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# New Canadians learn ins and outs of fishing



By Dale Clifford, Peterborough Examiner  
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DALE CLIFFORD Examiner Katherine Sanchez and her six-year-old son Tomas Moreno, who hail from Bogota, Colombia, try their hands at fishing in the Shimano Fish Pond during a welcoming of new Canadians to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre on Saturday.

For Katherine Sanchez and her six-year-old son Tomas Moreno, it was the first time fishing. It was an experience they wouldn't soon forget.

Along with other family members, including Katherine's mother Martha and stepfather Humberto Camelo, the natives of Bogota, Colombia took part in the third event where the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) welcomed new Canadians to the Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre Saturday.

The event was created in partnership with the New Canadians Centre Peterborough (NCC) with support from Coleman Canada. It coincided with Ontario Family Fishing Week. About 60 new Canadians to the area took part.

The Sanchez family was there with Peterborough friend Jenny Prentice. They have been here only eight months.

"It was fun (fishing) for the first time," said Katherine with a big smile. "It is good what they do."

Along with fishing in the Shimano Fish Pond, the new Canadians could take part in archery, use the airgun range, explore the centre exhibits and have the chance to win a Coleman camping prize. Instructors were on hand for each activity.

Meribeth Burley, conservation education coordinator at the centre, said people were from all across the globe, including Korea, Japan and sites in Europe and Africa.

"It is a chance to share our heritage and showcase our facility," she said. "We share a common interest with preservation and conservation and don't have to speak the same language."

Jason Stabler, interim education director with the NCC said it was an opportunity to show participants others parts of Canadian heritage and welcome them to our country.

"It is part of who we are as Canadians," he said. "It's exciting when people from other parts of the world come together to share traditions. This day was meant as a lot of fun, too, especially for kids. We want to encourage them as much as possible."

Katherine Sanchez said they came to Canada for many reasons. She said they ended up in Peterborough because it was close to Toronto where they first arrived and had family.

"There were problems in Colombia and we came to Canada where we can be free," she said. "It was a new experience for us and would be good for the future of our son. We wanted to improve our English. The people are wonderful, very friendly. We like everything about it here, including the fishing."

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