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THE OAKVILLE BEAVER



Trilingual woman multicultural director

"This is the first opportunity to do something (in my field) in Oakville, so I jumped on it," says the new executive director of the Oakville Multicultural Council, Maria Colavecchio.

A graduate of Queen's University, Kingston, with a degree in geography and languages, Colavecchio started her new job on Jan. 5, after working 5½ years for a Toronto real estate development firm. "I chose to commute because I didn't want to move back to Toronto."

Of Italian descent, her parents immigrated and settled in Toronto, and moved to Oakville 18 years ago. The Canadian-born Colavecchio speaks three languages, Italian, English and French.

In addition to the translation services Colavecchio can offer, the organization has recently received a donation of 10 boxes of foreign language books from the Metro Toronto Library, including Dutch, Greek, Italian, German, and Portuguese, among others.

"I plan to work closely with the Oakville Multicultural Council's board of directors (new elections are scheduled for early February) and pull all of the multicultural groups together and promote citizenship," said Colavecchio, adding a clearer plan of action will be determined following the elections. "A citizenship officer comes here twice a month to take applications," she continued. "We hope to sponsor another citizenship court, and offer citizenship classes with the Halton Board of Education."

She has an 18-month-old son, Alexander, and her husband, Frank Colavecchio, works for Canada Trust in Toronto as a draftsman in its premises division.

Maria Colavecchio had no hesitation in leaving a job with a Toronto real estate developer after 5½ years, to become the new executive director of the Oakville Multicultural Council. The Queen's University graduate speaks three languages — English, Italian and French. (Photo by Wilma Blokhuis)

1987- Executive Director, Maria Colavecchio, began working at the council and speaks three languages: Italian, English and French.

30th
Anniversary

Halton
Multicultural Council