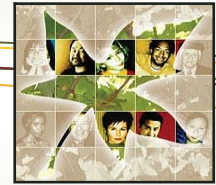


# The Citizen

Durham Region's Diversity Focused Newsletter

ISSUE 8  
SUMMER 2011



## Durham Region Unemployed Help Centre launches The Mentoring Partnership for Internationally Trained Professionals



THE  
MENTORING  
PARTNERSHIP



The Durham Region Unemployed Help Centre is excited to announce its participation in The Mentoring Partnership program, a collaboration of community and corporate partners operating as part of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC). The Mentoring Partnership brings together recent skilled immigrants and established professionals in occupation-specific mentoring relationships.

This initiative within Durham Region provides the community with an invaluable opportunity. Mentees can expect to increase their understanding of Canadian workplace culture, occupation and industry trends, and develop a network of professional contacts. Mentors share insights to enhance their mentees job search strategies, give feedback on a mentee's resume, polish their interviewing skills or suggest professional development.

Mentees, while sharing their unique understanding of working in different cultures and backgrounds, could gain critical inputs from mentors to help establish themselves in today's labour market. Mentors

with the program have spoken of their experiences as a win-win with the opportunity to enhance their own leadership, coaching and cross cultural communication skills. Mentors contribute valuable experiences and knowledge, and will stand out as industry professionals and community leaders in Durham Region.

### men·tor

noun \ˈmen-,tor,-ter\

**a:** a trusted counsellor or guide

**b:** tutor, coach

Taken from the Online Merriam Webster Dictionary

To find out more regarding eligibility guidelines, visit The Mentoring Partnership website at [www.thementoringpartnership.com](http://www.thementoringpartnership.com). For more information on the program in Durham, please contact Daniella or Juanita, Mentoring Coordinators, at 905-420-3008.

*Juanita Boone and Daniella Fabiano  
Durham Unemployed Help Centre*

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Translation links: <http://translate.google.com>

## Social innovation in Durham: Everyone's included



The Exploring Social Innovation in Durham event was held at the Whitby Marina on May 5.

The Durham Committee for Social Innovation (DC4SI) held a lively and fascinating panel discussion with four leading social innovators at the Whitby Marina on May 5. Participants took a 'deep dive' into the practices and models of social innovation in other cities and discussed how these might be applied to Durham. Panelists shared their experiences, unique models, challenges and collaborative successes in enabling large scale systems change.

This was a first event as the DC4SI works to engage with the diverse Durham community to begin the process of co-creating an enabling

environment and space to nurture, grow and scale social innovation in Durham. From a diversity perspective this makes sense. Social innovation makes room for all people, talent and backgrounds. Interest in social innovation is growing in Durham.

For more information including upcoming events visit [www.durham4si.wordpress.com](http://www.durham4si.wordpress.com).

*Samantha Burdett  
Policy Advisor  
Region of Durham*

## Improving labour market outcomes for newcomers through local labour market research and information

In September 2009, Durham Region's first Integrated Local Labour Market Plan (ILLMP) was published. The plan included 21 specific actions that were felt necessary to address our key training and employment-related needs. These actions were described in detail and timelines for completion were forecast over the 3 to 5 year planning period.

The Durham Region 2011 Local Labour Market Plan is an update to the original document. It has been informed by new, but limited, labour market information obtained from several sources since 2009, and reflects a local analysis and interpretation of same. The update includes economic development

activity that has taken place throughout the region in 2009 and 2010, and reports on other news relative to the continuing evolving labour market. The update also reflects consideration of local intelligence that has been gathered on an ongoing basis through many partnership activities that have taken place between industry, education, government and the community service sector.

While it provides clear evidence of the significant progress that has been initiated by the Durham community to address the region's key labour market needs, the Durham Region 2011 Local Labour Market Plan underscores the considerable work that remains while a fragile economic recovery

continues and high levels of unemployment persist in the region.

For a copy of the ILLMP, visit the website of the Durham Region Local Training Board at [www.drltb.com/illmp-background.22.php](http://www.drltb.com/illmp-background.22.php).



