the University of Regina. Dr. Pirbhahi-Illich spoke about the educational outcomes of Canadian English Language Learners.

Other presentations were Rhyme Time – An Opportunity to Create Language, Primary ESL – Phonemic Awareness, and Electronic Journal Writing for All Levels. The presentations were valuable and I have already incorporated some of the materials in my classroom activities. I was able to visit the publisher's display area on two occasions and was given gifts of reading materials for the students. I was also able to spend some time with the teachers from Regina who shared helpful information about refugees in their classrooms.

Newcomer Settlement in Smaller Centres Conference - Gateway to Success

Moose Jaw, February 12th – 14th, 2008

Tara Blanchard, Patricia Davies, Laurie Hunt, and Stefanie Palmer attended this three day conference for smaller centres in Saskatchewan. The first day of the conference was opening remarks from all levels of government, a presentation on federal and provincial programs and reception and meet and greet.

The second day of the conference was broken down into sessions that included:

- Addressing housing issues
- Addressing language barriers
- Attracting and retaining newcomers in small communities
- Private Sponsorship
- Accessing Federal funding

The third day of the conference included presentations on the capacity building fund from the provincial government and a presentation from an employer in Gravelbourg that had received workers through the provincial nominee program. The federal and provincial levels of government in Saskatchewan are committed to attracting newcomers to the province and helping fill labour shortages in all communities. This conference was an excellent opportunity to share with other small centres and compare best practices.

EMPLOYMENT & CAREER PREPARATION PROGRAM

2007 saw 33 clients enter the Employment Program. The Employment Program focuses on job readiness, resume creation, Canadian workplace culture, and life skills. The goal is to integrate newcomers to Canada into the labour market as supportively and effectively as possible. The 12 week program also offers participants the opportunity to obtain their first aid and CPR training, and some computer skills development. The Employment Coordinator can also offer on the job support, referrals, IQAS (International Qualifications Assessment Service) Assessment Applications, as well as individual Career counselling. The goal of the program is to meet the employment needs of newcomers to Canada, as well as work with local employers to fill their labour gaps. 2008 will see some changes to the program, with a new coordinator assuming responsibility for the program, and the introduction of new elements to better meet client needs, such as the introduction of WHMIS training for program participants. We look forward to the changes that will come with the new prosperity in Saskatchewan, and the greater opportunities that will be available for newcomers to the area."



SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



The 2007 Moose Jaw Multicultural Council School-Aged Refugee Children's Summer Program was a huge success. Twenty-five children, many of whom were quite new to Canada, ranging in ages between five and seventeen attended the program. While the children's grasps of the English language varied from almost nothing up to nearly fluent, it is safe to say that all of the children were able to improve their communication skills. The children also learned many life skills through the program's lessons, games, crafts, activities and field trips. Along with all the educational aspects of the program the children also had a lot of fun.

This year's program ran for eight weeks, as opposed to the six weeks the program has run in the past, beginning on July 3rd and ending on August 24th. The children attended the program Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. There were three employees hired specifically for this year's program, Codie Endicott, Heather Gower, and Kelley Hunter. Codie has been a part of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council's School-Aged Programs since the summer of 2004, Heather and Kelley have also both returned from last year's program, making this year's summer program facilitators a particularly strong team. Christian Lohe also worked with the program for the first six weeks. Christian was an exchange worker from Quebec and an asset to the program. With the three returning workers, as well as Christian's help, the program was able to run very smoothly.

The summer program itself was located in the gymnasium of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. We spent a lot of time inside the gym where many different lessons, games, crafts, and activities took place. On occasion visitors came to the center to talk to the children about various topics. These visitors included the Moose Jaw Humane Society and the Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretative Centre. The children enjoyed both of these visits and learned a lot. The program is a lot of fun for the children, but we also aim for it to be more than a place to play games, and make crafts.

We teach the kids various life skills to prepare them for school and to give them a greater understanding of Canadian life. This includes discussions about block parents, bike safety, respect, manners, and the four food groups, just to name a few. Having Crescent Park right across the street was an asset to the program as it allowed us to escape the confines of the gymnasium on hot summer days. We went to the park a great number of times to play different physical activities such as soccer, kickball, relay races, etc.

This summer our program was also able to make several trips around Moose Jaw, some of which were for educational purposes and others just for fun. These trips included the Moose Jaw Fire Hall, where the children learned about firefighters and fire safety, and the Western Development Museum, where the children learned about the history of transportation. On two occasions we were able to take the children to the water park located within Crescent Park. Our biggest outing came when we were able to rent a theater at the Galaxy Cinema in the Town and Country Mall and watched the movie Ratatouille. All of the children got to enjoy the movie, as well as popcorn and pop.

In hopes of improving the children's comprehension and understanding of the English language we decided to enroll the children into a reading program. The program that we enrolled them in was the TD Summer Reading Club 2007: Lost Worlds at the Moose Jaw Public Library. On a weekly basis we took the children to the library to read and we also took out a large number of books each week to be read at the Multicultural Centre. As an incentive to read, the program awarded coupons for free ice cream cones from McDonald's for every ten books that the child read. All of the children were able to attain at least one coupon while attending our program and one child was able to attain seven of them. Because all of our children got ice cream coupons we walked up to McDonald's on one of the hot summer days, cashed in their coupons, and they were all able to enjoy the ice cream that they had earned. It is important to note that the children's reading capabilities increased dramatically throughout the summer, much like their spoken English skills.

The 2007 Moose Jaw Multicultural Council School-Aged Refugee Children's Summer Program was a success. The children all enjoyed their time in the program and were able to learn a lot about Canada and Canadian life. The children who did not speak very much English at the beginning of the program increased their language and communication skills by leaps and bounds.

This program is incredibly important it benefits people beyond just the children who attend. Thanks to this program the children have somewhere to go during the summer days, since they aren't in school at that time, which allows their parents to attend their LINC classes at the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. All three of this year's summer employees agree that this program is an absolute necessity to newcomers to Canada. As a result of the success of the program and the benefits it can offer to both the children and their parents we, the summer program staff, strongly recommend that this program be continued into the future.

DAYCARE CENTRE

April 2007

It is so nice to be a licensed daycare. It is wonderful to be in a newly renovated room, filled with new toys and furnishings. The biggest highlight so far is being able to take the children on offsite excursions. We have had tons of fun going for neighborhood walks, playing in Crescent Park and going to the Public Library. The children loved watching the flowers start to grow, the grass turning green, leaves coming out on trees, ducks swimming in the water and squirrels running on the grass.

