

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



**REDLEAF CULTURAL
INTEGRATION**



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2020 was an extraordinary year which is worth looking back on. The pandemic has caused enormous changes on how we think, act, and interact with other people.

Since the beginning of COVID-19, RCI has stopped all on-site in-person programs and gradually developed various online activities that are loved by people of different ages in the community.

The senior program included weekly virtual fitness, vocal, English, and computer classes, as well as some photography, painting, and cooking classes tailored to seniors' needs. A variety of information sessions were arranged focusing senior's health and safety. The community online fitness dance class and choir program have attracted much more participants than ever. A youth program provided support and volunteer opportunities for international and newcomer students. All the online activities have brought people together. Although we can't meet each other in person, but like never before, we are taking care of one another and feel connected deeply in heart. There are many testimonies and stories throughout this report from the people whose lives we have touched.

We are very grateful for the ongoing funding support from the Federal and Provincial government and the City of Burlington. It enables us to find new ways to mobilize compassion and strengthen the relationships during the crisis. Thanks to our dedicated co-workers, all volunteers, and individual sponsors, you have helped us achieve more than we thought possible.

Although the path ahead of us may be uncertain, one thing has never been more clear: Together we are finding strength. Let's continually support one another, go through this challenging time together for a better and brighter future.

Lily Hudson
Founder and Executive Director
Redleaf Cultural Integration

VISION, MISSION, MANDATE AND VALUE

VISION

An integrated community for all.

MISSION

Working together with people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and ages to enhance the quality of life in our community. Our services are focused on newcomers from China to Canada to support them with a smooth transition to their new life and new community.

MANDATE

- Provide customized programs to help newcomers build a connection with local community.
- Provide stimulating and recreational programs to strengthen physical and mental wellbeing.
- Organize cultural themed events to promote multiculturalism and inclusiveness.

VALUES

- Mutual respect
- Awareness of cultural diversity
- Build a welcoming and inclusive community.

RCI SENIOR PROGRAM

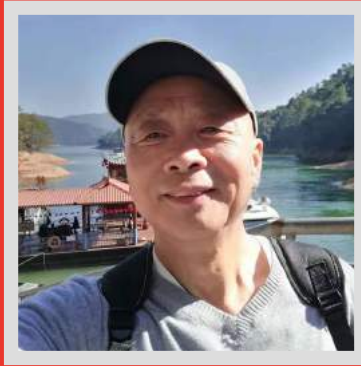


Online Class Teachers



Vocal

Luping Xing



English

Newton Wang



Fitness

Summer Lu



Technology

Minsong Sun

RCI Seniors Virtual Program 2020

Right after the pandemic started, RCI quickly switched all its classes to be online. 4 core classes are available to seniors every week including English, Vocal, Fitness and Tech. Besides the regular classes, RCI organized seminars with different themes e.g. Dementia 101, Retirement Financial Management etc.





**Journalist
Fengwu Tian**



**Taichi
Ruzhu Song**



**Fitness
Hengjian Liu**



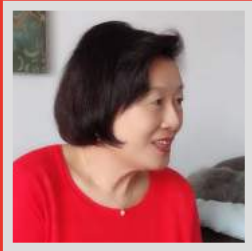
**Taichi
XiangHua Huang**



**Fitness
Penny Pan**



**Support
Shujun Ren**



**Cooking
Sue Zhan**



**Dance
Ann Chen**



**Dance
Yanqing Han**



**Tech
Helen Sun**



**Photography
Sean Huang**



**Painting
Joyce Wang**



**Tech
Michael Ren**

We were very nervous when the pandemic started. Since our English is not good, a lot of news was lagging behind. After RCI started to organize online classes e.g. English, dancing, computer, singing, and many seminars with different themes, we had the opportunity to gather with friends and exchange information with each other online which reduced my anxiety.

I like English class. Our teacher Mr. Wang explained the English class very clearly. I also like music lessons very much. The classroom atmosphere is particularly good.

RCI Seniors Enchang Zhang

Online classes bring happiness to all of us. Facing the pandemic is very helpless, but our attitude towards life has become more positive. Classes such as photography and how to use mobile phones have kept us up to date with the times. The fitness class gives us many opportunities to exercise indoors, which is good for both physical and mental health.

