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Liberal leadership hopeful Justin Trudeau MP paid a visit to hunger-striking Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence at her Victoria Island teepee on Boxing Day, Dec 26, 2012. Chief Theresa Spence began the campaign on December 10, 2012 calling the Government of Canada and the Crown to "respect her people's treaty rights" - pic by: Adam Scotti



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## The Minister of Public Safety announces changes to Criminal Code list of terrorist entities

The Honourable Vic Toews, Canada's Minister of Public Safety, on Dec 20, 2012 announced that the Government of Canada has made changes to the Criminal Code list of terrorist entities.

"The list of terrorist entities sends a strong message that Canada will not tolerate terrorist activities, including terrorist financing, or those who support such activities," said Minister Toews. "That is why Canada has made the principled decision to add the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Qods Force to the list."

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Qods Force is the clandestine branch of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps responsible for extraterritorial operations, and for exporting the Iranian Revolution through activities such as facilitating terrorist operations. The Qods Force provides arms, funding and paramilitary training to extremist groups, including the Taliban, Lebanese Hizballah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. Earlier this year, under the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act, the Government of Canada listed Iran as a state that supports terrorism.

"The listing of terrorist entities facilitates the prosecution of perpetrators and supporters of terrorism and plays a key role in countering terrorist financing," added Minister Toews. "The Government of Canada remains vigilant against the threat of terrorism and is committed to ensuring that the list of terrorist entities remains current."

The Government of Canada has also completed its two year review of the Criminal Code list of terrorist entities.



This review found that 43 entities currently listed should remain on the list, and that the Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK) should be removed. The United States of America and the European Union have also recently removed the MEK from their terrorist entities list.

While it is not a crime to be a member of a listed entity, under the Criminal Code, any person or group listed may have their assets seized and forfeited. There may be severe penalties for persons and organizations that deal in the property or finances of a listed entity. In addition, it is a crime to knowingly participate in, or contribute to, any activity of a listed entity for the purpose of enhancing the ability of the entity to facilitate or carry out a terrorist activity. This offence and other related offences are set out, in full, in the Criminal Code.

The names of listed entities under the Criminal Code can be found on the Public Safety Canada Web site at [www.publicsafety.gc.ca](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca) under National Security, Listed Entities. [[publicsafety.gc.ca](http://publicsafety.gc.ca)]

## Tamil Canadian Congress expresses condolence to President Obama and the people of USA

Umasuthan Suntharamoorthy, President Canadian Tamil Congress has written a message of condolence to President Obama and the people of USA regarding the Senseless, December 14, 2012 shooting tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut that left several school children and teachers dead.

Full text of the as follows:

Dear President Obama,

The tragedy that unfolded in Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown has

been felt by people all across the globe. As a community that went through untold losses of lives not too long ago, we understand and feel the pain and suffering the entire community in Newtown area must be going through at the moment. Words cannot express the shock and sorrow we feel at this tragedy and the pain that must be felt by those who lost loved ones.

The hearts and prayers of Tamil Canadians are with your Nation during these difficult days.

## As Canadians, let us make 2013 the year in which we commit to healthy living Governor General of Canada's New Year's Message



His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada and Her Excellency Mrs. Sharon Johnston, C.C. - Photo by: Sgt Serge Guoin, Rideau Hall

OTTAWA— Happy New Year, Canada! The first of January is a time to reflect on what has passed and to look forward to the days ahead. For Canadians, the year 2012 was full of notable milestones.

It was the year in which Her Majesty The Queen marked 60 years of service to Canada and to the Commonwealth. The Diamond Jubilee gave us an opportunity to thank Her Majesty for the role she plays as Queen of Canada, and I, in turn, would like to thank all those who joined in the celebration.

As governor general and commander-in-chief, I was pleased to commemorate several other milestone anniversaries during the past year.

At Rideau Hall, we marked the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Decorations for Bravery. These honours, which pay tribute to courageous individuals who risk their own safety to help others in need, remind us that bravery and caring go hand-in-hand.

The past year also saw the 40th anniversary of the Order of Military Merit and the 70th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid—two occasions that allowed us to express our gratitude to the men and women of the Canadian Forces, past and present.

And not least, I was pleased to participate in the 100th anniversary celebrations of another proud Canadian institution: the Grey Cup championship game. I

am sure that my predecessor Lord Grey, who donated the cup for a Canadian football championship, would be pleased to see the sport thriving in Canada today.

In fact, as we kick off the New Year, I would like to broaden the challenge made by Lord Grey 100 years ago. Just as he sought to highlight physical fitness through sport, I would like to encourage all Canadians to embrace healthy living—regardless of the form it takes.

It is so important that we pay attention to our health and wellness, and there are so many ways to do so. By engaging in physical activity, being mindful of our diet, spending time outdoors in the fresh air and tending to our mental and emotional health, we can make a real difference in our quality of life.

One of the wonderful things about a healthy lifestyle is that everyone can improve their habits in some way. Throughout my life, I have committed to staying physically active, and exercise continues to be an important part of my daily routine.

The benefits of taking care of mind and body are undeniable, as are the risks of neglect. As Canadians, let us make 2013 the year in which we commit to healthy living.

That is a New Year's resolution worthy of a smart and caring nation! On behalf of my wife, Sharon, and our entire family, I wish a Happy New Year to all.

David Johnston, Dec 28, 2012

# from the publisher's desk

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# 2013: Design the Future

By Tashvir Narine,  
B.Sc (Hons.)

January is here once again and on behalf of the Publisher's desk, we wish Monsoon readers a Happy New Year together with a prosperous 2013. The previous year was filled with many triumphs and tribulations but with a new calendar in play, a chance for bright beginnings is here.

However the number 13 is a scare to most people in today's culture. Buildings intentionally skip the 13th floor for example, and Friday the 13th is regarded as an unlucky day too. But fear of the number 13 has in fact been in existence since the 1600s according to Nathaniel Lachenmeyer's story of the number and its superstitious nature.

The last year though proved to be equally as unfortunate. Events such as the Newtown massacre and hurricane Sandy have made 2012 a year we shall not forget. And don't forget about the Mayan calendar panic. With each further day that goes by, we prove that not all previous notions are necessarily true.

"The key to success is to focus our conscious mind on things we desire not things we fear."

- Brian Tracy



As a result, make 2013 the year that we take charge of our future. Being innovative and positive should be the mindset that we must carry into our future. Avoid waiting for fiscal cliffs and natural disasters to pass by before we take charge of our careers and lifestyles. Ask questions like "Why?" so that you get to the root cause of our mistakes. Another great trick to restart your lives is to pretend that you have just ran out of all

money in your accounts. This could stimulate the most creative sectors of our brains and create new habits that could lead to greater successes.

These are just a few notes that could be beneficial going forward, however we would like to thank you for your continued subscription firstly. The Monsoon Team would like to wish you the greatest luck in all your endeavours throughout 2013. Make the New Year count!

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## Strategic Planning Session

Chamber will be conducting its Strategic Planning Session on January 12, 2013.

The details are as follows:

**Date: January 12, 2013**

**Time: 8AM -3PM**

**Location: Le Parc Conference and Banquet Centre**

8432 Leslie St

Thornhill, ON L3T 7M6e

Southwest corner of Leslie St & Hwy 7

As this is an import session, all the members are encouraged to attend this event.

**Please RSVP by email to info@ctcc.ca or by calling Santha Punchallingam on 416-200-5470**

"We will fail our youth if we leave them in ignorance of what has given them the opportunities they now enjoy"

- Nelson Mandela -

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## Liberals Hold Government to Account on Cuts to Immigration Services and Family Reunification

OTTAWA— The Conservative government must answer to Canadians about their cuts to immigration services and how long it takes for families to be reunified, said Liberals today.

“Immigration Minister Jason Kenney has led his department into steep decline,” said Liberal Citizenship and Immigration critic Kevin Lamoureux. “Service cuts, reckless changes and piecemeal policy decisions have left the federal government unable to serve Canadians and applicants abroad. Minister Kenney needs to get his priorities straight and fix the department.”

During Question Period in the House of Commons, Liberals rose to ask the Conservative government about the many ramifications of these cuts for Canadians. As Citizenship and Immigration offices across the country are shuttered, applicants are being forced to apply online or by mail, and in-person contact with officials has become increasingly difficult. In addition, call centers that are intended to help people with specific problems have also been targeted by Conservative cutbacks leaving only a fraction of callers able to reach live agents.

“These service cuts have very direct consequences,” said Toronto Liberal MP Dr. Carolyn Bennett. “In my riding of St. Paul’s, a woman sponsoring her 12-year-old niece who had been orphaned in India might have to wait for 5 years for the case to be processed. A request by my office to expedite the case on humanitarian and compassionate grounds was denied.”

“In my riding, constituents often come to our office in tears over the time it takes for them to be reunited with loved ones,” continued Markham Liberal MP John McCallum. “The Conservative government’s decision to cut back on much-needed services for these families means that they wait more than two years for the government to process applications for their families to be reunified. It is simply unacceptable.”

“Canadians are being punished with cuts to services to pay for Conservative financial incompetence that, since 2006, has seen Canada’s national debt rise to over \$600 billion,” concluded Kingston and the Islands Liberal MP Ted Hsu. “The Liberal Party will continue to fight these cuts and to advocate on behalf of new Canadian families.”

## Minister Kenney again falls short for the economy

### A Letter to the Editor from Kevin Lamoureux, MP, Liberal Party of Canada, Critic for Citizenship and Immigration

Dear Editor,

While Immigration Minister Jason Kenney and the Conservative Party like to talk about the economy, once again his handling of the immigration system leaves much to be desired.

Canada has a long-standing shortage of skilled workers: some businesses cannot get enough skilled trades workers to keep up with growing demand and keep the economy moving. To fight this, past Liberal governments introduced flexible tools like the provincial nominee program to allow each province to target the occupations it needs most.

By contrast, Mr. Kenney has made reckless policy decisions. Last April he shut down the Skilled Worker Program and returned the applications of close to 280,000 people who were eager to come to Canada and work. His replacement program will not start up until almost a year later. Meanwhile labour shortages have increased.

Under the new skilled trades program announced on December 10th, the Minister has still not finalized the list of occupations that will be eligible under the new program. Imagine how many more jobs could have been filled if the Conservatives had not shut the door for a year and cold-heartedly hit the “delete button” on people who applied to come to

Canada in good faith.

Instead of supporting increased permanent immigration to meet these needs and building our communities, Mr. Kenney has instead allowed the number of temporary foreign workers to balloon, almost doubling. This creates a second-class of workers and hurts businesses, who have had to recruit and re-train workers every few years. While temporary foreign workers are important to the economy and productivity, Canada suffers when we cannot retain and integrate new immigrants.

The Harper government has also failed to offer any plan to increase the number of skilled trades graduates within Canada - less than half of those who enroll in an apprenticeship program graduate.

Under Minister Kenney, we have seen the closure of offices and a resulting steep decline in services, family reunification frozen, and anti-immigrant and anti-refugee policies blossom. It all adds up to a piecemeal approach to immigration policy and no way to build a nation. By contrast, Liberals believe Canada’s immigration system should be a tool for nation building with a “growth model” that sees immigration as a tool of “demographic” and “economic” policy.

Yours sincerely,

## Harinder Takhar Pledges Immediate Support for Ontario Families in Crisis

MISSISSAUGA – Liberal Leadership candidate Harinder Takhar released his plan recently to protect the most vulnerable people in Ontario, those affected by developmental disabilities, and promised immediate support for families caring for affected loved ones and strained developmental support services.

