

Canadian League for Educational Exchange

March 2013

Ottawa Chapter



Parliament Hill explodes with colourful tulips each spring.



Carrie, Siobhan,
Catherine & Robin.
Peter laces up for the canal.



CLEE Ottawa Chapter

The current executive for the Ottawa Chapter is:

President:

Siobhan McComb ksm2576@yahoo.ca

Past President:

Roland Kuehn

Treasurer:

Lynn Carroll glcarroll@rogers.com

Secretary:

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About Us

CLEE is a volunteer organization dedicated to hosting information sessions and social activities with the intent to make the year an exciting and memorable one for exchange teachers and their families.

<http://www.cleecanada.ca/index.html>

Welcome to Ottawa! Our chapter is made up of former exchange teachers who are delighted to share their experience with current exchangees. We welcome any questions or comments you might have regarding all matters related to your teaching exchange.

If you came to Canada to experience winter, there is no way you have been disappointed this year!

January Pub

We welcomed Peter and Robin Weatherlake from Victoria, AU at a local pub. Carrie, recently returned from a great exchange in NSW joined us as well. It sounds like Peter and Robin have some terrific plans for the year in Canada. Looking forward to showing them more of our beautiful city!

Winterlude Weekend

Some hardy souls ventured up from Toronto to visit our own version of the winter carnival this past month. A typical February day, it was cold and sunny. We toured the Ice Sculptures and world famous Rideau Canal Skateway, sampled some Beaver Tails and ended up at Catherine and Leon's for a hardy chili dinner that went late into the evening.

We'd love to read your stories. Please send me your stories and pictures so we can share in the memories of your exchange year.

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Gagnon cteachr@hotmail.com

Coming Events

March Pot luck
Sugar Bush

Don't miss an opportunity to try our national product – **Maple Syrup**. A great family outing, walking through the woods, learning about how maple syrup products are made. Plenty of tasting opportunities. Sweet!

March Pot luck
Sugar Bush

April Pub Italia

May Conference Weekend featuring the Tulip Festival!

June Whitewater Rafting and
BBQ in Renfrew

June RCMP Sunset Ceremonies

Sept Corn Roast

Oct Curling, Lunch, Foliage Tour

Nov 67's Hockey Game Hockey
at Sportsplex

Jan Welcome to new
exchangees

Feb Welcome Back Canadians



Suggested Activities

- Park Omega – drive through a wildlife park and see native fauna. Animals are even more visible in the winter against the snow. You'll spot deer, elk and moose from the safety and warmth of your own car. <http://www.parc-omega.com/en/nouveau.html>
- Visit the Fairmont Chateau Montebello – the world's largest log cabin. Stroll the grounds and stop in for a hot chocolate, spiked or not, while enjoying the warm hearth. <http://www.fairmont.com/montebello>
- Take a walk in the Byward Market, have lunch and watch the locals go about their errands. A great launching point for more shopping at the Rideau Center and surrounding boutiques or for visiting the National Art Gallery. <http://www.byward-market.com/>
- Take in the festivities of the Tulip Festival! Officially known as the Canadian Tulip Festival, this year's event takes place in Ottawa from May 3-20, 2013. Millions of tulips will blossom again, creating an exotic mosaic of colour and beauty in Ottawa and Gatineau. This is the 61st edition of the annual festival. <http://tulipfestival.ca/>
- Have high tea at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier. <http://www.fairmont.com/laurier-ottawa/>

CLEE does Quebec 2013

By Helen O'Keefe, Australian Exchangee 2013

A motley crowd of exchanges past and present gathered at the clock in Union Station having survived the vile weather that the weather gods had dumped on Toronto and its surrounds hours earlier. Roll call taken like toy soldiers we followed each other expectantly to the coach, staked our claims and settled in for what was for most the first real snow trip ever. A few late comers abandoned their cars at roadside rests and joined us in the wee hours en route. Breakfast was a great treat but the highlight was definitely the maple butter. A would be habit of a lifetime I fear. The Quebec weather had to be dealt with, so heavy duty clothing was soon donned. Everyone looking a few sizes bigger next explored the Montmorency Falls and the Basilica. At that point we did not think we could be any colder. What babes in the woods were we? The Hilton was all inviting with the exquisite view of the Parliament House and the Carnaval. A quick check-in and the best French onion soup ever in old Quebec before tackling Carnaval cold activities. Sleigh rides (wind chill increased by at least 20 degrees) toboggan rides, incredible ice sculptures, ice bars (tried a few for hypothermia reasons) and a first (and last) taste of Caribou. An exploration of old town and dining at a traditional restaurant with a cluster of exchangees who were also intent on the local cuisine, made for an excellent evening, if not somewhat cold. The ice hotel next day had everyone gobsmacked but the lunch, music and sampling at the Sugar Shack was inspired for the many who were just being introduced to the finer parts of Canadian culture. John's chatty tour of the town was excellent and a great grounding for the free time later when we were able to seek out interesting sites like the bottom town and the Art street. What a treat to have seen the crazy canoeists training for the mostly ice St Lawrence River races the following week. A ride on the funicular or a climb for the fit was great fun and enabled spectacular views across the river. All good things must come to an end, so a happy group boarded the south bound bus with Quebec sunshine lighting our path. Happy chatter got us to Montreal for lunch and home early having missed the snow dumping that Toronto had endured. What a great weekend!

Many thanks to all who were involved in making it such a success. The first of many!



Our Christmas Dinner Album Good Times

