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## **The Citizen**

Durham Region's Diversity Focused Newsletter  
Issue 33, Spring 2018

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## Celebrating welcoming communities:

### Accessibility for all

Spring is here! At this time of year, we eagerly look for new buds on the trees, the first robins and the call of Canada geese as they return north.

Spring is the season for getting re-acquainted with the outdoors. We tidy our gardens, wash our windows and start going for walks in our neighbourhoods. We often see the neighbours we haven't seen since November. It's a lovely time of year to get out and about.

For people with physical disabilities, getting out and about can be more challenging. Working toward creating inclusive, accessible spaces for all is a core commitment of local municipalities and businesses.

The Parapan Am Games in 2015 showed people in Durham the incredible athletic abilities of people with disabilities.

One of the [legacies](#) of the Games is that there are more opportunities than ever for people to be involved in sports and recreation activities that cater to people of all abilities in Durham. In February, 2019, Durham will welcome the [Parasport Games](#) ([www.parasportontario.ca/index.php/all-events/parasport-games](http://www.parasportontario.ca/index.php/all-events/parasport-games)); another reason to learn about and support accessible spaces and barrier-free access to services, spaces and recreational opportunities.

If you'd like to subscribe to The Citizen by email, please visit the [Durham Immigration Portal](#) ([www.durhamimmigration.ca](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca)).





## Creating healthy communities:

### Healthy life self-management workshops

Are you feeling overwhelmed with your health? Are you newly diagnosed with a health condition, or have you been struggling for years with a condition? Do you want to connect with others who are living with similar challenges or who understand what you're going through? The Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) Self-Management Program offers free self-management workshops to **empower** people to take charge of their health, while living with health conditions like: diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, lung disease, and other **chronic** health issues.

Living a Healthy Life Self-Management Workshops are free, six-week workshops for adult patients and caregivers that were developed by Stanford University. Each week, groups of 10 to 16 meet for 2.5 hours. The groups are led by trained volunteer facilitators living with one or more chronic conditions and are offered in the following languages: English, French, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tamil and American Sign Language.

To register for a workshop, please visit the [Central East LHIN Self-Management website](http://www.ceselfmanagement.ca/workshops) (www.ceselfmanagement.ca/workshops).



# Ontario

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**Central East Local Health  
Integration Network**

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**Réseau local d'intégration  
des services de santé  
du Centre-Est**



## Creating healthy communities:

### Healthy smiles for newcomers

A healthy smile and mouth are important parts of overall health. Durham Region's Oral Health Division (OHD) provides workshops to help newcomers improve their oral health and learn about services available across Durham. Some newcomers to Canada have oral health problems related to untreated cavities, or pain and issues related to changes in diet and lifestyle in Canada. Accessing oral health care can be challenging for those newcomers who have limited English language skills or financial limitations. The Durham Region Oral Health Division supports families that are new to Durham Region by helping them access information about resources and providing oral health promotion activities.

#### How does it work?

A dental assistant from the Oral Health Division facilitates a session with each English language class. The presentation is geared to the language level of the group. During these facilitated sessions, topics covered include:

- The importance of good oral hygiene through brushing and [flossing](#) demonstrations.
- Healthy eating habits.
- The role of sugar sweetened beverages, like juice and pop, in causing cavities.
- Tobacco use and its negative effects on the mouth.
- The Healthy Smiles Ontario program and school dental screening.
- Information on how to access dental care in Durham.
- Low-cost dental options such as the Durham College Dental Hygiene student clinic.

If you're interested in learning more, please visit the [Durham Region website](http://durham.ca/oralhealth) (durham.ca/oralhealth) or call 1-866-853-1326.





## **Celebrating Durham's diversity:**

### **Whitby and Orono receive provincial awards**

Durham Region has some amazing residents who are working to build welcoming communities that celebrate diversity, equity and inclusion. Many of us have known this for a long time, but on January 16, the Province also recognized the tremendous work of two particular groups with the 2017 Champion of Diversity Award.

The Orono and Community Syrian Refugee Sponsorship group, and the Town of Whitby's Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee were both recognized under the Inclusion and Diversity category. This category recognizes individuals or groups that embrace inclusion and diversity, and ensures immigrants and refugees have access to social services.

