

Monsoon Journal

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Emil Alphonsus B. CA, CPA, CGA

Canada celebrates 150th Birthday

By Siva Sivapragasam

.....
Canadians across the country and around the world showed their pride in their history, culture, achievements and values as the country celebrated its one hundred and ftieth birthday on July rst. It was a day of celebrations for Canadians with many festivities held across the country.

One hundred and fifty years ago in Charlottetown and Québec City, Fathers of The Confederation first dreamed of a united Canada, prosperous, strong and free. As the country marks its150th anniversary of Confederation, Canadians can proudly say that their great national dream has in-deed come to fruition.

Canadians can be proud of their country on its birthday as it has been voted the Best Country in the World recently during the annual 2017 World Countries Award WCA ceremony. The Canadian people were also voted as the Nicest people on the planet.

What makes Canada great and one of the best countries in the world are Canadian values which the people are proud to accept and follow to make the country proud, strong and free. Canadian values are demonstrated in a variety of fields through the Charter of Rights and Freedom which include keeping the country safe, offering Freedom of speech, upholding humanitarian rights and maintaining the Rule of Law. Thou-

“Let them look to the past, but let them also look to the future, let them look to the land of their ancestors, but let them also look to the land of their children.”

– **Former Canadian Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier**

sands of persons from various parts of the world including Sri Lanka have made Canada their home for these values Canada has offered them.

Accepting a boat load of Sri Lankan refugees stranded in mid-sea in Newfoundland was a classic example of Canada's strong belief in humanitarian values. Canada also stands out as the leading country in the world for its immigration policy



of accepting the highest number of refugees every year from all parts of the world.

The national mosaic framework of Canada built on diversity and a level playing field to all its citizens irrespective of color, creed or race has made it the greatest country in the world to live.

Happy 150th Birthday Canada. Diversity makes you Great.



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Celebrating 150 Years of Confederation Statement from Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown



"Proud to speak at the @DowntownBarrie annual #CanadaDay cake cutting. Happy #Canada150! #onpoli" @brownbarrie

July 1, 2017:

"Joyeuse fête du Canada! Happy Canada Day!

"Today we are celebrating Canada's 150th birthday, and what a remarkable country we live in.

"A hundred and fifty years! Today we say "thank you Canada".

"Today, we say we are proud to be Canadian.

"And whether you are celebrating in a park, on a beach, on a porch or on a dock, today we appreciate the incredible country we live in.

"A country that is based on the values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, respect for others – a country that is getting better and better, generation after generation.

"And on Canada Day, it is also

important to understand how we got here, to appreciate those that have made this incredible country what it is, and we should be thankful to those who have served – those who have protected Canada and kept it safe.

"I am celebrating in my riding today of Simcoe North – in beautiful Simcoe County – and there are incredible areas like this throughout the province of Ontario and throughout Canada from coast to coast, and we are all so fortunate and lucky to be Canadian.

"So today, on behalf of the Ontario PC Party, I say "Happy Canada Day", "Joyeuse fête du Canada"!

"Nous vivons dans le meilleur pays dans la monde!

"Have a wonderful day with family and friends celebrating Canada Day!"

Canada 150th Anniversary

By: JJ Atputharajah

Oh! Canada, you have travelled,
A hundred and fifty years,
Giving life and hope,
To a land that was once,
Left out as an ice desert,
You brought the whole,
World together,
To enjoy the benefits,
Of democratic living,



Away from cultural conflicts,
Accruing the skills and ethos,
Of all lands and people,
With mutual love and understanding,
A veritable heaven on earth!!

Tamil Fest 2017



Tamil Fest is the largest street festival in Scarborough's history, and the 2017 festival is poised this August to beat its former attendance record of 175,000 people. The largest Tamil street festival outside the Indian subcontinent, organizers said, hits Markham Road again on Aug. 26 to 27. Tamil Fest showcases and highlights the individual and collective achievements of the Tamil-Canadian community.

"Tamil Fest is a platform to show the many achievements of the Tamil-Canadian community and highlight the ancient Tamil culture. There is no better place than to share our unique culture in Toronto's multicultural mosaic," Canadian Tamil Congress vice president Dr. Vadivelu Shanthikumar said in a state-

ment

The festival runs through Sunday night on Markham Road between McNicoll and Passmore avenues.

This year's Tamil Fest highlights include:

- Showcase of Toronto Tamil arts and culture talent
- International Tamil entertainment from India and Europe
- A variety of traditional Tamil cuisine
- Traditional Tamil street performers

There are 300,000 Tamil Canadians living in Toronto, the Canadian Tamil Congress reported. The Canadian Tamil Congress is a nonprofit organization serving as the voice of Tamil Canadians.

For more information

visit www.canadiantamilcongress.ca

Statement from Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath on Drug Costs and the Need for Universal Pharmacare

June 13, 2017: Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath released the following statement regarding the Canadian Medical Association Journal study, released Monday, on drug costs in Canada:

"A new study in the Canadian Medical Association Journal paints a picture of a major problem -- one I'm determined to fix with our NDP Pharmacare plan.

According to the study published in the CMAJ by leading authority Dr. Steve Morgan, Canada has the second highest drug costs for common conditions compared to other countries with universal health care. This new study shows that in order to effectively lower the cost of drugs, we need bargaining power. Only a universal plan will do that - by giving

the Government of Ontario the bargaining power of 14 million people.

Dr. Morgan himself joined me in Toronto as I unveiled the details of the NDP's universal Pharmacare plan, and he has fully endorsed it as the best way forward to deliver lower costs, less stress and better health for all Ontarians. It can save millions of dollars -- and it can save lives.

No one should have to empty their wallet to get the medicine they need. I'm committed to implementing Ontario's first Universal Pharmacare plan when the NDP forms government in 2018 - giving prescription drug benefits to everyone, regardless of age, income or health status." - ontariondp.ca



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from the publisher's desk

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The Two-Sided Coin of Canada 150: Self-Reflection and Celebration on Canadian Patriotism

Annually, during the summer season, July 1 is known as Canada Day. A few independent British provinces formed a confederation on this day in 1867 or what became the country of Canada. Canada Day is regularly celebrated with barbecues, fireworks, parades, and other sorts of festivities to commemorate the country's independence. 2017, however, established an especially significant milestone for Canada, in that it marked its 150th year as an independent confederation.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in his official statement on this occasion, noted that in the 150 years following confederation the country has become "prosperous, generous, and proud." Indeed, this is attributed to how Canada, among other actions, has delivered the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that cherishes its values of "equality, diversity, and the freedom of the individual, and two official languages." According to Stephen Marche, a Canadian writer for Esquire magazine, in this regard, there is an ironic sense of Canadian patriotism as the country receives praise on the world stage as a positive trendsetter in managing modern globalization.

The irony in that, despite the nationwide celebrations of Canadian patriotism pertaining to its historical and current accomplishments like universal healthcare or its refugee policies, Canada 150 has been characterized as an opportunity for deep self-reflection on the nation's history. This relates primarily to the #Resistance 150 Indigenous movement that formed to protest the Canada 150 milestone in the lead up to and on the auspicious day and as part of ongoing Indigenous resistance to the country's colonial past. As an Internet campaign initiated by four Indigenous individuals, including Anishinaabe traditional storyteller and teacher, Isaac Murdoch, the #Resistance150 movement condemns the Canada 150 celebrations as glorifying the many historical injustices such as residential schools and the 1867 Indian Act the country brought upon the Indigenous population.

Prior to the federal 150 events in Ottawa on July 1st, Indigenous activists supporting Resistance 150 erected a teepee near the stage for the Canada 150 concert. In response, Mr. Trudeau visited the structure for a discussion with the organizers, maintaining that the unconstitutionality of it highlighted the "difficulties of creating 'nation-to-nation' discussions and the need for 'getting out of colonial structures.'" Additionally, in the same 2017 Canada Day statement, Trudeau said,

"Indigenous Peoples in this country have faced oppression for centuries. As a society, we must acknowledge and apologize for past wrongs, and chart a path forward for the next

150 years-one in which we continue to build our nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown, and government-to-government relationship with the First Nation, Inuit, and Metis Nation."

One #Resistance150 participant, Ashley Courchene, a Sagkeeng First Nation, felt optimistic that both Trudeau and his wife came in person to hear their grievances. Furthermore, although other activists were reportedly pleased by his visit, they asserted that more must be done on educating the "settler" population about Indigenous peoples, with Candace DayNeveau, another such Resistance150 activist, among this collective of voices.

Overall, while there is much to celebrate about Canada such as its multiculturalism, sense of multilateral diplomacy, bilingualism, maple syrup, and so on, there are loathsome aspects of the country than we may care to admit. From that view, Canada 150 is a two-sided coin of self-reflection and celebration defining this moment in the country's history, but with the former seemingly overshadowing the latter. However, as with past Canada Day commemorations, we should remember that it is a time to engage equally in both self-reflection and celebration in advancing prosperity across all of Canada.

Contributed by Harrish Thirukumaran



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau inside the teepee erected on Parliament Hill, June 30, 2017



On Canada Day, July 1, 2017

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"Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas" - Marie Skłodowska Curie (7 November 1867 - 4 July 1934) Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist, first woman to win a Nobel Prize

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Taking Further Action to Protect Retirement Security: Improving Sustainability and Transparency for More Workplace Pension Plans

June 29, 2017: Ontario is taking further steps to help ensure workers' retirement benefits are protected and maintained, while helping businesses compete and attract skilled workers.

The province is implementing a new framework for target benefit multi-employer pension plans that will help ensure these plans are healthy and sustainable over the long term. The new framework will replace the time-limited funding regulations currently in place for specified Ontario multi-employer pension plans (SOMEPPs). The changes would provide these plans with a permanent exemption from funding on a solvency basis while also:

Enhancing long term plan sustainability and benefit security by requiring the funding of a reserve to assist plans in overcoming adverse events, such as poor investment returns

Helping ensure target benefits are predictable by lowering the risk of benefit reductions

Improving transparency so plan participants understand how their plans are governed and operated

The government intends to intro-

duce legislation in the fall and regulation in 2018 to implement these changes and will be consulting on the details of the new framework, including the design of the reserve and how plans transition to the new requirements. As an interim step, the government is extending the temporary solvency funding exemption currently in place for SOMEPPs by one year to August 2018.

Helping businesses maintain workplace pension plans while protecting benefit security for workers and retirees is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

- news.ontario.ca



Ministers Hussen, Freeland, Joly and Bibeau mark World Refugee Day

Ottawa, June 20, 2017 — The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship; The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs; The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and la Francophonie; and The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism today issued the following statement on World Refugee Day:

"Canada is deeply concerned by the unprecedented numbers of children, women and men fleeing conflict and persecution around the world. This is a phenomenon that affects many countries and Canada is committed to doing its part to provide assistance and protection for refugees, and to addressing the root causes of their plight.

"As we mark World Refugee Day, we are reminded that we must all do what we can to help the most vulnerable.

"Canada recently welcomed more than 40,000 Syrian refugees who have been forced to flee their homeland because of the recent war and conflict in

the region while continuing to welcome thousands of refugees from other parts of the world.

"Over the years, our country has received thousands of refugees including 37,000 Hungarian refugees in the mid-1950s and the resettlement of nearly 60,000 refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos a generation later, as well as thousands more from Uganda, Kosovo, Bhutan and many other countries. We are committed to maintaining this humanitarian tradition.

"We are fortunate in Canada to have a network of service provider organizations, community groups, and individual Canadians that work tirelessly to help refugees integrate into Canadian society as quickly as possible.

"As we celebrate Canada 150, we must take the opportunity to reflect on our past. There is no doubt that Canada's strong humanitarian tradition has helped shape this country.

"Canada is a country that values compassion, openness and diversity. These are the principles that we honour on this World Refugee Day."

- canada.ca

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U.S. Representative in Sri Lanka Ambassador Atul Keshap Visits Eastern Province

U.S. Ambassador Atul Keshap visited the Eastern Province the week of June 19th to commemorate a milestone in U.S.-supported demining efforts and to attend the groundbreaking ceremony at a school to construct facilities to help communities displaced by natural disasters. During the visit, Ambassador Keshap also met leaders and activists working on post-conflict reconciliation and accountability issues.

Ambassador Keshap also paid respects to local religious leaders, including Jesuit Fathers Miller and Laurio, Americans who have each served the people of Batticaloa for over 60 years. In addition, he hosted the U.S. Embassy's first iftar in Batticaloa and met with Muslim community leaders, who stressed the need to modernize the outdated 1951 Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act.

The demining ceremony in Batticaloa marks a milestone in the effort to reduce the dangers of landmines, establishing the first district in Sri Lanka to be reach "residual risk" mine impact-free status since the end of the civil war. Ambassador Keshap was joined by Hon. Minister D.M. Swaminathan of the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs, Eastern Province Chief Minister Hon. Nazeer Ahamed, and other foreign diplomats. The United States government has contributed approximately LKR 8 billion (\$53 million) for mine clearance, survey, risk

education, and capacity building in Sri Lanka.

"While demining activity continues across the country, we are proud to work together with so many local and international partners to reach this milestone," said Ambassador Keshap at the commemoration. "We appreciate the leadership of the Sri Lanka Army and the National Mine Action Center to support the Sri Lanka government's stated clearance goal by 2020."

At the school groundbreaking, Chief Minister Nazeer joined Ambassador Keshap to dedicate the construction of new facilities at Al-Ameen Vidyalayam in Kawathamunai. This is one of 13 projects in schools and medical centers in the Eastern Province to support communities affected by natural disasters like flooding.

"We thank the American people for their continued commitment to not just Sri Lanka's school children, but entire communities when they are most in need," said Al-Ameen school principal Mr. Firthouz.

Ambassador Keshap also met with local leaders and civil society to discuss progress on reconciliation, especially for families of disappeared persons.

"Families of the disappeared from all of Sri Lanka's different communities have shown true heroism in their search for answers," said Ambassador Keshap.

(lk.usembassy.gov)



Ambassador paid respects to local religious leaders, including Jesuit Fathers Miller and Laurio, Americans who have each served the people of Batticaloa for over 60 years.



Ambassador Keshap was moved by the dedication and sorrow of Sri Lankan families seeking answers about their missing loved ones.

Rajendra Theagarajah appointed Chairman of Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

By Siva Sivapragasam

One of Sri Lanka's veteran Bankers and Chartered Accountant Rajendra Theagarajah has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce at the 178th Annual General meeting held recently in Colombo.

Theagarajah is a banker with a wealth of experience in the banking and financial services sector and counts over 30 years of experience in banking both locally and internationally.

Born in Colombo and educated at the prestigious Royal College, Theagarajah trained as a Chartered Accountant and later joined The Chase Manhattan Bank in London where he obtained extensive training in a multitude of areas in Global Commercial Banking.

On his return to Sri Lanka, he initially worked for the Colombo Branch of Banque Indosuez and later became the CEO/Managing Director of the Hatton National Bank which was recognized

as the "Best Retail Bank" in Sri Lanka for six consecutive years during his time. After his retirement from the Hatton National Bank, he headed the National Development Bank for three years.



Mr. Theagarajah now serves as the Deputy Chairman of the Cargills Bank, a division of the Cargills Group. He has held the position of Vice-Chairman of the Chamber and now has become its Chairman. He succeeds Samantha Ranatunga who led the Chamber during the past two years.

Mr. Theagarajah was invited as the Guest of Honour by the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce at their Annual Awards Gala event held in April this year.



Ambassador Keshap also hosted the U.S. Embassy's first iftar in Batticaloa and met with Muslim community leaders who stressed the need to modernize outdated 1951 Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act



High Commissioner for India in Sri Lanka visits Northern Province

High Commissioner Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu visited Sri Lanka's Northern Province during June 26 – July 1. The new High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, presented his credentials to President Maithripala Sirisena on 24 January 2017 at a ceremony at President's House in Colombo. Mr. Sandhu's previous appointments included in the former Soviet Union (Russia), Ukraine, Germany and Embassy of India, Washington DC. Here are pictures from High Commissioner Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu's first official visit to Sri Lanka's Northern Province:



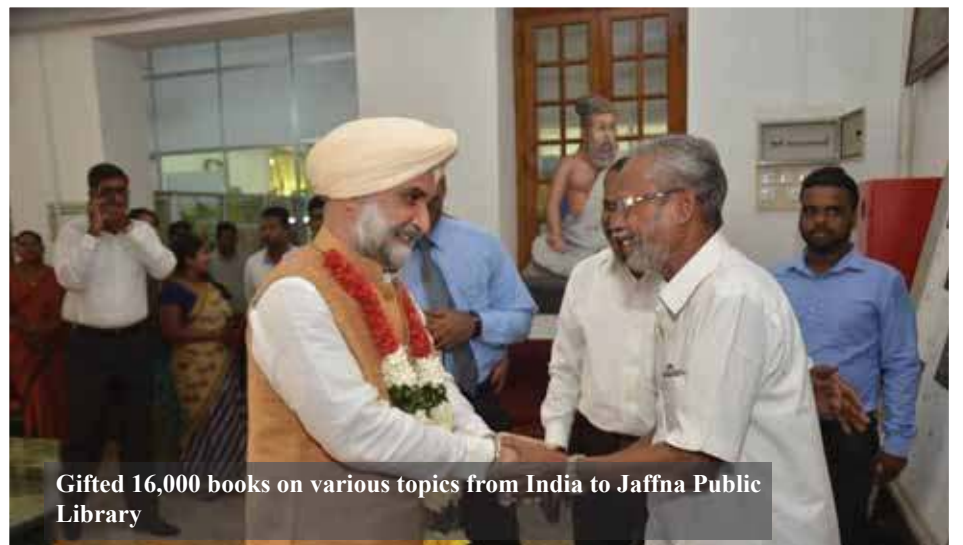
Courtesy Calls on Rev. Bishop of Jaffna Justin Gnanapragasam on 29 June 2017



Paying homage at Keerimalai Naguleshwaram Temple



Dedication of Faculties of Agriculture complex and Engineering block at University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi campus



Gifted 16,000 books on various topics from India to Jaffna Public Library



Event at Jaffna Public Library



Meeting with Northern Province Chief Minister Justice C.V. Wigneswaran



Visit to the construction site of Cultural Centre in Jaffna



Meeting TNA Parliamentarian MA Sumanthiran at the Dinner in honour of High Commissioner by Consul-General for India in Jaffna



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Sri Lanka Army vacates land, harbour in Jaffna after 27 years

"54 acres in Myliddy, including its fishing harbour, released today", "The rest of the land must also be released, as per the promise of the #lka govt" - @MASumanthiran on release of 54 acres in Myliddy today" and "We welcome release of Myliddy fishery harbour; it is of symbolic significance" -@MASumanthiran on release of 54 acres in Myliddy today #lka", these were Tamil National Alliance's refreshing tweets, and much welcomed widely across the social media on Monday, July 3.

The following is the report by Meera Srinivasan in The Hindu on this latest land release by Sri Lanka Army:

The Sri Lankan army on Monday, July 3rd returned 54 acres of land in the fishing village of Myliddy in Jaffna peninsula to its original residents, after occupying it for nearly three decades.

Consequently, about 200 families living in welfare centres for the war-affected and with friends and relatives returned to where they lived before the country's civil war displaced them. Fisher folk from the coastal village, who have for long sought access to the Myliddy fishing harbour, also in the military's high security zone and out of reach, can finally fish there after years

of struggle.

The army has released the land after taking into account security considerations, the government's reconciliation efforts and the livelihoods of people, Jaffna army commander Major General Darshana Hettiarachchi told The Hindu. "Before releasing land, we assess the security situation, looking at whether there is any security threat in the area, or whether there is a possible LTTE resurgence. Asked about the current security situation, Mr. Hettiarachchi said: "It is 100 per cent okay", adding that there was no threat of LTTE resurgence.

"There are some crimes such as burglary and robbery, which come under the purview of the police."

Residents have demanded that the remaining land in army control also be released soon.

According to the Ministry of Resettlement, the armed forces have so far released over 70,000 acres, amid a series of protests by residents in different parts of the Tamil-majority Northern Province. An official figure for land still under military-occupation was not available, but according to local estimates, around 4,700 acres in Jaffna



Myliddy, Jul 3, 2017 pic via: @TNA Media Office

peninsula are yet to be released.

After he was elected in 2015, President Maithripala Sirisena assured the northern Tamils that he would release their land as a step forward in reconciliation.

The Tamil National Alliance's Jaffna district parliament M.A. Sumanthiran said on Monday the release of Myliddy fishing harbour was of symbolic significance. "The rest of the land must also be released, as per the promise of the #lka govt," he tweeted.

