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2017 a crucial year for Sri Lanka, says TNA leader Sampanthan and seeks a lasting solution for the national question

By: Siva Sivapragasam
For full story at Page 4



“2017 will be a crucial year in the history of our country. Our expectation is that we should find a permanent and lasting solution to the national question. The new Constitution in the New Year should bring about this achievement.”, says TNA leader R. Sampanthan, in a new year message.

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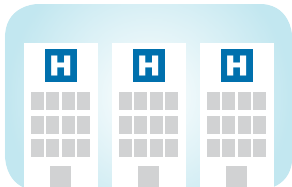
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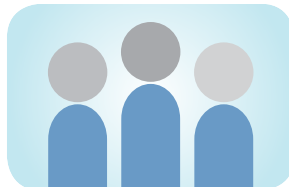
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**As we celebrate Tamil Heritage Month for the first time across Canada,
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Liberal Caucus wish you a very Happy Thai Pongal**

from the publisher's desk

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Embracing the Spirit of "Tamil Heritage Month"

Tamil month of 'Thai', falling on January 14th or 15th is Pongal day, the Tamil Thanksgiving Day celebrating sun, rain, farm cattle and ushering in pureness and prosperity.

In Sri Lanka, Thai Pongal is celebrated on Jan 14th in 2017.

Thai harvest celebration and thanksgiving are marked by the spillover of the traditional sweet rice cookout and everything good in abundance to follow in the year it joyously indicates.

Celebrated Philosopher-Poet Thiruvalluvar says in the first Kural ~ couplet, under Part I ~ Virtue (1.1.1 The Praise of God),

"As the letter A is the first of all letters, so the eternal God is first in the world". (Translated by Rev. G.U. Pope)

("Agara Muthala elluththellam Athi pakavan muthatre ulagu")

On Thai Pongal Day, the Sun is the celebrated Athi pakavan, eternal God.

Among other things, Thai pongal has long become a festival marking or taking gauge of prosperous sentiments in the lands of our roots, as one aspiring to be a farmer declined over a generation or two ago, the time of the year Thai Pongal falls and the traditions associated with its celebration make it an ideal time to take stock of sentiments.

In terms of Thai Pongal's "irrelevance" as for a non farming community today - that may also become a new reason to "celebrate" it as a matter of perseverance. This one festival of Tamils can be said that is causing it to be not celebrated in the same way as our ancestors did, particularly its outdoor events and then also it falls in the colder months where the most Tamil "exodus" have taken place.

One key aspect of the yester year tradition is that how important "Pongal Santhai" (Pongal market) became when markets in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern provinces used to convene on alternate days etc. When the market convened for the final time before Jan 14th, the crowds and spending habits would be the gauges on how well other sectors and the general spirit of the people would be too.

They all depended on a bountiful harvest. These aspects of our root still exist in one way or another. The very many Tamil Canadians embrace the

spirit of "Tamil Heritage Month" just for these aspects!

Thai Pongal has also been extremely popular with children throughout.

The legendary Kuzhandai Kavignar Azha Valliappa, (1922-1989) a pioneer known for dedicated work of children's literature in Tamil, wrote the following poem about Pongal in his collection of poetry for children, Malarum Ullam (Blossoming minds):

The poem brings out the charm in preparing for and celebrating Pongal festivities, and roughly translates as follows:

Walls newly painted
Floors neatly polished
Day break shower
Lamp within flicker
Garner decorated crock
Dazzle around turmeric
Crock atop stove
Milk therein pour
Foaming milk spillovers
Greetings galore 'Pongal 'o Pongal' *
Offer almighty rice
Coconut sugarcane feast
Together we eat
Singing dancing joyously

* Greeting on Pongal day saying Pongal 'o Pongal signifies the abundance of milk foam spillover, from the clay pot and other vessels that are used to make the sweet rice - Pongal, as sign of prosperity and happiness.

"Thai paves the way for good things to follow", is a Tamil proverb. Thai Pongal marks the first day of the Tamil month "Thai" - January; it is also the celebrated Tamil month for weddings, lasting into to eternal friendships and love, and is dazzled with numerous community events today signifying 'Thai', meaning the beginning of the Tamil month of January and a new dawn.

Monsoon Journal joins and wishes everyone a joyous 'Pongal 'o Pongal'!

Contributed by K. Thirukumaran



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2017 a crucial year for Sri Lanka...

Contd. from Page 1

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe encourages co-existence and harmony between all communities

By Siva Sivapragasam

"2017 will be a crucial year in the history of our country. Our expectation is that we should find a permanent and lasting solution to the national question. The new Constitution in the New Year should bring about this achievement.", says TNA leader R. Sampanthan, in a new year message.

Mr. Sampanthan has called upon all political parties, religious leaders, civil society and the people of Sri Lanka to join hands in working together to build a prosperous and peaceful country.

He further states in his new year message "While acknowledging diversity in our communities in several aspects, my appeal to all the people in this country is that we should strive hard to not let such diversity become a barrier to building a

prosperous and peaceful country for our future generations. Let us not miss this golden opportunity in the coming year. "I wish you all a happy and a prosperous New Year".

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has in his new year message has stated that the Sri Lankan Government is focused on empowering the people while encouraging co-existence and harmony between all communities. He has also sought the co-operation of all Sri Lankans in defeating agendas that are aimed at disrupting Sri Lanka's course set for success.

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena has also wished that the year 2017 dawns with new hopes of prosperity, coexistence and reconciliation among all communities.



Monsoon Journal Wishes
Readers, Advertisers, Well-Wishers
& Friends a
Happy Thai Pongal
January 14, 2017

"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" - George Eliot (22 November 1819 - 22 December 1880) English novelist, poet and journalist

Printing the Winds of Change around us All lands home, all men kin.

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Black rights activist Viola Desmond to be 1st Canadian woman on \$10 bill

Black rights activist Viola Desmond, who was jailed for defiantly sitting in the “whites only” section of a Nova Scotia film house, will be the first Canadian woman to be featured on the country’s \$10 bill.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz announced the selection of the groundbreaking beautician and businesswoman during an announcement last month at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Que. Desmond’s image will replace that of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada’s first prime minister, on the purple banknote beginning in 2018. Morneau called her an “extraordinary woman.”

Remembering a civil rights icon

Desmond’s selection greeted with joy in Nova Scotia. Desmond is often referred to as “Canada’s Rosa Parks,” though her historic act of defiance occurred nine years before Parks famously refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Ala.

At age 32, Desmond decided to go to the Roseland Theatre to see a movie while her car was getting fixed on Nov. 8, 1946, but she was thrown out of the “whites only” section and sent to jail. Black people could only sit in the balcony of the theatre.

The next morning, Desmond was convicted of defrauding the province of a one penny tax, the difference in tax between a downstairs and upstairs ticket, even though Desmond had asked to pay the one cent difference. Desmond was released after paying a \$20 fine and \$6 in court costs. She appealed her conviction but lost.

Racial segregation challenge

Her court case was the first known legal challenge against racial segregation brought forward by a black woman in Canada, according to a Bank of Canada news release.

“Viola Desmond was a woman who broke down barriers, who provided inspiration to Canadians around social justice issues and showed that each and every one of us, individually, can make a difference,” Morneau said.

She was granted a free pardon posthumously in 2010 by former Nova



Scotia lieutenant-governor Mayann Francis, the first black person to serve as the Queen’s representative in the province. The provincial government also issued a formal apology. She died in 1965 at age 50.

Another iconic Canadian, who will be chosen at a later date, will be featured on a future \$5 bill. Macdonald and Canada’s first francophone prime minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, will be featured on higher-value banknotes.

Those changes mean former Prime ministers William Lyon Mackenzie King and Sir Robert Borden will no longer be featured on banknotes.

Wanda and Viola Desmond

The legacy of Viola Desmond, right, who became a civil rights icon for her actions in the late 1940s, has been kept alive over the decades by her sister Wanda Robson, left. Desmond’s younger sister, Wanda Robson, who is now 89, has kept her legacy alive by giving interviews and writing a book about her story. She attended the recent announcement last December, and expressed pride and gratitude on behalf of the family.

“It’s a big day for a woman to be on a banknote. It’s a really big day to have my big sister on a banknote,” she said, describing Desmond as a “passionate” woman who cared deeply for people. “She inspired them as she inspires us.” Robson described Desmond as “well-spoken and dignified.” “She was elegant, with perfect manners and she treated everyone with respect.



“Status of Women Minister Patty Hajdu praised Desmond as an advocate for change.” “This spirit of activism is the force that allows us to make progress together as a society on difficult issues like racism, and sexism and inequality,” Hajdu said.

‘Ahead of her time’

Nova Scotia Liberal MP Rodger Cuzner said Desmond was “ahead of her time.” While her stand against racial segregation has not had the same attention around the world as Rosa Parks, Cuzner said Desmond’s story has come to the forefront in his province in the last 10-15 years. “Her story is one that Nova Scotians and Atlantic Canadians understand and respect and appreciate,” he said.

Ontario’s Grade 10 history curriculum makes three references to Desmond. Other tributes include a university scholarship and a Halifax harbour ferry in her name. A commemorative stamp was issued in her honour in 2012.

The other four on the short list were:

E. Pauline Johnson (1861-1913): Johnson, a Mohawk woman, was an acclaimed writer, poet and performer, whose work often examined Indigenous culture and traditions.

Elizabeth (Elsie) MacGill (1905-1980): MacGill, the first woman in the

world to work as an aircraft designer, is known for her work on the Hawker Hurricane fighter planes used in the Second World War.

Fanny (Bobbie) Rosenfeld (1905-1969): Rosenfeld won gold and silver on the track at the 1928 summer Olympics in Amsterdam.

Idola Saint-Jean (1880-1945): Saint-Jean, an educator and journalist, fought for women’s right to vote in Quebec.

The final five were selected by an independent advisory council, which drew from a list of 12 names. According to the Bank of Canada’s website, that list was from a pool of 461 “iconic” women whose names were submitted by Canadians and met the eligibility requirements.

According to the Bank of Canada, there are 132 million \$10 bills in circulation right now. The number of new banknotes printed annually fluctuates from year to year. The design and security features for the bill featuring Desmond will not be disclosed until closer to the release date in 2018. The new regular circulation banknote — the first in a forthcoming series — is expected to begin appearing in 2018.

Source: Kathleen Harris
- CBC NEWS



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Roots & Routes

The TDSB celebrates Tamil Heritage Month

by: Parthi Kandavel,
TDSB Trustee,
Scarborough Southwest

This past fall, I was put in touch with the New York Times who was interested in meeting a few of the recently arrived Syrian refugees, particularly to understand the children's experience in Canada. Over the course of a number of visits, the NYT produced a series of in-depth pieces featuring Syrian refugee children attending two schools in my ward, Oakridge Jr. PS (K-4) and Samuel Hearne Sr PS (5-8), next to each other. As I accompanied the journalist on one of the visits, while we chatted about the children's stories, it dawned on me, that our community, the Tamil community, underwent a similar experience. The office administrator, for Oakridge is Tamil, and her and I shared with the reporter that this same neighbourhood at (Pharmacy and Danforth) was once full of Tamil refugees in the 1990s, and then later by Afghan refugees in the 00s of the new decade. All these communities and their children had similar unfortunate experiences escaping war and insecurity.

In our present time, the vast majority of our Tamil students in the TDSB

were born and raised here. As part of this reality, through conversation and observation, unfortunately, some of our Tamil children are unaware of their families' and community's history as refugees to Canada. Thus, the theme for our Tamil Heritage Month celebration in 2017 was born, "Roots & Routes". Providing our children with the opportunity to discover and learn our roots and the many routes we have taken to find refuge in Canada.

In connection with Canada's 150th anniversary, it is important we acknowledge the enduring presence of our Indigenous communities, and recognize the fact that with challenges, Canada has become home to many communities seeking refuge and opportunities.

Thus, we will be asking students:

How has your family's route(s) to Canada as well as your cultural roots shaped and continue to shape your identity as a Tamil Canadian today?

This question will form the heart of our essay, original art, and public speaking contests. These opportunities will give students the opportunity to explore, reflect and creatively express their understanding of their roots and routes.

Celebrate Tamil Heritage Month for the first time in 2017 and take part in the broader Canada 150 celebrations Statement by Minister Joly on Tamil Heritage Month

OTTAWA, January 1, 2017

The Tamil-Canadian community is a shining example of how Canada is made stronger through its cultural diversity. The Tamil language is one of the oldest living languages in the world, and we are enriched by Tamil-Canadian contributions to every aspect of our society—arts and culture in particular.

In 2016, the House of Commons voted unanimously to recognize every January as Tamil Heritage Month to coincide with one of the most important celebrations for Canadians of Tamil heritage, the Thai Pongal harvest festival.

Tamil Canadians from coast to coast will celebrate this special milestone, during Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I encourage all Canadians to learn more about the rich history of Canada's Tamil community and to celebrate the



The Honourable Mélanie Joly

inspirational role that Tamil Canadians have played, and continue to play, in this country. I encourage you to celebrate Tamil Heritage Month for the first time in 2017 and to take part in the broader Canada 150 celebrations taking place around our country. This is a special year to celebrate one of Canada's greatest strengths: our diversity.

- news.gc.ca

"This year, I believe our legacy will be to innovate, to improve upon our inheritance, to make this country even better"

Governor General of Canada's New Year's Message



The Governor General of Canada—His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston

OTTAWA—Happy New Year, Canada, and happy sesquicentennial! What an occasion: the 150th anniversary of our Canadian family!

This year we celebrate, and we stand at a threshold. We have a rare, once-in-a-generation opportunity to think about Canada, and to look to the future.

We have a chance to reflect, to reaffirm, to look ahead and say: We love this country. We've come so far. Let's make it even better. And that's just what we'll do.

Canadians see this year as a chance to make a difference—to continue to build this country.

To all of you: Thank you for answering the call. Thank you for helping us seize this moment. Thank you for continuing the work of building Canada!

One hundred and fifty years ago, we began a great experiment. We called it Canada.

The premise was that diverse people can live and work together in a spirit of respect, compromise and common cause.

One hundred years later, in 1967, Canadians celebrated with a renewed outpouring of enthusiasm and nation-building.

Today, we continue to benefit from the legacies of Confederation and of our centennial.

And while not perfect, our Canadian experiment continues.

This year, I believe our legacy will be to innovate, to improve upon our inheritance, to make this country even better.

We're so fortunate to live in Canada, but there's so much more work to do.

Let's ensure this is a country of both excellence and equality of opportunity for all.

Let's work towards achieving reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples.

Let's continue to celebrate diversity. It's a strength, one that has allowed us to build a society that is the envy of the world.

Besides our 150th, we're marking many milestones this year:

The 375th anniversary of Montréal;

The 125th anniversary of the Stanley Cup;

And the 50th anniversary of the Order of Canada!

"They desire a better country"—that's the motto of the Order of Canada. In fact, it could be the unofficial motto of Canada this year! We all desire a better country. This year, we have a rare chance to shape it. A historic chance.

So let's work together. Let's celebrate, and let's keep building Canada.

Sharon and I wish you and your loved ones a very happy new year.

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President Obama leaves office after eight-year rule as Donald Trump takes over

By Siva Sivapragasam

A mixture of bold decisions and eloquent speeches as the President of the world's most powerful nation will come to an end for Barack Obama as he leaves office on January twentieth after a colorful eight-year presidency as the 70 year-old estate mogul-turned politician Donald Trump occupies the Presidential chair in the Oval Office.

Several world leaders have expressed their sentiments and comments that were tinged with a sense of uncertainty about things to come after Obama's Presidency. "I am going to miss having Barack around," said Canada's Justin Trudeau, "It's a great moment, but a sad moment, to have our last meeting," said Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

The brutal war in Syria has been the most difficult foreign policy challenge of Obama's eight years in the White House. He defended his decision not to invade the country, but warned no end to the bloodshed was in sight.

Obama voiced regret that, despite high approval ratings, he was stymied on issues like gun control, a minimum wage increase and infrastructure spending. But he defended the values of his presidency.

"The touchstone is what's good for the American people," he said.

President Barack Obama's last day as president will be January 20, 2017. Barack Obama took the stage and the presidency on a campaign of hope and change at a time when the economy was in the grips of recession. He turned the U.S. economy around and avoided a severe depression that would have spread around the world.

"At the end of the day and at the end of eight years, I can look back and say that I consistently did what I thought was best. Doesn't mean you don't make mistakes. But it means you're being true to your oath and the commitments you made to the people who elected you."

Obama was clear about his first priority for post-presidential life: "Take (First Lady) Michelle on vacation. The president has said that he wants



to "get some rest, spend time with my girls and do some writing, do some thinking."

As a parting shot, Obama administration sent out 35 Russian diplomats as a retaliatory measure for alleged Russian interference with the recently held U.S. Presidential election. Russia has not retaliated for Obama's action. Meanwhile, Trump praised Putin for

not acting with any retaliatory measures and tweeted that "Putin is very smart".

