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**Canada to decrease number of new international student permits**

In recent years, the integrity of the international student system has been threatened.

Some institutions have significantly increased their intakes to drive revenues, and more students have been arriving in Canada without the proper supports they need to Succeed.

Rapid increases in the number of international students arriving in Canada also puts pressure on housing, health care and other services. In order to better protect international students from bad actors and support sustainable population growth in Canada, the government is moving forward with measures to stabilize the number of international students in Canada.

The Hon. Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship on January 22, 2024 announced that the Government of Canada will set an intake cap on international student permit applications to stabilize new growth for a period of two years.

For 2024, the cap is expected to result in approximately 360,000 approved study permits, a decrease of 35% from 2023.

In the spirit of fairness, individual provincial and territorial caps have been established, weighted by population, which will result in much more significant decreases in

provinces where the international student population has seen the most unsustainable growth. Study permit renewals will not be impacted. Those pursuing master's and doctoral degrees, and elementary and secondary education are not included in the cap. Current study permit holders will not be affected.

IRCC will allocate a portion of the cap to each province and territory, who will then distribute the allocation among their designated learning institutions. To implement the cap, as of January 22, 2024, every study permit application submitted to IRCC will also require an attestation letter from a province or territory.

These temporary measures will be in place for two years, and the number of new study permit applications that will be accepted in 2025 will be re-assessed at the end of this Year.

Graduates of master's and other short graduate-level programs will soon be eligible to apply for a 3-year work permit.

In the weeks ahead, open work permits will only be available to spouses of international students in master's and doctoral programs. The spouses of international students in other levels of study, including undergraduate and college programs, will no longer be eligible.

In the coming months, Canada will continue to work to provide clear pathways to permanent residence for students with in-demand skills and explore new measures to better transition international students to the labour force.

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**Happy Valentine's Day**



# Valentine's Day

## February 14<sup>th</sup>



Valentine's Day is the day of love. On February 14, more than any other day of the year, romantic couples shower their better half with gifts and tokens of appreciation.

Much about Valentine's Day is well known. The handwritten cards, chocolate hearts, and red roses are all staples of the annual tradition, recognized easily at any convenience store. (Five tips to have an eco-friendly Valentine's Day.)

However, much about how the holiday came to be remains a mystery, details lost to time and transformed as romantics retold history. Not only does this holiday have competing origin stories, but there are at least two different saints who might be its namesake. Here's what **we actually know about Valentine's Day**.

### Why do we celebrate Valentine's Day?

Was Valentine's Day inspired by a party, an execution, or a poem? Historians aren't sure.

The earliest possible origin story of Valentine's Day is the pagan holiday Lupercalia. Occurring for centuries in the middle of February, the holiday celebrates fertility. Men would strip naked and sacrifice a goat and dog. Young boys would then take strips of hide from the sacrificed animals and use it to whip young women, to promote fertility.

Lupercalia was popular and one of the few pagan holidays still celebrated 150 years after Christianity was legalized in the Roman Empire.

(Learn about Valentine's Day with your kids.)

When Pope Gelasius came to power in the late fifth century he put an end to Lupercalia. Soon after, the Catholic church declared February 14 to be a day of feasts to celebrate the martyred Saint Valentine.

According to Noel Lenski, a historian at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Lupercalia was "clearly a very popular thing, even in an environment where the Christians are trying to close it down." In an interview with NPR Lenski theorizes that the feast was meant to replace Lupercalia. "So there's reason to think that the Christians might instead have said, okay, we'll just call this a Christian festival," he said.

### How did it become a romantic holiday?

Apart from the name, these feasts share little resemblance to our modern, romantic notions of Valentine's Day.

By some accounts, the true origin of Valentine's Day didn't come for another thousand years. Jack B. Oruch, a professor at the University of Kansas, argues that the poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first person to link Valentine's Day to romance in his poem *The Parlement of Foules*.

Oruch suggests that Chaucer might have linked Valentine's Day to romance more or less by chance—Valentine's Day is approximately the time when European birds start mating. Later poets, including Shakespeare, followed Chaucer's lead and helped create the romantic connotations we have today.

