



# CPF Hamilton-Wentworth

## French summer camp now accepting registrations!

Canadian Parents for French is excited to announce Hamilton's first CPF French Summer Camp for kids ages 6 to 12. Camp Dove is being organized in partnership with CPF Ontario and will be held at George P. Vanier high school in the west end of Hamilton (100 Macklin Street North, near Princess Point). Camp Dove (Camp la Colombe) is a day camp program that encourages francophone kids and French Immersion students to use and develop their French skills language during the summertime. Camp Dove has existing locations in Scarborough and Toronto.

Camp Dove will run from July 3, 2006 to August 25, 2006, a duration of 8 weeks. Camp hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with before

and after care available for an extra fee. Parents are responsible for meals and snacks, and the camp will be a peanut free environment.

The camp will offer a variety of recreational and educational activities including: visual arts, sports (soccer, basketball, swimming) guided tours and trips, dance and songs. The children will learn about other cultures through legends, music, historical and geographical activities.

The camp fees are as follows:  
**Registration fee:** \$60 or \$30 for CPF members (non-refundable).

**Camp cost:** \$145 per week for the first child and \$135 for the second child of the same family. Costs increase by \$5 per child after June 1st.

A post-dated cheque or money order payable "Garderie Dove la Colombe" must accompany a completed and signed registration form. To register, please call 416-446-1993 Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Check out the camp's website at: [www.garderieidlc.com](http://www.garderieidlc.com)



The Centre Français is holding its annual French language talent show -ARTFO, on Sunday April 23, 06. The show is open to participants age 6 to 23, and registration is first-come, first-served. The three competition categories are: performance of an original song, interpretation of an existing vocal or instrumental song, and original dance. All songs must be in French. The competitions will be held between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. for Grades 1 to 6 students, and from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. for older students. Prizes will be awarded immediately after each competition, and include the opportunity to record your own CD!

For those who would like to simply attend the show, tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2 for students 14 to 18, and free for those 13 and under. ARTFO will be held at Academie Mere-Teresa -the French Catholic high school, located at 50 Lisgar Court on the east mountain. To register, or for more information, please contact Giselle at 905-547-5702.

### In praise of French teachers!

If you've seen our newsletter before, you will have noticed that we always feature kids on our front page header who are in French Immersion or Core French courses in Hamilton. In this issue we decided it was time to feature

some of the fabulous teachers and administrators who support learning French every day!

So - here's to you! Merci beaucoup!



# What do you get when you take French in high school? Un voyage inoubliable!



Students in grade 10-12 from Cathedral H.S. (pictured above) went on an unforgettable trip to France during the March Break. Forty-four students from the French Immersion and Core French Programs visited the landing beaches of World War II in Normandy, the Mont Saint Michel, the castles of the Loire Valley, the Palace of Versailles and ended with 3 days in Paris!

Here are some thoughts on the trip:

- “The ‘City of Lights’ illuminated our lives.”  
« *La Ville des Lumières a éclairci nos vies.* » Marta J.
- “We learned what books were unable to teach.”  
« *On a appris ce que les livres ne peuvent pas nous enseigner.* » Alex D.B.

- “The Eiffel tower: the ‘high point’ of our trip.” Oliver E.
- « *Le Champs Elysees: des mémoires qu’on n’oubliera jamais.* » Alicia O.
- “The military cemeteries brought many to tears; we’ll seldom forget the ultimate sacrifice.” Rachelle S.
- “We travelled thousands of miles to build relationships with teachers and friends.” Luca F.
- « *Le Louvre a inspiré l’artiste dans chacun de nous.* » Marta J.
- « *Les châteaux : Les bijoux de la France.* » Aysha R.
- « *Le Mont Saint Michel semble nous transporter dans un monde de mystère.* » Andrew C.

## Canadian Parents for French welcomes new official patron

CPF welcomes the newly appointed Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, as its official Patron. “It was a great pleasure to receive acknowledgement from the Governor General’s office that Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean

accepted the invitation to become Patron of CPF,” said CPF President Trudy Comeau. “We are honoured that she has accepted the title.” CPF, which was founded in 1977, has had a longstanding relationship with the governor general’s office.



