



The Toronto WLCU Quarterly Bulletin

WLCU Toronto

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Warm welcome to our Chapter members and best wishes for 2013!

In an effort to keep you informed of our activities, we are issuing our first quarterly bulletin that will bring you the latest in WLCU world and local news. You will also learn of some great upcoming events that you surely won't want to miss. Please watch for this newsletter to be issued quarterly. We'd like to hear from you, please send your ideas to wlcutoronto@yahoo.com.

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MISSION STATEMENT:

The WLCU strives to unite descendants of Lebanese origin and friends of Lebanon into one worldwide organization or union with the aim to promote and preserve Lebanese culture and heritage and to ensure its spirit for generations to come.

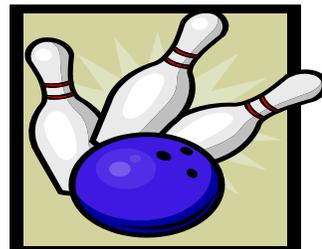
Coming events

**Family Day Bowling:
Feb 17, 2013,
Richmond Hill, Ont.**

Family day is fast approaching and you and your families are invited to join for a Bowling

afternoon, so mark your calendars and please come out on Sunday, Feb 17th from 3 to 6 p.m. for an afternoon of fun and excitement. WORLD BOWL, Leslie and Hwy 7 at 9, East

Wilmot St., Richmond Hill.



Gebran Square Inauguration Ceremony – Caracas, Venezuela, Feb 2 2013

The World Council of the World Lebanese Cultural Union is celebrating the opening of a square in honour of Lebanon's great Gibran, in Caracas, Venezuela, on February 2, 2013. Both the square and a library are being opened. The ceremony is organized by the National Council of the WLCU Venezuela headed by Michel Assaf.

Participation in this memorable event is encouraged and interested individuals are invited to contact Mr. Michel Assaf (michelassaf@gmail.com) or +58 (414) 1139756 to reserve their spot and allow for the

coordination of local hotel and ground transportation.

Youth visit to Lebanon: Aug.16-26, 2013

Preparations are underway for a very special trip; Young men and women of Lebanese descent from around the world will visit Lebanon this summer from August 16-26, 2013. This trip was agreed upon by the collaboration of the Regional Councils, the National Council, and the World Council for youth, and is being organized by Dimas Chantiri. The WLCU will hold the World Youth Congress over a two day period during the visit. More details about the event will follow. Reserve the dates in your calendar and let's support our

youth in visiting participating in what is sure to be a very memorable visit to our homeland.

Miss Emigrant Ceremonies: Aug. 2013

Again this year, plans are underway to hold Miss Emigrant ceremonies in eight countries: Australia, Argentina, France, Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Mexico and Brazil. Although Canada is not participating in this event this year, we are sending our support to all the wonderful young ladies from our sister countries all over the world and wish them the very best of luck as they participate in this exciting event.

Past events

Lebanon's Independence Day at Queens Park – Raising the Lebanese Flag



November 22nd, 2012

A great turnout marked the celebrations of Lebanon's 69th Independence Day at Queen's Park. So many Canadian and Lebanese dignitaries and members of the Lebanese community took time to attend the event. We also received numerous letters and emails of congratulations and support. A special thank you goes out to the WLCU World President, Mr. Michel Doueihy who came all the way from Australia with his wife to

join us in the commemoration of this very special event.

Your support help highlight the importance of staying connected to our Lebanese roots, and to demonstrate the commitment to working closely with our Canadian counterparts for the success of both countries. The Lebanese community has been recognized for its immense contribution to the cultural, economic, and social life in Canada.

A great event such as this one takes time to organize and so we wish to thank all those who worked on planning it. A thank you also goes to the representative of the Ontario Premier (Mr. Charles Souza) and of the PC leader (MPP Vic Fedeli). Their participation helped convey the respect of their leaders to our community. In the words of Ghada Sadaka, WLCU Toronto Chapter President, **“Diversity in Canada makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter their colour or texture.”** Let's build on this success and look forward to many more years of celebration.

WLCU World Council Meeting – Nov 14-18, 2012, NY and NJ

November 14-18,

Not even Hurricane Sandy could stop the WLCU's World Council meeting from happening.

WLCU representatives from all over the globe met in New York over the weekend of November 16th and 17th.

With the World Secretariat General heading the congress, delegates discussed their efforts over the past year, and heard about initiatives being led by Lebanese elsewhere in the world.

Canada was proudly represented by WVP Elias Kassab and Regional President François Abou Neeman.

WLCU World President Mr. Michel Doueihy chaired the meeting along with World Secretary General Mr. Toni Kaddissi, and other representatives from the world and the World Youth Council.

Mr. Doueihy reaffirmed our will to serve our home country Lebanon and the immigrants who adhere to the land of our fathers and grandfathers.

He presented a report of the following **achievements:**

- A World Youth conference was held in Lebanon, as well as a world council meeting honouring former minister Michel Edde, President on the Maronite Foundation abroad.
- Cooperated with the Municipality of Dhour Choueir for the election of Miss Expatriates. Miss Patricia Geagea (Sweden) won the title of Beauty Queen.
- Participated in a successful WLCU Youth conference in Argentina

A recurring theme overarched the WP's words: that of the **Youth**. The Youth are believed to be the ones rebuilding the new Lebanon, its culture, ideas and aspirations, and a call for their support was made, including a permanent seat for the Youth at the World Council. Youth will be welcomed and integrated

harmoniously, as we count on them for a brighter future.

The recommendations from the meeting in NY are to hold the following events:

- Conference for the Youth to be held in Lebanon in August with visits to the cities of Lebanese heritage, culture and tourism.
- The finalization of the construction of the library dedicated to Gibran Khalil Gibran and the preparation of the arena honouring the poet in Caracas; and
- The authorization of all councils around the globe to prepare the Miss Immigrant elections



Please watch for more information on the following Lebanese National recommendations:

- His Excellency President Michel Suleiman persisted on giving expatriates the right to vote and exercise their rights and duties as citizens equally to those residing in the country.
- Conferees insisted that any new laws should include a mechanism

coordinated by the ministry of Interior and the ministry of Immigrants to give Lebanese descendants their citizenship rights in order to vote.

In conclusion, conferees wanted to draw the attention of the Lebanese government in general, the Cultural Ministry in particular and the Department of Antiquities to the ongoing destruction of historical homes and

neighborhoods, changing the archeological aspect of the city of Tripoli.

Of note, in celebration of the large influence of the Lebanese community in Mexico, a Souvenir Post Stamp was issued by the government of Mexico. During a dinner honouring the Mexican President at the Lebanese Club, Mr. Felipe Calderon delivered the commemorating post stamp

to the Lebanese Club and the Lebanese Community in that country.



Participate in the "Name that Bulletin" competition

We are trying to find a relevant name for our newly published bulletin. Can you help us? Please submit your ideas for a great name by February 15th and your name will be entered into a draw for a gift certificate. Please send your suggestions to wlcutoronto@yahoo.com.

The winner's name will be published in our next edition of the bulletin.

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Save the date!

Saturday April 13, 2013

Our Lady of Lebanon parish, in collaboration with WLCU, will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the church in the GTA.

A very special **musical concert** is being developed for the occasion, a one of a kind event for our community.

More details will be coming to you as we develop them, so please save this important date in your calendar, you won't want to miss this very special presentation.