



# NEWS

# No Boundaries

Brazilian Association of Saskatoon - BRASA  
Second Edition - August 2012

[www.brasask.ca](http://www.brasask.ca)

our culture has no boundaries our culture has no boundaries our culture has no boundaries

### MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

Sueli Bizetto de Freitas, PR & Communication Specialist

"No Boundaries" newsletter was launched last April. Its distribution reached not only BRASA members but also the Brazilian Consulate in Vancouver and the Brazilian associations of Calgary and Edmonton. Positive feedback from our members encouraged us to continue as the newsletter validates our work as an Association in addition to giving us a voice.



BRASA is a very active association with a very dedicated and active Board of Directors, that is always willing to go the extra mile to organize get things done. The Board meets regularly to discuss all kinds of issues including how to improve and/or offer new exciting events to our membership - this is a regular item on the agenda.

A long term project has come to fruition. BRASA has worked closely with two Saskatchewan Agencies since April on a program that allowed the Association to teach Portuguese classes to our Children. The project was approved and a new Portuguese program for children has been created in Saskatoon. The "Escola de Português Brasinha" concept spread like wild fire and the interest grew very quickly amongst Brazilian parents with school age children. There is also a potential to offer Portuguese classes for adults.

BRASA traditional "Festa Julina" took place on July 28 at the Ancient Spirals Retreat. This event is a result of great dedication and enthusiasm from our volunteer Board members. To organize such an event lots of things had to be in place including: (a) booking the space; (b) buying liquor license and liquor; (c) buying meat and supplies for the bbq; (d) making the "feijoada" and all the trims; (e) advertising and sending notices to all members; (f) renting sound equipment; (g) selling tickets at the door; etc. All tasks were performed by Board members who volunteered their time.

BRASA is very appreciative and needs any member who can also donate their skills and time to make every event the best it can be. For only \$10/year you can get the best deal in town. Participate, be a BRASA member and renew your membership every year as we are better when we work together.



In June, the Brazilian Association of Saskatoon announced that it would be offering Portuguese classes to children starting this fall. The opening of a school for children has been one of the goals of the Association.

We think that the glue that connects us with our culture and families back home is, and always will be, our beautiful Portuguese language. Since 2007, when the Association was formed, everyone dreamed of this day when we would have enough manpower to offer our children the opportunity to learn our mother tongue in a formal setting.

Kerri Anderson has agreed to be the curriculum coordinator. Joining the team includes two additional teachers Sylvia Chapman and Carolina Monteiro. BRASA will oversee the course and will be responsible for reporting back to the Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages (SOHL) and the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association (SIA). The SOHL requires that from September to May we offer 70 hours of teaching.

We sincerely thank SOHL and SIA for the promotion and development of the teaching of heritage languages in Saskatchewan and for the recognition and support of the right of every cultural group and individual to retain and develop their distinctive cultural identity.

The "Escola de Português Brasinha" is here to stay and we are looking forward to the first children-parent orientation meeting that will take place at the end of August. For more information on this subject refer to the BRASINHA group on Facebook and/or e-mail: [sueli.bizetto@usask.ca](mailto:sueli.bizetto@usask.ca); or [marcia@brasask.ca](mailto:marcia@brasask.ca).

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## BRASA Membership:

The Brazilian Association of Saskatoon (BRASA) membership is open to all Brazilians and to any other individual from any nationality interested in sharing and learning about our Brazilian way of being.

The annual fee is only \$10, students pay \$5 and children are free. Membership is from January to December of each year. You can renew your membership at BRASA's AGM that takes place in November of each year in conjunction with our Christmas potluck supper.

The membership fee helps pay for advertisements and expenses incurred from hosting the Itinerant Consulate Mission that comes twice a year to Saskatoon, , etc. It also helps to offset all our events and will aid us in our future endeavours.

Thank you for your continued support!

### BRASA'S TABLE OFFICERS: 2012

*Sueli de Freitas and Marcia Wolinski (Co-chairs),  
Elizabeth Freire, Adam Heisler (Treasurer),  
Frederico Leal, Sasa Grubor, Silvia Marinho  
Renato de Freitas (Secretary), Thiago Prado*

## BRASA: A NAME PLAYED WITH GUSTO BY A BRAZILIAN

In Portuguese, BRASA can mean flame, hot coal, or "pimentinha", i.e., a person with a spicy personality. Many of us have heard that Brazilians have a warm and extroverted personality perhaps as a result of our Latin ancestry or because we come from the tropics. Well, I disagree with the latter stereotype due to the fact that Brazilians are one of the most "metis" (mestico, "misturado") national groups in the world and, the tropics do not make us, necessarily, warm or cold, outgoing or shy.

Some might find my initial statement to be controversial, I dare say. Many Brazilians, indeed, look like, sound like, and behave like those stereotypes described above -warm, extroverted, outgoing, and spontaneous. Thus, many of us agree with that. At our association's first meeting in 2007, we brought some suggestions for naming our new organization. The majority voted for BRASA.

To me, the word "BRASA" transports my thoughts and memories back to past snap shots of my life: where I met lots of "warm" people, went to "warm" beaches, sat under shady coconut trees, ate hot, succulent and fragrant feijoada, met chatty countrymen, joined noisy dancers and loud street walkers; arrived in and left airports packed with people of all colors, sizes, shapes, and more! Do these images ring a bell with you? Do they resemble Brazil? Do they reflect a bit of each one of us?

