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The Citizen

Durham Region's Diversity Focused Newsletter
Issue 34, Summer 2018

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Words that are bolded and underlined throughout the newsletter are defined in the [Glossary section](#)



Bugs, bees and beaches:

Summer in Durham

Children (and teachers) are on the countdown to summer! With only weeks to go until school is out for the year, people are looking forward to spending more time outdoors and with luck, having some time away from work and school. Don't worry about getting bored though, there is a lot going on in Durham this summer! The **kickoff** to summer is always Canada Day and there are community celebrations taking place on beaches, in parks and in local neighbourhoods.

There are summer camps happening all over Durham in July and August. Check with your local municipality to find out about free and low-cost camp programs for your children. Summer camps are a great way for newcomer kids to continue improving their English and to learn more about Canadian customs and summer traditions (like camping and s'mores!).

Mosquitoes, flies and other flying insects reappear during the summer so make sure you know how to protect yourself and your family from bites and stings. Bees may seem alarming when they buzz around you, but they are mostly harmless and are a vital part of our ecosystem, so please don't kill the bees and, if you can, plant some bee-friendly plants in your garden. Make sure, too, that you're protected in the sun. A day at the beach can result in sunburn and sunstroke if you're not covered up.

Camping and cottages are a big part of summer for families in Ontario. If you've never camped before, consider taking part in a 'learn to camp' weekend with Parks Ontario. Many families rent cottages for a week during the summer; it's an opportunity to get away from the regular routine and to live in nature for a week. There are a number of good websites you can check out if you're interested in spending a week in cottage country.

Happy Canada Day everyone, and have a great summer!





Supporting newcomer integration:

Summer ESL for adult learners

Every summer, Durham Continuing Education offers English as a Second Language classes for adults in Oshawa and Pickering. General English classes are offered to a variety of learners, from those whose English is in its beginning stages to those who are just looking to **brush-up** their already solid writing or interview skills. Whatever your ESL learning needs, we have a class for it!

Register for classes from July 3 to July 27, Monday to Friday. Daytime classes will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the option to register for half days, mornings only from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., or afternoons only from 12 to 3 p.m. To register for Oshawa classes, please call 905-440-4489. To register for Pickering classes, please call 905-831-3118. The Oshawa school is located at 120 Centre Street, South, in downtown Oshawa, across from Memorial Park. Just look for the most beautiful old building in the neighbourhood! The Pickering school is located, very conveniently for commuters, right next to the Pickering GO station, at 1400 Bayly Street.

When you join a class, you will be greeted with a smile and given current, fun, **Canadian Language Benchmark**-based instruction in a modern, technology-**infused** environment. All teachers are **TESL** Ontario certified instructor. We will prepare you for your next step in life, supporting your learning at the pace most comfortable for you. Many of our staff are newcomers to Canada themselves and understand the specific challenges you face as a learner. We can't wait to see you! Let's make this season of learning and fun together. For more information, visit the **Durham Continuing Education website** (www.ddsbs.ca/school/dce/Programs/learnenglish/chooseprogram/esl/Pages/default.aspx).





Ensuring student success:

Fun summer lessons for school-age English language learners

This summer, the Durham District School Board will be offering a fun program for students who are English language learners. The program is for students currently in Grade 2 to Grade 5. The program will focus on improving students' literacy skills and language development in a classroom and school environment.

Students will have one-to-one instruction with teachers. Classes will be small, with about 15 to 18 students per class. Mornings will be spent in the classroom and afternoons will include opportunities to play games, be outside and explore the community. The program will run for four weeks (16 days), Monday to Thursday only, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., from July 9 to August 2.

There is no cost to enroll. Parents are responsible for the safe arrival and return of students to and from school or bus pick-up and drop off locations. Parents are invited to enroll their child online at the following [website](http://bit.ly/ESLSP2018): <http://bit.ly/ESLSP2018>. If you have any questions, please email michele.love@ddsb.ca or call 905-666-6469.

The advertisement features a group of diverse children outdoors. A large red diagonal banner on the left says "FREE!". The logo for DDSB Ignite Learning is in the bottom left corner. The main text reads: "DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD GRADE 2 TO GRADE 5 SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM". It includes icons of an open book and a pencil. The dates "JULY 9 TO AUGUST 2, 2018" and time "9:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M." are listed, along with the note "* MONDAY TO THURSDAY ONLY". To the left, there are four sections: "WEST LYNDE PUBLIC SCHOOL WHITBY", "EXPERIENCED TEACHERS", "HEALTHY SNACKS", and "ONLINE REGISTRATION". Each section has a brief description.

