



"Home Away from Home"

Club's President's Corner

I am immensely happy to connect with you all in this manner as CiK has added one new leap to its ever evolving and new initiatives. I have been to many other clubs meetings and gatherings and I am always looking forward to adopt new and popular ideas for CiK and bringing out this news letter is one of them.



CiK has evolved as part of our family and we all Enjoy many Events and Gatherings together, CiK board and its friendly volunteers put all the efforts to make each event Memorable for one and all. In the past one year we had many events beside the regular and popular Friday Breakfast and Embassy Night. At this time, there are only 2 Canadian Clubs CiK & CCC in Kuwait officially backed by the Embassy. CiK membership is growing more and more every month. At Present we have more than 400 members.

In the past one year we had many events beside the regular and popular Friday Breakfast and Embassy Night. Canada day celebration at khiran on 30th May, Day Of Honor To Canadian Soldiers & Veterans on 9th May, CiK Week-End Boat Trip on 18th April, CiK farewell party in honor of Mr. Ambassador on 18th March, CiK Christmas Ball At Missioni Hotel on 6th December, CiK Halloween Week-End Boat Trip on 8th November. We cheered our Canadian Team for IFAF U19 American Football World Cup, We had Bubble Football and many Sports Nights. We held Farewell get-togethers for our Members who are moving to greener pastures. You will find details and pictures of the events in the following pages.

I recommend all of you to renew your membership regularly and update your profile so that you are in touch with all the happenings. CiK Website is well maintained and it keeps all announcements of CiK events. CiK Website has been very beneficial to the club.

CiK welcomes your suggestions to improve its services. If you have any suggestion or complaints, please send us an email at: xdigital@hotmail.com.

On behalf of the CiK Board of Directors, I want to extend a heart-felt thank you to all of our sponsors and volunteers for their commitment to making each event so successful.

As I close the President's Corner, I hope this special newsletter edition will reignite the Spirit that was clearly felt throughout the past year.

Canadians in Kuwait

Newsletter

February -2015



CiK Executive Board

President

Ishtiaq Malik

**Message from
Ambassador of Canada
To the State of Kuwait**
Martine Moreau



As Canadian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait I take great satisfaction and pride in all the endeavors, contributions and accomplishments made by some 6,500 Canadians living in the country. Canadians in Kuwait aka CIK, is a great social networking group that helps Canadians expand their social networks and feel more at home through fun activities and outings. It also contributes to bringing Canadian and Kuwaitis together and provides opportunity to experience one another's cultures.

CIK's new newsletter is a wonderful new platform where members can share news, photos, announcements and useful tips. I hope that you will find an occasion to contribute to the newsletter and participate in the many upcoming events organized by the CIK.

As well, I invite you to consult the website of the Embassy of Canada (www.kuwait.gc.ca) where you will find information on the full range of our services. You can also follow us on Twitter on @CanadaKuwait and @CanadaKoweitto see what we are doing for you and access useful information on our services.

During my time in Kuwait, I will be looking forward to meeting more members of the CIK community. And I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful, successful and healthy new year to you and your families.

Martine Moreau



“Home Away from Home”

Working in Kuwait...a Woman's Viewpoint by Carole Gillam

I arrived in Kuwait in January 2014 after a busy and successful healthcare career in Vancouver. Having reached a certain age I had decided to retire before I left home and was looking forward to a quiet and restful time in Kuwait. The novelty of the country and culture kept me going for the first few months. I joined some great organizations and met some wonderful ladies however by early summer I started to miss the work environment and decided to look around for employment. Very few of my peers worked and those that did were associated with education at the school or university levels. I found it difficult to find people working in healthcare until I met a Nurse Practitioner at a *Canadians in Kuwait* social event. Through this connection I ended up working for a Canadian hospital who had a contract with the Kuwait Ministry of Health.

I was somewhat filled with trepidation as I started my new job in a Kuwaiti Public Hospital. However, any anxiety was soon alleviated as I interacted with both Kuwait nationals and expat workers in professional and other roles. Many of the women I worked with wore full Abaya's or Burka's and the first thing I learned was that they had beautiful expressive eyes and I soon got to know those who wore abaya's by those eyes and how they expressed themselves through body language. Spoken language was of little use initially as the intonation of the Arabic language hid from me the individual differences in speech. Luckily many spoke English and were very willing to use this medium for conversation. I have also benefitted from Arabic lessons from colleagues I interact with and have learned the rudimentaries of social conversation.

