



# The Host Post

Spring 2008



PEI ASSOCIATION FOR NEWCOMERS TO CANADA— NEWSLETTER

## Padding with a Purpose



Sean Malloy, an avid kayaker, will set out to circumnavigate PEI in an effort to raise funds to reunite his newcomer Host match with his daughter from Burma. Sean and his friend were introduced through the Host Program in September 2007.

"I hope there is a moment where this is finished that I can see my friend and his daughter together. I think that will be very rewarding"

The 600km journey will start in Charlottetown at the end of May and finish 5 weeks later. Anyone interested in offering support for this wonderful cause can contact Erica at 628-6009 or [erica@peianc.com](mailto:erica@peianc.com) or [seanmalloy@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:seanmalloy@pei.sympatico.ca)

## Reflections from Host Volunteer, Nora Scales

I have very deep roots on Prince Edward Island. Like many Islanders I left in my early 20s and returned in my late 50s. However, P.E.I. was always "home". The Charlottetown I returned to in 1999 was not the same place I left in 1964. The new (and I must say greatly improved) Charlottetown has an increasingly large and vibrant community of Newcomers representing different races and cultures from every corner of the globe.



*Nora & the Deepali Family*

As the years went by after my move "home" I began to be curious about this community of Newcomers. Who are these people? What has brought them to P.E.I.? Are they well received? How are they faring? I met with Erica from PEI ANC in November. The Host Program she described to me sounded interesting. She paired me with the Deepali family from Sri Lanka after the Christmas holidays.

It has been an extremely satisfactory match, and the friendship between me and the family deepens as the months go by. Highlights have been excursions to the toddler pool at the CARI Centre, the Newcomers excursion to Brookvale and the Jack Frost festival. The family of 4 were really the star guests at my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday party on a very stormy Sunday in early March. I remember vividly the challenges of living in a foreign country. Perhaps this is why I find it so rewarding to help my family with some of the complex issues of everyday life. The Host Program provides a vital link between local people like myself and new immigrants like the Deepali family. It provides an excellent mechanism to welcome Newcomers and to help them integrate in their new environment. It is truly a win/win situation for both sides.

## Upcoming Host Event



Join us for a get-together at **Cavendish Beach on Saturday, June 14th, 2008.**

Please let Erica know how many in your family would like to attend. Busses will leave from Holland College parking lot at **1pm** and return at **5pm**. Space is limited to 100, therefore only those who pre-register by Wednesday June 11th will be able to attend. [erica@peianc.com](mailto:erica@peianc.com) or 628-6009

## Let the Volunteers Speak! Focus Group

**Who:** For past, present, and prospective volunteers of the PEI ANC  
**What:** Focus group on the topics of volunteer recruitment, retention, group activities, volunteer training, recognition events, as well as your personal experiences and/or suggestions.

**When:** Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm-8:30pm

**Where:** 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, PEI ANC office space

This is your chance to share your ideas with the staff and make a difference in how we serve our clients and volunteers who work with them. There will also be a focus group for newcomer clients by invitation. If you are interested in participating, please contact Joey Seaman at 628-6009 or [joeys@peianc.com](mailto:joeys@peianc.com). We welcome your input!

## World Refugee Day - June 20

### World Refugee Day 2008 — Film Screening

*Sierra Leone's Refugee All-Stars (a documentary film)*

Friday, June 20th, 4:30 pm at City Cinema in Charlottetown.

Admission: \$5.50 <http://www.refugeeallstars.org/>

All are welcome. For more information contact Erica Carragher or Joey Seaman at 629-6009



**Anyone interested in organizing an event for World Refugee Day should speak to Erica or Joey at 628-6009.**

## WELCOME to newest members of the PEI ANC Team...



Melanie Bailey— IEHP Program

I am excited to be part of the PEI ANC team that assists internationally educated health care professionals work through the PEI healthcare system.



Arsalan Said Hassan— Interim RAP Settlement Worker

Everyone has amazing stories to tell and my job has given me a great opportunity to work with people and help them settle into a new country.



Joey Seaman— Host Program

I hope my work with the PEI ANC will be a way to help Newcomers build a strong connection to their new home here on PEI.



Carrie MacLean— IEHP Program

I am very excited about the opportunity to work with PEI ANC. I look forward to putting my knowledge to use and meeting new people in the process.



Erin Mahar— Intake Worker

I am very excited to join the PEI ANC team. As an intake worker I look forward to working with you and helping you in any way I can.



Jana DeVries— ISAP Settlement Worker

As a new member of the Settlement team I'm looking forward to meeting you and helping you settle into life in Canada. Hope to see you soon!



## DiverseCity 2008

Canadian Multiculturalism Day



**DiverseCity 2008**, Friday, June 27 (5pm-midnight)  
Multicultural festival!

*Film* at 5pm, "Mosaic" expo and more!

*Live Music* - Victoria Row feat. **Le Gitans de Sarajevo**

In case of rain, concert will be at The Guild instead of Victoria Row.

**DiverCité 2008**, le vendredi 27 juin de (17 h à minuit)  
Festival multiculturel!

Le film débute à 17 h, Expo « Mosaïque » et plus!

*Spectacle*-Victoria Row en vedette **Le Gitans de Sarajevo**

En cas de pluie, le concert aura lieu au *Guild* au lieu de *Victoria Row*.



## Volunteer Appreciation Night: A Time to Say 'Thanks!'



Volunteer Appreciation Night was a wonderful chance for the entire staff to show their gratitude for the ongoing commitment of its volunteers. Guests were treated to great food, music, presentations and even some parting gifts. The evening was made possible by many contributions from friends of the PEI ANC.

The delicious food was provided by Shaddy's Restaurant, Madeleine España, Pamela Siu and Carolina Ramos de Siu. Two heartfelt testimonials were given by Rohana Jayantha and Erin Moore on their experiences with the Host Program. To close out the event, Parsharam Giri, Maria Zou and Ra Je On Na took the stage to display their incredible array of talents in traditional music. Everyone at the PEI ANC would like to send their most heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who help us support and welcome our new Canadian friends. Thank You!

## First Annual Refugee Rights Day Event

There was standing room only at our first ever Refugee Rights Day event held on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The event kicked off with an introduction from Dr. Lisa Chilton from the UPEI History Dept. on the history of refugees in Canada. The platform for the evening featured three first hand refugee stories by Madan Kumara Giri (Bhutan), Sandra Camacho and Madeleine Espana (Colombia) and Arsalan Said Hassan (Afghanistan), which provided a stage for questions and comments. The Hon. Shawn Murphy, MP for Charlottetown, was also in attendance to hear the presentations. The event offered a great time to socialize, share stories and enjoy some fabulous food prepared by Madeleine España and Sandra Camacho. The evening would not have been complete without some Colombian music performed by Alberto Cardona and a spicy reggaeton number from Alejandro Galeano and Heidi Santamaria. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the inaugural Refugee Rights Day an overwhelming success. See you next year!

## Congratulations... to *Mouemena* on the birth of her

beautiful new baby boy, Adam, born on April 23rd, and to *Michelle & James* on the birth of beautiful baby Hannah Katerina on May 3rd. We wish you every happiness with your new babies!



Congratulations

*Jana and Travis*



on your May 3rd marriage in Guelph, Ontario!



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Newcomers to Canada

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Erica Carragher & Joey Seaman



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