WEST LYNDE PUBLIC SCHOOL WHITBY
Build numeracy, reading, writing, and oral communication skills and have fun too!
Enjoy hands on experiential learning through outdoor games, arts and physical activity, inquiry, robotics and field trips.

EXPERIENCED TEACHERS
Great teachers who want to help students become more confident learners

HEALTHY SNACKS
Healthy and nutritious snacks will be provided.

ONLINE REGISTRATION



A new start in school:

Orientation to school life for newcomer students

The first few years in Canada are particularly difficult for newcomer students and their families. For many newcomer students, high school in Ontario is very different from their previous school and the first few months can be stressful. Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Durham offer programs to help ease the stress for these students.

Newcomer Orientation Week (NOW) will give newcomer students an orientation to life in secondary schools and introduce them to the people and activities that can help them settle in their new school. Eligible students are those who arrived in Canada in the last few months and incoming Grade 8 students who arrived in the last year.

A key feature of NOW is the leadership provided by Peer Leaders, students who have newcomer experience. The Peer Leaders run the activities with the assistance of school staff and settlement workers who are assigned to the schools. Peer-led scavenger hunts, skits, simulated lock-downs, fire drills and other school-related activities are designed to expose the new student to procedures and activities which might be unfamiliar in their former schools.

The Welcome and Information for Newcomers (WIN) program gives newcomer children and parents of newcomer children an orientation to life in elementary schools and introduces them to the people and activities that can help them settle in their new school.

A key feature of the WIN program is students of the school who have newcomer experience who volunteer to demonstrate and explain school routines for the children. Parents will have the opportunity of hearing school teachers with years of English as a Second Language experience speaking about school expectations and routines.

Additional support is provided by Durham Public Health who will be available to speak about Immunization and Healthy Smiles programs in the schools. This is also a chance for newcomer parents to meet and speak with other parent volunteers who can share their experience in the school.

Find out more by contacting Durham SWIS at 905-668-2661. For schools in Clarington, contact the Peterborough and area SWIS at 705-743-0882.



SWIS Durham

New to Canada?

Join us for:



Welcome and Information for
Newcomers (WIN)
an orientation program for students and families



Monday, August 20, 2018

St. Bernadette Catholic School
41 Bayly Street East, Ajax
9:00 am - 2:00 pm



To register for this **FREE** program, contact your school or call:

The SWIS Durham Office: (905) 686-2661 ext.122



New to Canada?

Join us for:

NOW

Three days to help you get ready for school!

Newcomer Orientation Week (NOW)
an orientation program for high school students

August 27 - August 29, 2018
8:30 am - 2:00 pm
Donald A. Wilson Secondary School
681 Rossland Road West
Whitby

Learn tips for success

Make friends

To register for this **FREE** program, contact your school or call:
The SWIS Durham Office : (905) 686-2661 ext. 122

New to Canada?

Join us for:

WIN

Welcome and Information for
Newcomers (WIN)
an orientation program for students and families

Have your questions answered and learn about school in Ontario

Give your child a great start at school!

Monday, August 20, 2018

St. Bernadette Catholic School
41 Bayly Street East, Ajax
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

WIN

To register for this **FREE** program, contact your school or call:

The SWIS Durham Office: (905) 686-2661 ext.122



Building inclusive communities:

Volunteering for Community Care Durham

Volunteering is a great way to get job experience in Canada. If you're interested in volunteering and want to help others, why not volunteer for Community Care Durham!

Volunteers are an important part of Community Care Durham (CCD) and help ensure that more than 12,000 clients can remain in their homes with the support they receive through our many services. Our clients are adults with needs related to aging, physical and/or mental health. At CCD, our mission is to help people live at home with a network of support in caring communities.

For just a few hours of your time, you can make a difference in someone's life. We offer many exciting volunteer opportunities. Whether helping out with Meals on Wheels, Friendly Visiting, Telephone Reassurance, Transportation, the Adult Day Program or the COPE Mental Health Program, enjoy the rewards of joining our team. Meet new people, share knowledge, develop new skills and make a positive impact on your community. Volunteering is very beneficial to your well-being! We also require support for our Home Help and Home Maintenance brokered services. Our volunteer process includes the completion of the application form with references and getting a Police Vulnerable Sector Check.

