

Spring Fever Edition

MJMC Employment Services Update

It has been a busy start to the year for Employment Services at the MJMC and Alia Lynch has now taken over the position of Employment Coordinator following Monica Taylor's departure from the organization. Overall, she has been settling into the position nicely and is really enjoying herself. "I really enjoy the position," said Alia. "It has been quite busy this past month so I have had the chance to learn a lot through hands on experience."

So what has been keeping her so wrapped up? Well Alia is currently in the midst of leading the newly realized Employment Workshop that now runs for a more intensive and focused 8 weeks instead of the previous 12 weeks it took. Classes work to prepare students for the workforce by helping them build self esteem, communication, handle conflict,

understand Canadian Workplaces (Labor Standards, OH&S, Human Rights Commission), Employee/Employer roles and expectations, career planning, resume development, cover letter development, job search tools, and job interviews.

Students also get the opportunity to get training geared toward their career goals such as CPR/First Aid, WHMIS, and Safe Food Handling.

Although the current class is full, a second workshop will run from April 22nd to June 14th and a third will take place from September 9th to November 1st. Furthermore, for the first time a summer workshop geared toward young adults will be held from July 2nd-12th.

For more information call 306-693-4677 or email employment@mjmccinc.ca.



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"The Gold Bracelet" Film Screening



Kavi Raz as Ajan, in The Gold Bracelet. Directed by Kavi Raz. Image Courtesy of K. R. Films Hollywood.

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council and the Saskatchewan Festival of Words are partnering to host a special screening of "The Gold Bracelet". Writer and Director Kavi Raz will also be in attendance for a Q&A after the film. Set against the backdrop of the September 11th, 2001 tragedy, The Gold Bracelet follows the aftermath of the attack and how it effects the lives of one family.

Spearheaded by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, the Gold Bracelet film tour will also be stopping in Prince Albert on March 20th, Saskatoon on April 8th,

Humboldt on April 9th, Yorkton on April 10th, Regina on April 12th, Weyburn on April 13th, and Estevan on April 14th.

Kavi Raz has appeared as an actor in over 60 titles since the late 70s including movies Pet Sematary as well as television shows such as M*A*S*H, General Hospital, The A Team, Star Trek: The Next Generation, Home Improvement, L.A. Law, Chicago Hope, NYPD Blue, Crossing Jordan, JAG, Ugly Betty, House, and most recently, Touch. He is probably best know for playing Dr. Vijay Kochar in 51 episodes of St. Elsewhere alongside Howie Mandel, David Morse, Denzel Washington, Bruce Greenwood, and Ronnie Cox.

Kavi has also worked behind the scenes as a producer on the films Gurdian, Unrest, I Am Singh, and Dysfunktion. The Gold Bracelet was Raz's debut as a writer and director. He would later write/direct a second film, Rising Shores.

Kavi's entire filmography can be viewed at www.imdb.com by searching his name.

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WITH
ANNOUNCEMENTS,
JOB POSTINGS, AND
MORE!**

City and Province Rallies to Help Newcomers in Need

Help for Halimo

Halimo Rure and her five children Qamar Ali, Mohammed Ali, Marian Ali, Nasteho Ali, and Said Ali were awoken late at night on Saturday, December 8 by the unsettling sound of a blaring alarm reverberating off of the walls of their home on Oxford Street West. Though initially a little dazed, Halimo's maternal instincts quickly kicked in and through the thick smoke she was able to get all of her children out of the house before any serious harm came to them. However, once outside the family was faced with a new threat as their frantic escape left them no time to bundle up or grab proper footwear. Underdressed and out in the cold, neighbors who had been awoken by all the commotion came to the family's aid by supplying them with jackets and blankets to ensure they did not freeze. Needless to say, Halimo was extremely grateful for all of the aid she and her children received that night as well as the continued support from not only local individuals and businesses but individuals all across the province over the weeks that followed.

According to the Moose Jaw Fire Department, not only were Halimo's quick actions and the aid of neighbors substantial in ensuring everybody's safety but having a working smoke detector absolutely

did save lives that night.