### Who was St. Valentine?

By some estimations there are over 10,800 saints, of which there are more than 30 Valentines and even a few Valentinas. Two Valentines stand out as likely candidates for the namesake saint, but neither dealt with matters of the heart.

The two Valentines share many similarities, leading some researchers to wonder whether they were the same man. Both Valentines were martyrs, put to death by the Roman Emperor Claudius in the third century. Both men were also said to have died on February 14, although years apart.

(Here's how a person becomes a saint in the Catholic Church.)







# Desperate Tamils and Delaying Solutions with Deceptive Promises.

By: **Thambu Kanagasabai, LLM {Lond.} Former Lecturer in Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, August 15, 2018**

**Tamils** in Sri Lanka, being the original inhabitants even before BC 500 according to legend, have ruled Sri Lanka before the arrival of Buddhism in BC 247 and formation of Sinhalese language during the 6th century AD, which marked the beginning of Sinhalese race. Dutagamini, a Hindu Naga king turned Buddhist, ruling the southern parts of Sri Lanka, desiring to rule the entire Sri Lanka, began his march towards Anuradhapura in BC 101. On his way, he encountered thirty-three Tamil Kings who were the local rulers in various regions.

After overcoming them, he reached Anuradhapura and waged the epic battle with King Elara, a Chola Tamil King. From where King Elara entered Anuradhapura is still unclear as some say he came from South India while some say he was a King ruling Jaffna. The battle of Dutagamini was to capture territory and not a battle against Tamils as distorted by the Mahavamsa.

However this battle and victory sowed the seeds of racism and chauvinism, to be exploited to serve the Sinhala politicians for electoral gains and initiation of the Buddhisation and Sinhalesisation of Sri Lanka.

The hidden agenda of obliterating the Tamils, their history and identities like language, culture and traditions to make Sri Lanka a Sinhala Buddhist state, was set in motion as soon as independence from colonial British rule was granted in 1948. The first target was the Indian Tamils who fell victim to this agenda when the Citizenship Act 1948 was passed and about 700,000 were denied citizenship. As a result their parliamentary representation of seven members in 1947 was wiped out.

As for the Eelam Tamils, the political pogrom of Sinhala Governments included the land reclamation of huge projects such as the famous Gal Oya, Allai, Kantalai, Padaviya, Manalaru [Now renamed in Sinhalese as Weli Oya] and the ongoing Mahaveli 'L' development schemes went hand in hand with settlements of Sinhalese which began in 1949. Time and time, Sri Lankan Governments carried out the Sinhalesisation and Buddhisation agenda methodically, overtly and covertly with legislation and Government directives with the assistance of Security Forces in this scheme.

The Sinhala Only Act 1956 heralded the supremacy of Sinhala language paving the way for the gradual elimination of Tamils in Government appointments, the main form of non-agricultural employment. This was a double barreled gun to shoot down the Tamils to frustration and despair while shooting up Sinhalesisation and Sinhala nationalism.

The 1972 constitution brought Buddhism as the first and foremost religion to be protected and fostered by the state. This provision placed Buddhism as the supreme religion and statutorily bound the Government to foster it by building Buddhist Viharas and Buddhist statutes in selected places throughout the island whether Buddhist worshipers are residing or not. The statutory protection given to minorities in the earlier constitution [29 -2] was removed as well.

At the end of 2012, 10,812 Buddhist Viharas have been built in the North and East while 413 Viharas were built in 2013 in North and East alone. Besides, hundreds of Buddha statues have been erected along the side roads and highways so as to create the image of a Buddhist identity and image for Sri Lanka.

The Sinhalesisation of Tamil areas is reinforced with the presence of about 140,000 security personnel in the north with about 60,000 personnel stationed in Mullaitivu for a population of 130,000. Almost 147 Camps are in the Jaffna peninsula for the security forces occupying about 269 individuals' private lands.

Besides, the population of Tamils in the Northern Province has shown sharp decline due to migration and increased Sinhalese colonization. The table below reveals the truth.