“Families are struggling with the costs associated with caring for a loved one with developmental disabilities, and resources are strained to the breaking point across the developmental services sector,” said Mr. Takhar.

“We will immediately provide \$25 million in emergency funding to support families in crisis and address the prolonged wait lists overwhelming the entire developmental services sector.”

In addition to providing emergency funding, Mr. Takhar outlined his plan to make Ontario a world leader in realizing the untapped potential of people living with developmental disabilities by creating a new working group to ensure developmental services are seamless over the life cycle of Ontarians living with developmental disabilities.

“Currently, the developmental services sector operates within the two silos of school-age children and adult supports,” said Mr. Takhar. “The working group will look into breaking down the silos that currently exist in the developmental services sector to create an informed, coordinated approach to developmental services that will ensure developmental services are seamless throughout each

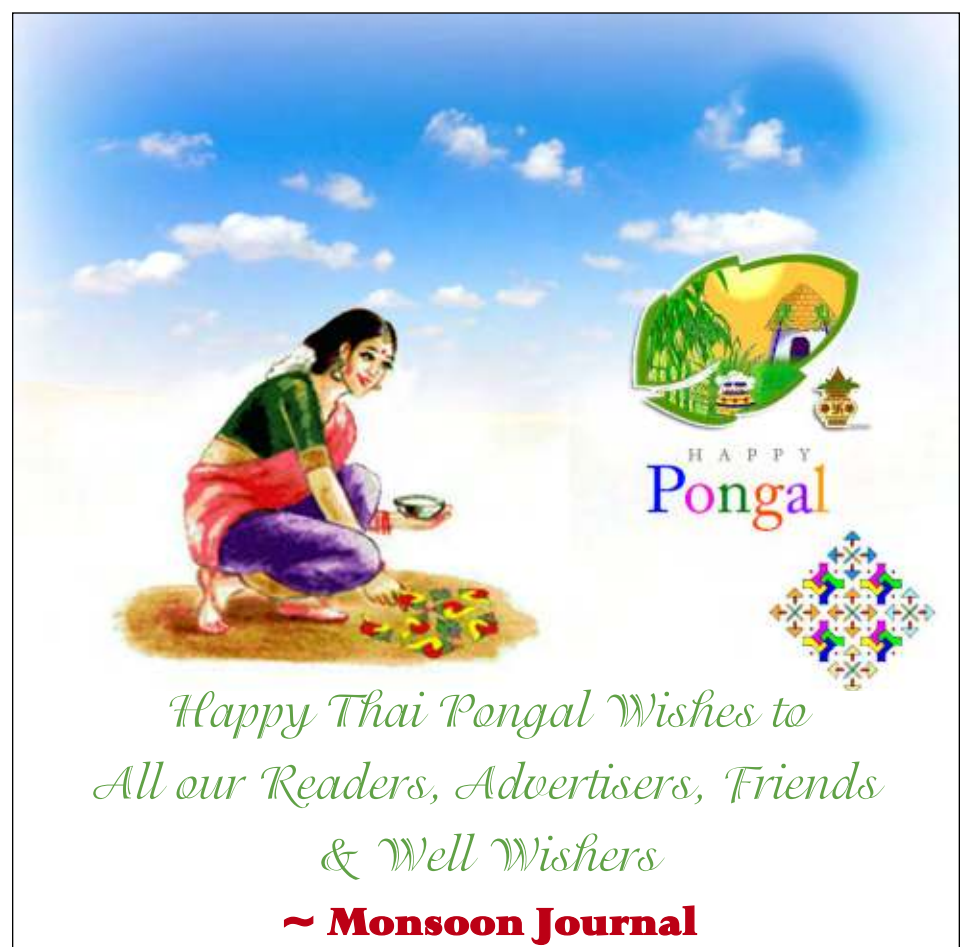


stage in the life cycle of Ontarians with developmental disabilities.

This working group builds upon Whitby-Oshawa MPP Christine Elliott’s resolution to create a Select Committee on Developmental Services that was passed with support from all parties.

“We all have an important role to play when it comes to protecting Ontario’s most vulnerable, and it’s clear that this issue has support across all party lines,” said Mr. Takhar. “By eliminating Ontario’s deficit we will be able to continue to make important strategic investments like making sure people with developmental disabilities can make meaningful contributions to society and live dignified, independent lives.”

To learn more about Mr. Takhar’s plan, please refer to <http://www.vote-takhar.com>





# Back-to-back disasters compound Sri Lanka North's difficulties

Floods in the past two months following a long drought have left Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern provinces reeling, with tens of thousands of people displaced, thousands of houses damaged or destroyed, and stretches of agricultural land devastated.

Rain beginning on 16 December has affected at least 350,000 people, displaced 31,000, killed 39 and left seven missing, according to the nation's Disaster Management Centre (DMC). Storms have thus far damaged 12,000 houses and destroyed another 4,100 in the country's North Western, Northern, Eastern and Uva (in the southeast) provinces.

"The worst-hit are Batticaloa [Eastern Province] and Puttalam districts [North Western Province]. The rains are still prevalent and we might see the damage rising," DMC assistant director Lal Kumara told IRIN on 28 December.

The same regions were hit by Cyclone Nisha in early November, which affected around 200,000 people and displaced close to 20,000, who have since returned home. Kumara said in Nisha's aftermath, nine people were reported killed, over 300 houses destroyed and another 4,700 damaged.

Officials say the two storms may have had a sizable impact on the country's



agriculture.

In North Eastern's Polonnaruwa District, which accounts for up to 20 percent of the country's annual paddy rice output, officials with the regional office of the Department of Agriculture said some 10 percent of the district's 34,000 hectares of cultivated paddy land are flooded.

"It is very difficult to predict the losses right now. The waters have not receded and there is still more rain predicted," I.W.A. Ibullgodda, the office's assistant director, told IRIN on 28 December.

The rains come on top of a 10-month

drought starting in February that hit Northern, North Central and Eastern provinces the hardest, according to preliminary government assessments.

A mid-year crop forecast by the Socioeconomic and Planning Centre of the Department of Agriculture released in August anticipated an agriculture losses of some 23 percent (1.5 million tons) of the country's rice crop.

Dry weather had shrunk cultivated paddy land by 20 percent by August compared to the same period in 2011.

In some districts where the drought was most severe (Polonnaruwa and

Mannar), officials forecast even higher paddy losses. Ibullgodda told IRIN that even before the two recent floods, officials forecast up to 40 percent of paddy losses in Polonnaruwa District, based on surveys with farmers. A final assessment is expected by March 2013.

The longer-than-average drought led the government to set up the first national crop insurance scheme worth one million US dollars through the 2013 budget presented on 8 November. The scheme plans to assist at least 100,000 farmers in the event of another devastating drought. The dry season typically lasts from mid-December to mid-April (between the country's two monsoons).

"In the last few seasons we have seen how important it is now to plan crop cycles according to rains or drought. We are seeing evidence that suggests the traditional crop cycles that depend on the two monsoons may have to be changed," said L. Rupasena, an additional director of the governmental Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research Institute, pointing to the need for improved weather forecasting.

The region's bouts of volatile weather have thrown into question the country's two annual planting cycles from September-March, beginning with the northeast monsoon, and again from May-August.

The International Federation of Red Cross Societies (IFRC) launched an appeal in early November to assist those affected by drought.

For flood relief, the government has set aside grants of some US\$730 per house destroyed and \$385 per damaged house. – IRIN News

## MP Stephen Woodworth expresses renewed concern over human rights violations in Sri Lanka

Stephen Woodworth, Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre, has expressed renewed concern over human rights violation in Sri Lanka in light of recent reports of violent clashes on the University of Jaffna campus between Tamil students and security forces.

A reported twenty students were wounded, seven of whom were hospitalized and four were detained, following a peaceful demonstration by Tamil students to commemorate those who have lost lives during the ongoing struggle of the Tamil nation. "Parliamentarians have the responsibility to make it our first priority to raise our voice in support of every person's fundamental human rights," said Woodworth.

These latest incidents are evidence of ongoing tensions directed at Tamils in Sri Lanka. "I would like to extend my thoughts and prayers towards all those that have been affected by the latest violent attacks and I urge the international



community to call on the Sri Lankan Government to put in place measures to ensure the protection of human rights," he concluded.

[Media Release - Office of Stephen Woodworth, Dec 10, 2012]

## Statement by Liberal Leader Bob Rae on the Situation in Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Liberal Leader Bob Rae made the following statement on Dec 13, 2012 re: the situation in Jaffna, Sri Lanka:

"News is slowly emerging of an attack on the men's and women's dormitories at Jaffna University, with some fifty students being sent to hospital, and many arrested without warrants.

Sri Lanka's civil peace is still under threat from its own government. The United States government has issued a call for a respect for civil liberties and pluralism. Canadians can hardly do less in the face of continuing attacks on journalists and others expressing their opinions.

I had the chance, nearly a decade ago, to give a couple of talks at Jaffna University, and as it was during a time of cease fire and efforts to create a different governing structure students were enthusiastic participants in discussions about federalism and plural-



ism. With the resumption of fighting, defeat of the Tamil Tigers and death of tens of thousands of innocent civilians, all has changed.

Canada's vigilance in defence of free speech and an open society must continue. The government of Sri Lanka must be held accountable for these violations of human rights."



# Free or Charge the Four Detained Tamil Students from Jaffna University Sent for 'Rehabilitation'

By Human Rights Watch

The Sri Lankan authorities should immediately release or credibly charge four ethnic Tamil students from Jaffna University who have been detained since early December 2012, Human Rights Watch said today. The Terrorist Investigation Department (TID) arrested the students amid unrest in the northern city of Jaffna following a security crackdown in late November against attempts to commemorate dead leaders of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The four students – Sanmugam Solaman, Kanagasundram Jenamajenth, Paramalingam Tharshaanan, and V. Bhavananadam – were initially detained at the TID offices in Vavuniya. Around December 10 they were transferred to the Rehabilitation Centre in Welikanda, which holds an estimated 600 alleged former LTTE fighters. Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa reportedly told Jaffna University teachers on December 15 that the students would be released after they had been rehabilitated due to their involvement in terrorist activities.

“Arresting four students without charge and sending them off for ‘rehabilitation’ sends a dangerous message that any Tamil can be detained arbitrarily and indefinitely,” said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “The Sri Lankan authorities should realize that such actions generate legitimate grievances, not reconciliation.”

The students’ parents were initially denied access to their children, but were allowed to visit them at Welikanda on December 12. The parents said publicly that the students were being interrogated intensely, with efforts to intimidate them into providing information about other students.

The government has neither accounted for the arrests by specifying what terrorist activities the students have allegedly been involved in nor brought charges against the students. The students were told that they will be detained until they have completed a 3-month lecture series on the theme of “reconciliation,” the parents said.



The four students were among a larger group detained for attempting to mark the LTTE’s Heroes Day on November 27. Heroes Day falls one day after the birthday of the LTTE’s late leader, Vellupillai Prabhakaran, who was responsible for numerous human rights abuses over several decades, including ordering suicide bombings against civilians, executions, torture, and other atrocities.

Since government forces defeated the LTTE in May 2009, Sri Lankan authorities have contended that celebrating LTTE Heroes Day is tantamount to supporting terrorism, while members of the Tamil minority have asserted that they have the right to commemorate their dead. This year, government security forces arrested at least 10 other Tamil activists and university students in relation to an alleged arson attack on November 28 supposedly linked to commemorations.