In a very recent speech Obama commented on what he has done during his tenure as President "I'm proud that I have tried to conduct myself in office to do what I think is right rather than what is popular"

Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran, a women's activist in Sri Lanka, has been appointed a member of the Right to Information Commission by the President of Sri Lanka Maitripala Sirisena

Dr. Thiruchandran is currently the Executive Director of the Women's Education and Research Centre in Colombo. She is also a Council Member of the Social Scientists' Association and Board member of the Noolaham Foundation and the Social Development and Research Organization. She also serves on the Council of the University of Peradeniya and represents Sri Lanka in the UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group (2015-2017). Her qualifications include a BA from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; MA in Women's Studies from the Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands; and a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Vrije, Amsterdam. Her scholarly contributions cover issues of gender equality and equity, feminist research methodology, women empow-

erment, women and religion, women in politics and violence against women.

Dr. Thiruchandran is the daughter of the Late Handy Perinbanayagam, a well-known educationist from Jaffna and a pioneering leader of the Jaffna Youth Congress. Her brother Dr. Robert Perinbanayagam who lives in New York was a Professor attached to Hunter College, New York.

The Sri Lankan Parliament passed the Bill to establish the Right to Information Commission and includes provisions on the public's right to know, assures access to information from government, public and local entities as well as information held by organizations who receive significant funding from the Government.

Five Officers are being appointed to the Commission with several seats des-



Picture shows Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran accepting her letter of appointment from the President of Sri Lanka, Maitripala Sirisena

ignated as being reserved for members of civil society and media representatives. The Commission will be in charge of handling the release of information, while the bill urges each public authority and body to appoint an information officer to meet possible and future requests for information.

The Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI), which comprises of FMM, SLW-

JA, the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka and the Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka welcomed the new Bill and stated that the Act "secures an essential right for Sri Lankan citizens and hoped that ensuring the effective implementation of RTI will be a truly national effort pursued passionately in the interests of improved governance and political accountability in Sri Lanka."

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Acquittal raises credibility concerns of Sri Lanka Justice System

A court in Sri Lanka on 24th December acquitted five men accused of involvement in the murder in 2006 of a prominent Tamil member of parliament. Raviraj's death sparked international condemnation. The men who have been cleared include three Sri Lankan navy personnel.

In a highly unusual move, the jury's verdict was delivered at midnight following a unanimous decision in the month-long trial. "The judgment is indicative of the people's distrust in the country's Judiciary. It is in this scenario that we demand an international panel of judges to probe the alleged war crimes. A lawyer who watched the interests of the aggrieved party, I will file an appeal," TNA parliamentarian and senior human rights lawyer M.A. Sumanthiran said after the verdict.

"The acquittal of five persons charged with the murder of a Tamil legislator in Sri Lanka has renewed scepticism over the credibility of the country's justice system, particularly in cases involving extra-judicial killings implicating the armed forces", India's The Hindu newspaper said.

The Report by Meera Srinivasan in The Hindu further said:

Following an all-Sinhalese jury's verdict, a Sri Lankan court on Satur-



M.A. Sumanthiran

murder.

"So it was obvious that a few junior-level naval officers had not done this on their own. They are as responsible for carrying out someone's orders, but it is only one small part of the puzzle. This happened ten years ago and we are still waiting to find out who gave the orders," Mr. Sumanthiran told The Hindu.

Giving evidence during the investigation, a former police constable who turned state witness, claimed that former Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa "had arranged a payment of Rs. 50 million to the Karuna faction to murder the MP", according to the state-run Daily News. Karuna Amman, or Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, broke away from the LTTE and was later appointed as Minister during



A statue of the former Tamil MP and human rights lawyer, N Raviraj who was assassinated 10 years ago was unveiled in Chavakachcheri, Sri Lanka North recently

day acquitted five men, including three Navy intelligence officers, accused of assassinating Nadaraja Raviraj in 2006. A Tamil National Alliance (TNA) parliamentarian and lawyer, Raviraj had actively sought to engage the Sinhalese on the Tamil national question, addressing them in Sinhala. On 10 November 2006, he and his bodyguard were shot dead on a busy road in Colombo.

According to TNA parliamentarian and senior human rights lawyer M.A. Sumanthiran, Sri Lanka's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Attorney-General's Department found evidence pointing to the involvement of the State Intelligence Service (SIS) in Mr. Raviraj's assassination. Additionally, the public prosecutor's indictment accused some "persons unknown to the prosecution" of being involved in the

Mahinda Rajapaksa's presidency.

The jury, however, deemed the available evidence insufficient to convict the accused.

The legal process in the murder probe appears fraught with discrepancies, observed lawyers. The case involved two offences — one, under Sri Lanka's Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and another, a murder charge under the penal code. While the accused naval officers were remanded under the PTA that disallows bail, they were permitted a jury trial under provisions of the ordinary law, even though the PTA disallows trial by jury, said Mr. Sumanthiran. "Under the PTA, a jury cannot pronounce the verdict as has now been done. It is illegal," said Mr. Sumanthiran, who appeared for Raviraj's wife in this case.

New UN chief Guterres pledges to make 2017 'a year for peace'

1 January 2017 – On his first day at the helm of the United Nations, Secretary-General António Guterres today pledged to make 2017 a year for peace.

"On this New Year's Day, I ask all of you to join me in making one shared New Year's resolution: Let us resolve to put peace first," said Mr. Guterres in an appeal for peace.

He said one question weighs heavy on his heart. "That is: how can we help the millions of people caught up in conflict, suffering massively in wars with no end in sight?"

"Peace must be our goal and our guide," he said, urging all citizens, governments and leaders to strive to overcome differences.

"I appeal to you all to join me in committing to peace, today and every day. Let us make 2017 a year for peace," he added.

Having been formally appointed by



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

the UN General Assembly on 13 October 2016, Mr. Guterres, aged 67, will serve for a five-year period from today to 31 December 2021. He was Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015.

- UN.org

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Announces Series of Incentives for Poor and Farmers

Dec 31, 2016, NEW DELHI - Asserting that his crackdown against corruption will not end, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a series of financial incentives for poor people, farmers, small businesses, women and senior citizens.

Modi addressed Indians on New Year's Eve, 50 days after he banned high denomination currency in a bid to root out illegal money. The measure led to huge paper money shortages among citizens that hurt poor people the hardest and caused widespread disruption in the informal sector.

Defending his move to scrap 86 percent of the country's currency overnight, he said, "Corruption, black money and counterfeit notes had become so rampant in India's social fabric that even honest people were brought to their knees."

Although many in the country initially supported the move, patience has worn thin in recent weeks as the government has not been able to meet the demand for new currency, resulting in snaking lines outside banks since the November 8 announcement.

Those lines are likely to continue into the New Year. Although the prime minister had asked for 50 days to restore normalcy, cash shortages have not eased and limits on the amount people can withdraw from banks remain in place.

Modi sought to address some of those concerns, saying efforts would quickly be made to restore normalcy to the banking sector. He said the focus would be on rural and remote areas, which have suffered the most from the cash crunch.

Acknowledging that the ban had led to hardship, the prime minister said people had shown patience, discipline and resolve in helping the government tackle corruption.



Among the promises Modi made were a discount on interest rates for home loans in rural and urban areas for poor and middle class people, doubling credit guarantees for small businesses, steps to help pregnant women and senior citizens and financial support for farmers.

Observers said the incentives are meant to alleviate growing anger among millions of poor people.

He promised tough action against the corrupt but promised to help law abiding citizens. "The law will take its own course with its full force, but the priority is how to help the honest and protect them."

Modi also called on all political parties to come together and take steps to ensure transparency in political funding, which many say is one of the major factors that fuels corruption.

Modi swept to power in 2014 promising to end graft, and while the currency ban aims to do that, political analysts have called it a risky gamble.

They say whether the move establishes his credentials as a strong leader who is meeting his promise or whether it loses him goodwill will be tested in crucial elections to be held in Uttar Pradesh province early next year.

Many economists have questioned the benefits of the currency ban and warn that it will hurt the economy while not achieving its objective of ending tax evasion. Modi however asserted that there is no precedent globally to what India has done. (VOA News)



Modern Luxurious Retirement Homes in Uduvil, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

By Siva Sivapragasam

The concept of retirement homes for the elders has not caught up in Jaffna. But now, it is becoming a reality with a project launched by a professional engineer Yogavarathan Mahalingasivam from Norway under the title of Rosewood Villa Heritage homes.

Yoga has transformed his property in Uduvil to build the retirement homes with all modern amenities and facilities that will make living a true comfort to the elderly. The design of the homes is based on a green house concept and undertaken by Architect Sumangala Jayatilekwho created the SOS children's village in Jaffna, and a range of residencies, boutique hotels and retirement homes.

Every unit of Rosewood Villa Elder Homes will come well-appointed with: Large bedroom with an attached Ensuite bathroom, disability access, television connection, a WiFi facility, individual solar power and back up power generator, and emergency alarm system in addition to a private kitchen. The homes will be fully furnished on request.

Rosewood Homes is also planning a

second phase with the consensus of the new

owners, where the following will be added: a Ayurveda SPA, a gym, a swimming pool, a nurse's base, a doctor's consulting room, a meditation center, which includes a multi-prayer room, dining area, indoor play area, maintenance room, and a library.

(Seen here are some pictures of the proposed retirement homes and the press meet held in Colombo)



Deepa Balachandran, B.A. (Hons.), B. Ed., J.D.
 Criminal Defence Lawyer
 Edward H. Royle & Associates, LLP

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*Please note: The material on this advertisement is not intended as legal advice. If you are the alleged victim/complainant (not the person charged), I cannot offer advice. Please contact your local Victims Services office for assistance.



Trustee Parthi Kandavel

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Theme: Roots & Routes

On Canada's 150th anniversary, we acknowledge the enduring presence of our Indigenous peoples, and recognize with challenges, Canada has become home to many communities seeking refuge and opportunities.

How has your family's route(s) to Canada as well as your cultural roots shaped and continue to shape your identity as a Tamil Canadian today?

This contest will give students the opportunity to explore, reflect and creatively express their understanding of their roots and routes by using the guiding question above. Contest **only** open to current TDSB students.

Essay Contest:

Grades 4-6:	200 – 250 words
Grades 7-9:	250 – 350 words
Grades 10-12:	350 – 500 words

3 Categories

Original Art Contest: 4 Categories

Grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12

Speech Contest:

Grades 4-6:	2 - 3 minutes
Grades 7-9:	3 minutes
Grades 10-12:	3 - 4 minutes

3 Categories

Art & Essay Deadline:

Monday, January 16th

Drop off at school or in-person:

Attn: Dani Carnevale

17 Fairmeadow Centre, Room 104

Times New Roman, Size 12 double-spaced

Speech Contest:

Register & attach speech to:

TDSBTamilHeritageMonth@gmail.com

by Monday January 16th

Contest held on Thursday, January 19th

Prizes: (per contest, per category)



1st Prize: \$100



2nd Prize: \$75



3rd Prize: \$50





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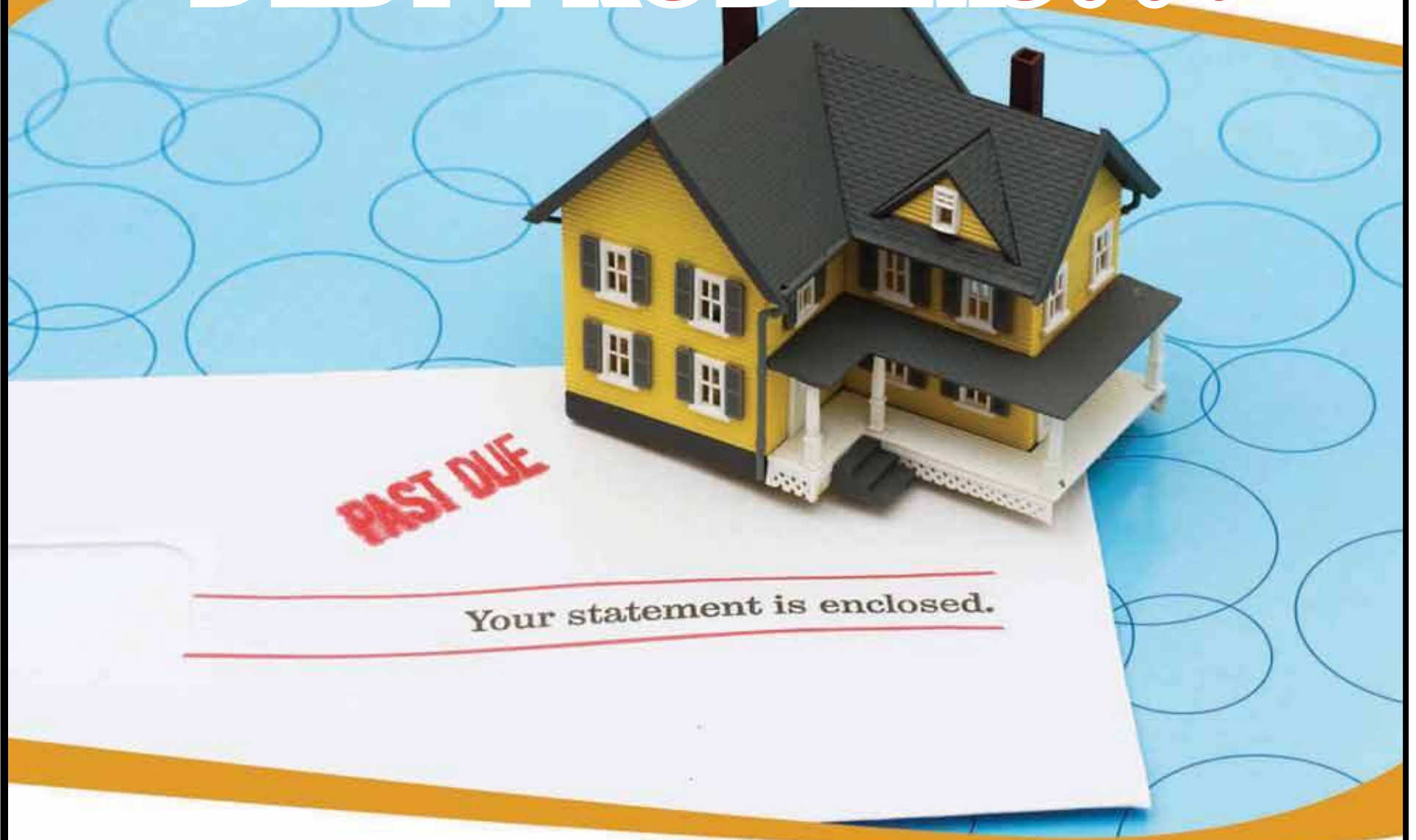
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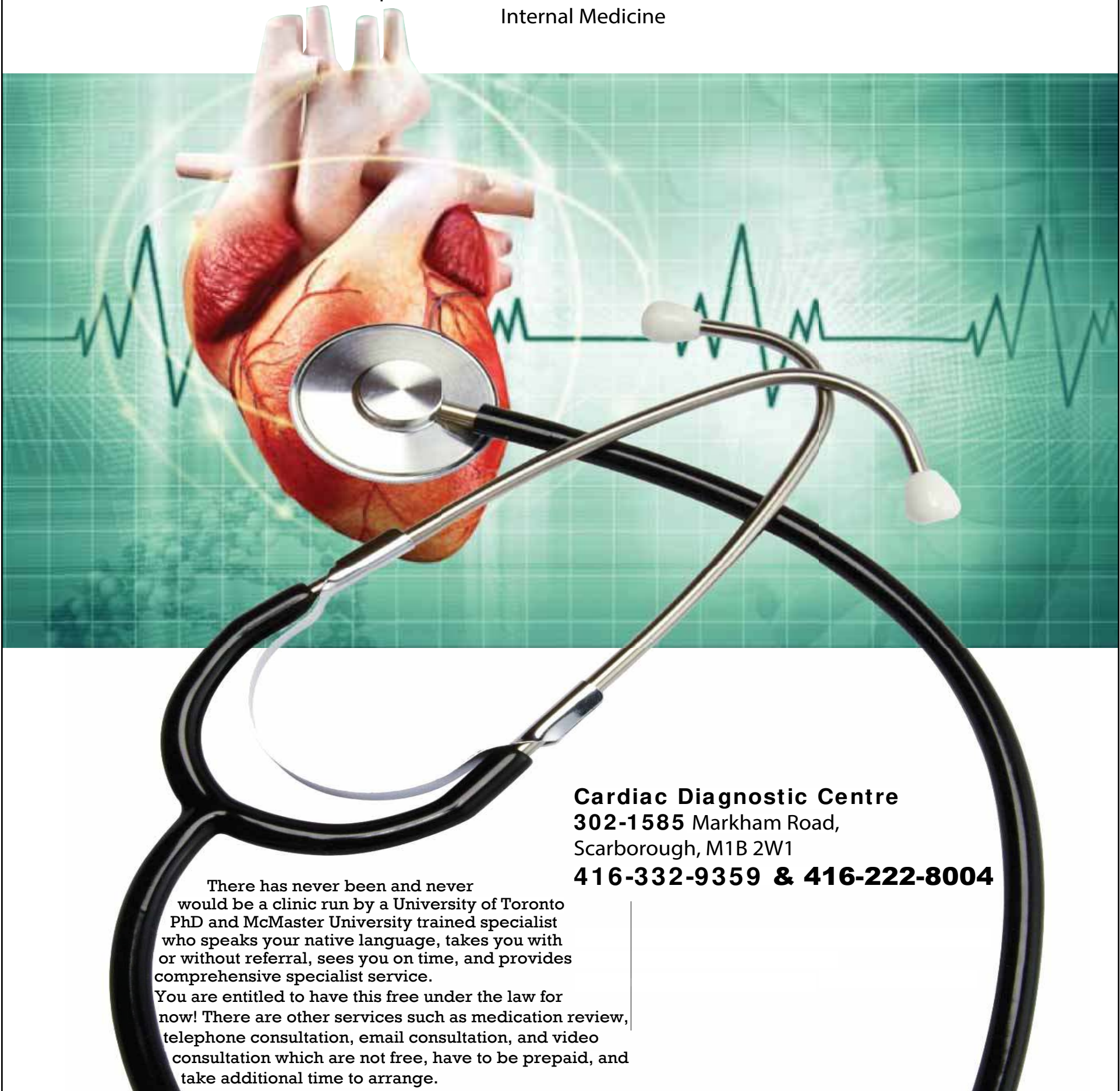
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Scarborough and Rouge Hospital



Health & Care

FOUNDATIONS PARTNER TO SUPPORT SCARBOROUGH AND ROUGE HOSPITAL; PROVIDING BETTER CARE AND A BROADER RANGE OF SERVICES CLOSE TO HOME



On December 1, 2016, the Birchmount and General sites of The Scarborough Hospital and the Centenary site of Rouge Valley Health System came together to form a single hospital corporation, known by the temporary name Scarborough and Rouge Hospital. Now, another exciting new partnership is being created with the Foundations serving these hospitals announcing their intention to merge.