Saskatchewan Steps Up

Over the weeks following the tragic fire, locals and individuals from all around the province came together to help Halimo and her children. Countless donations of clothing, appliances, furniture, food, and other household items were made in an effort to help the Rure family get back on their feet. Cash donations

were also made which went an extremely long way in seeing that they could afford to rent a new place. The donated items that were not needed by Halimo.

No Donation is Wasted

Here at the MJMC, no donation is ever wasted. You can rest easy knowing that any clothing, furniture, appliances, toys, or anything else that you donate to the organization goes directly to the newcomer clients themselves or to the programs and services we offer.

Take clothing for example. The MJMC receives hundreds of clothing items throughout the year for every season. The items that are not directly passed onto newcomer families are put up for sale at a monthly "thrift store" where English language students are able to practice customer service/sales skills in selling the items. Everything is put up for 5 cents to 20 cents and any money raised is directly put back into the Language In-

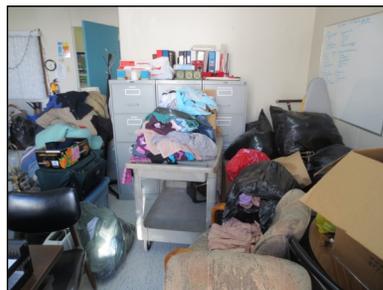
struction for Newcomers program to purchase materials not otherwise funded by the program itself..

If you would like to make a donation feel free to stop by the office at any time. For large items please call ahead first at 306-693-4677.



Halimo Rure (right) and her daughter Qamar Ali (left)

Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations from around the province who have been kind enough to donate clothing, furniture, and cash to Halimo's family and other newcomers seeking aid!



MJMC Partners with Transition House to Promote Children's Program

This past Thursday, November 22nd the MJMC Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program partnered with the Moose Jaw Transition House (MJTH) to give a special presentation to newcomer families about abuse and the general violence children are exposed to on a daily basis. Christa Sandford, MJMC SWIS worker at Prince Arthur School, and JoAnna Woode of the MJTH were connected by a recommendation from a fellow staff member who thought a partnership between the two might prove beneficial.

It didn't take much convincing for Christa to pursue the proposed collaboration, she had heard of the work JoAnna was responsible for and admired her for it. "We are lucky enough to live in a place where services such as The Children's Program are available to families in Moose Jaw," said Christa Sandford, the SWIS worker at Prince Arthur School. "Not accessing them or using them to our benefit is a loss for JoAnna and the community. These services exist because the need is there."

Both Christa and JoAnna were a little nervous about the presentation at first as they were unsure if some of the clients and students who were not entirely comfortable with their English speaking skills would be able to benefit from their seminar, but they were pleasantly surprised by just how receptive everybody was toward learning about the Children's Program service.

It is Christa's opinion that children nowadays are exposed to far too much violence on a regular basis

one whose life has been significantly affected by the brutal acts of other students while they were at school. Then you hear about a victim of bullying coming to school and bringing a gun and rounds of ammunition with him/her." Unfortunately, Christa's fears and concerns about these sorts of possibilities are not unfounded. Although it has been around for generations, bullying and violence at school has undoubtedly become a much larger and more dangerous threat than ever before.

As such, services like the Children's program are hugely important assets to families.

"If there is a program out there to assist children in handling this exposure, especially when the parents and children are desperately in need, I am thankful for people like JoAnna making those contacts and doing the work she does to make a difference."

