UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Centre for International Experience

January 15, 2011

THE STORY OF A PLAQUE AND THE HISTORY OF A HOUSE…

Erected on the lawn of 33 St. George Street is a provincial plaque commemorating the historic significance of Cumberland House to the province of Ontario. This plaque was unveiled by the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Ontario Heritage Trust on December 7, 2010 at Queen's Park and installed on the lawns of the now Centre for International Experience, Cumberland House. The provincial plaque program of the Ontario Heritage Trust honours significant people, places and events in Ontario's history. This recognition and dedication reminds us of how special a place Cumberland House is and the history which our students, staff and university community share in. We would like to share with you a little about the house which remains the home of international students and the international experience. Throughout its life, Cumberland House has been a personal residence, a Government house and a part of our university. This 1860 residence, originally named Pendarves, was designed firstly as the family home of the renowned Toronto architect Frederic W. Cumberland.

Whilst working on the construction of University College, Frederic Cumberland had this house built as his personal residence.

Plaque in front of Cumberland House
33 St. George Street

A heritage plaque commemorating the work and life of Frederic Cumberland stands a few feet away from the plaque honouring his house on the lawns of 33 St. George Street. This house remained a personal residence of varying families: First the Cosby family (1884-1900), when the house was known as "Maplehearn", then the Beardmore family.

In 1912 it was leased to the government of Ontario as the temporary residence of the Lieutenant Governor until 1915. In 1923, the house was sold to the University of Toronto and became known as Baldwin House and the home of several departments of the university until the mid-1960s when it was renamed Cumberland House and became the home of the International Student Centre for over forty years.

In our busy lives we sometimes miss the opportunity to reflect on the spaces and places around us. Beyond the bricks and mortars throughout its 150 year history Cumberland House has been a home to people and learning. We hope our students will share proudly in the history of this house as we continue to write the history of Cumberland House.

By Suying Hugh
International Student Adviser
Centre for International Experience

Transition Advising for First-Year International Students

U of T is committed to providing a broad range of transitional support to international students in order to ensure their success. Transition Adviser, Marc Arnold, tells us more about one such initiative by the Centre for International Experience: Transition advising for first-year international students.

Q: Can you tell us more about this program?
A: It was designed for first year international students at St. Mike's College and the Rotman Commerce program. It is intended to help students with academic and cultural adjustment to life at the University. We understand that after the initial high of beginning their studies in a new cultural environment, students start to face challenges as they get down to work and experience the local culture in more depth.

Q: How does the advising work?
A: Students meet with the Transition Adviser in one-on-one sessions, sharing any experiences, questions or concerns regarding academic issues, improving their language skills, health insurance, joining the Athletic Centre or building up work experience. No question is too big or too small.

Q: Where can students find you?
A: I am at St. Mike's college on Mondays and Tuesdays and I'm at the Rotman Commerce building on Thursdays and Fridays.

For more information or to set up an appointment with Marc Arnold, email: marc.arnold@utoronto.ca

J.D.

Winter Fun in Ottawa!

CIE is organizing a trip to Ottawa, Canada's capital, to celebrate the joys of winter at "Winterlude". Treat yourselves at this annual event, to a fun-filled weekend of winter activities featured across Ottawa and Gatineau. Skate on the world's largest skating rink, check out the ice sculpture competitions or play at North America's largest snow playground.

Alternatively, if you do not enjoy outdoor activities, you may want to visit the various museums and landmarks of Ottawa.

Your trip includes round-trip transportation from Toronto to Ottawa in a Coach Canada bus and overnight accommodations at HI-Ottawa Jail House Hostel, 75 Nicholas St. Ottawa, in shared dorm-style rooms.

Dates: Saturday and Sunday, February 5th and 6th, 2011

Cost: $110 per person

Payment: By debit (or exact cash only in exceptional cases) at the CIE Reception Desk, 33 St. George Street, Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm

Cancellation: No later than 12 noon, Monday, January 31, 2011

For detailed information visit the CIE event page.

Opportunities Ontario: Provincial Nominee Program

By Kim Sprenger
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

The Opportunities Ontario: Provincial Nominee Program (www.ontario.ca/newcomers), is open to international students in their last semester of study, or within two years of graduating from a Master's program at an Ontario university. Master's applicants don't need a job offer, but they must have lived in the province for at least one year of the past two years, have a general IELTS band score of 7 or TEFF score of 5, and have savings to support themselves and any dependents.