May 2007

This month, the children enjoyed learning, exploring and creating projects about flowers. With our beautiful weather, many flowers were in full bloom. The children loved walking outside and enjoying the beauty. We had a special visitor come to our daycare this month. During our “pets” weekly theme, one of the fathers brought an eight week old Golden Retriever to show to the children. The response from the children was great! They really enjoyed playing with the puppy, and learning about pets.

June 2007

“Time flies as you are having fun.” And fun is what the MJMC Daycare has been having! The children are enjoying all the outdoor activities. They love walking to Crescent Park to play on the apparatus, feeding the ducks and swans, and eating ice cream while playing at the water park. June 20th was World Refugee Day, as well as the MJMC Daycare’s Grand Opening. Lots of people came to see our newly renovated facility, and to have snacks and refreshments in the gym. This month we received two new children from Sudan. They had an easy transition and are enjoying all the materials and resources the daycare has to offer. June 29th was Darcy Pryor’s last day as she will be away on maternity leave for a year. Diana Brennan will be taking her role until she returns.

July 2007

This has been an exciting month. We added 3 new children to our daycare in the first two weeks of July. We had extra staff to cover for the adjustment. Soon we will be able to go back out on our excursions to Crescent Park. We have also enjoyed our neighborhood walks. The children had a great time being able to get outdoors. Our monthly themes focused on “all about me”, our family, our homes, and animal homes. Our programming kept us consistently busy building forts and animal homes. We enjoyed playing with water, dirt, rocks and nature. We made nature collages, and summer fun books. Our classroom had a visitor from SIAST, “Suzy” who spent a few days with us doing her practicum. She was a delight to have and offered us new program ideas. The SIAST ECE class also came and prepared a lunch for us. It was great fun and they offered us nutritional lunch menus and programming ideas for lunch times. “Talk time” will be implemented where each child gets a chance to talk, while the others listen to them. Every child gets to choose what they would like to talk about.

They suggested other ideas like, letting the child help choose the meals for the day and making the menus with the children. We experienced literacy by making our own "Mice" books. We also read and followed recipes while making play dough and muffins. We made our classroom literacy enriched by adding a new reading center, and pasting words around the room. A new helper schedule was also set up to include children in cleaning, meal preparation and set up. We added new centers to the room and rotated toys from the basement storage area. Each day was exciting as we learned new songs, finger plays, poems and stories. Borrowing from the library was a great asset to enhancing our library time and our quiet video center. Indanah had 2 weeks off and the part-time staff did a great job filling in for her. We finished off our month with an indoor camping trip and summer fun activities.

August 2007

This month, the children enjoyed learning, exploring and creating as we continued on with our camping and nature themes. With our beautiful weather, we enjoyed exploring outside and collecting many items to add to our new science center in our class. We enjoyed examining those items with magnifying glasses and prisms. We made sun catchers for the windows. We continued on with our camping experiences and enjoyed playing in tents. We learned new campfire songs and fingerplays. We enjoyed our camping foods and activities. We experienced literacy by making a camping book, in which each child added a page about their camping experiences that week. We continue to add crafts and photos to our walls. The parents are delighted to see what the children are doing and we have great communication times with the parents as they enter and leave. A weekly schedule of our activities is posted outside of the door, so the parents can be aware of our activities. Diana was on holidays for a week and Indanah carried on the programming with a ladybug theme. The children went on a ladybug hunt, make ladybug hats, and played ladybug tag. It was a week with lots of excitement. The children have enjoyed the hot weather and many walks to the park, and playground. They have enjoyed feeding the ducks and going on nature hikes. We concluded our month with back to school themes, such as: counting, printing, colors, etc. The children are getting anxious about school and we tried to calm them with back to school stories, and class discussions. In the middle of the month, we added a new toddler to our class. It took the remainder of the month for the little one to settle in. This limited our outings to the park and playground.

September 2007

It has been an exciting month in Daycare as we began exploring the seasons and looking at "fall". We had the opportunity to make many fall crafts and make a literacy book on fall leaves. The children helped to decorate the room with their fall paintings and art projects. This Sept. we started to look at the letters of the Alphabet. We sang alphabet songs and action verses. Each child made a "Bb" book and we had fun playing with bubbles, bikes and balls. We also had the opportunity to ride on the city bus for a field trip and did a "bB" bingo sheet with Laura Butt's class. The children had a lot of fun. We continued on with the literacy program "Turning Pages Together" done by Glenda James.

All the children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to participate in this activity and enjoyed being able to take a book home at the completion of the literacy series. On Sept. 11 10:30-11:30, I had a parent's meeting. We discussed our program- both indoor and outdoor activities. We looked at our lunch menus and our daily schedule.

I brought samples of our teaching materials, our crafts, and our schedules for the parents. The response was very positive from the parents, though the conversation was limited. The parents seem very happy with the program.

We also looked at the letter "cC" with the children and read cat books, and sang cookie songs. We all participated together in making cookies for the children to eat and to take a sample home to their families. The children were very excited to participate in baking. We ended the month with a series on dinosaurs. Indanah brought several items from home and the children had the opportunity to play in a dinosaur park. We read several books about dinosaurs and sang dinosaur songs. The children really enjoyed our unit on dinosaurs.

October 2007

This October, we continued to explore themes based around the Alphabet. We began this month at Daycare with an Elephant (Ee) Theme. The children enjoyed learning elephant songs and finger plays. To accompany this theme for science and math concepts- we counted elephants and weighed ourselves. We compared our weights with the weight of a baby elephant. For literacy, we read elephant books from the library, and watched videos on elephants. We continued on with literacy series, and read several stories based from the author: Laura Numeroff. With each book, we participated in an activity based on the theme of that book: We made pancakes, we baked muffins, and we packed lunches, and ate cookies together. The children really enjoyed this book series. We also explored the world of the "farm". We read farm books, sang farm songs, and learned farm finger plays. We set up a wonderful farm center, which all the children enjoyed.