*Heather McMillan  
Project Officer  
Durham Region Local Training Board*

## Attracting and retaining skilled newcomers: Ajax named a "Top 10 City of the Future" by the Financial Times



*The Town of Ajax, home to many newcomers and one of the most ethno-culturally diverse municipalities in Durham Region has been named*

*a "Top 10 City of the Future".*

The prestigious Financial Times has named Ajax one of the top business centres of its size in North and South America. The first ever ranking of cities across the American continents by fDi Magazine placed Ajax seventh in 'Cost Effectiveness' and 'Infrastructure' and tenth in 'Economic Potential'.

"I'd like to thank fDi Magazine for recognizing Ajax as a city of the future," says Ajax Mayor Steve Parish. "We are aware of our potential and status as a prime location for new businesses and residents and we continue to promote our strengths as an economically viable Town. But it is a good feeling to have others notice as well."

The new ranking focuses on a mixture of data and expert opinion to rank cities which have the

best prospects for inward investment, economic development and business expansion.

The ranking combines a North American ranking with a new Latin American ranking by compiling research on more than 400 cities. The awards will be handed out on June 29 in Washington, DC.

"We are proud to sit among other great cities and hold such high rankings in these categories," adds Lisa Hausz, Manager of Business Development and Marketing for the Town of Ajax. "Our strategy to make Ajax First for Business by helping local businesses grow and attracting new investment continues to be recognized."

The Town was recently honoured by Business Retention and Expansion International.

The full results of the fDi report are available on [www.fdiintelligence.com/rankings](http://www.fdiintelligence.com/rankings).

*Renée Horton  
Senior Communications Officer  
Town of Ajax*

### Leading the way



The immigration portal team has done it again - leading the way with their innovative new advertising campaign, the first of its kind at the Region of Durham. To supplement the already great content, each new poster and brochure now also includes a QR code.

A QR or scannable code like the one here allows smartphone users who have

downloaded a code reader to scan the code and instantly be taken to the website or electronic form the code was created to promote. If you scan the code on any Durham Immigration portal poster or brochure you will automatically be taken directly to the Durham Immigration portal ([www.durhamimmigration.ca](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca)). Kudos portal team for another first!

There are eight colourful posters in the series, each featuring a different demographic group – and all posters and the brochure are available in English, French and Spanish. If you would like to view the posters and/or order copies, please send your request to [hilary.schuldt@durham.ca](mailto:hilary.schuldt@durham.ca). Copies of the poster are free.

*Hilary Schuldt  
Policy Advisor  
Region of Durham*



**MY JOURNEY  
BROUGHT ME  
HOPE.  
MY JOURNEY  
BROUGHT ME  
TO DURHAM.**



[www.durhamimmigration.ca](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca)

If your journey has brought you to Durham visit the immigration portal for quick and easy access to local information, resources and to be designed to help you settle in.

At [www.durhamimmigration.ca](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca) you'll find information on:

- local jobs and links to job search help
- language classes and locations
- where to find groceries – for all types of homes
- volunteer opportunities
- information on local faith communities
- an active and diverse events calendar
- information on business development like municipalities.

[www.durhamimmigration.ca](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca) also offers Google translation and search on every page to help you find exactly what you want, when you want it. Visit the portal today and start making Durham your community, your home.

**DURHAM**  
Immigration Portal

## A Flower with attitude: Celebrating cultural diversity in Oshawa

On Saturday and Sunday, June 11 & 12, the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Oshawa presided over the 7th Annual Peony Festival, held in the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens. As many know, the peony is the national flower of China and symbolizes prosperity. On Saturday in the Oshawa Valley gardens, there were artists' booths, performers on stage, presentations by politicians, the "Peony Princess" contest and judging of the best peonies - all before the rain poured.

Hundreds of visitors attended the two day event including visitors from China. Well over a hundred people visited the Oshawa Public Library's booth to ask questions of both staff and Chinese-speaking volunteers. Visitors to the OPL booth even included three Chinese university students who had travelled from upstate New York just for this event!

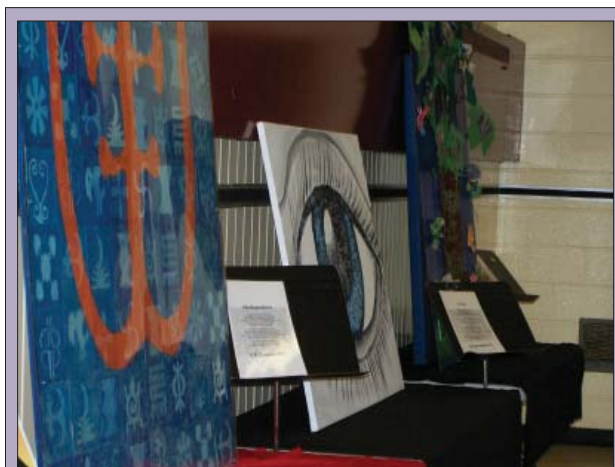
Not only does this annual event bring tourist dollars to Oshawa, it celebrates a new focus on the environment and recognizes the "newer newcomers" in our community.