As I learned to communicate more comfortably I came to appreciate that women have common interests the world over, we love our kids, we have ambition and we have to keep many balls in the air at any given time. Women in Kuwait are dedicated to their families but the prevailing idea that traditional dress implies that they take a lesser role in society, or the workplace is a myth, that was dispelled very swiftly. I have had the pleasure of interacting with many women in influential senior roles academic, clinical and leadership. Within a clinical environment the North American glass ceiling does not appear to be a recognizable concept here.

Of course there are differences. One of my earliest learnings in the work environment was not to offer my hand to be shaken when being introduced to a man, if they are comfortable shaking hands they will extend a hand to you. Both men and women tend to greet each other with kisses on the cheek, right, left then right again and this very quickly became the norm in my business workday but, let me add, this is always gender specific. Everyone, and I mean *everyone*, is joined at the wrist to their phone, we don't have voice mail but WhatsApp gets a response quicker than you can bat an eyelid. The more senior the Arabic leader the nicer the leather sofa and furniture in the office and tea, Turkish coffee, dates along with pistachio pastries are always close at hand.

Let me not mislead anyone, working here is different whether a male or female. But, from a female perspective I would like to allay the fears or anxiety of any woman thinking about working here. Politeness and friendliness are met with the same as much here as in your home country and if you are seriously thinking of accepting an offer to work here take a leap of faith. I don't think you will be sorry and you will certainly experience a different side of life here.



“Home Away from Home”

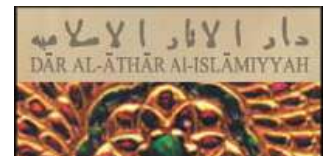
The Hunt for Culture in Kuwait

Kuwait is not quite the cultural desert that many people would have you believe, the only thing is you have to be a bit more adventurous in hunting it out. Become an Indiana Jones and you will be richly rewarded. I am not planning to take away all the fun you can achieve in your search, but happy to point you in the right direction with three favorites.

A good place to start the hunt is the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah cultural centre, they have a pretty good web site at darmuseum.org.kw and are located at the Amricani hold a Cultural Season from September to May, which includes classical concerts, lectures, and classes in a range of subjects.

Another favorite of new arrivals to Kuwait is the Aware Center, the Aware Center, located in South Sura is an organization dedicated to helping westerners explore Arab/Islamic Culture, but don't worry it is an extremely soft sell and they organize a lot of trips to places that are not normally open to the public. Most popular with people I know are the Arabic lessons and trips to the camel races. More information can be found at www.aware.com.kw

For classical music there is a Kuwait Chamber Philharmonic who hold concerts frequently at the RasissonBlu Hotel, www.kuwaitcp.com their web site is not so good, but if you start getting yourself on a few mailing lists then you will start receiving quite a few invites. If you wanted to actually participate yourself





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Dr. Dave McHardy,
President of Algonquin College – Kuwait

Canadian College Opening Campus in Kuwait

A leader in innovations such as e-textbooks and blended learning, Algonquin College is one of Canada's largest and most progressive colleges. With 20,000 students in Canada and international operations in China, India, Montenegro and Saudi Arabia, Algonquin is quickly becoming recognized as a global polytechnic. On the eve of it opening its latest international campus – a beautiful new 4-storey, 430,000 square foot “smart” building on approximately 20 acres in Al-Naseem, CiK spoke to Dr. Dave McHardy, President of Algonquin College – Kuwait.



Why has Algonquin chosen to open a campus in Kuwait?



Actually, Algonquin didn't choose Kuwait. Kuwait chose Algonquin! In 2005, a small group of distinguished Kuwaiti businessmen wanted to open a new college in Kuwait with a Canadian partner and they chose Algonquin. And it's turned out to be a good choice.



Why was Algonquin a good choice as partner?



Algonquin offers great programs. They're progressive in their thinking, student-focused and solution-oriented. Working with us fits very nicely into their strategic plan. Since I started in March of 2014, they've worked hard to support our initiatives and meet our needs. Maintaining a cross-Atlantic, inter-cultural relationship hasn't been easy, but they've made the effort to make it work. As you can only imagine, over a 10-year period, the project has had its ups and down and Algonquin has ridden the crests and troughs with us. And we're going to be a stronger, better institution because of it.