Several students, on learning that their names were on a list of police suspects, surrendered to the National Human Rights Commission, a practice developed during the conflict to lessen the risk of being forcibly disappeared once in the custody of security forces. All but four named above have been released.

“The Sri Lankan government needs to recognize that engaging in peaceful activities that conflict with the government’s views is an exercise of basic rights, not a criminal offense,” Adams said. “The four students should be promptly released unless the government has evidence they violated the law and charges them.”

## Statement from MP Rathika Sitsabaiesan on the arrest of students in Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Recently, the Sri Lankan government arrested and detained students without cause following a silent protest after security forces broke up a lamp lighting ceremony at a women’s hostel at Jaffna University. The students, protesting against the lack of freedom of expression, were attacked and beaten by officers, with at least 20 undergraduate students suffering injuries.

This clear assault on freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and breach of human rights is completely unacceptable. The Sri Lankan Government must uphold the right to freedom of expression, stop attacks by security forces on students, and release P. Tharshananth, Sanmugam Solaman, Kanesamoorthy Sutharsan and K. Jenemajeyamenan.

It saddens me to see the continued oppression of Tamils in Sri Lanka and it serves as a continued reminder of the work to be done to achieve equal rights under the current government.

In Canada, our government must work with our partners in the international community to pressure the Sri Lankan Government to improve its treatment of Tamils and bring those responsi-



ble for this violation of human rights to justice. Holding individuals without charging them, along with having no clear evidence linking them to any alleged crime is inexcusable.

The Sri Lankan Government must be told that Canada and the rest of the international community will not tolerate these oppressive measures. The Canadian Government must do more to uphold human rights and democracy in Sri Lanka.

[via rathikasitsabaiesan.ndp.ca]

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# Young Tamil Women coerced and deceived to join Sri Lanka Army

by Women's Action Network

(Text of a Statement of Concern by the Women's Action Network)

Women's Action Network (WAN), as a collective of 11 women's groups from the North and the East, is deeply concerned by the recent efforts to recruit women into the military in the districts of Killinochchi and Mullaitheevu.

Post-war development has failed to provide the most basic needs for those who live in Killinochchi and Mullaitheevu, especially the women of the area. People continue to live in vulnerable situations without sufficient security and independence, so may even lack the basics such as a safe place to sleep.

After the war over 60% of families in Vanni are headed by women and they have become the primary wage earners of their families, in addition to being the main care givers in the household. Hence, women play a critical role in fulfilling social, economical and cultural needs and rights in the country. High unemployment and the rising cost of living control the choices and women are forced to make decisions that go beyond choice.

This militarised environment, including military involvement in economic activities, administration and even reconciliation, is not conducive for human development further debilitates the already fragile existence of this community.

As the media has highlighted in recent weeks Tamil women have been recruited to the military. While this may seem as an action in the direction towards reconciliation and inclusion, a cursory glance into the appointment process shows a lack of transparency, information and coercion. Military personnel of Mullaitheevu and Killinochchi area were involved in the recruitment process and have targeted economically vulnerable families.

In some villages it has been announced through loudspeakers or they have gone in-person and in a few others they have used the GS of the area. Young women from women-headed families or families with five or more family members have been targeted in general. The greatest concern is the lack of information and informed consent.

Those recruited have been informed that they would be engaging in clerical work, or with the GS, that work will only be for a few hours, and that they would be able to work in their own areas. They have also been promised a pay of Rs.30,000 per month. Around 109 women

applied and appeared for interviews. The information provided never mentioned that they will be working for the military and will have to join the military to perform these duties.

On the 05th of November 2012, the military took the women who registered their names for these jobs to the military camp in Bharathipuram in Killinochchi District. The women underwent a medical exam conducted by male military doctor and a male-nurse. All information was gathered in Sinhala, except for their names and addresses.

The women were also requested to provide a letter of recommendation from GS or Justice of Peace and/or from Christian priest for Christians, birth certificate, and school leaving certificate and to hand to police in their area of residence. Subsequently, the women who went to deliver their documents to their police who fingerprinted them. Later on military personnel visited the houses of these women and instructed to join work on the 15th of November. The military informed the women and girls that they will be in 03 month residential program to learn Sinhala and English.

On November 15th, male military personnel picked up the women from their homes and transported them to the Bharathipuram camp. The first day was spent collecting detailed personal information of the women. A military function for new recruits was held on the 16th, the second day. It was only then that the women realized that they were to join the military.

Some panicked and called their families, and informed the military that they did not wish to join. The military informed them that they could only leave after the function. On the 17th the function was held inside the Army camp while some of the family members of the women protested standing on the other end of the same military camp.

A female military officer stood next to each new recruit thus preventing the women from communicating with their families. Fathers of these women had been garlanded and the mothers were given badges with the title of 'brave mother'. Of the 109 girls, 06 were released due to the efforts of their families. As a result, the rest of the women were permitted to meet their families without any restrictions. As of 02nd December, mobile phones have been barred inside the camp.

The families were informed that the women have been provided with uniforms. It is obvious that the women or the families were not provided with accu-



rate information, and therefore not allowed to make an informed choice. Moreover these activities have violated the gazette notification procedures which is required by law.

This situation raises grave concerns regarding the role of the state and the military in the lives of women, particularly from Killinochchi and Mullaitheevu, the need to provide physical fitness training and the continued militarization of the North, and the continued security of these women while in service.

In two other occasions civil service appointments (Montessori teaching and working in government farms run by the military) have been given to women through the involvement of the Civil Defense Department of the Sri Lankan military rather than the relevant civilian administration bodies. The militarization

of civilian administration and of the community in the Wanni raises deep questions regarding the commitment of the Sri Lankan Government in creating a society that is equal, equitable and free of violence.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 clearly states that the full participation of women is essential for the rehabilitation process in the post war situation, and women's specific needs should be taken into account in developing a prerequisite to disarmament and demilitarization.

WAN is deeply concerned about the lack of choice and decision-making power for women in the formerly war-torn areas request that the civil administration be completely handed over to civil structures as a genuine measure of the Government's reconciliation program.

## Singer Nithyasree's husband ends life by jumping into river

Classical vocalist Nithyasree Mahadevan's husband V Mahadevan committed suicide by jumping into the Adyar river from the Kotturpuram bridge near their home on Thursday, Dec 20th afternoon. According to The Times of India, Police said Mahadevan had been suffering from depression, for which he was taking medical help.

Nithyasree is the granddaughter of D K Pattammal, considered one of the 'female trinity' of Carnatic music along with M S Subbulakshmi and M L Vasanthakumari.

Nithyasree has been giving concerts during the ongoing Margazhi music festival in Chennai and was scheduled to perform on the evening of Dec 20th as well. One of the best selling albums of Nithyasree is "Eppadi Paadinaro" that

features Suddananda Bharathi's popular poetic composition in praise of Lord Siva, "I desire to sing of you, oh Lord Siva, as your devotees".

Nithyasree, who is well known on the musical circuit with a number of concerts lined up until the end of the year, is best known in playback singing for the A.R. Rahman song 'Kannodu Kanbadellam' in the Tamil film Jeans. Nithyasree's fine renderings include poetic works of Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharathiyar and Paaventhar Bharathidasan.

An ardent follower of Nithyasree's music told Monsoon Journal that it is a "Sad day to millions of fans for a songstress who brings solace and smile though her renderings to all listeners".





# China's Claims on South China Sea Grow Challenge for ASEAN, World

By Daniel Schearf

BANGKOK, THAILAND — China's increasing assertiveness about disputed territory in the South China Sea is posing a major challenge to unity in the Association of SouthEast Asian Nations. ASEAN summits this year in Cambodia failed to negotiate a much anticipated "code of conduct" and exposed splits between members. Indications are the competition for the resource-rich region is heating up.

Protests in Vietnam against China, as it asserts claim for almost all the South China Sea, an area rich in oil, gas, and fish.

New Chinese passports feature maps staking claims to much of the region. Authorities also have declared the right to stop and search ships in disputed waters.

Philippines foreign affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez says that would violate international law.

"We will have problems with freedom of navigation and also lawful commerce,"

he said. "This would be a threat to all countries, not only in the region, but to all those countries that use these sea lanes of communication."

In April, ships from the Philippines and China had a tense two-month stand-off about fishing grounds in the Scarborough Shoals.

China's foreign ministry spokesman, Hong Lei, criticizes harassment of Chinese fishermen and Vietnam's exploration with India of disputed resources.

"China opposes unilateral oil and gas development in disputed waters of the South China Sea. We hope that concerned countries respect China's position and rights," he said.

Beijing has avoided discussing the issue with the Association of SouthEast Asian Nations, despite overlapping claims with four of its ten members - Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam - as well as China and Taiwan.

ASEAN summits this year in Cambodia saw the host agree with China in quashing negotiations on a decade-old



code of conduct in the South China Sea aimed at preventing conflict.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa cautions all parties against escalation, which he says appear aimed at preempting negotiations.

"They want to have a head start by having situations on the ground or situations at sea before that eventuality come about," he said. "And, this is what we need to ... caution against. Because, then we will have a tit-for-tat type of situation."

ASEAN Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan says increasing tensions have

complicated attempts for a peaceful solution.

"We have to be an honest broker. We have to be a neutral mechanism, effective mechanism of balancing various contending and competing interests who claim that they have legitimate interests in the issue," he said.

President Barack Obama, for the first time joined the East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh as part of the U.S. pivot to Asia. The increasing American presence in the region is welcomed by many as a counter-balance to China's influence.

- VOA News

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Questions to Ask Yourself	Bank Mortgage Insurance	London Life Insurance
1. Who owns the policy?	1. The bank owns the insurance policy.	1. Client owns their own Policy.
2. Who controls the policy?	2. The bank controls all the options.	2. Insured has control of all the options.
3. Can I guarantee I will always be covered?	3. Your policy will lapse if your mortgage goes into arrears.	3. Policy will not lapse if you miss a Mortgage payment.
4. Who is my beneficiary?	4. Your Beneficiary is the Bank.	4. You can name any Beneficiary you want.
5. What kind of coverage do I have?	5. Your coverage is decreasing term with level cost.	5. Level term coverage with fixed premiums.
6. Can I be covered if I change mortgage holders?	6. Moving the mortgage means reapplying for insurance.	6. Your covered regardless of which institution you choose.
7. How much insurance do I have?	7. Face amount of the policy cannot exceed the value of the outstanding mortgage.	7. Your coverage is determined by your needs and wants.
8. What options do I have if I or my spouse dies?	8. No option but to pay off the mortgage.	8. Survivor can invest the money and use returns to pay the mortgage and still keep the capital.
9. Can I convert my insurance to a permanent plan at any time?	9. Not extendible.	9. Your policy is renewable and convertible.
10. Am I penalized for casual deposits?	10. Penalizes casual deposits.	10. Rewards casual deposits.
11. Who guarantees that I am covered if I die?	11. Underwriting is done at time of death and research can date back to birth.	11. Underwriting is done at time of application and before a second premium is paid.
12. Who is more expensive?	12. Can be very expensive.	12. We are very competitive.



# India's Economy Looks to Rebound in 2013

By Anjana Pasricha

India's economy has experienced its worst slowdown in nearly a decade this year. But there are signs that the country, which is still among the world's fastest growing economies, may soon begin to recover from the slump.