Gross motor activities were provided for the children to run, and play farm games, participate in obstacle courses, and ride on a toy tractor. The children enjoyed playing with farm puppets and participating in farm animal charades. To end our month, we focused on a Halloween theme. We learned pumpkin songs, and poems. We read several books on Halloween and pumpkins. We carved a jack o lantern, and roasted pumpkin seeds. We had the opportunity to do sensory activities and make smelly pumpkins, using several kinds of seasonings. We make Halloween crafts, bats, cats, pumpkins, and spider webs. The children loved the excitement of the Halloween festivities and enjoyed looking for Halloween decorations on our neighborhood walks. The month ended with a Halloween party and parade. The children enjoyed their "loot Bags".

November 2007

In this month, we continued with our alphabet themes. We played with toy hippos, ate ice cream, played jumping games and made kangaroo footprint ART. (Hh, Ii, Jj, Kk). For a math experience, we weighed and measured ourselves to see who was the biggest.

We made a chart to compare our findings and we're happy that none of us were as big as a hippo or a giraffe. (Hh, Gg) For literacy, we read, learned poems and sang songs about the alphabet and our animals for the month. For outings and gross motor activities, we enjoyed neighborhood walks, Crescent park playground and activities in the gym. The children enjoyed animal charades, obstacle courses, bikes and balls. The children were so excited to enjoy walks in the snow. A highlight to our month was adding a new theme to our science center. The children enthusiastically participated in experimenting with lights and reflections. With the use of globe balls, mirrors, and various lights, and colors, the children explored making sparking images, shadows, and reflections. Another center that we added to our room was a shelf with boxes and baskets of several sizes and shapes. This created hours of excitement as the children transformed the boxes into buses, airplanes, and hiding spots for themselves and the classroom toys. These throw away items were invaluable to watch the children use their imagination to create new games and activities each day. It was an exciting month.

December 2007

In this month, we continued on with our winter theme. The children had the opportunity to enjoy a few days where we could go for short walks outside. We had fun talking about snow, snowmen, and snowflakes, but even more fun to experience it first hand when we played outside. Snow angels were a favorite, both for the children and for the staff. For literacy we enjoyed many stories and finger plays about "Snow Days"

Our month continued on with a health and nutrition theme. The children loved all the excitement and activities as a doctor center was set up so they could participate in learning more about our health care. The children had opportunities to role play and use their imagination in this dramatic play area. Throughout the week, the children made "doctor" crafts, and read stories on proper health, nutrition, and rest. The public health nutritionist provided us with wonderful posters for our classroom. For Science and math, we enjoyed mixing and measuring as we had the opportunity to make many healthy lunches and snacks together.

Another highlight in our month was to attend our library (parent/tot) literacy program. Arwen, the Moose Jaw Public children's librarian does an awesome job preparing a special time for all of us to enjoy.

To complete our month, we had a public health dental hygienist come to do an information meeting for parents/children on proper teeth brushing. For follow up, we set up a teeth brushing program for the children and will continue to brush the children's teeth daily after the lunch program. Toothbrushes, cups and toothpaste were donated for each family. She will return in January to do a follow-up screening program for the preschool children.

We had the opportunity to have one of the "Canada World Youth" students volunteer in our classroom a couple times a week. She was well loved by the children and offered us great support/assistance. Thanks, Genevieve!

January 2008

This month our themes centered on “All about me”. It was a month filled with coloring, painting, crafts, and activities. Our literacy program focused on books about how special we are. We made our own classroom book about our favorite things. For math, we made comparison charts and graphed our favorite things. We continued the month with a unit on transportation. We had daily activities, with cars, trucks, planes, bikes, boats, and trains. The public library program assisted in helping us find many books and videos to enhance our subject. For art and science, the children make tire track art prints and painted stop signs. The children had the opportunity to mix paints, and experiment how crayon repels paint. We also experimented with the speeds of toy cars and trucks on various ramps.

We also talked about seasons and appropriate clothing for the weather. We played a mitten match game and counted and sorted various types of clothing. We ended our month with a unit on Nursery Rhymes. We continue to work on alphabets and the children are becoming excellent singers. Friday is our band parade day and we end the week with a bang. We are beginning a kindergarten program, where activities are provided to meet the needs of the children who are not napping in the afternoon anymore. Computer program times, coloring, printing, cutting and art projects are being accomplished at that time. The children also make great use of the educational board games.

We are also in the process of setting up a toddler in motion time. This is to incorporate the needs of the very active 18-24 month old children that can not sit for craft times, video time and circle time. Age appropriate toys and activities are offered to the younger children in another room. This is a very effective program for the older children to have more age appropriate programming time.

LINC ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

April 2007

Health Nurse Presentation

On April 18, 2007 Wanda came from Public Health at 9 AM and discussed several family issues and the Canadian laws governing them. She covered spousal abuse, female circumcision, sexual assault, and the age of consent among other things. She introduced the subject of sexuality and next month nursing students will discuss breast exams, testicular exams and use of condoms. Students had questions and comments and participated with interest in the discussion. The presentation was helpful and well done.

Regina Field Trip

On Friday, April 20, 2007, LINC classes 2 and 3 went to Regina for a field trip. We saw the legislature buildings and Wascana Lake and The Royal Saskatchewan Museum. Students had many good questions and a long attention span for all of it. We ate lunch at the food court of Southland Mall and then went to Government House. Students were quite glad to see this historical house and had questions for our guide there, too. Students gained background for future learning and valued all we did.

May 2007

Tour of the Cultural Centre

On Tuesday, May 1, 2007, all three classes of the LINC program walked to the Cultural Centre for a tour. A guide showed us the auditorium and pointed out the work done to restore it to how it looked in 1916. Then we went on and saw more of the building. The LINC 2-5 class was invited to tea with Moose Jaw's writer in residence, Ted Dyck. He showed us his office and introduced us to the Festival of Words staff. We learned about them and their work and our students introduced themselves. We visited and Ted invited everyone to the next Performer's Café on May 31. On the way back to our building, the LINC 2-5 class stopped at the Oak and Rose Bookshop.

We bought dictionaries and looked at other books. It was a valuable excursion, connecting students with resources and with the Moose Jaw community.

Student Community Garden



In early May, 2007, the LINC 1 class planned and planted a garden plot at the Moose Jaw Community Gardens. We learned about garden vocabulary, growing vegetables in Saskatchewan, composting, and co-operative gardening in the community. We visited our garden every Wednesday to weed, water and harvest. Our teacher visited the garden on the weekend to water as well. We traveled on the bus to the garden and learned about bus schedules and transfers. In late August, we needed to bring extra plastic bags to bring home all of our harvest to share.