Even after residents return, there is an evident need for infrastructure support. In Myliddy, for instance, none of

the homes of the 200 families have survived the war.

"The Resettlement Ministry has a plan to build some houses, but we need a comprehensive housing scheme that covers all the displaced families of Myliddy," Jaffna's Government Agent (corresponds to the district collector in India) N. Vethanayahan said. Moreover, there are currently no schools or hospitals in the vicinity for Myliddy residents who have just returned. They have no choice but to continue attending schools far away, he pointed out.

- courtesy: The Hindu

US, India Leaders Pledge to Boost Security, Trade Ties

By Steve Herman

June 27, 2017:

WHITE HOUSE — U.S. President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are pledging to work together to boost security and trade ties.

The two countries "look forward to working together on advanced defense equipment and technology at a level commensurate with that of the closest allies and partners of the United States," according to a White House statement issued Monday, June 26th evening. Declaring his talks with the president "very successful and very fruitful," the visiting Indian prime minister gave his host a trademark bear hug in the White House Rose Garden when the two finished reading their respective statement. They did not take questions from the dozens of White House correspondents and the visiting Indian reporters. Modi also announced increased cooperation on fighting terrorism, including enhanced sharing of intelligence.

"The top priority for both President Trump and I is to protect our societies from global challenges like terrorism, and our aim is to strengthen India and the United States, the two great democracies of the world," Modi said alongside Trump.

The U.S. president said New Delhi and Washington can set an example for many other nations and make great



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at the White House, Jun 26, 2017

strides in defeating common threats.

"We will destroy radical Islamic terrorism," said the president.

Indian officials expressed appreciation for the U.S. designation of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leader as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.

Trump and Modi, according to the White House statement, called on Pakistan to ensure that its territory is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries and requested Islamabad "expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai, Pathankot and other cross-border terrorist attacks perpetrated by Pakistan-based groups."

Combining both the security and economic relationship, an expected multi-billion-dollar deal for American surveillance drones for the Indian Navy will make a dent in the \$24 bil-

lion trade imbalance in India's favor.

The manufacturer of the drones, General Atomics, said it received clearance to sell the unmanned aerial vehicles to the Indian military – a deal estimated to be worth between \$2 billion and \$3 billion.

The White House Monday evening said the drones had been offered for consideration of sale to enhance "India's capabilities and promote shared security interests."

Meanwhile, the State Department has approved a possible sale of C-17 transport aircraft to India's government. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency says it delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible \$366 million sale on Monday.

The president on June 26th did not specifically mention the drones or the

cargo planes, but in a delegation meeting in the White House Cabinet Room Trump, flanked by his vice president and secretary of state, expressed appreciation for India ordering American defense equipment.

"There's nobody makes military equipment like we make military equipment. Nobody even close. So, we want to thank you very much," Trump said sitting across a conference table from Modi.

"What's clear from this visit and the joint statement is that there is a fair amount of policy continuity in U.S.-India relations since the leadership transition in Washington," the Wilson Center's South Asia deputy director Michael Kugelman told VOA.

While Modi is touting a "Make in India" campaign, Trump is all about "America First."

Analysts, such as Kugelman, say it is notable that the two leaders directly referenced such potential tension points.

"Clearly Modi and Trump believe that economic and trade cooperation need not be as tricky as some may assume," said Kugelman.

Although this was not billed as a state visit, U.S. officials emphasized they rolled out the red carpet for the Indian prime minister. And Modi was the first foreign leader for whom Trump hosted a dinner at the White House.

- VOA News



Around the World

Sri Lanka's food gap widens in wake of regional floods and drought, UN agencies warn



22 June 2017 – An extreme drought followed by floods has affected large swathes of cropland in Sri Lanka, United Nations agencies reported today, warning that the disaster threatens the food security of some 900,000 people.

Having lost their crops to drought and floods, Sri Lanka's most vulnerable groups are struggling to earn an income, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Following the bad harvests, many, the agencies add, are now also forced to buy food from local markets.

As access for families to nutritious food has been reduced – forcing many to eat less – prices at local markets have risen sharply, with rice prices reaching an all-time high in January.

Now, nearly 225,000 households (or about 900,000 people) face food insecurity, the UN agencies say.

A previous joint assessment showed that in 10 districts about one third of the drought-affected population had its regular income reduced by more than half.

To cover immediate needs, FAO and WFP are calling in the current Crop and Food Security Assessment for the urgent provision of seeds, as well as planting and irrigation equipment for the next planting season, from September to December, as well as support for irrigation systems.

Additionally, both agencies recom-

mend quick and targeted cash assistance for the poorest and most vulnerable families to ensure adequate food intake and to prevent them from incurring unsustainably high debt or adopting other coping mechanisms that could have long-term negative effects.

Based on findings in the report, which assesses the seriousness of a crisis situation by looking at the food produced nationally and the extent to which poor people can meet their basic food needs, both agencies argue that drought conditions in 2016 and early 2017 led to widespread crop failures, in particular for rice paddy – the country's staple food.

Total paddy production in 2017 is forecast at 2.7 million metric tonnes, almost 40 per cent less than the last year's output and 35 per cent lower than the average of the previous five years.

Following last month's severe flooding and landslides, the agencies note that the heavy rains did not ease the water supply constraints in the drought-impacted north-central and eastern parts of the South Asian country.

Looking ahead, the situation may further deteriorate if the next cropping season fails. Current predictions show the second 2017 paddy harvest – known as Yala, due to be harvested in August and September – is forecast at 1.2 million metric tonnes, 24 per cent below last year's level.

– UN.org

India rolls out one uniform Goods and Services Tax (GST) across the country

New Delhi, Jul 3: Three days into GST regime, Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha today held a review meeting to take stock implementation of the new tax regime.

The Cabinet Secretary asked secretaries of various departments to give their feedback on the rollout of GST.

Apart from Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia, the meeting saw participation from about 20 secretaries from key departments.

All the top brass of CBEC were present in the meeting.

On June 20, Sinha had taken GST preparedness meeting with 30 ministries and departments and had asked the secretaries to organise outreach meetings and publicity campaigns through their departments and PSUs for explaining the provisions of new law and rules to their stakeholders.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out from July 1 and the fi-

nance ministry had yesterday said that the two days of GST rollout has passed "without any major problems being reported" from the field offices.

"The Revenue Department has got encouraging reports from the roadside dhabas and big restaurants as well as from kirana shops to departmental stores which, in turn, have started getting acclimatised to the new tax system," it had said.

The biggest indirect tax since Independence, GST removes at least 17 different taxes and transforms India into a single market for seamless movement of goods and services.

– PTI



PM Justin Trudeau receives honorary degree from University of Edinburgh

The Prime Minister of Canada, The Rt Hon Justin Trudeau, has been awarded an honorary degree at a ceremony held at the University of Edinburgh on July 5th.

Mr Trudeau received the degree of Doctor honoris causa at the newly-refurbished McEwan Hall prior to being received in audience by Her Majesty The Queen at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

The award, which was presented by University's Principal and Vice Chancellor, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, is in recognition of Mr Trudeau's achievements as a public servant with strong commitments to equality and diversity.

Addressing the audience Mr Trudeau encouraged graduates to learn from their failures as well as their successes.

If something excites you a lot and scares you a little, you should probably do it, he said.

Mr Trudeau encouraged the graduating students to learn from their failures as well as their successes as they embarked on life after university.

It is a pleasure to be here today and to be invited to address you. It is an even greater pleasure to receive this honorary degree and a privilege to take to this stage.

To mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the Prime Minister has been visiting Ireland and the UK in recognition of the strong family ties, history and common purpose that both



countries share with Canada.

Proposing Mr Trudeau for the award of the degree, the Director of the University's Centre of Canadian Studies, Dr James Kennedy, wished the Prime Minister a belated Happy Canada Day.

On 1st July, Canada celebrated 150 years of Confederation and, in light of the strong ties between Scotland and Canada, I can think of no better moment for the University of Edinburgh to honour the values that Canada embodies than by conferring this Honorary Doctorate on Mr Trudeau.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is the second Canadian PM to receive an honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh. The first was Sir Wilfred Laurier.

The University of Edinburgh also recognized the "return of Canadian soft power" at the event on July 5th, 2017.

(pic via: @edinburghpaper)

Latest ballistic missile launch by DPR Korea a 'dangerous escalation of the situation' – UN chief

4 July 2017 – Strongly condemning today's launch of a ballistic missile of possible intercontinental range by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has underscored that the country's leadership must cease such actions and comply fully with its international obligations.

"This action is yet another brazen violation of Security Council resolutions and constitutes a dangerous escalation of the situation," read a statement attributable to the UN chief's Spokesperson.

"The DPRK leadership must cease further provocative actions and comply fully with its international obligations," it added. According to reports, the latest launch was conducted over the Sea of Japan.

In the statement, Secretary-General Guterres also underlined the importance of maintaining the unity of the

international community in addressing this serious challenge.

Last month, condemning "in the strongest terms", the DPRK's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile development activities, the UN Security Council had unanimously adopted a resolution, applying existing sanctions to 14 individuals and four entities from the country.

The individuals are now subjected to travel ban and asset freeze, and the four entities subjected to asset freeze. They are listed in the annexes to the resolution.

– UN.org



Secretary-General António Guterres.
UN Photo/Violaine Martin (file)

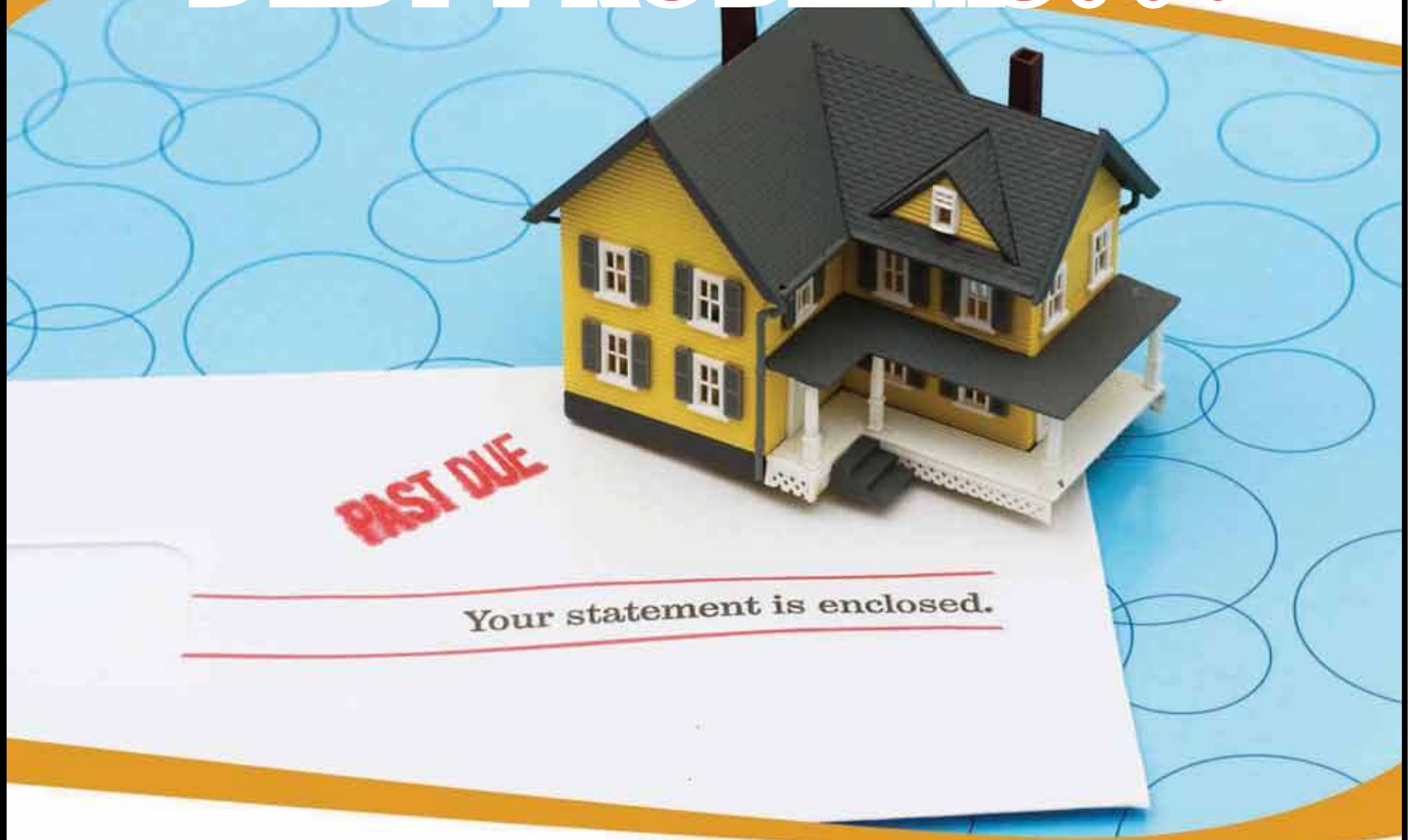


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IN A NEW YORK MINUTE

HOW ONE PATIENT'S CARE JOURNEY SAW PROVIDENCE HEALTHCARE IN THE BIG APPLE

In spring 2016, an elderly man in Providence Healthcare's Orthopaedic and Amputee Rehab program was nearing the end of his rehab and was ready to return to his home in New York City.

While visiting Canada in the fall of 2015, he succumbed to an illness requiring hospitalization. After several months in acute care, he was admitted to Providence for rehabilitation. During his stay, he made it clear he wanted to return home to spend his remaining days in the city he knew and loved. Unfortunately, he was unable to travel on his own and he had limited social supports to help transition him home safely.

Without hesitation, Providence staff began to brainstorm a way for this man to return home. The patient had not been home in many months, so it was imperative that his expired travel documents, home setting and medical appointments were arranged ahead of time. Social Worker Lishan Baileyegh spearheaded much of the brainstorming and advocated for this patient's rights and Social Worker Magda Doran aided in the delivery.

Shannon Krukowski, Interim Professional Practice Leader for Nursing, and Viani Tropiano, a Nursing Professional Practice Consultant, were then asked to accompany the patient home. For the patient, the idea caused him to be unset-

tled. He felt it was "a whole lot of fuss, for nothing," but, once they landed in New York, his outlook changed.

When they arrived at his apartment, they found it in poor condition and not safe for the patient to live in. So, in true Providence fashion, they advocated on his behalf to ensure repairs were done immediately and that he had a safe place to stay until completion.

On their last day in New York City, the patient had a huge smile on his face over lunch. He let Viani and Shannon know that he was grateful to be home and for all that the Providence care team had done to make it possible. Most of all, he was excited that he had flown with Porter Airlines... something he had always dreamed of!

"We were happy to be able to make his dream a reality and relieved to see him flourishing back in his home environment," says Viani and Shannon.

Thank you to all the staff at Providence Healthcare who helped make this possible and for ensuring the best care for this patient.

Located in Toronto's east end at the corner of Warden and St. Clair Avenues, Providence Healthcare is a leader in providing rehabilitation, palliative care, long-term care and community programs. For more information on Providence, visit www.providence.on.ca.



Providence Healthcare's Viani Tropiano and Shannon Krukowski in New York City's Central Park.

SOULFULLY MAKING FRIENDS FOR PROVIDENCE



Clarence Chandran, Kevin Dougherty, and Raj Kothari



Guests enjoyed a pre-dinner cocktail in the beautiful Bridle Path back yard



Don Ross (former patient at Providence), shown with Jennifer Stewart (CEO and President, Providence Healthcare Foundation), and Allison Elliot (wife of Don Ross)

On June 7, 2017, an intimate gathering of 50 donors and new friends of Providence enjoyed an evening of entertainment with Soulepper Theatre to expand awareness and support for Providence Healthcare.

Hosted by Raj Kothari, Vice Chair & Managing Partner-GTA at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Kevin Dougherty, President of Sun Life Financial Canada and Board Chair of Providence Healthcare Foundation, this evening was a night to remember at a stunning home in the prestigious Bridle Path.

Guests experienced exceptional food and wine, accompanied by a breathtaking performance from the talented musicians of Soulepper Theatre, who took us on a musical journey of New York City.

A JOURNEY FROM START TO FINISH

Unlike the many fundraisers hosted by Providence Healthcare Foundation, this event was designed as a "Friendraiser". By definition, this is when a group of friends come together to enjoy fellowship and create awareness about a particular organization and the charitable impact they make.

The goal was to create an opportunity to mix old friends with new and raise awareness for the great work being done at Providence Healthcare. Those who attended

had the privilege of listening to Don Ross, a former rehabilitation patient at Providence Hospital, who shared his difficult and emotional journey to recovery. Don beat incredible odds of survival, coming through a storm that most thought was not possible to endure. According to Don, Providence "gave him back his life," and he continues to give back to Providence by sharing his story and volunteering his time.

This event is a unique example of how you can raise awareness and funds in your own way while expanding our network and fundraising capabilities. 2017 is a year of celebration, as Providence is celebrating 160 years of delivering compassion, hope, and healing. As Canadians, we are also reflecting on the 150th birthday of our great nation.

We encourage you to consider shining a light on the legacy of Providence Healthcare at your next milestone celebration.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in hosting an event in support of Providence Healthcare, please contact Cassidy Walker-Sloan, Annual Fund Officer at 416-285-3666, ext. 3990 or email CWalker-Sloan@providence.on.ca. We welcome the chance to work with you on your next "Friendraising" event, equipping you with the tools to make a difference in the community among your circle friends!

Baby Rivan, born at SRH Centenary, brings joy to his whole family



Karthiga Dharmananda with baby Rivan at SRH Centenary

Father's Day will never be the same for Saran Ragunathan, and **Mother's Day** will never be the same for his wife Karthiga Dharmananda. That's because this year Saran and Karthiga are celebrating as new parents!

Little Rivan Ragunathan was born at Scarborough and Rouge Hospital's (SRH) Centenary last month, weighing exactly 6 lbs. He's not only Karthiga and Saran first baby, he's also the first grandchild on both sides of their family.

Karthiga and Saran, who live and grew up in Scarborough, decided to have their baby at Centenary because it is their community hospital — Saran was even a volunteer at the information desk when he was younger. They were referred to Dr. Damla by their family physician.

"This is such special time because there are so many firsts

that are new to our family," says Karthiga.

After Karthiga's due date passed, she and Saran came in to Centenary the next morning for a scheduled induction with their obstetrician Dr. Garo Damla. That was at 10 a.m., and within five hours Karthiga was in active labour.

"It all happened so much faster than I expected!" she says. "My team was amazing. They explained everything, and were really responsive to my questions and what I was telling them."

When Karthiga described the pain she was feeling, her labour and delivery nurse Josie Harrison decided to call Dr. Damla back to check on her an hour sooner than was planned. It turned out that Karthiga was far more dilated and ready to have the baby. A paediatric team was called be-

cause the baby's heart rate had fallen, but after further testing the baby was confirmed to be just fine. It took Karthiga three pushes, and baby Rivan was born. "We are so happy with the care we received, and the way the doctors and staff looked after our safety," says Karthiga, whose postpartum nurses were Socorro Santos and Carol Nkosi. Karthiga and Saran are now excited to share in the joy of their new addition with the rest of their family. Little Rivan was actually named by using the first initials of his grandparents. "This has been the most precious gift for my whole family," says Karthiga. There are more than 6,000 births every year across SRH's three hospital sites — Birchmount, General and Centenary. Karthiga was one of 35 moms to have their babies over the same weekend this May at SRH.

Scarborough and Rouge Hospital Board Meeting Summary and Invitation to September meeting



Dear community members,

I'm pleased to update you on the decisions that were made at our most recent Board of Directors meeting on May 25. It was wonderful to see a number of community members in attendance. Our Board welcomes members of the public to our meetings and we appreciate all who take the time out of their busy schedules to attend.

The meeting began with a presentation to update members on the methodology for hospital and health care funding in Ontario.

Following the presentation, the Board approved a value realization framework which consists of expected outcomes (or goals), key strategies, and indicators that will help us to measure and communicate the benefits of the SRH integration. A scorecard be posted publicly on our website in the near future and updates will be made quarterly.

Next, we reviewed the hospital's compliance during our 2016-2017 fiscal year with the province's Broader Public Sector Accountability Act. This included procurement practices, the use of consultants, and executive expenses. Transparency and accountability have been — and will continue to be — hallmarks of our organization, as evidenced by SRH's strict compliance with the requirements under this very important Act.

Following these decisions, the Board discussed reports from our Quality Committee, the Interim Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC), Dr. Naresh Mohan, Interim President and CEO, Andrée Robichaud, as well as one from myself as Board Chair.