**Orono and Community Syrian Refugee Sponsorship:** The residents of Orono decided to come together and sponsor a young Syrian family, and prove that refugees could resettle and **thrive** in a rural environment. The community raised money for the family and ensured that they felt welcome and safe when they arrived in Canada. Volunteers helped with transportation, housing, health care, language classes, and employment. The family shared their progress on social media and soon became valued members of the community.

**Whitby Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee (EDAC):** The committee promotes diversity with programs benefiting both residents and newcomers, such as art shows, multicultural calendars and diversity events. Family bus tours and a 'Whitby Passport' program connect new Canadians to local businesses. Public performances and community seminars also educate the residents of Whitby about the issues affecting diverse groups.

**What is EDAC?** EDAC is an Advisory Committee of Council composed of seven appointed members, a Mayor's designate, staff liaison, youth members and representatives from partner organizations, such as the Whitby Public Library, the Region of Durham, local school boards and Durham Region Police Services. For more information, visit the [Town of Whitby website](http://www.whitby.ca) (www.whitby.ca).

**Are you interested in privately sponsoring a refugee family?** Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs) are supported by a local group that is responsible for welcoming the refugee family at the airport, providing housing, clothing, furniture, financial assistance, and emotional and social supports for one full year. For more information, visit the Sponsoring Refugees page on the [Durham Immigration Portal](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca) (www.durhamimmigration.ca).





## Supporting newcomers:

### Path to Newcomers Success

The Durham Region Unemployed Help Centre (DRUHC) is building on its services to newcomers with the introduction of a new program, Path to Newcomers Success (PNS). PNS is geared to refugees, refugee claimants, and other [vulnerable](#) newcomers with low-level English language skills. Working in partnership with the Durham District School Board's Continuing Education language programming for immigrants, eligible participants will receive occupation-specific language in preparation for the workplace and pre-employment training. The training will include information on workers' rights and responsibilities, an introduction to workplace expectations, and workers' health and safety.

The program also provides access to DRUHC job development services to gain full support in securing a paid job placement and removal of barriers to employment (e.g. work boots, transportation supports and, when required, on-the-job coaching).

The objective of the project is to foster newcomers' confidence and ability in workplace language and employment readiness. The project also assists newcomers to enter the Canadian labour market while responding to the needs of local employers for job-ready employees. The program is possible thanks to funding from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

For more information and to register for the program, please contact Heather at [hlakeman@unemployedhelp.on.ca](mailto:hlakeman@unemployedhelp.on.ca) or Qahar at [qandisha@unemployedhelp.on.ca](mailto:qandisha@unemployedhelp.on.ca) or call 905-420-3008.





## **Building strong futures for youth:**

### **Ready to Go – Job Skills Development for Young Adults**

Do you know a young person aged 15 to 30 years who would benefit from a new 16-week employment program? If so, Ready to Go – Job Skills Development for Young Adults might be the program for them. The John Howard Society (JHS) recently received funding through the Ontario government's Youth Employment Strategy to run this innovative program on a [rotational basis](#) in Ajax, Oshawa and Clarington.

Youth can choose the Customer Service/ Hospitality Stream or the Skilled Trade Essentials Stream. Participants will be able to get certifications related to their chosen stream. Topics covered in the program include essential skills building, soft skills development, and employment readiness programs.

Youth will be paid to participate in four weeks (30 hours per week) of group-based employability skills training, followed by 12 weeks paid work experience. The purpose of the work placement is to provide participants with hands-on experience within their chosen stream, while being supported by the Ready to Go Youth Counsellors. The goal at the end of the program is for participants to be gainfully employed in their chosen stream or returning to school for further training/education.

For more information and future intake dates, please contact the JHS Youth Counsellors: Abigail Maddocks at 905-449-8275 or [abigail.maddocks@jhsd.ca](mailto:abigail.maddocks@jhsd.ca) or Shreen Namatalla at 343-997-6835 or [shreen.namatalla@jhsd.ca](mailto:shreen.namatalla@jhsd.ca).

# JohnHoward

SOCIETY OF DURHAM REGION



## **Building inclusive communities:**

### **Multilingual gallery guides at the Canadian Automotive Museum**

This spring, the Canadian Automotive Museum is pleased to announce the addition of multilingual gallery guides to all gallery spaces. Produced in seven languages, these guides will provide visitors of diverse linguistic backgrounds with increased access to Canadian automotive history.

