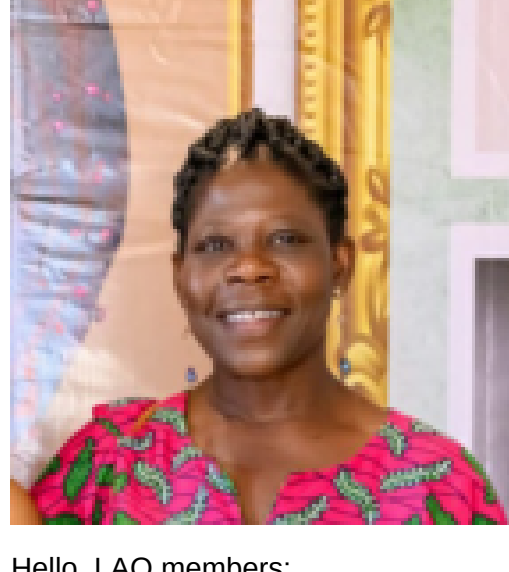


# LAO NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, No 5 August 2025 Stronger Together

## Message from the Secretary General



Hello, LAO members:

As you may be aware, I am the current Secretary General of our Association. I also work as member of the Membership Committee, responsible for collecting membership dues and keeping members informed about their obligations. I am passionate about this role because I understand the importance of membership dues and the impacts on our community.

Therefore, I would like to use this opportunity to emphasize the importance of members' dues payment and the benefits to you and our community.

By paying your dues, you're supporting:

- **Community Events:** Cultural celebrations, workshops and networking opportunities.
- **Programs and Services:** Initiatives that benefits our members and the broader community.
- **Leadership and advocacy:** Representation and advocacy for the Liberian community in Ottawa.

I am grateful for your commitment to our association and I look forward to working together to achieve our goals. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please consider doing so to help us sustain our efforts. For more information about the benefits community members get from the paying their dues, please read the summary of our Association's membership benefit package below.

Warm regards,  
Dekote Woods-Masindi  
Secretary, LAO/ Membership Committee

Please use the link below to send us your membership dues:  
[Lao.ncr.ca@gmail.com](mailto:Lao.ncr.ca@gmail.com)

### LAO Member Benefit Package

As a dues-paying member of the Liberian Association of Ottawa, you are entitled to the following rights and benefits:

**Constitutional Rights:**

- The right to vote in elections and at General Assemblies.

**Membership Benefits:**

- Bereavement Support
- Community visitation accompanied by a \$200 financial contribution
- GoFundMe initiative or voluntary e-transfer to provide additional financial support.
- Access to counseling support.

**Social Events:**

- Quarterly Game Nights, featuring themes, food, and drinks, hosted at the residence of a randomly selected member.

**Birthday Celebrations:**

- Personalized electronic birthday cards.
- Birthday recognition on our website and during quarterly Game Nights.

These benefits are designed to provide meaningful support to members during times of need, while also celebrating important milestones and fostering stronger community connections.

## COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES



### A Tribute to Captain George Rodney Ives

“May his memory be a blessing”

On September 27, 2025, the Liberian Association of Ottawa (LAO) joined family and friends in paying tribute to the late Captain George Rodney Ives, a decorated retired Naval Captain who passed away on April 29, 2023. Members of the Liberian community gathered at Beechwood Cemetery to honor his life and legacy, and to stand in solidarity with his son, Peter Ives—a friend and member of the Liberian community in Ottawa.



Captain Ives had a distinguished career in the Royal Canadian Navy. He served as Command Chaplain for the Navy and Air Force, and later as Deputy Chaplain General at the National Defense Headquarters in Ottawa. His years of dedicated service to his country and community earned him numerous honors, including the Order of Military Merit.

The late Captain Ives's memorial service was held at the Beachwood National Memorial Centre, a multi-faith facility designed to reflect Canada's diversity. Following the service, he was laid to rest at the National Military Cemetery, where family, friends, and colleagues gathered to pay their tribute.

The presence of LAO members at the memorial and burial symbolizes the deep bonds of friendship between the Liberian community and the Ives family. It reflects the Association's values of unity, cultural promotion, and community support—reminding us of the importance of standing together to honor those who have left a lasting impact. The ceremony was both solemn and uplifting, as family and friends shared memories of Captain Ives' life of service, compassion, and leadership. His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched through his faith, his commitment to Canada, and his enduring kindness.

## Children Back to School Fun Day

On Sunday, September 21, 2025, our community gathered at the beautiful Millennium Park to celebrate the start of the new school year with a lively **Back to School Fun Day** for our youth and children.

The event was a tremendous success, drawing over 200 young participants who enjoyed a day full of fun, friendship, and inspiration.

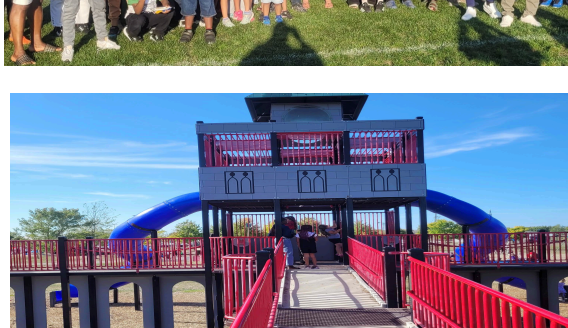
**Highlights from the Day:**

- Exciting kickball games that had everyone laughing and smiling
- Delicious food and refreshing treats to keep energy high
- Opportunities to connect with old friends and make new ones
- Inspirational messages to motivate youth and kids for a successful school year

The Children & Youth Back to School Fun Day is a key part of the association's signature **Community Engagement and Empowerment Program (CEEP)**, launched in 2024 to support newcomers, seniors, women, and youth in our community.

