

Annual General Meeting

Members of the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society are invited to attend our annual general meeting.

Reception to Welcome Newcomers

We would like to invite all of our members to take this opportunity to meet with recent immigrants to the Nanaimo area and make them feel welcome.

Come and share your experiences. Make new friends.

Monday, September 29, 2003
7:00 pm—8:30 pm
Maffeo Auditorium, 285 Prideaux Street

Refreshments will be served.



CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

114 - 285 Prideaux Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 2N2
Tel: 753-6911, Fax: 753-4250
cvims@island.net
www.cvims.org

English Classes Begin

Full-time Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. (starts Monday, September 15 2003)
Part-time Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon (starts Monday, September 15 2003)

On-site childcare is available for part-time students/parents with pre-school children

In addition to basic English vocabulary, conversation and grammar, the curriculum will include "English in the Community" with cultural orientation, information on resources available in the community and employment-related English.

For more information, please contact the Multicultural Society in person or by phone at 753-6911.

The Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society and the Zonta Club of Nanaimo are pleased to announce the recipient of our 2003 Race Relations Award— Irwin Janjua. Congratulations Irwin!



MULTICULTURAL GAMES EVENING

2nd and 4th Tuesday of every
month
7 pm to 9 pm

Starts Tuesday September 9 2003

Fairview School
2nd Street and Howard Avenue

Free Admission
All ages welcome
On Site Childcare available



For more information
Call (250) 753-6911

Thank You To . . .

The Weyerhaeuser Jobs for Youth Program through which we were able to hire a summer student, Thea McKerricher, a second year chemistry major at UBC, as a Youth Program Coordinator/Tutor. Thea coordinated our youth program during our games night and ran a summer day program assisting youth to learn English and adjust to life in Canada. The young people loved working with Thea and we loved having her here in this position.

Acting Mayor Ron Cantalon, MP Reed Elley, School Trustee Nelson Allen and Senior Immigration Officer Maureen Shakespeare. To the performers, volunteer helpers, business donors; QF Food in Beban Plaza, The Pepsi Bottling Group, Marvelous Muffins in Woodgrove Mall, and all the participants who made JoAnne's retirement such a wonderful event

Those who donated items and who helped with our garage sale

Ron Whitfield, Christine & Horst Hoeger for their hard work at the Multicultural Games Evening BBQ

Hans Joerg Metzger for the brand new fridge and microwave oven and the anonymous donator of two chairs for the Childcare room

Free Information session for Immigrants

Topic: Money Matters in Canada

We will discuss getting benefits and tax credits out of our tax dollars and other contributions

Wednesday October 8, 2003, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

At the CVI Multicultural Society

Please register with Cecilia at the office or at 753-6911



Partners for a Safe, Secure and Healthy Community, an initiative of the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society and Nanaimo's Action for Diversity Team, invites you to our first community meeting, Monday, September 29 2003, 7:30, Rm 8 at the Beban Social Centre, 2300 Bowen Rd.

The Partners are members of this community, individuals, organizations and agencies. We are immigrants and members of the Aboriginal Community: we are Lesbian and Gay; we are the differently abled; we are women and men; old and young; White and People of Colour. We are non-profits agencies and businesses; large and small institutions. All are committed to taking active stand against racism and hate and so make our community safe, secure and healthy for all its members. The community meeting will be an opportunity for you as members of this community to say what you think needs to be part of any effective response to incidents of racism and hate.

ASPECT TRAINING PROGRAMS

This program finishes at the end of September. This contract started three years ago to assist income assistance participants to obtain training with local employers or local training institutions. It has been a very successful program with 145 persons obtaining employment for more than 12 months. Participants were trained in such occupations as customer service reps, pool and spa technician, bingo hall manager, tire repair, brick layer apprentice and beer and wine technician.

In January of 2003, we started Aspect Training For Jobs. Again this program is designed to assist long-term income assistance recipients to gain training and work experience with the end goal of long-term employment. This program is projected to finish in March of 2004 but as it is a pilot program anything can happen. As of Oct 1st Hilde Carlson will be the coordinator of this program.



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

A program funded by the
Government of British Columbia

Are you looking for a job?

WE CAN HELP!

Do you know someone who is looking for a job?