Month after month in 2012, virtually every sector of the Indian economy - agriculture, mining, manufacturing and services - slowed. At the end of the year, economic growth stood at 5.3 percent.

It was a huge disappointment for a country whose economy had been racing ahead at eight percent plus for the last eight years.

Like many other countries, India was affected by the global slowdown as exports were hit. But several domestic factors also pulled down the economy.

Many economists blamed the government, which faces allegations of graft in many spheres, for policy inaction.

Chief economist at ratings agency, CRISIL in Mumbai, D.K. Joshi, says the downturn was sharper than warranted by global factors.

"It is widely recognized now, to clear projects it is taking time because of governance issues. And when it takes time to clear projects, the investment pipeline



gets choked," says Joshi. "As a result of that investment slowed down quite significantly. Then we also had high inflation regime, and high inflation means the Central bank cannot cut interest rates to perk up the economy."

The government admits that invest-

ment is critical to revive the economy. Faced with plummeting growth, it has taken some steps to liberalize the economy and make it easier for foreign businesses to pump money into sectors such as retail, aviation and insurance. The long-awaited reforms were the biggest

initiated in nearly ten years. Authorities also promised to speed up clearances for large infrastructure projects.

The government also announced spending cuts as it grappled with high deficits. It slashed subsidies on fuel despite political opposition. This is expected to ward off the threat of a credit rating downgrade.

Economist N. Bhanumurthy with the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in New Delhi, says these steps are meant to reassure investors and could help the economy stage a gradual recovery.

"Frankly right now the most important issue is confidence among investors, both domestic and foreign. All these measures are expected to provide some kind of confidence-boosting measures for revival in the economy," he said. "Our own projections for the next year, 2013-14, is 7.1 percent."

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said the government's first priority is to reverse the slowdown. But he says that a return to eight percent growth is an ambitious goal.

Despite the slowdown, India remains high on the radar of foreign investors.

- VOA News

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# IMF: US Fiscal Deal Does Not Go Far Enough

The International Monetary Fund says U.S. actions to avoid the fiscal cliff did not go far enough to address the country's long-term economic problems, including its deficit and overall debt.

In a statement released on January 2, 2013, IMF spokesman Gerry Rice said more remains to be done to put U.S. public finances back on a sustainable path without harming what it said was the still fragile recovery.

U.S. lawmakers, in a late night session Tuesday, January 1st night passed a measure to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff," with a plan President Barack Obama calls "one step" in a broader effort to strengthen the American economy.

"Today's agreement enshrines, I think, a principle into law that will remain in place as long as I am president: The deficit needs to be reduced in a way that's balanced," said Obama. "Everyone pays their fair share. Everyone does their part. That's how our economy works best. That's how we grow."

The president spoke late Tuesday, January 1st, shortly after the Republican-dominated House of Representatives approved the measure

passed early in the day by the Senate.

Some conservative House members tried to add more spending cuts to the plan, but did not have enough support among their fellow lawmakers to take such action.

President Obama and congressional Republicans have sparred for more than a year over tax rates, the extent of government spending, chronic budget deficits and the country's mounting debt.

Congressional leaders described the January 1 deal as imperfect, but in the best interest of the American people.

Under the plan, taxes will increase for individuals making more than \$400,000 a year and couples earning more than \$450,000, the first U.S. income tax increase in 20 years. The package will also extend unemployment benefits for a year and boost taxes on large inheritances.

The compromise delays mandated cuts to defense spending and domestic programs for two months, setting up a future battle between the parties. Analysts have said that without a compromise, the \$500 billion in austerity measures could eventually plunge the U.S. economy into another recession.



Even as U.S. leaders wrangled over the tax and spending issues, they soon face a decision on whether to increase the country's borrowing limit, which hit its current \$16.4 trillion cap on Monday, December 31, 2012. Officials say the country will be able to pay its bills for another two months, but by then will need to increase the debt ceiling, an action likely to spark another extended debate over Washington's spending priorities.

President Obama said Tuesday he will not engage Congress in a debate about whether they should raise the debt

ceiling to pay for the cost of the legislation they have already passed.

"We can't not pay bills that we've already incurred," said Obama. "If Congress refuses to give the United States government the ability to pay these bills on time, the consequences for the entire global economy would be catastrophic, far worse than the impact of the fiscal cliff."

Obama said he hopes lawmakers can work to solve the budget issues with "less drama" and "less brinksmanship" after a deal that required days of intense deadline negotiations. - VOA News

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# Five Steps to Good Oral Health

**Dr. Shanmugam Sivanesan,  
President, Toronto East Dental  
Society (TEDS)**

A chronic infection, including one in the mouth, is a serious problem that should not be ignored. Yet bleeding or tender gums are often overlooked.

Research has shown there is an association between oral disease and other health problems such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke, respiratory illness in older adults, as well as pre-term and low-birth-weight babies. Although researchers are just beginning to understand this relationship, evidence shows that oral disease can aggravate other health problems and that keeping a healthy mouth is an important part of leading a healthy life.

Most of us realize that diet and exercise play an important part in keeping us healthy. But did you know that a healthy mouth is also an important part of a healthy body?

Poor oral health can affect a person's quality of life. Oral pain, missing teeth or oral infections can influence the way a person speaks, eats and socializes. These oral health problems can reduce a person's quality of life by affecting their physical, mental and social well-being.

As part of a healthy lifestyle and to help reduce the risk of oral disease, follow these 5 steps to good oral health.

## 1. Keep your mouth clean

Brush your teeth and tongue at least twice a day with a soft-bristle toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste to remove plaque and bacteria that cause cavities and periodontal disease (gum disease).

Floss every day. If you don't floss, you are missing more than a third of your tooth surface.

Your dentist may also recommend that you use a fluoride or antimicrobial mouth wash to help prevent cavities or gum disease.

## 2. Watch what you eat and drink

Healthy food is good for your general health and your oral health. The nutrients that come from healthy foods help you to fight cavities and gum disease.

Limit how much and how often you consume foods and beverages that contain sugar. Sugar is one of the main causes of dental problems.

Limit your consumption of foods and beverages that are high in acid. The acid may play a part in causing dental erosion.

## 3. Check your mouth regularly

Look for warning signs of periodontal disease (gum disease) such as red, shiny, puffy, sore or sensitive gums; bleeding when you brush or floss; or bad breath that won't go away. Gum disease is one of the main reasons why adults lose their

teeth.

Listed below are answers to 5 commonly asked questions about gum disease.

### a. How common is gum disease?

Very common. Seven out of 10 Canadians will develop gum disease at some time in their lives. It is the most common dental problem, and it can progress quite painlessly until you have a real problem. That's why it is so important to prevent gum disease before it becomes serious.

### b. How does gum disease get started?

Gum disease begins when plaque adheres at and below the visible edges of your gums. If plaque is not removed every day by brushing and flossing, it hardens into tartar (also called calculus). Tartar promotes a bacterial infection at the point of attachment. In these early stages, gum disease is called gingivitis.

Your gums may be a bit red, but you may not notice anything. As gingivitis gets more serious, tiny pockets of infection form. Your gums may be puffy and may bleed a little when you brush, but it is not painful. Over the time, the infection destroys the gum tissue. Eventually, you may be at risk of losing one or more teeth.

### c. How can I prevent gum disease?

Prevention is the most important factor in the fight against gum disease. It is essential to keep your teeth and gums clean. Brush your teeth properly at least twice a day and floss at least once every 24 hours.

Using proper brushing and flossing techniques is equally important. Be sure to see your dentist regularly for professional cleaning and dental exams, so that he or she can detect any early signs of gum disease, and provide appropriate treatment.

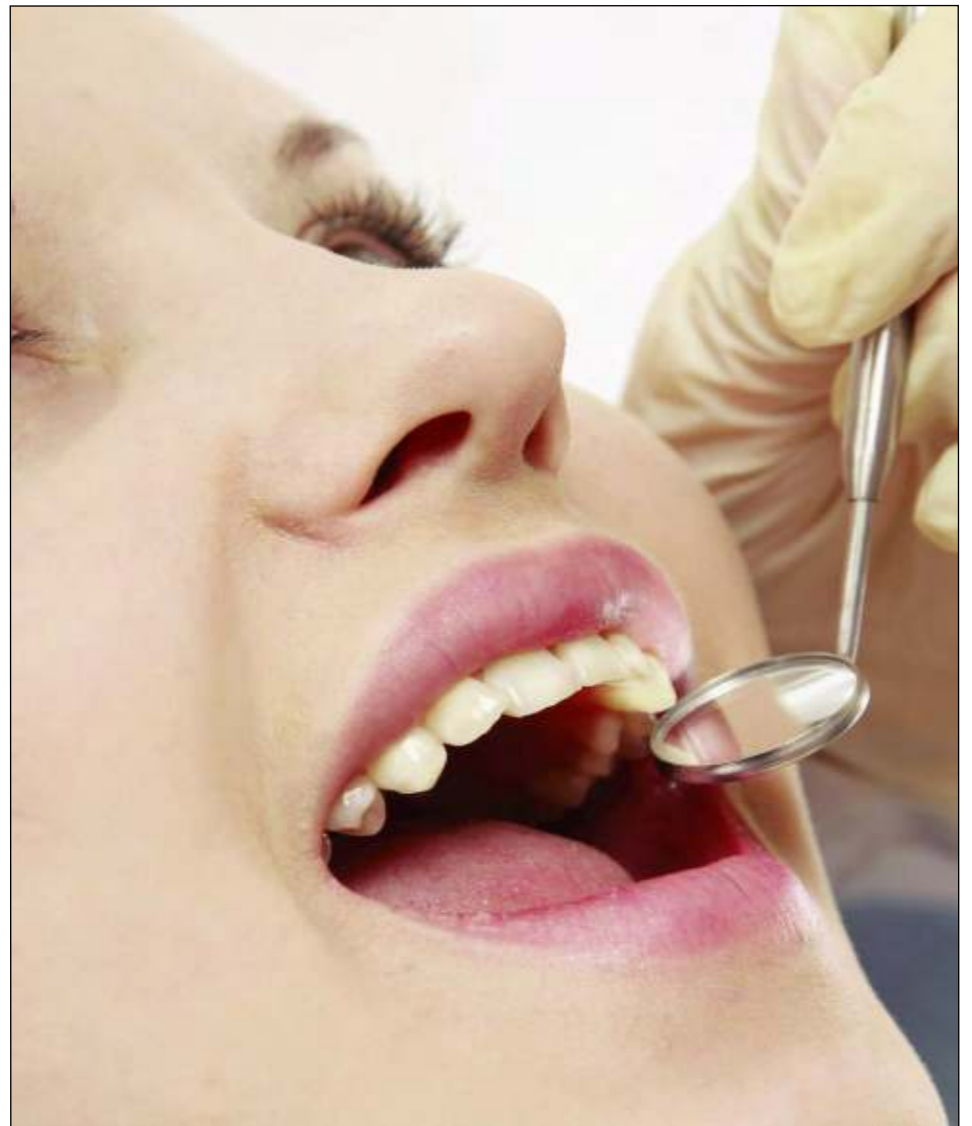
### d. How can I tell if I'm brushing and flossing properly?

**Brushing:** Brush your teeth gently, paying special attention to the areas where your teeth and gums meet. Clean every surface of every tooth. Use the tip of your brush to clean behind your upper and lower front teeth.

**Flossing:** Take a piece of floss about 18 inches long and wrap it around your middle fingers. Using a clean section of floss each time, wrap the floss into a C shape around a tooth. Wipe it over the tooth, from base to tip, a couple of times. Repeat on each tooth.