<u>Jaffna</u>			
	<u>1981</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2018</u>
Tamils	734,474	583,071	577,246
<u>Ampari</u>			
	<u>1963</u>	<u>2012</u>	
Sinhalese	29.3%	38.7%	
Tamils	23.8%	17.4%	

Tamils in 1981 constituted 12.7% of the total population, but in 2012 that percentage has declined to 11.2%. The continued Sinhalese colonization sponsored by the Governments, and assisted with the involvement of security forces [99% Sinhala Buddhists] aim at the complete demographic changes in Tamil lands and eventually making the Tamils to become minorities in these areas, while reducing their parliamentary strength, which stands 9 in Jaffna peninsula when it was 11 in the 1989 general elections. It is feared that this number will be further reduced to 6 when a future population census is carried out.

The successive Sri Lankan governments have manipulated the initiatives of pogroms to subjugate the Tamils, to position them to live with permanent fear, insecurity, suspicion and mistrust. The 1956, 1958, 1971, 1977, 1983 pogroms were all state planned, orchestrated and organized to indulge in the genocidal killings of Tamils.

The burning of the Public Library in Jaffna [One of the best libraries in Asia at that time] in May 1981 and the 1984 violence unleashed against the participants at the International Tamil Research Conference were pre-planned to strike at the heart and soul of Tamil Language, history and culture.

In addition, at least 196 massacres of Tamil civilians were executed by the security forces beginning from 12/6/1990 in Kalmunai up to 2009 in Mullivakkal. [Mass graves are now found in Mannar and other places while digging the ground for foundation for buildings etc.] It is shocking that so far neither Tamil National Alliance [TNA] nor the Government has called for a full investigation into the circumstances of these violent deaths of civilians.

Sri Lanka's culture of impunity is another lethal weapon of Governments and security forces which is generously facilitating the commission of all violence and crimes against the Tamil civilians.

GORDON WEISS: In his book 'The Cage- 2012 – Page 141 stated the truth as follows:- "SRI LANKA'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM, THE PURPORTED BACKBONE OF DEMOCRACY IS CURRENTLY A SHAM. THE CULTURE OF IMPUNITY ALLOWS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO DO WHATEVER THEY LIKE, ARREST WITHOUT REASON, TORTURE AND DETAIN FOR LONG AND FABRICATE CHARGES."

Interestingly, the Government has embarked on a program of development in the North and East to please the United Nations and the International Community. Even if this scheme is implemented in the North and East "erosion of Tamils hold on land through development has once again made possible the total domination of the narrative of state", as stated by Gordon Weiss – The Cage – Page 225.

The presence of Army which is stationed in 153 Camps occupying more than 4000 acres of land in the North with permanent military installations is an indication as to how far the development will go without the involvement of security forces who are already running hotels, schools, restaurants farming etc. in the North from seized civilian lands.

*Please go to page 12*

Northern Province:

	<u>1921</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>2012+</u>
Tamils	356,801	1,021,006	993,741
Sinhalese	3,795	35,128	32,331

Trincomalee

	<u>1921</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>2012</u>
Sinhalese	4.5%	33.6%	40.4%
Tamils	54.5%	36.4%	32.3%



**By: Thambu Kanagasabai, LLM [London] Former Lecturer in Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. & President, Tamil Canadian Elders for Human Rights Organization.**

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## 5 ways to build an energy-efficient home

(NC) Whether it's your primary objective or a secondary benefit, creating an energy-efficient living space is a smart choice for homeowners. Sustainable architecture and materials can help ensure you rely less on limited resources while reducing the cost of operating your home.

These green ideas range from relatively simple to major undertakings, but they all have one thing in common: energy-efficient living, which in turn results in lower energy bills.

**Be mindful of electricity use.** Monitoring your usage habits is a simple starting point when you want to move toward more energy-efficient living. Using less electricity during peak hours reduces the strain on your energy provider, which can help curb your monthly bill. Check with your utility provider to confirm what times of day they offer lower rates. Other tips include using natural light to your advantage and turning off lights and other electronics when they're not in use.