The Scarborough Hospital Foundation and Rouge Valley Health System Foundation have begun the process of filing 'letters patent of amalgamation' to become the Scarborough and Rouge

Hospital Foundation, effective April 1, 2017. Until that date, the Foundations will partner as The Scarborough Hospital Foundation, supporting Scarborough and Rouge Hospital, and continue to raise funds for all three sites of the new hospital corporation.

"I am excited to announce that our family of donors is growing significantly, with the supporters of Birchmount and General sites partnering with supporters of the Centenary site," said John F. Bankes, Co-Chair, Board of Directors, The Scarborough Hospital Foundation. "We all share a common goal: to create the world-class health care system that

Scarborough deserves, and today, we are better positioned than ever before to do just that."

The merger of the two hospitals was one of the recommendations of the Scarborough-West Durham Expert Panel, established by Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Eric Hoskins. These recommendations also focused on infrastructure requirements and the construction of a new hospital in Scarborough.

The partnership of the Foundations will help to bring much-needed attention to local health care and sets the stage for significant investment at all

three sites in the very near future, including the new hospital.

All past, current, and future donations will be used as donors have instructed at the time of the gift. The Foundation is committed to its donor partners to ensure the best use of their donations in making the health care investments that are important to the community of Scarborough.

Questions about the merger of the Foundations can be directed to The Scarborough Hospital Foundation, supporting Scarborough and Rouge Hospital, at 416-431-8130.

Scarborough And Rouge Hospital Welcomes Health-Care Funding For Scarborough Community

Scarborough and Rouge Hospital will benefit from a funding announcement made December 12, 2016 by the Province of Ontario and the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN). The funds will allow health-care service providers to improve access to care; help reduce wait times; and support increased access to services that Scarborough patients and families rely on.

Scarborough Guildwood MPP Mitzie Hunter, along with Central East LHIN Board Chair Louis O'Brien, were at Momi Health Care Society to announce an investment of \$8,424,026 for health-care service providers in the LHIN's Scarborough communities – Scarborough North and Scarborough South – and an

additional investment of \$15,728,167 for the delivery of home and community care services across all LHIN communities. Some of the recipients of this funding include Scarborough and Rouge Hospital, the Central East Community Care Access Centre, and various local community support service agencies.

"The funding support announced here today will assist us in delivering on that goal of access, by helping us to respond to the increasing volumes of patients requiring care at our three sites – Birchmount, General and Centenary," said Andrée Robichaud, interim president and CEO, Scarborough and Rouge Hospital.

"It will also allow us to work with our physicians and nurses,

neighbouring hospitals, our paramedic partners, and other agencies to improve the wait times in our three emergency departments so that patients are treated as effectively and efficiently as possible," Robichaud continued. "Please know that everyone at Scarborough and Rouge Hospital is committed to continuing to work with the province, the Central East LHIN, our community partners here in Scarborough, and other health and social service providers across the LHIN and beyond to be the best at what we do in helping people to live healthier at home."

Read the full announcement by visiting the News and Events section at www.centraleastlhin.on.ca.

Hospitals merge to officially become new corporation

Effective December 1, 2016, the Birchmount and General sites of The Scarborough Hospital and the Centenary site of Rouge Valley Health System have officially become a single, new hospital corporation.

The temporary name of the new hospital corporation is Scarborough and Rouge Hospital.

In addition, Maureen Adamson has been named as Chair of Scarborough and Rouge Hospital's Board of Directors. Maureen is currently the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, bringing extensive knowledge and senior executive experience in government and the broader public sector to Scarborough and Rouge Hospital. Prior to taking on the post of Deputy Minister, she served as President and CEO for the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, and before that as President and CEO for Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

"This is truly an exciting time for health care in Scarborough," said Andrée Robichaud, Interim President and CEO of Scarborough and Rouge Hospital.

"As one unified organization, we will be able to deliver better and more equitable access to care, as well as provide our community a broader range of high quality services close to home. And, while we work to build this integrated

hospital system, each of our sites will continue to deliver the same great care our patients have come to expect from their community hospitals.

"We're grateful to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Eric Hoskins, and the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) for their continued support."

The merger of The Scarborough Hospital's Birchmount and General sites and Rouge Valley Health System's Centenary site was one of the recommendations of the Scarborough-West Durham Expert Panel, established by Minister Hoskins. These recommendations also focused on infrastructure requirements and the construction of a new hospital in Scarborough.

"We also acknowledge the ongoing commitment of our communities, Board members, physicians, staff, political leaders, and all health care partners in helping to make these historic changes a reality," said Andrée.

Scarborough and Rouge Hospital will continue to use the current websites of the legacy hospitals (tsh.to and rougevalley.ca) until a permanent name and branding for the new hospital is chosen.

For more information on the merger to create Scarborough and Rouge Hospital, visit ourhospitals.ca.

Scarborough And Rouge Hospital Family Rooms Celebrate First Anniversary



Staff, volunteers, and families came together on Friday, December 2 to celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the two Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Toronto Family Rooms at the Centenary site of Scarborough and Rouge Hospital (SRH).

The Family Rooms offer families of seriously ill children a 'home away from home' just steps away from where their sick child is being treated. Families with children in the Paediatric unit and in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) don't have to leave the hospital, or even the unit, for their self-care needs.

"The rooms have not only been a benefit to patients and families, but also to the staff that work in the children's program," said Danielle Powell, Manager of the Children's Program at SRH's Centenary site. "The staff have been proud to introduce the rooms to families, to encourage them to take some time for themselves."

The spaces are equipped with a

lounge area and TV, a kitchenette stocked with beverages and snacks, and washrooms with shower facilities. They are open and staffed every day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with the sleep rooms available 24 hours a day. Thanks to the 53 volunteers who work in the rooms, 873 families have been supported this year.

"Without the volunteers, this space is just a pretty room," says Deborah Holmes, Director of Programs and Operations for RMHC Toronto. Gesturing around the room on the paediatric floor, she said, "this is a room of rest and respite, where volunteers provide families with the basics of life and staples for comfort: safety, shelter, some food, and someone to listen."

Sani Samari used the Family Room on the paediatric level many times this year when her 16-year-old son Saif was in hospital for a total of 45 days over several months. "When I need rest, I come here to relax," she said. "Everybody here helps me. And having the room helped so much; being able to

shower made me feel so much better."

When family and friends come to visit Saif in hospital, they can rest in the Family Room too. "They all want to know why they don't have this in their hospital," said Sani, smiling. Her husband Tahrir has napped in the recliners, while her son Layth, 22, has stayed overnight in the sleep room. "It feels like family here," said Layth.

The Family Rooms demonstrate how RMHC Toronto and SRH are supporting the active involvement of the family in patient care. Research shows that when parents stay close to their ill children, and are less-stressed and well-rested, they are able to be more involved in clinical decision making and care. This leads to a better experience for the patient, the family, and the clinical staff.

There's no doubt that the Family Room has created a better experience for Samari and her family. Asked if she had anything else to say about the room, her voice grows heavy with emotion. She said, simply, "thank you."

KNOW YOUR HEALTH CARE OPTIONS THIS WINTER PLUS, FIVE WAYS TO HELP PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE FLU

Scarborough and Rouge Hospital's (SRH) Emergency Departments (ED) are often busier during the winter season as a result of the flu. As always, ED patients are seen on a triaged basis, which means the most serious cases are seen first.

The EDs at SRH's Birchmount, General, and Centenary sites are open 24/7 for anyone experiencing a health-care emergency. However, if your health-care needs are not an emergency, there are other community health-care providers that can help, including family physicians; urgent care, walk-in, or after-hours clinics; and Telehealth Ontario (call toll-free to speak to a Registered Nurse at 1-866-797-0000 or TTY: 1-866-797-0007).

Visiting patients at SRH

If you have a fever (over 100F/38C) and cough AND one or more additional symptom(s) (including headache, aching muscles, sore

throat, and fatigue or weakness) you likely have a flu-like illness and should avoid visiting patients at the hospital. This will prevent the transmission of your cold/flu symptoms to hospital patients and staff. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Five ways to help protect yourself from the flu:

1. Get your flu shot, which is available from most family physician offices, community health centres, walk-in clinics, and pharmacies;
2. Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub for at least 15 seconds, before and after visiting patients, to help prevent the spread of the flu virus;
3. Cough and sneeze into your sleeve;
4. Eat healthy food and exercise; and
5. Get plenty of rest.



Paramount Fine Foods Markham raising money to support the Markham Stouffville Hospital

Paramount Fine Foods, the fastest growing Middle Eastern Restaurant in North America continues its rapid expansion into Markham.

Paramount Fine Foods Markham recently opened and in commemoration of its grand opening held on December 20th, owner Saqib Malik and his team hosted a fundraising program to support Markham Stouffville Hospital. For the month of November 2016, fifty per cent of the proceeds of the sweets sold benefited the local hospital to help purchase equipment and priority needs that the government does not fund.

Through the campaign, \$3,000 was raised and on the day of the Grand Opening Celebrations – Paramount Founder/President & CEO, Mohamad Fakih topped the donation adding an additional \$4,000 to make a total \$7,000 contribution to support the health of the Markham and Stouffville communities.

The check was presented to the Markham Stouffville Hospital CEO, Jo-anne Marr during the Markham lo-

cation Grand opening on December 20, 2016.

Paramount's founder and CEO, Mohamad Fakih, was eager to be a part of the Markham community.

"We are very excited about the continuous expansion, and very happy to be opening in Markham and raising money for the hospital," says Fakih. Paramount Fine Foods will have a confirmed 51 locations by the end of this year worldwide.

About Paramount Fine Foods

Paramount Fine Foods is North America's fastest growing halal Middle Eastern restaurant chain that provides healthy and fresh ingredients. HMA Certified, the company sources only the freshest products for its authentic recipes. Paramount employs over 1500 staff members within, 36 locations in Ontario, a gourmet butcher shop, a food factory, and the new Fresh East franchise.

For additional information and restaurant locations, visit www.paramountfinefoods.com.



L-R Faisal Malik, General Manager, The Honourable John McCallum, MP, Saqib Malik, Owner, Jo-anne Marr, President & CEO, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Khalid Usman, Director, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation Board and Mohamad Fakih, Paramount Fine Foods Founder/President & CEO



L-R The Honourable John McCallum, MP, Saqib Malik, Owner, Mohamad Fakih, Paramount Fine Foods Founder/President & CEO, Jo-anne Marr, President & CEO, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Khalid Usman, Director, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation Board and Allan Bell, Director, Community Relations & Corporater Partnerships

Scarborough and Rouge Hospital welcome New Year's babies

Final baby of 2016 born at Centenary site and first baby of 2017 born at General site



SCARBOROUGH (January 1, 2017) –Scarborough and Rouge Hospital (SRH) is proud to welcome a little girl as the last baby born in 2016, and a little boy as the first baby born in 2017.

Emmeline Mason was born at the Centenary site at just nine minutes before midnight on December 31; the final baby born at the hospital for 2016. Less than two hours later at 1:47 a.m., the General site welcomed Kayson Xie as the first baby of 2017.

Kayson was a special New Year's surprise for mom Yan Juan Cao, as he was not due to be born until January 4. However, when Yan Juan's water broke the evening of December 31, she quickly realized that Kayson was going to make an early entrance into the world. Yan Juan arrived at the hospital shortly after midnight on January 1 and Kayson made his debut less than two hours later weighing a healthy 8 pounds, 2 ounces.

Although Yan Juan says that all the staff and physicians who cared for her were "very nice", she admits that this birth was much different than that of her other two sons, both of whom were also born at the General site.

"My first baby was born by Caesarean section and my second child was born eight days past his due date, so I wasn't expecting this baby to arrive so early," explains Yan Juan.

Emmeline's birth was also a surprise for first time parents Bronwyn and Robert Mason.

"My due date was actually Christmas Day, but it's also very special to have a baby born on New Year's Eve. Not many people can say that," said Bronwyn.

The Pickering residents explain that they specifically chose to have their baby at the Centenary site; Robert has received care there multiple times and Bronwyn was also born at the hospital.

And Bronwyn admits that the staff and physicians were equally "amazing" throughout the birth of their daughter, who weighed in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces.

Bronwyn, Robert, and Yan Juan, like thousands of other expectant parents each year, have benefitted from the wide variety of services available in SRH's Women's and Children's program. These include prenatal classes and an early pregnancy assessment clinic; midwifery and doula services; water births; umbilical cord banking; Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) for at-risk babies born prematurely and/or with complications; a neonatal follow-up clinic; and both prenatal and postpartum breastfeeding clinics.

Paediatric services at SRH include a child development program; occupational therapy; speech language pathology; early parenting classes; and day surgery, as well as a number of specialty clinics for conditions, such as allergies, sickle-cell anaemia, cancer, kidney disease, and obesity.



VAIN EXPECTATIONS

C. Kamalaharan



I returned to my village
 After a lapse of two decades
 To rejoice in the lush green habitat
 And reminisce my lost youth

Thrilled to be among my peers
 And view the sweeping changes
 That modernized my village
 Without changing its heritage

The potholed bumpy roads
 That caused traffic snarls
 Have been widened, carpeted
 And demarcated into two ways

What was considered a luxury
 Has now become a necessity
 Telephone once the possession of the affluent
 Is now in the possession of everyone

Camera was out of reach of the common man
 It has become the companion of every man
 The advent of the digital cameras
 Have outmoded the roll film cameras

School buildings battered and shattered
 Through relentless bombing and shelling
 Have been refurbished and extended
 By the OBAs spread far and wide

When innovative changes are taking place
 It's really heart-rending sights to see
 A spate of violence raising its ugly head
 Pushing back peace to a distant dream

Youths brandishing swords and knives
 Roam about speeding in two wheelers
 Threatening and stabbing people ferociously
 As they go on revelling notoriously

In spite of the tight security situation
 Eve-teasing abduction and whisking off girls
 For their carnal pleasures goes on unabated
 As they take the law in their hands

Drug abuse is another menace that has sprouted
 Drug intoxicated youths loitering about
 Casting obscene remarks at passersby
 And go on rioting is deplorable

The terror turmoil and tension is over
 And peace seems to crawl
 Yet miscreants act against the law
 Only an iron fist can tighten the law

I arrived with great expectations
 Only to see our youths going berserk
 And society heading towards decadence.
 I leave with all my expectations in vain.





WORDS OF PEACE



The Tree within the Seed

“Have you ever had one of those days when you just feel good?” asks Prem Rawat. “I mean, there’s no particular reason. It’s not like it’s your day off or it’s somebody’s birthday. It’s not even your birthday. You just feel good. For no reason at all, you feel good.”

“If to feel good simply because you feel good is human nature, how far are you from that? Only you can judge this. How far are you from that feeling? You just get up one day and you feel good—but what was it that made you feel good? I bet you don’t even know. Then I submit humbly to you that this is the way you should feel every single day.”

If that feeling of peace, of joy at being alive, can arise so spontaneously, then, he says, there’s no need to try to find a way to create it.

“My message is very, very simple,” says Mr. Rawat, who is internationally acclaimed as an ambassador of peace. “My message is this: What you are looking for is within you.”

Since he was very young, he has been bringing this message to people around the world—a mission he says is more difficult than it may sound.

“It’s nearly impossible to try to explain to somebody why you need peace,” he says. “If someone says, ‘Would you like some water?’ I can say, ‘No, I don’t want any water. I’m okay. I don’t feel thirsty’—but when I am thirsty, I’ll say, ‘Please, please give me water!’ It’s a question of recognition.” Peace is inside a human being, he says, in the same way that a tree is inside a mango seed.

“If I say to you, ‘Bring it out,’ he says, ‘how would you do it? Crack it open? Cut into it with a hacksaw and pull it out? It’s not going to work that way.”

Yet when people hear that peace is inside of them, Mr. Rawat says, “They say, ‘How? Crack me open! Give me some magic formula so I can try it on my wife.’”

“Is there a mango tree inside the mango seed or not? How do you get it

out? Plant it in the right place where it can get some sunshine, where it can get some warmth, where it can get some water, and sure enough—there is a mango tree inside that seed.”