### e. What if I am already in the early stages of gum disease?

If you have gum disease, getting rid of plaque and tartar gives your gums a chance to get better. That's why in the early stages of gum disease, the best treatment is: Dental cleaning by your



dentist or dental hygienist to remove built-up tartar, brushing twice a day and flossing once a day to remove plaque.

When gum disease is more serious, your dentist may refer you to a dental specialist called a periodontist. A periodontist treats serious forms of gum disease that do not get better with normal dental care. When serious gum disease is found, brushing and flossing become even more important.

Look for warning signs of oral cancer. The 3 most common sites for oral cancer are the sides and bottom of your tongue and the floor of your mouth. The warning signs include:

- bleeding that you can't explain,
- open sores that don't heal within 7 to 10 days,
- white or red patches,
- numbness or tingling,
- small lumps and thickening on the sides or bottom of your tongue, the floor or roof of your mouth, the inside of your cheeks or on your gums.

Look for warning signs of tooth decay. The possible warning signs include teeth that are sensitive to hot, cold, sweetness or pressure.

## 4. Avoid all tobacco and betel nut products

Stained and missing teeth, infected gums and bad breath are just some of the ways smoking can affect your oral health.

Besides ruining your smile, smoking can cause oral cancer, heart disease and a variety of other cancers, all of which can kill you.

All forms of tobacco are dangerous to your oral health and your overall health, not just cigarettes. Smokeless tobacco such as chewing tobacco, betel nut and snuff can cause mouth, tongue and lip cancer and can be more addictive than cigarettes.

If you use tobacco products, ask your dentist and your family doctor for advice on how to quit.

## 5. See your dentist regularly

Regular dental exams and professional cleanings are the best way to prevent problems or to stop small problems from getting worse.

Your dentist will look for signs of oral disease. Oral diseases often go unnoticed and may lead to or be a sign of serious health problems in other parts of the body.

Only your dentist has the training, skill and expertise to diagnose and treat oral health diseases and to meet all your oral health care needs.

*Dr. Sivanesan has been practicing Dentistry in Canada for 19 years. He is currently the President of the Toronto East Dental Society, also served as the councillor for the Ontario Dental Association for 6 years.*



# The 5 Big Benefits of Eating Breakfast

“Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, and dinner like a pauper.” (Adelle Davis). We hear about it often, read it in magazines and newspapers and discuss it with our friends and family: the importance of eating breakfast. Yet, many of us rush off to work, with ten minutes to spare to make a quick stop at Tim Horton’s for a double-double coffee and a sugar-laden muffin. Not my idea of a healthy breakfast. Studies have shown eating a healthy, nutritious breakfast can have numerous benefits. Below are 5 reasons why you should make breakfast a part of your day.

## A source of energy

Start your day with a power breakfast and you’ll feel the effects throughout your day. Breakfast “breaks the fast” (after a night’s rest) and replenishes your blood sugar supply of glucose so you’re a powerhouse of energy all day!

## Helps with weight loss

Eating breakfast actually helps you lose weight! A nutritious breakfast prevents you from overeating by ensuring that your blood sugar levels are stable and steady throughout the day. Eating breakfast can also reduce hunger throughout the day, get your metabolism going and help you make better food choices at other meals. Consider making protein part of your breakfast. It blunts your hunger, keeps you full and is the most satiating. Load up your brekkie with your favourite protein such as eggs, peanut butter, low fat milk, yogurt, lean meats such as salmon or ham, or nuts.

## Improves mood

Personally, when I skip breakfast, I become “Miss Cranky Pants”. I’m irritable, tired, and restless. Eating a wholesome, nutritious breakfast helps lift my spirits and keep a smile on my face throughout the day.

In fact, recent research also indicates that “food and mood” are directly related. Good food turns that “frown upside down.”

## Reduces the risk of diseases

Many people who skip breakfast tend to eat larger meals later in the day when their metabolism is slower and they are less active. Eating breakfast and consuming small, frequent meals throughout the day may help reduce the onset of obesity and related diseases such as diabetes, arthritis, and cardiovascular diseases.

## Improves cognitive function

It’s true. Eating breakfast makes you smarter, especially in children. Studies have shown children who consume a healthy, nutritious breakfast show improvements in problem solving and math skills, an increase in short-term memory, attention, speed, retention, accuracy and the ability to process information compared to those who skip breakfast. So toss the sugary cereals and fat-laden baked goods and whip up some

protein and Omega 3 packed, scrambled eggs with whole wheat toast for your kids to ensure they have the proper nutrition and essential vitamins and minerals to perform their best in the classroom.

Breakfast doesn’t have to be fancy or take hours to make. Keep it simple. Try these quick and easy recipes to start your day.

## EGG & SALMON SANDWICH (Power breakfast sandwich!)

### Ingredients

1/2 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil  
1 tablespoon finely chopped red onion  
2 large egg whites, beaten (or 1/4 cup liquid egg whites)

### Preparation:

1. Heat oil in a small nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add onion and cook, stirring, until it begins to soften, about 1 minute. Add egg whites, salt and capers (if using) and cook, stirring constantly, until whites are set, about 30 seconds.  
2. To make the sandwich, layer the egg whites, smoked salmon and tomato on English muffin.

### Nutrition Facts:

1 serving  
Calories 214, Total Fat 5 g, Saturated Fat 1 g, Monounsaturated Fat 2 g, Cholesterol 7 mg, Sodium 670 mg, Carbohydrate 25 g, Fiber 3 g, Protein 19 g

## YOGURT PARFAIT

### Ingredients:

1 cup vanilla non fat yogurt (Astro is a good brand - 5g sugar for 1/2 cup)  
1/2 cup fresh berries  
1 tsp maple syrup (E.D Smith sugar free syrup)

### Preparation:

1. Layer serving dish with yogurt, then berries.  
2. Top parfait with granola and almonds.

### Nutrition Facts:

1 serving (using 2 whole eggs)  
309 Calories, 19g Fat, 5g Carbs, 28g Protein, 462 mg Cholesterol, 511mg sodium.

## VEGGIE OMELETTE

### Ingredients:

2 eggs or 4 egg whites  
2 tbsp low fat cheese (or 2 triangles Light Laughing cow)  
1/4 tomato, chopped

By Aykta Grover  
Founder, Aura Wellness  
Certified Nutrition, Fitness, Pre and Post Natal Specialist

2 tbsp onion- diced  
1/2 cup spinach- fresh or frozen  
1/3 cup mushrooms, sliced  
2 tbsp low fat milk  
Salt and pepper

### Preparation:

1. Beat eggs in bowl. Add milk and veggies (except for spinach) to bowl and mix thoroughly. Add salt and pepper to taste.

2. In non-stick pan, spray with vegetable spray and spread egg mixture evenly throughout pan, add cheese and spinach. Keep heat between medium and high.

3. When the edges of the omelette begin to separate from the pan and it becomes less liquid, fold one side of the omelette over so it’s in the shape of a semi-circle. Let it cook for 2-3 minutes,

### Preparation

1. Mix all ingredients together.  
2. Bring 2 cups water to a boil.  
3. Add mixed ingredients. Turn heat to low and cook uncovered, stirring occasionally until water is absorbed, about 7 minutes.

4. Cover, and set for about 2 minutes before serving.

5. Serve with low-fat milk or dairy-free milk.

### Nutrition Facts:

1 serving (88g)  
325 Calories, 10g Protein, 52g Carbs, 7g Fiber, 18g Sugar, 10g Fat, 3.6g Monounsaturated fat, 4g Polyunsaturated fat, 1g saturated fat, 4g sodium.

## WALNUT AND BLUEBERRY BRAN PANCAKES

### Ingredients



flip over and cook until slightly golden brown.

4. Serve with a side of whole wheat toast.

**Nutrition Facts:** 1 serving (using 2 whole eggs)

309 Calories, 19g Fat, 5g Carbs, 28g Protein, 462 mg Cholesterol, 511mg sodium.

## SWISS BREAKFAST

### Ingredients:

1 cup rolled oats  
1/4 tsp cinnamon  
2 tbsp raisins  
2 tbsp sliced almonds  
2 tbsp dried apricots, chopped  
2 tbsp sunflower seeds  
1 date, chopped  
1 tbsp dried cranberries

1 1/2 cups 2% milk 1 cup instant oats 3/4 cup sifted whole-wheat flour 3/4 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen 1/2 cup chopped walnuts 1/4 cup oat flour or oat bran 1 tablespoon baking powder 2 tablespoons honey 1 teaspoon salt 2 eggs, beaten

Preparation 1. Pour milk over oats and sift together flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.

2. Lightly stir eggs into oats mixture. Add dry ingredients and honey, stirring until combined.

3. When the batter is thoroughly mixed, stir in the blueberries and walnuts.

4. Ladle batches of the batter onto a preheated greased or nonstick griddle or frying pan and cook until tops are bubbly and edges look cooked.

5. Turn over and finish cooking the other side.

Makes about 10 pancakes. Nutrition Facts: 4 servings

Per serving: Calories: 400, Fat: 16 g, Carbs: 52 g, Protein: 15 g

Aykta Grover  
BSc, BAA, PTS and NWS

Certified fitness, nutrition  
and wellness specialist



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## Tribute

**In Memorium**

**Mr. Arumugam  
Vallipuranathar**

2 June 1916 – 7 March 2011

From Family Members  
of Vallipuranathar  
London: 44 742 404 8435  
Germany: 49 172 326 2152  
Canada: 1 416 450 5011