To learn more, please visit the [CCD website](http://www.communitycaredurham.on.ca) at www.communitycaredurham.on.ca or call 905-623-2261 x221. Volunteering Enriches Your Life!

Volunteering enriches your
life!





Take a break and make new friends:

EarlyON Child and Family Centres in Durham

Are you caring for children ages birth to six years old? If you are, bring your children to an EarlyON Child and Family Centre for free drop-in and registered programs.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres provide opportunities for children to play and learn, while parents and caregivers can connect with their child and other caregivers. This is a great way for newcomer families to meet other families in their neighbourhoods. These centres offer safe and welcoming environments open to all families across Durham Region, with qualified professionals and quality programs. Parenting and prenatal and postnatal resources are also available. Children who attend these programs are better prepared to start school and have improved socialization skills.

Registered programs have to be signed up for in advance of the program date. Drop-in programs allow participants to come to the program anytime between the time the program starts until the time it finishes, without signing up for the program.

Only children from birth to six years old can attend the programs. Parents or caregivers are required to participate in programs with their children.

Visit the [Durham website](http://www.durham.ca/EarlyON) (www.durham.ca/EarlyON) for more information or to find a program near you.





Creating inclusive communities:

Courtice Youth Centre to open this fall

The Municipality of Clarington is partnering with the John Howard Society to open a new Youth Centre in South Courtice Arena this fall. Clarington Council recently endorsed a six-month pilot project.

"We are constantly looking at ways to expand opportunities for youth and increase our youth-centred services", said Joseph Caruana, Director of Community Services.

"Clarington's Community Services Department will work with the John Howard Society, which operates the Firehouse Youth Centre in Bowmanville, to build upon this immensely successful program and develop the pilot project in Courtice."

In preparing a plan, the Municipality consulted youth in Clarington to hear their feedback. The response was very positive; many indicated that they would attend a Youth Centre in Courtice as long as it was easily accessible by transit, by bike or within walking distance. While South Courtice Arena has some geographical challenges as it's away from the main Courtice hub around Highway 2, the location was chosen because of its available space; its proximity to existing and future residential development; as well as an already established youth base, which uses the facility for a variety of sporting events.

The new Courtice Youth Centre will open in September. Visit the [Clarington website](http://www.clarington.net) (www.clarington.net) for updates.



This amazing mural is located in the Firehouse Youth Centre in Bowmanville. It was designed and painted by Paul Livingston with the help of his painting assistants from Bowmanville High School Leadership Class - SOLE (Students on the Leading Edge).



Celebrating imagination:

Sign up for the Summer Reading Club at your library

Canada's biggest summer reading program for kids, the TD Summer Reading Club, is back! It really is the biggest reading club in Canada, with 718,399 participants in more than 38,000 programs, delivered by 2,061 library branches across the country.

Children can lose some of their reading skills over the long summer break. By encouraging your children to read, you'll help them to retain those essential skills. More importantly, the Summer Reading Club makes reading and exploring their imaginations fun, helping to build a lifelong love of reading.

There are also lots of free programs at your library for your children and for you! Check your library's website for details.

Ride for FREE on Durham Region Transit

Durham libraries will partner with Durham Region Transit (DRT) again this summer for the Ride to Read program. Children from age 4 to 13 (Grade 8) are eligible to receive a sticker on their library card, allowing them to ride DRT buses free of charge all summer long. Children under 10 must be accompanied by a fare-paying adult.





Celebrating two-way integration:

Camping 101

Camping really is the **quintessential** Canadian experience - yes, even more than playing hockey! However, if you've never been camping before, how do you go about doing this? What do you take with you? Where should you go?

In Ontario, we are lucky to be surrounded by beautiful Provincial Parks that make going camping very easy and accessible. Both Parks Canada and Ontario Parks offer programs to teach newcomers (and others!) how to camp.

Parks Canada recently visited the Pickering Welcome Centre to demonstrate how fun camping can be for everyone. Participants enjoyed a hands-on experience learning to plan and pack for a camping trip – how to set up a tent; how to cook on a camp stove or fire; and how to interact safely and respectfully with wildlife.

The [Ontario Parks Learn to Camp overnight program](#)

(www.ontarioparks.com/learntocamp/overnight) is designed for first time campers. Participants can pick between a one-night or a two-night trip. A two-day trip is recommended – once you get there you won't want to leave! Detailed information about what to bring and what to expect is provided.