*Sally Grande  
Multicultural Librarian  
Oshawa Public Library*

Sally Grande with volunteers Helen Th and Elaine Xie and images of the stars of the festival, the peonies.



## Equity and Diversity Gala features student art



Art on display at the seventh annual Equity and Diversity Gala.

On May 10, the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR) held its seventh annual Equity and Diversity Gala. This celebration features an exhibition of student art from throughout the school board, based on an equity-related theme.

The 2011 Gala included multiple art forms such as sculptures, photographs, quilts, painted tiles and paintings. Each piece of art offered a unique interpretation of this year's theme, Hidden in Plain Sight. One piece displayed an eye

composed of student names and fingerprints. Another piece was a series of small figures representing different hidden challenges faced by students. Art was submitted by students in a wide range of grades from elementary and secondary schools. In the Municipality of Clarington it included submissions from Vincent Massey Public School and Clarke High School.

The artwork from the Gala will be featured in KPR's Equity and Diversity Calendar, which is distributed to all schools each September. The Calendar is available in both print and online versions. It includes important equity and diversity dates and dates of significance to communities within the school board. In addition, the online version provides links to lesson plans and teacher resources.

The Equity and Diversity Gala and Calendar are part of KPR's ongoing efforts to promote equity, diversity, inclusiveness and the dignity and humanity of each individual in its policies, practices, programs and interactions.

For more information and to view the online version of the Calendar, please visit the Equity and Diversity Section of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board website at [www.kprschools.ca](http://www.kprschools.ca).

*Leslie Woolcott  
Equity and Diversity Advisor  
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board*

## Building hope and opportunities for all children



All children need someone to care about them. The Durham Children's Aid Society works with community organizations to connect families with services in order to keep children safe. Durham CAS investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect, protects children by helping families to reduce harmful circumstances in the home or by placing children in care, recruits and supports foster, kinship and adoptive homes and provides community education.

There are many ways you can get involved to help children and families. Durham CAS

always needs volunteers who help in a variety of ways, including as a mentor, a tutor or an event volunteer. We are always seeking foster families from across the region. Foster families are part of a team providing a safe and nurturing environment for children in our care. They open their homes and share their families with children who are unable to live with their own families.

Durham CAS always tries to ensure that a child is matched with a family that best meets their needs, including honouring and/or participating in their cultural, religious and language needs. We need homes, not only across Durham Region, but also reflecting the diverse spectrum of cultures of the residents of the region.

Children and youth come into our care for a variety of reasons. They may have been harmed, or be at risk of harm, by a caregiver; they may have witnessed domestic violence; or their parents may not be able to provide proper care for them.

The children in our care range in age from infancy to age 18, come from a variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds, and are frequently part of a sibling group. Some youth between the ages of 18 and 21 also live with foster parents.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact us, [www.durhamcas.ca](http://www.durhamcas.ca).

*Andrea Maenza  
Communications Coordinator  
Durham Children's Aid Society*

## A journey to wellness



The Oshawa Community Health Centre Diabetes Team

Many individuals in Canada have diabetes or are at high risk of getting it and don't know it. The earlier a person is diagnosed with diabetes the better because many of the complications of diabetes can be prevented. You may be at higher risk of diabetes if you are overweight, have a family member with diabetes or have Hispanic, Aboriginal, South Asian, Asian or African ancestry.

The Diabetes Education Centre provides services to adults with Pre-diabetes or Type 2 diabetes. The service is free! Clients are supported by Registered Nurses, Registered Dieticians and Social Workers in individual or group sessions. The goal of the Diabetes Education Team is to provide adults with diabetes with the education and support necessary to manage their diabetes and achieve healthy blood glucose levels.

The Diabetes team provides clients with the tools and resources they need to ultimately live a healthy lifestyle. If you think you are at risk of diabetes, have your fasting blood glucose levels checked. If you, or someone you know, has diabetes or pre-diabetes and are not currently attending a Diabetes Education Centre please call us for more information. We accept self referrals and doctor referrals.