June 2007

Day at Buffalo Pound

On June 1, 2007 we took all of the students to Buffalo Pound for the day. This was our first trip there as a student field trip. We were able to walk through the Nicolle Flats interpretive area, and view the Bison paddock. We had a picnic lunch in the main park area, explored the camping and beach area, and played some games. The students enjoyed themselves very much, and learned of a new place where they can take their families for a fun outing.

August 2007

Wakamow Park Outing

August 24, 2007, all the LINC students walked to Wakamow Park for an end of summer outing. Bob Butt provided canoe rides and the teachers introduced the students to games such as sack races, tug-of-war and three-legged races. The park rang with laughter as students from different countries learned old Canadian picnic games. After a light snack and a cold drink, everyone walked back to the classrooms for lunchtime dismissal.

September 2007

Turning Pages Program

All parents in the LINC classes attended the Turning Pages Program each Tuesday morning for the past six weeks. This program was presented by Glenda James from the Family Literacy Project. Each session began with information about appropriate reading materials for age levels and the importance of reading as a family. The clients and their children then read a story together and did a craft. The clients' comments about this program were very positive. They liked Glenda's presentation style and her comprehension of their language needs. They appreciated the information, the reading and the crafts. But most of all they liked choosing books to take home to read to their children each week.

October 2007

Garden Harvest Luncheon

October 16, 2007 was the final event of the Community Gardening Project. The LINC 2 students prepared a Harvest Luncheon for all students and staff. They served Taco Potatoes featuring potatoes they had grown in their garden, a carrot and onion dish and buttered beets also from the garden harvest. The students talked about the garden experience from planning to harvest and worked together to cook the meal. They reviewed safety and sanitation practices. They learned how to have dishes with different cooking times ready at the same time and on time. The students also learned about a preparation or assembly line for food service as they served thirty-two plates all within fifteen minutes. From all reports, the food was excellent. The LINC 2 students thank MJMC for their contribution of groceries to complete the meal.

Fire Station Tour

On Tuesday morning, October 23rd, all our students and their children headed up to the Fire station. We were met by three fire fighters for our informational tour. First, we were shown the control room where 911 emergency calls are received. We were told when to call 911 and the personal information that we needed to give over the phone. One student was even allowed to phone 911 to see what would happen. This is also something we practice in class to make sure the students are able to effectively convey their address and other personal information. We learned that the fire department responds to many kinds of calls including fire, car accidents, boating accidents, and even pets getting stuck in trees.

We were shown the fire trucks, including a new ladder truck, and all the equipment the fire fighters have at their disposal to respond to emergencies. Some of the students tried on the fire fighters jackets, oxygen tanks and helmets. They were surprised at how heavy all the equipment is! The firefighters also showed us a new piece of equipment they have, that helps them see through smoke and locate people and objects. It was a very interesting and important tour for all the students. Hopefully, our students will never need to call for the fire departments assistance, but if they do, I think they will be able to respond appropriately.



November 2007

Elections Saskatchewan: MJMC Style

The LINC 2 class studied the provincial election process during the past election campaign. The students had questions about what the possible outcomes could mean to them. They recalled visits to MJMC by the MLA's and they wanted to know what would happen to those representatives in the election. After learning about the processes for an election, the students enumerated all of the staff and the other students. They then made alphabetized voters lists for both Moose Jaw ridings. They prepared numbered ballots for each riding and readied the polling station complete with a ballot box and a privacy booth. Everyone at MJMC had an opportunity to vote and the LINC 2 students played the roles of officials in the polling station. We made a few changes to the rules for voters. A voter at MJMC had to be a Canadian citizen OR new to Canada and had to have lived in Saskatchewan for at least one month! Staff and students voted in their appropriate ridings and then the polls were closed. The votes were tallied and the students learned about spoiled ballots and about reconciling the unused, spoiled and used ballots with the original numbers. Our voting result was accurate for Moose Jaw Wakamow where Deb Higgins was re-elected but our Moose Jaw North poll elected Glenn Hagel by a wide margin. Everyone played their roles very well and there was lots of discussion about voting once the student gets his or her Canadian citizenship



Remembrance Day Presentation

All LINC students and teachers gathered to honour soldiers and peacekeepers both living and dead around the world. The first item on the program was the singing of O Canada. The LINC 3 – 4 students then recited the poem *In Flanders Fields*. Teacher Doug Cassidy thanked the students and introduced our guest speaker Sgt. Ret. Dennis Biden. Sgt. Biden complimented the students on their singing and their recitation of the poem. He also gave them a heartfelt welcome to Canada and told them as a peacekeeper, he was so proud that they have chosen Canada as their country. As always, Sgt. Biden's presentation was excellent, well suited to our students and greatly appreciated by all. The LINC 2 class served refreshments and all of the students spent time with our guest in a question and answer session.

International Women's Dessert Party

Students from the LINC classes at Moose Jaw Multicultural Council attended the International Women's Dessert Party on November 14, 2007. The evening event was held to support Work for Widows, an international humanitarian aid project aimed at helping Sri Lankan widows help themselves to become self-sufficient. In LINC class, discussion was held about the Work for Widows project and the importance of attending community events both to become a more active member of the community and to attend extra events where one can practice English. Seven women attended the event and stated that they had a wonderful evening. They enjoyed the singing, the dessert and the jewelry displays but are still working on understanding a silent auction.

Agribition 2007 - A Taste of the Prairies

On Monday, November 19, we piled into a bus and took twenty-nine students to Agribition. Agribition is the largest farm show in western Canada with over 4,000 livestock for viewing. I believe we saw most of those 4,000 animals as we walked around the entire venue. There was a wide variety of animals that the students enjoyed looking at and touching. We saw expensive bulls valued at over \$50,000.00. We saw horses, bison, sheep, goats, chickens, llamas and cattle by the dozens. One of the interesting experiences was watching the bison. The bison were not domesticated like the cattle, and several times a large bull rammed his horns into the gate when someone approached too closely. In the main show ring in the Brandt Center we saw a number of shows and judging competitions for carriage horses. Overall, everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly and had an interesting experience. Agribition was a great experience for the students.



YMCA TOUR

On Thursday, November 8, 2007, the LINC 1 class went to the YMCA for a tour. We saw the different rooms and watched people using the equipment. Students asked questions and enjoyed the visit. They gained context about exercise indoors in Canada in the winter. This matched a unit of study on body parts, health and winter recreation. The staff at the Y were helpful and friendly. This provided another positive contact with the community for newcomers who are still timid about trying new things or allowing their children to join unfamiliar programs.

