



QUINTE UNITED
IMMIGRANT
SERVICES

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Thanks to our Funders
for their continued
support:

(CIC) Citizenship &
Immigration Canada,
(MCI) Ministry of
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Immigration and United
Way of Quinte



Our mission at Quinte United Immigrant Services is to guide those newcomers isolated by culture and language in the Quinte area through the process of settlement and adjustment, encourage the community to respect the diversity of immigrants by promoting recognition of the value of racial and cultural differences, and facilitate the integration and participation of newcomers into the social, economic, and cultural life of the community.

Upcoming Community Events

- | | |
|---|---|
| Monday, December 24, 2012-
Christmas Eve-QUIS office closed | Octavia Street |
| Tuesday, December 25, 2012 -
Christmas Day –QUIS office closed | Thursday, February 14, 2013-
Valentine’s Day |
| Wednesday, December 26, 2012–
Boxing Day –QUIS office closed | February, 2013- (date to be announced)- Law Enforcement information session, QUIS, 41 Octavia Street |
| Tuesday, January 1, 2013– New Year’s Day –QUIS office closed | Monday, February 18, 2013– Family Day-QUIS office closed |
| Tuesday, January 15, 2013- Hastings Housing Resource Centre information session, 12 p.m, QUIS, 41 Octavia Street | Wednesday, February 27, 2013- Edith Fox Foundation information on dealing with loss, 12 p.m, QUIS, 41 Octavia Street |
| Tuesday, January 29, 2013– K3C Credit Counselling information session. Learn how to budget!, 12 p.m, QUIS, 41 Octavia Street | March, 2013– (date to be announced) Income Tax Preparation information session, QUIS, 41 Octavia Street |
| Tuesday, February 12, 2013- Community Employment Services information session, 12 p.m, QUIS, 41 | Sunday, March 17, 2013– St. Patrick’s Day |

Thank You To Our Newsletter Contributors:

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QUINTE
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Inside this Issue:

- Winter Celebrations 1
- QUIS Children’s Christmas Party 2
- How to Enjoy Winter 2
- QUIS Information Sessions 4
- Happenings at QUIS 7
- Thanks ! 7
- Upcoming Community Events 8

QUIS Newsletter

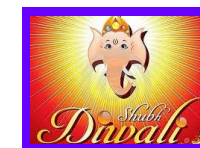


WINTER CELEBRATIONS

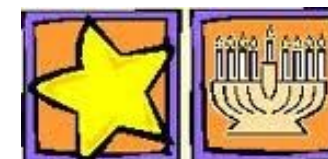
Canada is home to people from many cultures.

Different cultures have different celebrations that occur in the winter season. Here are some of them:

Diwali: This is a festival celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains. The name means “Festival of Lights”. It represents the victory of good over evil. Families eat together and there are sweets! This year, Diwali was on November 13.



Hanukah: Hanukah is a Jewish celebration. It, too, is known as “the festival of lights”. Jewish people light a menorah, a kind of candle holder, each night, to remind themselves that even in darkness, there is light. . This year, Hanukah is from December 8-16.



CHRISTMAS HANUKKAH

Kwanzaa: This African-American celebration began in 1966. It is designed to show 7 important values such as unity, creativity and self-determination. Each night, a child lights one candle on a candle holder . Kwanzaa is part of a Swahili phrase that means “first fruits”. Kwanzaa runs from December 26-January 1.



KWANZAA SOLSTICE

Winter Solstice: This year, the solstice is December 21. It is the shortest day of the year. Pagans (followers of pre-Christian European religions) celebrate this day as the rebirth of the sun. Some of our modern Christmas traditions, such as the Christmas tree, candles and holly come from pagan beliefs.

Whatever customs you celebrate, we wish you seasons greetings and a happy new year!