When BRASA -Brazilian Association of Saskatoon- was established, it seemed very natural to us that the name of our organization fit the Brazilian personality. And it still fits well today. It somehow represents us as people.

My first conversations with Renato and Sueli de Freitas about the need to create an association for Brazilians living in Saskatoon happened 5 years ago, in August of 2007. From that point on, BRASA has been in my mind and soul.

And like BRASA, that is - Hot. Pimenta. Warm. Sheltering . Cozy. Loud. Colourful. Welcoming! We Brazilians, bring to the "True North Strong and Free" land a little of who we are as individuals: warm, cozy, welcoming, hot, chatty, loud, and embracing. I hope that we keep ourselves this way. Stereotypical, yes. I don't care. It is good to be BRASA!

*Elizabeth Freire, past co-chair of BRASA from 2007 to 2011, lives in Saskatchewan, Canada, since 1988. Elizabeth has two children, Christina and Thomas. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Regina and is the Executive Director of the Saskatoon Sexual Assault & Information Centre.*



## OUR COMMUNITY, TEAM BRAZIL & THE SASKATOON WORLD CUP 2012

Brazilian immigrants began settling in Saskatoon and surrounding area in the 1970's. Since this initial wave of Brazilian immigration, Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan have been the beacon for Brazilians looking to expand their formal knowledge through Masters, PhD and PostDoc programs.

The Brazilian community is still a very small and relatively new community when compared to other immigrant communities that have settled here. Our community is primarily comprised of Brazilian families, students who attend the University of Saskatchewan, and/or skilled workers.

Our culture is considered a "Melting Pot" due to the huge diversity of immigrant populations that have been settling in Brazil since its discovery in 1500. Soccer is what unites all Brazilians.

We like to think that each of us is a "soccer player or a soccer coach". Soccer is our passion and it runs through our veins. It's not uncommon for a Brazilian to say that Brazil's national sport is volleyball and that SOCCER is our religion.



When the opportunity arose to have a Brazilian soccer squad in the Saskatoon World Cup the "Team Brazil" emerged and recruited the best Brazilian talent in Canada. Team Brazil relied on a few past key players: Joe Almeida, Renato Duarte, Adilson Josinho, Filipe Santos, Rod Clayton, Kirk Rickets and the new generation: Leandro Aquino, Henrique Malho, Bruno Napoleao and Matheus Costa. The captain Thiago Prado and

the knowledgeable coach Allan Wolinski lead the squadron. Even though we did not make to the finals this year, please be advised that we are a force to be reckoned with!

## ELECTIONS for COUNCIL OF BRAZILIAN CITIZENS OF VANCOUVER: Representation increased from 8 to 12 members.



*Renato de Freitas & Fred Leal*

The Council of Brazilian Citizens consists of eight professionals active in the Brazilian community. The group meets from time to time at the Consulate General to discuss ways to improve the lives of Brazilian immigrants in Canada.

The Council of Brazilian Citizens representing the jurisdiction of the Vancouver General Consulate has recently increased from 8 to 12 in the number of professionals active in the Brazilian community. The resolution to include more representatives from the cities where there is an expressive number of Brazilians was passed by the Brazilian Secretariat of State. Brazilian citizens residing in the provinces that belong to the Vancouver jurisdiction were qualified to be candidates. The individuals elected will be representing the cities of Saskatoon (SK), Edmonton (AB), Calgary (AB) and Vancouver (BC).

Two candidates, Renato de Freitas and Frederico Leal came forward to represent the city of Saskatoon. The election kick off was on July 28 during the "Festa Juliana". Brazilians had until August 4 to cast their votes.

A total of 56 Brazilians cast their votes in Saskatoon. Renato de Freitas and Fred Leal received 43 and 13 votes, respectively. If for any reason Renato cannot fulfill his duties, Fred will assume the position.

This position is a 2-year term and the winner will join the other elected members from the Vancouver jurisdiction for the first meeting of the Council to take place in October, 2012. This is a volunteer position and all expenses incurred from any activity and or meetings will be of the responsibility of the member elected.

# BRASA's Events:



Festa Julina  
July 28, 2012

Do you have a relative in Brasil who wants to study English at the U of S?  
Tell them to contact:  
**GUSTAVO BERTOLLA**  
the UofS representative.

**ADVERTISE HERE:**

(H)19-34220639 / (C)19-81016339  
gustavo.bertolla@gmail.com

## NEWS from:

### Consulate General of Brazil in Vancouver



Sergio Florencio

On May 23, 2012, Ambassador Sergio Florencio received "The Ordem Mexicana del Águila Azteca (OMAA) for his excellent services in that country. Many congratulations from all of us!

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Photos in this Edition courtesy of: BRASA's archives

## We need you...

Share your talents, professional skills, and passions with us.  
We need volunteers to develop and implement our goals and dreams.  
Please contact any of our Board Members.

# OBRIGADO!

## Upcoming Events

- BRASINHA REGISTRATION & PARENT-TEACHER MTG  
September 8, 2012, 15:30 at Walter Murray Collegiate
- INDEPENDENCE DAY  
September (Date - TBA)
- AGM & CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER  
November (Date - TBA)

## comments?

If you would like to make a comment about this Edition and/or share anything for the next one, please contact the Editor at: phone: (306) 374-4760 or by e-mail: sueli.bizetto@usask.ca.  
We really appreciate your input!

Produced & Designed by: Bizetto