RCI Senior Xiuyan Zheng

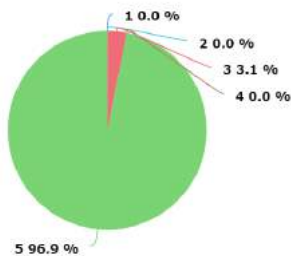
Chat and Check



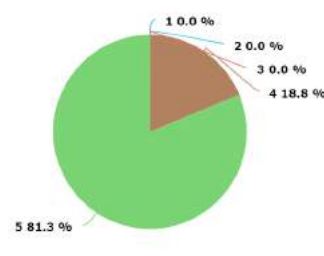
Besides the seniors who can join our online classes and seminars, some seniors could not take part in the virtual activities due to various reasons. In order to reach out to them, RCI established a program called "Chat and Check". We use the most conventional way: phone calls to regularly check on their status and make sure they are in good health and their needs are met. In this program, our senior volunteers usually make phone calls to them every other week which enable them to have updated information about pandemic and keep social connection to reduce loneliness and social isolation.

Satisfaction Survey for 2020 RCI Senior Program

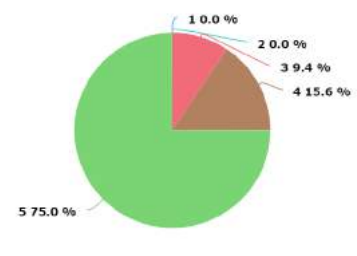
5 - Most Agree (Green Color), 1 - Most Disagree



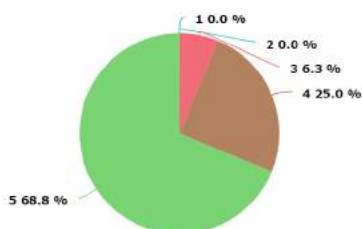
Overall Evaluation



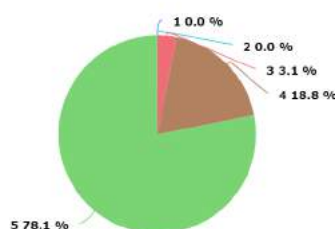
Helpful to My Health



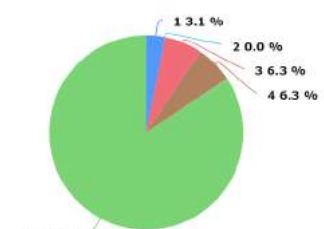
Maintained Social Connection



Got Community Service Information



Tried Something New



Will Recommend to My Friend

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT





2020 Lunar New Year Celebration



LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

On January 18th 2020, RCI hosted its 6th Lunar New Year Celebration at the Burlington Performing Arts Center. The Celebration included two parts: a cultural exhibition in the lobby and performances with different themes on the main stage.

RCI had invited several local artists to demonstrate traditional Asian arts such as Calligraphy, Tea art, and Sugar painting. On the main stage, a group of artists performed chorus, dance, and instrumental music with different cultural themes including Chinese, Indian, Korean, and Persian. More than 800 people participated in this event.

Organizing cultural themed events to promote diversity and inclusiveness is one of RCI's mandates. We hope this annual event helped to achieve this goal.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

Due to the pandemic, RCI organized its Christmas and New Year Celebration online this year. Redleaf Choir, RCI Dance Fitness Class, RCI Seniors group, and Youth Club participated in this 45-minute show which included singing, ballet dance, line dance and poetry reading.

70 people took part in the performance which was broadcasted on YouTube with over 1,000 viewers. The show can be viewed on RCI's website as well as the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/Ond9k3k7XH0>.



HEALTH AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION SEMINARS



红叶文化协会长者健康和社区信息讲座之三

申请加国养老金 及更换枫叶卡介绍

主讲人：陈洁，荷顿区多元文化中心
十一月十一日 晚上7:30 - 8:30
ZOOM: 535 658 8229, 密码: 123456

Elder Health Care
安省长者
健康医疗服务介绍

主讲人：Angela Guo, 安省注册社工，颐康中心护老教育及支援服务

- 01 Ontario Health Insurance 安省健康保险
- 02 Drug Programs 药物福利计划
- 03 Assistance Devices 辅助器械
- 04 Home and Community Care 家居和社区护理服务
- 05 Long-term Care Homes 长期护理院

12月1日, 下午 2:30 - 3:30
ZOOM: 535 658 8229 密码: 123456

RCI Canada RCI Canada

Without keeping social distancing limit, the online seminar can benefit more people who need the information. In 2020 RCI organized 4 seminars introducing health and community services to local residents. They are:

- What is dementia
- How to keep your brain healthy
- How to apply for seniors pension and renew the resident card
- Ontario Seniors Benefit System

There was a total of 130 participants in all the 4 seminars.



什么是失智症?