During his report, Dr. Mohan requested the Board to consider a recommendation to establish a Department of Nephrology, which we subsequently approved. Currently, Nephrology is a service group under the Department of Medicine. However, it is one of three regional programs within the Central East Local Health Integration Network and is home to the largest regional nephrology program in North America with more than 6,000 patients receiving care. Moving the program to a full department will allow us to create more integrated systems of care for chronic disease management throughout our three sites.

The next Board meeting will take place on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 4 p.m. in the Mabel Croll Boardroom at the Birchmount site. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board meeting agendas and minutes of past meetings are available online at <https://www.tsh.to/welcome/governance/board-meetings-agenda-and-minutes/> and <http://www.rougevalley.ca/board-meetings>.

I look forward to seeing you in September.

Maureen Adamson
Chair, SRH Board of Directors



One thousand classical dancers celebrate Canada 150th Anniversary

The Canadian Tamil Arts and Culture Organization presented a classical BharathaNatya show recently with 1,000 dancers performing in the shape of a Canadian Flag, at the Scarborough L'Amoreaux Sports Complex recently.

Some 350 classical dance students from Brampton and Mississauga and 650 from Toronto, Scarborough and

Markham performed in the show.

More than 5,000 people attended the event. The goal of the event was to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary in a unique style and raise \$50,000 to purchase dialysis equipment for "The Scarborough Hospitals".

"Through this dance performance, we celebrate Canada's multicultural-

ism," said Nirothini Pararajasingam, director and co-founder of Canadian Tamils Arts and Culture Organization. "I am so proud that we have collaborated with over 40 dance instructors, who worked tirelessly with their students to put this show together. Their dedication and commitment shows their pride to call Canada our home and that's

what we are celebrating."

Michael Mazza, President and CEO of Scarborough and Rouge Hospital Foundation said it's a great way to celebrate Canada 150th anniversary as well as honour the contributions of Tamil-Canadians to the society.

(Seen here are pictures taken at the event. Picture Courtesy: Ekuruvi)





Special Feature

 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION JAFFNA Northern Province GCE A/L Examination 2016 BEST PERFORMANCE APPRECIATION AWARDS Sponsored by DFFS Canada On 31 st July 2017	
 Rev. J.T. Arulanantham Award Arts Stream - First Rank Mr. Pathmanathan Kuruparesan J/ Manipay Hindu College <i>Gift of Dr. Pararasana and M.C. Francis</i>	
 G.U. Pope Award Arts Stream - Second Rank Mr. Raveenthiran Thuvarakan KN/ Kilinochchi Maha Vidyalayam <i>Gift of Thulasidas Sivanesan & Dr. S. Thayalan</i>	
 S.K. Sandrasegaran Award Maths Stream - First Rank Mr. Gayarohan Gajanan J/ Jaffna Hindu College <i>Gift of Mrs. Rajes Sandrasegaran</i>	
 Dr. Abdul Kalam Award Maths Stream - Second Rank Mr. Ravikkumar Thiruparan J/ Hartley College <i>Gift of Dr. C. Kirupananthan & Dr. S. Sauchiyadevan</i>	
 Kamaladevi Ramalingam Award Commerce Stream - First Rank Mr. Stanislas Mithushan J/ St. John's College <i>Gift of Thulasidas Sivanesan</i>	
 Dr. C.W.W. Kanangara Award Commerce Stream - Second Rank Mr. Karunairasa Kanistan J/ Vayavilan Madhiya Maha Vidyalayam <i>Gift of Mr. Raja Cumarasamy & Mr. K. Rajakulasingam</i>	
 Vallipuram Nagarathnam Award Bio Stream - First Rank Miss. Thanancheyan Hamsha J/ Vembadi Girl's High School <i>Gift of Mrs. Sakunthala Nagarathnam</i>	
 Dr. K. Thiliyampalam Award Bio Stream - Second Rank Miss. Thanabalasingam Mathura V/ Rambaikulam Girls' Maha Vidyalayam <i>Gift of Dr. Ratnasingham & DFFS</i>	
 K. Velumailum Award Bio Technology Stream - First Rank Mr. Manivel Tharmaseelan V/ Cheddikulam Maha Vidyalayam <i>Gift of Mr. Logan Velumailum</i>	
 Dr. Samuel F Green Award Bio Technology Stream - Second Rank Miss. Ranganathan Akimsha J/ Chavakachcheri Hindu College <i>Gift of Dr. S.F. Asokanathan & DFFS Canada</i>	
 V.J.A. Mariathasan Award Engineering Technology Stream - First Rank Mr. Kanakasuntharam Jathursajan J/ Skanthavarodhaya College <i>Gift of Mrs. Logi Mariathasan and Sons</i>	
 Swami Vipulananthar Award Engineering Technology Stream - Second Rank Miss. Ratnasri Nilani J/ Vembadi Girls' High School <i>Gift of Dr. Vanathi Jeeva & DFFS Canada</i>	
Poobalasingam Debate Shield Inter school Debate J/ Chundikuli Girls' College VS J/ St. John's College	Arumuganavalar Award To a Teacher who has served long Years in a Difficult Area

Best Performance Award to the Candidates of GCE A/L 2016; Northern Province Monday 31st July 2017, at 4.00 p.m.

First Rank: 35,000/=
Cash Prize, Shield & Certificate

Second Rank: 25,000/=
Cash Prize, Shield & Certificate

**Poobalasingam Debate Shield to
the winner of Inter school Debate**

**Arumuganavalar Award to a Teacher who
has served long Years in Vanni Area**

The Board of Directors of the YMCA Jaffna have decided to honour the Best students of the GCE A/L Examination held in 2016. A sum of 35,000/= would be presented to the first rank performers and another sum of Rs.25,000/= would be presented to the second rank achievers, in the field of Mathematics, Bio Science, Biotechnology, Engineering Technology, Commerce and Arts. The Ceremony would be held on Monday 31st July 2017, commencing at 4.00 p.m. at the Main Hall, YMCA. Professor R. Vigneswaran, Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna would be the Chief Guest.

Canada Sri Lanka Catholic Association Ontario organizes Family and Youth Retreat on July 16th and Sri Lanka Day event at Midland on July 23rd

The Canada Sri Lanka Catholic Association Ontario is organizing two major events - Family and Youth Retreat on July 16th and Sri Lanka Day event at Midland on July 23rd.

The Association considers this year as very significant in many aspects since Canada is celebrating 150th birthday; 100 years for Fatima apparition; 50 years for Charismatic Renewal, 175 years for Archdiocese of Toronto and 5 years for Canada Sri Lanka Catholic Association Ontario.

The Family and Youth Retreat will take place at the St. Jerome's Church in Brampton on July 16th (3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.) ending with Holy Mass while the Sri Lankan Day will be at Martyr's Shrine in Midland on Sunday 23rd July (10.30 a.m.) Bishop Rt. Rev. Cletus Chandrasiri Perera (Bishop of Ratnapura), will be at the events as the main celebrant.

The Association looks forward to seeing everyone with their family and friends at both these events.

More information can be obtained from the following:

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Mohan: 647 542 5707, Lakmal: 416 823 8411,
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“I AM PERMANENT, I HAVE NO DEATH AT ANY POINT IN TIME”: A PHILOSOPHICAL POINT OF VIEW OF KAVIARASU KANNADASAN’S TAMIL POEMS

BY K. ANANTHANATHAN,
MA, MSW, RSW
Registered Social Worker
with OCSWSSW

BACKGROUND:

As a student of philosophy, I think it is better to explain my understanding of poems in a few words, before writing this small article about Kaviarasu Kannadasan's Tamil cinema songs on what would have been his 90th birthday and how his contribution to Tamil cinema poems often came from a philosophical point of view.

First, I would like to explain briefly Tamil cultural background. What is culture? Culture has been described by a writer as a “way of life” as “sweetness and light”, as “activity of thought and receptiveness to beauty and human feeling”. These brief descriptions are sufficient to show the comprehensiveness and the indispensability of culture, for one must have a way of life and that way of life should be combined with sweetness and light with beauty and human feeling.

Tamil culture is nothing else but a way of life or a pattern of gracious living that has been formed during the centuries of their history. Through trade and navigation, the Tamils eschewed insularity and developed a remarkable universality of outlook and the ideal of the expanding self. Two verses often quoted of Tamil poetry induce one to examine the development of the expanding self within Tamil culture. One is a verse from PURAM. The poem outlines a philosophy of individual dignity, real love, and personal responsibility:

*“This world entire is my home,
All mankind my Kinsman,
Nor good nor ill can others do to me,
Sickness and death are nothing new
Elated we are not by success
We fret not in defeat, for
Life is a frail boat in a perilous stream
Following its destined course
Seers divine taught us thus-and so
We marvel not at the great
Much less do we despise the low”.*
Kaniyan Punkunran.
(Verse 192 Purannuru)

The above verse sums up effectively the important aspects of the social, cultural, religious, and philosophical traditions of Tamil culture. Kaviarasu Kannadasan always expressed and reflected this unconditional love through his poems, speeches, and writings.

As poetry can distil the sensuous enjoyment of all the senses and as it is born in the very deep experience of those senses ultimately perceiving the aspect of ultimate reality, it carries with the intoxication of liquor, the sweetness of a limitless firmament. Poetry is born over a very deep experience of the senses, the intellect, and the mind, as well the spirit. Without separating the joy or the sorrow of the world, a poet looks at life, at the completeness of the world of joys and sorrows. One who merely looks at the joy of life and runs away from its sorrows cannot be a true poet; on the contrary poetry is the expression of the frenzy arising

from the intoxication of life. Poetry is born of the experience of the harmonies of the world and great passion that emanates from experiencing the tiniest joys of the universe. Not only joy, but sorrow too is a note in the harmony of the world. The above aspects we can clearly see in the works of Kaviarasu Kannadasan. The life vision of completeness of life is the primary experience of Indian poetry. Kaviarasu Kannadasan belongs to this group of Indian poets as I mentioned in this article earlier like Maha Kavi Subramanya Bharathi who perceived life as whole and complete.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF KAVIARASU KANNADASAN:

Kannadasan (means Servant of Lord Krishna) June 24, 1927 – October 17, 1981, was a Tamil poet and Tamil Film Lyricist, who was one of the greatest most important Tamil poets to write in the Tamil language. Frequently called Kaviarasu (king of poets), was most familiar for his song lyricist in Tamil films over fifty years and contributed around 5000 Tamil film lyrics apart from 6000 Tamil poems and 232 books, popular being the 10 parts religious essay on Hinduism (Arthamulla Indhumatham). He was a poet, novelist, lyricist, politician, film producer and literary editor. His original name was A.L. Muthiah, born in Sirukodaipathi, Tamil Nadu, South India. Kannadasan was born on June 24, 1927 to the couple Saththappa Chettiar-Visalakshi as their eighth child. His given name was Muthiah servant of Lord Krishna. Later he changed his name to Kannadasan when he started writing poetry. Born in Sirukudalpatti, in Ramanathapuram District. Kannadasan was given in adoption Pazhaniyappa Chettiar -Sikappiach, couple belonging to Muthupattinam. He was put Mr. Gurukulam High Secondary School in Amaravathiputhier near karai-kudi. But his education was discontinued after grade 8 as they could not afford further education. But Kannadasan took great efforts at developing his skills and improving his knowledge. He died at the age of 56 on October 17, 1981.

Kaviarasu Kannadasan is still remembered for his approach to language. “I am permanent, I will remain forever”- these are the words of the legend lyricist that are remembered even today, thanks to his wer-green lyrics. Tamils often feel proud of him.

Thanks to his efforts, he joined as the editor of “Thirumagai”, a magazine published from Pudukkottai, at his young age at 17. His poems were published in that magazine. And, he became the editor of “Thirai Oli” in the year 1945 to become the editor of “Chandamarutham”, a magazine, published by Modern Theatres in 1947. Later he resigned from “Chandamarutham” with the goal of becoming cinema lyricist and met the concerned people in Jupiter Pictures at Coimbatore. At that time, the film “Kanniyin Kaadhali” was in the making Mr. K. Rammanathan was directing the film. Kaviarasu Kannadasan wrote songs and got introduced to the director by Mr. Venkatasamy, the husband of actress U. R. Jeevarathnam. His Lyrics were approved. His song “Kallangathiru Maname” was sung for hero-



ine Maduradevi by playback singer T. V. Rathinem. Kaviarasu Kannadasan's first song itself became a hit. And, he started writing dialogues also for Tamil movies. In the meantime, he plunged into politics too. And, subsequently, he became a film producer too. His first production was “Maalaiyitta Mangai” Archi Manorama, who was a stage artiste that time, was introduced to cinema through this film.

SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS FAMOUS CINEMA SONGS:

*Ponal Pohattum Poda – Intha
Poomiyil Nilaiyai Vazhanthavar –
Yaarada
Vanthathu Theriyum Povathuenge
Vaasal Nmakke theriyathu
Vathavellam Thankividdal – Intha
Mannil Nmakke Idamtethu
Vazhkai Enpathu Viyaparam
– Varum
Jananam Enpathu Varavahum –
Athil
Maranam enpathu Selavaahum*

English Translation:

*Let the Passions and bonds Pass by
Who has lived in this land – Forever?
Path of Arrivals is Known – But
Path of Departure and the route
– Unknown
If all who Came opt to stay
Where is the Space in this Sphere?
Life is just a Business – In which
The Birth is Credit and
Death is Debit*

*Addai Inri Piranthome Assaiinri
Piranthoma?
Adai Mudikkaiyile Alli Chenror
Yaarumundo?*

English Translation:

*Though Born without a Dress
Did we come without Passions?
When we complete the Merriment
Can anyone carry their Possessions?*

*Veedu Varai Uravu
Veethi Varai Manaiivi
Kadu Varai Pillai
Kadasi Varai Yaaro?*

English Translation:

The children, till the house

*The wife, till the street
The son, up to the cemetery
Who will come beyond that?*

*Ullam Enpathu Aamai – Athil
Unmai Enpathu Oomai
Solil Varuvathu Paathi – Nengil
Thoonkikidappathu Neethi*

English Translation:

*Mind is like a Tortoise in which
The Truth hides in silence
Words can Bring out only the half
While Justice calmly sleeps*

*Assaiye Alai Pole
Naamellam Athanmele
Odam Pole Adiduvome – Vaazhkailile
Paruvam Ennum Kaattrile
Parakkum Kaathal Therile
Aanum Pennum Mahizhvar
Suham Pervuar – Athisayam Kaan-
paar
Naallai Ulahin Paathaiyai Inru
Yaar Kaanuvar?*

English Translation:

*With Passions as waves
We dance like the boat
In our passage of life
With the wind of youth
By flying in the chariot of love
Men and woman make merry enjoy
And surprise themselves
But who can guess tomorrow's path
Today itself?*

Kaviarasu Kannadasan through these poems trying to reinforce the theme “Sorrows are credit of life while the joys are debit, with the balance being mere dreams, and who can comprehend the arithmetic of fate”.

CONCLUSION:

Apart from film songs, Kaviarasu Kannadasan has written devotional songs, poems, articles, short stories, novels, biographies etc., all of which totaling around 10,000 poems. Kaviarasu Kannadasan had the integrity and courage to share his views with others. We all should read his books and poems. They are treasures in the sense that they will clarify all our philosophical doubts and render clarity and calmness of mind.

While he sadly left us at the young age of 56, his philosophical writings will stand the test of time and will remain forever in the hearts of the Tamils all over the world. His works prove his words, “I am permanent, I have no death at any point in time”. Though Kaviarasu Kannadasan is no more, his songs and poems remain in hearts and minds of his fans and Tamils all over the world. Above all, Kaviarasu Kannadasan was a distinguished philosopher in his own right and a thinker possessed of powerful mind. He has also a great understanding of Hinduism through the Arthamulla Indu Matham and philosophical issues from a classical Tamil perspective have rarely been matched. He is one-of-a-kind poet who can teach all of us today deep philosophical teachings and uniquely Tamil perspectives on life, love and happiness.



WORDS OF PEACE



Discover What You Ignore

Ignorance isn't due to a lack of information; it's rooted in ignoring the possibilities that life offers, says Prem Rawat, who has been touring the globe for many years to talk about peace and personal fulfillment.

"When somebody doesn't do something right," he says, "people say he's ignorant. In many languages, the root of the word ignorance is actually the verb to ignore. When we ignore our existence, when we ignore our strength, when we ignore our clarity, when we ignore our serenity, the result is ignorance."

This is what happens, Mr. Rawat says, when people focus on their problems. "Most people think, 'Oh no. Do you know how tough my life is? I have to do this. I have to do that. I'm going through bad times.' When everything goes according to plan, we call that a good time. When things don't go according to our plan, we call it a bad time."

"Here is the dilemma: A man is riding his bicycle to town for a job interview. He is praying, 'Please, God,

I want to get there on time. Don't let my tire get a puncture.'

"Then there is a man who has just opened a shop on the side of the road to fix bicycle tires. Of course, he's praying that somebody will get a puncture so he can fix it and make money. Whose plan is going to succeed? The two plans are diametrically opposed."

"We make plans. Sometimes things go just fine; sometimes it's a disaster. Does our happiness depend on things going according to our plan?"

If things keep going wrong again and again, Mr. Rawat says, it may be because we keep using the same strategies. "So what have we learned? Have we learned to tune in to that which will bring joy, that which will bring clarity, that which will bring peace within? Or are we learning things that are going to pull us further and further away from joy and peace?"

The secret to inner peace, to clarity, to joy, he says, is consciousness.

"What does being conscious mean? One second of being conscious, of being aware, can save a lifetime of problems—one second. If people could be conscious for just one second before they get angry, they might find that they don't really want to be angry."

"A lot of people say they want to hear about peace. Well, do you know that peace is already inside of each human being? Peace is already inside each of us. We don't have to bring it from anywhere else, and we don't have to go searching for it."

If peace is already inside each of me, Mr. Rawat is frequently asked, why don't I feel it?

"You may be surprised by the answer," he says. "It's because we're too busy feeling everything else. We're too busy feeling doubt, too busy feeling fear: What will tomorrow bring? What will happen to me 5 to 10 years from now?"

Instead of looking outside for answers, Mr. Rawat says, we need to learn how to look within. "The miracle of miracles takes place there," he

says. "It's the miracle of breath. The fact that we can walk, talk, think, smile depends on that breath."

"Some people say it doesn't mean anything. Now, how can that be? How can such a gift mean nothing? Yet they don't even try to understand it."

"Everybody says the world needs peace. The world doesn't need peace. Human beings need peace. What is peace? People say the absence of war is peace. If the absence of war is peace, then why is it that wars get started again after they're over? You see, they're talking about political peace. Political peace is not the peace I'm talking about. Real peace resides in the human heart. When that is understood and felt, that's when this life begins to change."

To learn more about Prem Rawat
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416 431 5000 Tamil
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www.premrawat.com



Digital Citizenship



By: Janani Srikantha

Mobile devices and online applications provide children with many opportunities to harness a wide variety of skills and knowledge. Therefore, while we encourage them to take advantage of these experiences, we also need to show children how to be good digital citizens.

Digital citizenship has two avenues: how we behave and share information, and how we use the information provided by others.

Let's start with how we act when we are online. Children need to be explicitly taught how to navigate their online persona and behaviour.

Protecting Privacy

Children need to learn how to protect their private information, and who they choose to share information about themselves with. Personal information can be used to identify an individual, so children need to be aware of who they can trust. However, we want to be careful not to create children who are paranoid of everyone and everything, because that will limit their learning from peers. It is important to discuss with your child that they should only share information with people they know, and even in that instance, they don't need to share absolutely everything. Also, children need to learn how to create secure passwords that they

can still remember.

Sharing Photos

In the world of Social Media, children are constantly clicking away and sharing. We need to remind them that photos of addresses, their new car licence plate, and other identification information may not be appropriate to share online. It is also advisable to show children how to turn off any geo-tagging features and facial recognition features, when posting photographs online.

Online Persona

One of the most important points of discussion is to talk with your children about how they are perceived online. Their photographs, posts, and comments are all used to form an impression of who they are. It is important to discuss with your children how to interact with others online, and the etiquette for online behaviour. A lot of teachers will refer to this as the "digital tattoo" and children need to be aware that their behaviour online builds a reputation that they may not be able to erase.

Copyright

Often children will use images and information from online sources in their presentations. However, they cannot just copy and paste the image or the text, even if they cite the source. In Google, there is, the option to search for images that are labelled as "free to

use, share or modify". For text, there are applications such as Noodletools that will help children cite their sources without breaching copyright rules. Children need to learn how to use these features when collecting information online.

