

OUR WORLD

Summer 2005

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting: The AGM, always a highlight of the year, was held at the CILC on Monday June 27th, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. We welcomed Pat Ruggles as our guest speaker, with a fascinating presentation on the use of patchwork quilts to convey messages to escaped slaves on the Underground Railroad. We especially appreciated having a complete set of these symbolic quilts, all Pat's own handiwork to examine as part of her talk.

The essential year ending housekeeping formalities were performed by Acting President Eleanor Chithalen, who warmly welcomed new President Isabella Marchese and continuing Vice-President Keith Doyle. It is with regret that we say farewell to retiring Board members Gary Zebroski, Judy Creighton-Kidd and Georgina Hewitt. Although their formal board connection has ended we look forward to continued connections with our retiring members. We are delighted to welcome back Dr. Ruth Pickering, who had taken a leave of absence. Thanks to our Nominating Committee who are in talks with two more prospective new board members recommended by Hamilton Wentworth School Board Chair, Judith Bishop.

Monday March 21, The International Day for the Elimination of Racism, was a busy day for the CILC. In the afternoon our Programme Manager Mary Gordon and CILC volunteers offered refreshments at the Citizenship Court helping welcome 60 new Canadians. In the evening, acting President Eleanor Chithalen attended a meeting at the Hillcrest Restaurant where the women of Zonta II of Hamilton presented her with a grant for the CILC. We also received a grant from the Status of Women Committee of Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers Local for our programmes. Thanks to Isabella Marchese who lobbied successfully on behalf of the CILC for a share of grant money offered for the promotion of women's effect of Canadian history.

Maple Sugar Days

It has become traditional for staff and volunteers of the CILC to participate in at least one "Field Trip" per year. On Thursday March 24th a car load of enthusiasts visited the Misner Sugar Bush in Lynden Ontario and viewed the evaporating equipment of Mr. Peter Emick. It was a wonderful time.

Girl Guide Workshop

The CILC was buzzing on Saturday April 16th as droves of girl guide leaders converged on the building for workshops which included information on our special International Education Programmes.

Open House

Our traditional bake sale on Monday April 18th led into the Open House for our newest programme, "Our Colonial Heritage". The experts on our Programming Committee pronounce this a most important presentation contrasting the world views of Aboriginal Peoples, colonists and those of us living in the 21st century. Combining urgently needed information with exciting games and enjoyable crafts we expected this programme to attract large numbers of classes. Unfortunately, the province wide 'work to rule campaign' by elementary teachers dramatically reduced attendance during the school year. However we look forward to seeing Day Camp groups throughout the summer.

Programme Manager Mary Gordon and her committee are busy planning the new fall programme, Rice Harvests. Once again, Festivals of Light will round out the calendar year at the CILC.

Verrips Fundraiser

Thanks to all the loyal CILC fans who chose to shop at Verrips this spring for their garden plants and seeds in order to raise funds for the centre. 15% of the money you spent at Verrips comes back to us and we went through lots of forms!

The Wedding of the Season

A flurry of pre-nuptial activities culminated on Friday May 20th with the wedding of CILC family member Maria Isabel Sanchez, 4'8" in stiletto heels and her 6'5" hero, Sean Velenosi. That was an evening to remember, and in a very real way a reflection of the values expressed our CILC motto.

Peace Choir stars at HTI

New Children's International Peace Choir Director Pamela Marques, ended her choir year with a stellar performance at the headquarters of Hamilton Theatre Incorporated on MacNab St. N. on Saturday May 28th. The message of "PEACE" comes through loud and clear and this year each choir member had the opportunity of a solo performance in addition to the usual choral work.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

There are many things happening over the summer with the CILC. Here are just a few to mention:

Friends of the Aviary: This is the season opening outreach activity and it took place on Sunday June 5th in Westdale. Thanks for all the volunteers who led hundreds of children in relevant craft activities at the CILC table. We will also be offering craft activities at the Burlington Children's Festival on Sunday August 21st. Anyone available and willing to help, please contact Mary in the office.

Mardi Gras Food Sales

All hands will be on deck on Saturday August 6th and Sunday August 7th at Bay Front Park as Fundraising Chair Sharon Johnston leads us in the preparation and sale of hotdogs, hamburgers and drinking at the Annual Mardi Gras Festival. Wish us well! Better yet, please come out and participate. EAT! EAT!

35TH ANNIVERSARY

The CILC turns 35 in October!

HATTS OFF STEPS UP TO THE PLATE

Miriam Silvert and her Hatts Off class surpassed themselves with an expressive and powerful series of posters illustrating the strongest messages from children (gleaned from our 'Passages' Programme) to the Round table on Strengthening Hamilton's Community. We are grateful to Miriam and her students for taking on this challenging task and to the Members of the Round Table for taking into account the opinions of children. Special Thanks to Mark Kowalski and the Department of Canadian Heritage for making that programme financially possible.