

# Chatham-Kent Welcome Week

**September 8-17, 2023**

**Purpose:** To connect newcomers to services in Chatham-Kent, promote diversity and celebrate their contributions to the community through storytelling. The week acts as a celebration, while efforts to support and welcome new residents to Chatham-Kent continue throughout the year.

## Media Coverage

CK Welcome Week was covered by local and regional media, including one Chatham Daily News article, one Chatham News Today article, one Sydenham Current article, one Yahoo article and two CKXS FM articles.

## Overview

- 12 events/initiatives took place during Welcome Week 2023.
- Partnered with 20 local organizations, businesses and Municipal departments.
- 1 Report to Municipal Council to promote Welcome Week.
- 1 Presentation on Immigration in CK to a St. Clair College class.
- 600+ CK residents attended in person events.
- 2,000+ CK residents were engaged virtually.
- LivingCK's Welcome Week videos reached 18,000+ viewers.

## CK LIP Theory of Change Focus: Social Belonging

### Welcome Week Flag Raising Ceremony

Welcome Week 2023 kicked off with a flag-raising ceremony at the Municipal Civic Centre at the Building Culture, Community and Connections event.



"This week is an opportunity to demonstrate why IRCC designated Chatham-Kent as Canada's First Welcoming Community."

Councillor Brock McGregor

**80**

Attendees

### So You Want to Start a Non-Profit?

Compliance, Governance & Laws

Hosted the Ontario Non-profit Corporations Act (ONCA) 101 capacity-building session for local non-profits and cultural community associations. Partnered with the United Way of Chatham-Kent to host Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO).



"We were much more restricted when we didn't have a formal structure... We have been growing exponentially ever since."

Stella Jonah, President  
CK Nigerian Community

**30+**

Attendees

# Social Belonging

60

Students

15

Countries

## International Student Welcome Event



Municipality of Chatham-Kent Community Attraction & Promotion and Lambton Kent District School Board hosted the annual International Student Welcome Event. Councillor McGregor welcomed students to Chatham-Kent, and LKDSB International Education Administrator Kirsten Ramsay gave a welcome speech.



## Building Community Culture & Connections Event with Presentation in the Municipal Civic Centre's Council Chambers

40

Attendees



The Building Community Culture and Connections event included a presentation in Council Chambers from the Council Clerk, the Municipality's CAO, Councillor Storey, and Councillor Ceccacci.

Attendees were welcomed to the community, learned about municipal services and were provided information about civic participation in boards and committees of council.

"Chatham-Kent is growing, and that is thanks to everyone in this room." Councillor Storey

50+

Attendees



Connected CK newcomers to local organizations and service providers, cultural community groups, civic services and engagement opportunities.

### Organizations that Participated:

- Adult Language and Learning
- Chatham-Kent Community Health Centres
- Chatham-Kent YMCA
- Restorative Justice Chatham-Kent
- CK Community Attraction & Promotion
- CK Public Library
- Chatham-Kent Health Alliance
- Victim's Services
- Centre communautaire francophone
- CK Employment & Social Services
- CK Childcare & Early Years
- Goodwill Career Centre
- Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

# Social Belonging



## C.A.M.P. Kent Fireside Chat

Community Attraction and Promotion participated in a fireside chat on the topic of How Can We Welcome Newcomers to Chatham-Kent?

Alongside panelists from Adult Language and Learning and Boris Duckardt, new CK resident

15 community members attended



## LivingCK Stories

Community Attraction and Promotion shared 15 testimonials about the welcomability of Chatham-Kent

15 Chatham-Kent residents participated

Reached 18,000+ viewers



## CKPL Welcoming Storytime

The Chatham-Kent Public Library hosted a Welcoming Storytime featuring songs, stories, and rhymes celebrating diversity and inclusiveness

The Kiwanis Club of Chatham gave away 50 books titled "All Are Welcome" by Alexandra Penfold to attendees

"Moving to another country is like going to your neighbour's house, you have to adapt to respect the host's preferences, like taking off your shoes or eating different foods. This doesn't mean that you lose your identity. We, as immigrants, have to adapt and embrace differences while learning exciting aspects of a new culture."

Boris Duckardt, New Resident of CK and IAG Member



## Immigrant Advisory Group (IAG) Member Profiles

23 IAG profiles were shared on CK LIP social media, including member's country of origin, year(s) spent in CK and why they joined IAG

Total reach of all 23 profiles: 2,144



## Peace by Chocolate Movie Screening

Hosted at the Chatham Capitol Theatre

50+ attendees

Sponsored by Community Attraction & Promotion



# CK LIP Theory of Change Focus: Employment

## Creative Approaches for Hiring and Retaining Immigrant Employees Webinar

Featured a panelist from Chatham-Kent, Jenn Chapple, CKHA Medical Affairs Specialist who spoke about their hiring and retention strategies

Reached an audience across Southwestern Ontario

42 attendees



# CK LIP Theory of Change Focus: Community Supports & Information

## New Resident Tent Card & Rack Card Launch

- The tent cards and bookmarks link to LivingCK webpages useful for new residents to get situated in CK and for prospective residents to plan their move.
- Chatham-Kent Welcome Network members will receive and display them in their organizations.
- Will be displayed and used at community events.



## Meet the Staff of Adult Language and Learning

- The event included tours of the facility.
- Each staff member shared culturally significant items associated with their countries of origin.
- 100+ attendees



## Collège Boréal's Think Big, Dream Bigger Conference

- The conference highlighted the success and progress of their Socioeconomic Navigator Program for permanent residents, temporary Ukrainian residents, and convention refugees.
- Featured two speeches from immigrants in Chatham-Kent who had benefited from its services, and one of them had been a migrant worker.
- 80+ attendees



## Testimonials



"I participated in Welcome Week with my family, and we really enjoyed interacting with different groups of organizations at the Civic Center. The presentations at the Council Chamber were very informative as well!"

**Welcome Week Participant**



"We are incredibly grateful for this event. My husband and I had the pleasure of meeting a wonderful Turkish couple who had recently joined our community in Canada. From the moment we met, a deep connection was formed, and we've since become close friends. This event allowed us to bridge cultures and make new, meaningful connections. We appreciate the opportunity it provided us to welcome new friends from Turkey into our lives."

**Welcome Week Participant**

## Contact Us

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Financé par :



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and Citizenship Canada

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