

# Algonquin in for a little culture

## Hosts diversity celebration

With a provincewide college faculty strike averted, Algonquin College's Celebration of Cultures will go ahead today as planned.

The ninth edition of the annual event attracts representatives from embassies to the college to help spread cultural awareness.

More than 20 countries will be represented this year, including China, Egypt, Germany, Jamaica, Japan, Pakistan and South Africa.

"The main goal is to celebrate all the different cultures that Canada has, and our college has," said student affairs and orientation officer Anne Kalil, the event's organizer.

The college's international students are also involved, running the Korean, Vietnamese and Kirwaili exhibits.

### 'Rich culture'

Last year, second-year culinary management and international student Huy Nguyen made spring rolls and ran the Vietnamese table.

The event is about more than just delicious food to Nguyen, who is planning to prepare a fried rice dish this year.

"Vietnam's the name of a country

with rich culture, it's not the name of a war," said Nguyen, whose mother sent him folk art pictures and dolls to help decorate his display.

This year's celebration was just about cancelled when labour negotiations to avert a faculty strike last week went down to the final hour.

### No politics

"I figured they (faculty) were going to go on strike for sure and it would have been huge because I would have had to call all these embassies and say 'Sorry, I know you've made all these plans but we're not doing it any more,'" said Michelle Peeters, a festivals and events management student who has been working since January to help organize the event.

Fortunately, with the tentative labour settlement, those wanting to snack, learn and be entertained can make their way to the Algonquin College cafeteria today between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Just don't try and start a debate about global affairs.

"You check your politics at the door because this is a celebration," said Kalil.

— Brent Flearney



Tony Caldwell/SUN

**MICHELLE PEETERS** was breathing a little easier this week after an Algonquin College faculty strike was averted. The festivals and events management student has been working since January to organize the school's Celebration of Cultures. The celebration will go ahead today, as scheduled.

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