Visitors can use the portable guides to discover the Canadian Automotive Museum's unique collection of more than 80 automobiles, from European racing cars and British Rolls-Royce limousines, to early examples of Canadian roadsters. The guides will give audiences a closer look at rare vehicles, such as the futuristic DMC-12 DeLorean, and the Kissel "Gold Bug" speedster, a favourite of pilot Amelia Earhart.

The museum is also hosting a family favourite. Lightning McQueen from Disney Pixar's Cars 3 is modelled after the Corvette C6 and Ford GT40, and inspired by sports stars Joe Namath and Muhammad Ali. Catch Lightning at the museum before he hits the road again in November 2018.

This exciting project was made possible by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The new guides will allow visitors to engage more deeply with the stories behind the automotive industry, which has influenced Canadian life since the early 20th century. For more information, visit the [Canadian Automotive Museum website](http://www.canadianautomotivemuseum.com) (www.canadianautomotivemuseum.com).





## Two-way integration:

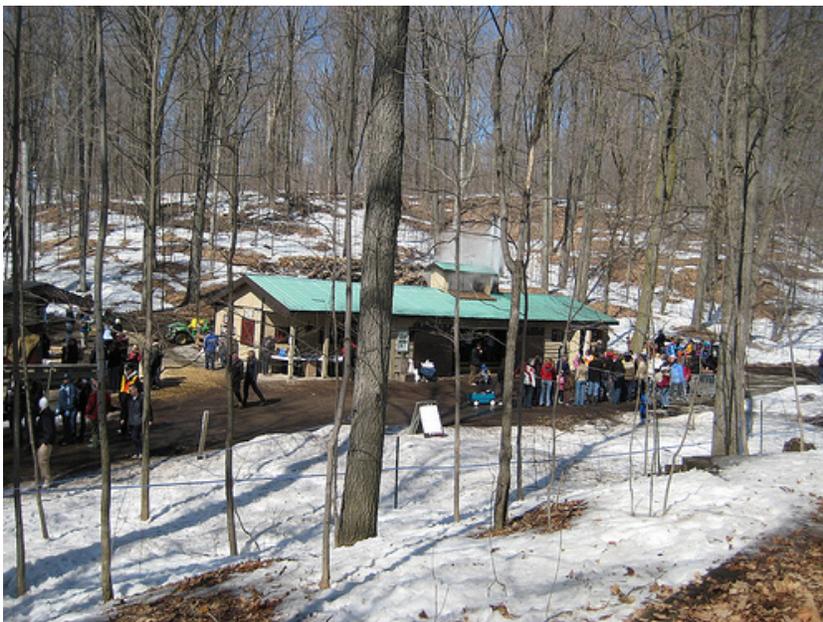
### Maple syrup season is here!

One of the best things about Canada is maple syrup! And if you haven't experienced a sugar bush yet, now is the time. Spring is maple syrup season in Durham and there is nothing quite like [trekking](#) into the woods to see how maple trees are [tapped](#), their sap collected and then boiled into that amazing Canadian treat, maple syrup.

Maple syrup is big business. In 2016, Canada produced 12.2 million gallons of maple syrup worth \$487 million. Most of the maple syrup produced in Canada is exported. In fact, Canada produces more than 70 percent of maple syrup worldwide.

There are a number of big maple syrup events happening in Durham during the next six to eight weeks. If you know a newcomer family, pick them up and take them with you when you visit one of the farms below:

- Ganaraska Conservation Authority's Maple Syrup Day is on March 17.
- The Purple Woods annual Maple Syrup Festival begins on March 9, with select dates running to April 8.
- Brooks Farms Maple Syrup Festival runs March 24, 25, 30, 31 and April 1.
- Pefferlaw Creek Farms is hosting their first maple syrup festival on April 7 and 8.
- The Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival takes place April 7 to 8.





## Creating inclusive communities:

### PaddleALL

Durham Region is fortunate to border Lake Ontario to the south, Lake Simcoe to the north and Lake Scugog to the northeast. Swimming, boating and fishing are some of the ways that we can enjoy our local lakes and waterways. Canoeing is the activity of paddling a narrow boat with a single-bladed paddle while kneeling or sitting on a seat in the canoe. Kayaking involves paddling a boat with a double-bladed paddle and facing forward with legs in front. In rowing, the boat is propelled forward using oars, and the rowers face backwards.

