



WELCOMING COMMUNITY NEWS

CultureLink HOST

Volume 1, Issue 9

July 2010

A "Soccer Match" Story - Where Borders Merge and Horizons Widen

By Zarina Decambra

Dennis Decambra came from Guyana some 35 years ago, settled into a comfortable life in Toronto with his wife and daughter

Sergio Re came to Toronto from Brazil some 10 years ago and found it difficult to settle into life in Toronto with his wife and two daughters.

Dennis started as Sergio's Host volunteer and supported Sergio and his family in many ways. Both men shopped together for furniture and Dennis helped to move the family from apartment to a town house. Visits to the two homes were frequent where meals were shared and friendships established.

After much work and efforts to settle down in To-



ronto the Re family decided to return to Brazil where a lucrative job awaited Sergio, the temptation was too much! It was a sad day when goodbyes were exchanged but they were not 'goodbyes' but just 'so long friend'.



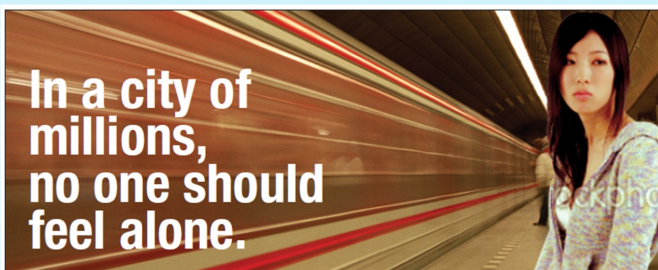
The Host program is the bridge that connected the two men and this connection has blossomed into an everlasting friendship – a friendship of mutual trust and the love of soccer! Both men enjoyed watching a game at the 2010 FIFA World Soccer recently when

Sergio made a special trip to visit Dennis while on business in the USA. Sergio has made similar visits in the past and finds himself enjoying Dennis's garden which is lovingly tended to every summer. Sergio took back some cherry seeds to plant in his garden.

The love of soccer will see Dennis in Brazil in 4 years, where a Brazilian and a Guyanese who are from two countries that share borders, will sit together to cheer on Brazil and where cherries will be shared again!

CultureLink is having a new promotional campaign. Please let us know if you like the picture and the message " In a city of millions, no one should feel alone.

Your opinion matters, please email bgomezova@culturelink.net



Show a new Canadian what we old Canadians are made of.
www.culturelink.net



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Visiting Ontario Science Centre

By Fei Tang

For the past few years, CultureLink organized many trips to Toronto's main attractions, among which, visiting Ontario Science Centre always generates great excitement. This year, Dolora Leka, our Host Program Counselor, arranged again a visit for our Host participants free of admission charge, thanks to generosity of Ontario Science Center.

June 19, it was a Saturday morning, 36 newcomers and 4 volunteers came to the Science Center. The day was hot and humid, half rainy and half sunny. It did not matter much because we were about to explore a whole different world with even different climates inside the Science Center. To most newcomers, this was their first visit to a museum that has a focus on science. There's so much to discover and so much to exclaim about. Right from the lobby, the architecture of the building fascinated us. As we walked further into the building, we heard more and more thrilled shouts - "look at this", "look at that". Many of us did not know the whole Science Center was built into the ravine, and so we were surprised to see the valley right outside the window as we went downstairs. "Wow, this is the

coolest 'basement' I have ever seen!" John, a Host newcomer who currently lives in a basement apartment said humorously.

Although we did not have many kids participating, the curiosity for new and fun stuff was the same with our adult and senior participants. Even the obsession with the question "how would I look like when I grow up/old" was the same. Like all the great tour guide, Dolora knew where all the "hidden" treasures were located. She showed the participants the Rain Forest - "whew, it's even hotter and steamier than outside!" But people enjoyed the mist and the tropical climate it created. Then Dolora got many participants lined up in front of a "Time Machine" - "What is this?" This magical machine can show you how you are going to look like in 10 years, 20 years, ..., even 50 years down the road! And once you get a code, you can even email your "aging pictures" to your friends or how about an "aging facebook"? "Did the participants like the way how they were supposed to age?" You gotta, ask them!

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR

JULY 24

Saturday, July 24th, 2010

Annual Picnic

From 11 am - 4 pm

High Park

For information and registration



Old Mill Trip

By Rubeen Chauhan

Happy Walking! As part of the NEAT walking group our next stop was Old Mill.