Sometimes when he says that the peace we are looking for is within, Mr. Rawat says, people will respond, “Give me a glimpse of it so I can just have some proof.”

“What can I do?” he asks. “The tree is in the seed. I can’t open the mango seed and show you the tree, but it’s there. In the same way, if you plant this seed in the soil of your heart and give it the water of understanding, the sunshine of clarity and the tender care of kindness, it will germinate.”

“Then you will have not just one tree. That tree has the potential for thousands of seeds. Each one of those seeds has a potential to be a tree—and on and on it goes. Now we’re talking about a forest.”

Yet instead of making the effort

to nurture peace within, Mr. Rawat says, people look for certainty outside, in a very uncertain world.

“You think if you have a secure future, you will be happy,” he says. “Not according to me, but according to scientists, this idea of infinite tomorrows is looking very uncertain. When the entire future of the earth is uncertain, when the future of the whole galaxy is uncertain, when the future of the entire universe is uncertain, you are looking for certainty? All I can say is—good luck.”

“However, in you, right now, life is pulsing. You exist. You can experience, you can understand, you can be clear. Go for it. Live, now! Don’t wait for tomorrow. Today is all you’ve got. Stick with it.”

To learn more about Prem Rawat :
1 877 707 321
416 431 5000 Tamil
416 264 7700 Hindi
www.wopg.org
www.tprf.org
www.premrawat.com



CANADA SHOCKED BY THE MURDER OF DR. ELENA SHAMJI

The system failed to protect the family from this tragedy

By: Uthayan Thurairajah

Toronto neurosurgeon Dr. Mohammed Shamji, 40, accused of first-degree murder in the death of his doctor wife Dr. Elena Shamji, 40, was charged with assaulting her in 2005. Dr. Mohammed Shamji faced charges of assault and uttering threats while he and his wife were living in Ottawa. Two months later, Dr. Shamji signed a peace bond, and the domestic dispute charges were withdrawn.

In Ottawa, Dr. M. Shamji was completing his residency in neurosurgery and Dr. Elena Shamji had established a family medicine practice that suddenly closed when Dr. M. Shamji was offered a job at Toronto Western Hospital in 2012.

According to colleagues and friends, Dr. Elena Shamji had opted to end the couple's 12-year marriage just days before her death. The two were still living in the same house, in their North York home, at the time of Dr. Elena Shamji's death. Their three children are currently with Dr. Elena Shamji's mother, according to police.

Dr. Elena Shamji's body was discovered inside a suitcase near the West Humber River underpass, about an hour outside of Toronto. One day after, the police arrested Dr. M. Shamji in a Mississauga coffee shop. He remains in custody until a bail hearing in January 2017. She had been reported missing by her mother, though not by her husband. For local friends and family of Dr. Elena Shamji, the much-loved doctor's death came as a shock and deeply painful.

Married Life

Nobody gets married and have children with the intention of getting the divorce. Separation or Divorce is a last resort to anyone. The couples are very well educated and liked by the peers and friends, and their services much need to the society. It is a tragic incident which clearly tells that there are a lot of untold painful story behind this murder.

Marriage is a very emotional relationship. It may be slightly different for person to person. Most people think family is their life. When the family is gone due to separation or divorce, they do not have life, and the purpose of life become meaningless. They are ready to do anything and face any consequences. Both Doctors are very friendly, beautiful, well respected and highly educated people. After all, they are human. Now, Mother murdered, and father is in Detention, and three children are out of both parents. It is sorrowful and touched everyone heart.

The Nature of People

A girl meet a man and like him. They start dating or end up in marriage. Then they begin to notice the tiny flaws. They may have different beliefs and culture. Both can be brilliant, but their lack of family life awareness may be the chink in his or her armor. Both may yell each other, just like their parents did. Both may become abusive to each other. Women become verbal, and man becomes physical abusers. "It is O.K.," you tell yourself, "I will fix him or her after we get married."

Stop right there. There is no fixing it. The boy or girl you date will be the same after you are married. Did he or she naturally kind? He or she will still be kind. Did he or she addict to a bad habit? He or she will still be addicted. You cannot change the fundamental nature of other people unless they reborn again.

Choosing the right person is a challenging task. Don't pick anyone you want to fix, or who wants to fix you. In so doing, you set yourself up for misery and disappointment. God does not create 100% matching couples and astrology also supporting this statement. Most of the time, we do not see the actual personality of the people. We can only slowly see after live together.

Why we get angry?

We get angry when we faced with a situation which we do not like or want to see or hear. We may meet hundreds of issues we do not like including disagreement with our spouse or partner. When people are angry, it is usually a reaction to other emotions such as feeling hurt, jealous, worried, rejected, embarrassed and more.



Elana Fric Shamji @ElanaFricShamji · May 22
Family run day is family fun day #run #running

Dr. Shamji Family

If someone you know is acting like they are annoyed at you. They want you to know something is not right for them.

Their anger could be a result of something you have done or said. Most of the time, we are not in control of what happens to us. When a person is angered, he or she will naturally seek to attack others. Most people feel that their family is their life. A sudden paradigm shift in family life is very hard for some people to accept or tolerate. It seems to be Dr. M. Shamji does not like divorce, and he did not have an alternate choice. He was trying to negotiate with the spouse, but it was



limbic system

not workout. We can assume that the angry verbal conversation turned to physical which finally leads to this murder.

Limbic system

They love their children very much and have so much respect in the professional field and the society. It seemed that Dr. M. Shamji logical brain had gone offline, and his emotional brain had taken over!

The primary job of the logical brain (frontal lobe) is to understand and determine how to use information that is located somewhere else in the brain. More specifically, the frontal lobe carries out higher mental processes, such as thinking, decision making, and planning. When it is online and working it can help keep our emotions under control. But when we are angry we may slip into original thinking – survival mode. Our limbic system kicks in, and our frontal lobe SHUTS DOWN and is not open to new information.

Uncontrolled angry situation hijack the logical brain and completely block his knowledge and the thinking of his education, children, society respect, his

future and others. From this, we can believe that the way he killed his wife and hide the body is not a first degree or premeditated murder as police charged. Most of the time, husband, and wife both are responsible for their separation and divorce. A single parent who separated or divorced for whatever reason thanks your spouse for tolerating the decision of separation or divorce because it is not an easy decision.

Controlling Behaviour

So many people complain in the social media about the controlling behavior of Dr. M. Shamji. Nobody knows what kind of controlling behavior he portrayed. We should not make an irresponsible statement like this. There are a lot of stories behind this murder. Only God knows. We are controlled directly or indirectly by so many people and the establishments. We are controlled by the parents, school system, workplace, government institutions, police, and others. Do not we need to have discipline at home? Can anybody do anything at home in the name of freedom?

This is where the system failed to identify what are the controlling behaviors he portrayed and whether this controlling behavior is legitimate and required for a family life, peace and success for the children future. We know every religion has a own belief system, and every culture has own value, but the fundamental human value must be same.

The system failed

Why someone abuses the partner or others? There are many reasons for it. It can be mental health, stress, cheating, an unfair or unethical behavior and more.

The system only punished the accused without finding the nature or cause of abuse. The system failed to locate the root of the problem and did not provide required counseling or treatment to the victim. When there is abuse, both parties are the victim, but the system only punishes the accused and not the accuser. Therefore, the root of the problem never been addressed or resolved.

The government professionals — including police, health-care providers, councilors and social workers — dealt with the family situation failed to understand the fundamental issue. Both people need to get the required services not only the accused, and these shortcomings remain today. If the roots of the problem did not address on time, it is hard to avoid these kinds of tragic incidents. According to Dr. Mohammed Shamji's patient testimony, he is a very friendly, humble and highly respected caring person. He can also be emotionally disturbed. It is very normal to have knowledge and advice others. When it come to their personal issue, depends on how they are deeply connected, people react differently. People know smoking and drinking

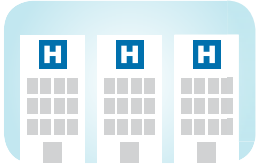
alcohol harmful for their health, but they do it. Love and caring are eroding in most of the family life. Parents have to be a good example for the future generation. It is easy to break everything but building needs lot of hard work, compromise, forgiveness, love, and care. It is unfortunate; we are living in the society which gives more prominence to material life than human values.

Both spend over 80% of their time in education. The married couple is blessed with three beautiful children. Despite the fact that there is disagreement in a given situation, they have portrayed that they very much enjoyed their life with the kids. Now, a very highly educated family has been destroyed. The society lost very useful doctors, and children lost their loving parents. What a sudden unexpected mess. Do not forget "the end of education is a character." Human values are very much important than education.

The Intelligent Quotient (IQ) is improving but sadly not the Emotional Quotient (EQ). When it comes to peace, happiness, and success in life, EQ matters as much as IQ. Peace and value Education may play a vital role in this aspect to generate good citizens.

Count on us!

What you can expect from the newly-merged Scarborough and Rouge Hospital (SRH)



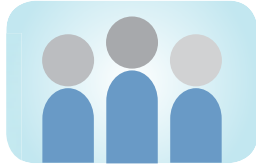
3 Hospital sites delivering a wide range of health-care services

Serving the Scarborough community, SRH includes the Birchmount, General and Centenary sites.



2 Logos reflecting the legacy hospitals that formed SRH

Both legacy hospital logos will be used together with our temporary name.



1 Team committed to providing quality patient care

Everyone at SRH shares the same commitment to putting patients and families first.

SCARBOROUGH AND ROUGE HOSPITAL



www.tsh.to | www.rougevalley.ca

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Sales Representative

Suman Mukherjee
Sales Representative

Resty Ragragio
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Maaz Abowath
Sales Representative

Shama Mandur
Sales Representative

Frank Elhami
Sales Representative

Mairaj Ahmed
Sales Representative

Lavan Nagulendran
Sales Representative

RISING STAR OF THE YEAR

Kettanan Santan
Sales Representative

RISING STAR TEAM OF THE YEAR

YOUNG GUNS TEAM

Kettanan Santan
Sales Representative

Vasanthan Thurairasa
Sales Representative

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1. CONDONEXT TEAM
2. AHMED TEAM
3. YOUNG GUNS TEAM
4. ZAKIR & AHMAD TEAM
5. CONDOMINIUM.CA TEAM



TOP 5 Club

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Thana Suseendra
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Sales Representative

Resty Ragragio
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Sales Representative

Sev Tozcu
Sales Representative

Naanan Sathiyamoorthy
Sales Representative

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Sales Representative

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Karim Suleiman
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Sales Representative

Arasan Rajadurai
Sales Representative

Abdulfatah Ebadi
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Ishtiaq Ahmed
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Kettanan Santan
Sales Representative

Osad Edokpayi
Sales Representative

Sayra Badani
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Sales Representative

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Sales Representative

Aminul Islam
Sales Representative

Vasanthan Thurairasa
Sales Representative

Manik Chanda
Sales Representative

Ahzan Raza
Sales Representative

Imran Sheikh
Sales Representative

Taha Burhani
Sales Representative

Bobby Kakkar
Sales Representative

Mario Aquino
Sales Representative

Shameem Chakra
Sales Representative

Imran Ahmad
Sales Representative

Fareed Kuhafa
Sales Representative

Miro Hadjimin
Sales Representative

Rita Jeti
Sales Representative

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Sales Representative

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Ricky Soon
Sales Representative

Ahmad Mian
Sales Representative

Mona Kakkar
Sales Representative

Balan Nagarajah
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Sales Representative

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Sales Representative

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Sales Representative

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Samina Patel
Sales Representative

Jamiel Osman
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THE POLITICS BETWEEN GODS AND WORSHIPPERS IN JAFFNA'S HINDU PANTHEON



New temple coming up in Puttur

By Thulasi Muttulingam

When the peninsula of Jaffna is called to mind, foremost among its iconic images to crop up are likely its colourful temples. The area was always known for its temples but currently more and more are coming up or being refurbished in multi-hued splendour.

Shimmering temples painted all the colours of the rainbow dot the peninsula. What though are the sociological ramifications behind them? Something more than simple piety as it turns out. It is a process that Indian sociologists term 'sanskritization' and local sociologists have termed 'vellalarization' (imitating the dominant vellalah caste, by the other castes in a quest for social mobility).

Sanskritization / Vellalarization

"It is a process of elite formation," explains Somesasundari Krishnakumar (60), lecturer in history at Jaffna University. "There are some markers of upward social mobility among people, such as economically well-paying jobs, land and prestige. Access to, and control of religious and spiritual power is one such marker in this regard."

In Jaffna, access to and control of religious and spiritual power have long remained in the hands of the dominant vellalah caste, who have denied meaningful engagement in temple worship and management to many of the oppressed castes.

"Traditionally the oppressed castes were not even allowed entry into temples," says S.K Senthilvel (73), a leftist leader and activist who has fought against caste oppression for decades in Jaffna. He adds, "In the 1960s and 70s, a widespread campaign to make temples open their doors to all the castes bore fruit. Yet over time, the marginalized castes preferred to build their own temples when that became economically viable rather than competing for space in the dominating castes' temples."

An aspect of this is that the oppressed castes who have always had their own modes of worship to their own clan deities, have in this quest for social mobility and acceptance, sanskritized their deities and modes of worship.

Sanskritization is defined by sociologists as 'the process by which castes placed lower in the caste hierarchy seek upward mobility by emulating the rituals and practices of the upper or dominant castes.'

Thus communities that once worshipped their own clan deities in the open air or under trees, have now started building elaborate temples into which

"Thus many of the oppressed castes have obliterated their clan deities such as Val-yakkan in the case of the paraiyar community or Annemar in the case

Thiruchelvam Selvamanoharan (38), lecturer on Hindu Civilization at Jaffna University re-affirms her view, "The paraiyar community were one of the



Beyond this point, we'll not be able to enter once the temple is constructed, says a villager



The temporary shed in which the main Annemar deity worshipped by the community is currently housed



The local community priest by the deities he does puja for. He will be replaced by a brahmin priest once the temple is completed and the main deity will switch from Annemar to Murugan



The original tree under which worship was once conducted. The temple is being constructed by it now

only Brahmin priests can enter to do pujas. The Gods they worship have unfortunately not been left out of this 'development' process.

Caste Identity Markers

"There are many markers to identify your caste in Jaffna including the Gods you worship," explains Somesasundari Krishnakumar, Jaffna history lecturer.

of the pallar community in favour of sanskritized gods such as Narayanan and Murugan. This is unfortunate as the paraiyar community in particular are the adi-dravidas of the region, the earliest inhabitants who appear to have worshipped a YakKha God, who has now been erased from our collective memories and history. We are losing bits and pieces of our history through this obliteration process."

first communities to give up the god they worshipped. Being the most oppressed caste, they tried hard to do away with markers that could give away their caste identity. The god they worshipped denoted a strong yakkha deity (val means strong), but since he has unfortunately been erased from the people's collective memory, not much is known about the deity, who almost certainly had some interesting historic origin in Sri Lanka."



Places where the Val-Yakkan deity was worshipped have transformed into Narayanan temples now. In the mean-



The various minor sanctuaries around the main temple, which will house minor deities all of whom the brahmin priest will be paid separately to conduct pujas for

time, even those who have been holding out till now are in the process of changing. In Puttur currently, a Murugan temple is being built. The original deity was Annemar, worshipped by the toddy tapping (nalavar) and agricultural labourer (pallar) castes. Annemar is soon going to be replaced by Murugan and the community explains why: "We decided to upgrade our worship rituals in keeping with the upper castes in the area. Before, they wouldn't let us take part in their temples festivals because they deemed our worship practices as degrading. We used to worship Annemar under a banyan tree here. We had annual pongal and animal sacrifice festivals which was looked down upon by the upper castes, so in 1985, we stopped the animal sacrifice.

"A man from our community, with his mouth tied, would do the pujas for us while our community worshipped. But this too we have come to understand is a sin. Only a Brahmin priest who wears the sacred thread, should do pujas. So we are building a big temple now, and once it's finished, only a Brahmin will be allowed in."

The community who are mostly agricultural labourers, have been building the temple in fits and starts as the funds are hard to come by. "Some of our people have migrated abroad and they have sent significant sums of money to build the temple, but it is still not enough. It's been a slow process but we'll eventually get there."

They are not blind to the fact that the differences in worship rituals might cost their community dearly. "We'll be collectively paying the Brahmin priest a salary of Rs.30,000 per month. Besides that, as per agamic (Sanskritized worship) stipulations, we are building several mini-sanctuaries around the main temple, housing various other deities. When the Iyer (Brahmin priest) does puja at each of these sanctuaries, we will have to shell out Rs.20s afresh on his puja tray for interceding on our behalf with each deity. Thus we will pay out Rs.60 -100 per person on any given day of worship.

In the meantime, we don't pay anything to our own community priest who does the pujas for us currently. He gets neither a salary nor puja service fees."

What does the local community priest

himself think about all this? He just shrugs and smiles. "The educated and better employed members of our community want this change, so who am I to stand in their way? I lose nothing by it."

He works as an agricultural labourer to support his family and took over the community's priestly work from his uncle. "Our family have been the community priests for generations but once the big temple is built, I won't be able to enter the sanctum sanctorum. Only the Brahmin priest can do that. I have no opinion on it either way. If this is what our developing community members want, let them have it," he says philosophically.