If you personally are experiencing any sort of physical or verbal abuse, be it at home, school, or work, and you need somebody to talk to call the MJTH 24-hour crisis line at 306-693-6511. Kids and teens can visit www.kidshelpphone.ca or call 1-800-668-6868. If you feel you are in immediate danger try to leave the house or situation then either dial 911 or call the Moose Jaw Police Department at 694-7600.



between their school friends, television, video games, and the news, let alone in the unfortunate situation there is also bullying or domestic violence involved. This issue hits especially close to home for here as she has a young daughter who constantly surprises her with the things she says. "Despite how I feel about it, and what I want my child to know and see growing up, [my daughter] will be exposed to violence by others," Christa explained. "I don't have to say how serious this problem is now a days. It seems you can't look at a magazine, newspaper, or internet site without hearing about some-



MJMC Students Clean up Plaxton's Lake

On September 21st, roughly 15 MJMC students, from all three Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) classes, spent an hour of their afternoon partnered up with Grade 4 children from Ecole St. Margaret to partake in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup (GCSC) out at Plaxton's Lake in Wakamow Park. The GCSC began in 1994 when a small group of volunteers at the Vancouver Aquarium took it upon themselves to clean up a local beach near Stanley Park. Word quickly travelled about their cleanup efforts and by 1997 over 400 individuals had joined on across 20 different sites around British Columbia. Over the past 18 years it has since become a nationwide initiative practiced by hundreds of thousands of people around the world in communities both big and small.

Out at the river supervising the MJMC students were LINC teachers Laura Butt, Doug Cassidy, and Carol Moran, who worked closely with grade 4 teacher Lynn Dube from Ecole St. Margaret. "Neither



Plaxton's Lake can be quite beautiful when it is clean. Photo credit www.wakamow.com.

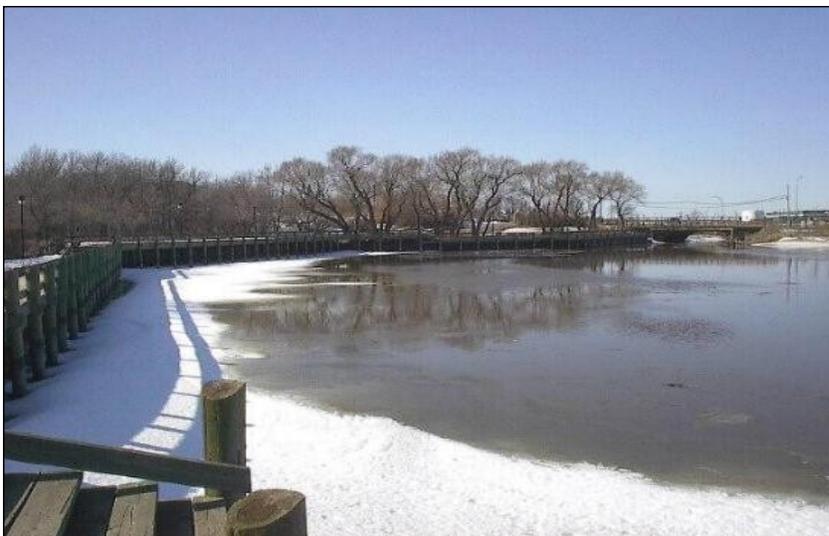
group could have done the project on [their] own," said Laura Butt, a LINC 3 instructor at the MJMC. "We needed their reading and writing ability for filling in the charts that get tallied for the national totals, and they could do way more with adults helping gather trash. [The kids] stayed on task better with adult partners, too."

All in all it proved to be a very successful venture and everybody had a

lot of fun while giving back to the community. "The students were all cooperative and seemed happy to participate in the activity," Laura explained. "Even some who had been aloof before were attentive and very helpful. People got right into it and it was good to be doing something important."

Environmental awareness actually makes up a decent portion of the material and although the opportunity to get out and do something more proactive came so suddenly, Laura is happy her class was able to participate. "This year the opportunity came up suddenly so none of us at MJMC were covering that unit just then, but it still gave the students useful background experience for future learning. Cleaning up the shore of Plaxton's Lake was a good way to communicate the importance of not littering to both groups without nagging or seeming preachy. Next year, we hope to do it again and we can time our environmental lessons to match that week in September."

To learn more about the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup visit www.shorelinecleanup.ca.



