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## MOOSE JAW MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER—SEPTEMBER 2007

### Motif 2007

Beautiful weather, great food, and fantastic performers, what a perfect Motif weekend! Motif 2007, the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary, was very successful. This year, we welcomed nine member groups and two guest groups into the park. The weather was very co-operative, as always, and continued to shine bright for each performance. Many of the patrons to the festival commented on the small village ambiance and the enjoyable atmosphere as well as the delicious cuisine.

The headliners for this year were incredible. They each put on shows of energetic dancing, comical songs, and unbelievable instrument playing. To start Saturday off, we welcomed **Rogaírí**, a traditional Irish band from Regina. Later in the day, **Zapovit** from Regina spun onto the stage with their Ukrainian dancing. Lastly, performing on Sunday, **Octopus** from Gravelbourg warmed up the audience with their French singing.

Of course, Motif could not be as successful as it is without the many sponsors that support the festival. Gold sponsors for Motif 2007 include: 800 CHAB, Castle Building Centres, Country 100, CTV, Global T.V. Regina, Harvard Broadcasting, Hopkins Dining Parlour, Saskatchewan Lotteries, S.C.E.S, and SGI Canada.

On behalf of the Motif committee, we would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with set-up, takedown and all the other odd jobs that were necessary in order to ensure a flawless Motif. Without your continued support and contributions, Motif would not be the incredible success it is today.

Working as the Festival Assistant for Motif is unquestionably an experience I could never forget. Throughout this unbelievable opportunity, I have learnt many valuable skills and gained so much work experience. Meeting the various cultural groups has allowed me to meet so many friendly people and to see how important it is to promote the acceptance of diversity.

Lauren Dushinski  
2007 Motif Festival Assistant

## Citizenship Ceremony—July 1st 2007

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.

## Moose Jaw Multicultural Council AGM

MJMC held their AGM on Wednesday June 20th, 2007. Elections were as follows: President: Mary Tkach Vangsnes, Vice President: Cristina Hasapis, Treasurer: Debbie Krekliwch, Secretary: Gladys Pasquet. Directors: Yvonne Bernard, George Whyte, Vanessa Schnell, Russ McKnight and Victor Morales.

## Linc Students Gardening Project

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.



## Licensed Day Care

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Daycare offers a daily program of fun filled educational activities designed to let children explore and experiment while enjoying the learning process. This enriched learning environment includes creative hands on activities such as theme days, art, music, literacy, language and fine and gross motor activities. Field trips to neighboring parks and playgrounds offer a variety of outdoor activities. Our daycare is now fully licensed and we are able to provide services for those eligible for subsidy. Our quality child care program is offered to the children of newcomer families to Canada. For more information contact Diana @ 693-4677 or [mjmcdaycare@sasktel.net](mailto:mjmcdaycare@sasktel.net).

## Host Program offers Ladies Night

The monthly Ladies Night continues to grow. They are held the third Tuesday of every month. We have done rubber stamping, wallpaper crafts and paper punching. Thanks to Supreme Basics and General Paint for their donations. Special thanks to Shauna Mikuliak for her rubber stamping ideas.



## School Aged Children's Program

The 2007 MJMC School Aged Summer Program ran from July 3rd through to August 24th. During that time twenty five children, from various parts of the world, learned both language and life skills through activities, games, crafts and field trips. Some highlights of the program included the trips to the fire hall, the Western Development Museum and Galaxy Cinema. Upon the completion of the program all of the staff and the children agreed that the summer was full of great fun and a complete success.

## BEGINNER SPANISH CLASSES

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council will be offering Spanish classes instructed by Karina Zelaya starting September 11, 2007. Space is limited. For more information please call 693-4677.

## MJMC WELCOMES NEWCOMERS

The first client of the year was very exciting for me, we reunited a Liberian man with his family that he hadn't seen for 5 years and there were many happy tears (myself included). The Sudanese community has now grown by a family of 4 and another family of 5 and they are adjusting well with the help of the community who has embraced them and made them feel at home. We had a family of 5 from Liberia who's brother lives in Moose Jaw and they are all happy to be together again. On June 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 we had 4 staff members who were awesome and volunteered to come to Regina and help me pick up 24 Karen refugees from northern Thailand and got them settled into temporary accommodations. I am happy to say the Karen's are now into permanent homes and are going to school. They all say they like Canada very much and are integrating quite well into Canada.

Submitted by: Laurie Hunt

## Upcoming Events

September 3—Labour Day—MJMC Office Closed  
 September 11—Spanish Classes Begin  
 September 15—Host Program Picnic  
 September 19—MJMC & Motif Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
 October 8 - Thanksgiving Day—MJMC Office Closed  
 October 17 - MJMC & Motif Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
 November 12 - Remembrance Day(Nov. 11th)—MJMC Office Closed

## New Agency seeking Internationally-Trained Professionals

SCIP (Saskatchewan Capacity of Internationally-Trained Professionals) was recently formed and funded by the provincial and federal government. This province wide organization will play an active role in the integration of internationally trained professionals into the provincial labour market, helping to meet the labour shortage, particularly in areas such as health, engineering, IT and administration. Immigrant professionals who have received a degree, certificate or diploma outside of Canada are urged to contact the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association (SIA) office @ 1702—20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK. S7M 0Z9. For more information visit their website @ [www.saskinternationals.ca](http://www.saskinternationals.ca).

## Host Program Fall Event

The Host Program is pleased to invite all Host Volunteers, MJMC board of directors and all staff to the annual Fall Picnic. It will be held in Happy Valley Park on Saturday September 15th from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### - - BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT - -

On July 12, 2007 Darcy Pryor (Daycare Supervisor) and her husband Jared became proud new parents of a baby girl, Brooke Rose Marie.

## Farewell to Settlement Assistant

MJMC says farewell to Pam Clothier who was a Settlement Assistant at our agency. Pam was a welcome addition to our staff and we wish her all the best in her academic endeavors in Ireland.

If you are interested in volunteering for a Host Program event or as a volunteer matched with a newcomer family, contact Patricia @ 693-4677 or [mjmulti@sasktel.net](mailto:mjmulti@sasktel.net)

### Please feel free to contact us at:

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