**Install energy-efficient windows.** Even standard double-pane windows lose a great deal of energy in the average home. In the winter, they allow cold to seep in, while in the warmer months blazing sunlight can quickly elevate a room's temperature. However, energy-efficient windows act as an effective barrier to both cold and heat. They can even protect your belongings from fading and damage caused by ultraviolet light. Newly installed windows also tend to have tighter, unblemished seals, addressing another common culprit of energy loss. If new windows are not in your budget, check your window and door perimeters and consider resealing them to prevent air leakage.

**Opt for efficient appliances.** Appliances may make modern life substantially easier, but they account for a significant share of a home's energy usage. However, you can reduce how much they need by choosing an efficient model that uses 10-50 percent less power than less energy-conscious options. Not only do they help reduce greenhouse emissions and promote sustainable living, but some energy-efficient appliances also have lower maintenance requirements.

**Boost insulation levels.** Adequate insulation keeps heat in your home when it's cold outdoors and prevents too much heat from seeping in when temperatures soar. However, over time loose-fill insulation (such as cellulose, fibreglass or mineral wool) can break down. It's also common for homeowners to discover their homes were constructed with insulation that only met minimum standards, so there's room for improvement. Consider adding insulation to commonly deficient areas like the attic, garage, basement and exterior walls.

**Start with a solid foundation.** Building a new home is a big investment, especially considering rising energy requirements and fuel costs. Relying on energy-efficient construction materials, like Nudura's insulated concrete forms (ICFs), can provide homeowners nearly 60 per cent energy savings compared to traditional building methods using wood. ICF construction results in less waste during the building process and also reduces the amount of energy needed for heating and cooling due to their continuous insulation and high R-value. The result is an airtight structure that enables building mechanical systems to heat, cool and ventilate more efficiently, creating a healthier living environment with a lower carbon footprint.

Learn more about energy-efficient options for your home at [nudura.com/eco-friendly](http://nudura.com/eco-friendly).

JANUARY 2024 - GTA HOUSING MARKET STATS - BY REGION					
HOUSE TYPES & AVERAGE SALE PRICE:	TORONTO	YORK	DURHAM	PEEL	HALTON
Average Sales Price	\$959,915	\$1,210,705	\$894,825	\$1,024,926	\$1,143,518
Detached	\$1,570,520	\$1,574,942	\$988,200	\$1,336,360	\$1,445,562
Semi-Detached	\$1,199,531	\$1,122,140	\$838,920	\$947,755	\$1,026,955
Townhouse	\$1,029,765	\$1,131,261	\$813,714	\$885,117	\$980,786
Condo Apt	\$709,419	\$665,628	\$514,756	\$584,501	\$705,326
Total # New Listings	3,546	1,464	828	1,426	797
Total # Active Listings	4,540	1,775	751	1,734	861
Total # Sales	1,472	775	539	829	454
Avg. Listing VS Property Days On Market (LDOM/PDOM)	38/55	37/53	33/48	34/55	40/56
YOY Avg. Price Change	-3%	-6%	1%	3%	2%

Prepared By: Sivage Sivagumaran BROKER CPA, CGA, GUILD™, ABR, SRES, SRS, RSPS | Source: TRREB Data As of FEB/06/2024



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Real Estate page compiled by Charles Devasagayam



# Tamil Heritage Month celebration by CTC, January 27, 2024, Toronto.

Tamil Heritage Month celebration was held on January 27, 2024 at Centennial College Event Centre, hosted by CTC. The following dignitaries were present at the event: Consul General Baxter Hunt and Vice Counsel Lily Fryer from the United States Consulate, Toronto. International Human Rights Lawyer and former War Crimes Prosecutor David Tolbert from USA joined us for a key Conversation and Q & A session. Dr. Surenthirakumaran, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, University Of Jaffna was also joined as a Special Guest and delivered a speech.

Thusyanthan delivered a progress report of "Made in Mullaitivu," project. There was a small fashion show where the models show cased the Sarees that were made in Mullaitivu. **Charles Devasagayam, M.A**





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# Tamil Heritage Month, January 28, 2024, Pickering.

