

# NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL INC.

Established 1979

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# Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 1

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITATION 2008

MARCH 2008

## The President's message:

Dear Friends, Members and Supporters of NLMC Inc.:


**Greetings.** I hope that you all are doing fine inspite of the rather tough Winter this year. The Chinese New Year just started last month with the "Year of the Rat" and a hope of Good Luck, Good Health & Prosperity.

Our Newsletter is not only a solid document of the recent activities sponsored by the NLMC Inc. but also it brings you news about our Membership. From time to time we are sharing with you: Messages, Articles/Letters on different topics of interest - some very inspiring and thought provoking. All within the frame of our mandate. We appreciate in this regard the contributions made by many members over the years and, we look forward to new articles in the future.

With the Financial help from the Department of Canadian Heritage, we continue sowing the seeds of "Multiculturalism across the Island of Newfoundland". And, in the near future in Labrador-starting with Happy Valley-Goose Bay. You can be proud of our Organization as we are growing and



St. John's, NL February 15, 2008. Canadian Flags were flying from Sunrise to Sunset at the Dreher's residence (also H.Q. of NLMC Inc.) to mark the 43rd Anniversary of National Flag of Canada. (Picture taken by Thaddeus Dreher with Suree Dreher in front).



Canadian Heritage

Patrimoine canadien

## CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN HERITAGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2008  
at the  
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
PLEASANTVILLE, ST. JOHN'S, NL

- \* Reception: 6:00 p.m. (Cash Bar)
- \* Dinner: 7:00 p.m., Buffet, Hors d'ouvres  
International Food  
Desserts, Tea, Coffee
- \* Multicultural Show, Door Prizes
- \* Scholarship Presentation
- \* Dance: Taped Music, 10:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
\$25.00 Members and Seniors, \$20.00 Students  
\$30.00 General Public; \$15.00 Children (5 to age 12)

**TICKETS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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Sponsored by:  
Newfoundland and Labrador Multicultural Council Inc.

contributing to the "Unity in Diversity" on our province of NL.

Please note our next event "Celebration of African Heritage" is on Saturday, April 19, 2008. It's another occasion for our diverse Community to get together and celebrate. See you at our Spring function and **Thank you for the loyal support.**

Sincerely,

Thaddeus Dreher, President

## CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES.....

✿ To **His Worship Andy Wells**, Mayor of St. John's (a loyal member and supporter of our organization) on the **appointment to the Chairmanship of the Public Utility Board**. We would like to wish him more satisfaction and less headaches on the new position.

✿ To **Dr. Ghulam Dogar**, a physician in Grand Falls-Windsor, NL, who after seven years of a bureaucratic battle with the Canadian Authorities and to a lesser degree with the Pakistani Government, succeeded in bringing his 10 years old son, **Ibrahim**, on Dec. 30/07,



to his home in Grand Falls-Windsor, NL. A very happy ending and a start of a new life together for Dr. Dogar and his son, Ibrahim in Newfoundland. All the best to Dr. Dogar's Family.

*Dr. Ghulam Dogar relaxes with his son, Ibrahim, as the latter displays his new helmet for sports like skating and hockey which he never had a chance to play in Pakistan.*

✿ To **Chef/Instructor Brian Abbott** and **Ryan Norris**, student of the Marine Cooking, on winning the first place (overall winners) at the Annual Seafood Competition at the College of the North Atlantic (CNA). There were six team participating and the competition was tight. The winners: Chef Brian Abbott and Student Ryan Norris travelled in February to the huge Boston Seafood Show, where they presented their culinary talents at the busy Atlantic Canada Booth.

✿ To **Ms. Caron Hawco** on her recent move (Jan. 2008) into the position of **Chairperson** of NOIA - succeeding Jerry Byrne of D.D. Barnes Ltd. We wish Ms. Hawco success in the very complex Oil and Gas industries - so important in the building of prosperity for our Province of NL.