We look forward to meeting you,

*The Diabetes Team  
Oshawa Community Health Centre*

## Durham libraries encourage a love of reading and adventure with children - in multiple languages!

The TD Summer Reading Club is for children ages 3-12. It's a fantastic program that keeps children reading over the summer months. Children can read books in any language they prefer. Each week children report on one book that they have read and are asked questions like, If you could change the ending, what happen?; Would you tell your friends to read this book?; What character did you like best?. Children then get a small prize as encouragement to continue reading.

**In Pickering:** Ask at the information desk to register for Read n' Grow or TD Summer Reading Clubs. For more info: [www.picnet.org/programs/forschoolagekids](http://www.picnet.org/programs/forschoolagekids)

**In Ajax:** Come to your local library and join the annual TD Summer Reading Club! For more information visit: [www.townofajax.com/Page4952.aspx](http://www.townofajax.com/Page4952.aspx). For information on the library's dual languages or multilingual collection, check out our website [www.townofajax.com/AssetFactory.aspx?did=9624](http://www.townofajax.com/AssetFactory.aspx?did=9624)

**In Whitby:** Registration begins July 4, but you may join anytime up until August 12. Come to the children's desk anytime during the summer, let us know about your reading and we will give you more stickers and a prize from our treasure box. For more info: [www.whitbylibrary.on.ca/splash](http://www.whitbylibrary.on.ca/splash)

**In Oshawa:** The Oshawa Public Library carries a selection of children's books in French, Spanish, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Arabic, Tamil and Tagalog. For more info: [www.oshlib.ca/modules/tinycontent/index.php?id=1](http://www.oshlib.ca/modules/tinycontent/index.php?id=1)

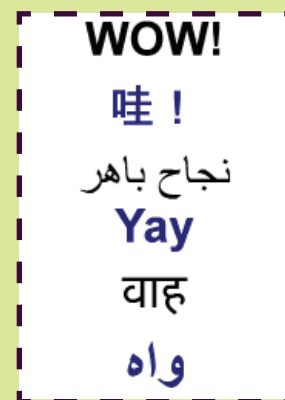
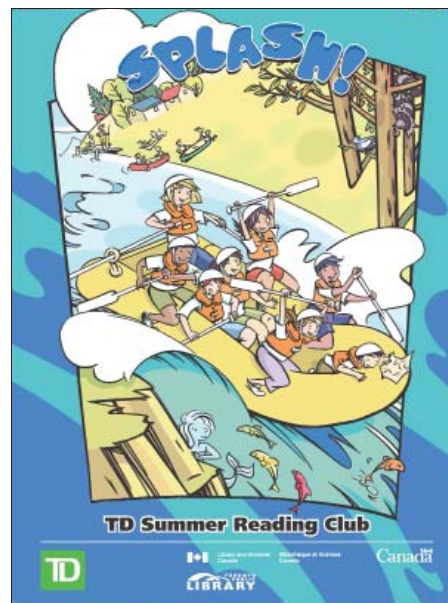
**In Clarington:** All aquatic explorers can attend one hour drop-in programs every week at all branches. Every child who registers for the free Summer Reading Club will receive a Splash! Adventure Kit. For more info: <http://clarington-library.on.ca/calendar/2011-07>

**In Scugog:** We'll be offering tons of fun activities throughout the summer months through our Summer Reading Club. For more info: [www.scugoglibrary.ca](http://www.scugoglibrary.ca)

**In Brock:** Children's Programs are opportunities for your child to interact and develop listening skills in a fun learning environment. For more info: [www.brocklibraries.ca/prog\\_ongoing.shtml](http://www.brocklibraries.ca/prog_ongoing.shtml)

**In Uxbridge:** Every Wednesday TD Summer Reading club members are invited to attend get-togethers for exciting, action-packed splash activities planned to enhance the reading club theme. For more info: [www.uxlib.com/modules/kid\\_teen/kids/kprog.html](http://www.uxlib.com/modules/kid_teen/kids/kprog.html)

**Interlibrary Loans:** If your local library doesn't have books in a language that you would like, ask staff for information about their interlibrary loan service as they may be able to borrow books from another library for you at no charge.