The Pickering Rouge Canoe Club is a non-profit organization located on Frenchman's Bay in Pickering. The Club offers programs in sprint canoe and kayak, a sport in which athletes race canoes or kayaks on calm water. Children and adults of all ages and abilities can learn how to paddle and even race if they want to be competitive. The PaddleALL program is specifically for people with physical and intellectual disabilities. The program aims to provide a safe and supportive environment so people with disabilities and their family can learn to paddle different kinds of boats. For more information, see the [Club's website](http://pickeringrouge.ca) at pickeringrouge.ca.





## Building an inclusive community:

### Accessible playgrounds in Clarington

The Municipality of Clarington has designed fun, accessible outdoor spaces for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy. Clarington's playgrounds, parks and recreational trails are designed in an inclusive way, allowing people to enjoy the outdoors.

When Clarington designs new playgrounds, most play structures include transfer stations to allow children to move out of their chairs and into the play structure, some playgrounds have ramp access to platforms above the ground and accessible swings and ground-level play features keep kids stimulated.

New picnic areas are designed with accessible picnic tables on a paved surface. These tables have fixed seats on three sides and one open end to allow wheelchairs access to the table. In addition, all of the water play surfaces are accessible and most have a rubberized surface to prevent slipping.

Visit Clarington and enjoy a picnic by the lake at [Bond Head Parkette](#) or come and visit [Port Darlington East Beach Park](#) ([www.clarington.net/en/be-active/waterfront.asp](http://www.clarington.net/en/be-active/waterfront.asp)), which features a network of accessible paths, including a lakefront promenade, an accessible path leading to the beach, an accessible spray pad, an accessible nautically-themed playground, accessible picnic tables, accessible washrooms and, of course, accessible parking.





## Creating barrier-free access for all:

### DRAAW

Figuring out how to connect with local agencies and services can be difficult for anyone but for newcomers to Canada it can be even more challenging. Newcomers who may have a disability need support in identifying and navigating available services.

To address that need, the Welcome Centres are working with a new community collaborative called Durham Region Accessibility Awareness Working Group (DRAAW). The group is planning a spring information fair for newcomers and others that will focus on understanding the unique needs and realities of people with visible and invisible disabilities. Networking and learning opportunities will be created for community members to become more aware of inclusive service providers in Durham Region. In turn, local organizations will learn about service users' experiences.

At a recent Accessible and Inclusive Brunch and Learn, DRAAW member agencies shared information about how to create barrier-free access to resources and best practices on how to engage service users, including diverse newcomers, refugees and immigrants.

The Welcome Centre Immigrant Services in Durham Region strives to create inclusive, welcoming, safe and positive environments for people of all diversities and abilities. For more information about the Welcome Centres or to inquire about joining DRAAW, please call 1-877-761-1155 or visit the [Welcome Centres website](http://www.welcomecentre.ca) (www.welcomecentre.ca).





## Embracing diversity in Clarington

### A new Diversity Advisory Committee

In an effort to promote and embrace the growing diversity in Clarington's population, the municipality will create a Diversity Advisory Committee. The committee will provide Council with advice, comments and recommendations on issues that affect diversity in the community.

"We want to promote an inclusive environment, acknowledging the diversity within the fabric of our community. We have residents that are from different nationalities, cultural backgrounds, religious beliefs, and different convictions; this committee will try and represent those diverging interests," said Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster.

According to the proposed terms of reference, the committee mandate will be to "foster awareness, reduce barriers, promote inclusion and engage our residents. The committee will also facilitate opportunities to celebrate the different aspects of diverse cultures and traditions through outreach activities." The committee will be made up of seven voting members, all Clarington residents, including two youth between 16 and 24 years. The committee will also work with other stakeholders in the community who represent diverse groups.

The municipality will advertise for appointments to this committee; those interested may visit the [Municipality of Clarington website](http://www.clarington.net) (www.clarington.net) or connect with the Clarington Municipal Clerk's Department at 905-623-3379 ext. 2109 for more information.

# Clarington



## Building healthy communities

### Immunization programs in Durham

Did you know that the vaccine schedule is different around the world? Your child may be fully vaccinated in your home country, but is missing needles needed here in Ontario. Several needles are needed for school. If you do not have an Ontario Health card, your child can get their vaccine at the Health Department for **free**. Call 905-666-6241 to make an appointment or if you have questions. If you have a family doctor, talk to them about needles your child may need. If your child needs a vaccine, you can get it from your doctor or at most walk-in clinics.