## Gregg Lerock Rocks!

By all accounts, Gregg Lerock really rocks! Also known as Gregg Lawless, the French speaking musician entertained French Core and Immersion students at G.P. Vanier Secondary School and Bishop Ryan High School in February.

Some of the students from G.R. Allan’s Mdle. Patenaude’s Grade 5 Immersion class provided us with some enthusiastic feedback. Read on.

- Gregg Lerock included the audience in his performance...by asking the kids to come up and dance. (H.B.)
- I think if I had the chance, I would go a second time to Gregg’s concert. (C.C.B.)
- Gregg Lerock had a lot of wild and funny songs to play. He played the guitar, while his D.J. played the keyboard.(H.M.)
- Almost everything was in French and therefore it was an excellent learning experience! (H.S.)
- When I went to the Gregg Lerock concert, it was fantastic! He sang a lot of songs. He was hilarious! I will never forget it! It was amazing! (S.M.)
- He was always on the move...Kids never get bored at this concert! (M.R.)
- His French songs are very creative and keep the audience active! (B.E.)
- My favourite French song was about a girl called “Natalie “. I could relate to her at school. (E.K.)
- You can learn the words to the songs by heart. It is a great, fun and exciting way to learn French vocabulary! (L.K.S.)
- When is he coming back? I want to go again and again and again to his concerts. (N.C.)

The Gregg Lerock concert was brought to you by the Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter of Canadian Parents for French.

# What do you mean you're not a member?

## Ten top reasons to support CPF

Our Hamilton CPF Chapter is now four years old and we need your help! Despite our many successful events and activities - our membership numbers are declining. In addition, we need more people to join our executive committee to keep us energized and creative. Here are the top 10 reasons why you should join CPF and ensure our Chapter grows and thrives into the coming years!

**1. Increased FI Enrolment:** Four years ago, Hamilton's French Immersion programs were in decline. CPF, along with the parent councils of FI schools, has worked very hard to promote and endorse Immersion through paid advertisements, flyers and attendance at all FI information nights. Enrolment in both boards is now increasing steadily, leading to fewer split classes and the need to grow the FI program in future.

**2. Newsletters:** Our chapter newsletter reaches almost 3,000 French Immersion students and teachers across Hamilton's two school boards. CPF newsletters keep parents and educators informed about French language events and issues they would not usually hear about. Our newsletters cost \$400 per issue to print, so we need membership dollars to keep them coming.

**3. Bussing:** For the past two years, CPF has led the campaign at the local board to obtain bussing for public school French Immersion students. We were present at every policy review meeting and kept pushing for change. Now, for the first time in 30 years FI kids in

public schools have some transportation. If you appreciate our efforts - please join CPF to show your support.

**4. French Events:** CPF organizes French language events so Hamilton students have an opportunity to use French outside the classroom setting. In the past four years, we have arranged for numerous French concerts, films, magic shows, author readings, and book sales, all subsidized and organized by our executive committee.

**5. Francophone Connections:** Through outreach to the francophone community, CPF has been able to build relationships with key organizations and promote Hamilton's francophone events (such as the film festival and the family picnic) to FI families. Both the francophone and the FI community benefit from the additional interaction made possible by CPF.

**6. Provincial Money:** Because we have a local chapter of CPF, Hamilton is eligible for special programs and grants offered by CPF Ontario. For example, we were able to provide \$2,500 worth of French Reading Materials to the Hamilton Public Library, and we are able to pay for \$1,500 of additional advertising for FI information nights each January. Without a local chapter, we could not benefit from these programs.

**7. Advocacy:** CPF works with both school boards to improve French Second Language programs in Hamilton. As a result of CPF advocacy, the Catholic School Board has retained a French special assignment teacher

and will be holding an FI information night with the hope of starting a FI advisory committee. A larger CPF membership will result in an even stronger parent voice for French education.

**8. Québec Exchange:** In 2005, we organized and ran a successful four-week exchange program for 40 middle-school students. The 11 to 14 year olds travelled to Québec to improve their French while enjoying some wonderful cultural activities. We would like to repeat this exchange in 2008, but we will need CPF volunteers to do so. Join CPF and help make the next Québec exchange a reality.

