

Information for Press-Release

German heritage has been part of Nova Scotian culture since the early 1750's. The German Heritage Language School (GHLS) has been founded in September 1987. The founder and first director was Gerta Josenhans, who continued to direct the school for 15 years. Initially the school was sponsored by the German-Canadian Association of Nova Scotia, but today it is an independent registered charitable organization. Approximately 30 children were enrolled each year during the first 10 years. Then the number of children went down to about 20. Five years ago adult-classes were started. They have increased from 5 students in the first year to 30 adult learners now. Children still range in enrolment from 15 - 18 per year.

Lessons take place once a week on a Thursday from 4:15 to 6:15 pm at Gorsebrook Jr. Highschool, 5966 South Street, Halifax. The fee is kept low with \$ 90 for children / per term and \$110 for adults / per term. One Term has 12 sessions = 24 hours and runs from September to December for Term 1 and from January to April for Term 2. Adults have the possibility for more classes till the end of May. German language skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening) are taught by qualified teachers. Traditions, music, and cultural events form part of the curriculum.

German language is one of the major languages of central Europe, and Germany is an important global trading partner. German companies will certainly continue to play a major role in the world economy and therefore offer business and employment opportunities to German speakers. The German Heritage Language School is the only institution in the Halifax-Dartmouth area to offer German language instruction to pre-school and school-age children, starting at age four. It is also the only institution now,

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where adults can take German courses at low cost. The school is entirely funded by private

means. There is no support financially from the government. The school's mission reads:

"The German Heritage Language School is a registered non profit society which offers German language classes to adults and children. The School fosters the learning of the German language and promotes an understanding of German heritage through inclusive educational setting for the benefit of students of all ages."

A volunteer Board of Directors manages the activities of the school according to the By-Laws.

This year the GHLS celebrates the 20th Anniversary

Sunday, September 23 from 4 to 8 pm

at the Fairbanks Center in Dartmouth, 54 Locks Road.