



MOOSE JAW MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL JUNE NEWSLETTER 2009

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35th Anniversary Celebrations

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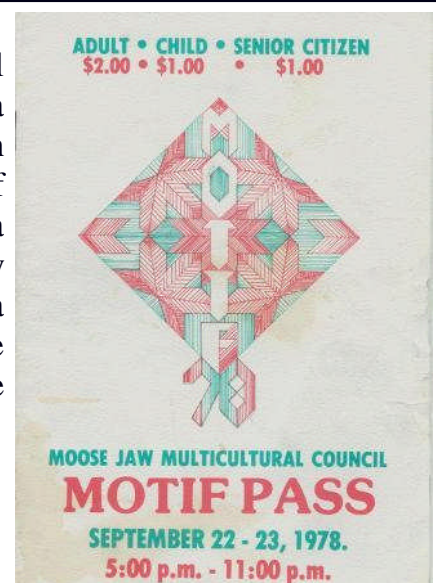
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This year the Moose Jaw Multicultural Festival marks 35 years in Moose Jaw! Formed by a group of volunteers in 1974, Motif has grown to meet the ever increasing popularity. Motif started as a promotion of culture on Canada Day and has grown to a very popular three-day outdoor festival held every July. This will be a year to celebrate the accomplishments of the many volunteers and staff that have made MJMC and Motif the successes they are today.

Picture right: the passport issued to patrons attending the Motif celebrations circa 1978.



Ray Boughen, MP for Palliser presented a \$10,000.00 cheque to Leo Shull board member for Motif and Russ McKnight, chairman for Motif. This grant is part of the Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Fund under the Canadian Heritage Fund designed specifically for heritage, cultural and musical events.

Language Training

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council offers daytime and evening English classes for eligible newcomers and citizens. For more information please Contact MJMC (306)-693-4677



Music Festival



In month of March students and teachers of the LINC program attended the Moose Jaw Music Festival at Zion United Church. We heard children play the piano. They had been studying “In the Heart of the City” music program at Prince Arthur Community School. Several of the children who played were from families with present or past ties to the Multicultural Council. Students were introduced to the idea of music lessons for children and how the music festival works.

Spring is in the Hair

This month children’s interests where peaked looking for Spring. Raindrops, umbrellas, and sunshine where all radiant. We also enjoyed exploring and playing in the mud, especially with our new friends “the worms.” The children were delighted to do some spring planting of their “Grass Heads”, eagerly watching for the first sign of growth.



Occupational Health and Safety Week



May 3 to May 9, 2009 was North American Occupational Health and Safety Week. On May 7, 2009 MJMC Career & Employment Services Program hosted an Occupational Health and Safety presentation to raise awareness and celebrate our commitment to workplace safety. Thirty-three newcomers to Canada and Temporary Foreign Workers attended this event, which was presented by Dean Kush and Guy Richards from Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Dean and Guy spoke about issues such as: rights and responsibilities as a worker in Saskatchewan (in terms of workplace safety), the importance of timely safety training and the role of Occupational Health and Safety Committees. A package that was designed especially for newly arrived immigrants and temporary foreign workers in Saskatchewan was distributed to all who attended.

Budget Address

On Wednesday, March 18, 2009, the MLA's had invited three students from the LINC 3 class along with Laura and Stefanie to the Legislature in Regina. Having tickets available for the Budget Address was of great excitement. The students enjoyed watching the parliamentary process at work and hearing the financial plans for the Province. They found the language challenging at times, but were glad for the chance to see and hear the process. Some of the students had been to the legislature before when it was empty, but it was a new experience to see the Budget Address in full function.

Pictured right to left: Laura, Ray Kay, Mee Hser, Stefanie, Abdella, Deb Higgins, MLA.



A Blast From the Past



Picture left: Motif at the Civic Center circa 1981.

Come to Motif Moose Jaw Multicultural Festival July 10, 11 & 12, 2009 to experience entertainment, mouth watering ethnic cuisine and lots of fun !!



Below: Panoramic view of Happy Valley Park



Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club

In 1994, The Moose Jaw Scandinavian Club formed the “VIKING” Dance Group ranging in age from 3-84 years young! The Vikings dressed in Ethnic Costumes while entertaining and assisting in the booth selling dainties such as Rosettes, Lefse, Sandbakkels, Kromkakers, Gingersnaps, , plus other “Goodies” to numerous to mention at Motif from 1994-2000.