Al-Naseem is in South Jahra. Why open a campus in Jahra?



When you apply to the Kuwait government to open a private college, they consider current land use and locations for future residential and commercial developments and then choose a location for you that fits into the country's future plans. Ultimately, our campus will be in the middle of a busy area of residential and commercial/ industrial developments. The government has a vision and we're pleased to be part of it.



How do people react when you tell them you're located in Jahra?



The location, and people's immediate reaction to it, is definitely a challenge for us, but we're confident that it's not going to be insurmountable. Many of the high school students we talk to have never been there; so, their immediate reaction is “Oh, way out there ...” But, the reality is that the 6th and 7th Ring Roads flow well most of the time and, once it's finished, the new Jahra Road is going to be amazing; so, driving from most areas of Kuwait to our campus is going to be a 20 – 30 minute drive, which would be the same as going to AUK, ACM or Box Hill for most people. Kuwait University's new campus is going to be not far from us, so students commuting West is going to be less and less unusual. And, of course, we have the growing population in the suburban areas of Kuwait, including Jahra, who'll consider us to be the “local option.” And

all of this is temporary. Once we're established and people see the quality of our programs, our facilities and student life on that campus, the location and distance won't be issues.



What programs will you offer? Will you offer degrees as well as diplomas?



Our initial areas of specialization will be Business and IT. In September 2015, we'll open with our comprehensive English and Academic Foundations Program. Then, in September 2016, we'll add two diploma programs in Business – Marketing and Management & Entrepreneurship – and two in Advanced Tech – Computer Programming and Systems Technician. Our current license allows us to offer diploma programs but, like Algonquin in Canada, we want to also offer applied degrees. We'll have to demonstrate the need and then apply to the government to expand our license to include degree programming.



Can Canadians attend AC-Kuwait? Can Canadians apply to work at AC-Kuwait?



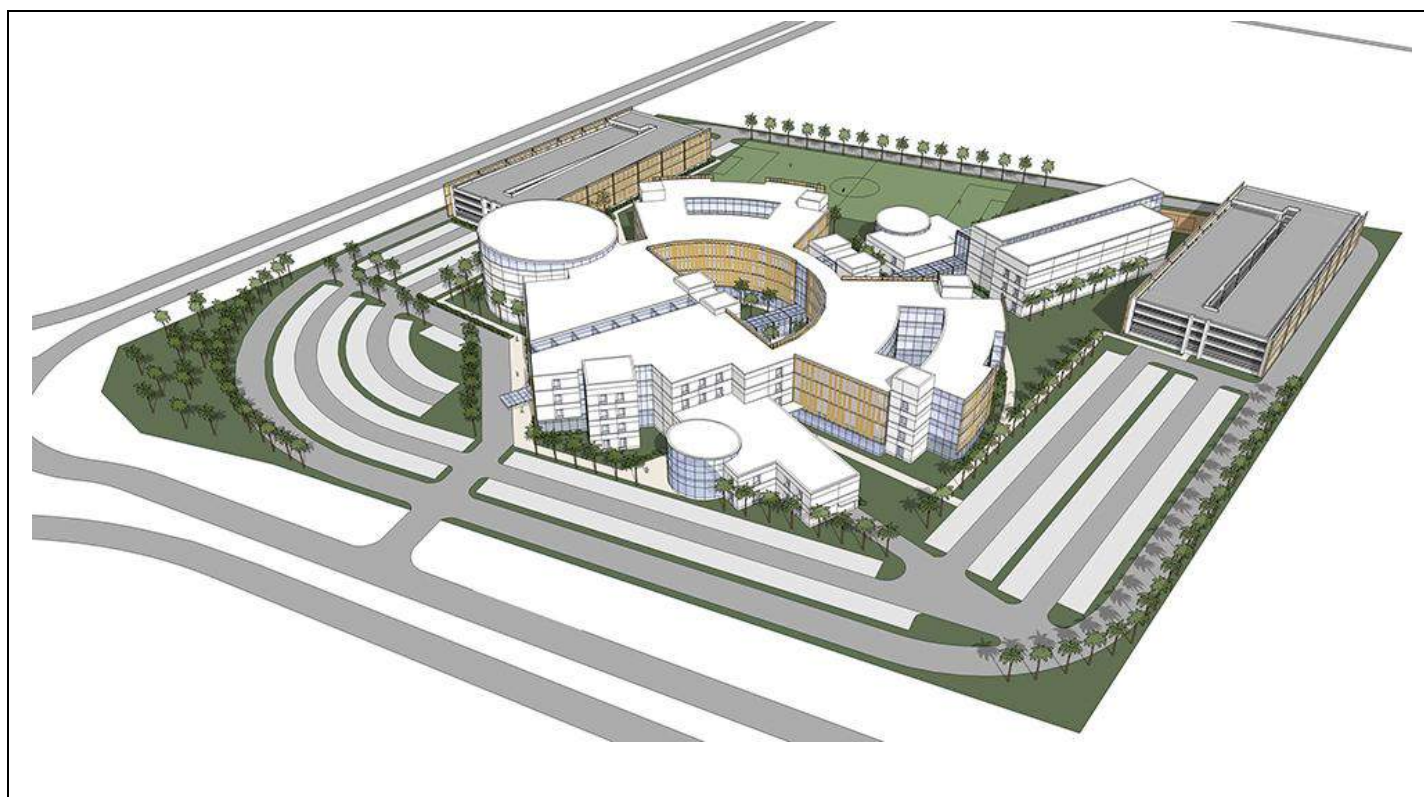
Absolutely! Although most of our students will be Kuwaiti, we're open to everyone. And because we're a branch campus, all credits gained with us are fully transferable to Canada. And, yes, we're hiring and welcome Canadian applications.