**9. Special Offers:** CPF has established member discounts for many of our activities and in addition has negotiated special offers for our members. For example: College Boreal is providing a \$35 discount to CPF members taking their adult French course. The Esprit d'École French weekend camp-out was also free for the children of CPF members - a \$50 saving! For a \$25 annual membership fee you can save a bundle.

**10. National Pride:** CPF National works with the federal government and national organizations to create an environment supportive of French education in Canada. CPF Ontario works with Ministry of Education, teacher organizations, and other groups to ensure that there is support for French second language education. By joining CPF, you become part of a Canada-wide movement supporting French language education.

### CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH APPLICATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd member's name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Board \_\_\_\_\_ School(s) your child attends: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP FEES**    3 year - \$60.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_    1 year - \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Donation\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Total (No GST)

Cheque Enclosed (payable to Canadian Parents for French) (CPF Charitable Reg. No. 11883 5131 RR0001) For payment by: VISA  MasterCard

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Canadian Parents for French  
176 Gloucester St.  
Ottawa, ON K2P 0A6

# Esprit d'école



This year 60 students from 12 school boards across Ontario attended the Esprit d'École camp, at Scanlon Creek (located 4 kilometres north of Bradford). They participated in leadership activities, games, snowshoeing, a Hip Hop workshop and a scavenger hunt - **all in French!**

Although several students from Hamilton attended the event, it is hoped that the possibility of a bus from the Ontario office in Mississauga, might increase the area's participation next year.

*Snowshoeing was a favourite activity during the annual Esprit d'École camp sponsored by Canadian Parents for French, Ontario.*

## Parents Seek French Immersion Schools in Former Wentworth Region

The new City of Hamilton was amalgamated in 2001, combining Hamilton, Dundas, Ancaster, Stoney Creek, Glanbrook and Waterdown into a new municipality with a population of about 500,000. At the same time, the Wentworth and the Hamilton School districts also amalgamated into the "Hamilton-Wentworth" District and Catholic School Boards. Since French Immersion was never offered by the former Wentworth County school boards, Immersion programs are currently only found in the central part of Hamilton. While this has resulted in new opportunities for students in the former suburbs, it also means that they may have long travel times to their closest French Immersion school.

A group of Waterdown parents have recently organized to try and generate enough interest in Waterdown to open a public school FI program by September 2007. Currently children from Waterdown attend G. R. Allan School in west Hamilton. If you have an interest in this endeavor, please visit their web site: [waterdownfi.bravehost.com](http://waterdownfi.bravehost.com) or e-mail them at: [waterdownFI@hotmail.com](mailto:waterdownFI@hotmail.com) for further details.

A group of Dundas parents are also trying to start a public school French Immersion program in Dundas by 2007. Currently children from Dundas attend G. R. Allan in west Hamilton. For further information, please call Sarah at 905-628-1864 or e-mail her at: [mcvanel@sympatico.ca](mailto:mcvanel@sympatico.ca).

Finally, a group of Ancaster parents are trying to start a public school French Immersion program in their community. Currently children from Ancaster attend Norwood Park school on the west mountain. For further information, please contact Joanne at 905-304-0812 or by e-mail at [jsaab@cogeco.ca](mailto:jsaab@cogeco.ca).

## French Language Early Years Centre

If you have pre-school or kindergarten children getting ready for French Immersion, you may want to bring them for a visit to Hamilton's French language Early Years Centre. Early Years Centres are free drop-in centres for children six and under and their caregivers, funded by the Province of Ontario.

The French language Early Years Centre (le Coin de la famille) is located at 460 Main St. E., near Wentworth, on the 3rd floor of a small office building. Parking is at the rear.

The Centre is open:  
Wednesday: 1p.m. - 3 p.m.,  
Thursday and Fridays: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.,  
and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Centre staff speak both English and French. Call 905-528-0163 Ext 228 for more information.

The Coin de la Famille offers:

- French learning activities - crafts, books, videos, puzzles and games.
- Toy lending and children's library (French materials.)
- Parent/caregiver support workshops
- Cultural celebrations.

### Ontario Early Years Centres



*A Place For Parents And Their Children.*