**Grade 7 school immunization program.** Durham Region Health Department nurses will be coming to your child's school in the spring to offer the following free vaccines: Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Meningococcal (Men-C-ACYW135). Did your child miss the fall vaccine clinic at school? Call the Durham Region Health Department at 905-666-6241 for more information about how your child can still get these free vaccines. Visit our website for more information about Grade 7 school vaccine clinics at the [Durham Region website](http://www.durham.ca/immunizationclinics) ([www.durham.ca/immunizationclinics](http://www.durham.ca/immunizationclinics)).





## Supporting families:

### Autism Home Base Durham

Autism after age 18 can be challenging. It can be lonely, and it can be isolating. In addition to the direct sensory processing issues people with autism experience, they and their families face emotional and physical distress from a lack of connection in their community. In 2012, a group of families in Clarington organized a social club for adults with autism across the [spectrum](#), and for the people who love them.

Autism Home Base Durham is a registered charity serving adults with autism who live at home with their families throughout Durham Region. Now 60 members strong and growing, the group meets for weekly gym, swim, bowling, art, music, a monthly 'guys' night out', trampolining, winter skating and summer camping. Each meet-up includes the parent or family member who participates alongside the adult with autism. New this year, the group is also offering a monthly Ideas Jam, as well as a Media Meet-Up for Independent Adults who can join in without one to one support.

There is an annual membership fee of \$100 per family. All other program costs are covered through fundraising efforts by the families and volunteers. The annual Sunday Cinema and Supper fundraising event will be held on April 8 at the Newcastle Village Community Hall, 20 King Avenue W., Newcastle.

For information about the organization or their upcoming event, call 289-278-3489 or visit the [Home Base Durham website](http://www.homebasedurham.com) (www.homebasedurham.com).

**SUNDAY  
CINEMA  
AND  
SUPPER**  
FUNDRAISER

**APRIL 8, 2018 • 3PM – 7PM**

Don't miss this screening of a beautiful and enlightening film.  
Please join us for our second annual fundraiser. #AutismAfter18

Newcastle Village Town Hall  
Movie, snacks & three course dinner. Cash bar.  
Tickets \$40 per person.  
Order on-line at [www.homebasedurham.com](http://www.homebasedurham.com) or by phone to 289-278-3489

**AUTISM  
HOME  
BASE  
DURHAM**  
Serving adults with autism  
and their family caregivers.





## Supporting inclusive communities:

### Aging with Confidence

The Township of Scugog Age-Friendly Advisory Committee, invites all residents, 55 years and older, or those with an interest in our seniors community, to the upcoming Aging with Confidence Information Fair.

The information fair will take place on June 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Scugog Community Recreation Centre, located at 1655 Reach Street in Port Perry.

“This year’s fair will bring together an assortment of organizations that can help you navigate through the different government agencies,” said Suzanne Redford, Chair of the Age-Friendly Advisory Committee. “Vendors from across Durham Region will be there to provide information on an [array](#) of services for seniors.” Included in the vendor lineup will be information for caregivers, housing organizations, home meals, insurance and more.

The Committee’s last information fair was the largest in Ontario in 2016 and attracted more than 75 exhibitors and 400 attendees.

This Aging with Confidence Information Fair is being hosted by the Scugog Age-Friendly Advisory Committee whose mandate is to work in partnership with the Community and Council to bring awareness to seniors’ issues and needs. This is a free community event and a sandwich lunch will be provided for attendees. For more information please phone 905-985-7346 or visit the [Township of Scugog website](http://scugog.ca/events) (scugog.ca/events). We hope to see you there!





## Supporting innovative spaces:

### The new Co-iLab Hub

Durham Region's newest community co-working space located in Oshawa is a treat for **entrepreneurs!** The Co-iLab Hub was created by Community Innovation Lab (iLab) to provide entrepreneurs with access to affordable workspace, professional development and skills training. Envisioned by Pramilla Ramdahani, the Co-iLab Hub is a central access point to connect with other entrepreneurs, industry leaders and innovators.