**Tamil Heritage Month celebration was held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex in Pickering.**

The event commenced around 4 pm with a welcome procession, where the dignitaries brought inside with Tamil Drums. The following dignitaries and community leaders were present: Kevin Ashe: Mayor of Pickering; Maurice Brenner: Regional Councilor Ward 1; Mara Nagy: Councilor Ward 2; Jason Yoshida; Deputy Pickering Fire Chief; Marilyn Crawford: Regional Councilor and Deputy Mayor of Ajax; Stephen Linton: DDSB School Board Trustee Pickering; Allison- Hector Alexander :Director | Diversity, Equity and Inclusion The Regional Municipality of Durham; and Cecil Ramnauth: Community Activist and Board of Director of Devi Mandir. There were dance and music programs depicting Tamil Culture. Pongal and other Tamil food also were distributed to all.

Thank you Tmy Raveena Rajasingham for organising this most important culturalevent. **Charles Devasagayam, M.A.**





# Sri Lanka's Independence Day Reminds Tamils Every Year of the Genocide Committed by the Sinhalese: **TGTE**



When the island of Lanka got free of colonial rule, the sovereignty of Eelam Tamils wrested by the colonialists, should have been retrieved to the Tamil people.

**The Sinhalese leaders with the consent of the British colonialists created the fundamentals to develop the state of the island of Lanka into a Sinhala-Buddhist state.”**

On this day February 4, when the people of Tamil Eelam as usual observe the 76th anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka as a black day, we, on behalf of the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE), raise our voice to declare our opposition to the genocidal regime of Sri Lanka.

When the island of Lanka got free of colonial rule, the sovereignty of the Eelam Tamils wrested by the colonialists should have been retrieved to the Tamil people. However, the Tamil people were caught without their consent into the political and diplomatic trap set together by the Sinhalese political leaders and the British colonialists.

The Sinhalese leaders with the consent of the British colonialists created the fundamentals to develop the state of the island of Lanka into a Sinhala-Buddhist State.

The views of Tamil leaders were not even heard in the process of the island of Sri Lanka getting free of colonialism. As a result, the state of the island of Lanka had developed into a Sinhala-Buddhist state and is functioning with the scheme of genociding the Eelam Tamil people as its primary aim.

The Tamil people neither vested nor shared their sovereignty ever with the Sinhalese. The Tamil people never gave their support or approval to the Sri Lankan state's constitutional schemes of 1972 and 1978.

The Tamil leaders argued at the Trial - at- Bar case on the legal grounds of returned sovereignty that the state of Sri Lanka had no legal basis to rule over the Tamil people. The Tamil people have never considered themselves to be governed by the state of Sri Lanka.

The Tamil people are entitled to a separate state of their own on the basis of retrieving their sovereignty on the basis of international laws. The Vaddukkottai Resolution enunciates the rationale of establishing the state of Tamil Eelam in the circumstances of the Tamil people being treated as slaves.

To protest against the persecutions of the Tamil people in the post-independence island of Lanka the Federal Party (Tamilarasu Party) proclaimed the 4th February 1957 as a black day. On that day Thirumalai Nataraja was shot dead when he sought to down the Lankan national flag and hoist a black flag in its place. Since then, February 4 remains a black day for the Tamil people.

Owing to the state structures built up since the independence of the island of Lanka, democracy has derailed and the state has, in the vice grip of racism, developed into ethnocracy. For this state of affairs all states that propped up and are popping up the state of Sri Lanka must bear responsibility.

It is this ethnocratic state structure that paved the way for all persecutions that the Tamil people faced and facing in the island of Lanka. The Sinhalese ethnocracy and the military violence of the state armed forces are causes which led to the birth and growth of the armed struggle of the Tamil people. Though well aware of these facts the international powers failed to stand by justice and acted as per their own interests. Such conduct of the powers that be is not surprising if we keep in mind the words of political scientists that states go about naked in their own interests.

