

# Newsletter

Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages

Winter 2011/12



# President's Message

Over the past twenty-six years, SOHL has blazed a trail in the province for heritage language learning.

The year 2011 brought much change as we said goodbye to Ashley Crampton (Project Coordinator), Evangeline Mou (SOHL Support) and Remi Poitras (Summer Student). SOHL also said a fond farewell to Mike Harras who has hosted SOHL Connections for the past eight years. We welcomed Jessica Riess to the Project Coordinator position and Steven Greenbank and Shane Malloy as the hosts to SOHL Connections.



SOHL's Annual General Meeting was held in Saskatoon on October 22nd and 23rd. The theme of the conference was "Unlocking the Treasures of Canadian Languages," which illustrated SOHL's mission of promoting heritage language learning.

An event to celebrate Heritage Language Day will be held on February 18th at Balfour Collegiate in Regina, and I hope to welcome new and familiar faces at this important event. Saskatoon will also be holding a choral concert, which will showcase the talents of many Saskatoon students.

SOHL is proud of all its volunteers, members and dedicated staff who have taken part over the past year and beyond. Without the dedication of these people, SOHL would not be the strong organization it is today.

Respectfully,

Ved Arora, S.V.M., A.L.A



Not in picture: Board Member Pankaj Bhowmik

# Entertainers Wanted

SOHL is currently looking for entertainers to perform at Heritage Language Day in Regina on February 18th. Everyone is welcome, from singers to dancers, individuals to groups.

If interested in performing, please email SOHL with a brief proposal that includes a short background on the performer(s), and what the act will consist of. Each performance cannot be longer than 10 minutes.

The Heritage Language Day celebration in Regina will be held at the Balfour Collegiate Auditorium from 1 - 3pm. The Choral Concert in Saskatoon will be held on February 11th at the Centennial School Theatre from 3 - 5 pm. Admission to both events is free and all ages are welcome.

**Come and enjoy the colourful multicultural performances and a sampling of ethnic snacks!**

SOHL Office: 306.780.9275 | [sohl@sasktel.net](mailto:sohl@sasktel.net)

## Recipients of SOHL's Workshop Grant

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- MLAR - Effective Teacher/Student Communication
- SIA - Developing Materials and Activities for Heritage Language Classroom
- Bahr el Ghazal Sudanese School - Enhancing the Teaching of Dinka and Arabic
- Islamic Arabic Weekend School - Successful Strategies in Teaching a Heritage Language
- Nepali Language School - Teaching Improvement Strategy
- Heritage Chinese Language School - Electronic Teaching and Learning Method

## 2011 Recipients of SOHL's Youth Heritage Language Instructor-Helper Bursary

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- Olorunfemi Adeyoju of the Yoruba Language School, Regina
- Ayesha Khan of the Bangla Heritage Language School, Saskatoon
- Priya Bilkhu of the ICA Hindi School, Regina
- Soma Arunima Dalai of the Vidyabharti Hindi School, Saskatoon
- Nyagam Majok of the Bahr el Ghazal Sudanese School, Regina
- Shaher Bano Mehdi of the Urdu Language School Saskatoon
- Ritchie Millora of the Filipino Heritage School, Saskatoon
- Grace Ong-Tone of the Regina School of Chinese Studies
- Farhima Rahman of the Bangla School of Regina
- Philipp Rode of the Regina German Language School
- Constantina Perentes of the St. Paul's Greek Heritage Language School, Regina
- Linda Shen of the Heritage Chinese Language School, Saskatoon
- Martin Thingvold of the Saskatoon Polish School, Saskatoon

# 2011 ANNUAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

October 22nd and 23rd, 2011, Saskatoon



## *Unlocking the Treasures of Canadian Languages* Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages Inc.

*The Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages Inc. held its Annual Provincial Conference, "Unlocking the Treasures of Canadian Languages," on October 22nd and 23rd, 2011 at the Saskatoon Inn.*

The Conference kicked off on Saturday morning with an excellent turnout of over eighty teachers and volunteers participating in the day's workshops. Participants had their choice of three excellent workshops, which covered a number of important topics for heritage language teachers.