How do people find out more?



Our website is www.ac-kuwait.edu.kw and we're on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. People can email us at info@ac-kuwait.edu.kw. To apply for jobs, email jobs@ac-kuwait.edu.kw. We'd love to hear from people and, once we're open, welcome you to our lovely new campus!





My Trip to Failaka Island

By Sue Stanley

Failaka Island derives its name from the Ancient Greek, meaning "outpost", and lies twenty kilometres from the coast of Kuwait. There is over 4,000 years of human history with three Bronze Age sites, traders from the Sumerian city of Ur did business there and the Greek Hellenistic period left mosaic and classic monuments. In more recent times, Failaka was a thriving, occupied holiday island, a place of comfortable chalets, sea breezes, and clean beach until a fateful day: In 1990 Saddam Hussein's invasion was sudden, ferocious and unforeseen!



The now deserted 'paradise,' forsaken and burned homesteads, random machine gun bullet holes strewn over public building facades was indeed a peculiar sight! For me the feeling was rather like that of a 'film set' ... The reality hard to imagine. Strangest of all was the Bank: a dignified, grand Bank, but the marble steps up into the main entrance gave way to chaos. An ATM cash machine torn from the wall, the barred vault gates trampled under foot; standing within the darkness of those ransacked vaults I wondered at the prize bullion carried away. The Kuwait Government has since bought back the island and there are development plans. The mosque had been restored but as yet few people reside there.

Our tour bus trundled on to the 'War Machines Grave Yard'! There were a number of men on the trip who were keen to photo these war relics, scramble over the tanks and discover 'hands on' history. They ignored the herd of camels we disturbed in the enclosure. The camels had reluctantly moved out upon our arrival, their leader - a tall male - stood at the gate watching over the herd departure.

I admit, for me, these rusting war wrecks held little appeal. I'd hung back, intrigued by the presence of the camels. Why they were in a manmade enclosure? What had they been doing in here? That's when I saw one remaining lone camel, initially she was lying down, her forelegs folded beneath. As I watched her she struggled to her feet and I could now see she was a mum about to give birth! Amongst debris she stood, and the head and two long front legs of the new arrival were already dangling! Surely, the baby would not drop that far to the ground? What if it should fall on the iron rail or debris below? Drop it did! The new born seemed to miss the metal objects and immediately mum was cleaning her.

In awe I watched them. The couple of times I have ever encountered camels it seemed they made angry, complaining noises and could spit. The gentle, comforting sounds the new mum crooned over her baby were tender. She was nose to nose with it. Then she began to guide the new born in gaining control of its long neck: when mum lifted her nose away the baby followed her, trying to stay nose to nose, but the baby's neck swung from side to side. Slowly, patiently, mum ensured that baby was in control and once that skill was mastered it was time for it to learn to stand. Yet more resolve and encouragement was required before the youngster may suckle.