Many people find work after coming to the Multicultural Society for employment assistance

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CENTRE

#109 - 285 Prideaux St. Phone: (250) 716-9131

Jobs found:



- Drywall Installer
- IT Specialist
- School Bus Driver
- Sales Associate
- New Business Owner
- Resident Care Aide
- Warehouse Worker

DROP-IN CENTRE

- Use of computers and High-speed Internet
- Help with resumes and cover letters
- Job Postings Board
- Photocopy, fax and message services

EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING

- Individual and Group Sessions
- Contact with Employers
- Job interview preparation
- Access to training and education
- Assistance with evaluation of foreign credentials

LEARN ENGLISH! FIND A JOB!

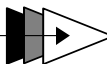
Learning more English can help you to find a job.



September is a good time to begin learning more English!

We can help you go to school to learn English. Come see Joy or Nanette in Room 109 for more information.

Canada  The Government of Canada has contributed funding to this initiative

BC Internationally Trained Professionals Network 

The Central Island BC Internationally Trained Professionals' Network is off to a great start. On Thursday August 22 the group held their first monthly meeting and reviewed the accomplishments of the group and the important next steps. The BCITP Net Project staff from Vancouver held meetings in Nanaimo in February and June to see if Internationally Trained Professionals in this area would be interested in forming a group. The meetings were well attended and interest was strong. The purpose of BCITP Net is described on the website, <http://bcitp.net>: "By creating associations, BCITP Net will make it possible for policy-makers to hear Internationally Trained Professionals' opinions, experience and ideas."

This networking association will also create the opportunity for ITPs to meet and support each other in achieving their employment goals. Central Island BCITP Net is planning the next meeting for late September with a presentation by a local Engineering company. The group will invite the employer to speak about how to find entry-level work in Engineering and also talk about the Canadian workplace in general. Therefore, it will be a meeting of interest to all Internationally Trained Professionals.

All Internationally Trained Professionals are welcome to attend. The date, time and location of the meeting will be published soon. Please contact Nanette Longo to register for this meeting or for more information.

Network Update

"By creating associations, BCITP Net will make it possible for policy-makers to hear Internationally Trained Professionals' opinions, experience and ideas."

Nanette Longo
(250) 716-9131
nlongo@cvims.org

Multicultural Women's Group

Thursdays

9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Weekly meetings resume Thursday, September 18, 2003.



This support group is open to women of all cultural backgrounds. It is a safe place for us to share our concerns, feelings and experiences, and to care for each other.

On-site childcare is provided

For information, contact Cecilia at 753-6911

New members are always welcome!

25th Anniversary Celebration of Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society is next year. We invite suggestions and ideas as to how to celebrate this event in the coming year.

Comings and Goings

The Society has said goodbye to its Executive Director. **JoAnne Blackman** has retired after more than twenty years serving the Society and the central Vancouver Island community. "I have seen the Society go from its founding members' initial vision of creating a welcoming environment for our clients, and a community that both values and celebrates diversity to the present organization whose staff and volunteers remain dedicated to making this vision a reality. I am pleased to have been part of this journey", says JoAnne. JoAnne plans to continue to offer her experience to the work of the Society as a volunteer.

We welcome **Hilde Carlson** as our new Executive Director. Hilde brings her extensive experience within the non-profit sector, both as a staff and as a volunteer, including several years as a manager of several suicide prevention initiatives in Alberta to the work of the Society. She developed and operated Canada's first inmate-driven suicide prevention program in federal penitentiaries. She also brings her skills as a mediator and negotiator as well as training in critical incident stress management. "I am thrilled by the opportunity to work with such a fine group of people in this thriving and dynamic organization. I am humbled by the many accomplishments of JoAnne, her staff and the volunteers of the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society. Along with our team at CVIMS, I will work hard to continue the exemplary services to new Canadians and in promoting diversity in our community", says Hilde.



Many of you know **Patricia Aravena**, a long-time member of CVIMS -- in fact, Cecilia recalls that hers was the first family she met when she started her job. Patricia is now doing her Social Work diploma practicum for Malaspina in our ASPECT job training program. She'll be working with Hilde this semester.

Eric Robinson's contract comes to an end on Sept. 30. Eric is coordinator of the ASPECT program and has been a valuable part of our team since 2000. Eric has assisted hundreds of multi-barriered individuals re-enter the workforce. We will all miss Eric, his wry sense of humour and great tie collection.

We have also said goodbye to **Irina Vlasenko** who has left this area to work in Ottawa where her husband obtained employment with the Federal Government. Irina started at the Society as a work experience student while attending Malaspina University-College and for the past 3 years worked for the Aspect Training Program as an employment counsellor. Irina worked tirelessly to assist participants in the Aspect program to obtain training and employment. She will be greatly missed by everyone here, but we know that she will make her mark in the Nation's capital.