Now, let's look at how we use information other people have shared. We live in a world where it is extremely easy to click one button and share information with a large amount of people in a matter of seconds. This has resulted in us receiving information in "sound bytes" where we read a sensationalized headline or a view a quick clip, which often does not tell the full story. We, in turn, hit the share button, and this has made it easy for information to go "viral". Unfortunately, false information also goes "viral", and often it can spread at a faster rate.

Critical Thinking

Children, like adults, are susceptible to sharing information without reading all of text or identifying how much of it is accurate. It is important to teach children about reliability and validity when they get information online. They need to be able to check where the information is coming from, and identify if other reliable sources are saying the same thing. They need to be able to understand if the information is fact or an opinion.

When I was younger, I was taught

how to be safe when I was playing outside. I was taught to use the knowledge in my books which was vetted by my teachers and parents. However, it is a different world now, which is exciting. Students can now collaborate with peers globally, learn from experts in the field without meeting them in person, and gain information at their fingertips. This means our focus has to shift on teaching our children how to navigate the online world safely, and ensure that they are being responsible with the information that is available to them.

Janani Srikantha is a certified teacher who is experienced with the Ontario curriculum and the International Baccalaureate. She provides tutoring using personalized learning plans based on students' needs. She is knowledgeable on integrating technology to redefine learning that is inclusive of all students. Janani has led workshops for educators and parents on topics that address different facets of education. For more information or queries on how to help your child with learning, please email info@thinkshiftedu.com or visit Thinkshift Edu on Facebook.



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Special Feature

An Essay on “TamilFest” – A Tamil Festival 8500 Miles Closer

ApsaraBalamurugan

I have never known that place. Instead, I have created an image of it based on a collection of stories told by my Ammama. I see lush green fields of tea plantations, aromatic food served on banana leaves, children playing in the streets, and my best friend who lives across the street beckoning me from her window. But those are just stories grandmothers tell their 1st generation grandchildren so they are reminded of the time before the war. I spend most of my life indoors or training in the pool. My characterless food is served on a white plate and I barely remember my neighbors' names. Nothing about that place reflects who I am, but it should.

There are currently three million Sri Lankan Tamils in the world and about 300,000 live in Canada. I was with 100,000 of them on a warm, sunny August day in Markham, Canada, engulfed in a sea of brown. It was TamilFest, a 3 day festival celebrating the Tamil culture. On this day, my mother and I took a selfie, a snapshot to commemorate that we were part of the largest gathering of our people outside of the devastation that we used to call home. But I've never known which home to call mine. Is home the one in Sri Lanka, where I am “from from,” or is it in Boston, where people ask me where I am “from from?” Ultimately, that selfie ended up being less about capturing TamilFest and more about reminding me how I felt about myself that day.

It was an evening filled with anticipation. The clouds were tinted shades of rose, salmon, and lavender. The main road in Markham was closed off just for us. I scanned the road to find hundreds of tents. On my right, there was a long line of food vendors eagerly waiting for customers to try their home-made curries, vadais, and sambar. The smell of burnt corn, cumin, masala, kottu roti, fish cutlets, and that distinct, but comforting saree smell filled the air. On the left, there was a long line of sarees in every color you could think of. Some were bedazzled, some were not, some had patterns, and some were delightfully plain. A different song was playing in every stand, but they all somehow merged together like a stir fry creating a vibrant, delectable symphony. Pamphlets with low-quality, pixelated photos flew with the wind



from tent to tent. “Call T. P. SubramaniamVellupillaifor new real estate offers NOW! Sell High. Buy Low.” I felt I had been transported into another world. I glanced at my mother next to me and saw that she was sniffing like a dog. She bolted down the street, dragging me along with her, until we reached a small, white tent. She asked for a roasted corn, something I had never heard of before. The vendor nodded his head, took out a corn-on-the-cob, and started roasting it over open coals. My mother asked for the hot chilli peppers and the vendor stopped cooking and looked at her, unsure.

He lifted the chilli peppers hesitantly and my mother responded in Tamil, “It’s okay. I’m a true Tamil. Load it up.” The man laughed, shaking his head from side to side, a familiar Tamil gesture, which when translated into the English language means, “sure thing.” He proceeded to rub lime, salt, and the peppers on the corn, and handed it to my mother wrapped in tinfoil and in a styrofoam box. My mother devoured it, smiling with each bite. She offered me some, so I took a small bite. I swallowed, then gasped for a breath, the spice burning through every organ in my body. My lips turned red and practically burst into flames while my mother’s remained pale pink, tranquil and unfazed. Was I not a true Tamil? All five of my senses were screaming that I was in the wrong place, yet I couldn’t deny that nudge from my heart, convincing me to stay.

You see, we all started in the same place, Sri Lanka, even if we weren’t actually born there. And each of the 100,000 people there at TamilFest has taken his or her own, unique journey to get there. The harder one’s path to

TamilFest, the easier it seems for them to handle the spice on the corn. Each of our paths is colored a different shade of brown, some darker, some lighter. My uncles’ paths were of the deepest shade of brown. They were forced to flee their homes as they watched them burned. Most of their childhood was spent in constant hiding and in countries where they were unwanted and had no place in. My parents’ journeys were a little less traumatic. Even though they were ceaselessly moving to different countries all over Asia and Africa, they at least always had a house if not a home. I am the lightest shade of brown. My path to TamilFest was a short flight from Boston Logan to Pearson International. I was one of the lucky ones. But, at that moment, on that street, in that sea of brown, no matter the color of our passports, we all belonged.

As my mother and I neared the end of the road, my throat burning a little less, I realized I was part of the tide in this ocean, not apart from it. As I looked into the faces that surrounded me, I saw that there were no preconceived notions about who I was, just acknowledgement, because everyone already understood. They knew I had a path, a story, but the details were not important to them. What was important was that I was there. The many voices, the musical medleys, the sizzle of the grills, and the gentle blow of the wind on the sarees, suddenly felt right, like my heart knew all along. Whenever I unlock my phone and this selfie ensnares my view, I can remember how I felt that day; the sting in my throat, the tingle in my nose, my mother’s soft cheek, and the satisfaction of knowing I belong. You cannot see into my eyes in this selfie, but if you look closely in

the reflection of my American-made aviators, you can see us Tamils, rejoicing together at TamilFest. Perhaps, I do know that place, after all. Boston is not where I am “from from” and neither is Colombo, 8,500 miles away. There is no physical place that I can call home. My home is comprised of those moments when everything just feels right.

Apsara R. Balamurugan is a rising 10th grader in Massachusetts. She is an avid composer who believes in creating music that is inspired by life experiences. She is also a pianist, choreographer, dancer, and competitive swimmer. She is a certified lifeguard and works as a camp counselor during summer. Apsara enjoys creative writing and much of her work explores the implications of ethnicity on modern day teens as they navigate adolescence in a complex and often confusing world.





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30 ஆவது ஆண்டு

**மிட்லண்ட் மறைசாட்சிகளின்
திருத்தலத் திருப்பயணம்**

**சனிக்கிழமை
15 July
2017**

11:30 செய்மாவை /Rosary
12:00 கைத்திருப்பலி /Holy Mass
3:30 நற்கருணை /Benediction
ஆராதனை/ ஆசீர்வாதம்



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கனடாவில் இலங்கைத் தமிழரின் வாழ்வும் வரலாறும்

ஒரு வரலாற்றுப் பதிகை

ஓர் அரிய நூல் வெளியீடு

காலம்: ஜூலை 16, 2017 ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமை

நேரம்: மாலை - 5:00 - 8:00 மணி

இடம்: பெரியசிவன் கோவில் கலாசார மண்டபம்

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A Moment in Time



- Photo by Sena Vidanagama

This year on 29th July marks the 30th anniversary of the Indo-Lanka Accord. It was an agreement signed under much tension, between the governments of Sri Lanka and India.

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then. Stakeholders in the agreement which include almost all the citizens of Sri Lanka are still unsure as to the successes and failures of the Indo-Lanka Accord. What it has achieved and what it hindered is still heavily in dispute but amidst all this miasma of confusion, one success story stands out. That of Sena Vidanagama, then staff photographer of the Daily News.

Whatever the accord did or did not achieve, it put Sri Lankan photojournalism on the international map.

Vidanagama was the one and only photographer to capture the assault on the Indian premier, Rajiv Gandhi the day after the signing, by a naval cadet on camera. He was at that time a little known photographer in the Lakehouse Group. The internal strife in Sri Lanka and India's subsequent forcible intervention was international news at that time. As such Vidanagama was one of a large group of photojournalists covering the event. There were foreign photographers of international stature and repute in that group. Yet he alone took that one picture, now internationally famous, of that assault on Rajiv Gandhi as it was occurring. The attack was so sudden that all the other photojournalists had been caught by surprise and missed the opportunity.

Eventually it was Vidanagama's picture that made it not only to the Daily News (though it almost didn't get exposure even there, read on), but also to several other publications both locally and internationally. He who had been struggling for years to be recognized as a photojournalist made that name overnight.

As an interview with the now retired veteran bears out though, it was not a matter of luck but more of dedication and focus despite adverse circumstances. He had been rather annoyed that day as the raised dais on Janadhipathi Mawatha to which the photojournalists had been relegated to cover the event of Gandhi's departure, had very limited options for him to move around and find a vantage spot. The movie cameramen and international photographers had taken up all the best possible spots at the front of the dais and he being a little known photographer then, had to be content to snap pictures from behind them.

Most of the cameramen had only expected to take routine shots of a VIP departure. They had finished clicking Rajiv Gandhi, J.R. Jayawardene and their entourage emerging from President's House. After many ceremonial photo opportunities, there was a lull as Jayawardene and the others moved to another pavilion while Rajiv inspected

the Guard of Honour, escorted by the Sri Lankan Navy Commander on his right and by his security officers from behind. As he began moving down the Guard of Honour too, several photos were clicked. The photographers, thinking that the photo opportunities of that particular ceremony had been exhausted had brought down their arms for a rest by the time Gandhi was halfway down the inspection.

Vidanagama, an experienced news photographer had become conditioned to being always on the look-out for untoward happenings that he might need to click at a moment's notice. Even he might have relaxed at this juncture though if not for his editor Manik de Silva's words of advice that morning, ringing in his ears.

"He told me to be on the look-out as the situation was such that 'anything could happen.' The SLFP and JVP had organized protests against the accord and the whole nation was under a state of tension.

And so, even though it was supposed to be just a ceremonial procession for a departing VIP, I was on alert to catch anything at all out of the ordinary.

I too had finished clicking Rajiv Gandhi inspecting the Guard of

pull back Vijitha Rohana, the assailant. The combined action made the rifle butt strike only the back of Gandhi's shoulder instead of his head. The rifle slid out of Rohana's hand after striking Gandhi. Gandhi's lead security officer immediately pounced forward and punched Rohana on the stomach. It was mayhem all of a sudden but it was all over within a few minutes. The other sailors and the security team immediately surrounded Rohana, berating him and then whisked him away. If I had had a camera with today's technology, I could have taken all these shots but I had to crank my Asahi Pentax before each new shot, to focus properly and thus lost out on quite a few. In those days you couldn't click pictures one after the other like you can now."

Despite that, he managed to get some shots of the immediate aftermath. One of them shows a very young Rohana – he was only 22 at the time – being aggressively pushed back against a post, his collar bunched up in an angry fellow sailor's fist.

There are also shots of Rajiv Gandhi displaying serene aplomb after the incident, calmly taking part in the rest of the ceremony before taking his leave.

"The media in a frenzy rushed to J.R.

was now around 10.30. The proceedings had wound down, so we decided to get back to office to develop the pictures, in time for the provincial edition. More importantly, we wanted to see what kind of pictures I had. Even I wasn't certain at that point.

News had gotten around already that I might have been the one to click that one crucial picture. Fearing that it might be confiscated by the CID, I removed the film roll, shoved it down my right sock and then ran all the way back to Lakehouse with Amal.

Even as we were waiting for the lab technicians to process the prints, calls started coming in from other newspaper editors and international agencies on whether it was true that we had the picture of the assault – and if so whether they could have it too.

Since J. R. Jayawardena had told the media that it was just a sailor suffering heat stroke, all the editors were on tenterhooks to see if the photos would prove otherwise. As soon as the film was processed, we developed it into two sets of 8 x 10 prints – one each for our Sinhala and English daily papers and ran to Manik de Silva's office with it.

He happened to be on the phone and in the middle of an argument as I walked in. The person at the other end was the then Chairman of Lakehouse, Ranapala Bodinagoda. He also happened to be J.R. Jayawardena's right hand man. He and my editor were having an argument on whether the incident that morning was an assault or the unfortunate result of a heatstroke. Bodinagoda was insisting that it was simply a heatstroke and that was how the newspaper should carry it. In the middle of this conversation, I handed over the photos to my editor, who responded, "Well I now have the photos in my hand which proves it was an assault." The Chairman immediately came over to the Editor's office and confiscated the photos, saying "we can't publish these without J.R. Jayawardena's permission." He took them away to the premier's residence in Ward Place, to show him. For a while it looked as if my pictures might not see the light of day and I was very upset. Apart from having captured some unique photos which no-one else had, it was also a story of both national and international interest.

In any case, the BBC and other international agencies reported it on the evening news as an assault and thus it was perceived as useless to go on denying it any longer. Moreover, the movie cameras of not only Rupavahini but also Doordarshan had captured the incident clearly. So, though we had long missed the provincial edition, we were given permission late at night to use the photographs for the city edition. The published pictures brought widespread appreciation both locally as well as internationally."



The accord was signed in Colombo on 29 July 1987, between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayawardene

Honour but kept watching him as he moved down the line of sailors. I acted reflexively when I saw one of the men move from the orderly line of sailors that Gandhi was inspecting. I really had no time to understand or process what was happening. I simply raised my camera and clicked.

At the back of my mind, I had a vague notion that the sailor was fainting but after all, even that was news. I had no idea at that point that I was clicking an assault. It all happened very fast. The sailor had raised his rifle butt and brought it down as Gandhi passed by. Two things saved Gandhi. His own quick reflexes which made him duck his head and turn sharply as well as the navy commander acting quickly to

query what had happened," recalls Vidanagama. "He had been in another pavilion at the time, he really couldn't have known what was happening. He immediately soothed everyone, saying that it was just a mishap and the sailor had suffered heatstroke and fallen down. Rajiv Gandhi standing next to him, remained with a passive face, and said nothing.

The reporter covering the event with me was Amal Jayasinghe. He had been covering the event from the ground as only the photojournalists were up on the six foot high dais. After the melee was over, he called up at me to ask if I had gotten the crucial shot and jumped up and down in joy when I confirmed I had. The event had begun at 9.00 am and it



Special Feature

This is a full script of the speech delivered at the International Conference on Thirukkural on May 18, 2017 in India by Kumar Punithavel, Canada.

Leadership based on Thirukkural

Thiruvalluvar's genius influenced the life and culture of Tamils for the last two millennia. There is no walk of life where his influence is not felt. Usually, intellectuals are dependent on the opinions of others. The latter are the treasury of accumulated knowledge. However, superconscious or intuitive persons depend on their intellect as a tool to record their insights. These are the great persons who work behind the scenes and serve as guides of lawmakers. Thiruvalluvar is one such person who has moulded the destiny of the Tamil race for the last two thousand years. His influence could be felt in all walks of life among Tamils. His guidance has produced many great leaders.

The former president of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam, is one such person. He was born in a small brick house in the south coast township of Rameswaram, India. Yet, his accomplishments were such that he was able to become the most popular and beloved President of the largest democracy in the world and lead India from the palatial Rashtrapathi Bhavan, thereby emulating the great American president, Abraham Lincoln, who, though born in a log cabin, rose up to dwell in the White House. Dr. Kalam, in his book titled 'You are Unique', lists five books that made a difference in his life. On the top of this list was Thirukkural. In this paper, I explore the form of guidance the great literature Thirukkural provided this great leader.

Thirukkural is said to have been written by Thiruvalluvar. The prefix 'Thiru'



in his name refers to his sainthood. It is believed that, as early as in the Sangam period (4th century BC to 2nd century AD), which is hailed as the golden age of Tamil prose, there lived a chieftain or king by the name Valluvar. One of the very well known classics of this period is the Tamil epic Puranaanuru, which is a treatise on kingship. In the epic po-

ems therein, poems 137 to 140 refer to a king or chief by the name of Naanjil Valluvan. The 140th poem by Awaiair, the well-known female poet, in particular pays tribute to the benevolence of Naanjil Valluvan. She says, when a poor poet begged of the latter a little rice, he lavished the poet with an elephant. In the name Naanjil Valluvan, the word Naanjil

refers to the country where the chieftain/king Valluvan lived and ruled. Naanjil Nadu is believed to be the region around the present day Naakarkovil, where we are present here today for our conference on Thirukkural. Thus, it is appropriate that we discuss the book Thirukkural authored by Thiruvalluvar in Naakarkovil.

Thiruvalluvar must have been a great leader, who became a great, learned writer. He possessed all the skills required to spell out the necessary qualities for leadership and had the authority, through living a life of virtue, to present them to a king. His goal was to foster the development of the king as a just ruler. It is important to note that, although, during Thiruvalluvar's time, a king usually referred to a man, in today's culture, his tenets would apply equally to both men and women as leaders, and the comments below would apply to both. It is a testament to his ability that his words have withstood the test of time and can still be successfully applied today.

Display the Following Key Qualities

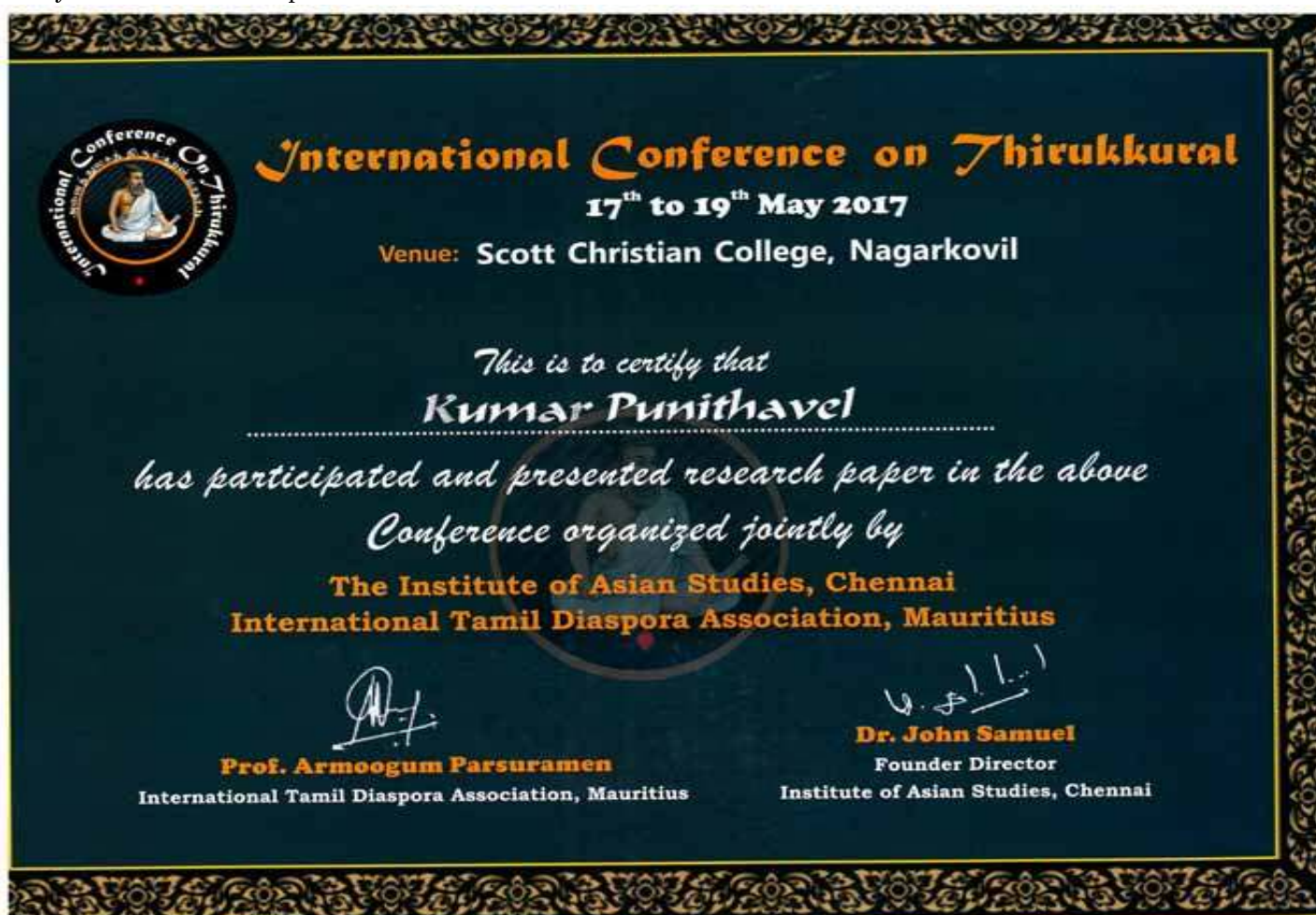
In Chapter 39 titled 'The greatness of King' in couplets 382 and 383, Thiruvalluvar spells out the fundamental qualities needed to be a leader.