Family Literacy Week Book Launch



This past January 25th the MJMC celebrated Family Literacy Month by hosting an engaging event for newcomer students and their families in the upstairs gymnasium of our main offices. Spearheaded by LINC program Instructors Carol



Moran, Doug Cassidy, and Laura Butt, this already exciting date also saw the launch of a brand new booklet written by current students at the MJMC. Entitled "Welcome to MJMC", the pamphlet describes what services and experiences new-



comers can expect from the organization in the words of individuals who are presently going through the process of becoming Canadian citizens. Furthermore, the MJMC recognized donations of literacy resources from SaskTel Pioneers.



MJMC Partners with City for New Web Portal

The City of Moose Jaw and the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council have partnered together for a project aimed at providing a user friendly web portal filled with information and resources that would be valuable for potential immigrants and newcomers to the Moose Jaw area. This new portal would be hosted on the current City of Moose Jaw website located at www.moosejaw.ca. Terry Wallace has been contracted by the city to develop the content

that will be used for this web portal, which is tentatively looking at a completion date of this upcoming summer. Terry will be contacting a wide variety of individuals and groups around the City in an effort to become more familiar with currently available resources as well as to discover what the primary concerns, frustrations, and needs of newcomers are. The initiative is currently in the research and fact finding stage. More specific information

on when the finished portal will be delivered will be made available in the coming months. If any person, group, organization, or business would like to make suggestions or comments about the content within or operation of this new portal, please feel free to contact Terry Wallace at the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council office via telephone at 306-693-4677, fax at 306-694-0477, or email mjmc.researcher@gmail.com.

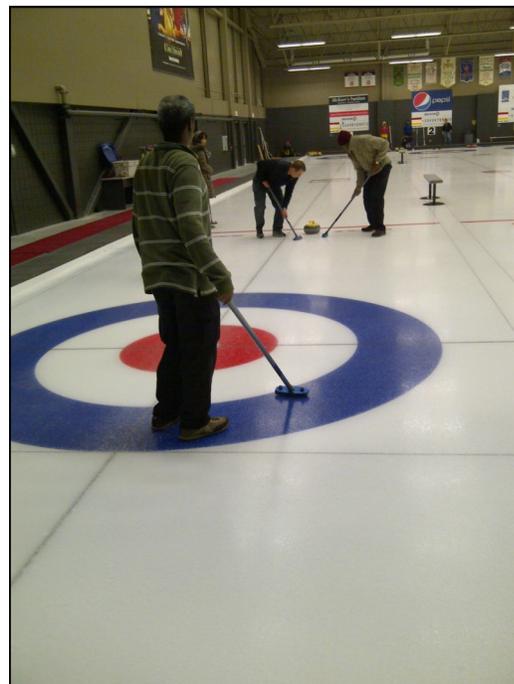


Sweeping the Newcomers

This past December 13th, students from all three levels of the Language Instruction for Newcomers Class (LINC) had the opportunity to experience Mosaic Place for themselves this month as English instructors Laura Butt, Doug Cassidy, and Carol Moran took the reigns in teaching them all how to curl. Approximately ten individuals went out to the brand new multiplex and spent the afternoon playing the sport in the Moose Jaw Ford Curling Center.

Earlier in the season a number of students were able to attend the 2012 Canada Cup of Curling where they were able to watch some of Canada's greatest curlers in action on November 30th.

For pictures of the newcomers out enjoying the 2012 Canada Cup of Curling check out the bottom of page 8!





Ladies Night 2012

Hosted by Settlement Workers Alia Lynch and Lauren Stennett, the MJMC held two Ladies Nights this year. The first was put on during the spring of 2012, on June 7th, when nine women came out to paint flower pots and plant flowers in them. Then, later that fall on September 13th, the group met once again, this time to make sugar cookies and decorate them. They also all played a fall themed game of Bingo, complete with prizes for the winners.

“Overall I think both events went well,” said Lauren. “I think the ladies appreciated having a fun event to attend that was tailored special for them.” Both Lauren and Alia are now looking forward to what they can do next year for the ladies at the MJMC!



LINC Submission: These are a Few of Our Favorite Things

Laura Butt's Language Instruction for Newcomers Class was asked to share what they liked most about this past holiday season in Canada and came up with this wonderful list that I'm sure many of you can relate to as well!