QUIS CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

QUIS' annual Children's Holiday party was held on Friday, December 7th at the Belleville Recreation Centre. Children had the chance to colour pictures, make wreaths and puppets, and have a visit with Santa! People enjoyed a delicious pizza dinner as well as other seasonal snacks. Several lucky ticket-buyers went home with lovely gift baskets donated by local merchants and staff.



QUIS staff and board members were assisted by volunteers from Scotiabank, who also helped to finance the event. For that generosity, we are grateful.

Thank you to everyone who helped out and participated!



Staff of Scotiabank Belleville present a sponsorship cheque to board members and staff of QUIS.

HOW TO ENJOY WINTER!

The best way to get through winter is to be active and try some new things. Here are some ideas you can try and places you can go to make winter more enjoyable:

Skiing at Batawa Ski Hill: Batawa is near Trenton. You can rent skis there and practice. There are also fun activities for kids. (<http://batawaskihill.com/>)

Quinte Conservation Area: You can go for a walk in the woods with your friends and family. It's a great place to take some photos. (<http://quinteconservation.ca/web/>)

If you want to try skating, you can go to the new **Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre**. There are several skating rinks, a pool, a gym, and an indoor track. (<http://www.city.belleville.on.ca/RESIDENTSERVICES/RECREATIONPROGRAMS/FACILITIES/Pages/QuinteSportsAndWellnessCentre.aspx>)



HAPPENINGS AT QUIS

The fall of 2012 was a busy time for QUIS. On October 3, the Quinte Local Immigration Partnership, headed by John Robertson, successfully launched their website. The site gives valuable information to newcomers in the Quinte region and helps people to settle into the area. The launch, combined with a 25th anniversary celebration of the founding of QUIS, was well attended.



In October 30, QUIS held its annual general meeting at the Belleville Library. QUIS would like to welcome new board member, Kevin Jackson.



Kevin is not new to QUIS, as he has volunteered with the agency in the past.



2013 promises to be another eventful, successful year for Quinte United Immigrant Services.

QUIS Gold Sponsor



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THANKS !

QUIS would like to thank **Tashi Aie** and **Isabel Cid** for their assistance at the Moore's Suit Drive, held on September 22. Tashi assisted QUIS staff in setting up the Common Room for the event and Isabel assisted participants in finding clothes and even modelled some of the clothes herself!

QUIS appreciates all of its volunteers. If you think you might like to help out, please contact us at (613) 968-7723.



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QUIS INFORMATION SESSIONS

Recently, QUIS hosted three information sessions for clients. **Amanda Witty from Volunteer and Information Quinte (VIQ)** told people about different volunteer opportunities, how to become a volunteer and the benefits of volunteering. Volunteering provides Canadian experience in a work environment, allows you to practice your English, and allows you to meet people who could help you in your job search.

Jordana LaPorte and Dan McCabe from Community Advocacy and Legal Centre (CALC) talked about your rights as an employee in Ontario. Participants learned about legal working hours, holiday pay and minimum wages. In the second part of the presentation, Dan talked about your rights and responsibilities as a tenant in Ontario. The audience learned about legal rent increases, discrimination in housing and the eviction process.

Wendy Sutherland and Nancy Vickers from the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board informed clients about bullying in schools and how parents can help their children if they are being bullied. They handed out copies of the Safe Schools Act in different languages so that parents could understand the law.



In 2013, QUIS will be hosting the following information sessions:

- Credit counselling
- Tax preparation
- Dealing with grief and loss

...and more. These are great opportunities to practice your English, meet interesting people and get useful information in a relaxed atmosphere. We thank everyone who participated in our information sessions in 2012 and look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

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Today is a good day to learn more, so let's talk.
Este es un buen momento para informarse mejor, así que hablemos.

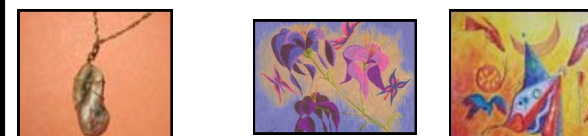


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Tina Osborne, visual multi-media artist and designer of unique jewellery .

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