Daycare Director Completes ECE II Training



Diana Brennan recently completed ECE II training through distance education at SIAST. Due to daycare regulations, Diana is required to complete ECE III training for her position as daycare director. Diana will continue to work towards the completion of an ECE III. Funding for her courses was provided by the Ministry of Education and Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. Diana has been on staff since November 2005 and she has been the daycare director since July 2007. Congratulations Diana on your hard work and accomplishment!

Renovations at MJMC

MJMC has been undergoing Renovations recently to accommodate the staff growth and expand our licensed daycare. Effective April 1st MJMC signed an additional lease with St. Andrew’s Church to rent 1500 square feet on the main floor of the church. Renovations started mid April to divide the space into offices and workstations. The new space will be able to accommodate 9 employees. On June 15 our new space will be operational. The office will be located on the main floor as well as the Executive Director’s office, Motif, Finance, The Host Program, and Immigrant Services. MJMC would like to thank St. Andrew’s church for their support and patience during the renovations. Next will be renovations to the second floor to accommodate the daycare expansion as well as moves for the employment program, settlement , and LINC classroom. We hope everyone will take a minute to stop in and see our new offices. An official open house will take place in the fall when the second floor renovations are complete.

Career and Employment Services

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council's Career and Employment Services (CES) Program has recently restructured its programming. As of May 11, 2009 five separate employment related courses will be accessible to all newcomers to Canada (focusing on, but not limited to, newcomer's within the past 5 years), ages 16 and over, who experience cultural and /or literacy barriers to employment. The new programs will offer practical information in the following areas:

- ◆ **Workable Life Skills**– This 4 day course will provide newcomers with useful information on Canadian life skills and how they relate to obtaining employment. Participants will discover and examine possible barriers to employment and learn new techniques that will help them live a balanced life.
- ◆ **Understanding the Canadian Workplace**– This 4 day course will provide newcomers with useful information about understanding the Canadian workplace. As a part of the program, participants will learn about Canadian culture vs. their own cultures, Saskatchewan Labour Standards, Occupational Health and Safety and Human Rights.
- ◆ **Planning Your Career**-This 4 day course will provide newcomers useful information and the ability to plan their own careers. While exploring different “paths to employment”, the participants will recognize the value differing work roles; whether in the workforce, at home, in the community or at school.
- ◆ **Resume and Cover Letter Writing**– This 4 day course will provide newcomers useful information about the importance of a resume, references, and a cover letter.
- ◆ **Preparing for Job Search and Interviews**– This 4 day course will provide newcomers useful information that will prepare them to search for job advertisements, access the hidden job market, apply for job openings and learn what to expect from the interview process.

For course dates and times or more information regarding Career and Employment Services please contact:

Stefanie Palmer
Employment Coordinator
60 Athabasca St. E. Moose Jaw, Sk
306-693-4677
stefanie.palmer@mjmcinc.ca

Upcoming Events

June 18– Hometown Parade

June 20– World Refugee Day

July 1- Office Closed– Canada Day

July 10-12– Motif 2009– 35 Years In Celebration

World Refugee Day June 20, 2009



Real People, Real Needs

Despite efforts the many needs of refugees worldwide are far from being met. Behind the unmet needs are not just numbers, but real people with real stories. On World Refugee Day, let's not forget that some day in the future any one of us could be knocking at a stranger's door hoping to find a safe shelter. We should extend refugees the same kind of welcome we would like to receive.

Learner's Conference

LINC 2-5 students had a great time attending a Learners' Conference in Swift Current which was offered concurrently with the "Sask. Council for Educators or Non-English Speakers" (SCENES) conference May 1-2. Carol Moran has volunteered as the organizer of the Conference for the past 2 years and both have been excellent, much appreciated events. All of the expenses were funded by a grant from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Labour and Immigration. Here is one student's comment:

I think about the conference, it was very important to hear the speaker J. Merelle. She explained to the newcomers that you can be yourself here, but not only that. She spoke about what we can do by ourselves in the future and our future country. All this information was spoken in a slow English language. It was possible for us to understand from the beginning to the end of the conference; it was even possible to make new friendships. By: Dolores Torres

Host Program

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 patricia.davies@mjmcinc.ca

Please feel free to contact us at:

Moose Jaw Multicultural Council Inc.

60 Athabasca St. E Moose Jaw, SK S6H 0L2

Tel: (306) 693-4677 Fax: (306) 694-0477 Email: reception@mjmcinc.ca

URL: www.mjmcinc.ca