As summer approaches many people head out to remote locations to camp, but did you know that there is a campground nearby in Rouge National Urban Park? The Park is Canada's first national urban park. Camping in an urban park or a remote location may be a new adventure, and a bit intimidating if you have never done it before.

Gardening in a New Land

If you want to get outside and enjoy nature but are not quite sure about camping, another popular outdoor activity to explore this summer is "Gardening in a New Land." The Community Connections team will be facilitating free workshops at the Ajax Welcome Centre, for participants to learn about container gardening. Newcomers can learn to plant herbs and vegetables, and enjoy the benefits of being an active gardener growing your own food.

The Welcome Centres in Ajax and Pickering offer free, confidential and culturally-appropriate services to immigrants who have made Canada their home. For more information, call 1-877-761-1155 or visit The [Welcome Centre website](#) (www.welcomecentre.ca).





Celebrate Canada!:

Canada Day celebrations in Durham

Canada Day, July 1, is a national holiday in Canada and it is one huge party! Most communities recognize Canada Day with public celebrations, parades, festivals and fireworks and Durham Region is no exception! Why not come out and be a part of the fun? There are Canada Day celebrations in each municipality and many communities offer free shuttle bus services. Check the links below for details.

Pickering: [Daytime events](#) held in Esplanade Park behind City Hall. [Evening events](#) held at Sandy Beach Road in Pickering. Take the free event shuttle to the park.

Ajax: Join us for our Canada Day celebrations! Please see the Town of Ajax website for information about [daytime events](#) and [evening events](#).

Whitby: On Victoria Day, visit Victoria Fields and Port Whitby Marina for a day filled with fun.

Oshawa: Join the festivities as the City of Oshawa presents an amazing day of fun and entertainment for Canada's birthday. From 2 to 10 p.m. at Lakeview Park.

Clarington: Enjoy Canada Day celebrations across Clarington with family activities and fun!

Scugog: Join us all day in Palmer Park. From 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Watch the spectacular fireworks show at 10 p.m.

Uxbridge: Come and celebrate Canada Day in beautiful Uxbridge! This free event starts at 6 p.m. in Elgin Park. Enjoy spectacular fireworks at dusk.

Brock Township: Celebrations will be held in [Beaverton](#) and in [Cannington](#) at MacLeod Park.





Building inclusive communities:

Youth Pride Durham – Embrace, engage and empower
LGBTQ2S+ youth

On May 27, community agencies came together to support LGBTQ2S+ youth, their families and allies with a free outdoor festival, Youth Pride Durham. The event was the launch of Durham Pride Week and featured food, information from local organizations, cupcake decorating, a drum circle, a photo booth, a positive message board and some spectacular entertainment.

The beautiful day was full of fun and entertainment, but it was also time for the community to come together to support young people. There are youth who feel they have no one to reach out to. This event was for them – so they could see how many people support them, and to hear from organizations that are welcoming, safe spaces.

The highlight of the day was the entertainment. All of the performers spoke to the youth about how the community is there for them and their families, regardless of one's sexual orientation or gender identity. As one of the youth attending explained: "Attending Youth Pride was an amazing and empowering experience where I could see other youth and have a good time being myself."

Visit the [LGBTQ+ section of the Durham Immigration Portal](https://www.durhamimmigration.ca/en/living-here/lgbtq.aspx) (<https://www.durhamimmigration.ca/en/living-here/lgbtq.aspx>) if you're looking for support or are interested in learning more.





Building healthy communities

Sexual health services

In Canada, it is ok to talk about your sexual health and understanding your sexual health is an important part of your well-being. It's about being aware of your body, your mind, and your overall health. It also involves taking a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships. That includes being in control of your body, feeling empowered to make your own choices, and never being pressured - so you can have satisfying and safe sexual experiences (MOHLTC, 2018).

Durham Region Health Department provides sexual health clinics at the Oshawa Centre and the Pickering Town Centre. Clinics are private and confidential and you do not need a health card for an appointment. Clients 12 years and older are seen in the clinics. Birth control options counselling, emergency contraception and PAP testing are available for clients up to 25 years of age. Other services available include:

- Free condoms
- Urine pregnancy testing
- Pregnancy options counselling
- Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing
- Free STI treatment
- Counselling on healthy sexuality
- Immunizations for HPV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis A. These vaccines may be free based on your health history.