✿ To **Lillian** and **Jim Fidler** for their video production (**Lillian Fidler Design**) for the YMCA of Northeast

Avalon that has won **first place** at the North American YMCA Development Organization Communications **contest award**. The Video was produced to raise awareness and money for the new St. John's "Y" to be built in the area of Pippy Park. Jim produced the audio and Lillian produced the video - a great team.

✿ To **Ms. Cathie Hicks** and **Mr. Peter Halley** on the successful acquisition of the **Masonic Temple** (a heritage bldg.) on Cathedral Street, St. John's, NL- a new venture for their "**Spirit of Newfoundland Productions**". Our best wishes for a success of the new business enterprise.

✿ To **Dr. Vit Bubenik**, a professor of linguistic studies, on the election to **The Royal Society of Canada (RSC)** - the highest scholarly honour - for his academic achievements. We wish Dr. Bubenik and his family good health and satisfaction in the academic career at Memorial University of Newfoundland - and beyond.

✿ To **Reverend Ken Abbott** (our loyal member and supporter of NLMC Inc. for over 20 years) on his appointment as **Pastor for the Anglican Community in the Placentia Bay** area NL- with his office and residence at the Bay L' Argent Rectory.

## SYMPATHIES.....

✿ To the families of **Yolande Quesnel Lono** who passed away on December 29/07 in her 82nd year at Chancellor Park, St. John's, NL. We convey our sincere condolences.



Yolande was a very active executive member of the Association Francophone de St. Jean and the Association Francophone de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador. Together with her husband, **Simon Joseph Lono**, (d. March 8, 2001) they were for many years loyal supporters of the Multicultural activities sponsored by our Council.

**NOTICE:** If you have not as yet paid the Membership Annual Fee for 2008 - it's time to do it now. Your (loyal) Membership and Support is the foundation for our Organization.

Thank you, NLMC Inc.

## Newfoundland and Labrador Multicultural Council Inc. – at THE ROOMS



At *THE ROOMS* with the spectacular view of the St. John's Harbour and the Narrows - on Sunday, February 17, 2008, **The Chinese Association of Newfoundland and Labrador** under the leadership of its President, Mrs. Betty Wong, presented the **Chinese New Year** - year of the Rat - with a **Lion Dance (I)** - performed by Justin So, Mathew So, Cerith Wong, Peter Wong, Teresa Wong, Andrew Leung, Deniel Tat and Jerry Xie.



The festive program included also a Ribbon and Fan Dance (2) performed by Tzu Hao Hsu, music on bawu by Erick Hou, and Chinese characters writing. It was an interactive experience with fun for the children/students - picture (3)

### Multicultural Activities:

At *THE ROOMS*: with “**Passports to fun, Travels and Adventure...**” for children 5 - 12, their families and General Public - on Wintery Sundays of February, March and April 2008

Passport to Scotland	February 3 - 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm
Passport to China	February 17 - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Passport to Africa	March 2 - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Passport to Ireland	March 16 - 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm
Passport to Asia (Korea, Thailand, Vietnam)	March 30 - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Passport to Colombia and Philippines	April 13 - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Passport to India	April 27 - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

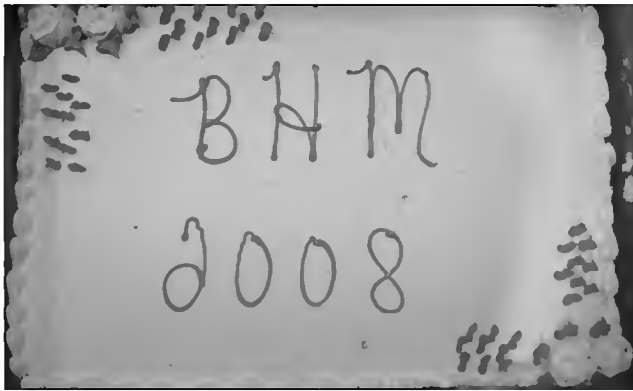
## News from St. John's, NL

The African and Canadian Association of NL (ACANL) organized a **Celebration of Black History Month 2008** in Newfoundland and Labrador. The event was held on Friday night, February 22nd, 2008 - 6:00 - 10:00pm at MUN's University Centre, St. John's NL.