Today as the Eelam Tamil people are being subjected to genocide by the Sinhalese state the primary duty of the Tamil people is to think and act as to how they can get rid of this campaign of genocide. Every Independence Day of Sri Lanka that passes by would be bringing to the minds of the Eelam Tamil people the genocide by the Sinhalese. It would be possible for the nation of Eelam Tamils to live without the risk of genocide when the state of Tamil Eelam is established for the Eelam Tamil people.

Therefore, Tamil people should consciously take the Independence Day of Sri Lanka not only as a black day, but also as a day to assert the necessity of establishing a state of their own. And fully dedicate themselves for activities in that direction.

Let our persistent struggle win the prospects for the triumph of justice!

## UN Rights Chief Urged to Act on Attack on Tamils Anti-Independence Day Protest: Rudrakumara.

In an appeal to UN High commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, The Prime Minister of the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE), Visuvanathan Rudrakumaran urged him to take appropriate steps to ensure perpetrators of these attacks are brought to justice and any future peaceful protests by Tamil protesters are allowed without any hindrance by the Sri Lankan government.

The appeal also highlighted that the attack took place on the eve of High Commissioners Oral Report on Sri Lanka to the UN Human Rights Council in the upcoming Councils Session starting in a few weeks' time.

Several were attacked, including two Tamil parliamentarians and women. One of the Parliamentarian who was attacked is the President of the main Tamil political party, Sivagnanam Sriharan and the other parliamentarian is Charles Nirmalanathan. said Rudrakumaran.

Police used tear gas, water cannons and other methods to violently disperse the protesters. Five student leaders were also arrested. Tamils were observing Sri Lanka's Independence Day as a black day (Day of mourning), highlighting the Tamil's suffering since independence 76 years ago. Tamil areas were completely shut down in observance of this protest” continued Rudrakumaran.

This protest was organized by Tamil University students, families of the disappeared and several other Tamil Civil Society groups and these attacks primarily focused on protests in the Northern town of Kilinochchi and Eastern town of Batticaloa.







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Connecting GTA is an above average business group. The members are extremely supportive and welcoming. Their events are fun and educational. In my 20 years of business I have experienced many business groups. This one is different. I highly recommend it. *-Angele Baltkois*

## About CGTA

The Connecting GTA Networking Club was founded by Suresh Kumar, President & CEO of Kashden Consulting Group.

Suresh is passionate about delivering value in every connection that he makes. As a Specialist Business Strategist & Coach, he revels in efficiently maximizing potential and fostering professional relationships within organizations. And as the Founder and CEO of Connecting GTA, he is dedicated to help propel your business forward.

Connecting GTA began as a meeting place for businesses of diverse backgrounds to connect, collaborate and promote individual businesses in the GTA.



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Networking always helps you develop the skills and strategies to embrace the reality of leadership.



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## Get in Touch with Us

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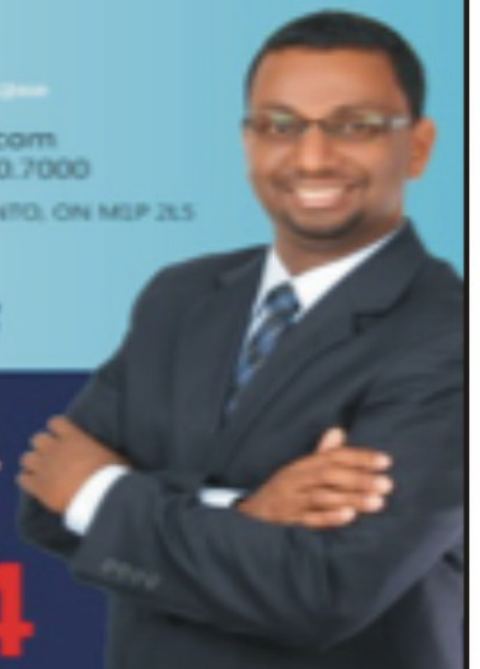
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# Stouffville Tamil Heritage Month Celebration, January 26, 2024.