Couplet 382

Courage, benevolence, wisdom and zeal

Are four unfailing qualities of royalty.

Couplet 383





Alertness, learning, bravery
Are adjuncts three of monarchy.

In a monarchy, the mantle of leadership is taken over by the heir of the king when the latter ascends the throne. Therefore, the king ascending the throne should be nurtured with the six qualities mentioned in the couplets above: courage, benevolence, wisdom, energy, sleepless promptitude, knowledge and bravery. In Couplet 382, Thiruvalluvar mentions wisdom as one of the qualities. In the very next couplet, he mentions learning. One may be justified in asking what the difference is between the two. By learning, we gain knowledge to know that tomato is a fruit, and having wisdom means having the sense not to add tomato into a fruit salad! First is knowledge gained by learning, and the second is wisdom. The repetition of the quality of courage in the first couplet using the synonymous word bravery in the second couplet has great significance. This quality should be compared with the axiom of Confucius that goes, 'To see what is right and not to do it is want of courage'. A coward can never be a leader.

Guard Virtue in Your Actions and Thoughts

In couplet 384, the saint stresses the need for thoughts to be virtuous.

Couplet 384

A courageous noble king refrains from vice

Full of virtue and enterprise

Though Thiruvalluvar directs this couplet to kingship, a noble leader must not only have the earlier mentioned qualities but also have virtue ingrained in all those qualities and be restrained from vices. He should be courageous enough to stand for what is virtuous. Power in the hands of a person with low morals or distorted beliefs is very dangerous to the world. Adolf Hitler had all the qualities of leadership except virtuous thoughts. The aphorism 'The road to hell is paved with good intentions' will become true when there is no virtue in the thoughts of a leader. One cannot escape noting that Thiruvalluvar reiterates the importance of courage in a leader in this couplet as he advocates enterprise or bold initiatives. Simply put, according to Thiruvalluvar, a coward can never be a leader.

Maintain Your Accessibility and Watch Your Tone

A leader frequently gets carried away and believes he is superhuman. This tends to alienate the leader from the people whom he desires to lead. Couplet 386 details what type of leader will get praises from his team.

Couplet 386

*That land prospers where king is
Easy to access, not harsh of words.*

A good leader should be easily reached by the people whom he leads. Unfortunately, this is not the situation in many of our political leaders today. In Rudyard Kipling's famous poem "If", he admonish-

es 'walk with kings, but do not lose the common touch'. However, Thiruvalluvar wants even a king to 'not lose the common touch'. He advises a leader to always be easily accessible to the team he leads, while avoiding harsh words.

Thiruvalluvar was always particular that kind words should be used. In Chapter 10 of Thirukkural, titled 'The use of pleasant words', the Couplet 100 states as:

Couplet 100

*Leaving ripe fruit the raw he eats,
Who speaks harsh words when sweet word suits.*

In the above couplet, he compares pleasant words to sweet, ripe fruit and harsh words to sour, unripe ones. A good leader must be easily accessible to and avoid harsh words with the people he leads. It was Rabindranath Tagore who said that, 'He, who is too busy doing good, finds no time to be good'. Thiruvalluvar always insisted on using pleasant words even when reprimanding subordinates on his team. He was a great proponent of using kind words as he realized that what is gained or lost depends on the words he uttered. After all, is it not the words we say that become the window through which others see what is in our heart? On Couplet 642, he points out this fact.

Couplet 642

*Since gain or ruin speeches bring,
Guard against the slips of tongue.*

A good leader at all times must avoid using hurtful speech. Regardless of how tired or frustrated a leader feels, he/she should never resort to using harsh language. Speech is the mirror of the soul, and, as a leader speaks, so is he. If a leader wants the respect and loyalty of his team, he must watch the words he utters.

Foster Trustworthiness

One can easily see how Thiruvalluvar builds up the qualities needed of a person to lead a team. The ultimate goal of the leader is to gain the trust of his team. Unless the team trusts him, they will not be true to him. In Couplet 387, Thiruvalluvar says, if the leader is accessible, uses kind words, and protects his/her team when the need arises, and then the team will obey all his commands.

Couplet 387

*Speaks graciously, gives generously,
and
Protects strongly, this world obey thy command.*

In this couplet, the saint advises leaders that, to gain the confidence of their teams, they should not only be pleasant in speech but should also guard their teams when things do not go right. He wants leaders to protect their teams from oppression. Such a leader will gain the team's confidence and, as a result, the team will be encouraged to follow orders.

Exercise Judgement in Hiring

In Chapter 51, titled 'Selection and

employment', in the fourth couplet, Thiruvalluvar says:

Couplet 504

*Good and failings in man weigh well,
Judge him by virtue which prevails.*

Interestingly, Thiruvalluvar advises us on how to measure a person's capability. While always looking for the positive side of everyone, Thiruvalluvar remains practical in advising us to weigh the good, and, then, go on to weigh the failings. Once the leader has assessed both the virtues and the failings of the person's abilities, it becomes easy to determine if the team should absorb that person or not.

Trust Your Team

Not only should the members of the team trust the leader, but it is equally important that the leader has faith in his team. Once you have exercised sound judgement in hiring, you should trust your team to perform the work required of them. A leader who is paranoid cannot achieve the trust of his subordinates and will not succeed in his goal. In Chapter 51, the last couplet, he observes:

Couplet 510

*Trust without test; the trusted doubt;
Both entail endless troubles.*

To trust someone whom you have not tested is not smart, as we all know. But, Thiruvalluvar goes one step further and says, doubting the person you have already tested and taken as a friend is equally as damaging. If the person feels that the leader doesn't trust him, then why should he be loyal to the leader? Once trust is lost, nothing can heal the mistrust between the team and the leader!

According to Thiruvalluvar, it is equally important that a chosen leader gives flexibility of action to his team. Constant interference by the leader reflects lack of confidence in his chosen team. The saint sums up the situation and gives advice to be leader in Couplet 517, thus:

Couplet 517

*This work, by this, this man can do,
Then leave the matter wholly him to do.*

Here, Thiruvalluvar is forthright in his instruction to a leader. All diligence must be exercised at the time of selecting the team. Having selected and entrusted responsibilities, the leader must allow the team to discharge the responsibilities entrusted to them without interference. Interference after entrusting causes displeasure. Team members will feel that the leader does not trust them, and such mistrust will cause failure in tasks. In other words, once a leader has selected a team, the team needs to be empowered to act independently of the leader for a mission to be successful.

Choose the timing of Actions Wisely

Finally, a good leader should have patience to wait for the opportune moment. A good example of mistiming is Napoleon's invasion of Russia. Had he waited till the winter was over before invading, he would have had a good chance of winning the war against Russia. The great writer-mathematician, Lewis Carroll, encapsulated this well in the statement 'life is about timing!' Let us look at the couplet dealing with timing in action:

Couplet 484

*Choose proper time and act,
even the world you win with ease.*

If one wants to reach the pinnacle of world domination, it can be achieved, says Thiruvalluvar. While providing encouragement to dominate the world, he offers only one caution, and that is to wait for the right moment to make the move.

Thirukkural indeed provides us the best guidance to achieve leadership. It is then no surprise that Dr. Abdul Kalam, who was well versed in the Thirukkural, rose from a humble beginning to be the President of India and recommend it to the youths. Thiruvalluvar has indeed written a book of high morals, which, in a rare feat, has also been made it secular in nature. Unlike the other-worldliness of religious books, Thirukkural teaches us how to cultivate the mind to achieve in this world the bliss offered by religious theology in the hereafter, so much so that, in the last couplet on domestic life, he proclaims that everyone will be placed among gods if he/she leads an ideal domestic life:

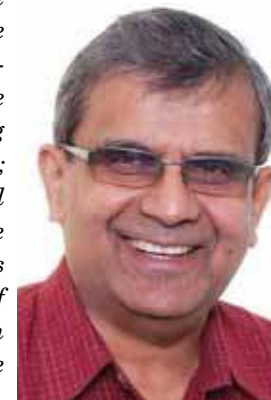
Couplet 50

*He is a man of divine worth,
Who lives in ideal home on Earth.*

By Kumar Punithavel

Kumarpunithavel5@gmail.com

Kumar Punithavel has had a long varied career. After graduation as an Engineer from University of Sri Lanka, he worked in that profession in Sri Lanka and Nigeria. He immigrated to Canada in 1986 with his wife and two children. Starting afresh in Canada, he pursued various trades. He started writing out of necessity; as he wanted to impart the rich traditions and culture of the Sri Lankan Tamils to the next generation.



What began as a hobby has now become a passion. So far, he has published the following books;

1. Saiva Temple Worship
2. Those who Love (An anthology of Azlvars)
3. Saiva Saints (An anthology of Nayanmars)
4. Glimpse of Hindu Religion
5. Rites and Rituals of Sri Lankan Hindu Tamils



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My name is Bhaveash, and I will introduce to you my favourite subject. My favourite subject is Math. Math is an easy and common subject in Canada. Math has lots of different topics, such as addition, subtraction, fractions, and division. Some people think that it is easy while others think it's hard.

Most schools and most classes have math. Do you know what money, rounding, numbers, measurement, multiplication, time, matching numbers, and counting all have in common? They are all math! Math is very important to learn because when you grow up, you need to use a lot of math. Math homework and school work is great. When you print out math exercises online,

it actually gets your brain thinking about it. For example, when you think about "4 x 8", your brain needs to figure out what the answer is. People ask me when math was invented. I tell them about 8,500 to 11,000 years ago.

You can find math everywhere. At the grocery store, you see prices. At school, you don't only see math, you learn math. There's math when you write cheques, too. There are infinite numbers in the world.

This is my speech about Mathematics.

Thank you!

Bhaveash Manoraj
Grade 4



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CANADA 150: SOME OF THE MAJOR SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS

A CULTURE OF MANY SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES AND INNOVATION CANADA GAVE TO THE WORLD.

By: Uthayan Thurairajah

Canada is the greatest country in the world turning 150. Canadians are considered to be polite, under-the-radar type people, Canada has given the world some of its greatest inventions. We can commemorate this special day by highlighting some of the contributions that Canada has made to science and engineering.

The Canadian medical experts who are responsible for breakthroughs that have saved lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world. The list of Canadian scientific and medical advances measures in the hundreds from producing drugs & vaccines to creating medical equipment, inventing new surgical and treatment techniques, finding causes of diseases, identifying genes whose defects cause disease, pioneering cell-based therapy and much more.

Canadian innovations are continually shaping the world. These discoveries made by Canada's brightest and most challenging scientists. The Government of Canada continues to support and celebrate researchers whose contributions help create healthy communities and a strong economy. In honor of Canada Day, here are 15 of Canada's greatest gifts to the world:

1. **INSULIN:** Discovery of insulin for the treatment of diabetes. We can thank two Canadians, Drs. Charles Hebert Best and Frederick Grant Banting, for the discovery of insulin in 1922. Awarded the Nobel Prize, Medicine, 1923. Insulin is an important hormone that helps to regulate carbohydrate and fat metabolism. Drs. Best and Banting were the first to make this connection, thereby bettering the lives of countless people around the world who have diabetes.

2. **VISUAL CORTEX:** It is mapping the visual cortex of the brain. Understanding where the visual process in the cerebral cortex. The visual processing like lines, brightness, contrast, edges, color, motion and much more.

David Hubel born 1926, Montreal, worked on this all through the 60s and 70s at Harvard. He worked with Torsten Wiesel who shared the Nobel Prize, Medicine, 1981. Understand any part of the brain process is a great achievement. It allows to correct damaged vision and create glasses and contacts.

3. **MUTAGENESIS:** The discovery of Insulin was very significant, but Michael Smith created a new way of generating mutations/changes in living organisms. Plant and animal growers rely on natural changes. Smith found chemical methods to produce a particular change by precisely modifying any part of the DNA in an organism. It has allowed many researchers around the world to develop specific bacteria, plants, and animals with new desirable qualities or abilities. He became a multimillionaire by creating "designer yeast" that produces human insulin. It is a much efficient way to get insulin than by processing cow pancreas. He Born Blackpool England 1932, Came to Vancouver in 1956 and worked there until his death in October 2004. He won the Nobel Prize, Chemistry in 1993.

4. **FREE RADICALS:** A free radical has an additional pair of electrons. It tries desperately to share with another atom or molecule to form a third compound. A very reactive free radical combine quickly with some other molecule. This temporary nature of free radicals makes them very difficult to observe and are essential to understanding the mechanisms of many biochemical effects. Gerhard Herzberg born in Hamburg in 1904 and came to Canada in 1935. He headed Physics division of Canada's National Research Council from 1949 - 1969. He won the Nobel Prize award in 1971 for the contributions to the theory of electronic composition and geometry of molecules, particularly free radicals.

5. **CCD CHIP:** The Charge Coupled Device or CCD is a microchip that takes



light and converts it into digital data. It can be managed by PC and microelectronics to form pictures. TV cameras and camcorder use CCDs to produce the images that we see on television. The modern telescope in the world today has a CCD to capture the images. The astronomer does not have to look through telescopes with their eyeballs because CCDs are 1000 times more sensitive than the human eye. CCD invented by Willard Boyle, born in Amherst, NS, 1924. He did his work in the 60s and 70s in New Jersey at Bell Labs, then returned to Nova Scotia. He lives today in Wallace, NS.

6. **WEATHER FORECASTING:** The weather forecasting systems use complicated mathematical models of the Earth's atmosphere in three dimensions and time. The numerous orbiting satellites provide data continuously to the thousands of Earth-based stations. The system was developed by Roger Daley, born in London, England, 1943. He grew up in West Vancouver, B.C., developed his theories in Montreal and Boulder Colorado, 1970s - 1990s. It is an opportunity to know what to wear outside, benefits of farming and prevent deaths from severe thunderstorms and tornado.

7. **STEM CELLS:** A single type of cell has the capability to break and grow to generate any human body tissue. It was discovered in 1963 by James Till and Ernest McCulloch at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto. Stem cells can benefit the victims of arthritis, Parkinson's disease, and burn victims. New drugs can also be tested on stem cells affirming us safety. Stem cells used for over 30 years in treating cancers such as leukemia, multiple melanoma, and lymphomas. The research has now opened the doors to regenerative and reparative



therapeutics. It is the most scientific achievement of all Canadian history since it has and will greatly benefit all humans.

8. **STANDARD TIME:** Standard time introduced by Sir Sandford Fleming in 1878. He proposed splitting the world into 24 time zones. The cities throughout the world set their clocks differently, based on the position of the sun in the sky before his introduction of Standard Time. The world adopted Fleming's time zones in 1885, after the establishment of the Greenwich Mean Time.

9. **CARDIAC PACEMAKER:** The first cardiac pacemaker was developed by a Canadian electrical engineer, John Hopps. He was researching the effects of radio frequency heating on hypothermia in 1941. If the heart stopped working when its temperature dropped in the body, it could be restarted artificially, using electrical or mechanical stimulation. The first cardiac defibrillation machine was developed by Hopps to start a dog's heart. In 1950, through research on dogs, Hopps invented the first pacemaker device, which was too large to be used internally.

10. **TELEPHONE:** Alexander Graham Bell invented the First Practical Telephone in 1876. He is a Scottish-born inventor lived in Brantford, Ontario. His first long-distance phone call with his "electrical speech machine" (now known as a telephone) changed the world forever.

11. **BLACKBERRY:** Mihal Lazaridis born on March 14, 1961, is a Greek-Canadian businessman investor in quantum computing technologies. He is the founder of BlackBerry and created the BlackBerry. He is a former University of Waterloo chancellor and an Officer of the Order of Canada. His estimated net worth of US\$800 million (as of June 2011).

12. **INCANDESCENT BULB:** The First Incandescent Light bulb was invented by Henry Woodward and Mathew Evans who was a medical student in Toronto. He patented the first incandescent lamp with a light bulb in 1874. Credited as the true inventor of the incandescent light bulb, Woodward sold his patent to Thomas Edison in 1885.

13. **CANADARM:** One of the country's most outstanding technological achievements, the Canadarm made its world appearance on November 13, 1981. It represents a design miracle that helped place Canada on the world map for robotics construction. It is flawless performance record, and innovative design set a new example for space engineering, both in Canada and around the world. The

National Research Council of Canada developed the Canadarm.

14. **WALKIE-TALKIE:** A walkie-talkie known as a handheld transceiver is a portable two-way radio transceiver. The development during the Second World War has been attributed to Donald L. Hings, Alfred J. Gross, and engineering teams at Motorola. The walkie-talkies resemble a telephone handset, with a speaker microphone, an antenna. Donald Hings created a portable radio signaling system for his employer CM&S in 1937.

15. **AM RADIO:** In 1906, the first "wireless" broadcast was sent by Canadian inventor Reginald Fessenden. In 1910, he lost control of his business and lived in relative retirement but continuing his research. He also built the first power generating station at Niagara Falls and developed the fathometer. In 1928, the US Radio Trust paid him \$2.5 million in recognition of his contributions to radio technology.

Author has contributed several scientific discoveries and invention. To name a few, He has developed a formula for the eye corneal illuminance (Sweden), micro-computer based intelligent traffic signal controller (Windsor), an awareness luminaires (Sweden), and the circadian regulator (Canada). In addition to that, the development of standards and specifications for electrical and lighting design (Aurora), and the development of a standard for LED luminaires evaluation (waterloo). The author would like to take this opportunity to wish you all happy 150th Canada Day.

Uthayan Thurairajah, PhD, RSE, LC, P.Eng., is a Senior Engineer/Project Manager at WSP Canada 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, several Towns, Municipalities, Regions and others. He carries out research on the subject of light and lighting and taken part in several projects. He is a frequent presenter and author on lighting design & health. He is passionate about integrating science and health into the lighting design.



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MANAGING YOUR MONEY

Why you need to report the sale of your home

Most Canadians know they don't have to pay capital gains tax on the sale of their primary residence and, until recently, you didn't even have to mention a sale on your tax return. But while the capitals gains on your home can still be exempted from tax, there are new reporting requirements that, if not followed properly, could cause you some major tax-related headaches.

Last October the Canadian government announced new measures requiring everyone to report the sale of their home on their tax return. If the sale is not reported, you could be re-assessed and the new rules permit the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to review property sales beyond the standard reassessment period. You may even be subject to a penalty in the future. CRA has stated that it is unlikely a penalty will be issued when the sale occurred in 2016, given that the reporting requirement is brand new, but it may not be so lenient going forward.

The new rule is part of the government's attempt to rein in potential abuses of the principal residence exemption (PRE), such as non-Canadian residents claiming the exemption and others claiming it on a second property in the same year. Usually, 50% of a capital gain on an asset must be reported as taxable income. But the PRE allows Canadian residents to be exempt from paying tax on capital gains on their principal residence. Only one property can be designated per year as a principal residence, therefore gains may be taxable on the sale of a second property, like a cottage.

With the new rule, you will have to fill out the Schedule 3 of the T1 tax return to report the sale of the property where you designate the property as your principal residence for all the years it was owned. Information required on Schedule 3 includes the date the property was acquired, the address of the property, and the proceeds received. If you are designating a property as a principal residence for only some of the years it was owned, e.g. when a cottage will be designated for one or more of those years, form T2091 is still to be used with additional details to be provided on Schedule 3.

Though the change has been public since October, it hasn't been widely publicized. The bottom line is this: if you sell your home in the 2016 tax year or later, complete Schedule 3 at tax time to claim the PRE and to avoid any potential penalties for late filing. Most individuals previously eligible to claim the PRE will continue to remain eligible, but the CRA will now have a record of that claim.

As with every other aspect of your financial life, it pays to get help from your professional advisor before you file your next tax return.

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, and / or to arrange a free educational seminar, please contact me.

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Former Senior Business Manager, MITSUBISHI-Colombo, Sri Lanka with Mr. Harsh Dhingra, Chief Country Rep & Director, Joint Venture Company M/s. BOMBARDIER- MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES (MHI), Transportation INDIA Private Ltd at the Business Symposium, in Toronto held on the 09th June, 2017 at Hyatt Regency Hotel, organised by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC), Indo-Canadian Business Chamber (ICBC), in Collaboration with Consulate General of India in Toronto, supported by Government of Canada



RECENT CHANGES TO CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP LAWS

Bill C-6 that proposed amendments to the current Canadian Citizenship Act has recently received Royal Assent in Parliament. There are some vital changes that will take place, some immediately and some later, once the necessary regulatory changes and preparations are in place for a smooth transition.