Getting to the library is now easier than ever - Durham libraries have partnered with Durham Region Transit (DRT) for the Ride to Read program. Children in Grade 8 and younger who sign up for summer reading programs get a sticker on their library cards giving them free access to DRT buses in July and August. Families can use the passes not only to get to the library but to recreation facilities and anywhere else they need to go in Durham. Wow! What a great idea!

## Welcome Centres: Improving Durham's settlement capacity

With funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the dream of a Welcome Centre (WC) in Durham has finally come true. Not one (1), but two (2) Welcome Centres will open this fall in Ajax and Pickering to serve newcomers by providing access to a variety of services and information in a welcoming and culturally sensitive environment.

The WCs will provide core services such as settlement and orientation, language instructions and employment training. Complementary services will be provided by other agencies on a hotelling or incubating basis.

To learn more about the Welcome Centres and hotelling two public information sessions are scheduled as below:

For more information, please visit

[www.durhamwelcomecentres.wordpress.com](http://www.durhamwelcomecentres.wordpress.com).



**August 9 from 7 to 9 p.m.**

Town of Ajax Council Chambers  
65 Harwood Ave S  
Ajax, ON L1S 2H9

**August 22 from 2 to 4 p.m.**

Pickering Public Library  
Central Branch  
2nd Floor Auditorium  
1 The Esplanade  
Pickering, ON, L1V 6K7

## Durham Pride: Together it does get better



Durham Pride was celebrated for a full week this year with talks, dances, a festival and the first ever Pride Parade to wrap it up on Sunday, June 12. The LGBTQ community, family, friends, and allies came out in force to show their pride and celebrate diversity under the theme of "Together It Does Get Better".

## We found people to help us – we love Durham region!



The Town of Ajax awarded its Volunteer of the Year Award 2010 to two energetic, enthusiastic newcomers to Durham Region, Samer Dawood and Raghad Salim. The couple are leaders of the Ajax Newcomer Walking Group. Now in its second year, the walking group meets three times a week in Ajax and is open to newcomers and others who are interested in being active, practicing English language skills and in cross-cultural sharing. The group has been a big success with over a dozen regular walkers. Samer and Raghad were invited to get involved with the group through their LINC teacher and staff at

CDCD and continue with the group as their way of giving back to the community that helped them settle into Durham Region.

Originally from Iraq, Samer and Raghad arrived in Canada with their son in January, 2008. After landing in Montreal, the family settled in Pickering, staying with Samer's sister initially and then in their own basement apartment. The first three months were the hardest as they struggled with a new country, finding a job, improving their English and the Canadian winter. Raghad was pregnant and navigating the bus system with shopping in the snow was a major challenge, "I fell many many times" she remembers.

Samer soon found work in a gas station on the night shift – "the job of the newcomers" he recounts. Samer was a professor and university-level swimming coach back home but as he explains, "Yes, I lost my job but there is a future here for me and my family. We are comfortable, I like this country, I like the system. We have freedom here, we have peace. There is a big difference between here and my country." And things are looking

up already as Samer no longer has to work nights as he's been promoted to the day-time manager of the gas station.

There were a number of key people who helped the family settle in Durham. Their LINC teacher not only helped them to improve their English language skills but she also showed them where to shop, taught them about Canadian culture and even took them to a local farm to pick strawberries – a fruit they were unfamiliar with as strawberries don't grow in Iraq. The Interchurch Immigrant Support Group provided them with second hand furniture for their first home and as they themselves put it, "we found people to help us so we love this area, we love Durham region, we've met many many people who love us and help us and respect us".

For more information about the Ajax Newcomer Walking Group, visit the CDCD website ([www.cdcd.org](http://www.cdcd.org)) or just show up at one of the meeting spots to walk with the group.

### The Newcomer Walking Group meet at the following dates, times and locations:

**Mondays 9 to 10 a.m.**

Carruthers Marsh Pavilion  
Ashbury Blvd. & Audley Blvd.

**Wednesdays 7 to 8 p.m.**

McLean Community Centre  
95 Magill Dr.

**Thursdays 9 to 10 a.m.**

Carruthers Marsh Pavilion  
Ashbury Blvd. & Audley Blvd.

## Local Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council

We look forward to hearing your stories and feedback. If you would like to *subscribe* or *contribute* to The Citizen, please contact us:

**Email:** [diversitynewsletter@durham.ca](mailto:diversitynewsletter@durham.ca) | **Portal:** [www.durhamimmigration.ca](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca)

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