The bus was loading and I took my leave, still awed, inspired by the thought that in a so called 'Grave Yard' I had witnessed such a unique new life! Lunch at the restaurant and a swim awaited. Some chose to venture out on quad bikes, others chose to visit the museum. So, you see why this is a trip worth joining? The hour long ferry voyage and fresh air beauty of the journey also proved an opportunity to meet, make new friends and chat with fellow CIK members. We had explored the strangeness and wonder of a place caught in a time warp. There were photos like no others. My point in particular is, that only through travel, even a day trip such as Failaka, do we experience unknown and fascinating events. You are very welcome to join us:)



“Home Away from Home”



The AUSA Kuwait Chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ishtiaq Malik and CIK for their partnership and support. Most notably, we deeply appreciate CIK for providing a photographer for our recent events. Many of our best photos on our web site are come from this partnership as we both support Canadian troops in Kuwait

AUSA is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army – Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees, Government Civilians, Wounded Warriors, Veterans, and family members. AUSA Kuwait Chapter was established in 2006 and is the first AUSA Chapter established in a “Theater of Operations”. Due to the hard work, dedication and support from the board, volunteer members and corporate and individual sponsors, the Kuwait Chapter has been named Best Oversees Chapter by the National Association of the United States Army in 2014, 2011 and 2010.

The main objective of the AUSA Kuwait Chapter is to conduct events for the troops, giving them an opportunity to get off base, enjoy some downtime and hopefully get exposed a bit to the local culture. Some of these events include the Annual Golf Tournament and Service Member & Sponsor Appreciation Banquet, Thanksgiving Day celebration and day out and a September Remembrance Event. We also support events on base such as the Annual Army Ten Miler and unit sports events and special occasions. We are honored to have the presence of the Ambassadors and/or representatives from our coalition partners, including Kuwait, Canada, United Kingdom & Australia, at our events to support the troops.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in supporting the men and women who serve in the U.S. military. The Kuwait Chapter is comprised of members from various nationalities and diverse backgrounds. For more information visit: <http://www.ausa-kuwait.com>



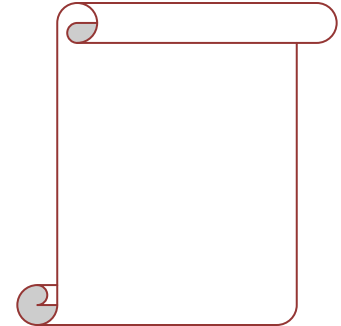
*Voice for the
Army*

*Support for the
Soldier*



“Home Away from Home”

‘Education Education Education’ By Baruch Spiegel



Education is always a contentious subject no matter what crowd of people you are discussing it with. I have been a Consultant Behavior Analyst working in the field of education for over 13 years and have had the privilege of observing different educational settings across three continents..The biggest changes that I have seen are an ever increasing shift towards academic performance, combined with a generic expectation for all children to be able to cope with the pace and content of the curriculum. Increasing expectations of children can be an extremely positive change for the classroom; the problems arise when we remove differentiation from our teaching. If we expect the same output from all children then we disregard the individual’s range of both strengths and weaknesses. We also close the door for children with special needs to ever have a place within mainstream schools. As compassion and empathy form the core values of most schools, I believe it is time for a re-think into how we approach our children’s skills and what kind of dynamic within a classroom provides the best environment for learning.

As with any re-think we must first decide on a common goal and that is where the current debate breaks down. No one can actually agree on how best to educate our children, and because no common goal can be established we see a lot of superficial re-workings but very little fundamental changes.

The reality is that the current mainstream system is very similar to that of the time of the Industrial Revolution when standardized education was first created. What we see is a huge emphasis placed upon academics and very little attention given to social skill development and the Arts. The problem with that is it means we are developing a workforce with fewer and fewer transferable skills. Transferable skills are those that can be applied to any job, in any work place. The most sought after within Industry are communication, teamwork and personal motivation. In order to actually begin to teach such skill areas we must approach them with the same vigor and allocation of time as we have core academics.

