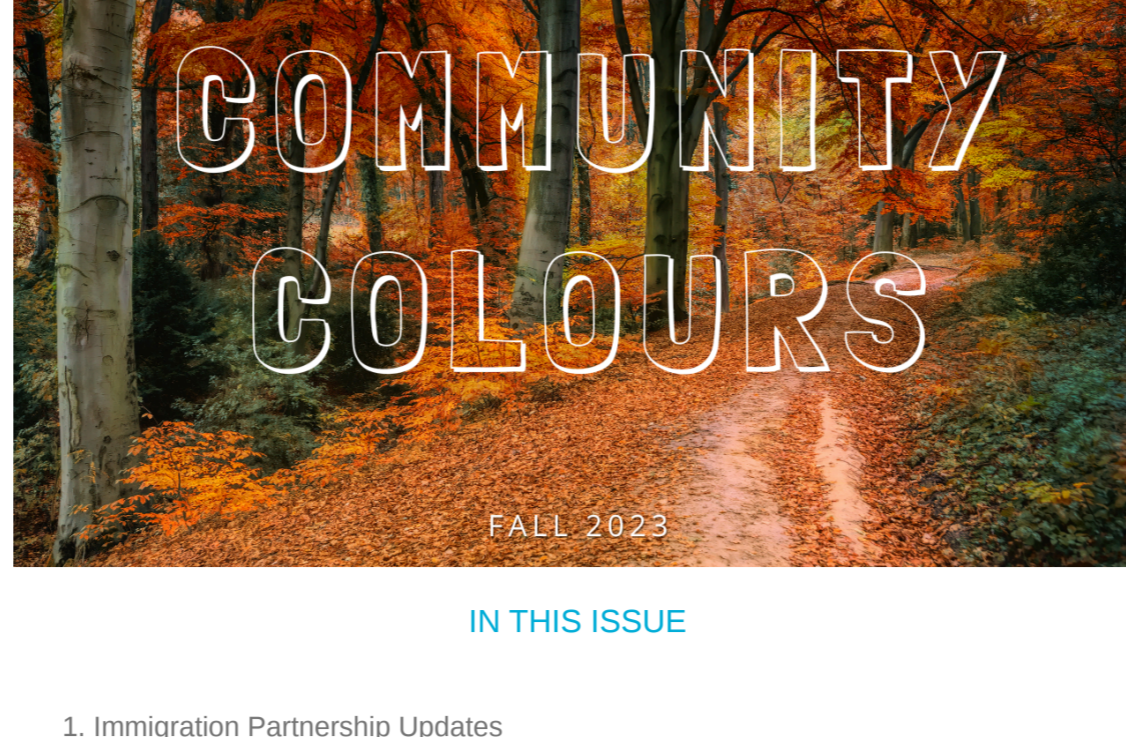


## Fall Newsletter



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### WHAT'S NEW

#### Immigration Partnership Updates

##### Diversity Day

The St. Lawrence-Rideau Immigration Partnership hosted Diversity Day on November 30 at the Brockville Country Club. This sold out event attracted audience members from service agencies, municipalities, immigrant communities and employers to name a few.

Diversity Day is the Immigration Partnership's free annual event that features a different topic each year. The theme this year was 'Moving Towards Equity, Diversity and Inclusion' and featured Jeff A.D. Martin (Motivational Speaker and Diversity & Inclusion Coach), local speakers, a topical game.

Local speakers included Karynn von Cramon of Every Kid in Our Communities, Natalia Martinelli-Luogo of KEYS Job Centre, and Manny Dizwani of the Employment + Education Centre. All speakers provided examples of what local organizations are doing to promote Equity, Diversity and Inclusion practices into their work. Their presentations combined with the inquisitive questions and comments from the audience demonstrate that Leeds and Grenville communities are well on their way to becoming more equitable, diverse, and inclusive.

We will see everyone at next year's Diversity Day!



