



Ottawa Newcomers' Club



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the 2017 celebrations and Winterlude and all the regular ONC activities we have lots to do and lots to celebrate this year! If you haven't been down to Winterlude you must go! One year there was a massive ice castle display from Harbin, China in front of city hall. If nothing else - go for the Beaver Tails, you won't be disappointed!

It is now the time of year that we start to look for replacements for the Board. This means that our Nominating Committee will be in full swing soon. Our club operates on volunteer labour so please say "yes" if asked. It's a great way to make new friends and to help keep the club operating at the same time!!

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Although many of our members become "snowbirds" at this time of year all activities in ONC continue on schedule & provide us with great opportunities to connect with one another. Nothing is better to take away the wintery chill than a fun time with friends, so continue to enjoy all the activities that suit you. As always we thank our members who volunteer their time to make these activities possible.

As we head into spring we begin to think about who might be willing to become a convenor for next year. If there is an activity that you might enjoy convening or co-convening, speak to the current group facilitator. ONC needs your enthusiasm, creative ideas, & energy to continue being such a successful club. New activity ideas are always possible so be in touch if you would be willing to investigate the popularity of your idea.

For Feb. 14th - I send you many Hearts and Roses.

Hoping to see you along the way.

MEMBER'S MONTHLY LUNCH

Warm up your winter with lunch at this family-owned restaurant, offering authentic Mexican dishes prepared in their kitchen. Vegetarian dishes are also offered. Members can choose from the regular menu & pay individually. There is covered parking just across from the restaurant. As well, there is free two hour parking along Second Avenue. OC Transpo buses are free on Weds for 65+. A list of attendees will be sent so you can arrange carpooling.

WOODSY WAMBLE

A “woosy wamble” is not a hike but a discovery walk on the trails of the NCC Greenbelt and the Capital Pathways. The goal is not distance but exploration of the natural areas of our new city, with lots of time to examine a plant, take a photograph, or focus binoculars. In the colder months we will be out 1 to 1.5 hours so it’s important to dress for the weather; carrying a water bottle and a small snack is recommended. This month we’ll pay a winter visit to the Mer Bleue Bog, one of the most outstanding natural features of the Greenbelt. While I don’t expect to see a groundhog, we are likely to see many birds and possibly other wildlife. Details of meeting location and access will be sent later to those who sign up for this activity.



CRAFT & CHAT

What a fun group! It doesn’t matter what we are working on we are always able to have a laugh. You are welcome to bring your own craft that you are working on, keeping in mind if we are at an establishment costs are still applicable, & I will have Mandalas for those who wish to color.

FUN PHOTOGRAPHY

Enjoy the friendship of others while exploring Ottawa and area taking pictures. There are three prerequisites for this group: 1. You must have your own camera. 2. You must love to take pictures! 3. And at our June adventure we want you to show-off your best picture from each adventure that you attended. Otherwise most of our pics end up on the computer and stay there, why not show-off!

Our adventure for FEBRUARY will be to walk through the historic core of Manotick. Yes, we are trying this again, we had to cancel December due to weather and road conditions. A list of attendees will be sent out after the RSVP date to make car pooling arrangements.

BRIDGE

PLACE: OVERBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER, QUILL ST.



DAY: EVERY TUESDAY BEGINNING 10 JAN

TIME: 11:45 AM TO 2:45 PM

Directions: Turn off the Vanier Parkway exit go north to Queen Mary, turn right & travel a few blocks to Quill Street - turn left. You will see the Centre. Park in front or back of the centre & on several side streets. Quill Street runs between Donald St. and Queen Mary. The 18 bus runs to the centre approx. every half hour as well - check the OC transpo site, We meet in the Main Hall. **Cost to play is \$3. Coffee, tea is provided. Also, a small snack is prepared on a rotating basis by one of the members. Bring a sandwich if you feel hungry! You do not need a partner, but you may bring your spouse/partner if they also wish to play.**

COUPLES BRIDGE

Our evening starts with coffee/tea & dessert, then bridge. ONC members are welcome. Please RSVP by Feb 8.

COUPLES DUPLICATE BRIDGE

PLACE: QUALICUM GRAHAM PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

DAY: SAT, 18 FEB - 7:00 PM

We meet the 3rd Saturday evening of every month, 7:00 for 7:15pm. ONC members welcome.

WALK AND TALK

We will meet in front of the Joey Restaurant, 825 Exhibition Way in Lansdowne Park to begin our walk which will take in part of the Glebe and the Rideau Skateway. Please RSVP by email if you plan to come. A list of attendees will be sent out on February 5 for carpooling. If the weather is really bad and the walk has to be canceled I will send out an email by 8 a.m. the day of the walk.