Vellalah Practices

The brahminization and sanskritization of temple rituals is not confined to only the oppressed castes however. It is common among the Vellalah caste too. They too had open-air worship practices of stones and tridents

under trees – worship practices in which community members including women were able to do the pujas themselves instead of depending on the intercession of a Brahmin priest.

Both Somesasundari and Selvamano-haran concur that Sanskritization as a mainstream process came to Sri Lanka due to the offices of Arumuga Navalar, the 19th century Hindu Revivalist.

"Hindu revivalism in Sri Lanka predates Buddhist revivalism, both of which were aggressive counter-movements founded to stem the Christian Evangelism sponsored by the Colonial government," they note.

And while Arumuga Navalar is credited with doing away with some unlikeable practices such as animal sacrifices in mainstream Sri Lankan Hindu worship, he also heavily imported Sanskritized forms of worship, such as the need for agamic temples, Brahmin priests to officiate as the intermediaries between people and their gods, and the denial of access to women and the oppressed castes to such places of worship.

"Before the advent of Hindu revivalism (circa 1840s), most of our worship practices were inclusively open-air and non-agamic," says Selvamano-haran. "It was this style of worship that had protected Hinduism in the regions from being obliterated as the colonial powers were hostile to the practice of local religions. The Dutch in particular have left behind a legacy as being particularly intolerant and heavy-handed in this regard. They might have destroyed temples but they could not destroy the practice of worshipping stones and tridents under trees. It is said that the trident (worshipped as the Vairavar deity) was

multifaceted in that the outer bars of the trident could be bent to resemble a cross if the Hollanders came by. If there wasn't enough time to do this, the men simply picked it up and pretended to be using it as a gardening tool till the Dutch soldiers went away. Post Hindu revivalism, all these Vairavars by lakes and trees became 'gnana-vairavars' with temples of their own."

Women's Access to Worship

"To this day on my property, I worship an amman (goddess) under a tree to whom I go up and do pujas myself. I dress her in sarees and flowers and do puja to her to my heart's content without the intercession of a Brahmin, whom I do not feel the need for. This kind of worship however is becoming increasingly frowned upon. Arumuga Navalar wrote extensively against women doing pujas which has become mainstream thinking now," says Somesasundari, who is from the Vellalah caste.

"Another aspect of this Sanskritization even among the dominant castes is the renaming of Kannagi Amman temples (corresponding to Patthini Devi worship in the South) as RajaRajeswari Amman temples. Kannagi Amman worship still prevails in some areas but others have now re-cast the temples as belonging to another goddess - due directly to Navalar's scorn of the widespread practice of venerating a chettiar caste woman," says Selvamano-haran. "There are famous cases of some of these temple restructurings ending up in bitter litigation at courts, as some of the community worshippers wanted to continue praying to the same deity while others wanted to yank up the deity to a more sanskritically accepted one."

There are many forces at play shaping the current sanskritization process in Jaffna according to Selvamano-haran. During the war years beginning in the eighties, the oppressed castes having recently gained mainstream temple entry, began building their own temples. Brahmin priests who would once have spurned to serve them were afraid of repercussions by the LTTE, which had made it clear that it would not tolerate overt forms of caste oppression.

Refusing to serve at lower caste temples fell under this category. Since the communities paid well for their services, some of the Brahmin priests were not particularly averse to these developments anyway.

In the meantime, several people having migrated abroad who now form the diaspora, another societal function of proving to the communities back home how well they are doing abroad came into play. Sponsoring the building of elaborate temple structures including towers (gopurams) and chariots is one of the most visible and acceptable ways of doing this.

Money keeps flowing in to build evermore elaborate temple structures, with the community back home divided on whether this is a good thing or not.

"Some of our elderly people complain they preferred the old ways of open-air worship," says K. Abirami (42), from the vellalah caste. "All I have to say to them is that we ourselves have moved from huts to small houses to bigger houses which we keep refurbishing with marble floors and decorative walls over time. Why then would we keep the God we worship under a tree? Do we not owe it first to that deity to have the best of abodes we can give him / her? I don't even know why we are discussing this as a problem. It is not."

And so in Jaffna, while some gods are being effaced, others are gaining ascendancy with elaborate abodes and rituals to exemplify the power invested in them. A power which their worshippers hope, will reflect upon them in turn.



The daughter of the previous community priest and her grandson. The current priest is her nephew



A nearby newly built temple for Kannagi amman in Puttur



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Shaila Rahukulan (Grade 1) gives a speech about her family.



Tharaneeyan Kamalan (Grade 3) gives a speech on his favourite subject – Mathematics – and its importance.



Kanisha Sritharan (Grade 10) gives an empowering speech about feminism.



Leo Joseph (Grade 7) gives an insightful speech about the importance of protecting wild life and nature.

SCARBOROUGH – Recently, SRG Education Centers hosted its very first Speech Arts Competition to celebrate student voice and empowerment. Many students, parents, and staff attended the event, along with the Guest of Honour, Jim Karygiannis, Toronto Councillor for Ward 39 Scarborough-Agincourt.

“We want to give our students learning opportunities that can complement what they learn on a regular basis,” explains one of RG Education’s staff, Rebecca Shu. “We’re creating supportive environments for students to grow and to feel confident and challenged.”

Students from Grade 1 to 10 spoke about a wide range of topics, including Self-Confidence, Feminism, Technology, Nature, etc. Each student demonstrated knowledge and passion in front of a panel of judges. The collection of speeches presented that evening was a true illustration of the diversity, brilliance, and potential that our future generations harness.

Winners of the evening gave empowering and compelling speeches and set a great example for their peers. They showcased organization, clarity, passion, and most importantly, bravery and courage in their words. These

important skills should continue to be encouraged and nurtured in students to complement their education and future careers.

Jim Karygiannis gave a speech of encouragement for all the students and parents that evening. As a Toronto Councillor and former MP, he gave students many great tips on public speaking and how to effectively engage with an audience. Mr. Karygiannis spoke of his own experiences and shared his own challenges with students and parents.

“Live each day thinking it’s the first day of the rest of your life!” Mr. Karygiannis exclaimed. “The world is yours to conquer.”

Students left the event feeling motivated and optimistic. It was a truly valuable learning experience for everyone. Mr. Karygiannis ended the evening by presenting every student with a certificate of recognition for their performance and hard work.

RG Education Centers is proud of all of its students and thanks all students, parents, staff, and Mr. Jim Karygiannis for the ongoing support over the years. The education center celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and looks forward to hosting more educational events and learning opportunities for students in the upcoming years.



Mr. Jim Karygiannis (Toronto City Councillor Ward 39), **Mr. Selvaratnam** (Principal), and all participants take a group photo together to commemorate the evening.

Junior Winners:


Tharaneeyan Kamalan,
Bhavesh Manoj,
Prathish Rahukulan

Intermediate Winners:

Anjhaa Sakdivadivel,
Ashvina Ariyaratnam,
Archanaa Nimalan

Senior Winners:


Kanisha Sritharan,
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Joshua Jayakumar,
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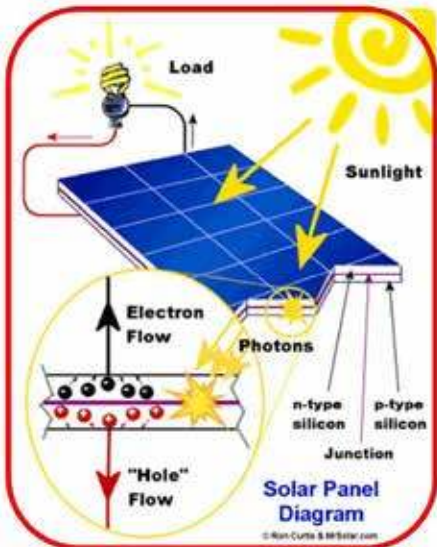
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THE ADVANTAGES OF PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEM FOR A RESIDENTIAL APPLICATION

By: **Uthayan Thurairajah**

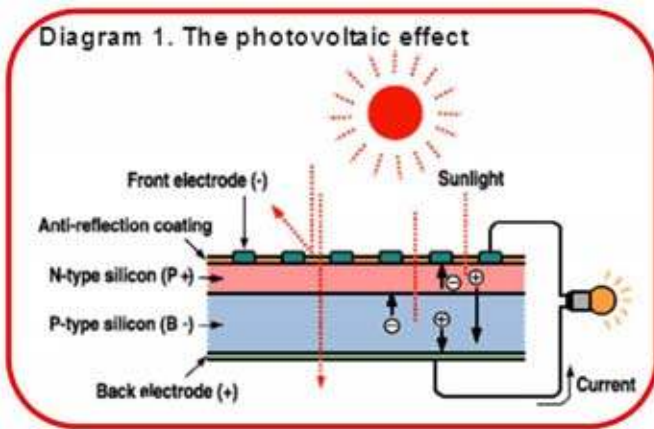
Solar energy is naturally available renewable energy. We can utilize as much as possible to reduce other sources of energy usage. It is natural and freely available from nature and not harmful to the health and wellbeing of the people. The solar power system has been used many years for the residential application. It has several disadvantages and costly. New Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels essentially convert the sun's lights into electricity as well as provide required energy to heat the hot water system, cooling system, and other application. It was estimated that the human energy use per year is almost equivalent to 15 minutes of sun energy. By taking advantage of that with electrical generation and heating, we can work to end our dependence on fossil fuels.

Solar Energy



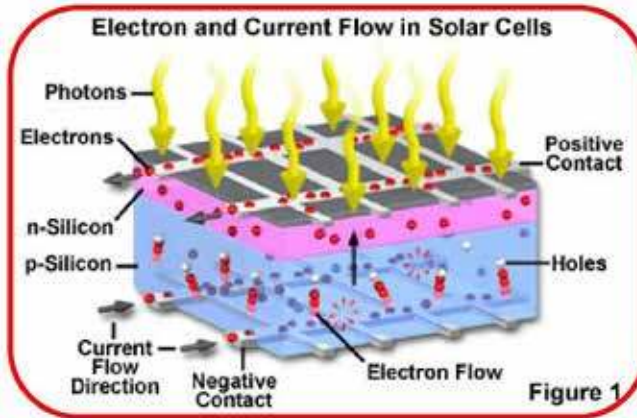
Ontario is at the forefront to offer a strong incentive for homeowners to produce their energy. Our future truly depends on the development and implementation of renewable energy systems. Any home renewable energy system is clean energy and will reduce the demand on our energy infrastructure, and consequently emissions.

PhotoVoltaic (PV) Solar Panels



Photovoltaic solar panels essentially convert the sun's lights into electricity. PV Systems can be large enough to provide power to our entire home. The power either stored in batteries or fed back into the power grid. When we hear the words 'net metering', that refers feeding our surplus power back into the grid and taking it out when we need it. What we provide compared to what we consume is calculated, and we receive an adjusted bill.

Our highest solar gain comes during the midday sun, a time when most of us are not home. Our greatest consumption comes in evenings when there is the little sun. Net metering removes the need for battery systems to benefit from the power we generate. Ideally, our annual consumption will be met by our panels or even surpass it, so look into provincial programs plan for buyback. We are guaranteed to save or make money if we have a south facing roof. Ontario Power Authority buys power back



for more than the market cost per kilowatt hour from the installation.

Innovations in nanotechnology look quite promising. Nanotechnology makes panels significantly smaller, thinner, more efficient, and less expensive. The thin film of solar cells, solar shingles tend to be less useful in bright sunlight, and more useful on overcast days and at dusk and dawn.

Most manufacturers offer in the area of a 20-25 year warranty, but you will likely see longer life than that. Cost is primarily based on your area and government incentives. Solar roof shingles are a relatively unique PV panel system. It is much smaller and thinner than conventional PV panels.

PV-SDHW Systems:

The PV powered Solar Domestic Hot Water (PV-SDHW) system was discovered in 1994. It was patented by A. Hunter Fanny and Brian P. Dougherty of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD, USA. The PV SDHW will replace the old thermal SDHW system. The thermal SDHW transfer thermal energy in a fluid circulated through an array of collectors.

The PV-SDHW system consists of a photovoltaic array connected to several resistive heating elements within a water storage tank. The PV array produces electrical power during periods of solar irradiation, and this power is immediately dissipated in the resistive elements. The system incorporates a microprocessor controller to select the appropriate combination of resistors to cause the PV array to operate near its maximum power point (regarding voltage and current) during daytime solar radiation variations.

PV Powered Solar Water Heating

We don't need many types of equipment to run solar water heating. We no longer need the expansion tanks, pumps, strainers, heat exchangers, heat transfer fluids, backflow preventers. PV system avoids all of the noise, the leaks, the overheating issues, and the freezing issues. We do not need all the extra cost to keep the system working and maintenance. One water tank is enough.

The PV cost has been dropped so much in recent years. It is now possible to deliver 95% of the solar energy that is captured by a PV panel using specially designed inverters that address the constantly evolving inductance in a PV panel. Although the amount of

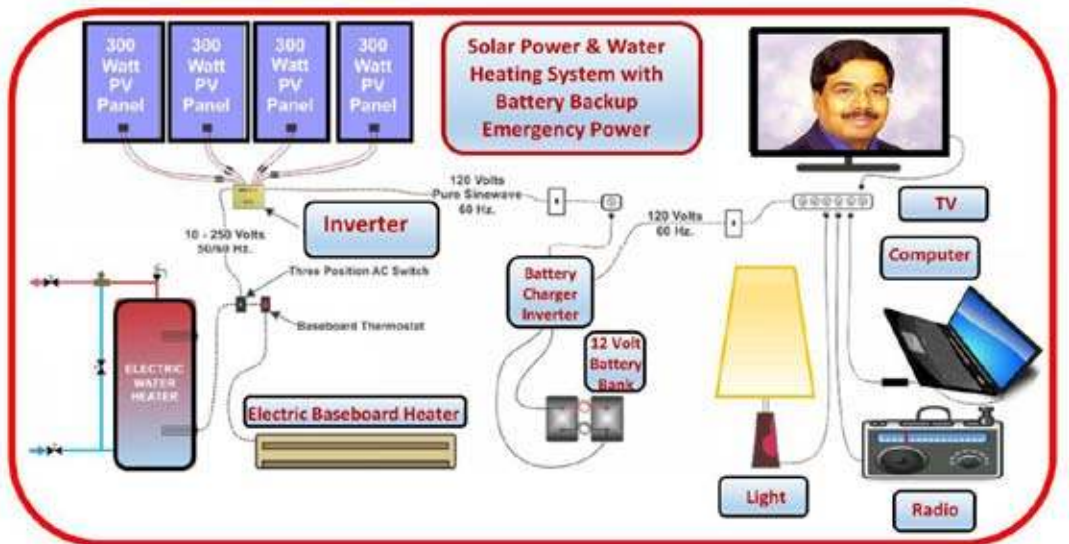
solar energy captured by a square meter of PV panel is less than that captured by a square meter of thermal solar collector - the efficiency of a PV is pretty much constant and gets better as it gets cold outside. Not only that - the cost of a square foot/meter of PV panel is now (September 2016) about half the cost of a square foot/meter of solar thermal collector.

Solar water heating systems used as preheaters for conventional gas or electric or oil instantaneous water heaters. There are days with no direct sunshine, and people need a constant hot water supply. Solar alone cannot guarantee that, so a backup heater is required.

Solar Cooling Systems

Desiccant systems and Absorption chiller systems are two types of solar cooling systems available in the market. Air passes over a typical drying material such as silica gel to draw moisture from the air and make the air more comfortable in the desiccant system. Solar energy renews the desiccant.

Absorption chiller systems are the most common solar cooling systems. It uses solar water heating collectors and a thermal-chemical sorption process to produce air-conditioning. No electricity is required. It is nearly identical to a refrigerator, and only the compressor is not needed. The absorption cycle is driven by a heated fluid from the solar collector..



Solar Hot Water:

For over a century, solar water heating system has relied on sophisticated hydronic plumbing to gather solar energy. The hydronic pumping systems had all kinds of reliability and performance problems. The new solar electric PV powered water heating have no heat transfer fluids or pumps, heat exchangers, moving parts as well as reliable & quiet, solid state - no worry solar hot water.

The required number of PV panel system is capable of heating up the water will be determined. The number of panels plays a role for operating the lower element in an electric water heater - independently of the electrical grid.

Solar Heating for Area:

The inverter is not designed to run the motors or fans often associated with forced convection electric heaters. The inverter can also be used to run cooking appliances such as hotplates, electric fry pans, kettles, electric barbecues, toaster ovens (with less than 1100 watts of a draw), etc.

Off-Grid PV Power:

The inverter from the PV panel can also provide 120V for the heating system and 120VAC 60Hz electricity with an intermediary battery pack. It is done while also tracking the maximum power point for each solar PV panel. It makes it ideal for off-grid power systems with critical or uninterruptible usage requirements such as; desktop computers, televisions, clocks, refrigerators, etc. These systems must not power life-sustaining equipment.

Summary

As far as water heating system concern, The PV-SDHW system eliminates many types of equipment and cost of the maintenance. The pumps, heat exchangers, heat transfer fluids, backflow preventers, strainers, expansion tanks, are not needed anymore. All of the overheating issues, noise, the leaks, and the freezing issues are gone. We do not need all the extra cost to maintenance and keeping the system working. The PV-SDHW system needs only one water tank.