For more information about our clinics, visit the [Durham website](http://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/sexual-health.aspx) at www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/sexual-health.aspx.

CONFIDENTIAL • SUPPORTIVE • INFORMATIVE

durham.ca/health

The graphic features a black background with yellow text at the top. Below the text is a row of eight colorful icons representing different health and social services. At the bottom left is the Durham Region Health Department logo, and at the bottom right are social media links for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.



Durham has two nuclear reactors:

What are KI tablets?

If you live within 10 kilometres of the Pickering or Darlington nuclear stations then you may have received a small blue box (like the one pictured here) that includes potassium iodide (commonly called KI) tablets. As you know, Durham Region has two nuclear stations - Pickering and Darlington. In the highly unlikely event of a nuclear accident, KI tablets are key to keeping you safe. All homes and businesses within 10 kilometres of either station are required to have KI tablets readily available and in 2015, KI tablets were mailed to all homes and businesses within 10 kilometres of both nuclear stations. Anyone living within 50 kilometres of either nuclear station can get KI tablets if they want a supply.

KI is only to be taken when instructed by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health. People who are sensitive to iodine or who have a thyroid disorder should see their family doctor before taking KI.

Radioiodine is a chemical that can be released from a nuclear accident and can cause thyroid cancer later in life. KI tablets are used to prevent or reduce the thyroid gland's ability to absorb inhaled or ingested radioiodine.

The Health Protection Division (HPD) provides information and oversees the distribution of KI tablets in Durham Region. For more information or to order a free supply of KI tablets, visit the [Prepare to be Safe website](http://www.preparetobesafe.ca) ([preparetobesafe.ca](http://www.preparetobesafe.ca)). Questions? Call the HPD Environmental Helpline at 1-888-777-9613 or 905-723-3818.



There's no such thing as being too prepared.

In the highly unlikely event of a nuclear accident, a potassium iodide (KI) pill is a key component to keeping you and your family safe. All homes and businesses within 10 km of nuclear facilities are encouraged to have on hand potassium iodide (KI) pills. Anyone within 50 km of nuclear facilities is welcome to order KI for delivery.



Celebrating beautiful communities: One bloom at a time

Canadians are house-proud which means that they like their houses to look neat and tidy at a minimum, but beautiful is also a goal! Clarington Blooms is kicking off its 20th season this year. It is an initiative that celebrates the beauty in our community and allows residents, businesses, schools and churches to showcase their beautiful front gardens. The Clarington Blooms program is a partnership organized by Clarington's Community Services Department and local horticultural societies. The goal of Clarington Blooms is to recognize the time and effort put into front gardens (including balcony and container gardens) that are visible from the roadside and curb. The program encourages community beautification and strives to recognize the time and effort in making Clarington such an attractive place.

The nomination period is from May 1 to July 6 and everyone is encouraged to nominate their neighbours, friends and even themselves. Nomination forms can be found at many local Clarington garden centres, all municipal recreation facilities, the Municipal Administrative Centre (40 Temperance Street, Bowmanville) and at the [Clarington Blooms website](http://www.blooms.clarington.net) (www.blooms.clarington.net). You are encouraged to get outside this summer and help us make Clarington Bloom! For more information on the Clarington Blooms program, please email: blooms@clarington.net.





Supporting economic integration:

Learn about worker cooperatives

Working in Canada can be complicated. Call it the gig economy, sharing economy, or platform economy, in the end it is the worker who delivers the service.

Tutors, artists, bookkeepers, childminders, interpreters, healthcare workers, maids, you name it, many Canadians and newcomers from diverse backgrounds will be affected by this new economy. Working as a dependent contractor could put you in a disadvantaged position that is somewhere between full-time employment and a professional contract. Policy makers and courts are taking notice and are attempting to address some of the inequality in this new form of work. Workers also need to learn and stay informed about their rights and options. One option is to form a worker-owned platform cooperative. Mobile and digital technologies have made it possible not only for private companies like Uber to create online platforms for on-demand services, but new platforms for workers are also being developed.

The Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre of Durham has launched a new program that aims to help workers to understand this new economy, and create worker cooperative platforms. Come and learn every Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m., at the Ajax Business Centre, 274 Mackenzie Ave., Ajax, L1S 2E9. Snacks and bus tickets will be offered.

If you are interested in attending, please register through email at info@wmrccdurham.org or call 905-427-7849. Follow us on twitter (@iffatzehra9), or visit www.wmrccdurham.org.