**In Memorium**

**Mrs. Vallinayaki  
Velumailum**

Born: 10 October 1927  
Demise: 29 January 2011

From Family Members  
of Velumailum

**In Memorium**

**Mrs. Annapackiyam  
Santhirasegaram**

Born: 14 June 1934  
Demise: 19 February 2011

From Family Members  
of Santhirasegaram

**Announcements, Birthdays, Weddings,  
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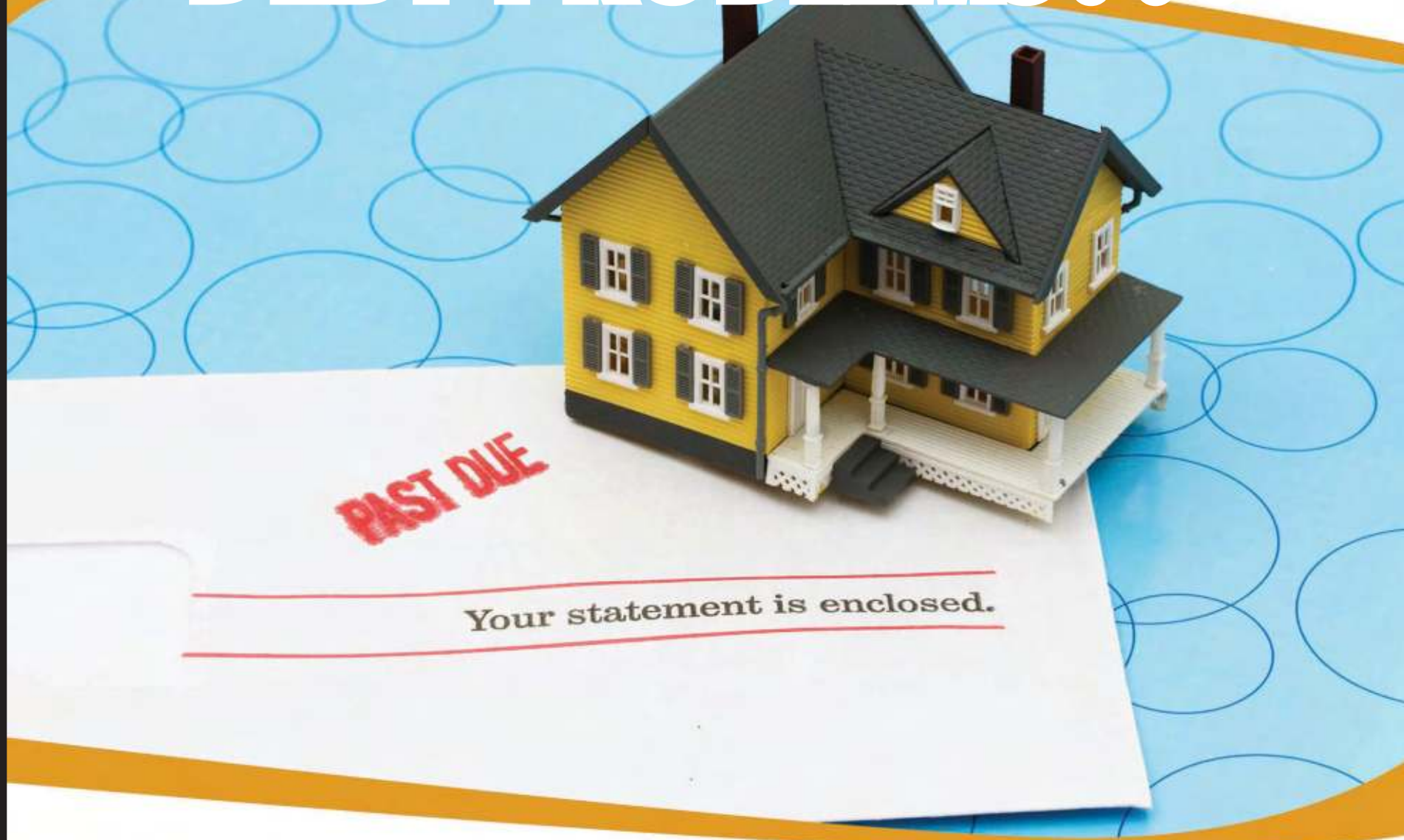
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# Leaders lead, followers follow. Become the leaders of tomorrow!

From the first class of the Youth Leadership Program to today, I have crossed many towering mountains in my growth as a leader.

I remember, not so long ago I was quite timid and shy. I was reserved, quiet, private, introverted, and didn't speak up much in class.

Not too long ago, if you asked me to stand in a crowded room of people, and to debate viciously, without a thought as to who was watching me, I wouldn't be able to do it.

On December, 15th, 2012 - I was a new person, quite literally transformed into someone else.

the minds of many youth today.

Our youngest member Theeran delivered an MTV Teen Awards Host Monologue, which was phenomenal. It was entertaining, yet informative.



**Ajantha Nadesalingam**

Next, was a vicious debate, on 'what will make better citizens: religion or law?'. On the side supporting law were Arani, Ganan, Ashwin, and Sahana. On the other side supporting religion were myself, Ahillan, Vishali, and Gheerthika. The debate was a tough one, and both

sides fought to get the audience to vouch for them.



Further, Harry discussed the workers' right to strike and its impact to essential services. Harry discussed the effect on the teachers' strike on his own Grade 10 year, and how it has touched him personally.

Atputan's audition for a stand-up comedy act had the whole audience in stitches, as he entertained everyone with joke after joke.

Mathangy presented about youth entrepreneurship opportunities in Ontario.

Her speech was well presented, and opened my mind to the countless opportunities.

Then, there were the two presentations, both fighting for the spot of the best cereal in Canada. Aranee, Athirai, Thasha, Vikesh, and Haran claimed that that Honey Nut Cheerios were the best cereal in Canada. On the other hand, claiming that Kellogg's Frosted Flakes are the best cereal in Canada, were Nilan, Shiama, Kasthuri, and Arun.



I thoroughly enjoyed the program, and have happily enrolled for the next session as well.



Our final day was also graced with the presence of fantastic guest speakers, Dr. Meera Selvakone, and Barbara Hall.

In all, my classmates and I have really benefited from this class, and hope that you will also reap the benefits of becoming one of the leaders of tomorrow.


I strongly recommend this program for any youth, as develops a very important life skill, that often is left undeveloped.

Learn to be a leader today, become the leaders of tomorrow!

*Ajantha Nadesalingam is a grade 8 student at Dear Park Public School. She loves creative writing and debating*



We started the day with an informative speech by Mayuran about violence in media and its impact on youth. He discussed the deep running trend of crude violence in the media, and how this affects




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## HOLIDAY COCKTAIL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SCARBOROUGH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION (TSHF)

During the recent festive season, amidst various hectic year-end activities and busy schedules of everyone, Stan Muthulingam came up with a noble idea. He sent invitations to his friends, business colleagues and political leaders for a Holiday Cocktail event for the benefit of The Scarborough Hospital Foundation (TSHF).

Stan Muthulingam is the Co-Chairman and Chief Executive for the CableShoppe, a leading company in broadband technology. Recently Stan was appointed as a member of TSHF Board and Co-Chair for the committee

after the fundraising efforts undertaken along with Varasithi Vinayagar Temple benefitting to reach the goal of \$5million for the MRI at Birchmount Campus of TSH.

The support from invitees to Stan's initiatives was widespread and few other members of the fundraising committee - Soo Wong, MPP, Scarborough-Agincourt, Dr. Pon Sivaji, Ganesan Sugumar and Kula Sellathurai also attended the event.

Former Deputy Premier George Smitherman, Toronto Centre MPP, Glen Murray, Scarborough-Agincourt MPP and Soo Wong spoke at the event,

commending Stan and contributions by the Tamil Community.

Michael Mazza, President & CEO of TSHF thanked Stan and the community for the great initiatives undertaken to support the fundraising efforts for TSH. Anne Marie Males, Vice-President of Patients Experience for TSH also spoke about her involvement and the need to support TSH.

Ted Ross, Media Spokesperson introduced the speakers played the role as the MC for the evening's event.

Stan commented that he was so happy to be engaged in carrying out

various fundraising efforts for the benefit of healthcare and requested other companies to come forward to partner with him and assured that he will do the best during his term as board member with TSHF.

Guests were handed over with pledge sheets and all guests attending the holiday event donated generously.

After the conclusion of the main compassionate event of fundraising activities, the guests were treated with cocktail and an opulent dinner.

Some of the photos taken at the event can be seen here.



Former Deputy Premier George Smitherman



Stan Muthulingam, Co-Chairman and Chief Executive, the CableShoppe



Ted Ross, Media Spokesperson, Emcee for the event



Toronto Centre MPP, Glen Murray



Scarborough-Agincourt MPP and Soo Wong



Anne Marie Males, Vice-President, Patients Experience, TSH



Michael Mazza, President & CEO, TSHF



Ken Kirupa, Ganesan Sugumar, Soo Wong, MPP & Stan Muthulingam



Dr. Pon Sivaji and Ganesan Sugumar



Kula Sellathurai, Mr. Simonpillai from California and Gerrard Simonpillai.



Stan Muthulingam, Michael Mazza, Ganesan Sugumar, Soo Wong, MPP, Dr. Pon Sivaji and Kula Sellathurai



Amalan Mahendran, Kuhan Shivananthan & Ajith Sabaratnam



Stan Muthulingam & Dunstan Peter



Santha Panchalingam, Sritharan Thurairajah, Sasi Kunaratnam & Ken Kirupa



Mr & Mrs. Gunarajah



Mike Ahilan, Ken Kirupa, Sritharan Thurairajah, Jeyakumar Sinnadurai, Santha Panchalingam & Thiru Mahesan



Guests listening to the speaker



## Patient satisfaction on the rise for 4C surgical unit

Changes can make a big difference. That's the experience on 4C at the General campus and its recent patient satisfaction scores.

The unit's score of 83 per cent, after back-to-back quarters of being below the provincial and GTA average, now exceeds both averages. Changing to a daily huddle from a once-a-week meeting that all staff attend, especially nurses who work so closely with the patients, is one of the reasons for the successful turnaround.

"We discuss all the concerns and promptly act on them," says Kristine Smolsky, Patient Care Manager for 4C. "Everyone knows what their role is."

The changes are part of the Model of I-CARE, which she says is part of everything they do.

The focus has also been on increasing communication among staff, as well as between staff and patients and their families.

"We really need to involve the family because they are part of the patient's care," Kristine says. "I always try to tell staff to put themselves in the patient's shoes and provide as much information as possible. We don't want patients and their families going home not knowing

what to do or with unanswered questions."

She says staff are doing a great job educating patients upon discharge.

Staff on the unit are also trying to be as attentive as possible, facilitating patient or family inquires to speak with a doctor, social worker or another health care professional.

Elizabeth Rojo, an RN on the unit, says the changes have been great for staff and patients alike.

"The idea of having the huddles is really good for everybody because we are able to determine what factors are hindering the patient from going home," she says. "And it's a good way of communicating with nurses and other disciplines."

To help patients and families play a role in safety and recovery, a new brochure was developed by surgical services, which is handed out along with the revised Patient Safety Begins With You pamphlet.

Those changes are making a difference as the unit's score on involvement of family and friends has increased in the last quarter to 83.9 per cent from 62.3 per cent a year ago.

Staff morale has also improved with



**RN Elizabeth Rojo checks on 4C surgical patient Dolores Dancy**

the changes.

"We feel good when they're happy," Kristine says. "It makes us satisfied, too."

She attributes the improvements to

the hard work of the entire team.

"It's nice to see the whole team working together," Kristine says.

The unit has a new goal of 90 per cent satisfaction.

## TSH WINS GREEN AWARD AGAIN

The Scarborough Hospital's commitment to going green and using reusable textiles has earned the organization the Booth Centennial Healthcare Linen Services (BCHLS) Green Award for the second year in a row.

In October, the five winning hospitals for the 2012 award were announced, and TSH and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre were the only return winners.

"For us as an organization, this award means we are continuing in the right direction and maintaining our values of accountability and integrity," says Nurallah Rahim, Patient Care Director, Surgical Services, Ortho and Rehab at TSH. "We are pleased to be recognized for our environmental consciousness and fiscal responsibility, while ensuring continued delivery of high-quality care to our patients."

This year TSH was specifically recognized for being the first hospital to embrace the Complete Delivery Hybrid System (CDS), where a hybrid of reusable and disposable supplies are packaged in a customized box that includes prep supplies, reusable and disposable drapes and gowns, patient positioning products, dressing supplies, procedural specific disposables, traditional sterile procedural trays and



**Senior representatives from Booth Centennial Healthcare Linen Services visited TSH to present the hospital with the 2012 Green Award. This is the second year in a row the hospital has received this award for its ongoing commitment to greening our ORs.**

clean-up kits.

"The Scarborough Hospital is a leader in increasing efficiencies to benefit both the environment and

patient care," says Mario Muffo, Manager, Strategic Partnerships-Surgical Solutions at BCHLS. "We are pleased to work in partnership with the

hospital to continue developing and implementing innovative solutions that support greener healthcare."

As technology advances to change the way surgeries are performed, TSH remains current by continuously assessing the ORs and surgical areas of the hospital to determine the level of necessity when it comes to disposable items.