FUN LUNCH

Fun Lunch (pot luck) is a great opportunity to strengthen new friendships & maybe even find a new recipe. Ladies bring an appetizer, salad, entrée, dessert or wine.

Regular attendees will bring a dish from each category at least once during the year.

A guest list is begun once the newsletter has been published online. If you wish to attend, you should contact me as soon as possible and state the dish you will bring so that I can make sure we don't have any items duplicated. A hostess can accommodate a limited number of guests, so it is best to reply promptly to avoid being disappointed. This is a very popular event and spaces fill up quickly. If you find you are unable to attend please contact me so I can fill the space.



A list of attendees will be sent closer to the date so you can arrange a carpool if possible.

OUT AND ABOUT

The Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa produces handcrafted collector and commemorative coins, gold bullion coins, medals and medallions. This is where the master tooling is done to create the dies that strike coin designs for both commemorative and circulation issues. The Mint's gold refining and advanced engineering operations are also located here. The guided 45 min. tour costs \$5 for seniors (65+) & \$6 for adults. The cost is slightly less if we have a group of 20 or more. You are welcome to bring a guest.

SCRABBLE

We are a friendly, non-competitive group who welcomes players of all levels. Come join us for an opportunity to play, snack and visit.

Please RSVP by Jan 17. A list of attendees will be sent out for carpooling purposes.

DINING OUT 🍷

This month we'll dine in Rideau Centre at Nordstrom's lovely bistro. Bazille is described as a full-service restaurant with a casually sophisticated atmosphere featuring bistro cuisine & a full bar. You can enjoy salads, specialty entrées, signature cocktails 🍸, a wine list & house made desserts. After lunch enjoy Winterlude, Ottawa's winter festival that runs from Feb. 3rd to 20th. Take a stroll through the Crystal Garden, in Confederation Park, to see the amazing ice sculptures. Or you can stay warm & enjoy the many shops (and sales) in Rideau Centre.

ONC MAH-JONGG

American Mah Jongg is a game of Chinese origin played by 3 but usually 4 persons & consists of 144 tiles with symbols & characters that are drawn & discarded until one player secures a winning hand. It is a game of skill, strategy, calculation and involves a degree of chance. We are mostly beginners who have learned the game through the same teacher. She is always available to teach new students. We enjoy the challenge, the friendship and the fun we share together.

Anyone wanting to learn, feel free to contact me for details.

Coffee and tea will be supplied and we take turns bringing a light snack.

AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

The book this month, presented by Lynn Payton, is *The Illegal* by Lawrence Hill. This is the story of Keita Ali, an elite marathon runner who escapes the fictional island of Zantoroland and comes to the rich Freedom State. Hill covers the current issues of race and discrimination, the movement of refugees across borders and the political fight to define who belongs and who is an illegal. The narrative makes the book truly “unputdownable”.



EVENING BOOK CLUB

The Evening Book Club continues to discuss a variety of books in a lively and relaxed manner. Members bring along information about books they are reading, or about books they have read and present these to the group. We have found that this approach has opened up ways for us to discover new authors and promote a free flowing discussion about books and authors in general. Members often bring along their books to exchange with others.

ART TOURS

This month we will visit the National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Drive, for a tour in the permanent collection on the theme *Art: the Mirror of Society*.

The tour will start at 10:30 am. We will meet near the group tour desk around 10:10 am.

Admission: Gallery members free; non-members: \$10 for seniors, \$12 otherwise;

Tour fee: \$7 per person.

MOVIE BUFFS

PLACE: BYTOWNE CINEMA, 325 RIDEAU STREET. We meetup every month.

TENDER LOVING CARE (TLC)

If you know of any member who has lost someone near and dear to them, or who has recently been seriously ill or undergone surgery, please let me know so that a card may be sent & support offered. Thank you for your help with this - we don't want to miss anyone! And remember, TLC continues throughout the year.

ROSTER

A current club roster will be issued with this newsletter. Changes occur frequently so I recommend that you download and/or print it for easy access. OR, you can bookmark it on our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/ottawanewcomers/roster>. This site is for members only and cannot be accessed unless you belong to ONC; it is a quick way to look up newsletters, the roster, and other club information.

FACEBOOK

Join our Facebook group, another great way to connect! See pictures of members enjoying our activities, offer or look for rides, sell the furniture that doesn't suit your new home, tell others about Ottawa events, lots of reasons to sign up!

It's easy. Just search Ottawa Newcomers Club from your Facebook page & ask to join. Note, this is a Closed Group & can only be viewed by ONC members.

Your contributions to the ONC Facebook page are welcome, but please respect the purpose of the page, which is to share information & photos relating to the club's activities, other Ottawa events that may be of interest to our members (e.g. festivals, plays, concerts, etc) or generally useful messages. Strictly personal items, jokes, pet photos, etc. should not be posted here as they are more appropriate for a personal Facebook page.