It was a **Cultural Night of Dinner** - Buffet style with variety of food from diverse, rich African, Caribbean and Colombian Cuisines - and, a special cake **BHM 2008** for the occasion with tea & coffee.

The Program included also door prizes, traditional **African Fashion Show**. It concluded with a **Dance** to the dynamic African Music.

**Congratulations** and a **'Bravo'** to the Organizers and Volunteers under the Leadership of **Dr. Zainab Jerrett**, President ACANL.



## News from Placentia, NL

On December 27th, 2007 Ms. Catherine (Kit) Kelly celebrated her 65th Birthday with Family and friends at her home. We wish Ms. Kelly good health happiness and satisfaction with the Community and multicultural activities for many years in the Future.



*Ms. Kit Kelly (on the left) with her friend, Ms. Emma Griffiths and the table full of presents for the occasion.*

There are plans, as always, to **celebrate Canada Day 2008**. Also plans are in the works in connection with the **40th Anniversary of the Castle Hill as a National Historic Site**. Castle Hill won't be open for business until sometime in April.

And there is more in the works:

The local Committee is planning to organize an **International/Multicultural event** for sometime in June 2008 to celebrate the long history (since 1603) of the French People in Placentia- as well the present diverse Community.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Committee in Placentia, NL.**

NLMC Inc.

## News from Central Newfoundland – Grand Falls-Windsor



*Dr. Mohamed Boodhun with his wife Yasmin & Family on a "Tourism Escape" in California over the Christmas Holidays 2007. Congratulations and thank you for sharing with us the happy family experience in U.S.A.*

A happy reunion for **Mr. Rifat Saeed** with his **wife Sheeba** and **daughter, Noor**. They arrived from Pakistan in January 2008. Mr. Saeed came to Grand Falls-Windsor early in 2007 - to teach mathematics at CONA- GFW campus.

On 3rd of February a "**Welcome-Social**" for the Saeeds was hosted by **Dr. Dogar** and **Ms. Diane Bradbury** at Dr. Dogar's home with Friends and Neighbours participating. The President **Mr. Aubrey Smith**, on behalf of the **Central Newfoundland Multicultural Society** delivered a **Special Welcome Message** to the Saeed Family on this happy occasion.



*Here, at the "Bienvenue Party" - Rifat Saeed, his daughter, Noor and Mrs. Sheeba Saeed at the cutting of cake on the happy occasion.*



November 27, 2008 - in Grand Falls-Windsor, NL. On the occasion of **Dr. Meiyappan's Family visit from New Zealand** - a **Welcome dinner** was hosted by the **Smiths** (l-r) Arjun Meiyappan, Mrs. Malathy Meiyappan, Vivek Meiyappan, Dr. Meiyappan Mathuraman and Dr. Dogar (only his hand visible). The picture was taken by Mr. Aubrey Smith, President CNMS while Mrs. Jacinta Smith was busy preparing the turkey dinner.

On February 15, 2008 the **Central Newfoundland Multicultural Society** held its 2nd Annual Bowling Event. On that sporty/competitive occasion, \$160.00 were raised by the CNMS to help the Disabled Association in Grand Falls-Windsor.



*The enthusiastic bowlers (L-r): Ms. Luz Bonoan, Mr. Howard Barnes and Ms. Diane S. Bradbury.*

The Central Newfoundland Multicultural Society (CNMS) with a patriotic and multicultural spirit will organize Canada Day Celebrations and other activities for 2008. To that effect, the Executive will hold its regular monthly meetings from now on.

Best wishes and Congratulations to CNMS.

NLMC Inc.

# Return to the Main River - June 2007

by William H. Goodridge

## To Judge William (Bill) Goodridge:

With appreciation for sharing with us your booklet “Return to the Main River” - June 2007.