I doubt any parent would argue with the importance of knowing how well their child communicates, works as part of a team or if they are motivated in class. This is mainly because they themselves are required to possess the very same skills in their own workplace. How we go about incorporating these elements into our children’s daily lives would take more than one article to expand upon, but the crux of doing this is to change what we value the most. If we truly value how our children communicate then we must allow time in the day to teach it. If we truly value working together then we must give children opportunities do so. And if we want our children to be motivated in class then we, as educators, must make every effort to provide lessons that inspire the pursuit of knowledge rather than spoon-feeding the knowledge itself.



“Home Away from Home”

CiK Board (2014-2016)



Ishtiaq Malik
President



Reza Mehrabi



Keith Edwards



Christopher Holdrinet

Tracey Mackenzie

**Mohammad Al
Shemmari**



Zeina Nehme

Tammy Ragany

Anne Gadoua

George Apostolou

CiK AGM 2015 – KUWAIT TIMES – 28th May, 2015

What's On

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015

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CiK Executive Board 2015



CiK members at the AGM



Ishraq Malik - CiK president



CiK members being awarded



Ms. Tammy Ames from Canadian Embassy



Reza Mehrabi presents CiK Financial Report



CiK members and volunteers



Celebratory cake at the event



CiK members and volunteers at the AGM



Canadians in Kuwait holds annual general meeting

CiK shares Canadian culture with Kuwaitis, expats

KUWAIT CITY, May 19: CiK Canadians in Kuwait had its Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 8, 2015 at Sofir Hotel in Raita.

CiK is a social, membership-based organization supported by Canadian volunteers. CiK shares Canadian cul-

ture with Kuwaitis and Canadian and non-Canadian expats living in Kuwait, utilizing the talents and efforts of members. CiK and its members actively participate in various activities like social, community-based, national events of Canada and Kuwait by organ-

izing or participating in various events.

Large number of members attended the annual general meeting 2015. Ms. Tammy Ames from Embassy of Canada presided over the meeting with a welcome note. Ishraq Malik, CiK president presented the Annual Report.

Reza Mehrabi presented the Financial Report.

Ms. Tammy Ames on behalf of Canadian Embassy presented Certificate and Letter of Appreciation to the CiK board members and volunteers.

CiK CHRISTMAS GALA DINNER – KUWAIT TIMES – 20th October, 2014

Kuwait Times

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WHAT'S ON

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014

CANADIANS IN KUWAIT (CIK) HOLDS SEASONS GREETING EVENT



Charge D' Affairs - James Hill from the Embassy of Canada in Kuwait addressed the audience by greeting Canadian community in Kuwait with season's greetings and appreciated CIK for holding this event.



Ishtiaq Malik - CIK President welcomed the dignitaries, members and guests on behalf of CIK.

Canadians in Kuwait (CIK) a social networking organization for Canadian expat community based in Kuwait celebrated the current season for its members and guests with a grand event with pomp and color at Sofir Hotel - Fintas 17th October, 2014.

Ishtiaq Malik said that CIK is a social networking organization and shares Canadian culture with other expats communities in Kuwait, utilizing the talent and efforts of its members. CIK's top agenda is to promote Canada's national traditions and events in

Kuwait. The Past one year was very active, CIK had conducted several successful events for its members to enjoy their time in Kuwait. The membership to CIK has grown substantially. CIK website is proven to be very informative with weekly news

updates and is beneficial to its members. Ishtiaq Malik appreciated the CIK Executive Board for their relentless efforts, energy and enthusiasm towards CIK. Also special thanks to CIK sponsors for their generous support to make the event successful.

Kuwait Times, Al Muthana Nursery, Canon, Souk.com, FaviTalks, ALDO/TIM HORTONS & Sofir Hotel - Fintas.

Canadian Community in Kuwait enjoyed the gathering with their families and friends.



—Photos by Joseph Shagra



Cik THANKSGIVING PARTY – 2014



Cik THANKSGIVING PARTY – 2014



Cik THANKSGIVING PARTY – 2014



CiK Christmas Ball - 2014



CiK Chritmas Ball - 2014



CiK Chritmas Ball - 2014



CiK Boat Trip - 2015



CiK Boat Trip - 2015



CiK Boat Trip - 2015



CiK Friday Breakfast