The installation of a PV-SDHW system is simpler than for a thermal system with no roof penetrations is required. PV-SDHW system reliability is expected to be superior to thermal SDHW. PV system also provides needed electricity to power to all the electrical appliances and lighting system



Uthayan Thurairajah is a Senior Engineer and Associate at WSP|MMM Group with over twenty years of experience in Electrical Engineering and Lighting field, and he also holds a Lecturer position in the Department of Communication and Design at Ryerson University. Uthayan is a member of several Canadian and international professional association including Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine (AIHM) and Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR). He has worked on multi-disciplinary lighting and electrical projects for the Ministry of Transportation, various Towns, Municipalities, Regions and others. He carries out research on the subject of lighting and taken part in several projects. He also has extensive research experience in the value of lighting design in the mental, emotional, and social well-being of a person. He is a frequent presenter and author on lighting design & health. He is passionate about integrating science and health into the lighting design.



Personal tax changes you should know this tax season

— by Ari A. Ariaran, CGA, CPA

The package of tax changes introduced by the federal Liberal government mean big changes for most Canadian taxpayers, especially for those with children.

Personal tax rate changes: As expected, the government introduced a new, reduced tax rate applicable on income between \$45,282 and \$90,563. The rate will drop from 22% to 20.5% effective for the 2016 and subsequent taxation years.

A new tax rate of 33%, up from the previous top marginal tax rate of 29% and applicable to income in excess of \$200,000, has also been introduced. This increase is also effective for the 2016 and subsequent taxation years. This new rate will be referred to as the “highest individual percentage”.

There are two consequential changes to apply the highest individual percentage to the tax rate for trusts other than graduated rate estates and the tax on split income.

Elimination of the family taxcut for 2016 and later years which allowed couples with children under 18 to notionally split their income resulting in a tax credit of up to \$2,000 or \$1,670 in Quebec.

Canada Child Benefit

The federal Liberal government has also said that it will replace the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) with the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) starting in July 2016. For the first half of the year, parents will still get their UCCB payments of \$160 a month for children under six and \$60 for children between six and 16. The CCB will be \$6,400 for child under six and \$5,400 per year per child 6 to 17 years old. That's \$533 per month for children under 6 and \$450 for children 6 to 17 years old. While the UCCB was taxed as income, the CCB will be tax-free however the benefit level paid out is reduced based on household income. Families with more than \$30,000 in household income will have the payment partially phased out. The phase out system is complicated with six phase out rates depending on family income level and the number of children. The introduction of the CCB will also mean the elimination of the Canada Child Tax Benefit and the National Child Benefit Supplement. Those are means tested benefits provided to families with children under 18.

Donation credit changes: Given the new highest individual percentage, modifications to the computation of donation credits have also been proposed.



Rather than increase the donation credit rate for donations in excess of \$200 from 29% to 33%, a more complex formula was introduced which allows donations to receive a 33% credit rate, but only to the extent that the individual's taxable income exceeds \$200,000. For any donations made in excess of \$200 where the individual's taxable income is less than \$200,000, a 29% credit will continue to apply.

Children's Fitness and Arts tax credit

Refundable Children's fitness tax credit is reduced from \$1000 to \$500 and was eliminated for 2017 and later years.

Refundable Children's Arts Amount tax credit is reduced from \$500 to \$250 and was eliminated for 2017 and later years. The additional tax credit for a

child with a disability will remain at \$500 for the 2016 taxation year.

TFSA changes

As outlined during the Federal election campaign, the Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) contribution limit for 2015 will remain at \$10,000; however, the limit will be reduced to \$5,500 for 2016.

Introduction of a teacher and early childhood educator supply tax credit for eligible supplies acquired on or after 1 January 2016. New refundable tax credit on up to \$1,000 worth of eligible school supplies acquired on or after 1 January 2016.

Reinstatement of the 15% federal LSVCC tax credit for share purchases of provincially registered LSVCC's for 2016 and later years.

A lottery for Parental Sponsorships in 2017

by Shani Hanwella, RCIC

There is no doubt that many individuals who are planning to file a parental sponsorship application in January 2017 have completed all the application forms, sent them abroad for the parents to sign, brought them back and anxiously waiting for the first working day in the new year to send their package with the hope that their package would make it to the first 10,000 applications that the government announced would be accepting in 2017.

On December 14th Ottawa announced major changes to the way a parental sponsorship application would be received in the future. Rather than following the first come first served system that was in place over the past several years, the sponsors are now required to file an expression of interest online starting January 3rd 2017. 10,000 cases would be selected randomly out of all the entries and the selected sponsors will be invited to submit a full application. The portal will be open for 30 days from January 3rd for anyone to express their interest.

I find the new system completely unfair to the tax paying sponsor. Firstly, in order to become a sponsor,



the individual or couple has to meet a high income test during the 3 most recent tax years. Thus, it is not everyone who qualifies to sponsor a parent. Then they had to diligently collect the necessary documents, translate them, notarize copies, prepare the necessary application forms send them abroad for the applicant parents to sign and bring them back often expending money in order to be ready to file a package at the dawn of the new year.

It is unfair that the government announced the changes at the last minute and changed course. If the changes were announced well in advance most

of the unexpected work and expenses could have been avoided by the sponsors and applicants. Similarly, if the sponsor/s fulfilled all the necessary requirements and sent in a perfect application package early on, there was still a good chance that their package got into the year's intake before the cap was reached in the past. It is unfortunate that the proposed system will no longer rewards a sponsor who will work hard to prepare and file a perfected application on time.

Most of the economic immigrants came to Canada with knowledge that they will eventually be able to sponsor

their parents provided they earned sufficiently to support the parents. Until this year, there was a choice and hope for that immigrant to sponsor a parent, albeit the intake process was restricted. The choice will now be completely taken away from the sponsor in the future. It will be the government who will decide which sponsor gets a chance to sponsor a parent. On a positive note, the department will still take in 10,000 parental sponsorship applications in 2017. Instead of working hard to get your application included within the cap, the sponsors now have to be lucky instead.



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MANAGING YOUR MONEY

Recipe for Financial Success in 2017

A new year and a time for renewal—the time when many people look into their past and future and resolve to make changes for the better. Your overall quality of life is directly related to the overall quality of your finances so getting your financial life in order should be near the top of your list. Here are ten essential financial planning tips to make that resolution a reality in 2017.



1. Set a budget and stick to it: Take a critical look at your income and expenses and set realistic monthly budget that includes an amount for saving and investing. Budgets are a necessary evil. They are the only practical way to get a grip on your spending and to make sure money is being used the way you want it to be used. Creating a budget generally requires three steps: Identify how you are spending money now, Evaluate your current spending and set goals to take into account your long-term financial objectives, Track your spending to make sure it stays within those guidelines.

2. Get your debt under control and keep it there: Develop good spending habits and use debt wisely. Always pay off credit cards and other high-cost, non-tax deductible debt first. To get control of your debt, you need to uncover the real reasons for your debt issues by identifying the behaviour that sunk you deep in debt and take the steps that will keep you from sinking even deeper.

3. Maximize RRSP contribution: Investing in RRSP eligible investments is the best tax-sheltered savings builder for most Canadians. Strive to make maximum contribution for faster and bigger potential investment growth. If you are having trouble coming up with enough

money to fill your available RRSP eligible investment contribution room this year or if you have got unused room from previous years, an RRSP loan may be a smart strategy. The keys to the success of a top-up RRSP loan strategy are: Repay the loan as quickly as possible—preferably one year but, in most circumstances no longer than two years. Use your RRSP-related tax return to pay down your loan.

4. Develop an education savings plan for your children: A tax-sheltered, compound-growth RESP eligible investments is an excellent way to cover escalating education costs and give your kids a head start on life.

5. Be a prudent money manager: Carefully consider each dollar before it's gone. Start with careful and critical assessment of your life goals and your income and set aside enough on a regular basis to achieve those goals. Beware of luxuries dressed up as necessities.

6. Check and revise your insurance coverage to match changing needs: As your life changes your need for income protection and estate planning changes. Be sure your insurance coverage keep pace. A common rule of thumb suggests you should maintain life insurance coverage equal to ten times your income. However the danger of a 'rule of thumb'

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is that it does not account for an individual's age, stage of life, or personal and family circumstances. Instead of relying on a 'rule of thumb' that may not apply to you, you'd be well advised to complete a thorough needs analysis with the assistance of a financial planner.

7. Make 'tax-efficient' investment decisions: Certain investments are more tax-efficient than others. For example, interest income is taxed significantly higher than dividends and capital gains—so it's often better to hold investments that earn dividends and capital gains outside your RRSP eligible investments and interest-earning investments inside it. Take advantage of the Tax-Free Savings Plan (TFSA) eligible investments, which allows investment income to grow and be eventually received on a tax-free basis.

8. Establish an asset allocation plan that complements your financial planning needs: An effective asset allocation plan delivers a portfolio that includes the right balance of assets from the three categories—cash, fixed income invest-

ments and equities for steadier long-term growth.

9. Minimize your taxes: Take advantage of all the tax deductions and tax credits available to you including moving expenses, child-care expenses, tuition fees, medical expenses, charitable donations etc.

10. Develop a financial plan and stick to it: A consolidated financial plan—and the common sense and discipline to stick to it—plus the help of a professional advisor will keep you on track to achieving your dreams. Setting goals and objective is the first step of any financial planning process. Give some thought to your financial goals. These goals are the building blocks to any sound financial plan.

Disclaimer:

This report specifically written and published as a general source of information only, and is not intended as a solicitation to buy or sell specific investments or insurance, nor is it intended to provide investment advice. For more information on this topic, please contact me.

Thinking of Buying a Business?

Congratulations! You decided to be your own boss and buy a business.

That was the easy part, now the work begins to identify and address the business and legal risks that come along with becoming your own boss. Whether you're buying a franchise or an independent business, it is important to ensure that you take steps to properly assess the value of the business as well as work with your lawyer and accountant to ensure that you structure the purchase in the manner best suited for your business needs. So let's take a look at some of the early and important issues, such as purchase price, structure of the transaction and other due diligence issues (i.e. debts, litigation) which can impact the purchase.

The Purchase Price

As with any major financial decision it is important to set and stick to a budget. You, the buyer, should be aware of what you can afford before entering any negotiation for the purchase of a business. While it is important to be flexible within your negotiations for the purchase of the buyer should be careful to not go beyond the set budget and also not to overpay for the business. During the negotiation of the purchase, the buyer should be sure to

take all necessary steps to truly appreciate the value of the business. The buyer should consider the following matters:

- Assets: obtain a detailed list of assets and current value (typically fair market value);
- Financial Statements: examine the financial records of the business. Have sales increased or declined over the last 5 years? This can impact the negotiation of the purchase price;
- Business Reputation: if possible, talk with former or current customers of the business. Knowing the reputation before you sign the contract may play a role in negotiation of the purchase price;

Structure of Purchase

The purchase of a business can occur with the purchase of the assets of another corporation or with the purchase of the controlling shares of a corporation. Given the legal and tax implications, you should talk with your lawyer and accountant to find the best path forward.

i. Asset Purchase

Asset purchases are seen where the buyer acquires the substantial assets of the selling corporation. The purchase of assets could trigger the need to obtain the consent of third parties, such as secured creditors, but it can also afford the

buyer more flexibility and control in what one is buying. Within an asset purchase, the buyer should conduct a thorough due diligence search of the seller, which can include, but not limited to, all the secured and unsecured debts and other liabilities.

ii. Share Purchase

Buying a business through the purchase of the shares of a corporation is—sometimes seen as less complicated when compared to that of an asset purchase. Where the asset purchase requires transfer documentation for each of the assets being sold (i.e. permits, licenses, equipment, vehicles, patents), with a share purchase the only required transfer are the shares of the corporation you are purchasing and possible shareholder loan assignments. With the purchase of shares, all assets, debts and other liabilities become the responsibility of the new owner and it is in the interest of the buyer to conduct similar due diligence search, as noted below.

Due Diligence

After deciding on the suitable structure for your purchase, regardless if the transaction occurs with the purchase of assets or shares, the buyer should conduct a thorough due diligence search of the selling corporations with the help

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of a lawyer. The due diligence is often a crucial condition of the purchase. The due diligence search may include, but not limited to, the following:

- Corporate books and records;
- Litigation Search – this type of search provides information on past and current litigation;
- Personal Property Security Act (PPSA) – this type of search provides a list of current secured creditors; and
- Notice of Assessment – whether purchasing the assets or shares of a corporation the buyer should be aware of the tax liability of the seller as this could become the responsibility of the buyer.

The issues noted above are just some of the concerns that one should consider when buying a business. There are many other legal and tax concerns that should be addressed, so finding the right legal and accounting partners can help in the success of the transaction.

Nava Law is here to be your partner as you navigate the path to becoming your own boss. For more information, or to book a free consultation, contact 416-321-1100 or info@nava.law.



GENIE SISTERS
SAMAYAL
SANTHAI

Welcome to our recipe corner! We sisters will entice you with recipes that we have fallen in love with and teach you a little Tamil along the way, as all the ingredients will have their Tamil names. Both of us love to cook and we have developed very different styles. Niranjini has a very refined palate and cooks more contemporary world cuisine with an Asian touch. Rajini is a seasoned homemaker who loves making traditional dishes for her friends and family. Follow us on Instagram: @ninjaeatsfood and @tamil_food Eat more, learn more!

SAKKARA PONGAL

January, the start of a new year and for Tamil people the harvest celebration of pongal and what would pongal be without sakkarapongal! This sweet dish, filled with nutrients, is just the dish you need to wash away those winter blues.

Traditionally, food was not only used as a source of nutrition, but also as a form of protection from everyday germs and illnesses. This recipe includes pure camphor, which is renowned for its medicinal properties as well as fresh spices to boost your immune system. The West is also slowly catching up on the benefits of ghee, so do not worry about this ingredient; taken in very small amounts and on special occasions, it definitely does more good than it is credited for.



Method:

Soak the rice and dhal over night or for a few hours if making during the day. Take the soaked rice and dhal and cook it with water till it is almost cooked (should take no more than 15 minutes). In a separate pan, add the milk and jaggery and bring to a boil. Once the milk has boiled, add the rice and dhal and let it cook further. To this, add the powdered cardamom, cloves and camphor. Stir the mixture occasionally to prevent it from sticking to the pan.

Whilst this is cooking, heat the ghee and fry the cashews and raisins. Once the milk has all been absorbed, add the ghee mixture and mix well. The rice will have a risotto-like texture and will definitely warm your heart and tummy.

Try making this recipe this month and do hashtag #monsoonjournal on Instagram and send us your pics, comments and feedback. Spread the love (and recipe!)

Ingredients:

- ½ cup of uncooked rice (patcharisi)
- ½ cup of yellow moong dhal (udaiththapaasiparuppu)
- 3 tbs of jaggery (vellam)
- 1 cup of milk (paal)
- 5 green cardamom pods-powdered (elakkai)
- 2 cloves- powdered (kraambu)
- A pinch of purified camphor (patchakkarpooram)- note this is NOT the same as the camphor used in religious festivals
- 1 tsp of cashew nuts (muntharipparuppu)
- 1 tsp of raisins (kaaynthathiraatchaipazham)
- ¼ cup of melted ghee (ney)

Sisters Niranjini Thirunesan and Rajini Nathan are both food enthusiasts from England. Niranjini, who lives in London, is a trained chef and founder of catering firm Inji Roots. Niranjini has a degree in Human biology and makes it her business to know everything about what she eats, from nutritional value to the source producers. Check out her recipes at www.ninjaeatsfood.wordpress.com and Inji roots can be found on Facebook and Instagram @Inji_roots. Rajini, lives in Toronto and has a background in psychology. Her speciality is in Tamil food from around the world, catch up on her meal ideas on Instagram @tamil_food.