As a member of the Co-iLab Hub, entrepreneurs enjoy many perks, including access to a bright kitchen and bistro meeting tables where the coffee is always hot and the conversation is flowing! Member hot desks are available by the day and member dedicated desks with lockable file cabinets can be used on a per month basis. Meeting rooms can be used to host business events or workshops.

Members are welcomed with smiles, free Wi-Fi, healthy snacks, and an economically and eco-friendly atmosphere. Take advantage of the introductory rates of the iLab membership as well as our one-time promotion to use a hot desk for a day. iLab hosts open houses once a month to connect with the community and local stakeholders.

If you are an entrepreneur in Durham Region, you can't miss out on this great opportunity! For more information, visit the [Community i-Lab website](http://communityilab.ca) (communityilab.ca).





## Supporting inclusive communities:

### Free income tax clinics in Durham

The Welcome Centres, local libraries, Social Service offices and other not-for-profit organizations across Durham Region are currently offering free tax clinics to low-income residents. Volunteers at the tax clinic will help you complete and file your tax return for 2017.

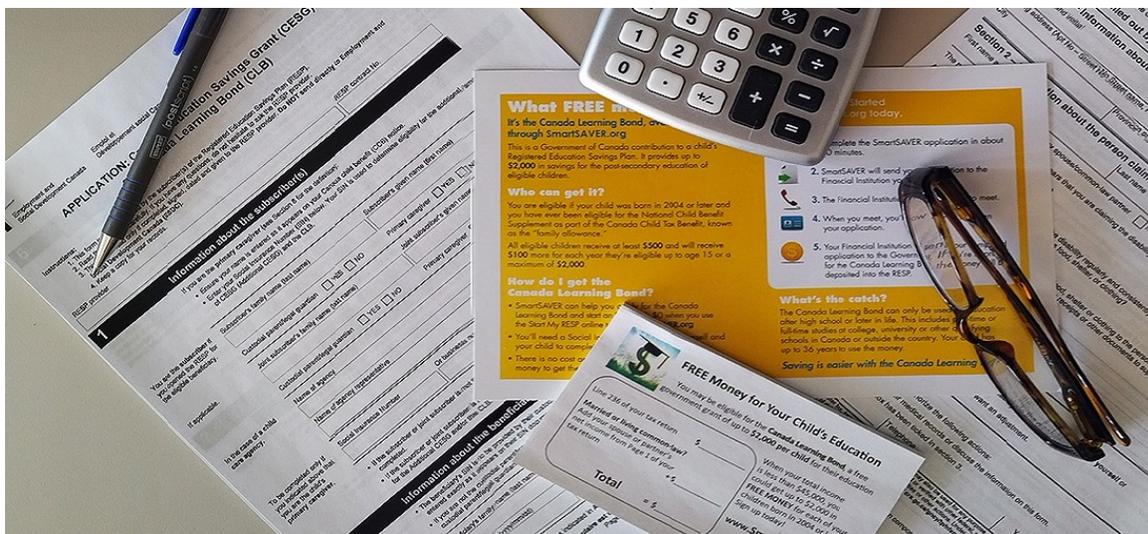
These clinics are available for people whose total family income is less than the amount below, and whose tax situation is considered simple.

- One person - \$30,000 or less
- Two people - \$40,000 (add \$2,500 for each additional person in the family)

A tax situation is considered simple if you have no income or if your income comes from: employment, a pension, benefits such as CPP, disability, CCB, EI, social assistance, RRSP, support payments, scholarships, fellowships, bursaries or grants or interest (under \$1,000).

A tax situation is not simple when an individual: is self-employed or has employment expenses, has business or rental income and expenses, has capital gains or losses, files for bankruptcy or is completing a tax return for a deceased person.

During tax season many clinics can only file current year returns but some offer multiple year filing. For a listing of tax clinics, please visit the [Durham Immigration Portal](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca/en/work-and-study/tax-clinics-2018.aspx) ([www.durhamimmigration.ca/en/work-and-study/tax-clinics-2018.aspx](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca/en/work-and-study/tax-clinics-2018.aspx)).





## Celebrating Canada's human rights leaders:

### The new \$10 bill

March is Women's History Month, and so it is fitting that the Bank of Canada has released the new \$10 bill. The new banknote features a woman for the first time. Viola Desmond was a human rights leader in Canada and her actions sparked social change across the country.