Activities:

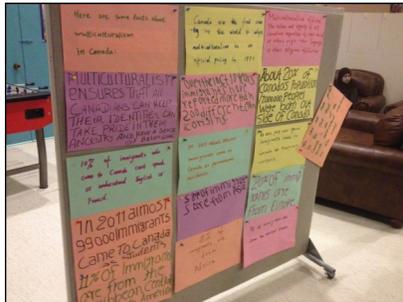
Sledding, curling, skiing, concerts,

parties, decorating, baking cookies and cakes, preparing nice meals, shopping on Boxing Day, friends at the door, trips to Regina, taking pictures and sending them to family, buying gifts, relaxing, taking naps, and visiting friends.

Seasonal Splendors:

Frosty or snowy trees, eggnog, eating

nuts, late sunrises, falling snow, children laughing, angels in the snow, icicles, snowflakes, Christmas trees, Christmas music, Christmas lights on houses, stocking hung up on Christmas Eve, bells ringing, squirrels playing, crisp air, warm clothes, hot chocolate, wood smoke, turkey dinner, and happy memories.



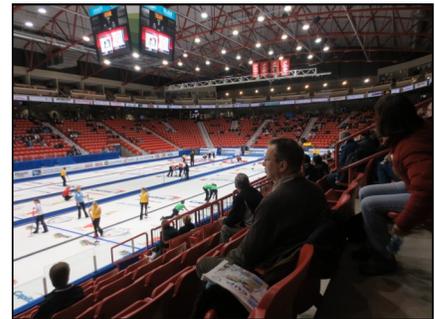
Multicultural Week 2012

Clients and staff at the MJMC celebrated this year's Multicultural week on November 20th with a potluck and special presentations given by Language Instruction for Newcomers students. Everybody spent valuable time getting to know one another and brought traditional foods from their home countries to share. First, Carol Moran's students lead everybody in singing O Canada then showed posters they made on their birthplaces. Next was Doug Cassidy's class which each read aloud some facts about multiculturalism in Saskatchewan. Finally, Laura Butt's pupils had a great deal of fun giving PowerPoint presentations on where they came from.

Taking in the Canada Cup

A total of 16 LINC students were able to experience the biggest sporting event to ever come through Moose Jaw this past Friday, Nov 30th as they were taken out to Mosaic Place to watch the morning draw of the 2012 Canada Cup of Curling. In the weeks leading up to their outing, Laura, Carol Moran, and Doug Cassidy prepared their students by going over the objectives, rules, and mechanics of how rocks are thrown. All in all, it was a fantastic morning out which every-

one immensely enjoyed. "The field trip was a great experience. The students got to see inside of Mosaic Place, which most of them had never done, and they got to see curling for the first time as well," said Doug Cassidy, LINC 2 instructor. "It was a very interesting cultural experience." The students then went back out to Mosaic on December 13 where they actually got to try out some curling themselves (read more about it on page 6).





Science Rules!

All three of the MJMC's LINC classes went out to Regina this past Wednesday, November 28th to explore the Saskatchewan Science Center in Regina. The students were able to learn about many interesting things through interactive exhibits designed for all ages. They walked animals native to the prairies in "Wild! Saskatchewan", they learned about the physics and trigonometry behind our national sport in the "Nexen Science of Hockey" exhibit, discovered the importance of water in the "Field of Streams" area, and tested their strength and will at the "Science Circus", among many other activities. This was all rounded off with a visit to the IMAX theatre where they took in a screening of Sea Rex 3D: Journey to a Prehistoric World.



New Faces at the Multicultural Council



Cal Carter, SWIS worker at Central Collegiate, has been working with youth for over 20 years in one way or another, including with high risk students in the judicial system. Cal's life passions include things like his family, travelling, sports, and coaching. He has taught First Aid and CPR for SIAST first year students as well as for some other local businesses. One of his favorite pastimes is to surf. Eventually he wants to surf on the coasts of all continents except maybe Antarctica. Cal has been married to the same woman for 26 years and they have three amazing children and one amazing son in law. He is now looking forward to becoming a grandpa.