As we dive into the new school year, we're excited to see our kids thrive and grow. Stay tuned for more community events and activities designed to support and celebrate our children and youth.

If you're interested in getting involved with community initiatives or sponsoring future events, please don't hesitate to reach out. The community would love to have you join us in making a positive impact on the lives of our young children and youth.



## Community Women Shine at Kids and Youth Fun-Day Kickball Match!



As part of the Kids and Youth Fun-Day Program, our community women divided into two spirited kickball teams, showcasing their skills, determination, and teamwork in an exciting match held at Millennial Park's Soccer Pitch. Our women's passion and coordination left the crowd cheering and inspired!

At the conclusion of the game, the women unanimously agreed to form a community Women's Kickball Team to participate in upcoming regional tournaments. Rosetta Suah was proudly selected as the team captain.

**Top performers of the match**

- Offense:**
- Best Kicks:** Rosetta Suah Riona
- Most Runs:** Rosetta Suah, Decote Mayanle Sesay
- Defense:**
- Best throws:** Georgia Seidi Rosetta Suah
- Game leadership:**
- Best Team Player:** Rosetta Suah Julietta Jablasone
- Cheer Leading:** Nuku Dennis, Sethelo Mulbah Paul s. Gobah and Donzo,, Sekou.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### MEET OUR NURSING GRADUATES



The Community is thrilled to congratulate two outstanding community members who have recently graduated from nursing school! Their hard work, dedication, and passion for healthcare have truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder.

Clarence and Sethelo Mulbah earned their diplomas from the iconic **St. Lawrence College Practical Nursing Program for 2025**

They are excited to begin working in practical healthcare settings, where they hope to make a meaningful difference in the lives of their patients.

"I'm grateful for the support of my community and family throughout my nursing journey," Sethelo Mulbah shared during a chat after graduation.

Our nursing graduates are a shining example of what can be achieved through determination and commitment.

We wish Clarence and Sethelo the very best in their future endeavors and we are confident they will make a positive impact in the healthcare field while serving as inspiring role models for others in our community.

### Melvin Kamara: Aspiring First-Year Representative

We're excited that Melvin Kamara, the former head of our association's Youth Committee is aspiring to become the First-Year Representative at Mount A College!

Melvin's passion for youth leadership and community building is inspiring, and we're thrilled to support his endeavors.

Best of Luck, Melvin! We're rooting for you. Your dedication to youth leadership and community building is truly commendable. We look forward to seeing the positive impact you'll make at Mount A College!



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Newcomer Services in Ottawa

Ottawa offers various services to support newcomers in settling into their new life. Here are some key resources:

#### YMCA Newcomer information Centers

- Provides free information and referral services, including immigration and citizenship guidance, employment support, education, health, housing, and more.

website: [www.ymcaottawa.ca](http://www.ymcaottawa.ca)

#### Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO):

- Offers settlement services, including language instruction, career mentoring and counseling.

Website: <http://www.ociso.org>

#### Catholic Center for Immigrants:

1. Provides Community-based services for Immigrants and Refugees, including settlement programs, language and skills training, and orientation

Contact: <http://www.ociso.org>

#### Immigrant women services of Ottawa:

1. Provides Services for immigrant and racialized women who are victims of domestic abuse.

Website: <https://immigrantwomenservices.com/>

## SPOTLIGHTS: Peter Ives



As one of two Caucasian members and friends of our community, Peter has become a trusted bridge between cultures, fostering mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation among members.

Peter's journey with our community began with a simple, heartfelt desire: to give back and make a difference. What started as quiet volunteerism grew into a powerful example of leadership rooted in compassion. Over the years, his dedication to the community and its values has earned him widespread respect and admiration.

In 2024, Peter was elected to the **LAO Board of Directors**, a recognition of both his impact and his unwavering commitment to the community.

Peter has donated countless hours to community projects and initiatives—always ready to lend a helping hand, always showing up.

Whether organizing events, or celebrating our shared traditions, he remains a consistent presence, championing the spirit of inclusion.

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*"I'm proud to be part of this community. I believe that our differences are what make us strong, and I'm committed to helping build a more inclusive and compassionate community."* – Peter Ives

We are proud to call Peter one of our own. His efforts inspire us all to reach across divides, to serve with open hearts, and to celebrate the strength in our diversity. Let's honor Peter's ongoing commitment to building a stronger, more united community—for everyone.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** Postponed

Due To Poor Attendance. A New Date To Be Announced Soon!



### Stay Connected with Our Community!

Don't miss out on the latest news, updates, and events from our community! Sign up for our newsletter to stay informed and connected.

What You'll Get:

- **Exclusive Updates:** Get the latest news and updates on community events, programs, and initiatives.
- **Community Spotlights:** Read inspiring stories of community members making a difference.
- **Important Messages:** Read inspirational messages from our community leaders.

### Sign Up Now!

Click on the link below to subscribe:

<https://zcmp.ca/EUAUP>

If you have any questions feel free to contact us at:

Editor-In-Chief, LAO Newsletter

### LAO CHILDREN & YOUTH

visit to

Canada Science and Technology

Museum



Saturday, October 18, 2025 @ 1 PM

Join us at the Canada Science and Technology Museum for an unforgettable adventure day full of interactive science fun the whole family will love!

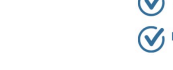
1867 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa

✓ Transportation

✓ Entrance Tickets

✓ Refreshment

✓ Professional Guide



LAO 2025-2026 Activity Calendar

The LAO Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Liberian Association of Ottawa.

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