*Viola Desmond was a successful black businesswoman who was jailed, convicted and fined for defiantly refusing to leave a whites-only area of a movie theatre in 1946. Her court case was an inspiration for the pursuit of racial equality across Canada.*

### Bank of Canada

The [Bank of Canada website](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes/vertical10) ([www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes/vertical10](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes/vertical10)) detailing the new bank note is well worth a visit as the new \$10 bill has a number of images that tell an incredible story of social justice and human rights in Canada. The dome of the Library of Parliament is featured, as well as the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, an eagle feather, a quote from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the laurel leaf, a symbol of justice found in the entrance hall to the Supreme Court of Canada.





## **Building innovative creative communities:**

### **New Maker Space at the Pickering Public Library**

Pickering Public Library is proud to announce its new Maker Space. Members of the library can use the many different types of equipment in the space to create, learn, explore and experiment. The equipment will be available in early April.

Users can:

- Record audio in the sound booth and edit their recordings using the sound editing equipment and software.
- Create music using the DJ equipment.
- 3D print objects on the 3D printers.
- Print posters on the large format printer.
- Edit photos, videos and music on the Adobe Creative Suite software.
- Sew fabric creations using our sewing machines.
- Carve in wood or plastic with the Carvey, and much more!

The Maker Space is open to all library card holders, and library cards are free for all Durham residents. There is no charge to use the equipment, but small fees are charged for any materials used. Staff are available to get you started with the equipment.

The Maker Space is for library users age 14 years and up. You can find Maker Space programs and events on the [Pickering Library website](http://Pickering Library website) ([picnet.evanced.info/signup/calendar](http://picnet.evanced.info/signup/calendar)). Stop by the library to visit the new space!



**MAKER**  
**SPACE**  
DESIGN, CREATE, BUILD



## **Glossary**

### **Array:**

Favourable

### **Chronic:**

Long term and difficult

### **Empower:**

To make stronger

### **Entrepreneurs:**

People who have great ideas for a new business or product to sell

### **Flossing:**

Using special thread (called dental floss) to clean between your teeth and gums

### **Legacies:**

Important things that are left behind after an event

### **Rotational basis:**

Something that moves around between different places or things

### **Spectrum:**

A range of things from mild to extreme or low to high

### **Tapped:**

In the case of a maple tree, a metal spigot that is inserted into the tunk of a tree to draw out the sap; a bucket usually sits on the spigot to collect the sap

### **Thrive:**

To grow and be well



## Trekking:

Walking in nature

## Vulnerable:

A person or situation that could be at risk of being hurt due to their particular situation (age, health, immigration status or similar)



## Durham Immigration Portal:

For newcomers +

The Durham Immigration Portal is an excellent online tool for those who are new to Durham Region. Whether it's getting an OHIP card, finding housing, registering children in school or signing up for swimming lessons at the local recreation centre, the Durham Immigration Portal provides newcomers with the local information they need to settle quickly.

The Portal is not just for newcomers, however, it's also a great tool for people who want to be connected with diversity projects and initiatives happening throughout Durham. The Portal has recently been redesigned and rewritten. It is now mobile-friendly, includes a map of local settlement services (a first in Durham!), an interactive community events calendar, is social media-friendly, and through Google Translate, can be translated into dozens of languages.

*"Newcomers are a vital and growing part of Ontario's communities. They contribute to the social, economic and cultural enrichment of our province. Durham Region is investing in a bright future by supporting programs to help engage, support and integrate newcomers into our province so that they can thrive and excel."* Laura Albanese, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

*"Succeeding in the global economy means focusing on creating a strong, diverse talent pool. The Durham Immigration Portal is one way that we invite the best and brightest people from around the world to make Durham Region their home. It provides the tools and resources newcomers need to access critical information and contribute fully to the community."* Roger Anderson, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

To ensure you stay up-to-date with what's happening in Durham, visit the Durham Immigration Portal ([durhamimmigration.ca](http://durhamimmigration.ca)) and sign up for news updates, subscribe to The Citizen: Durham's Diversity Newsletter, follow us on Twitter (@immigratedurham) and subscribe to the community events calendar.

Funding for the Durham Immigration Portal was provided by the Government of Ontario.





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

[Email us about The Citizen](mailto:diversitynewsletter@durham.ca): diversitynewsletter@durham.ca

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