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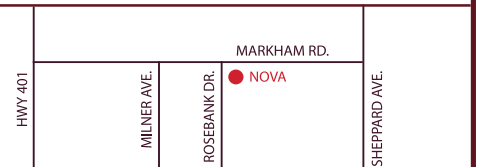
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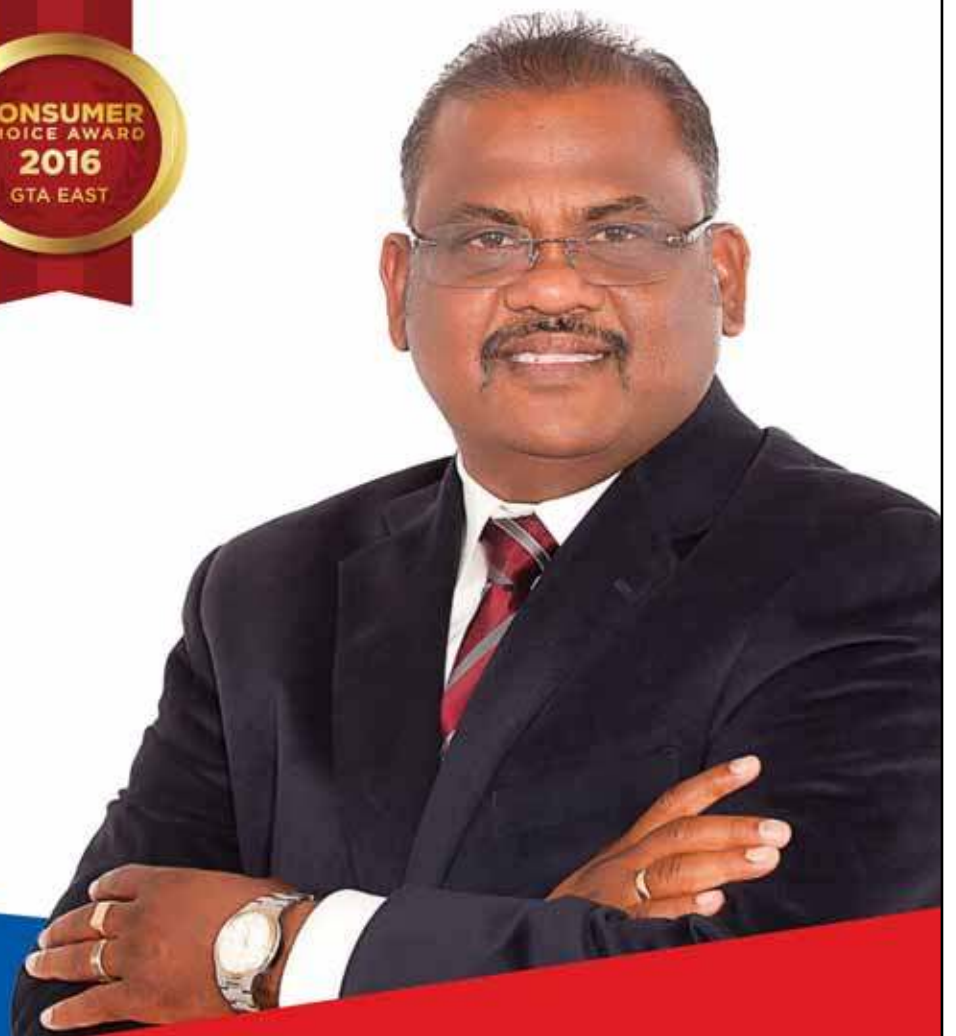
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RE/MAX Community Realty Inc. Celebrates Annual Party and Awards Gala

By Siva Sivapragasam

Presenting prestigious awards to over seventy agents, RE/MAX Community Realty Brokerage celebrated their annual party and awards gala recently in a hall filled with guests at the Scarborough Convention Centre.

RE/MAX Community Realty which began activity few years ago with a little more than thirty agents had grown to a fully - fledged brokerage today counting one hundred and fifteen agents.

Welcoming the guests at hand was Logan Velumailum, Broker of Record who counts several years of Real Estate experience. He congratulated all the Award winners and thanked all the agents who have

put in long hours of hard and dedicated work to make the Company known better in the community. He remarked that the steady growth of the number of agents in a short period of time was a reflection of the Company's growing image and prestige in the field of Real Estate Brokerage. He also pointed out the Company's engagement in sponsoring several community activities.

A cheque for a sum of \$10,000 was presented by Logan and Broker/Manager Rajeev Koneswaran to "The Scarborough Hospital Foundation" and Mr. Guy Bonnell, VP Community Development who was present at the event received the cheque on behalf of the Hospital.

Nancy Sears & Lisa Clark from head office RE/MAX Integra Fran-

chise Development once again participated and congratulated the performance of RE/MAX Community Realty Inc.

Associated with Logan in managing the event was his colleague and Manager Rajeev Koneswaran. Two lively Emcees Shiyam and Krishni emceed adding color and grace to the event.

Federal Liberal MP for Scarborough-Rouge Park Gary Anandasangaree congratulated all the winners and awarded with special greeting message to the Chairman's Club Winners.

Guests were treated to a fun-filled evening of entertainment which ended with a sumptuous dinner.

(Seen here are pictures taken at the event)



RE/MAX Community Awards - Dec 9, 2016



Congratulations to all Winners for the excellent performance during 2016 & Best Wishes for 2017

Top Producer - 2016



Kayan Kanesalingam

Chairman's Club Award Winners - 2016



Brandon Williams



Kayan Kanesalingam



Leon Williams



Shan Thayaparan

Hall of Fame - 2016



Krish Saishankar



Thipan Raj

Rookies of the Year - 2016



Jeya Visakesan



Mayuran Sritharan



Sajee Puvaneswaran

Platinum Club Award Winners - 2016



Adolf Furtado



Akilan Sivapalan



Jai Narsingh



Jeya Visakesan



Joey Quiambao



Ken Kirupa



Mahen Singarajah



Mark Antazo



Mayuran Sritharan



Mohan Panchalingam



Selvan Puvaneswaranathan



Shean Sinnarajah



Thipan Raj

100% Club Award Winners - 2016



Afzal Paracha



Bakeer Subramaniam



Bala Logendralingam



Bjorn Norris



Esan Kulasegaram



Gajan Mahakanapathy



Imran Hussain



Jambo Visvalingam



Justin Edwards



Krish Saishankar



Krishna Vigneswaramoorthy



Neeran Rasiah

100% Club Award Winners - 2016



Nim Nirmalan



Pirapa Nallathamby



Praba Kandasamy



Ranvir Dogra



Rasheela Sinnarajah



Sajee Puvanewaran



Shamil Hussain



Suba Aynkharan



Thas Vallipuram



Theepan Logeswaran



Thiba Shanmugarajah



Thushanth Kantharajah



Viki Velauthan

Executive Club Award Winners - 2016



Anoj Thavarajah



Brandon Narsingh



Dexter King



Emily Nery



Erosha Amendra



Gopaul Persaud



Herman Hunte



Jeneevan Theivendran



Jeyakumar Somasundram



Kareem Weekes



Moorthy Kopalapillai



Murali Gnanasekaram



Pageerathan Ariyaputhiran



Richard Pereira



Sayon Balasuntharam



Sheron Hurley



Sritharan Earampu



Sutha Narayanapillai



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Broker/Manager
Rajeef Koneswaran



Durham Tamil Association elects new Executive Committee

Durham Tamil Association has elected a new Executive Committee at a meeting of the members held recently.

The following are the newly elected members.

President: Mr. Thayanandan Rajaratnam

Vice President: Mr. Hanthan Manickavasagar

Secretary: Mr. Mano Pancharatnam

Treasurer: Mr. Jeyabalasingham Sellathurai

Youth Coordinator: Miss. Kiruthiga Shanmuganathan

Executive Member: Mrs. Norin Francis

Executive Member: Mrs. Yoga Selva

Executive Member: Miss. Nanthini Kailainathan

Executive Member: Mr. Dineshkumar Subramaniam

The new executive plans to take the DTA to the next level. In the coming years, DTA will be focused on building unity within the Tamil community, investing more time on community reach out programs, establishing youth leadership programs and building on the senior's computer literacy program, investing in health and wellness programs concerning seniors.

Sri Lankan Canadian Tamil Author wins First Prize in International Essay Competition

S. Pathmanathan, a well known author and writer of hundreds of articles on a variety of topics in Medicine and Psychology recently made history last month by winning the first prize in international Essay competition organized by London based monthly Tamil Journal Puthinam. Hailing from the Village of Urumpirai in North Sri Lanka, Mr. Pathmanathan a long time Toronto resident known popularly as Sinthanai Pookal Pathmanathan, already the recipient of dozens of awards from numerous newspaper organizations and journals shot to international fame with his recent winning for authoring an Essay titled Mother is a Temple.



A product of Peradeniya campus of the University of Sri Lanka, Mr. Pathmanathan graduated with an Honours Degree in Geography and held various responsible positions in the Ministry of Education including serving as in service advisor from 1971 to 1973 in Nuwaraeliya district and then as a lecturer at Kopay Teacher training College.

He obtained his Diploma in Education at the University of Colombo and soon after registered himself at the University of Jaffna to do his Masters Degree in Geography. However when the civil war in Sri Lanka erupted in 1983, he as well as hundreds of Tamil scholars and academics had to abandon their career and move abroad.

During his stay abroad, Pathmanathan produced three volumes of a se-

ries of books titled Sinthanai Pookkal, containing very valuable articles on a variety of aspects of Psychology, earning the respect of scholars around the world. As a result he soon earned the unique distinction of being the only Tamil author in the world to write a variety of articles on such a complex topic. He soon ventured out to produce many more articles on a wide variety of medical conditions affecting seniors as well other segments of the general population. Due to popular demand, many of his articles were translated into English and published in Monsoon Journal a Toronto based monthly publication. Ever since these articles were published his popularity began to soar, thus earning the respect of the general

Shanmuga Swamy



Lord Murugan is also known as Arumugam, meaning 6 faces, through which he has the ability to see East, West, North, South, Sky and Earth. The 6 faces are made up of the 5 faces of Lord Shiva (Panchavaktra Shiva) plus the face of Goddess Uma Devi. The 6th face can be seen by the learned. This is symbolic of the senses that to the 6th sense which is represented by "Atho Murugan".

Lord Shiva, the 5 faces, blesses people with the goodness of this world. Lord Muruga in this form blesses people with the comforts both the worlds. He is the god of nature, as he directs nature. He protects all living creatures.

Nakirar in his Thirumurugatrupadai (classic book of the sangam age) describes the following:

1. The first face of Murugan removes ignorance and spiritual darkness
2. The second face of Murugan boons on devotees who follow Dharma
3. The third face protects and watch the pujas and offerings of devotees and blesses those devotees and blesses those devotees offering it with a pure

mind.

4. The fourth face of Murugan helps those in search of self realization and helps those investigating the truth of pranavam or ohm.

5. The fifth face annihilates those who practice adharma.

6. The sixth face of Murugan glances with love towards the face of his wives.

Historic Development in Tamil Literature

The Tolkappiyam, one of the most ancient of the Tamil literature mentions ceyon 'the red one' who is identified with Murugan whose name is literally Murukan.

Vedic and Puranic Literature

The Atharvaveda calls Kumara Agnibuta because he is form of agni who held him in his hands when Kumara was born.

Birth

The first elaborate account of karthikeya's origin occurs in the Mahabharat. He was born from Agni and Svaha, after the latter impersonated the six of the 7 wives of the saptarishi (seven stages)

public.

Apart from receiving dozens of awards from numerous literary organizations including the monthly magazine "Tamils Information", Mr. Pathmanathan has also been honoured twice by the Government of Ontario for his literary services.

His articles have been published in a variety of newspapers, journals and magazines in Sri Lanka, India as well as in Canada.

Monsoon Journal wishes Mr. Pathmanathan on his great achievement and wishes him many more years of active service.

News Report:

S. Raymond Rajabalan, B.Sc. (Hons) Cey.
Features Editor, Monsoon Journal



HIGHLIGHTS OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE, OBA CANADA, DINNER & DANCE EVENT

On Saturday December 3rd 2016, Jaffna Central College Old Boys Association, Canada celebrated its 24th annual get-together and dinner at Kennedy Convention Center, Scarborough.. This event was special because it coincided with the 200th year celebrations of Jaffna Central College. The president of the association Mr. S. Srirenganathan welcomed the large gathering of old boys, their families and well-wishers and in his address told the gathering that a good sum of money (\$10,000) raised at the bicentennial celebrations held previously in Toronto

has been set aside for scholarships to needy students of Jaffna Central.

The chief guest at the dinner was Dr. K. Theivendirajah a distinguished old boy of Central (1951 to 1959) and the former Professor of Botany at the University of Jaffna (1978 to 1991). Dr. Theivendirajah in his address spoke about the glorious history of Jaffna Central College and expressed the view that many intellectuals, educationalists and professionals who passed through the portals of this magnanimous Institution paved the way for a hardworking

education oriented community in the North of Sri Lanka.

Mr Arul Mahendran and Mrs. Theiva Mohan distinguished old students of JCC were also honoured as Guest of Honours at the dinner. Heather Black-Bunting, Sr. Area Manager, Community Programs, Toronto Office of Heart & Stroke was a special invitee and she handed over appreciation certificates to the Presidents of JCCOBA and VOGA for raising funds (\$4160) this year for the Heart & Stroke foundation.

Photos by T. Tharmasriranjan (JCC Old boy)





THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF CANADA Richmond Hill Ganesha Temple December 28th, 2016 Anjaneyar Jayanthi

BY

KIDAMBI RAJ, MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Anjaneyar Jayanthi is celebrated all over India. It is the day Lord Anjaneya was born. He is also called as Hanuman, Vayu Putra, Maruti and with several names. In Tamil Nadu it is observed in the Tamil month of Markazhi (Margashirsha – December-January) on Moola Nakshatra day. This Anjaneya Jayanthi is celebrated on a different day in North India. They observe it on full moon day in the Chitirai (Chaitra) month. Some say that the difference is because in North India they believe that the Jayanthi (Victory) for Lord Anjaneya is not on his birth day, but immediately after he found Sita in Sri Lanka.

It is the occasion to remember Lord Anjaneya's unbridled devotion to Lord Rama and His daring feats. He is known for his great strength, power. According to Hindu Mythology, He is called as "Pawanputra", as he is the son of "Pawan", the God of Winds. He is considered to be the eleventh Rudra manifestation of Lord Siva with great devotion, strength, knowledge, divine power, bravery, intelligence, spirit of selfless service. Lord Anjaneya led an army of monkeys and built a bridge to Lanka. Some of His extraordinary feats include, burning of the Ashoka Vana in Lanka with His tail and bringing an entire mountain which had "Sanjivinee" (lifesaving herbs) to save Lakshmana's life. The extraordinary role of Anjaneya, an exemplary devotee of Lord Rama, is well detailed out in situations requiring strength, will-power and courage. His character is very well elaborated but Tulasidas in "Hanuman Chalisa".

It is said that Lord Anjaneya can avert any ill-effects posed by the nine planets (Nava Grahas) to one's life as well as save one from the influence of evil spirits. Normally Tuesdays and

Saturdays are special days to worship Lord Anjaneya to get His blessings for progress, wisdom and fearlessness.

According to Hindu Mythology, Lord Anjaneya was the 11th incarnation of Lord Siva. Lord Anjaneya was believed to be born to Anjani and Kapi Raj Kesari (King of Vanara Community). It is said that when a great saint Angira visited the King Indra in heaven, Indra with pride of his kingdom and wealth, arranged a dance for the saint by one of his most beautiful Apsara, Punjikasthala. Since the saint was not interested in the dance performance, he started meditating on the names of his Lord. When the dance performance ended, Indra asked the saint if he liked the dance performance. Saint Angira said that he had no interest in such dance and that he was in deep meditation. On hearing this, the Apsara started dismaying the saint. So, the saint cursed Apsara and said that she would be degraded from heaven and will take birth as a female monkey on earth. Realizing her mistake, Apsara asked for the Saint's forgiveness. The saint said that he could not take his words back, but she would be blessed with a son, who would be a great devotee of Primatama. Later, Apsara as Anjani, gave birth to Lord Anjaneya with five divine factors. When Anjaneya was born, the entire Vanara community and Devas (Gods) celebrated the day with his name.

It is believed that Lord Anjaneya is the only God who stays on earth with all His devotees. This is because of the boon given to Him by Lord Rama for Lord Anjaneya's sincere devotion and dedication.

The figure of Lord Anjaneya with His heart stretched out open is literal illustration of His infinite devotion to Lord Rama, his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana.

THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF CANADA Richmond Hill Ganesha Temple Nov -Dec 2016 Karthikai Deepam

BY

KIDAMBI RAJ, MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Karthikai Deepam is celebrated on the day of the full moon in the Tamil month of Karthikai (November-December) according to the Indian calendar. The festival actually starts on the day of Deepavali goes almost for a month.

The story behind Karthikai Deepam:

The most ancient mythology associated with Karthikai Deepam festival is when Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu once started quarrelling with each other over their individual supremacy in terms of power and strength. Distressed by their arguments, Lord Shiva emerged in front of them as a flame of fire. Lord Brahma and Vishnu decided to compete with each other to find the start and end of this flame. For this Brahma took the form of a Swan and Vishnu took the form of a boar. Finally when neither one of them won, Lord Shiva emerged back into form and thus emphasized about the infiniteness and ultimate existence of God that is beyond all measurements.

Lord Muruga took the form of six flames that emerged from the eyes of Lord Shiva. These flames took the form of six babies and accumulated in the lake known as "Saravana Poigai". On this day, these nymphs were collected by Goddess Parvathi and thereafter Karthikai Deepam is also the day when Lord Muruga is worshipped.

The story of Six Stars:

Many legends and lyrical poetry have grown around this star. The six stars are considered in Indian Mythology as the six celestial nymphs who reared the six babies in the Saravana tank which later joined together to form the six faced Muruga. He is therefore called Karthikeya, the incarnation of Lord Shiva as His second son after Lord Ganesha. The legend goes to say that Lord Shiva created Muruga from His 3rd eye of six primary faces (Tatpurusham, Aghoram, Sadyojatam, Vamadevam, Eesanam and Adhomukham). The story tells the six forms made into six children and each of them brought up by the six Karthikai nymphs and later merged into one by His mother Goddess Parvati. While merging He has also formed Himself into six faced (Arumugam) and twelve handed God.

As the six nymphs helped in growing the six children, Lord Shiva blessed immortality to the six nymphs as ever living stars in the sky. Any worship performed to this six stars is equal to worshipping Lord Muruga Himself. They are worshipped by rows of oil lamps (Deepam) in the evening of the festival day around the houses and the streets. Karthikai Deepam is also known as Lord Muruga's birthday.