及相关社区资源
What is Dementia?
+ Resources in Halton

红叶文化协会秋冬长者信息网络讲座系列之一
Presented by Acclaim Health & RCI

Acclaim Health RCI Canada

ZOOM 会议号码: 535 658 8229 密码: 123456
九月二十二日, 周二, 下午 2:30 - 4:00
讲座相关资料请查询: WWW.REDLEAF.CULTURALINTEGRATION.COM

保持你的大脑健康

Keep Your Brain Healthy

红叶文化协会
秋冬长者健康和社区信息讲座之二

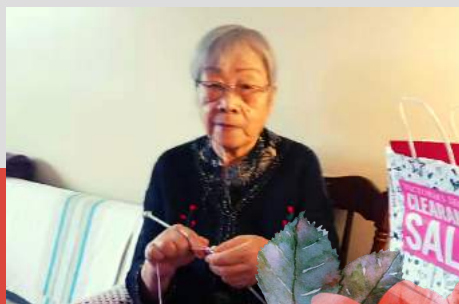
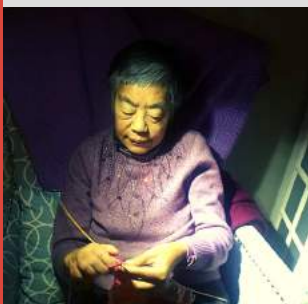
Presented by: Danielle Arbour, Alzheimer Society
Online interpreted by RCI
October 14th 7:30 - 9:00pm
中文现场翻译

ZOOM: 535 658 8229
Passcode: 123456

RCI Alzheimer Society Canada

"SENDING LOVE AND CARE"

When RCI attended a meeting held by Community Development Halton (CDH), we learned that in Halton region, there are around 800 seniors living by themselves who need care from the local community. We quickly initiated a "Sending Love & Care" project aiming to provide 100 gift packs with 2 handmade dish cloths and 1 handmade greeting card in each to these seniors. With the help of RCI's Knitting Club working on the dish cloths and the Youth Club preparing the cards, we have put together 144 gift packs in one month and they have been delivered to the seniors by CDH.



WE ARE THINKING OF YOU

Dish Clothes and Cards

Sending Love



We r together



Thinking of U



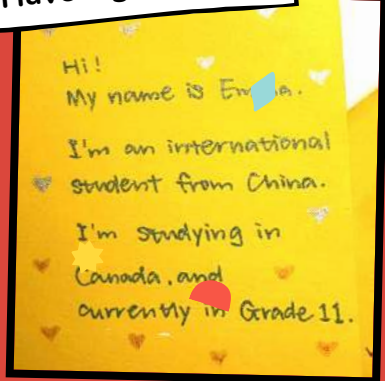
Virtual Hugs



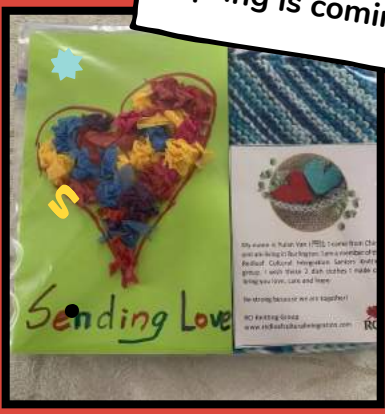
All the best!



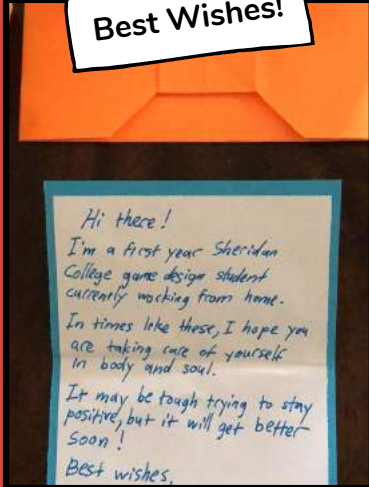
Have a great day!



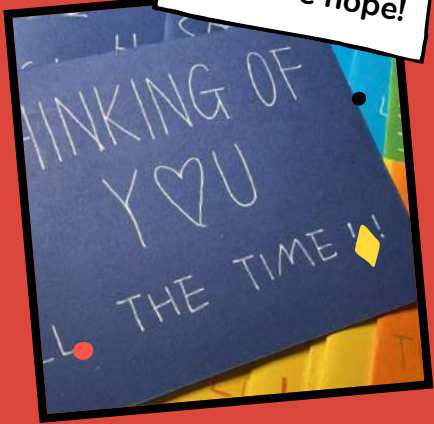
Spring is coming.



Best Wishes!



We have hope!