Successful applicants can get permanent resident status within nine to twelve months, instead of three to five years through the points-based Federal Skilled Worker Program.

Yikai Zhang from Beijing, China, is a recent graduate from U of T's Master of Laws program and an Opportunities Ontario nominee in the Master's Graduate Stream. She comments that, "When I received the call telling me I was nominated, I was very excited and couldn't believe it was true! I know that from now on things will be easier for me. My immigration process will be expedited and I could probably get my permanent residence by the summer of 2011!"

PhD Graduates do not need a job offer to apply to Opportunities Ontario.

International students who have graduated or who are completing their last semester of a Bachelor's degree need a job offer from an approved Ontario employer in order to qualify. Find out more at www.ontario.ca/newcomers or follow us on Facebook at Study, Work, Stay: Opportunities Ontario or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ontcitimm.

Alternative Reading Week Days of Service Growing Community Feb 22 - 24, 2011

Registration is now open! Spaces are limited so sign up now.
Make a difference and gain valuable leadership skills during Reading Week. Join hundreds of other students to help the community of Mount Dennis in this community service-learning program.
Projects include: community gardening project, sports with youth, reading to children, working with seniors, and more. All participants will receive a recognition certificate for completing this program.
Alternative Reading Week is organized through U of T's Centre for Community Partnerships and the Learning Enrichment Foundation
For more information and to register go to: https://ccp.utoronto.ca/Students/Service-Projects-in-the-Community/Alternative-Reading-Week.htm or e-mail: information.outreach@utoronto.ca

Houses of Worship Tour

Interested in learning about other religions? Join U of T's Multifaith Centre on a tour of First Nations, Jewish & Jain houses of worship.

Sunday, January 30
Departing from Hart House at 10:00am
(Returning by 3:30pm)

Cost: $5 students, $10 non students includes lunch & bus
Tickets: Available until Thurs Jan 27 from the Multi-Faith Centre, Hart House, Centre for International Experience, and Grad House.

For more information:
http://www.multifaith.utoronto.ca/

We want your art!

CIE will be hosting an art exhibition this February. The show will exhibit works done through creative mediums by students who have gone on a Student Exchange Program.

The theme of the Exhibit is transcending international borders and viewing the world and your education through an international lens. Share your incredible experience by submitting your artwork or photos taken during your exchange.

Prizes will be given for first, second and third place photos, and there will be special awards for non-photo artwork.

To submit your work, e-mail student.exchange@utoronto.ca. You can submit up to three works, but please send one photo per e-mail. Please label the photo with your full name (e.g. JohnSmith1.jpg) and include the title of your photo in the body of the e-mail. Non-photography work can be submitted in person or by mail to the Student Exchange Office at CIE, 33 St. George Street, room 204. Please include your full name, title and description of your work. Do not include photos or videos featuring alcohol consumption.

The deadline is February 1st. We look forward to your participation!

Sport Idioms

By Jessica Macalinao, CIE Work-Study

The World Junior Hockey Championship is an annual event organized by the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) for national under-20 ice hockey teams from around the world. The 2011 championship took place in Buffalo, New York, with Russia beating Canada in the gold medal match. Did you know that many English idioms come from sports, including hockey?
Here's a list of a few:

Idiom & Origin	Meaning	Example
Face-off *Hockey*	To confront or compete	We are going to have a cooking face-off.
The ball is in your court *Tennis*	It's your decision or responsibility	"What should I do now?" "Don't ask me. The ball is in your court now."
Call the shots *Billiards*	Make the decisions	While the boss is on vacation, John will call the shots.
Get off the hook *Fishing*	Escape, have responsibility removed	She got off the hook for not finishing her homework, because class was cancelled.
Below the belt *Martial Arts*	Do or say something unfair or cruel	To call someone a bad mother is a hit below the belt.
Home stretch *Baseball*	Almost the end	I have two exams left before I graduate. I'm in the home stretch now.
Jump the gun *Track*	Start too early	I jumped the gun on buying John & Jane a wedding gift, because they cancelled the wedding.
No sweat *Any sport*	No problem	You want me to help you carry that box? No sweat!
On thin ice *Skating*	Do something risky, take a chance	You've missed work for almost a week now. You're skating on thin ice.