A group of 35 enthusiastic participants joined us on Saturday, July 10th. It was so amazing to see some babies and young children in the group walking (some on the stroller of course) hand-in-hand with their parents.

Jean Zajac, our wonderful Host Program Volunteer led the walk from the Old Mill subway station all the way to the First Nation's meeting point. On our way, we passed by the Old Mill Inn which was opened on the first day of the World War One in 1914 and the Old Mill Bridge built in 1916. We also stopped over weirs and fishing points and keenly listened to all the historical facts that Jean narrated.

It was a beautiful summer day and fun-filled opportunity for participants to mix and mingle. The group enjoyed the walk as they talked, laughed and admired the weather and new friendships. At the end of the walk, we enjoyed snacks and played games of Horseshoe and Frisbee.

NEWCOMERS EXPLORE & APPRECIATE TORONTO N.E.A.T.

The participants left with big smiles on their faces that show how much they liked the trip. They were already talking and asking questions about the next walk.



CultureLink: where borders merge and horizons widen





Letters to Host

Hi Eman,

I'm really thankful for all the help that I've received from Culturelink. Kristie is a wonderful person and I was extremely lucky for having had her as my volunteer.

I don't feel confident enough like to write a whole e-mail to be published. I wish you all the best. the work that you are doing with newcomers really makes a difference.

Thank you very much for everything.

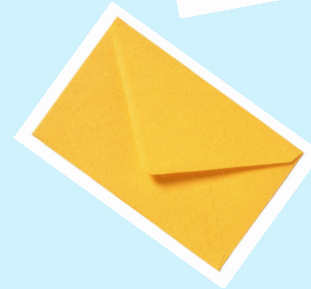
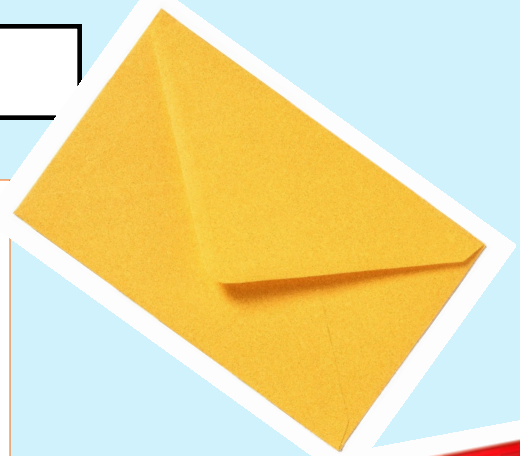
Clara

Hi Rubeen,

My CultureLink volunteer experience has been extraordinary and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to participate actively in the English Conversation Circle, and in addition, I've been fortunate to be successfully matched with two wonderful newcomers, via the Host Program. I've enjoyed every moment learning about diverse cultures, sharing Canadian customs and resources and making new friends from all over the world. I truly value this opportunity to welcome newcomers to my community. Thanks to CultureLink for facilitating this positive experience for both Newcomers and Volunteers.

Regards,

Nicole



a poem from Runnymede ECC participant

"LOVE be with you in the morning,
in the sunshine or the rain,
in the magic of each moment
when the day begins again.
Though life's duties are demanding
our paths are not sublime
through the ups and downs of living
LOVE be with you friend of mine"



CultureLink HOST



CultureLink
2340 Dundas Street West, Suite 301
Toronto, ON M6P 4A9

Phone: 416-588-6288
Fax: 416-588-2435

**VOLUNTEERS, NEWCOMERS
FILL OUT OUR ONLINE REGIS-
TRATION FORM, AT:**

<http://www.culturelink.net>

CultureLink is a settlement agency located at Bloor and Dundas West in downtown Toronto. For twenty-one years, we have upheld our mission: **CultureLink** is dedicated to facilitating the independence and full participation of newcomers in Toronto's diverse community. CultureLink works within an anti-discriminatory framework to ensure a respectful, safe and inclusive environment.

We hope you have enjoyed our CultureLink Host Newsletter!

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CONTRIBUTORS

Fei Tang

Host Program Manager, Newsletter Supervisor

Barbora Gomezova

Host Program Counsellor, Newsletter Coordinator

Marie Margis

Host Program Outreach Worker, Newsletter Editor

Eman El Atawy

Host Program Counsellor, Case and Volunteer Management

Rubeen Chauhan

Host Program Counsellor, Case and Volunteer Management

Zarina Decambra

Executive Assistant, CultureLink

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