Dr. Brenda Kalyn provided an introduction to a topic that was very relevant to language schools in her session entitled "Exploring Curriculum and Lesson Planning." Eric Koshinsky presented an informative workshop discussing the use of technology in the heritage language classroom. And back by popular demand, Greg Sametz returned this year to speak about promoting language learning in an enriching classroom environment.

A special thank-you goes out to our guest luncheon speaker – Mr. Michael Embaie, President of the Southern Alberta Heritage Languages Association (SAHLA).

On Saturday evening, SOHL held its Volunteer Award Banquet, emceed by Dr. Jim Leskun, who kept the audience laughing all night. Mr. Reggie Newkirk, President of SaskCulture, set a great tone for the evening by delivering a heartfelt keynote address.

Then followed the esteemed Volunteer Award Ceremony.

Mr. Mohammad Zakir Hossain Chowdhury from the Bangla School of Regina was the deserving recipient of SOHL's New Volunteer Award, and Mr. Victor Quijada from the Spanish School of Saskatoon was honoured with SOHL's Long-Term Volunteer Award.

Finally, the audience was entertained by several performing groups, whose energetic dancing impressed everyone present.

On Sunday morning, SOHL held its Annual General Meeting, with very good attendance yet again. Various committee chairs reported on their committee's operations and their plans for the near future.

Overall, the conference evaluations were very positive, and SOHL is proud to have received such encouraging feedback. We would like to thank the Conference Planning Committee, SOHL's Board and staff, speakers, presenters and special guests, and most importantly, all of the participants who made this year's conference such a success!

Submitted by Tamara Ruzic - Executive Director



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# 2011 Volunteer Awards

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## Long-Term Volunteer Award Recipient

### Victor Quijada

For twenty-one years, Victor has been involved with the Hispanic School of Saskatoon. A volunteer of many causes, he has participated in the Mini Language Lessons Program, was the drawing teacher for the Open Door Society and has worked with the Multicultural Society.

In 2001, Victor obtained his Teaching Certificate from the University of Saskatchewan.

Now the Director of the school, Victor's dedication, energy and enthusiasm has inspired others to participate for many years.



## New Volunteer Award Recipient

### Mohammad Zakir Hossain Chowdhury

Arriving in Regina three years ago from Toronto, Mohammad started the process of forming a heritage language school, the Bangla School of Regina.

A regular teacher at the Bangla School of Regina, Mohammad's zeal and commitment to teaching marks him as an asset to the language school and to the Bangla community.

Mohammad also helps young students of the Bangla community who are struggling with their schooling, with his help these students are showing signs of improvement.



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# 100 Years for the Saskatoon Hebrew School

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In October of this year, I attended my first SOHL conference. At the dinner on Saturday evening, one of the people sitting with me asked how old the Hebrew School was. I wasn't sure at the time, but I knew we were getting close to 100. Lucky for me that he asked, and lucky that I started researching the answer as soon as I got back to my office. This year the Saskatoon Hebrew School is celebrating its 100th birthday.

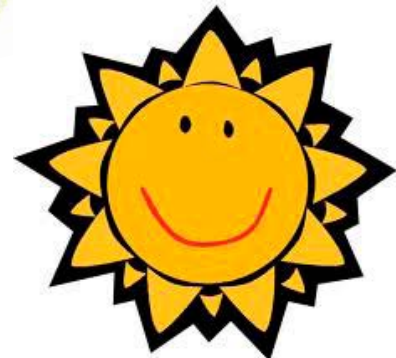
In the Jewish faith, it is very important that our children receive Hebrew and religious instruction. In fact, it is a commandment in our Torah to teach our children. To this end, Jewish families in Saskatoon, even before there was an official Jewish Community, started a school to teach Yiddish and Hebrew. I think this would make us one of the oldest continually running heritage language schools in the city, if not the province.

In researching the history of the school, I came across several very interesting articles in the book *Dedication Saskatoon Jewish Community 1905-1963* and this is where I am getting most of the information about the early years of the school. In 1910, the first teacher, Mr. Selchenko, was hired and a room was rented in the Cahill Block for classes. The first school was purchased in 1912. This school was used until 1928 when a new school was built that had 4 rooms and an auditorium. In 1958, the school moved into the new Synagogue and Community Center on McKinnon Ave where we are today.