Kevin Dennison, the new Administrative Assistant for our main office at 60 Athabasca St. E., was born in Moose Jaw but has resided in various places around the country from Ottawa, Ontario to Edmonton, Alberta. Kevin comes to us with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta. Since moving back to MJ in 2010 he has become known around the community as a freelance writer, having published over 150 articles for the Moose Jaw Value Express and Minor Hockey News. Outside of work, Kevin (also known as "Kevlar") is the Head Referee for the Lil Chicago Roller Derby League's Consiglieres Officiating Crew here in town and regularly travels across the province (and abroad) to officiate for other leagues in Calgary, Edmonton, Estevan, Prince Albert, Regina, Rocanville, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Weyburn, and Yorkton. Kevin is also an inspiring professional journalist. One day he would like to own and run his own magazine.



Haley Gordon, one of the MJMC's new Settlement Workers this year, grew up on a small mixed cattle and grain farm in Wapella, SK and has just returned to the province after living in Vancouver for the last two and a half years. Haley comes to us with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Regina. She loves to learn and travel so strives to find ways to do both at the same time. Places Haley has visited to study include Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico City. In her spare time, Haley enjoys being outside with her dog, Titu, reading, cooking, and practicing yoga. She also loves the outdoors and maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle.



Catherine Hammer, the new Settlement Advisor for the MJMC Regional Newcomer Gateway, joined us on June 22, 2012. When not at work Catherine is spending time with her husband of 3 years, Justin Hammer. Due to her interests in caring for youth Catherine is the house parent of a foreign exchange student from Pernambuco, Brazil and a teenage boy through the Ministry of Social Services. Since moving to Moose Jaw in 2008, Catherine has become greatly involved with Joe's Place Youth Center by volunteering weekend nights and supervising events throughout the year such as: camping trips, youth retreats, and the chemical-free New Year's Eve party.



Alia Lynch began working as a Settlement Worker at the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council in January 2012. She was born and raised in Moose Jaw but left to pursue a university education right after graduating from high school. Trying out a couple of different Universities in Regina and Brandon MB she stopped off in Saskatoon to finish her degree at the University of Saskatchewan. Once she finished University she decided moving back to Moose Jaw was the best route to take so that she could be closer to family. Alia enjoys being active and helping out others when ever she can. Alia will now be taking over as Employment Coordinator for the MJMC this spring as we say goodbye to Monica Taylor.



Melissa Mitchell joined the MJMC as a Settlement Worker just this past February. She comes to the organization with diploma in Complete Counselling. Besides working for the MJMC, she also currently works casually at the Moose Jaw Transition House as an Emergency Care Worker and at the Temple Garden Spa as an Aesthetician. Melissa is the mother of a six year old girl and a four year old boy. Outside of her various jobs, Melissa enjoys being involved in the community through fundraising, canvassing door to door, and taking part in YMCA Programs.



Susan Noren, new to the MJMC Daycare team as of 6 months ago, has lived in Moose Jaw since graduating from high school. Her husband, now semi-retired, was born and raised right here in town on South Hill. Susan feels she was blessed with the birth of her two children, a son who now lives in Saskatoon and a daughter out in Warman. She has been further blessed with two wonderful grandsons which she says are the family's "pride and joy". When Susan is not at work you will likely find her quilting. She also immensely enjoys gardening during the summer months. Overall, Susan has really enjoyed her time at the MJMC so far and is happy to have made many new friends!



Lauren Stennett joined the MJMC family at the end of January as a Settlement Worker and has quickly grown to love both her job here and the people she assists. She has recently graduated from Briercrest College and Seminary and is happy to now call Moose Jaw her home. Lauren may be a small town girl, but she's a world traveller at heart. Some of her travels have included trips to Greece and Israel. In her spare time, Lauren can most likely be found working on something crafty or consuming copious amounts of caffeine.