From left to right: Manny Dizwani (Employment + Education Centre), Karynn von Cramon (Every Kid in Our Communities), Jeff A. D. Martin (Motivational Speaker and Inclusion & Diversity Coach), Natalia Martinelli-Luogo (KEYS Job Centre), Melissa Francis (St. Lawrence - Rideau Immigration Partnership)

#### Leeds and Grenville Immigrant Entrepreneur Award

The 9th Annual Leeds and Grenville Immigrant Entrepreneur Award has wrapped up! We want to give a huge congratulations to all of this year's finalists! They are:

Lina and Fares from [A Taste of Syria](#) of Gananouke  
Dana and Anand from [Indian Cuisine Hub](#) of Brockville  
Nicola from [Leave the Books to Me](#) of Westport  
Clint from [One Love Jamaican Cuisine](#) of Brockville  
Harsh and Kanisha from [Parkdale Pharmacy](#) of Brockville

It was a tight race, and a hard decision given all the amazing achievements from our wonderful finalists. But, ultimately, Harsh and Kanisha from Parkdale Pharmacy are this year's winner! Congratulations and we wish you and all of our finalists nothing but success.



From left to right: Melissa Francis (St. Lawrence - Rideau Immigration Partnership), Award Winners Harsh and Kanisha Patel (Parkdale Pharmacy).

### 'NEW! DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE'

Going forward, we will be providing you with information about Days of Significance from around the world. We hope that you find this information interesting and useful!  
Source: Tamarack Institute

### December

<p><b>Chanukah (Chanukah)</b></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Judaism</p> <p>An 8-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple).</p> <p><b>Happy Chanukah! (Happy Menorah!)</b></p> <p>December 16 - 24</p>	<p><b>Winter Solstice (Luzhnitsa)</b></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Indigenous Peoples, Pagans, Wiccans, New Age</p> <p>Equinox is reversed by Indigenous Peoples for its spiritual connection to the natural world, while Solstice is a time to honor ancestral patterns.</p> <p><b>Happy Winter Solstice!</b></p> <p>December 21</p>	<p><b>Kwanzaa</b></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Pan-African</p> <p>An African American &amp; Pan-African holiday that brings a cultural message of what it means to be African and human in the 21st century.</p> <p><b>Heri ka Kwanza! (Happy Kwanza!)</b></p> <p>December 26</p>
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### January

<p><b>Orthodox Christmas</b></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Orthodox and Coptic Christians</p> <p>The Orthodox Church recognizes January 7 as the day that Jesus was born.</p> <p><b>Kiti Hristovskopama (Merry Christmas!)</b></p> <p>January 7</p>	<p><b>Malanka</b></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Ukrainian and Belarussian</p> <p>Malanka is a Ukrainian and Belarussian folk holiday celebrated on January 12, which is New Year's Eve in accordance with the Julian calendar.</p> <p>January 12</p>
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### February

<p><b>Lunar New Year</b></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Celebrated by most Asian countries.</p> <p>Lunar New Year is a celebration of the arrival of Spring and the beginning of a New Year on the lunisolar calendar.</p> <p><b>Happy Lunar New Year!</b></p> <p>February 16</p>	<p><b>Pasarnavara Day</b></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Buddhist</p> <p>This date marks Buddha's death and attainment of final nirvana.</p> <p><b>Traditional Buddhists place petals together and bow lightly to each other.</b></p> <p>February 19</p>	<p><b>Luzhnitsa Day</b></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>July 1st commemorates Lushka-Rai, the founding father of Manitoba who represented the Métis people's presence.</p> <p>February 23</p>
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### COMMUNITY PARTNER FEATURE

#### Rideau Lakes Public Library



The Rideau Lakes Public Library is a municipal library servicing the Rideau Lakes Township with five branches located in Elgin, Delta, Portland, Newboro and South Elmsley.

Our mission is to create welcoming spaces that connect and inspire our community.

We serve as a hub for local information and help guide newcomers by connecting them to community events and specialty groups. We host paint classes, monthly movies, technology and employment support through TR Leger continuing education, and so much more! Our library runs an extensive series of monthly programs to help support families. Baby Rhyme and StoryTime is geared towards infants 0-15 months and their caregivers, and focuses on developing early motor, speech, and social skills through song and play. Our Play and Learn Storytimes are for children 0-6 years old, and are a great way to meet peers and share information as caregivers.

We encourage newcomers to explore the beautiful natural landscape of Rideau Lakes. Borrow our MapBook, an all-in-one backpack full of family activities, maps, and park passes to access beautiful Charleston Lake Park, Foley Mountain, or climb Rock Dunder for a one-of-a-kind view. Our Beginners in Gardening Bags and seed lending libraries provide everything needed to start a new garden. We encourage newcomers to embrace our lovely winter months by borrowing snowshoes with adult and children's sizes available.