"We are always being challenged to find efficiencies in our current processes," says Kathy Bruce, Patient Care Manager, Surgery at TSH. "The whole team always has their heads together to identify effective ways to reduce waste and enhance patient care."

Packaging of surgical instrumentation was an area where the Sterile Processing Department (SPD) identified an opportunity to improve patient care, improve staff efficiency and reduce the amount of product that went to landfill.

"The reusable textile equivalent to the single use wrappers has proved to be a bonus for us and resulted in an estimated \$10,000 in cost savings," states Ewa Szlachta, Manager SPD at TSH.

She adds that with less time dedicated to opening packaging and overdressing for certain procedures, more time is dedicated to patients.

## Additional Community Information Meetings scheduled

As part of our ongoing efforts to engage with our community about health system transformation and our strategic plan refresh, we are hosting another series of community meetings to share information and gather your feedback.

**The next meetings scheduled are as follows:**

- **January 9, 2013 • 7-9 p.m.**  
Warden Woods Community Centre,  
74 Firvalley Court
- **January 10, 2013 • 7-9 p.m.**  
Malvern Community Centre,  
30 Sewells Road
- **January 14, 2013 • 7-9 p.m.**  
Cedarbrook Community Centre,  
91 Eastpark Boulevard

Each meeting will consist of a presentation and focused group discussions.

These meetings are part of a comprehensive engagement strategy that has included other open community meetings, presentations to the Boards of community agencies and Scarborough Community Council, and meetings with local MPPs.

If you are part of a local group or association that would be interested in scheduling a presentation, please contact us.



## Dr. Finkelstein looking forward to being part of changes, opportunities

With changes coming to healthcare in Ontario and to The Scarborough Hospital, some might shy away from a leadership role, but Dr. Sandy Finkelstein is embracing his.

He was recently named Corporate Chief of Medicine/Medical Director. With nearly 20 years of experience at the Birchmount campus and previously serving as Medical Director of the Medicine Patient Service Group and Co-Chief of Medicine, Dr. Finkelstein knows TSH well.

He accepted the role because after a two-year break from administration, he felt he still has something to contribute and he sees an opportunity in the changes that will unfold in the coming months and years.

“The hospital is now at a great time of change and revision, and while that might make others apprehensive, it’s a great time of opportunity and it’s a chance for the two sites to really come together as one hospital,” he says. “The Strategic Plan Refresh allows us a chance to harmonize some of the services we provide.”

While Dr. Finkelstein doesn’t know what changes are coming, he believes the hospital is ready. And he is ready to play an active role in those discussions and facilitating the changes.

“I didn’t think I could be happy with myself if I sat on the sidelines right now,” he says.

An intensive care specialist and general internist, Dr. Finkelstein has worked at the Birchmount campus since 1993. In his new role, he is looking forward to working with staff from all departments at both sites.

“I wake up every day and come to work happy,” he says. “The staff here is outstanding. They allow me to function at a high level. They’ve become my extended family.”

When he’s not spending time with his extended family, Dr. Finkelstein can be found hiking trails and ravines all around Toronto. He routinely takes 20 km hikes early in the morning, which he says energizes him for his day.

A special hike involves a walk down to Lake Ontario on Sunday mornings.

“It’s a pleasure to get out and see the city in the early morning when the hustle and bustle isn’t there,” he says.

He also enjoys reading and spending time with his wife and three daughters.



Dr. Finkelstein



Guy Bonnell, the Foundation’s Vice President of Community Development, and Scarborough Toyota’s Rob Gardiner drew last year’s winner who was TSH staff member, Ji Han.

## Car Charity Raffle draw on Jan 9th

Are you the lucky winner? Join us at a special event and find out! On January 9 at 6:30 p.m., The Scarborough Hospital Foundation will draw the winners of this year’s Win A Car Charity Raffle.

The draw will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Medical Mall at The Scarborough Hospital’s General campus. So grab your ticket and your lucky charm, and head on down to the hospital. Refreshments will be served.

You could walk away the new owner of:

- A 2013 Toyota Corolla
- One of two cash prizes of \$2,500
- One of 10 iPads

If you are the lucky winner, and not available to attend the event, a representative from the Foundation will contact you via the information you provided when you purchased your ticket.

All those who are able to attend the event will be eligible for a door prize draw.

Proceeds from this year’s raffle will support the Cancer Care program at The Scarborough Hospital and help implement its vision of an integrated program that provides a continuum of care to cancer patients, from screening to treatment.

## The Scarborough Hospital celebrates five consecutive years of HSMR improvements

For the fifth straight year, The Scarborough Hospital has posted a significantly improved Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR) score, adding to its impressive list of improvements to key reporting indicators.

In a report released by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), TSH has posted a 2011-12 HSMR score of 83. The national benchmark is 100—scores lower than that indicate mortality rates are below hospitals’ national experience.

HSMR is considered a “big-dot” summary measure that is used to track a hospital’s mortality over time. The HSMR is a tool that allows hospitals to measure and monitor their progress in quality of care.

“Five consecutive years of improvements to our HSMR score demonstrates a continued and sustained focus on safety and quality of care,” says Dr. John Wright, President and CEO of The Scarborough Hospital. “Our HSMR result is just one more success in a growing list of indicators that demonstrate our commitment to excellence.”

Another report from CIHI earlier this year showed that The Scarborough Hospital had exceeded the national

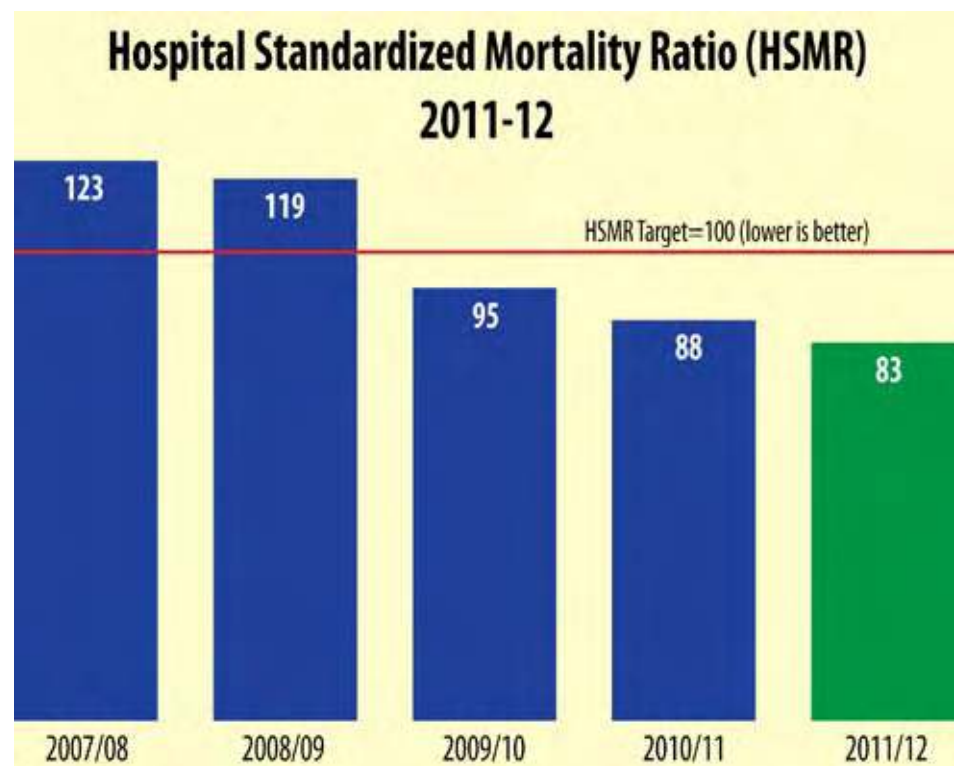
average on 16 of 21 clinical indicators, topping all other Toronto hospitals for quality of patient care.

“Our physicians and staff have done an outstanding job improving our overall quality of care, and HSMR is an excellent example of their efforts,” says Dr. Tom Chan, Chief of Staff. “They have made this hospital a top performer, and our patients can be proud of the quality of care offered right here in our community.”

This year, CIHI revised its methodology for calculating HSMR results, and many hospitals appear to have increased their scores—in fact, results from across the country have increased by about 10 points in light of the re-baselined data. The Scarborough Hospital, however, has actually improved its score from last year’s result of 88.

“Posting a continued improvement in our HSMR score with the new methodology says a great deal about the magnitude of our result,” says Dr. Wright. “We are happy to celebrate this success, but we remain committed to even further improvements in the years to come.”

The Scarborough Hospital’s HSMR results over time are available on our website at <http://www.tsh.to/pages/HSMR>.





# St. Malachy and McDonalds team up for Buy a Bed

St. Malachy's school in Scarborough held a fundraiser at Port Union McDonald's on Nov. 26.

There are 200 students at the school and many of them along with their families, took part, with teachers and other faculty there, behind the counter serving to their students and parents. This is the second time they have held this fundraiser for Rouge Valley Centenary hospital's Buy a Bed campaign. The first event was last April.

Everyone was very pleased with the

evening as a community event and thrilled to support the hospital through the initiative. The location's owners, the Bartletts, were also all there – a wonderful show of support for the hospital, and so welcoming to the St. Malachy community!

The Bartlett family and their McDonald's restaurants have yielded 7 beds for the campaign. Thank you again on behalf of the Foundation to the Bartletts and St. Malachy!



# Risk of pressure ulcers lowers, heart care stronger

## Magazine focuses on value of patient assessment routine, new doctors, & more

# ECHO

FALL 2012

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**NEW PHYSICIANS**  
FOUR NEW DOCTORS JOIN THE ROUGE VALLEY MEDICAL TEAM P.8

**STAFF DONORS CELEBRATED**  
RVHS FOUNDATION THANKS 65 STAFF MEMBERS FOR DONATING TO BUY A BED CAMPAIGN P.6

Getting into the (team) spirit of the season!



See more seasonal pictures of Rouge Valley staff, physicians & volunteers P.9

<b>Access to Care</b>	<b>Service Excellence</b>	<b>Team Engagement</b>	<b>Fiscal Responsibility</b>
WELCOMING PATIENTS WITH NEW CHECK-IN KIOSKS AND ONLINE REGISTRATION P.3	ROUGE VALLEY RECEIVES HIGHEST ACCREDITATION STANDING POSSIBLE P.4	ROUGE VALLEY WINS GOLD QUALITY HEALTHCARE WORKPLACE AWARD P.8	CEO BLOG ON BIG CHANGES NEEDED IN OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM P.11

AND MORE! P.2 Emergency cardiac program keeps getting stronger P.3 New electronic reporting tool tracks patient flow in the emergency department P.4 Quality Corner—Medication Reconciliation P.5 4P Rounding on 3 East unit at RVC | Staff recognition P.6 Tree of Life tribute unveiled P.7 Mayors' Charity Golf Classic raises over \$100,000 | New members join Legacy of Care Society | RVHS Foundation Memorials & Tributes P.9 Respect in the Workplace training P.10 2012 Hands Up Film Festival awards presented to winners | So What Do You Do Around Here?



Get all the latest news about Rouge Valley Health System — including how four “Ps” are helping to improve patient safety and satisfaction — in the new issue of Echo, the hospital’s quarterly magazine.

Learn how hospital staff members on a complex continuing care unit at Rouge Valley Centenary are enhancing patient care with a new daily routine known as 4P rounding, which involves assessing patients for pain, positioning, presentation (making sure everything patients need is within their reach), and personal care. 4P rounding is done hourly during the day and every two hours in the evening and overnight, helping to minimize safety concerns and improve overall care. Some outcomes include fewer patient falls and a lower risk of patients developing pressure ulcers (bed sores).