Stouffville Multicultural Association celebrated Tamil Heritage Month on January 26, 2024 at Stouffville District Secondary School at Whitchurch-Stouffville. The event featured Tamil Canadian Arts, Culture and highlights the traditional 'Thai Pongal,' ( Tamil Harvest Festival ) theme. Congratulations to the organisers. Charles Devasagayam, M.A.





Prevention of Terrorism Act of 1979 and the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution were draconian measures passed by the Sri Lankan Governments specially targeting and threatening the Tamils to silence their voice and freedom of expression to permanent subjugation.

Another menacing political force is the violence-prone group of Buddhist monks like the Bodu Bala Sena [BBS] and Jathika Hela Urumia [JHU] who function as part of the Government's program to silence the Tamils and subvert and scuttle any offer of concessions to Tamils.

It can be stated that the Tamils in Sri Lanka have been ignored by the International Community, United Nations and Security Council in spite of human rights violations and genocidal killings which have been committed systematically against them again and again in 1956, 1958, 1971, 1971, 1977, 1983 and from 2006-2009 by the security forces in furtherance of the goal of Sinhalaisation and Buddhisiation to make Sri Lanka a SINHALA BUDDHIST STATE.

On July 28, 1983, the then President J. R. Jayawardene Said that "TIME HAS COME TO ACCEDE TO THE CLAMOUR AND NATIONAL RESPECT OF SINHALESE PEOPLE".

Former President Mahinda Rajapakshe underscored the target of eliminating the Tamils in Sri Lanka by stating in May 2009 after the GENOCIDAL WAR:- "WE HAVE REMOVED THE WORD MINORITIES FROM OUR VOCABULARY THREE YEARS AGO, NO LONGER TAMILS, MUSLIMS AND OTHER MINORITIES. THERE ARE ONLY TWO PEOPLES IN THIS COUNTRY, ONE WHO LOVES THE COUNTRY AND THE OTHER SMALL GROUPS WHO HAVE NO LOVE FOR THE LAND OF THEIR BIRTH".

Former Prime Minister/President Chandrika Kumaratunge She too emphasized this view with her slogan during the Presidential election: "AS ONE NATION, ONE PEOPLE " and has in the past while in South Africa also stated that "THE TAMILS ARE NOT THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS OF SRI LANKA, THEY DO NOT BELONG TO SRI LANKA".

The above statements of Sinhalese leaders unequivocally confirm their sinister intention of decimating the identities of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The struggle of Tamils for equality, justice, distinct identity and accountability as a nation in Sri Lanka commenced in 1956 and is still continuing, and there is no hint of a political solution to remove the underlying causes and grievances of Tamils.

The non-violent struggles and resistance launched by late Tamil Leaders like Samuel James Velupillai Chelvanayagam [popularly known as Gandhi of Tamil Eelam] and former Leader of the Opposition A. Amirthalingam were crushed ruthlessly by force by the security forces and were handled by the Sri Lankan Governments with usual charming guiles and wiles leaving the Tamil leaders deceived and dejected. A frustrated Chelvanayagam's last call "THAT GOD CAN ONLY SAVE THE TAMILS" still remains un-responded and it is anybody's guessing as to its fulfillment.

"Minorities in Sri Lanka Tamils and Muslims feel that they have a place in Sri Lanka as long as they are compelled to fall in line and be slaves within a Sinhalese identity and within the contour of Sinhalese nationalism". Tamil National Alliance [TNA] leader Mr. R. Sampanthan's above statement in Parliament in 2008 summed up the plight of Tamils.

History is meant for learning and past lessons of political history of Tamils should be the guiding factors instead of frittering the energy and efforts chasing the mirage of promises appearing as a lasting solution to the 76 years old problems of Tamils.

**In Short:**

The following reasons and facts reveal the progress of Tamils in Sri Lanka towards a probable non-existence through assimilation and genocide including structural genocide.