January 2007

All LINC classes and the daycare children participated in a Read-A-Thon event to celebrate Family Literacy Day. Each group of students read for an assigned period of time from 9 a.m. to 1:45p.m. At 2 p.m. triad groups from all reading levels read stories to the children. Stories ranged from 'The Little Engine That Could' to 'The Farmer's Wife' to 'The Titanic'. We were joined throughout the day by guests and the press. The students and children were awarded certificates and prizes to conclude the event.

March 2007

The LINC classes of MJMC had four young adults' volunteers in work placements through Canada World Youth CWY). Two were from the Ukraine, one was from Halifax and one was from Quebec. They came November 26, 2007 and worked with us until January 11, 2008. They helped mostly in LINC 1 and 2 classes but one worked in the daycare some mornings and they alternated spending one afternoon a week with the highest level LINC class.

CWY participants helped in the classroom doing general things. Reading one on one with students, Leading group work and helping in the computer lab. They taught gumboot dancing, Ukrainian dancing and games. They demonstrated making a Ukrainian dish, Kutia, and a French Canadian dish, Tourtiere. They did a presentation on recycling with three stations and students cycled through each in groups.

Teachers attended some activities outside of class. Two teachers were at their welcome party, one went to the mid-project evaluation and all three attended their farewell.

The Canada World Youth participants were very helpful. Students enjoyed extra one on one attention and small group time with leadership. The CWY were mature and well mannered. There were no personality troubles. They give us hope for their generation.

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Newsletter

- A four to six page quarterly newsletter was produced informing our members and the community about multicultural issues, cultural information, member group activities, immigration updates, and community events. Over two hundred and fifty copies were distributed at each publication.

Displays

- Set up throughout the year to profile some of the many services and activities the council provides in the community. Public Events such as: Moose Jaw Multicultural Council Open House, Sidewalk Days, Moose Jaw Exhibition ect.

Translators/Interpreters

- The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council has a list of volunteer translators/interpreters that speak 27 different languages. They are available to assist when the need arises. Various human service organizations have requested the resource list. This list was updated and added to throughout the year.

Media Coverage

- The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council took advantage of many free public service announcements throughout the year. Press releases were sent out for all events. Due to budget constraints paid newspaper advertising was at a minimum. Every effort was made throughout the year to inform the public of our goals and activities.
- Moose Jaw Multicultural Council brochures and posters were distributed throughout the year.
- The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan publications were distributed throughout the year.
- The Council participated in the Moose Jaw Exhibition Parade with a float and members walking along in ethnic clothing.
- Times Herald coverage was excellent throughout the year of special events and occasions.
- The community event calendar on Shaw Cable.

FUNDRAISERS

Motif Fundraiser

On June 9th, 2007 we held a “Fish Fry” at Bobby’s Place. The total profit was \$507.75 and all proceeds went towards Motif Festival 2007.

MJMC Bake Sale

On June 19, 2007 the MJMC held a bake sale at the Royal Bank. Lots of delicious baking was donated from the member groups and the staff at MJMC. Some of the member groups that donated baked goods were Moose Jaw Scottish Society Inc, Irish Club of Moose Jaw, Moose Jaw Jamaican Assoc. Inc, and the Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club. Two hundred and eighty five dollars and forty five cents was raised for the Moose Jaw

Multicultural Council. We would like to thank all who donated their time and wonderful baked goods. Special thanks to Sylvia Stephanson for her assistance.

EVENTS

July 2007

Citizenship Ceremony – July 1st

On Sunday July 1st, 2007 the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council along with the Moose Jaw Canada Day Committee and Citizenship & Immigration Canada held a ceremony at the Moose Jaw Cultural Centre. 26 new citizens took the Oath of Citizenship and received their citizenship certificates from voluntary presiding officer, Joyce Blake.

Various special guests included Saskatchewan’s Lieutenant Governor Gordon Barnhart, Palliser MP Dave Batters, Moose Jaw MLA’s Deb Higgins and Glen Hagel, Mayor Dale McBain and MJMC President Mary Tkach Vangsnes.

January 2008 Canadian Citizenship Ceremony

On January 30, 2008 we took all of the students to the citizenship ceremony at Cornerstone Christian School. We used the city bus for transportation and braved the -37 degree wind chill.

Citizenship judge Arthur Miki presided over the ceremony. He spoke of his ancestors' immigration to Canada over 100 years ago, and the adversity and hardships they overcame. Judge Miki described Canada as a country that embraces diversity. He welcomed all of the new citizens as full and complete members of our country.

There were several invited platform guest including our newly elected MLA Warren Michelson, MLA Deb Higgins, Mayor Dale McBain and our very own MJMC vice president Cristina Hasapis.

In total there were 43 individuals from 12 different countries who received their Canadian citizenship. A number of these new citizens were former clients and student of MJMC.

This was a very valuable experience for our students to have. Each one of our student's plans to get their Canadian citizenship in the near future, and this experience will help to prepare them for it.



MOTIF

Motif – July 13, 14 & 15



Beautiful weather, great food, and fantastic performers, what a perfect Motif weekend! Motif 2007, the 33rd anniversary, went off without a hitch. The weather was very co-operative, as always, and blessed (or maybe cursed...) us with 30 above weather. A slight breeze on Friday and no rain until Sunday night after the festival, helped make the weekend enjoyable for everyone. As for the food, it was fantastic! Each booth had surely outdone themselves this year. It was truly an unforgettable experience. This year, we had nine cultural member groups participate with two guest groups. Despite the fact that we were down 12% from last year, the park looked very full.

Our two guests groups were the Balkan and the Greek, each of which were very successful and we hope to welcome them back next year. Generally speaking, there were no major problems. Everything ran according to schedule and all visitors appeared quite pleased. Many patrons of the festival commented on the small village ambiance and the enjoyable atmosphere as well as the delicious cuisine. This year was the first year for one-day passes. Wow, what a success!

The visitors enjoyed coming down for one night of supper, or to see the opening ceremonies, without having to purchase a ticket for all three days. The headliners for this year were incredible. They each put on shows of energetic dancing, comical songs, and unbelievable instrument playing. They were as follows:

Rogaírí: A traditional Irish band with inspiration from other Celtic bands. They played instruments such as the fiddle and drums. The crowd enjoyed them very much. Their music had a tendency to stay with you for the rest of the day, as I found myself repeatedly humming it in my head.