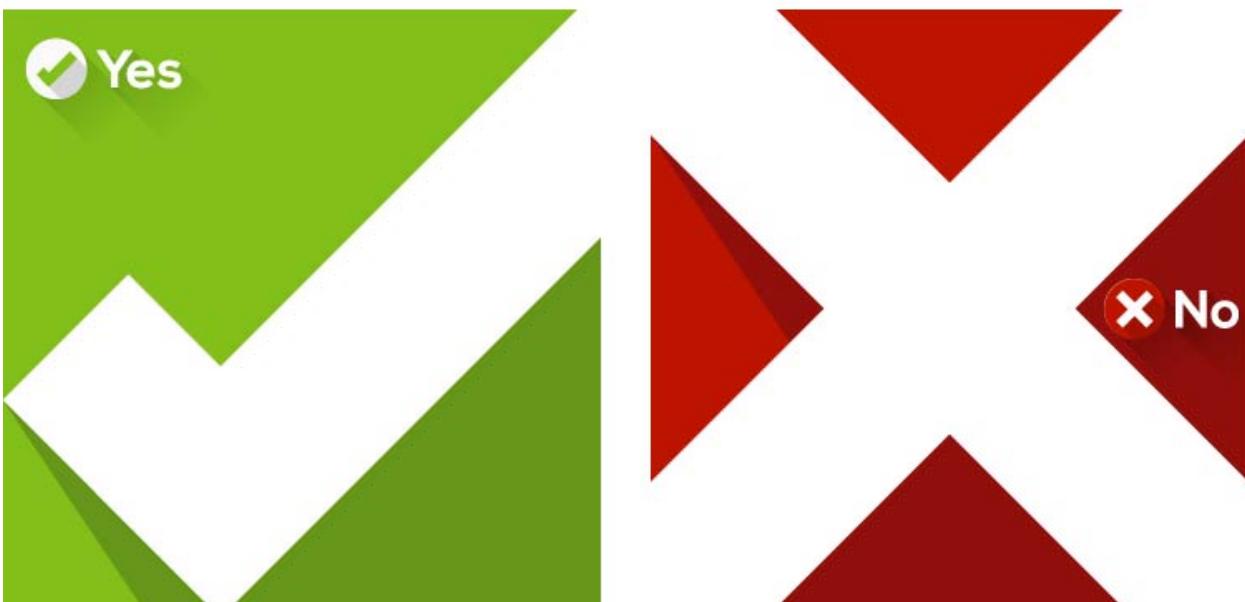


Building civic engagement:

Municipal elections this fall

Voting is an important act of citizenship. On October 22, the Regional Chair, mayors, Regional councillors, local councillors and school board trustees will be elected in Ajax, Brock, Clarington, Oshawa, Pickering, Scugog, Uxbridge, Whitby and the Region of Durham. Municipal elections have the lowest voter turnout in Canada and yet the decisions made by Regional and local Councils affect our day-to-day lives most directly. Issues like property taxes, housing and business development, road maintenance, public health, social service delivery – all of these issues and more are decided by municipal councils. Ensure you have a say in how your community is run. Get informed about local issues and make sure you're registered to vote this fall.

If you think you might be interested in getting more involved politically, it's not just elected politicians who shape public policy at the local level. All municipal councils have Committees of Council, and many of these have members of the public as sitting appointed members. Local municipalities also have appointed Library Board Trustees. Being appointed to these committees and boards is a competitive process with calls for these positions typically sent out in early November or December following the election. Many municipalities have information sessions to share what committee positions are available. To learn more, visit the [Durham website](http://www.durham.ca/en/regional-government/municipal-elections.aspx) (www.durham.ca/en/regional-government/municipal-elections.aspx.)





Exploring diverse cultures:

Summer fun in Whitby

This summer be sure to participate in the following free events for the whole family hosted by the Town of Whitby's Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee (EDAC).

Culture in the Square - Enjoy musical performances, art displays and theatrical productions on Tuesday evenings in July and August at Celebration Square in Whitby, located beside the Whitby Public Library, 405 Dundas Street, West. Performances run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Be sure to check out the two evenings being hosted by EDAC:

July 10 – Academic & Fine Arts of Durham will be sharing cultural dances, musical and instrumental performances. The audience will be invited to participate in interactive dance components of the performance.