We will be planning a celebration of this milestone for later in the year. I hope many former teachers and students will be able to attend and contribute pictures and memories. I know we have touched many lives over the years, and it will be exciting to reconnect.

Marsha Scharfstein

Principal, Saskatoon Hebrew School



If your language school has any landmarks they would like to share, please submit them to the SOHL Office:

[sohlcoordinator@sasktel.net](mailto:sohlcoordinator@sasktel.net)

OR

2144 Cornwall Street

Regina, SK. S4P 2K7

# SOHL Says Farewell to Long-Time Radio Host Mike Harras

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After approximately eight years as host to SOHL Connections, Mike Harras said goodbye to listeners on December 20th, 2011.

Throughout the eight years Mike has hosted SOHL Connections, he has welcomed guests from all over the world and has discussed a variety of topics from Chinese New Year, International Travel and Holodomor. His generosity as a volunteer is an inspiration for all of us.

SOHL Connections is a weekly radio broadcast on CJTR 91.3 FM. It is available around the world on [www.cjtr.ca](http://www.cjtr.ca), on channel 806 of Sasktel Max digital services, and on Access Communications digital channel 341.

Steven Greenbank and Shane Malloy will be taking the place of Mike Harras as host of SOHL Connections starting January 3rd, 2012.



SOHL Connections airs on CJTR 91.3 FM every Tuesday from 6:00 - 6:30 pm.

SOHL is always interested in finding people who would like to be guests on the program. If you would like to share some interesting points about your organization or travels, or to promote an event, please contact the SOHL office at 306.780.9478 or [sohlcoordinator@sasktel.net](mailto:sohlcoordinator@sasktel.net).



Saskatoon Polish School Fundraiser



Regina Russian School Christmas Concert



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## Successful Heritage Language Teachers Workshop Held by MLAR

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With more than 60 attendants, the Multilingual Association of Regina held their Heritage Language Teacher Workshop on November 19th, 2011 at the Travelodge Hotel.

Sarah Scarff, a teacher with the Regina Public School Board facilitated her workshop entitled *Effective Teacher/Student Communication* and did not disappoint. In her workshop, she covered a variety of activities to promote communications including spelling games and jigsaws, information gaps and role plays.

SOHL would like to thank the MLAR board and staff (Emile Carignan) for their hardwork in organizing such a successful workshop.

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## Saskatoon Multilingual Schools Hold Annual Social Night

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On Saturday, November 26th, the Saskatoon Multilingual Schools held their annual social night at the Aden Bowman Cafeteria. With almost 30 people in attendance, everybody shared a piece of their culture by singing songs in their own language.

Towards the end of the night participants brainstormed ideas on how to improve the teaching of heritage languages in Saskatoon.

SIA will be having their spring workshop, *Developing Materials and Activities for the Heritage Language Classroom* on March 24th, 2012.



Saskatoon schools that participated in the Saskatoon Multilingual Schools Social Night were the Heritage Chinese, Polish, Japanese, Sinhala, Persian, Uzbek, Filipino, French, and Spanish.

# Immersion Camps of 2011

By Evangeline Mou

Each year SOHL offers funding for a number of language immersion camps for its members. In 2011, SOHL funded 21 immersion camps across the province.

Immersion camps provide students with the opportunity to continue their language studies in a fun and interactive environment. Activities at the camps included language lessons, crafts, cooking, dancing, sports, music, and many outdoor activities.

One participant mentioned that the camps give students and parents a sense of being part of the community, and allows them to take ownership of the culture and language which they are familiar with.

Immersion camps also help new immigrants to make friends with people who share the same culture and language.