Canadian Tamil Medical Association's 2016 Gala - "Lights of Healing"

The Canadian Tamil Medical Association (CTMA) held its annual 2016 Gala titled "Lights of Healing" recently. The proceeds from the Gala are normally utilized for humanitarian support for the war affected paraplegic persons in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

A special souvenir titled "Nalanthana" was also published to commemorate the event.

During the past years, the Association has funded several projects both in Canada and Sri Lanka. Dr. Shan Shanmugavadivel is the Chairperson of the Association.

Seen here are some pictures taken at the Gala event



Sri Lankan Accountants Association of Canada (SAAC) Dinner Dance 2016

Sri Lankan Accountants Association of Canada celebrated its 14th annual dinner dance on Saturday December 10, 2016 at the Scarborough Convention Centre in Scarborough with a packed audience of around 350 guests.



President Devadas



Secretary Sritharan



Chair Dinner Dance



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Committee of SAAC during 2016



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430 McLevin Ave.	812	2	\$299,900	\$552.78

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McCowan & Finch -- Middlefield & Finch

Building	Unit	Bedrooms	Price	Maint.
2627 McCowan Rd	703	1	\$263,000	\$376.00
2627 McCowan Rd	120	1+ Den	\$310,000	\$457.00
5001 Finch Ave. E	1502	3	\$394,900	\$960.00
5235 Finch Ave. E	121	2	\$316,990	\$350.44
5235 Finch Ave. E	303	2+ Den	\$329,000	\$402.05

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Building	Unit	Bedrooms	Price	Maint.
185 Bonis Ave.	301	1	\$278,000	\$420.00
195 Bonis Ave. (Brand New)	403	2+ Den	\$387,400	\$498.52
185 Bonis Ave.	1611	2+ Den	\$409,900	\$572.83
138 Bonis Ave.	1028	2	\$549,900	\$876.47

CONDO TOWN-HOUSES

Building	Intersection	Unit	BR	WR	Price	Maint.
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83 Borough Dr.	Brimley/Ellesmere	-	2	1	\$485,000	\$320.00
91 L'amoreaus Dr.	Warden/Finch	96	3	2	\$419,000	\$650.00
91 L'amoreaus Dr.	Warden/Finch	154	4+3	3	\$469,000	\$650.00
106 Chester Le Blvd.	Pharmacy/Finch	112	3	2	\$488,000	\$424.71
124 Dusay Ave.	Pharmacy/Finch	160	3	3	\$548,888	\$411.80
28 Timberbank Blvd.	Warden/Finch	-	3	2	\$558,800	\$390.06
111 Huntingdale Blvd.	Pharmacy/Finch	-	4+1	2	\$608,000	\$360.46
28 Rosebank Dr.	Markham/Sheppard	116	3	3	\$489,000	\$281.79
100 Mornelle Crt.	Morningside/Ellesmere	2094	3	2	\$265,250	\$530.00
1881 McNicoll Ave.	Kennedy/McNicoll	705	3	3	\$485,000	\$692.00
1881 McNicoll Ave.	Kennedy/McNicoll	307	3	3	\$485,000	\$691.09
71 Cass Ave.	Warden/Sheppard	22	3	2	\$489,900	\$393.58
188 Bonis Ave.	Kennedy/Sheppard	TH209	3	3	\$529,900	\$832.84



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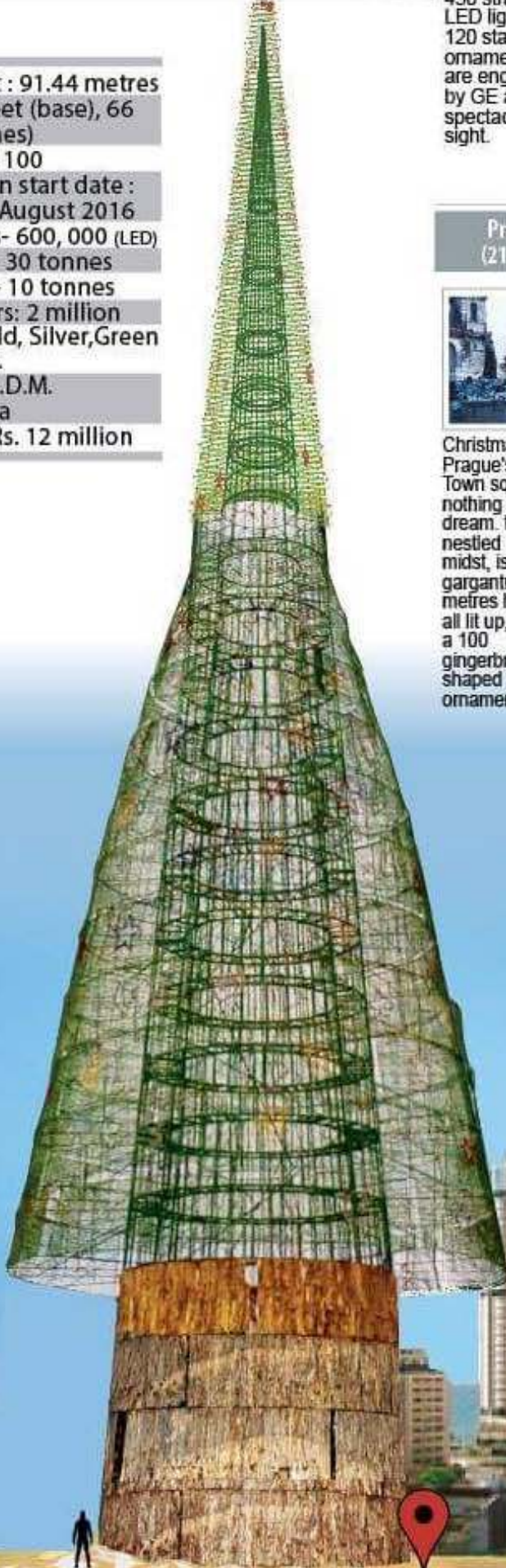


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TOP 10 CHRISTMAS TREES AROUND THE WORLD



Total height : 91.44 metres
Width: 40 feet (base), 66 feet (branches)
Employees- 100
Construction start date : 18 August 2016
No. of bulbs- 600, 000 (LED)
Metal used- 30 tonnes
Wood used- 10 tonnes
Pinus flowers: 2 million
Colours: Gold, Silver, Green and Glitters.
Designer- H.D.M. Nanayakkara
Total cost- Rs. 12 million



Lotus Tower
350 meters

X'mas tree
91.44 meters

Gall Face Green, Colombo

Washington D.C. (9.1 m)



Located in the White House's President Park. The tree is adorned with 450 strings of LED lights and 120 star ornaments that are engineered by GE and is a spectacular sight.

Zurich, Switz (15.2 m)



This massive spruce tree is adorned with more than 7,000 Swarovski crystal ornaments. It is usually set up inside the iconic Zürich Hauptbahnhof Railway Station amidst the large indoor Christmas market that is held here.

London (19.9 m)



Since 1947, Norway has been gifting England a magnificent Christmas tree as a token of thanks for its support during World War II. Set up at London's Trafalgar Square, the arrival of this tree usually marks the beginning of the holiday season for many a Londoner.

Sydney (21 m)



An enormous tree which rises up to a massive 21 metres, decorated with 59,000 lights. In stark contrast to the elegant crystal decorations of Zurich, Sydney

Paris (21 m)



This Christmas tree is located inside the Belle Epoque building. The massive wonder hangs suspended from the ceiling in the manner of a chandelier adorned with Swarovski crystals. a must-see for every Christmas lover.

Prague (21.9 m)



Christmas in Prague's Old Town square is nothing short of a dream. this tree nestled in its midst, is the gargantuan 21.9 metres high tree all lit up, with over a 100 gingerbread-men-shaped ornaments.

New York (24.3 m)



Made famous and iconic by Hollywood, the tree at the Rockefeller Center, New York, has become one of the best known landmarks of the city. It is 24.3 metres high and is adorned with Swarovski crystals all over.

Phoenix (33.5 m)



This mammoth tree holds the record of being the tallest fresh cut tree in the US, beating even its Rockefeller counterpart by a whopping 9.1 metres. And not only is it tall, but this tree does its bit for the environment as 12 new trees are planted when this one is felled.

Dortmund (44.1 m)



The Christmas has one tree which is made up of 1,700 individual spruce trees piled one atop the other. The marvellous construction, in all its glory, lit up with hundreds of lights and candles is quite the spectacle!

Rio de Janeiro (84.7 m)



Floating Christmas tree. It floats on the Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon. Illuminated by 3.3 million lights, this gorgeous tree holds the Guinness World Record for being the largest floating Christmas tree in the world at 84.7 metres.



It is an attempt for Guinness world record. The tallest artificial Christmas tree ever

Info-graphics by Suren Source : Umar Ali, GLPA.mapsofworld.com

Farewells 2016



1. The hugely influential musician Prince died from an accidental drug overdose at his home in Minnesota on April 21. He was 57. A prolific songwriter, arranger and multi-instrumentalist, Prince became a global superstar in the 1980s, with albums such as 1999, Purple Rain and Sign O' the Times. His music spanned rock, funk and jazz and he sold over 100 million records during his career. Noted for his eccentricity, he once changed his name to an unpronounceable symbol.

2. Fidel Castro, former president of Cuba, died on November 25 at the age of 90. Castro toppled the government of Fulgenio Batista in 1959, introducing a Communist revolution and defying the U.S. for decades, surviving numerous and often bizarre assassination plots. A controversial and divisive figure, he was praised by supporters as a champion of socialism but viewed by his critics as a dictator who brutally suppressed opposition and crippled Cuba's economy.

3. Boxing legend Muhammad Ali died on June 3 at the age of 74. The former world heavyweight champion, widely regarded as one of the most significant sports figures of the 20th century, died from a respiratory illness complicated by Parkinson's disease, from which he had suffered for 30 years.

4. Italian writer and philosopher Umberto Eco, best known for his novel The Name of the Rose, died on February 19 at the age of 84. Eco's other novels included Foucault's Pendulum and Numero Zero, which was released in 2015.

5. Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch, died on October 13 after 70 years as head of state. The 88-year-old king was seen as a stabilising figure in a country hit by cycles of political turmoil and multiple coups, and was widely revered by his people. He had been in poor health in his last years, making few public appearances.

6. Actor Robert Vaughn, best known as the secret agent Napoleon Solo in the 1960s TV series The Man from U.N.C.L.E., died on November 11 from acute leukaemia. He was 83. He was also famous as one of the Magnificent Seven, in which he played Lee, and latterly the BBC TV series Hustle, playing grifter and card sharp Albert Stroller in all but one of the 48 episodes between 2004-12.

7. U.S. actor Gene Wilder died at age 83 on August 29. Perhaps best remembered as Willy Wonka in Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, he was also famed for his collaborations with writer and director Mel Brooks in such classic films as The Producers, Blazing Saddles and Young Frankenstein, and with stand-up comedian Richard Pryor in movies such as Stir Crazy.

8. Former First Lady Nancy Reagan died at her California home on March 6, at the age of 94. She was married to Ronald Reagan for 52 years, and from 1981-89 was one of the most influential first ladies in U.S. history. Initially criticised for an expensive renovation of the White House and her use of an astrologer to influence her husband's policies, she later became a much-loved figure, particularly as she nursed her husband through the long years of decline due to Alzheimer's disease.

9. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, UN secretary general from 1992-97, died on February 16 at the age of 93. He took office at a time of growing influence for the UN following its decisive role in the Gulf War, but faced criticism for the failure to prevent the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and alienated Washington over his opposition to the NATO bombing campaign in Bosnia. As a result, the Clinton administration vetoed his re-election for a second term.

10. Leonard Cohen, Canadian singer, songwriter, and poet who seamlessly blended spirituality and sexuality in songs like Hallelujah, Suzanne and Bird on a Wire, died on November 7 at age 82. One of the foremost songwriters of the contemporary era, his final album, You Want It Darker, was released to great acclaim just three weeks before his death.

11. Shimon Peres, one of the last founders of the modern state of Israel, died on September 28, two weeks after suffering a stroke. He was 93. Over a seven-decade career he held virtually every senior political office, including three stints as prime minister and extended terms as foreign, defence and finance minister. He won the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in reaching an interim peace agreement with the Palestinians.

12. Harper Lee, best known for her 1960 novel To Kill a Mockingbird, died aged 89 on February 19. The tale of a white lawyer defending a black man accused of rape in the Deep South, the book remains a tower-

ing presence in American literature and has sold over 40 million copies worldwide, as well as becoming a much-loved film starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch. In 2015, 55 years after it was published, Lee released a sequel, Go Set a Watchman.

13. Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Holocaust survivor, died aged 87 on July 2. A noted author and academic, his best known book was Night, which recalled his horrifying experiences as a prisoner in the Nazi concentration camps of Auschwitz and Buchenwald during WWII. Settling in the United States after the war he was a humanitarian, an activist, and a professor at Boston University. Among his many accomplishments he helped establish the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC.

14. Iraqi-born British architect Zaha Hadid, whose designs included the London Olympic Aquatic Centre, died on March 31 at age 65, following a heart attack. Earlier in 2016 she became the first woman to receive the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Gold Medal in recognition of her work. Her designs had been commissioned around the world, with notable creations including the Maxxi Museum in Rome and the Guangzhou Opera House in China.

15. Netherlands football legend Johan Cruyff, widely regarded as one of the greatest players in football history, died from lung cancer at age 68 on March 24. Cruyff, who was European footballer of the year three times, in 1971, 1973 and 1974, won three consecutive European Cups with Ajax from 1971, coached Barcelona to their first European Cup triumph in 1992 and helped the Dutch reach the 1974 World Cup final, where they lost 2-1 to West Germany. During the tournament he executed an astonishing 180-degree turn, subsequently named the Cruyff Turn, a move now widely replicated in the modern game.

16. British actor Alan Rickman, whose films included Harry Potter, Die Hard, Truly Madly Deeply and Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, died from cancer on January 14, at the age of 69. Often cast as villains thanks to his distinctive voice, his best known roles included Professor Severus Snape in the Harry Potter series and Hans Gruber in Die Hard.

17. Arnold Palmer, widely regarded as one of the world's greatest professional golfers, died on September 25, aged 87.

Over his long career he won more than 90 tournaments worldwide, including seven majors. As one of the "Big Three" in the 1960s, with Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player, he is widely credited with popularising and commercialising the sport around the world.

18. Record producer George Martin, known as the "fifth Beatle", died on March 8 at age 90. Martin, who signed The Beatles in 1962 and produced more than 700 records, was described by Paul McCartney as "a true gentleman and like a second father to me". Martin also worked with artists including Gerry and the Pacemakers, Shirley Bassey and Cilla Black.

19. Vera Caslavka, Czechoslovakian artistic gymnast, died from cancer on August 30 at age 74. She was one of only two female gymnasts, along with Soviet Larisa Latynina, to win the all-around gold medal at two consecutive Olympics, at Tokyo in 1964 and Mexico City in 1968. She won a total of 22 international titles from 1959-68, including seven Olympic gold medals, four World titles and 11 European championship titles.

20. Singer David Bowie, one of the most influential musicians of his era, died from cancer at the age of 69, on January 10. Also an accomplished actor, painter and writer, he was at the vanguard of contemporary culture from the 1960s onwards and tributes from around the world flowed in to the "extraordinary artist" whose last album, Blackstar, was released on his birthday just two days before his death.

21. Singer, songwriter and music producer George Michael died on Christmas Day, aged 53. The star, who launched his career with Wham! in the 1980s, had huge success as a solo performer. Michael, who was born Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou in north London, sold more than 100 million albums throughout a career spanning almost four decades.

22. Singer, songwriter and music producer Deshamanya Wannakuwatta Waduge Don Albert Perera better known by his adopted name Amaradeva died on 3 November 2016, aged 88. Amaradeva was a prominent Sri Lankan vocalist, violinist and composer. Primarily using traditional instruments like sitars, tablas and harmoniums, Amaradeva incorporates Sinhala folk music with Indian ragas in his work

Source: Graphicnews - Pictures: AP, Getty Images, Newscom, Warner Bros Graphics - Suren

DTA Christmas Party 2016



The Durham Tamil Association (DTA) community came together for their 15th Annual Christmas party on December 18th at the Eastshore community centre, Pickering. Volunteers, Parents, along with their children participated in the festivities and the event provided a number of activities for both the young and old. The evening started off with a children's carol service organized by DTA youth volunteers. Children age 3-16 participated in the carols and sang

with such enthusiasm the audience gave them a standing ovation. The kids then got a chance to showcase their creative talents with arts and crafts that depicted the Christmas themes. It was great to see all the parents having a good time with their children and spending quality time enjoying the festive mood. There was lots of food and drinks that were served to the guests throughout the evening. Many thanks to our sponsors that allowed us to host this event free

of charge for our valued members. The highlight of the evening was the arrival of Santa Claus, he brought a load of presents so that every child at the event received a gift. They took pictures with Santa and shouted out with glee! Every guest was treated to a sumptuous pizza dinner with a variety of drinks. Needless to say guests gathered at the event had a great time with lots of laughter and great conversations, and it was amazing to see the Tamil community come together once again to organize

such a great event at a very busy time of the year. This was another testament to the unity and spirit that has revived the membership at large where everyone has a role to play whether it was decorating the Christmas tree or simply helping with handing out the gifts. Special thanks to the executive committee who once again put on a great show and every detail was taken care of to provide the members a memorable experience. Happy Holidays!



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