August 14 - Anishinaabe Traditional Grandmother Kim Wheatley & Alexandria Bipatnath will guide visitors through Indigenous cultural practices using traditional music and craft making.

Free bus tour for newcomers to Whitby: On Saturday, September 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., newcomers to Whitby can enjoy a fun and educational free bus tour of the area. Space is limited and interested participants must pre-register. Register online or by calling or visiting any Whitby library location.

A newcomer can be any new Whitby resident. The tour will include points of interest including recreation centres, library branches, municipal and Regional headquarters, historical sites, the Station Gallery, Port Whitby Marina, Haydencore Park and much more.

For more information, visit the [Town of Whitby website](http://www.whitby.ca/diversity) (www.whitby.ca/diversity) or email diversity@whitby.ca.





Building environmentally friendly communities:

Oshawa Public Libraries Repair Café

Wait -- don't throw it away -- the Library is starting up a Repair Café! Many people today tend to use items until they show a bit of wear and throw them away, only to purchase a replacement item because they don't know how to fix it or make it good as new again. In the old days, nothing was thrown out and people learned to fix things.

The Repair Café concept began in the Netherlands in 2009. The first Repair Café event proved a need for people to learn how to do their own repairs, and demonstrated the value of sharing knowledge with others.

Oshawa Public Libraries wants to help residents see their old or worn belongings in a new light. Beginning this August, residents will be able to bring their broken home appliances, electronics, jewellery, bikes, etc. to special sessions at the Library where senior volunteers with a flair for repair will pass their skills along to show others how to fix items instead of sending them to the landfill. Together, we can bring repair skills back into style.

The Library's Repair Cafés are funded by the Ontario government, through the Seniors Community Grant Program. For more information, visit the [Oshawa Public Libraries website](http://oshlib.ca/) (<http://oshlib.ca/>).





Glossary

Brush-up:

To practice

Canadian Language Benchmark:

The system used by English teachers to test your language abilities

Cottage country:

The area north of major cities and large communities in Ontario

Ecosystem:

The whole natural world around us and how everything relies on something else to live and grow

Endorsed:

Supported

Fire drills:

Teaching people what to do if there is a fire by practicing safe ways to escape the building

Horticultural:

Gardening

Infused:

To be filled with something

Kickoff:

The start of something



LGBTQ2S+:

An acronym for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, Two-Spirit, plus community

Quintessential:

The one single meaning or definition of something

S'mores:

The best part of camping. A dessert made by putting a hot roasted marshmallow on top of a piece of chocolate between two graham crackers. The marshmallow must be roasted over an open fire

Scavenger hunts:

Games that involve finding hidden treasure using clues and sometimes maps

Simulated lock-downs:

Practicing what to do in a school or a classroom if there is an emergency and you can't safely leave the building

Skits:

Short theatrical plays

TESL:

Stands for Teaching of English as a Second Language



Success Story:

Syrian newcomer families and their sponsors

In an amazing community response to the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015, private sponsorship groups from all over the region filled out forms, raised money, gathered clothes, skates, bikes and furniture, and signed leases for apartments and houses. And then they waited. It turned out that sponsoring refugee families took quite a bit longer than most had anticipated. Sponsors and families communicated over email, Skype and WhatsApp as they all waited for that miraculous call with their flight number to Canada.

Families were greeted, tired and nervous, by their sponsors at the airport and began a new journey as permanent residents of Canada. The first few months were a whirlwind of filling out forms, getting identification and health cards, registering children for school, connecting with SWIS workers, registering for doctors and dentists, visiting the Welcome Centre and getting language skills assessed. Sponsors drove hundreds of hours and covered hundreds of kilometres as they took ‘their family’ to appointments (and more appointments!). It was also a time for sponsors and newcomer families to get to know each other as they ate at each other’s homes, visited churches and mosques together and learned more about their new community. The first year went by so quickly!

For most of the Syrian newcomer families, that first year is behind them and in many ways, the second year is more challenging. Learning English is harder than they thought and it takes more time than they’d hoped – except for the kids, they’re all bilingual already, rapidly switching from English to Arabic and back again. Some have moved to be closer to services and friends in other parts of Durham, but many have stayed in their host community where they have built strong bonds with those who first welcomed them. Many are working, have bought cars and are now offering advice about where to get the really good pita bread to others more newly arrived.

As many of our Syrian newcomer families get ready to celebrate Eid, we say Eid Mubarak and we’re very glad that you are making Durham home!





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

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