1. Reduction of Tamil Representation in Parliament. The Jaffna district now elects 9 members which are expected to be reduced to 6 members in the next election.
2. Exodus and migration of Tamils from North and East. Out of 1.2 million Tamils in the North in 1983 about 700,000 Tamils have migrated to overseas after the Pogrom against the Tamils in 1983. Tamils were hunted and butchered, burnt alive and their houses, establishments, looted and set on fire. Added to this is the reduced growth of Tamil population through reduced birth which stands at 1.5% of the total population compared to 5.51% for Sinhalese.
3. Entrenched culture of impunity for security forces, Government officials and a judiciary which is politicized.



4. Permanent residence of security forces and their operational freedom. Civilians are now living with and among security forces.
5. Lack of International support and/or intervention. Past responses show only trickery and deceit for the 76 years sufferings of Tamils.
6. Sri Lanka's disregard of International opinions, suggestions, blatant rejection, and refusal to comply with UNHRC Recommendations and United Nation's muted response to rein in Sri Lanka for its non-compliance of international commitments.
7. Discrimination of Tamils in Government sector in employment and allocation of resources including neglect of development schemes in the North and East.
8. Nil prospect of constitutional guarantee of recognition of North and East as one unit. [As agreed in the Indo/Sri Lanka Accord of 1987] and also freezing the powers of the Provincial Councils to control land/police as agreed in the Accord.
9. Rejection of International Investigation into war crimes with dim prospects of Internal Judicial mechanism to be set up by Sri Lanka as promised.
10. Accelerated program of Sinhalaisation and Buddhisiation including neglect of Tamil language for official use and communication with Tamil civilians.
11. A limited Northern Provincial Council functioning at the mercy of the Centre

With no possibility of International Community and/or United Nations intervention, the gradual extinction of Tamils in Sri Lanka cannot be ruled out in the future.

The present President Ranil Wickramasinghe is not different from others as he appears to be a moderate leader but does not hesitate to seek refuge and exploit the Sinhala and Buddhist nationalism.



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Tamil Heritage Month Celebration by Bradford Tamil Association, January 21, 2024





# Grand Opening Of Niro Law, January 20, 2024.

Niro Law Grand Opening on January 20, 2024 marks a milestone for Niro Law. Niro Law firm is located at 10 Milner Business Court, Unit # 810, Scarborough.

*Niro is a young, very considerate, knowledgeable, passionate lawyer who has been featured on CBC NEWS and GLOBAL NEWS in 2023 for breaking an Ontario Real Estate Record by coordinating the capture of 3 fraudsters regarding a Real Estate Scam.*

*Niro has been practising the Law since 2018 and specializing in the fields of both Real Estate and criminal law. Niro also mentors and educates lawyers through his weekly workshop class for over 4 years now. Niro also volunteers at the Durham Soup Kitchen for over 6 months now on weekends to give back to his community.*

*Contact Niro Law for your Real Estate and Criminal Defense needs. He is always willing to assist. I wish him the very best. Charles Devasagayam, M.A.*





# Veenai Arangetram of Peruthekka & Priyanka Jayaratnam, December 23, 2023.

'Natha Veena Mantram' presented 'Veenai Arangetram,' of Peruthekka and Priyanka Jayaratnam, disciples of Tmy. Kuganeswary Sathiyamoorthy on December 23, 2023 at Chinese Cultural Centre, Toronto.

Priyanka is a fourth year student at the Schulich School Of Business. Also, Priyanka completed her Bharathanatyam Arangetram in 2018. She has also completed her Teacher's Certification in Bharathanatyam.

Peruthekka is a grade 12 AP student at Central Peel Secondary School. She also plays the trumpet in her school's concert & Jazz band.

The Orchestra included: Miruthangam: Thiru Vasuthevan Rajalingam; Ghatam: Selvan Ananthakumar Nadarajah; Thambura: Selvi Sainthavi Kulenthirajah; Morsing: Selvan Raguram Krishnaraja; Khanjira; Selvan Jatheeshan Raveenthiran; and Thalam: Selvan Moganan Raveenthiran.

*I wish both Peruthekka and Priyanka and their Guru and above all their parents, the very best Charles Devasagayam, M.A.*







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