COMMUNITY PROGRAM





RCI Dance Fitness Class

RCI Dance Fitness Class was paused in 2020 between February and August due to the public health measurement. However, Mrs. Lu Yu, the dance teacher started to lead a virtual weekly fitness class for RCI seniors in March 2020. Based on the success of the online senior fitness class, RCI Dance Fitness Class resumed in September 2020 virtually.

In 2020, RCI organized 2 sessions of the Dance Fitness Class, each session ran 20 classes within 10 weeks. There were 800 attendees in total involved in the class.

RCI Dance Fitness class also participated in RCI 2020 Lunar New Year Celebration event. They teamed up with the Bollywood Indian Dance studio and presented a cultural fashion show to the audiences. They also participated in RCI 2020 Christmas and New Year Virtual Celebration with a ballet dance “ Winter Wonderland”.



Singing For Joy Redleaf Choir



Redleaf Choir was established in 2018 with the support of Burlington Art & Culture Funding.

Since the beginning of COVID, the choir has stopped regular rehearsals. The prolonged pandemic has intensified people's anxiety and loneliness. In Aug. 2020, the choir hired a professional instructor and started try-out classes virtually and received very positive feedback. Although there are many challenges due to not being able to sing together physically, the choir has quickly adapted to this new way of practicing and has presented an outstanding virtual performance in the RCI Christmas and Lunar New Year celebration event.

People enjoyed meeting and singing online very much. Within 5 months, the choir has hosted 24 virtual sessions with total number of 940 attendees. Through the year-end survey, 90% of members said that the online choir activities have reduced their isolation and strengthened their feeling of belonging.

In the year of 2021, we hope to move forward in a more creative way so we can attract more people to join the choir program to benefit their physical and mental health.





RCI Youth Club

In order to focus on supporting young people who come to study in Canada as well as youth from new immigrants' family, RCI started a new pilot program with the support of OTF this year. It established a Youth Club to provide a safe and healthy social platform for them with information about living in Canada. RCI Youth Club organized online seminars and activities including Mental Health Management, Anti-Hate and Racism, University Application 101 etc. All these activities have successfully alleviated the anxiety and reduced social isolation.

The Youth Club initiated a program to combine youth and seniors together to study English. The creative module provided volunteer opportunities to students as well as a chance for cross generation communication which is very beneficial to both generations during pandemic.




红叶文化协会留学生之家
 HUB OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

HIS LOGO
标识设计征集

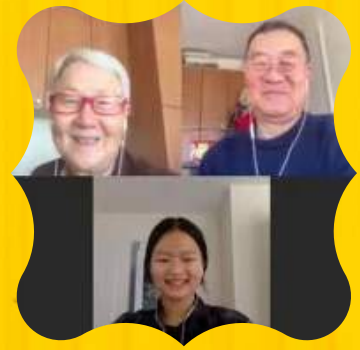



REDLEAF CULTURAL INTEGRATION
 HUB OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

PLAN YOUR FUTURE
 PRESENTED BY: JACQUELINE BARCLEY
 OCTOBER 26TH, 7:00 - 8:00 PM



Youth Teach Senior English



"Our teacher works very hard and is patient in teaching us sentence by sentence. She also made audio for us to practice after class. "

- Fuling Wu (Senior)



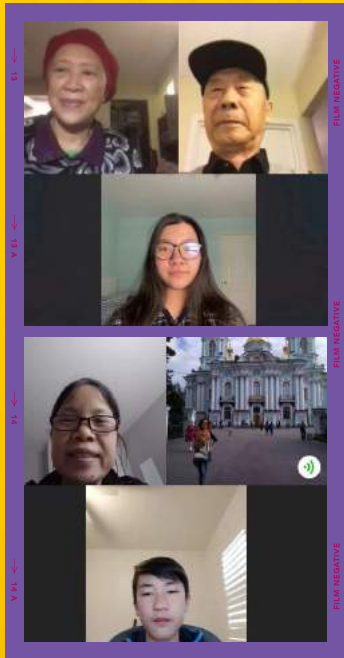
"I just finished my class with JoJo. She is such a wonderful youth. She explained the lesson very clear and what she taught is very practical. I am sure I will make big progress after studying with her."

- Ina (Senior)



"Actually, I learned a lot too while teaching the senior English as I need to do a lot of research to prepare the lessons. I achieved a lot myself while teaching them. "

- Emma (Youth)





2020 - Spring



2020 - Summer



2020 - Fall



Photogray by: Sean Huang



2020 - Winter

Funded by: **Canada**

 **Ontario**

Ontario Trillium Foundation  Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario
An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

 **Canadian Red Cross**