Filipino Heritage School, German Language School Saskatoon, Heritage Chinese Language School, Green Grove Camp, Regina Language Circle, Ruthenian Language School, St. Narsay Chaldean School, Urdu Language School Saskatoon, Yoruba Canadian Community Association, Bangla Heritage Language School Saskatoon, Bangla School of Regina, Ethiopian Heritage Language School, Nepali Language School Regina, Quyash Uzbek Language School, Regina Nippon School Inc., Salvador Allende Latin American Spanish School, Saskatoon Norwegian Cultural Society, Saskatoon Russian Cultural Club, Trident Ukrainian Orthodox Church Camp, Ukrainian National Federation – Regina Branch, and Ukrainian Orthodox Men's Association.

# \$100,000 of funding available for community groups in Regina



*Do you have a project that needs a boost to make it happen?*

*Farm Credit Canada (FCC) wants to hear from you.*

## **Apply online now**

The FCC Regina Spirit Fund is a \$100,000 fund to support community enhancement projects by charitable and non-profit organizations in Regina. It's FCC's way of giving back to a city where 600 of their over 1,500 employees live and work.

Applications are being accepted right now for all funding available in 2012. The deadline to get your application submitted is February 6, 2012 and the \$100,000 will be awarded in April 2012.

## **Criteria**

Each project is evaluated based on its ability to enhance the community. Winning projects may receive up to \$25,000 in funding.

The FCC Regina Spirit Fund supports a variety of projects that address different needs in the city and enhance the quality of life for people in Regina.

For your project to be considered for funding, your organization must be:

- A registered charity, or
- Non-profit organization that is registered with Saskatchewan Justice (Corporations Branch Corporate Registry)

Your project must:

- Enhance the quality of life for people in Regina
- Be located in the city of Regina
- Recognize FCC's contribution

*To apply, go to [www.FCCReginaSpiritFund.ca](http://www.FCCReginaSpiritFund.ca).*

## Free Language Learning System Available at the RPL

Mango is an online language learning system teaching practical conversation skills for a variety of popular languages, such as French, Spanish, Japanese, Portuguese and much more. **Mango also has English as a Second Language course.** If you would like Mango to track your progress, make sure you create a profile when you first log in.

What's the point of learning vocabulary if you can't put it together in a meaningful way? Each Mango lesson is focused on practical, common conversation skills and includes instruction on vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, AND culture. Our lessons are written and developed by native-speaking teachers who understand the nuances of the language and the culture. They know what skills and information you will need at each stage of your learning process. Strategically placed memory building exercises make sure that you'll remember what you learn as you go. Critical thinking exercises help you intuitively build on what you learn so you can adapt it to similar conversations in real life.

- Mango is free, but requires a valid library card number to use

## Request a Specific Title in your Language!

The libraries have a special fund available for purchasing requested titles that may not currently be part of the multilingual collection. Therefore, if you are searching for a particular book in any language that is not available, simply go to your nearest library branch and place a request for the book.

## How to get a Library Card

Your Library card is your passport to a wide range of Regina Public Library programs and services!

To sign up for a card, visit any RPL location or any other Saskatchewan Public Library and ask a staff member at the Circulation Desk to assist you.

Adults & Young Adults (ages 14+) must show two pieces of identification, one establishing their current Regina address and a second piece that verifies identity.

Children (under 14 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who must show two pieces of identification, one establishing his or her current Regina address and a second piece that verifies identity. These documents will be used to register the child. The parent or legal guardian will need to sign the child's Library card. The signer assumes responsibility for any Library charges incurred by the child.

Borrowers are responsible for all materials borrowed on their card and any charges, including fines and replacement costs, resulting from the late return, damage or loss of materials. Any fees owing must be paid prior to annual Library card renewal.

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**SOHL Connection**  
Live at 6:00 pm Tuesday Evenings

SOHL's 30 minute radio program airs live on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm on 91.3 FM CJTR Community Radio, and features guest interviews promoting languages and multicultural events.

Individuals and organizations wanting to share information on language and culture projects, events, and experiences are invited to contact SOHL's Project Coordinator to schedule a show by phone at 306.780.9478, or by email at [sohlcoordinator@sasktel.net](mailto:sohlcoordinator@sasktel.net). We would love to have you as a guest!

Listeners outside of Regina can hear the show online at [www.cjtr.ca](http://www.cjtr.ca), on SaskTel Max at channel 806, or on Access Communications at channel 341.

Discover. Create. **Learn. Live!**

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