With literacy at the forefront, we have an up-to-date well curated collection, with access to books in all languages through our inter library loan system. Our extensive online catalogues through Libby and Hoopla also offer e-books, audiobooks, music, movies and more. We provide support for those with print disabilities through reading devices and also offer a large print collection. The library offers no cost resume printing, and provides free computer and wifi usage.

The Rideau Lakes Public Library is a place to build and find our community. We welcome all newcomers to come say hello to our friendly staff, explore our library system, and see what your library has to offer.

### Immigration Research

#### At A Glance



IRCC shares immigration related studies and articles through the Research at a Glance email list. Research at a Glance is designed to inform the IRCC community and other interested parties about recently published reports and policy-relevant research from government, academia and non-governmental organizations.

Here is one such release:

- [Persistent Overqualification Among Immigrants and Non-immigrants](#)

You can subscribe to Research at a Glance by emailing [research@research@ic.gc.ca](mailto:research@research@ic.gc.ca). (Note: articles arrive daily).

### LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

#### The Village of Mallorytown



##### DID YOU KNOW?

- It was first settled by United Empire Loyalist Nathaniel Mallory.
- Mallorytown is the site of Canada's first glassworks factory, which opened in 1839.
- It's also home to Thousand Islands National Park, the first Canadian national park east of the Rockies. It is also the smallest of the national parks.
- Photo credit: Google Street View

### EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

#### Training & Seminars



##### English Conversation Club

Wednesdays, 6pm - 8pm  
Employment+Education Centre

The English Conversation Club is designed to provide new Canadians a space to practise and improve their English skills with an employment related focus! This includes conversation skills that will benefit them when interviewing for jobs, work-related communication, and engaging with employers and co-workers.

To register, click [here!](#)

### LOCAL HAPPENINGS

#### Events & Celebrations



##### River of Lights

November 25 - January 2  
Full Show 6:00-10:00pm daily  
Lights Only (no music) 5:00-6:00pm and 10:00-11:00pm  
Blockhouse Island, Brockville

The River of Lights is a holiday light display on Blockhouse Island which includes thousands of twinkling lights and flood lights set to music. The show is approximately 40 minutes in length before repeating the Set. Tune your car radio to the show frequency and enjoy the show from the comfort of your vehicle. The first and final hours each night display a static light show (no music), while between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm each night the lights and sound show will run in a loop, making the dance with lights as a mix of contemporary music and classic holiday tunes entertain you.



##### Brockville Public Library Pride Drop-In

Tuesdays, 5:00-7:00pm  
Brockville Public Library

A weekly drop-in group for 2SLGBTQ+ youth ages 13+. It is a safe and inclusive space where youth can be themselves, find community and build relationships. Participate in group activities, work on individual projects or simply take up space without judgment.

For more info, click [here](#):  
[Teen Pride Drop-In - LibCat - Brockville Public Library](#)



##### French Friday Fun Day

Last Friday of each month  
North Grenville Public Library  
10:00-10:45am

Join us at the North Grenville Public Library for stories, games and fun - all in French!

For more info, click [here!](#)

### IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

#### Member Organizations

These are the organizations that provide leadership to the St. Lawrence-Rideau Immigration Partnership.

- Almad Khadra: Immigrant Representative
- Brockville & Area YMCA
- Brockville & District Multicultural Council
- Brockville Police Service
- Chinese & Canadian Heritage Cultural Association
- City of Brockville Economic Development
- CSE Consulting
- Eastern Workforce Innovation Board
- Employment + Education Centre
- Every Kid in Our Communities
- Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario
- Frank Onasanyia: Immigrant Representative
- Fulford Academy
- Kashif Riaz: Immigrant Representative
- KEYS Job Centre
- Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit
- Leeds Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre
- Merrick Preparatory School
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Foods & Rural Affairs
- Refugees for Brockville Committee
- St. Lawrence College
- Town of Prescott
- TR Leger Immigrant Services/TR Leger Services aux immigrants
- United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
- Upper Canada Leger Centre
- Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence-Rideau

#### Contact Us Today To Get Involved!

Funded by: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Financé par: Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



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P.O. Box 112  
Call us: 613-496-2111

Email us: [diversity.matters@ecentre.ca](mailto:diversity.matters@ecentre.ca)

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