Octopus: This was a French group of 8 men and 1 woman who would sing songs that everyone enjoyed listening to. Their songs were very comical; I especially enjoyed the one with the animal on their front lawn. They kept the audience entertained and successfully sold their CD's off to the side of the stage.

Zapovit: A Ukrainian dance group. The audience enjoyed them thoroughly and they were very entertaining with a wide variety of dance routines and costume changes.

The MC's were perfect. Reg Neiszner took on the opening ceremonies and the rest of the day on Friday. As always, he was very entertaining and helpful. Saturday we had a newcomer to Motif, Jordan Ewart. He was great; very funny and organized. Finally, Savannah McBean took on Sunday and did an amazing job at it. She even filled in with her fantastic singing ability. All in all it was very well done.

Working for the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council and Motif is unquestionably an experience I could never forget. I have learnt valuable skills and work experience that will prepare and aid me in life and all other jobs to come. It has also raised issues of multiculturalism, racism, refugees, and immigrants that I did not know existed. Meeting the various cultural groups has allowed me to meet so many friendly people and to see how much the cultures are still valued. This job will certainly create opportunities for me that I could not receive elsewhere, and hopefully, I will be able to return next summer.

Children's Cultural Program



The Children's Cultural Program was a great success this year. The activities were scheduled during the three day multicultural festival held on July 13th, 14th, and 15th. We started the program each day at 3:30 pm and finished at 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday and at 7:00 pm on Sunday. We had twenty-seven different activities planned for children who wished to participate. Some of the main highlights throughout the weekend were Romanian Egg Painting and Pin the Tail on the Donkey with Laura Catling, Scandinavian Viking Swords, Hats, and Crowns with Mary Tkach Vanges, Irish Canadian Cream Cakes with Gladys Pasquet, learning a traditional Philippine dance called Tinikling, and finally the Mexican Piñata. This year, we had approximately 160 children come out to take part during the Motif. Our sponsors for this year's children's program were CIBC, Saskatchewan Lotteries, City of Moose Jaw Race Relations Committee and SaskCulture. Each activity produced lots of excitement and eager children ready to learn about different cultures. Through this program, children meet other children from various cultural backgrounds and learn to be thankful for multiculturalism.

MOOSE JAW MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

Executives

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Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club

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Cristina Hasapis
Hellenic Association of Moose Jaw

Vice President

Debbie Kreklewich
Prosvita Ukrainian Culture Society

Treasurer

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Moose Jaw Jamaican Association

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Moose Jaw Scottish Society

Victor Morales
Philippines Ethnic Community

Past President

Robert Fielding
Prosvita Ukrainian Culture Society

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STAFF

Tara Blanchard	Executive Director
Linda Dirkson	Executive Assistant
Stacey Michel	Administrative Assistant
Laurie Hunt	Settlement Worker
Stefanie Palmer	Settlement Worker
Patricia Davies	Immigrant & Volunteer Services
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Carol Moran	LINC Teacher
Laura Butt	LINC Teacher
Jillian Orb	Evening ESL Teacher
Carla Pompu	Evening Childminding Worker
Cara McDavid	Employment Counselor
Dave Fox	Accountant
Darcy Pryor	Daycare Supervisor (maternity leave)
Diana Brennan	Daycare Supervisor
Indanah Boechler	Daycare Worker
Suzy Blacklaws	Daycare Worker
Joyce Balzer	Daycare Worker
Melvina Dzialo	Daycare Worker
Kathy Symanuk	Daycare Worker
Gladys Ortiz	Daycare Worker
Ghawhartag Shahidzadeh	Cleaner
Wayne Dirkson	Maintenance
Keith McCaig	Happy Valley Park Maintenance
Karina Zelaya	Spanish Teacher

Substitute Teachers:

Hilda Reed ** Cheryl ReynoldsDawnica Mathieson**Helen Todd**Don Adair
Shauna Laubman-Ruff**Greg Bergren**Amanda Gerdes**

Summer Staff:

Lauren DushinskiCodie Endicott**Kelley Hunter**Heather Gower**Christian Lohé**

School Break Program Staff:

Stephanie GreenTeryn Burgess**Kailee Brennan**

Farewells:

Carol Percy	Marthlyne Gbelia
Wendy Goodnough	Patti Davis
Pamela Clothier	Fatta Bonah

AFFILIATION

Affiliations with other organizations

- Canadian Council for Refugees
- Moose Jaw Arts In Motion
- Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce
- Moose Jaw Canada Day Committee
- Moose Jaw Race Relations Committee
- Moose Jaw Settlement and Integration Coordinating Committee
- Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies
- Saskatchewan Council for Educators of Non-English Speakers
- Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society
- Saskatchewan Literacy Network
- Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages
- Saskatchewan Settlement and Integration Planning Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge the following major funders for the 2007-2008 year.

- Citizenship & Immigration Canada
- Advanced Education and Employment and Labour
- Service Canada
- Canada Saskatchewan Career & Employment Services
- Moose Jaw Multicultural Council
- Ministry of Education

HAPPY VALLEY PARK

For Happy Valley Park

- City of Moose Jaw
- Moose Jaw Multicultural Council

MOTIF SPONSERS

For Motif Moose Jaw Multicultural Festival 2007

- **BL Software**
- **Caribbean Association**
- **Chartier Hotels Ltd**
- **CIBC**
- **City Of Moose Jaw**
- **Conexus**
- **CPR**
- **Bombardier**
- **Brian Swanson**
- **Folgizan Agencies**
- **Global TV**
- **Hi Tech Cartridge Recyclers**
- **IPSCO**
- **Moose Jaw Scottish Society**
- **Moose Jaw Romanian Society**
- **Nick's Place**
- **Tim Horton's**
- **Tomas Cook Family Restaurant**
- **Tool Crib Ltd.**
- **Total Exposure**
- **Tunnels of Moose Jaw**
- **Village Lincoln**
- **Wal-Mart Canada Corp.**
- **Wells Camera and Sound**

- **Western Development Museum**
- **Western Dodge Ltd.**
- **Windmill Greenhouse**
- **Wrapture Day Spa and Salon**
- **Yvette Moore Art Gallery**
- **Zeke's Jewellers**
- **Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation**
- **Sask Culture**
- **Sask Energy**
- **Scotia Bank**
- **SGI**
- **Southwest Tourism**
- **Prosvita Ukrainian Culture**