The following are some of the changes that will take effect immediately:

1. According to the previous Citizenship Act, citizenship could be revoked from dual citizens convicted of treason, spying and terrorism offences, depending on the sentence received, or who were a part of an armed force of a country or organized group engaged in conflict with Canada. This provision is repealed under Bill C-6. Dual citizens living in Canada who are convicted of these crimes will face the Canadian justice system, like other Canadians who break the law.

2. Under the previous Act, applicants were required to intend to continue to live in Canada if granted citizenship. This provision is also repealed under Bill C-6. Applicants are no longer required to intend to continue to live in Canada once granted citizenship. This provides more flexibility to Canadians who may need to live outside of Canada for work or personal reasons.

3. There was no provision under the previous Act to prevent individuals serving a sentence in the community (a



conditional sentence order) from being granted citizenship, taking the Oath of Citizenship or counting this time towards meeting the physical presence requirements for citizenship. According to the new provisions, individuals serving a conditional sentence will not be granted citizenship, be able to take the Oath of Citizenship or be able to count this time towards meeting the physical presence requirements for citizenship.

4. Under the previous Act, there were no explicit reference to accommodate persons with disabilities in the Citizenship Act. The new law bridge this gap by introducing the requirement to take into consideration reasonable measures to accommodate the needs of a citizenship applicant who is a disabled person.

Some of the measures that will come into force later this year are:

1. Under the previous legislation, Applicants had to be physically present in Canada for 4 out of 6 years before

applying for citizenship. This period has been reduced under the new law in that applicants must now be physically present in Canada for 3 out of 5 years to qualify for citizenship.

2. Applicants also had to file income taxes, if required to do so under the Income Tax Act for 4 out of 6 years, matching the physical presence requirement. This has been reduced to 3 out of 5 years matching the new physical presence requirement.

3. The provision that the applicants had to be physically present in Canada for 183 days in 4 out of 6 years preceding their application has been repealed by the new legislations. Applicants no longer have to meet this requirement.

4. Time spent in Canada prior to becoming a permanent resident did not count towards the physical presence requirement for citizenship. Under the new law, applicants may count each day they were physically present in Canada as a temporary resident or

protected personal before becoming a permanent residence as a half-day toward meeting the physical presence requirement for citizenship to a maximum credit of 365 days.

5. The age for language test requirement has been reduced from 14 and 64 years (previous law) to 18 – 54 years by the new provisions.

There are further changes that will take place in early 2018:

1. Revocation of citizenship, unless the individual requests that the Minister makes the decision will rest with the Federal Court as opposed to the Minister (department) rendering most such decisions at present.

If a permanent resident plans to apply for citizenship in the near future or simply wish to know if he or she qualifies for citizenship, they need to be guided by the above mentioned changes to determine their eligibility.



Shani Hanwella

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HOW DEBT AFFECTS YOUR RELATIONSHIP

Was Shakespeare right when he said, "Neither a borrower nor a lender be?" It often depends on the nature of the relationship. Borrowing and lending makes the world go round when it comes to national economies, corporations, or small business, but it's a very different story when it comes to your spouse.

Debt can have a devastating effect on a relationship. It's often cited as the No. 1 reason couples argue, and among the most common causes of divorce.

An American university study last year reported that couples who argue about money early in their relationships are at greater risk of divorce, whatever their income, debt or net worth. The 2012 study, "Examining the Relationship between Financial Issues and Divorce," also said that arguments about money were longer and more acrimonious than arguments about other

topics. Another university in 2009 found that couples who disagreed about finances once a week were more than 30% more likely to divorce than couples who reported disagreeing about finances less often.

The best way not to join their ranks is to make good choices from the beginning. When you're contemplating a major relationship commitment, talk to your partner about money.

Talk about your attitudes, your culture, what you think money is and its role in society. Talk about your financial priorities. If one of you want to save for retirement and the other wants a speed boat, you'll need all the open communication you can get. Disagreeing doesn't mean your relationship is doomed, but it will take continued non-judgmental communication and regularly revisiting the issue to keep from developing resentments and creation



Financial tensions down the road. Talk specifically about the debts you bring to the relationship, and be absolutely honest.

If you're in a relationship with someone whose debts far outstrip yours, or who seems to constantly be accruing more, consider waiting before making

a long-term commitment. Give him or her chance to straighten out their financial difficulties, or at least take the right steps towards doing so, before you walk down the aisle.

If you're already married and you or your spouse is in financial trouble, it doesn't necessarily mean both partners are in the same boat. A debt that is yours alone (for which they did not co-sign) does not affect your spouse's credit, and a bankruptcy affects only the insolvent spouse. Joint debts can be a different story, and can even your ex-spouse's (or one from whom you are legally separated) behaviour can affect you financially.

If you've got concerns about your financial future, or that of your prospective spouse, talk to a qualified Credit Counsellor at GTA Credit today.

(Call 416-650-5400 /

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Toronto's Tamil Literary Garden felicitates Tamil Nadu Kavignar Sukumaran with Lifetime Achievement Award

Tamil Film Director Mysskin recipient of Non-Fiction Award

Siva Sivapragasam

Toronto's Tamil Literary Garden Annual Awards event held recently saw Tamil Nadu Poet Sukumaran as the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award while Tamil film Director Mysskin received the annual Non-Fiction Award.

The Tamil Literary Garden, established in 2001, is a Toronto based charitable organization committed towards promoting the development of Tamil literature and studies internationally. The mandate includes the presentation of awards on an annual basis to those creative persons who have made significant contributions

to the development of the Tamil language. Its mandate includes awards, creative writing, scholarship to students, translations, book releases, Tamil theatre, performances, conferences and workshops. Among its activities, the event that takes centre stage is a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 2017 annual awards function of Tamil Literary Garden was held recently at the Scarborough Convention Centre with Dr. Ravi Gukathasan as the Chief Guest. Dr. Gukathasan donated two million dollars to the University of Toronto sometime back to fund Tamil studies at the University.

The Lifetime Achievement

Award was presented to the well-known Tamil Nadu poet Sukumaran who has made significant contribution to Tamil poetry and literary writing over the past several years. His contributions have appeared in several Tamil journals.

The recipient of this year's non-fiction Award was Tamil Nadu's popular and well-known film-Director Mysskin who has exhibited his talent in film directing, acting and music over the past several years.

Other Awards presented were for Fiction (Recipient: Sayanthan), Poetry (Recipient: P. Sankara Rama Subramaniam), Translation

(Recipients: Rishan Shareef & Eveline Masilamani Meyer, Information Technology (Recipient: T. Shrinivasan), Teachers Around the World (Recipient: Dr. David Shulman), Student Scholarship Award (Recipient: Sopika Sathiyaseelan, Special Recognition Award (Recipient: Ira Ilangkumaran). The event was well attended by scholars, writers and members of the public.

Lawyer Manuel Jesuthasan is the President of Tamil Literary Garden while well-known Tamil short story writer A. Muttulingam is the Secretary.

(Seen here are some pictures taken at the Awards Event)



Mr. Muthulingam, Apsara, Mr. Bala Cumarasan, Dr. Ravi Gukathasan and Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Sukumaran



Mrs. Balasundaram, Mrs. Nandakumar, Mr. Nandakumarn and Award Winner Sruthi Sriharan



Mr. Muthulingam, Dr. Sriharan, Dr. Sambanthan & Award Winner Mysskin



Mr. Kubes Nava, Mr. Rutnam and Award Winner Evelyn Masilamani Meyer



M.P. Gary Anandasangaree & Mr. Muthulingam-Secretary, Tamil Literary Garden



Dr. Shan Shanmugavadivel, Jai Jayaraman and Award Winner Sayanthan



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: @ninjateatsfood and @tamil_food

Eat more, learn more!

Sisters Niranjini Thirunesan and Rajini Nathan are both food enthusiasts from England. Niranjini, who lives in London, has a degree in Human Biology and is a trained chef. She makes it her business to know everything about what she eats, from nutritional value to source producers. Follow her food obsession on Instagram @ninjateatsfood.

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.

Tempered Curd Rice

It's a very Tamil trait to not feel satisfied with having eaten a good meal, without rice. However, eating it the same way every day can be a bit of a bore. With the blazing summer heat also comes a need for refreshing and cooling food. This rice recipe is a firm favourite of ours, simple to make and definitely one to add to your summer meal planner.



Ingredients:

- Cooked rice (made with 1 cup/250gms of uncooked rice) (saatham/soarru)
- ½ small diced red onion (vengaayam)
- 2 chopped green chillies (or 2 dried red chillies) (milagai)
- ¼ inch of ginger- diced/grated (inji)
- ½ tsp mustard seeds (kadugu)

- ½ tsp cumin seeds (seeragam)
- ½ tsp broken urad dhal (uzhundhu paruppu)
- 1 tsp chana dhal (kadalai paruppu)
- Pinch of asafoetida (perungaayam)
- 1 sprig of curry leaves (kari vepilai)
- 1 tsp cooking oil (ennai)
- 1 cup yoghurt (thayir)
- Salt to taste (uppu)

Method:

Cook the rice till slightly mushy and whilst warm add the yoghurt, salt and onions (raw - no need to cook them).

Heat the oil in a small pan, add the mustard seeds, cumin seeds, urad dhal, chana dhal, chillies, curry leaves and diced ginger. Mix this with the rice mixture, give it a good stir and it's ready to eat. Alternatively you could leave it in the fridge to chill a little more. Fried cashews can be added for that extra crunchy texture.

This eaten with a side of appalam and pickle is our idea of heaven!

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!)



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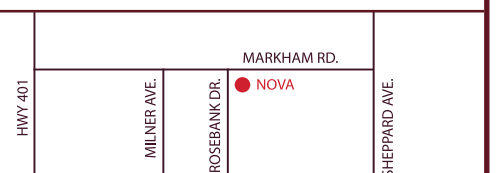
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SHANI HANWELLA

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CTHA Hosts Mother's Day Breakfast to Raise Funds

By: Thibeca Kengatharan



Pictures taken at Mother's Day Breakfast

On Sunday, May 14th, 2017, the Canadians 'Tamils' Humanitarian Association (CTHA) hosted a Mother's Day breakfast in celebration of the motherly figures who continuously nurture and support the organization. This was a gathering organized for volunteers and supporters along with their family. The event was sponsored by luxury home builders, Altona Custom Homes. Through this event, CTHA was able to raise a total of \$5450. \$1000 of these funds were put towards the microcredit program in which loans are given to women in Batticaloa to start small businesses. The remaining \$4450 was used to fund CTHA's Adopt-A-

Village project. Through the Mother's Day breakfast, CTHA was able to present the organization and its current projects to ensure attendees and supporters were aware of what programs and facilities their donations were used for. We also launched our official CTHA website (www.cthacanada.org) where anyone can update themselves of the progress of our work. The event consisted of a beautiful vocal performance by Dharrini Santhabavan, in honour of mothers everywhere. The mothers who attended the event were invited to cut a cake and were given roses as a small gratitude for their large contributions to both the organization and their families.

Throughout the event, families were invited to have professional pictures taken to remember the occasion and children were able to make cards for their mothers, personalized to their tastes.

Here's to a Mother's Day that was well celebrated with family and CTHA supporters while supporting a notable cause.

For our Adopt-A-Village project, CTHA has partnered with Rotary Club International to raise \$150,000. CTHA team members visited Batticaloa, Sri Lanka near the end of last year and finally chose Pavatkodichennai as the rural village they would like to adopt. Rotary Club of Richmond Hill will fund our clean accessible water and sanitation projects, while CTHA has taken the responsibility to build a community centre in the village which will serve as a preschool, facilitate a medical centre and consist of a vocational training room. On May 26th 2017, CTHA started the groundbreaking foundation work for the community centre which will cost us \$75,000 for materials and construction. We plan to raise this money through fundraising initiatives in our community in the upcoming months.

We thank our community partners, supporters and donors for their continued support. If you would like to know more



Pictures taken at Adopt a Village Project ground breaking ceremony

about us and our work, how to get involved yourself, or make a donation, please contact us at cthacanada@gmail.com.



Pictures taken at Adopt a Village Project ground breaking ceremony



Pictures taken at Mother's Day Breakfast



Thibeca Kengatharan is going into her 4th year at the University of Guelph; majoring in Nutritional and Nutraceutical Sciences and minoring in Marketing. She has been volunteering with the Canadian Tamils' Humanitarian Association in hopes of improving the living conditions in Sri Lanka. She is very passionate about making positive changes in people's lives and hopes to use her vast interests and skills to ensure these changes are made.

Saranga

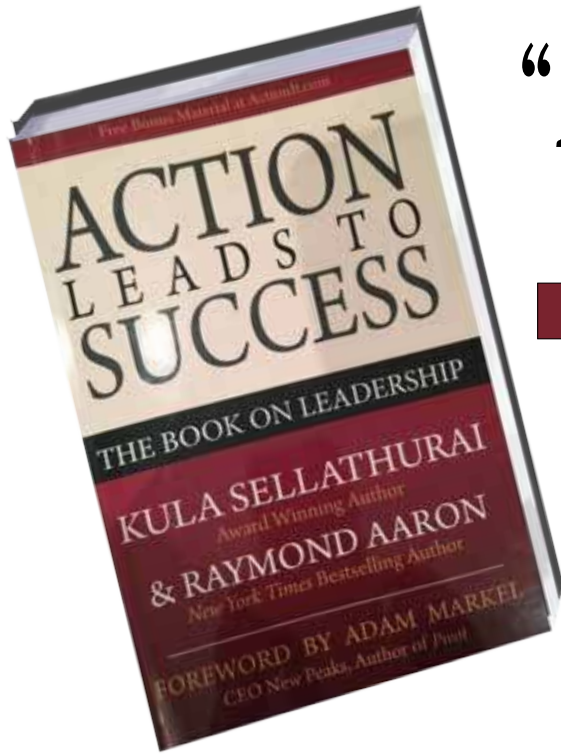
Sriranganathan obtained her B.M.Sc. degree from Western University with an honours specialization in physiology and pharmacology. She will be starting her M.Sc. back at Western this fall. She is very involved with social community work and hopes to pursue a career in medicine to serve local communities as well as assist with international aid. **Saranga** is also actively involved with Western University Friends of MSF (Doctors Without Borders), the Alzheimers' Society in London & Middlesex and Western University Violence Prevention Program. She has been regularly volunteering for the South Asian Canadian Humanitarian Association (SACHA), and is currently the President for the Canadian Tamils' Humanitarian Association (CTHA). She hopes to recruit many young volunteers to the organization and set up a platform for them to showcase their unique ideas to fundraise and raise awareness for vulnerable populations in developing countries.



Book Launch Event



Community Watch



“ACTION LEADS TO SUCCESS”

A Book on Leadership

Co-Authored By Kula Sellathurai & Raymond Aaron

By Siva Sivapragasam

The official launch event of a book on Leadership titled “Action Leads to Success” co-authored by Kula Sellathurai and Raymond Aaron took place recently with a packed guest audience at the Delta Hotel in Scarborough.

Authors Kula Sellathurai and Raymond Aaron are both leaders, successful businessmen and serial entrepreneurs. The contents of the book “Action Leads to Success” is essentially a publication on leadership, and filled with practical solutions to take control of one’s life, and serves as a guide towards leadership in what you do. It contains valuable information for

success in business and leadership from persons of extensive business experience coupled with vision and wisdom. The book takes you on a journey from where you are to where you want to be.

Speakers at the event remarked that Co-Author Kula Sellathurai has drawn on his long years of personal experience as a successful businessman and community leader in writing this book. They pointed out that the book is a roadmap to guide and motivate individuals who aspire for leadership. Kula was the former President of the Canadian Tamils’ Chamber and spearheaded the Chamber’s 10th Anniversary Awards Gala at the prestigious Roy Thompson Hall.

Co-Author Kula thanked the

speakers and audience for the support given to him at the book launch event. He gave a short account of his life history in Canada from the time he came to the country and how he built his business experience to its position as he is in today.

“Action Leads to Success” contains valuable and practical solutions for problems you encounter in your day to day life. The contents will certainly inspire the change you desire in your life.

The book can be purchased online from Amazon Bookstore by visiting www.amazon.com

(Seen here are some pictures taken at the book launch event, Courtesy of EKuruvi)



Siva Sivapragasam, Executive Editor of “Monsoon Journal” speaks about Kula and the book



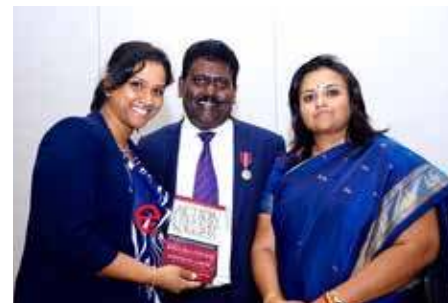
Co-Author Raymond Aaron



Past President of CTCC Mohan Sundaramohan receiving the book



Past President of CTCC Mike Ahilan receiving the book



Former NDP MP Rathika Sitsabaiesan receiving the book



Co-Author Kula Sellathurai



CTHA Founder Ken Vivekananthavel receiving the book



Varasithi Temple Chief Priest Vijayakumarasamy Kurukkal receiving the book



Scarborough-Agincourt MPP Soo Wong receiving the book



Past President of CTCC Sritharan Thuraiaraj receiving the book



Former Liberal MP Maria Minna receiving the book and presented a greeting message to Kula Sellathurai



CTCC Director Vilosan Sivatharman with Kula Sellathurai



Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) President Ajith Sabaratnam on left receiving the book from Ganesan Sugumar, Co-authors Kula Sellathurai and Raymond Aaron



CableShoppe President Stan Muthulingam, Past President of CTCC Sinnadurai Jeyakumar, Robert Biron & Michael Mazza from The Scarborough Hospital, Sophia Sugumar & Past EVP of CTCC Santha Panchalingam



Kula's wife Sanchu makes an emotional speech with humour included.



Sanchula Kula with her daughter and mother



Co-author Raymond Aaron, Sanchula Kula, Kula Sellathurai and daughter Akshaya



Registration

Remembering Roland Rutland

November 7th, 1949-June 25th, 2017

"I always joked with him for not having a cell phone. But, probably he didn't need to have one as he was always there to help and support within an instance whenever needed. Rest in peace my dear friend. May Allah bless your soul."

- Vaqar Raees, Pakistan Canadian Society of Durham

"My main reflection on Roland's life would be to say that he was a powerhouse for understanding and reconciliation, the true foundations of lasting peace. Whether championing the cause of human rights or the rights of religious minorities or women in Iran or other far-flung lands, or as an advocate for immigration and multiculturalism here in Canada, he always spoke with authority and authenticity, and carried his audience to a higher plane of knowledge and perspective. I cannot think of a community leader in Ajax or indeed in Canada with a greater ability to strike the right tone -- to be fair, inclusive and insightful in everything he said and did. We will miss him -- and continue to celebrate his legacy and memory."

- Chris Alexander, Former MP & Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

"I have known Roland for years as a passionate and committed member of Durham community. He was involved in many community initiatives, as a Coordinator of External Affairs Baha'i Communities of Durham Region, Diversity co-chair, Ajax Home Week, Past President, Multicultural Council of Oshawa/Durham, Ajax Race Relations Committee, Pickering Race Relations Committee, former board member, National Harmony Movement, and of the Community Development Council Durham. He was the master of ceremony at the recent "Take It Local", Human Rights Training Day in Durham Region, organized by WMRCC of Durham in partnership with the Trent University and the Regional Municipality of Durham. He was the former Diversity Coordinator for Kinark Child and Family Services. Roland was very hard working with great passion on human rights, social justice race relations and diversity issues. I had the privilege of being asked on few occasions to speak at the Unity in Diversity Week, the United Nations International Day and Week for Women and Human Rights Forum, he organized in different years. He will be missed by all. Sincere condolences to Roland's family from all of us at WMRCC of Durham."

- Esther Enyolu, Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre of Durham

"I wish I could hear him saying again 'Did you bring enough samosas for everyone?' Durham Tamil Association had the privilege of participating and bringing samosas to Roland's events for the past 17 years. He has been a guiding light and will continue to be for every single child, youth and adult who volunteered at DTA. We take this opportunity to thank his family for generously sharing their loved one to us. He touched our lives in so many ways with his kind heart, may you rest in peace my friend."