It must have been a life/time experience - one week long adventure for you, your brother Doug Goodridge and your friends Gary Dinn, Dennis Johnson, Brian McShane and Frank O’Dea - in 3 canoes on the fast running river. No doubt, it was a big challenge with risk, particularly, at the rapids as you had noted: “The speed of the river through the gorge is such that one does not have the luxury of frequent scouting breaks”.

But, there were more relaxed moments too, when you had time to appreciate the pristine, unspoiled nature of the Northern Labrador. In your closing paragraph of you booklet you share the inspiring reflections.

“It was only after the completion of such a trip that I realize how much pleasure the good company and adventure gives me. On occasion during a trip of this nature, when you are wet, cold and hungry, or when the flies are feasting on your blood, it does not seem so wonderful. I have no recollection of those tougher times when reflecting on a trip. I only recall the happy times. We were cautious and always tried to minimize the risk along the way. In the end we were left with a sense of accomplishment and a commitment to each other to repeat a similar trip in the future.

*The Editor: Thank you Judge Goodridge and congratulations on the 37 fascinating (richly illustrated) pages of your booklet - and, best wishes in your future adventure trips in Labrador and beyond.*



Here - Judge William Goodridge with a prize catch on the Main River trip.

# Letter from a mother to another mother.

*(this letter is dedicated to the crying heart of mothers  
who lost their sons in conflict inflicted parts of the world)*

*Written by Dr. Mira Parai*

Dear mother,

I am writing you this letter exactly eight hours after the funeral of five teens killed by the Army. I saw the waves of crowd, I heard the heart piercing cry of you. I cried with you sitting in my living room by the television set. You might have done the same thing when my son's casket was carried along with three others, killed by suicide bomber. I believe you cried with me and I am sure you did. Because you are a mother and so am I. You and I, like all the mothers in the world, carried those sons for nine months, nourished them with our blood.

Endless dreams we dreamed. Remember those little hands, tiny fingers touching, twirling and turning fingers while suckling. Looking at our faces with wide beautiful eyes asking for love. Those little voices, "Mama" took away all our hardships. How many mothers are there today with the pain of losing their sons? Many and I believe countless. Mother, why do we let our sons die! Is it because we are greedy to be happy in heaven if we let them go and die? That cannot be true? We are mothers! Greed has no place when it comes love for children!

They say that they die to establish their rights on the land and other youngs are to defend their land, and in that quest embracing death will ensure heaven for ever! Where is the heaven other then a mother's bosom! All the land on this planet earth is God's land and is promised to the Human civilization whose essential supports are air and light. We put up a fence on the ground to stop peoples crossing back and forth. Can any one stop the air or light crossing that so called border?

Could anyone stop a mother's heart piercing cry not to cross the border! You are a mother and so am I. Let's

not send our sons to die. All the recruiters are men, they never know the pain of a mother's heart. Only you and I know it.

I dreamed the same way as you did. My grown up son one day will have a good job, marry I will see my beautiful grands. I will pamper them and love them the way I loved my little boy. Instead had to say good bye to him in the hope of an eternal heaven, starting as a teenager!



My heart is breaking, crumbling down as if some one is crushing it by squeezing all the blood out. I want more pain, terrible pain so that I can forget that I will never see my son again on this earth.

Mother, this is you and I cry in the same language, the language of mother's heart. I wish no mother cry ever the way you and I are crying today. We are helpless, because we are mothers, we have no power to stop our children marching to death! Why? Do you think our sons wanted to die? Do you think Almighty God wants their blood to grant them heaven?

Let's bring the heaven down here on earth where mothers all over live with their sons and see their grand children grow up. Let Almighty God answer to the cries of the mothers, "Please do not fill your heaven up by emptying the helpless mother's heart".

Your Sincerely --- . 's mother.

**The Editor:** *To Dr. Mira Parai, our Secretary with a "Thank You" for the very moving and timely "letter" - reflecting on the human tragedies and failures. Perhaps, we should have more women in the Top Leadership- especially as Commanders-in-Chief - hopefully for a better and more peaceful world.*

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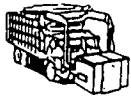
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