MOOSE JAW MULTICULTURAL
COUNCIL MEMBER GROUPS

AFRICAN GROUP OF MOOSE JAW
CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF
MOOSE JAW

CHINESE BENEVOLENT
ASSOCIATION

EAST INDIAN ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN SOCIETY
OF MOOSE JAW

IRISH CLUB OF MOOSE JAW

MOOSE JAW HELLENIC GROUP

LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF
MOOSE JAW

MOOSE JAW AFGHANIAN
COMMUNITY

MOOSE JAW JAMAICAN
ASSOCIATION

MOOSE JAW ROMANIAN
CANADIAN SOCIETY
MOOSE JAW SCANDINAVIAN CLUB
MOOSE JAW SCOTTISH SOCIETY
INC.
PHILIPPINES COMMUNITY OF
MOOSE JAW
PROSVITA UKRAINIAN CULTURAL
SOCIETY
SOUTHERN PLAINS METIS LOCAL
160

THE FOLLOWING GROUP REPORTS WERE
RECEIVED

CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF MOOSE JAW

In March of 2007, the Caribbean Association made its annual donation to Kinsmen Telemiracle.

The first meeting of the year was held on March 25. Some preliminary planning was done for Motif 2007, as well as for the Annual General meeting to be held in April.

At the Annual General Meeting, held on April 22, 2007, additional planning was done for motif. It was decided that we would co-sponsor the Caribe Folk Arts Dance Troupe from Regina, in conjunction with the Moose Jaw Jamaican Association. Election of officers also took place at this meeting. All the incumbent officers were re-elected by acclamation, as follows:

President-Dr. Ramdath Changar

Vice-President- Yvonne Bernard

Secretary- Allan Dill

Treasurer- Ken Pilsworth

In May the Club sent flowers to Alan and Daphnie Dill in memory of Alan's mother.

Another meeting was held in June to finalize preparations for Motif. Motif 2007 was held on July 13, 14, and 15. Food served at the Caribbean Association included jerk chicken, curried chicken, rice and peas, shish kebabs, beef patties and vegetable patties. A variety of West Indian drinks as well as domestic drinks was also served. On Saturday, July 14, the Caribe Folk Arts Dance Troupe from Regina, co-sponsored by the Caribbean Association and the Moose Jaw Jamaican Association, performed on stage.

A Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue was held for Club members and their families on August 19, at the home of President Dr. Ramdath Changar and his wife Beena.

In September, the Club sent flowers to Hugh Boyd in memory of his wife Joyce Boyd. Joyce and Hugh were among the founding members of the Club when it was formed in 1991.

The final meeting of the year was held on October 28, where a report on Motif 2008 was presented, and plans were made for the annual Family Christmas party.

The Family Christmas Party was held on December 9. The Club provided supper for members and their families, and gifts were distributed to members' children of elementary school age.

The Executive of the Caribbean Association would like to express its appreciation to all its members for their hard work in 2007. We would also like to thank the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council and its member groups for their cooperation over the past year.

From the Executive:

Dr. Ramdath Changar, President

Yvonne Bernard, Vice-President

Ken Pilsworth, Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN SOCIETY OF MOOSE JAW

JANUARY 26

Knights Of Columbus Hall

We had a nurse give a 20 minute presentation. Also a Philippine dance performed for us and we had a potluck supper.

FEBRUARY 20

Had a meeting to discuss the upcoming IWD Celebration.

FEBRUARY 21

Nazmia attended the MJMC meeting for the 2007 Motif.

FEBRUARY 22

Had election meeting, and further discussion for IWD.

MARCH 8

IWD Celebration held at ISEV Hall, coffee and dessert was served. Had a Tai Chi presentation and a guest speaker.

APRIL 19

Meeting focusing on cancer month.

JUNE

Potluck supper

JULY

Involved with Motif

OCTOBER 25

Work for Widows meeting with Jodi Faith, at Houston Pizza.

NOVEMBER 7

Second meeting was held to discuss Work for Widows night, sale of jewelry and dessert night.

NOVEMBER 14

Work for Widows fundraiser was a great success, held at St. Andrews Church.

DECEMBER 5

Potluck supper held at St. Andrews church, guest speaker from Regina Arthritis Society.

DECEMBER 13

Jodi Faith concert at May Wilson Theater

IRISH CLUB OF MOOSE JAW

The Irish Club has had another good year together even though some of our members had to spend more time with ailing parents. Several members have had trips to Ireland to visit with family still there.

We still donate Christmas and Easter hampers and gifts to a single mother and her children. When we visit it's amazing to see how much the kids have grown!

Our busiest time is always working at Motif, but it is also the time that brings our group closer together as we work in the park and eat our way through every group's menus!

President – Carolyn Dormer

Vice President – Vanessa Zeiden Schnell

Secretary – Dawn Aiken Hicks

Treasurer – Gladys Pasquet

MOOSE JAW HELLENIC GROUP

The members of Arcadia, In Conjunction with the Moose Jaw Hellenic Group, are very happy to return to Moose Jaw's Motif festival! We thank our Greek friends and relatives for providing Greek food at Motif 2007.

Our musical members, who formed Arcadia in 2007, have been busy promoting their latest album. "Beyond Forever" which has been broadcast on the radio stations around the world. Our friends reunited with friends at Toronto's Greek Town Danforth Music Festival in the summer 2007. Ioana Ligdas attended from Chicago.

This past winter, Arcadia performed for a free Anti-Racism Get-To-Gether, in conjunction with Regina's Multicultural Activities. Some younger members, children of the band members performed with them. We are looking forward to our future, including the up and coming young performers.

Our President Cristina and her husband Niko celebrated their 2008 in Greece, and also their 20th wedding anniversary.

We will be returning to Happy Valley in July 2008, with our mouth watering souvlaki, drizzled with our World Famous Sauce from the Greek gods, as well as our Baklava, Frappe Coffee, and many other surprises.

Stop by and experience "A Piece of Greece" in Happy Valley!

**Report from the President of the Moose Jaw Hellenic Group
Cristina Hasapis**

MOOSE JAW JAMAICAN ASSOCIATION

The 2007 season was a successful one for the Moose Jaw Jamaican Association.

We participated in and were host to many events. One of the many was the Annual Easter Hop. Per usual, our members prepared some delicious dishes such as, Curry Chicken, Spicy Jerk Chicken, and Jamaican Style Stewed Beef. We also served our oh so famous Jamaican Rum Punch.