- Dinesh Kumar, Durham Tamil Association

"I have known Roland for years as a passionate and committed member of Durham community. He was involved in many community initiatives, as a Coordinator of External Affairs Baha'i Communities of Durham Region, Diversity co-chair, Ajax Home Week, Past President, Multicultural Council of Oshawa/Durham, Ajax Race Relations Committee, Pickering Race Relations Committee, former board member, National Harmony Movement, and of the Community Development Council Durham. He was the master of ceremony at the recent "Take It Local", Human Rights Training Day in Durham Region, organized by WMRCC of Durham in partnership with the Trent University and the Regional Municipality of Durham. He was the former Diversity Coordinator for Kinark Child and Family Services. Roland was very hard working with great passion on human rights, social justice race relations and diversity issues. I had the privilege of being asked on few occasions to speak at the Unity in Diversity Week, the United Nations International Day and Week for Women and Human Rights Forum, he organized in different years. He will be missed by all. Sincere condolences to Roland's family from all of us at WMRCC of Durham."

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"Roland lived a life that dared greatly. He dared to challenge all residents, citizens, elected officials and leaders to ask themselves if they are inclusive, if they are fair, if they do indeed - want what is best for everyone. If he didn't quite like your answer, he would ask you again and in his own way, let you know that he thought you could and should do better. He was persistent, insistent and filled with good intent. Roland was a familiar face at the Region of Durham. He contributed content to the Durham Immigration Portal; he was a regular attendee at the Community Partners in Diversity; he wrote articles for The Citizen; he was a contributor to the success of countless World Religion Days and always remembered -- before it was more common to do so -- to honour our Indigenous populations. Roland dared greatly - to speak to his mind and sometimes make people a bit uncomfortable. Those were the gifts he brought to the people of the Region of Durham and for those gifts we will be forever grateful."

- Roger Anderson, Regional Chair & Audrey Andrews, Diversity and Immigration Program (Region of Durham)

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"A servant of the people, humble, loving, kind, always had time for others. As a Member of the the Multicultural Council of Oshawa/Durham, his Service will be greatly missed. When we act on behalf of others, we actually act on behalf of ourselves. Roland was the most unselfish person with his time. In remembering our dear friend, I think he would ask us to untangle our lives and break free from selfish living."

- Lyril Browne, Multicultural Council of Oshawa/Durham

"We were deeply saddened to hear the loss of our dear friend Roland Rutland and we would like to express our sincere sympathy to his family on behalf of Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham Executive team and members. Roland Rutland was highly respected by the Durham community and his contribution to the community will not be forgotten. Roland Rutland was a remarkable man, who greeted everyone with the great smile and played a very active role in the community, without expecting anything in return, he will be missed by all of us. May his soul rest in peace, Roland Rutland was held in high regard by all who knew him."

- Executive Committee and Members of Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham

"Although Roland doesn't like the spotlight or recognition because he simply enjoys what he does, he was recognized for his diversity work by the Town of Ajax. He received Diversity and Community Engagement Award in 2011. Roland was very instrumental and a motivator for young children at the Institution of Academic and Fine Arts of Durham. He always had opportunities for them to participate. Children and parents will miss him very much, and want to thank him for everything he has done for them."

- Raveena Rajasingham, Institution of Academic & Fine Arts of Durham

"I first met Roland in February 2010 when he was brought to a meeting here at Forest Brook by Donald Igboke. With the help of Mark Holland, we had gathered a number of representatives from different faith and community groups to begin exploring how we could work together on issues for the greater good in our city. I was impressed with Roland and later found out that, by that time, he had already invested 25 years of working in the Durham Region on matters of diversity and inclusion. I asked Roland if he wanted to work with us on some community outreach efforts and he told me he was only interested if we were serious and in it for the long term. That started a relationship between us that lasted up to the past year and we worked together to co-host the annual Peace and Harmony Concerts in Ajax/Pickering for six years. Roland was tireless in his efforts to bring the community together. He had a wonderful sense of humour and a welcoming nature. He loved his family and always caught me up on what was going on with his children and grandchildren. I am very sorry to hear of Roland's passing and I will miss him. He was certainly one of the good ones, and would expect us all to carry on his good work of bringing one another together in our community, no matter what our differences might be."

- Kevin Armstrong, Forest Brook Community Church

"I was saddened to learn that long time community advocate and coordinator of external affairs with the Baha'i Communities of Durham Region, Roland Rutland had passed away during the early hours of Sunday morning. Roland was a truly caring and kind person and helped countless people in Ajax. He will be missed. My thoughts and condolences to his friends and family."

- Mark Holland, MP Ajax-Pickering Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness



Appreciation

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MRS. MALAIMAGAL PARENJOTHY



MRS. MALAIMAGAL PARENJOTHY

C. Kamalaharan

As I settle down to pen this tribute to a wonderful human being who had touched the lives of many with her amiable gentle nature and lured them with her beaming smile sweet memories of my association with her family surfaces. It was in 1973 I first met them when I arrived on transfer to Nadeswara College, the Alma Mater of both Mr. and Mrs. Parenjothy. Since then we became friends and the bond of friendship between our families has been continuing unabated.

Born in an illustrious family at Chankanai she moved with her parents and siblings to Kankasanturai and settled in their spacious abode built beside the boundary wall surrounding Nadeswara College. She was the youngest daughter of the late Mr. A. V. Sathasivam the renowned attorney – at – law. Educated at Nadeswara College one of the premier educational institutions in the North she was also fortunate to be inducted as a teacher in the same school and served there from 1971 to 1990. Steadfast in her loyalty to her school she took part in all the extra – curricular activities of the school mainly grooming the college net ball team. Her loyalty to the school continued even after she migrated to U.K where she was one among the pioneers to inaugurate the Old Students' Association (OSA) of Nadeswara College.

"Kunchu" as she was affectionately called by her hubby, her siblings,

relatives and friends was adored by all of them for her simple outspoken and lively disposition. She was a woman of wit and humour winning the hearts of everyone by her jovial and cheerful temperament.

I became an additional member of her family in October 1994 when I arrived in Colombo to work out my pension. Prior to that I wrote a letter to Param requesting him to find me a room for rent between Dehiwela and Bambalapitiya. The instant reply I received from him was gratifying; "As soon as you land at Katunayaka airport rush to 107/1, Hampden Lane, Wellawatte." What a friendly gesture it was! My wife and children who were greatly upset when I decided to return to Colombo were very much relieved by Param's letter. Param who arrived in Chennai on a personal visit joined me in the flight. On arrival we were warmly received by teacher. She made arrangements to accommodate me in Param's room ensuring my stay to be secure and comfortable. Since then Param and I became good companions.

The following Thursday I attended their weekly home bhajan. Unaware of the procedure in conducting a bhajan they merely played the bhajans in the tape recorder and joined the chorus. During the next bhajan, I briefed them the proper way of conducting a bhajan in accordance to the guidelines laid by Prashanthi Nilaiyam. The arrival of Dr. A. Pavaladurai, retired gynaecologist at Inuvil McLeod hospital and a staunch Sai devotee was a great boost for the bhajan sessions. During weekends

he coached prospective singers and within weeks Param's house was transformed into a rapturous bhajan centre. Later the centre became the talk of the town. It was Swamy who saw that everything fell in line and I was merely an instrument of His. Teacher took an active part in organizing the bhajans and she was also one among the panel of singers.

My re-instatement in service was successful and after working for a year I retired with an enhanced pension. My stay at Param's house was the most memorable one. The hospitality extended to me was par excellence and the meals served were the best under the sun. It was the saddest moment to depart after enjoying the most cordial and the most enjoyable company of Param and his family members, Mrs. Thirunavukkarasu and her family members, Chandra and son.

During my lengthy stay there I observed that not only for me but also for those who arrive and stay there a 'royal treatment' was accorded. Their house is an 'oasis' providing succour to one and all. I also observed that teacher always remained unruffled in any situation and had never lost her temper. It's really sad that such an amiable, compassionate, forbearing and generous lady had been a victim of acute malignancy.

A few weeks ago on hearing about the seriousness of her health which took a bad turn.

I spoke to Param over the phone. There was an expression of despair in his speech and he seemed perturbed as he narrated her condition. Just

then I heard a faint quivering voice, "How are your children?" It was from teacher. My heart sank on hearing about her concern for my children not withstanding her failing health. I told her that they were keeping well.

Later on an ill-fated day I was profoundly shaken on receiving the distressing news of her demise. I didn't want to disturb grief-stricken Param and so I took a call a couple of days after the funeral. My heart was pounding in anxiety as to how I was going to console him. On hearing his faltered voice I couldn't control myself and began to weep. Param too wept bitterly. He spoke fighting back tears and appeared deranged. How could I console him when he had lost his loving and faithful wife and left alone with a sense of complete desolation? Fumbling with words I managed to console him and put down the phone.

Teacher is no more with us physically but the recurring thoughts of her and her charismatic smile keeps on haunting us. Her death was not only a devastation for her family members and friends but to all those who knew her particularly past students of Nadeswara College. The turn out at the funeral was unprecedented and the crowd that accompanied the cortege during her final journey bore testimony to the love and the sense of gratitude they had for this noble lady. Her endurance throughout her prolonged illness revealed that she had completed her 'Karma' and is now with Swamy as an enlightened soul.

SAI RAM



TRIBUTE

DR. SIVARAJASINGHAM SIVAPRIYAN



1 OCTOBER, 1964 – 7 JUNE, 2017

By Harsha de Silva

"For death is certain to one who is born...thou shalt not grieve for what is unavoidable."

- The Holy Bhagavad Gita.

That may be true, but we cannot but grieve the untimely loss of our dear friend Siva; Dr S Sivapriyan, our friend for decades from school. A true Royalist.

He was a dedicated doctor who treated numerous low income people at the Premadasa Memorial Hospital in Maligawatte; day in and day out. Be they Sinhala, Tamil or Muslim it didn't matter; he could speak all three languages. To him all what mattered was how he could make the sick person feel better.

Never a man driven by material wealth he dedicated his life to look after his mother as the only sibling in Sri Lanka. He did that so very well.

It was only just two weeks ago I met him last at his mother's funeral. I knew he was hurting bad. I put my arm around him and said let's fight this together. I even spoke to the President to see if the President's fund could help. He agreed immediately. Other friends just began to rally together.

But, perhaps he thought his duty was now complete and decided he could give up his battle. Siva left us early this morning. How a man who never had a drink in his life could die of liver complications. Who said life is fair?

We grieve for you Siva. May you attain eternal peace!

(Harsha de Silva MP is Deputy Minister of Policy Planning and Economic Development, Government of Sri Lanka)

APPRECIATION

FORMER SRI LANKAN SENIOR DEPUTY GENERAL OF POLICE VAMADEVAN PASSES AWAY IN SYDNEY



Retired Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police, S Vamadevan, passed away in Sydney on June 1, 2017, almost three months after his 84th birthday. He was one who brought credit to the Ceylon (later Sri Lanka) Police, both by his

ability as well as personal example. I write this appreciation as a colleague who was perhaps the closest to him in the Service. In fact, my wife and I were the only police family at his wedding.

Vama and I were at the University, Peradeniya, together. He was two years my senior, and was well known as a soccer player of repute, captaining the Peradeniya side successfully. A very popular student, he was well known for his sense of humour, perhaps something that created a comradeship between us. Several articles have appeared in the press about him, but I want to write mainly about his career in the Service, which should really serve as an example to current members.

He joined the Service as a Probationary ASP in 1957, two years before me. His first outstation posting was Kandy, where I succeeded him in 1961. Both of us served under Supt. Karl Van Rooyen, a tough, no-no-nonsense kind of officer, who instilled in us one of the most important dictums; we were there to serve the public, not to be slaves to Departmental orders. Vama took to it like a fish to water, sometimes letting his feelings of duty overcome routine orders.

Then he had a brief stint at Matugama, until the attempted Coup of 1962 pitchforked him into the cauldron that was Colombo. He ran the Colombo West District, the toughest of the lot, covering the Fort and Pettah areas. Political turmoils, trade union chaos and serious crime had to be tackled, with a depleted, demoralised Force reeling in the aftermath of the attempted coup. This he accomplished despite having less than five years of Service under his belt. Some tense situations were defused through direct contact with the leaders.

I know what it was like, as I too was thrown into the same soup with even fewer years of service, and allocated two Districts, South and Traffic, to run. Our predecessors were either in remand jail or on compulsory leave. Supt. Ivor Van Twest was brought in as SP Colombo, and the two of us with another handful of junior ASPs, were to help him restore morale and provide law and order to the City. Nothing loath, we stood four square to the wind and got on with the task. Vama, following the lead of Van Twest, led from the front, and established a reputation as a firm but fair officer, with a penchant for demanding immediate results. This earned him the sobriquet "Vahamadevan".

It was not all work. We had the good fortune of jointly participating in sporting activities, get-togethers, and most enjoyable of all, horse riding. Cross country rides ending with a good breakfast, or cantering

along the beach to Mt. Lavinia, was indeed fun. A keen horseman, Vama never missed these opportunities, and as the Mounted Division was under his command, he and I spent considerable time on horseback. During this period, he commanded a parade to welcome the new IG, S A Dissanayake. Vama commanded it on horseback, achieving a first ever record of commands being given in Sinhala, a little tongue twisting for this lad from the North.

He dealt with politicians and trade union leaders at a personal level, to prevent confrontations. The event I remember best was when he confronted a political heavy weight in maintaining peace in front of the Queen's House, and indeed, in the country. Sadly, it led to a posting to Nuwara Eliya. His great contribution was that the men under him gained the courage to stand up for what was right; they could count on his backing. Vama was the Director General of Intelligence as his last posting before retirement.

The JVP insurrection of 1971 brought out the "Action Man" in Vama. On April 5, when an informant divulged the imminence of the attack by the JVP on police stations, there was a little slowness on the part of the senior command to take immediate action. It was Vama, together with fellow officers Cyril Herath and PL Munidasa who filled the vacuum, sending out instructions to the Divisional Commanders and being in touch with them throughout the difficult first few days. Vama's crowning achievement was the setting up of the Sri Lanka Police Reserve (SLPR) with retired SP Rajasuriya. The old police reserve could no longer meet current needs. The failed insurrection showed the need for a strong Reserve to support the under-strength Police Force. Starting in April '71, Vama built the SLPR from the bottom up. He handpicked a small, volunteer staff of Reserves led by an able Reserve Officer (who incidentally was to remain in that role for nearly 15 years) and developed it into an efficient, respected machine, providing much needed support to the regular police. This achievement never received due credit.

Deeply attached to his family – wife Rajes and their two children, Vama was sometimes torn between the call of duty and the attachment to the family. I am sure that it gave him some anguish. Vamadevan retired from the Service in March 1983. He was just 50 years old. Perhaps that anguish had some say in that decision, as was perhaps the difficulties in working under seriously deteriorating conditions of political instability. By that time, I had left the country, but was in touch with him regularly. When I met him shortly afterwards in Colombo, he was looking forward to a peaceful life in retirement.

A few months later came the disaster that was July '83. The house he and his wife built with love, and all their belongings were destroyed. He had nothing more left in the country. The hurt that it caused, and also the fact that it had to be an Air Force Officer who removed the family to safety created a bitterness in him, as he had said so many times to me in Australia. Perhaps it was the reason why he never visited Sri Lanka again.

He was a great police officer. One of a rare breed, indeed.

(Courtesy: Island Newspaper- Edited version)
Douglas Ranmuthugala.
Ex-DIG, Sri Lanka Police.



Colombo's Hindu Ladies College

Saiva Mangayar Vidyalayam Celebrates 85th Anniversary with a Walk-a-thon in Colombo

Colombo's well-known Hindu Ladies College known as Saiva Mangayar Vidyalayam held a Walk-a-thon recently to celebrate its 85th Anniversary.

The Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam is the premier Institution of the Saiva Mangaiyar Kalagam, one of the oldest Hindu Women's organizations in Sri Lanka which was founded at a time when Tamil Language and Hinduism were under siege during the colonial rule of the British.

This Vidyalayam celebrates its 85th anniversary this year and in commemoration, the Past Pupils' Association organized a Walk-a-thon on the 17th of June.

The Vidyalayam was founded in 1930 by a band of dedicated Hindu women of whom Mrs. Rasamuttu Sathasivam, Mrs. Sornacanthi Nallainathan and Mrs. Balambigai Namasivayam were in the forefront. Their untiring efforts supported by a younger band of Hindu women together with the Principals and Staff of the Vidyalayam built the institution gradually.

Throughout the 85 years of its history, the Vidyalayam had gone through many difficulties in its path to success of being an A Grade Institution and the only Assisted Private Hindu school for students. Through the Second World War years, the Vidyalayam continued to function on a low key while certain other schools moved out of Colombo to the hills. The various ethnic disturbances from time to time especially the 1983 pogrom took a heavy toll on the Institution as the number on roll went down drastically. Despite all this, when the government decided in 1960 to take over the religious based schools, the women who founded the Kalagam and its premier Institution did not hand over the school to the government as did all the other Hindu societies managing schools in the Island. This was a very bold step and having taken the initiative worked to maintain the

Institution under great difficulties.

The history of the Vidyalayam starts at Besant House of the Theosophical Society down Peterson Lane, Colombo 6 with seven students on roll. In 1934 the Vidyalayam moved to its present site - 23, Rudra Mawatha, Colombo 6 and from thatched beginnings has grown to a building occupying several storied blocks with over 2,300 students from the Maria Montessori to the Advanced Level classes. The school has bilingual classes preparing students for three important examinations - the 5th Grade Scholarship, Ordinary Level and Advanced Level in 4 streams namely, Biology, Mathematics, Economics and Arts. Tamil and English are the media of instruction with Sinhala as a compulsory subject up to Grade 9.

The first Principal was Deshabandhu Ms. Nakammal Kasipillai whose dedicated work as Head of the school for 33 years built up the Institution and at that time she was ably assisted by the Vice Principal Mrs. Senthilsellam Ratnathican.

The Temple of the Kalagam is sacro sanct and was built in 1934 by Dr. and Mrs. Chelliah. Since then to this day it serves as the pivotal centre of both the Kalagam and the Vidyalayam. Daily morning prayers where the students themselves play important roles in preparing the Shrine room for prayers, do the pujas and sing the religious Thevara Thiruvasaga, Thirupugal hymns daily, chanting mantrams and concluding with the aarathi. Besides these regular pujas, special fasts and festivals are observed through the year.

The Vidyalayam became a Grant-in-Aid school in 1946 when some schools opted to be private and others joint the free scheme in 1946. The school gradually grew and students appeared for the Ordinary Level examination for the first time followed by the Advanced Level examination. Mme. Maria Montessori herself inaugurated the Montessori which has grown



The President Mrs. Sivanandini Duraiswamy flags off the Walk after prayers

beautifully into the Mangaiyar Maria Montessori.

In 1946, besides the Temple and the Hall, a three - storied block of class rooms was built and sponsored by Adigar Sellamuttu and the Sivananda Nilayam was sponsored by Mrs. Sivanandam Tambiah in memory of her Guru Swami Sivananda of Rishikesh. With the construction of these buildings more students were taken in and from about 600 students in 1989, the number on roll went up to over 1200 students.

More buildings came up gradually with Memorials to Rasamuthu Sathasivam, Sornacanthi Nallainathan and Balambigai Namasivayam. The Vidyalayam grew from strength to strength and today the school has about 2,300 children on roll with a handsome number of students doing extremely well in the Ordinary scoring 9As and Advanced Level Examination scoring 3As with good scores enabling the school to have more than 87% eligible to enter Universities.

Following Deshabandhu Kasipillai as Principal there was a line of distinguished principals - namely

Ms. Kanagasabai, Mrs. Indrani Pathmanathan, Ms. Manonmani Arumugam, Mrs. Gnaneswari Balachandran, Mrs. Padma Gajendradas, Mrs. Sasidevi Sivanesan and now Ms. Shanti Velupillai - a distinguished old girl, later a teacher and now the Principal. In this line, another distinguished old girl Mrs. Shanti Satymoorthy became the Head Mistress of the Primary School and is now back as an Advisor to the Primary school.

Amongst the distinguished old girls there are several doctors, lawyers, engineers, professors, lecturers, planners, teachers to mention just a few. Several old students are doing extremely well coming first in the Island in the medical field on a few occasions and others within the first few. Very recently the school had Mythili Sivapathasunderam becoming first in the all island Advanced Level examination, entering Medical School and five years later completing her degree winning several prestigious medals.

The Past Pupils' Association is an important arm of the Vidyalayam and has organized several fundraising programs over the years. In commemoration of the 85th anniversary it organized a massive Walk-a-Thon to raise funds for its alma mater with over 2000 persons participating in the walk. This was a wonderful experience for the present students - physically, mentally and emotionally.

Gaining strength from its parent body, the Saiva Mangaiyar Kalagam under the able, dynamic and charismatic leadership of Sivanandini Duraiswamy and through its principals, teachers, students and the PPA, the Vidyalayam will grow from strength to strength and be a hub for young girls in the educational, social and recreational fields with the Lord's choicest blessings showered on it.

Portraits of the three Founders - Rasamuttu Sathasivam, Sornacanthi Nallainathan and Balambigai Namasivayam



Walkathon participants: Mrs. Kanendran, Mrs. Balasinkam, Minister Mano Ganesan, Mrs. Mano Ganesan, Mrs. Duraiswamy, Ms. Velupillai and Ms. Sabaratnam



View of the School building and PPA flags



Little children participating in the Walkathon



THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF CANADA Richmond Hill Ganesha Temple

ADDENDUM TO MY ARTICLE IN THE LAST ISSUE (JUNE 2017) ON THE VISIT OF TWO MEMBERS OF UNITAR TO GANESHA TEMPLE.



The visit by the two members of UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) and Seniors Executive members of the Regional Municipality of York, is a very important one for the York Region Police's Bureau on Diversity, Equity & Inclusions, under the leadership of the Chief York Region Police, Mr. Eric Jolliffe. I missed publishing the pictures taken at the Temple. So, I have included two pictures in this issue.



THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF CANADA Richmond Hill Ganesha Temple

ANNUAL MURUGAN FESTIVAL

June 15 - July 02, 2017

BY: KIDAMBI RAJ, MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This year's annual Muruga festival started on Thursday, June 15th with a very elaborate Homam and religious rituals to bring good health and prosperity to all the devotees and the community at large. It was followed on Friday morning with the Kodi Ettram (raising the flag of the Deity), thus marking the beginning of the festival. On every day of the festival there were special Nava Kalasa (nine vessels) Abhishekham both in the morning and in the evening. At the end of the pooja the Utsava (miniature) idol of Muruga was exquisitely dressed and decorated and placed on a Vahana and taken around inside the temple to the accompaniment of the traditional Nadaswaram and Mirdangam music on all days except on the Chariot festival, the most awaited event for all the devotees. On that day after an elaborate pooja in the morning the utsava idol is brought out and placed on the Thaere (Chariot) attended by over thousands of devotees. Hundreds of devotees pull the chariot around the temple, stopping for Aarthi at all night directions. This particular event has to be seen to appreciate and enjoy and no amount of write-up would bring justice to the enjoyment that one gets being there. The other event that is well anticipated is the "Poongava Utsavam" which is always sponsored by all the volunteers who had spent enormous amount of their time starting from a week before the start of the festival a grand success.

Some interesting information about Lord Muruga:

Many major events in the life of Muruga took place during His youth. The legends regarding His birth are very popular in the Southern India and Sri Lanka. So, people worship Him as child-God, similar to the worship of Lord Krishna in the Northern India. His youth, beauty and bravery has been celebrated in the Sanskrit work called *Kathasaitasagara*. Poet Kalidasa made the birth of Kumara the subject in his lyrical epic called *Kumarasambhava*.

In Sri Lanka, in the heart of a forest with roaming elephants, leopards and other while beasts, is the Sri Skanda temple of Katragama, famous for its many healings and miracles.

In Bhagawad Gita Lord Krishna says, "I am Skanda the Warrior Chief".

The birth of Lord Muruga or Skanda as per legends:

According to one legend, He was the

son of Agni, the God of Fire. But according to Skanda Purana, He is said to be the elder son of Lord Siva and Goddess Parvati.

According to another Legend, there was a demon named Tarakasura who had a boon, that he could only be killed by the son of Lord Siva. Tarakasura, knew very well that Lord Siva was an ascetic and that He would not marry and hence will not have children, and so he would be invincible. But Lord Siva married Goddess Parvati. Since Parvati could not conceive due to the curse of Rati, the Consort of Kama, the God of Love, Lord Siva took her to a cave and asked Her to meditate. As they both meditated a ball of fire emerged out of their cosmic energies. In the meantime, the other Gods being insecure from the demon, Tarakasura, they sent Agni, the God of Fire to get hold the ball of fire. Since Agni couldn't bear the heat of the energy of Siva and Parvati, he handed over the ball to Goddess Ganga. When even Ganga could not bear the heat, She dropped the ball of fire into a lake in a forest of reeds. Then Goddess Parvati took the form of this water body as She alone could bear the energy of Siva and Sakti. The ball of fire took the form of baby with six faces. That is why Lord Muruga was known as Sanmukha or the "God with Six Faces". He was first taken care of by six water nymphs who represented the Pleiades or the Krittikas. That is why He was called as Karthikeya or the son of Krittikas. Karthikeya defeated the demon, Tarakasura, but granted him forgiveness for his sins and Tarakasura was changed into a peacock and became Karthikeya's Vahana. Here Lord Muruga symbolizes the highest quality of the Godhead which conquers the qualities of the lower nature. Riding upon the transformed demon symbolizes the lower energies of God's creation into higher uses.

The worship of Kumara (Muruga) was one of six principal sects of Hinduism at the time of Adi Sankara and that sect was called *Kaumaram*.

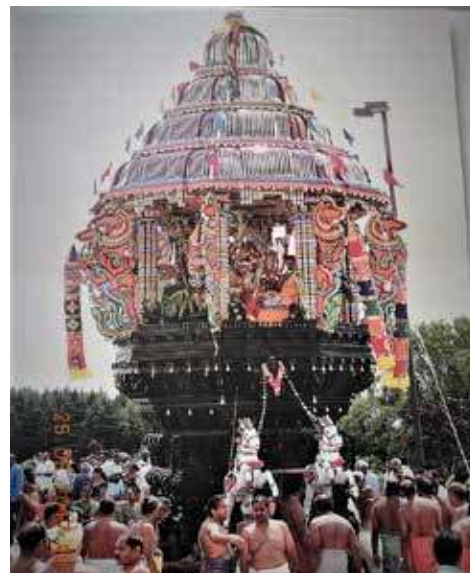


THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF CANADA

Richmond Hill Ganesha Temple ANNUAL GANESHA FESTIVAL

May 24 - June 10, 2017

BY: KIDAMBI RAJ, MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



This year's annual Ganesha festival started on Thursday, June 15th with a very elaborate Homam and religious rituals to bring good health and prosperity to all the devotees and the community at large. It was followed on Friday morning with the Kodi Ettram (raising the flag of the Deity), thus marking the beginning of the festival. On every day of the festival there were special Nava Kalasa (nine vessels) Abhishekham both in the morning and in the evening. At the end of the pooja the Utsava (miniature) idol of Ganesha was exquisitely dressed and decorated and placed on a Vahana and taken around inside the temple to the accompaniment of the traditional Nadaswaram and Mirdangam music on all days except on the Chariot festival, the most awaited event for all the devotees. On that day after an elaborate pooja in the morning the utsava idol is brought out and placed on the Thaere (Chariot) attended by over thousands of devotees. Hundreds of devotees pull the chariot around the temple, stopping for Aarthi at all night directions. This particular event has to be seen to appreciate and enjoy and no amount of write-up would bring justice to the enjoyment that one gets being there. The other event that is well anticipated is the "Poongava Utsavam" which is always sponsored by all the volunteers who had spent enormous amount of their time starting from a week before the start of the festival a grand success.

Some not so familiar facts about Lord Ganesha:

According the legend, both Parvati and Siva were in the same mountain, but on two different sides of the mountain. One day when Parvati went to visit Siva, Her husband, She was blocked from entering by Siva's lead attendant, Nandi, as Siva was on one of His deep meditations and wanted no one to disturb Him. Parvati was deeply hurt and felt very lonely being ignored by Her husband, Siva. So, She made the decision to have someone who would be there any time She needed and would only respond to Her. So, right away She collected some clay from the ground and molded the most handsome young man she could imagine, the next moment She breathed life into Him and thus Lord Ganesha was born.

At the time of birth Lord Ganesha had a normal human head. He got His Elephant head after his original head was destroyed. There three stories explaining how this happened:

1. **His battle with Lord Siva** – Parvati had requested Ganesha guard her side of the mountain while She bathed. As Siva came out of His meditation, He wanted to see Parvati, unaware of the newly

created Ganesha. Suddenly He was confronted by a handsome young man telling Him that He could not see His wife since she doesn't want to be disturbed. Siva was so furious and soon a quick battle ensued and Siva beheaded Ganesha. After learning who He was, Siva decided to bring Him back to life and told His entourage to bring the head of the first sleeping being found with its head facing North. The first being they found was a baby elephant and so, brought its head. So, Siva attached the elephant head to Ganesha's body.

2. **Cursed Gaze of Sani** – according Purana, when all the Gods were blessing Lord Ganesha, Sani Bhagawan was standing with his head looking down. So, Parvati asked the reason for looking down and not looking at Ganesha and Sani replied that if he looks directly at Ganesha, He will lose His head. But Parvati insisted and Sani looked at Ganesha. This resulted in Ganesha losing His head. At that time Lord Vishnu was flying on Garuda towards north direction and reached river side of Pushpabhadra and found a female elephant was sleeping with her newly born baby elephant. He cut the baby elephant's head and placed it on Ganesha's body and brought Him back to life.

3. **Surya Deva's father's curse:** According to another legend, Lord Siva in anger had once attacked Surya Deva with His Trishul. Surya Deva's father got annoyed with that and cursed Him, that the way He had harmed his son's body, one day His (Siva's) son's will be cut from His body.

Tulsi and Ganesha curse each other:

According to Purana, one day Tulsi was crossing through the banks of Ganges. There She saw Ganesha in meditation. She was attracted to Ganesha asked Him to marry her and Ganesha refused to do so. In anger Tulsi cursed Ganesha that He will marry soon and Ganesha in return her to be a plant. Though Tulsi plant has a holy relevance in most Hindu rituals, the worship of Lord Ganesha specifically excludes any involvement with Tulsi plant because she cursed Him.

Lord Ganesha is called an "Ekadant" meaning 'one-toothed'. He is always represented with a broken tusk which signifies another physical imperfection in addition to His Elephant Head and His large belly. There are various explanations for His broken tusk in the scriptures.

1. **Writing of the Mahabharata:**

One explanation is that it was the result of writing the Mahabharatam with one of his tusks. It is believed that Sage Veda Vyasa requested Ganesha to write poems as he dictated. Knowing that this would be a huge project, Ganesha agreed on one condition; that Sage Veda Vyas should recite the entire poem un-interrupted, without pausing or taking a break and Sage Vyasa agreed to it and Ganesha wrote the whole Mahabharatam.

2. **The battle with sage Parasurama:**

According to purana, when Parasurama went to Kailash Mountain to meet Lord Shiva, who was meditating, Ganesha did not allow Parasurama to meet Lord Siva. Parasurama got angry and attacked Ganesha. The weapon he used to attack Ganesha was given to him by Lord Shiva. So, Ganesha did not want the attack to go to waste as it was His father's weapon, so he took the attack to His teeth and lost one of His teeth and thus was called an Ekadant.

Why Lord Ganesha is always worshipped first:

The reason behind this as explained in the scriptures is that when Ganesha got His Elephant Head, the Gods declared that a prayer to Him must precede any other Holy ritual.



Interfaith Events Hosted across Canada By Sathya Sai International Organisation – Canada

Sathya Sai International Organization (SSIO) Canada hosted interfaith events across Canada in celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation, in partnership with Faith in Canada 150, and the 150 Alliance. On 1st January 1967, in a small town in India called Guindy, outside southwest of present day Chennai, Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the founder of the organisation that bears his name first uttered the words, 'Love All Serve All'. These four simple words have guided and inspired every initiative and action both for personal growth and that of the organization for the past 50 years. That goal is as pertinent today as it was then. It's a goal we all share – and that is the act of transforming ourselves, and ultimately communities through love and service. The Interfaith Events organized by SSIO Canada have shared Sai Baba's message of 'Love All Serve All' through developing programs that will create a sustainable impact on society. The programs were aimed at engaging many faith groups by recognizing that there is strength in our diversity and that through these events, joint partnerships will be forged. The events were hosted in the month of March in Canada's largest cities of Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton, and Vancouver.

The international Interfaith Co-coordinator for SSIO Public Outreach – Dato (Sir) Jega Jegatheesan from Malaysia was the keynote speaker at these events and spoke on the importance of bringing people of different faith together, the role of faiths in creating national unity and a caring society and shared stories connecting to the theme "Protect the Planet - We Are One." Mr. Jegatheesan also shared his experiences in creating dynamic interfaith initiatives in his home country of Malaysia, as well as New Zealand and the USA over the past 15 years. His energy and passion for promoting peace, love and care for humanity and nature inspired those in attendance. The events helped for a better understanding of the various groups and the formation of partnerships to initiate joint programs. SSIO Canada is committed to continue to develop this relationship and spread the universal message of Love by creating a better livable, all-inclusive environment for the present moment and for future generations.

In the city of Toronto, unity in diversity was celebrated through an Interfaith Musical Event on 5th March 2017. The event brought together talented young adults from a diverse array of faith organizations and SSIO Canada from across the Greater Toronto Area. Mr. Stephen Lazurus, Faith Alliance Co-coordinator of Faith in Canada 150, shared their vision to celebrate the diversity of our faiths; where, religious communities are the power cells of our society, bringing compassion, peace, conviction, and strength, to enrich our great nation. The occasion began with opening remarks by Elder Little Brown Bear of the Bear Clan, who thanked the Great Spirit for bringing everyone together and rendered an Aboriginal Spiritual invocation prayer and called for Love in Action. Young adults from SSIO Canada began their presentation with a rendition of multi-faith prayers, representing Hinduism, Aboriginal Spirituality, Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastri-



**Faith in Canada Co-ordinator
Stephen Lazurus**

anism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Islam. The program continued with 15 young adults from the West End Buddhist Temple who sang in both English and Sinhalese on the self-realization and a tribute to the Buddha. This was followed by the St. Bart's Catholic Ensemble, a group that has been in existence for 31 years, who through their dynamic performance expressed God's justice, peace, and love for all. The Vishnu Mandir youth led the audience into the break with their high-energy renditions of several devotional songs. Following the break, 60 members of the Toronto Jewish Chorus took over the stage with powerful, soul-stirring songs in Yiddish, Zulu, and English. The songs exemplified the power of bringing many voices together as one voice, while connecting to the central concepts in Judaism.

The Turkish Sufi Group, Band 11, engaged the whole audience in clapping and singing through their songs and traditional instruments. The final group of the night showcased 11 young adults from the Toronto Ismaili Muslim Youth Choir, who sang on unity and love in multiple languages. They began with a lively African folk song, followed by a Parsi and Ismaili song, and concluded with a beautiful harmonic rendition of Allah Hu Allah. The program concluded with a joint performance of members of all faith groups of "We Are One In The World, We



**Keynote speaker
Bro. Jega Jegatheesan**

Are One In The Song" - a song jointly composed by the SSIO young adults, Toronto Jewish Chorus, St. Bart's Catholic Ensemble, and Band 11! The energy and unity on the stage beautifully captured the theme of the event, showcasing Unity in Diversity!

In Montreal, SSIO Canada's objective was to engage faith groups that were in immediate vicinity of the Sathya Sai Baba Centre of St-Hubert. Six spiritual speakers responded to the call for the 11th March 2017 Interfaith event: Imam Foudil Selmoune from the Islamic Community Centre of Brossard, Rabbi Zalman Samama of the Chabad of the South Shore, Mr. Benoit Santerre of the Buddhist Community, Ms. Jagdeep Trehin represented the Sikh community, Reverend Emmanuel K. Ofori from the United Church of St-Lambert, and lastly L'abbé Rémi Bourdon from the Archdioceses of Montreal. All six-faith groups are located within five minutes of the Centre and most are within walking distance of each other.

Each spiritual speaker spoke of their faith within the context of unity in diversity and how their respective faiths reflected this theme. What was truly remarkable was that if one would to close their eyes, you could not identify which faith group the speaker belonged to. The message from each was one and the same and reflected the universal theme of Love.

After a brief coffee/tea break, the young adults of the Sai Centre lifted the spirits of the audience with songs from various faith groups. The event concluded with the spiritual leaders jointly placing flowers into a vase to demonstrate their commitment to work in unity and serve the local community.

The Edmonton "Interfaith Harmony" event was held on 17th March 2017. The purpose of the event was to bring awareness that all Religions are Pathways to the One God. The event featured leaders from nine faith groups: Aboriginal Spirituality, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism. The program began with the National Anthem and prayers from all the religions by Sai Spiritual Education students. A keynote address by Dato (Sir) Jegatheesan who raised the current major spiritual concerns in our communities and how are our faith groups addressing these concerns. The highlight of the event was a commitment by the spiritual leaders to work together and serve the needs of the community. Table displays provided participants to learn about one another and that through education we grown closer. The final event was the formation of the Edmonton Interfaith Action Group to serve the community through joint projects.

Finally on 18th March 2017, the Vancouver Sai Community Centre hosted an Interfaith conference among several faith groups. The open and warm conversation amongst the faith representatives offered great hope for the unfolding of better times for all of society and humanity, and the establishment of a new world order that could be devoid of hatred, violence, and division on the grounds of our faith orientation. The vision is to affirm our commitment to be true to the teachings of our respective faith while celebrating the glory of all faiths. The evening ended with a symbolic ceremony where the faith representatives lit a candle and vowed to spread the flame of Love.

The four events marked SSIO Canada's commitment to continue to work with all faith groups in this great nation, to promote and celebrate unity in diversity through joint programs that transforms the communities we live in. Let us in Sathya Sai Baba's words,

"Love All Serve All".

Priya Ratnakumar's Veena Arangetram

Priya Ratnakumar held her Veena Arangetram recently at the Armenian Hall in Scarborough. The Chief Guest at the event was the well-known Veena artiste Rajesh Vaidya. The recital was well attended and Priya received felicitations and well-wishes by the guests present at the function. Rajesh Vaidya blessed Priya and remarked that she has a bright future in the field of Veena music. Seen here are some pictures taken at the event.





Events by Durham Tamil Association

DTA's 17th Annual BBQ Sports meet was held on June 25, 2017 at Greenwood Park in Ajax. The event started off with various activities for all ages. The games varied from running, sac race, balloon popping, obstacle race and wrapped up with shot put for adults. Delicious foods kothu rotti, hot dogs and burgers were served. The youths have donated the \$3862.31 that was raised through daffodil months to Canadian Cancer Society. Regardless of weather, this was a successful event and thanks to all the volunteers, participants and parents for making this event a successful one.

Also this month, DTA has celebrated the father's day with their members at East Shore Community Centre in Pickering. Along with Father's Day celebration, we have participated many other community events such as: Culture Rhythms by ICCAD, Markham Musical Festival, Town of Ajax Mosaica and Home Week Peace and Harmony Community Concert. **Photographed by Piraveen Nathan**





Tamil Community gathers around multicultural flavour

KITCHENER-WATERLOO — The KW Multicultural Festival, which took place during the weekend of June 24, boasts dozens of vendors, informative booths and lively entertainment on the main stage.

But it's the food that's consistently one of the biggest draws. There's just so much to choose from. Your taste buds could tour the world, with stops for pork dumplings in China, souvlaki in Greece, curried goat in the Caribbean and Kothu Roti in Sri Lanka.

"I like the fact you can have Turkish dessert with an Indian main and a Vietnamese appetizer," said Filiz Tamer, visiting the festival for the first time.

With 30 countries represented on the main stage for this, the 50th installment of the popular festival, it reflects the changing face of the community.

Rajivi Nadarajah representing the Sri Lankan community said Multicultural festival provides a platform for smaller cultural groups to show case their Arts and culture.

Sri lankan street food "Kothu Roti"

was a sell out at the Indian and Sri Lankan tent. "A lot of work goes behind the scenes. A team of friends and members of the local Tamil community organise this food tent annually" said Sammy Pasupathipillai, the volunteer at the station. At the end of the day all food gets sold out. It was another very successful year.

"It is the support given by Toronto vendor, Canbe foods and Datta Foods help us to keep the food prices economically" said Ragu Sivaramkrishnan, the President of Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region.

Canadian Minister for small business and Tourism, Hon. Bardish Chagger visited the Sri Lankan and Indian Food tent. She witnessed the preparation of Kothu Roti and appreciated the dedication by local Tamil community members. The proceeds from the funds are given back to support local events and Hospitals.

Festival co-ordinator Vanessa Harrison said the event typically attracts between 30,000 and 50,000 visitors over the course of the weekend.



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