Our entertainment for the night consisted of easy listening, a performance by the lovely and talented Savannah McBean, along with a very energetic dance performance by the Caribe Dance Troupe of Regina. The night ended with our dance that always lasts until the early hours of the morning. It was a very successful event.

In July 2007, we participated in the Motif. Our pavilion was a great success, we had family and friends join in and enjoy the festivities. We served our famous Jamaican Style Beef Patties, along with other traditional dishes.

For entertainment we had the Caribe Folk dancers from Regina, Savannah McBean also sang as well as M.C.'d the event for one day. All together the audience enjoyed themselves.

We also had a Christmas party this year; it went very well, just a small gathering for family and friends. It was a good time; we all enjoyed ourselves and set off the Christmas season right!!

Submitted by Savannah McBean

MOOSE JAW SCANDINAVIAN CLUB 2007-2008

The Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club was formed in 1974. The bowling league began 1975-2005.

EXECUTIVE 2008

PRESIDENT	Sylvia STEPHANSON
VICE PRESIDENT	Dorothy OLYNEK
Secretary Treasurer	Loretta WRIGHT
Directors (2008)	Gustie HAYSTEAD
	Dan LISTOE
	Lynn ORTEN
	Evelee WENAAS
Committees (2008)	CHAIRPERSONS
SOCIAL	Dagny MARSHALL
Public relations	Sylvia STEPHANSON
Membership	Loretta WRIGHT
Multicultural/motif	Mary VAGSNES
Telephoning	Gustie HAYSTEAD

The Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club meets on the last Monday of every month at the Cosmo Centre 7:30 pm (except July, August, December).

ENTERTAINMENT AFTER MEETINGS

VIDEOS	Alaskan Railways
	Best of Norway
	Saskatchewan's "Seven Wonders"
	Telephone Scams
DVD	Mayan Civilization

DONATIONS

Telemiracle
Royal Canadian Legion
Festival of Trees – Moose Jaw Health Foundation
Times Herald/ Salvation Army Stocking Fund
Moose Jaw Transition House

EVENTS/SOCIALS

MARCH 8 – International Women’s Society Desserts and Entertainment; Gustie Haystead, Lynn Orten, and Sylvia Stephanson represented Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club.

APRIL 19 – Multicultural Bake Sale – “ Thanks” to Members who baked and worked; Lillian Brown, Rayma Craig, Dorothy Olynek, Dagny Marshall, Sigrid Thompson, Loretta Wright, and Sylvia Stephanson.

JUNE 4 – Cleaned up Scandinavian Garden, Happy Valley Park – Dagny Marshall, Dorothy Olynek, Mary Vangsnes, and Sylvia Stephanson.

JULY 13, 14, 15 MOTIF – Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club sponsored Kristen Horden and sold wristbands.

JULY 26 – Annual picnic at Happy Valley Park – A success with 40 people enjoying a great meal, visiting, playing bingo; the weather also cooperated this year.

SEPTEMBER 15 - 8th Annual Scandinavian Day – Ethnic items – flags, dolls, books, table cloths, trolls, ect displayed. Members donated ethnic dainties and some wore their ethnic costumes.

Door Prize “Fruit Basket” won by Marion Tolley. A success with 72 people attending.

SEPTEMBER 19 – Moose Jaw Race Relations Awareness Lunch – Dorothy Olynek represented the Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club.

NOVEMBER 11 – Remembrance Day – Dorothy Olynek and Lynn Orten dressed in Norwegian costume laid the Cross and Poppies on behalf of the Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club.

NOVEMBER 24 – “Festival Of Trees” – “A Red Hot Holiday” – donated an Angel Night Light and the Moose Jaw Health Foundation received \$150.00 for this donation.

DECEMBER 1 – Annual Christmas Party – present and past members with families – 87 people attended with 10 “wee” ones anxiously waiting for Santa. Grace was said by Herman Simrose.

A great meal of turkey and trimmings, cabbage rolls, perogies, and desserts. Santa (Emmet Nelson) gave gifts to the children.

Everyone received oranges and chocolates. A “GOOD TIME”.

DECEMBER 6 – Finland's Independence Day celebrated with their flag displayed on City Hall.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

50th Gordon and Irene MARZOLF
60th Ed and Mary PAYSEN

BIRTHDAYS

85th Don BATEMAN
Rayma CRAIG
Norma HANTLEMAN
Emmet NELSON

90th Lillian BROWN
Mabel HOLDEN
Howard MARZOLF

These members received their LIFE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES, CARDS, and ROSE BOWLS for their 90th Birthdays.

FIFTH GENERATION – Melba MOLDE

NEW MEMBERS – Bob BRAND
Fran TULLEY

The Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club lost the following members-

Elsie BENSON
Letita COATES
John HANSON
Cecil KWANSNICA
Gordon MARZOLF
Percy MURRAY
Emma OLSON
Dora SCHICK

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia Stephanson, President
MOOSE JAW SCANDINAVIAN CLUB
April 25, 2008

PROSVITA UKRAINIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

Prosvita Ukrainian Cultural Society annual report for the year 2007.

We had 10 monthly meetings and an Annual General Meeting. We have 30 members in our organization. Some of the events we participated in this year are:

JANUARY 2007

We held Malanka (Ukrainian New Years), held at the Church of Our Lady, which is always a fun and successful event.

FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL 2007

We get plans in motion for Canada day and Motif, food and entertainment.

MAY 2007

We planted flowers in our bed in Happy Valley and maintained it all summer.

JUNE 2007

We had work parties to get ready for Canada Day and Motif. Sylvia Gibson gave a presentation on the Canada/Ukrainian Youth Exchange.

JULY 2007

All members showed up to work and enjoy Motif.

JULY 2007

Prosvita wind up party was held at the hall at Luciak's farm, where the food and entertainment is great.

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 2007

Plans were discussed for our involvement for the fall programs.

NOVEMBER 2007

Attended the Canada World Youth Exchange youth group welcome party.

DECEMBER 2007

Many members also attended the Youth Exchange youth group xmas party, Prosvita also held their own Christmas party and exchanged gifts. We finalized plans for Malanka. Through the year we gave donations to several charitable organizations, such as cancer, Salvation Army, Xmas fund, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Telemiracle, and Taris Schevchenko.

Our congratulations & condolence committee sent out get well and sympathy cards and gifts to several of our members.

President

Jean Tkatch