The Echo also features stories on:

- How Rouge Valley staff members are getting into the (team) spirit of the season;
- Why the hospital’s fast-track cardiac care program is growing even stronger;
- An introduction to physicians who have recently joined the medical team;
- YouTube videos on excellent birthing services at both hospital campuses;
- The President’s Blog on why big changes are needed in health care; and
- How Rouge Valley earned the highest standing from Accreditation Canada.

Copies of the Echo are available throughout the hospital’s two campuses, at area doctors’ offices and online at [www.rougevalley.ca/community-news](http://www.rougevalley.ca/community-news).

ROUGE VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM



Health &amp; Care

## President's Blog - Next Steps - How to organize "the system" for patients and communities – within our means

"We are taking the next steps in the evolution of the health care system at Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) and as with any change process, these first few steps will be among the hardest. We will be analyzing what services our communities need and how best to meet those health care needs within the constraints of the global and Canadian economy and the financial environment in Ontario. I outlined this context in my blog of Nov. 23, 2012.

The changes we are considering will take analysis, careful thought, creativity, open communication, consultation and expedient action to address the burning question: How do we provide the range of services that meet the greatest needs of the communities at the highest quality and in the most fiscally responsible way within our limited resources?"



Read Rik Ganderton's entire blog at <http://rvhsblog.blogspot.ca/2012/12/next-steps-how-to-organize-system-for.html>.

## Videos walk parents through modern birthing services

### Video documentary of Rouge Valley services on YouTube

Parents can now get a first-hand walk-through and description of the excellent birthing services, physicians, midwives, staff and facilities at Rouge Valley Health System – without leaving home.

Two three-minute videos feature interviews with doctors, staff and mothers describing their birthing experiences at Rouge Valley Centenary (RVC) in east Toronto, and at Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering (RVAP), in west Durham. The videos, posted on YouTube, provide first-hand accounts by mothers who have had their babies at RVHS, including Olympic bronze medalist Priscilla Lopes-Schliep. The videos also feature interviews with Rouge Valley's physician chiefs of obstetrics and a chief of paediatrics.

More than 3,600 mothers and families come to Rouge Valley's team of physicians, midwives and staff for the birth of their babies each year. The hospital also provides neonatal intensive care services and paediatrics at both hospital campuses, and has the widest range of paediatric subspecialists practicing in a community hospital in the province.

"Choosing a hospital where you want to have your baby isn't always an easy decision," explains Susan Fyfe, program director, women's and children's program, diabetes education and chaplaincy. "Rouge Valley is a wonderful place to welcome your baby into the world. A picture tells a thousand words, so our videos

are an innovative way for expectant parents to get a closer look at our services, and modern facilities."

Viewers of the videos get a detailed tour right from the parking spaces designated for expectant moms, to the birthing rooms, neonatal intensive care services, and paediatric follow-up clinics at Rouge Valley.

"Providing the best patient experience is our commitment to our patients – and our team delivers on that commitment every day to our mothers, babies and families," says Dr. Terry Logaridis, chief of obstetrics and gynecology, RVC.

"We have experienced obstetricians, paediatricians, nursing staff and midwives who provide outstanding patient care. We're proud that these videos show why having your baby at Rouge Valley is the right choice," says Dr. Adebayo Odueke, program chief, obstetrics and gynecology, RVAP.

The videos are posted on Rouge Valley's website and YouTube channel. Check them out at [www.rougevalley.ca/maternal-newborn-videos](http://www.rougevalley.ca/maternal-newborn-videos).

- Want to have an even closer look? -

We also have real-life tours of our facilities. Please call:

• 416-284-8131 ext. 7332 at Rouge Valley Centenary; or

• 905-683-2320 ext. 1226 at Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering.

## Rouge Valley cancer care program grows

### Hospital welcomes additional oncologist



Rouge Valley Health System's (RVHS) oncology program has grown with the addition of medical oncologist Dr. Theepa Sundaralingam.

"The addition of Dr. Sundaralingam to our program represents an expansion of our services for patients receiving cancer care at Rouge Valley. She brings with her a commitment to compassionate patient care, and new energy and vitality," explains Dr. James Chiarotto, medical director, oncology, RVHS.

"Being a physician at RVHS gives me the opportunity to treat a wide range of diseases. It also gives me the opportunity to spend the majority of my time with my patients as their health care provider and advocate, which is one of the main reasons I became a physician," says Dr. Sundaralingam, who will be primarily based at Rouge Valley Centenary (RVC), in east Toronto, which includes a chemotherapy clinic.

Dr. Sundaralingam began her studies at the University of Guelph, where she earned an honours bachelor of science degree in nutrition and nutraceutical science. She earned her medical degree at the University of Toronto, and completed her internal medicine training at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Sundaralingam then returned to Toronto to complete her fellowship in medical oncology at the University of Toronto.

She has recently completed her board examinations and is now certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons as a medical oncologist. Dr. Sundaralingam is trained in the diagnosis and management of all solid tumors and hematologic malignancies, and has a special interest in melanoma. She will focus on patients receiving chemotherapy, as well as selected hematology cases.

#### Cancer care at Rouge Valley

Rouge Valley's cancer care program encompasses a range of services to provide assessment, treatment and follow-up for patients, largely based at RVC, including: the Oncology Treatment Clinic; Thoracic Assessment/Diagnostics Clinic (DAU); Paediatric Oncology Satellite Clinic, in partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children and the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO); Breast Imaging Centre, featuring two new, state-of-the-art digital mammography machines; Radiation Assessment and Evaluation Clinic at Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering in west Durham Region; Pain and Symptom Management Clinic, as well as a team of general practitioners who provide inpatient palliative care consultation services; plus support groups such as Survive N' Thrive for cancer survivors, and the Look Good, Feel Better program.

### Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) - The best at what we do.

RVHS is an excellent acute care community hospital with many programs, including 24/7/365 emergency, obstetrics, paediatrics, surgery, mental health and regional cardiac care. Rouge Valley consists of several health sites, including two community hospital campuses:

Rouge Valley Centenary in east Toronto; and Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering in west Durham. Together, a team of physicians, nurses and many

other professionals care for a broad spectrum of health conditions. Working in consultation and partnership with community members, other hospitals, health care organizations, the Central East Local Health Integration Network and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Rouge Valley continues to improve its programs and cater to the needs of the growing communities of east Toronto, Pickering, Ajax and Whitby.



## Special Feature

# Q & A with Guru Sadhguru Vasudev

A main stress point for any manager or an entrepreneur is to manage peer group relationships. After all, many enterprises start with friends and family. We find that entrepreneurs go through a lot of stress and anxiety when they are building their enterprise, especially when the enterprise is doing well. The whole burden of societal expectations – whether it's from family, friends, or even the media – can be fairly onerous. What advice would you give entrepreneurs who have to deal with balancing relationships at one end and yet keeping the focus on performance?

**Sadhguru:** One thing entrepreneurs should understand is the meaning of being an entrepreneur. An entrepreneur is someone who has chosen to do what he wants with his life. When you're doing what you want with your life, that is the greatest joy that you can have. But slowly, you forget that you are doing what you want. You start working for somebody else's expectations. That's not the way. The meaning of being an entrepreneur is that you are doing what you want to do, and you should continue to do that all your life. Success is not only in terms of size. Success must also be looked at in terms of finding full expression of who you are, your capabilities and your competence. If any human being finds full expression of who he is, always, he will find success. If you compare yourself to somebody in another completely different area or arena of activity, and put the numbers together, those numbers may be bigger – that's not the point. In your area of life, finding full expression is success.

So there is no need to be pressured by peer groups, media, this and that, as long as you are able to find full expression to who you are through the work that you're doing, and above all, establish your way of being. An entrepreneur does something that he cares for, that he wants to do. So it matters to him. His work is important. Once your work is important, the most important thing is, you must work upon yourself. This is completely missing. Managing a business essentially means you are managing thousands of minds. If you can't manage yours, how will you manage theirs? If you manage yours, where is the question of pressure? Where is the question of stress? There is no such thing. Work is not pressure. Work is not stress. It is your inability to manage yourself which is the stress.

### What is Mantra?

**Sadhguru:** Mantra means a sound. Today, modern science sees the whole existence as a vibration. Where there is a vibration, there is bound to be a sound. So that means, the whole existence is a kind of sound, or a complex amalgamation of sounds – the whole existence is an amalgamation of multiple mantras. Of

these, a few mantras or a few sounds have been identified, which could be like keys. If you use them in a certain way, they become a key to open up a different dimension of life and experience within you.

There are different types of mantras. Every mantra activates a particular kind of energy in a different part of the body. Without that necessary awareness, just repeating the sound only brings dullness to the mind. Any repetition of the sound always makes your mind dull. Only when it is done with proper awareness, with exact understanding of what it is, a mantra could be a very powerful means. As a science it is a very powerful dimension, but the way it is being imparted without any necessary basis or without creating the necessary situations, it can cause lots of damage.

Every mantra activates a particular kind of energy in a different part of the body.

Mantras always come from a Sanskrit basis, and the basic aspects of Sanskrit language are so sound sensitive. But when different people speak, each one says it in their own way. If the Bengalis say a mantra, they will say it in their own way. If the Tamil people say it, they say it in another way. If the Americans say it, they will say it in a completely different way. Like this, different people who speak different languages, according to what language they have been used to, tend to distort the mantra, unless real training is imparted. Such training is too exhaustive and people do not have that kind of patience or dedication nowadays because it needs an enormous amount of time and involvement.

Mantras could be an extremely good preparatory step. Just one mantra can do such tremendous things to people. They can be an effective force in creating something but only if they come from that kind of a source where there is a complete understanding of all that is sound. When we say "all that is sound," we are talking about the creation itself. If a mantra comes from that kind of source, with that level of understanding and when the transmission is pure, then mantras can be an effective force.

### What is intensity? How to be always intense?

**Sadhguru:** Life is intensity. Do you see the life within you does not slacken even for a moment? What slackens is your mind and your emotion – sometimes on, sometimes off. Watch the breath, does it ever slacken? If it slackens, it means death, isn't it? When I go on telling you in so many ways to be intense, I am just talking about you becoming like life. Right now, you have given too much significance to the thought and emotion



**Sadhguru Vasudev is a realized master, yogi and mystic, who has founded Isha Foundation, an international public service organization that strives for ultimate human well-being. For world-wide program information, visit [www.ishafoundation.org](http://www.ishafoundation.org)**

**Toronto local contact 1-866-424-ISHA (4742) or email [Toronto@ishafoundation.org](mailto:Toronto@ishafoundation.org)**

that happens within you, not the life that is happening within you. Is your thought more significant than you being alive? The great French philosopher Descartes said, "I think, therefore I am."

Most people believe that they exist only because they are thinking. No, because you exist you may think, or you may not think, isn't it? Your aliveness is far more fundamental and more significant than your thought and emotion. But you only listen to what your thought and emotion are saying. If you go by the process of your life, it is intense whether you are awake or asleep. Is the life within you slackening when you sleep? Otherwise you will not wake up tomorrow morning, if it slackens. No matter what you are doing, whether it is something that you like or not, is your life slackening? No. It is only your mind that says, "I like this, so I will do it with passion. I don't like that, so I will not do it with passion." But your life is not like that, it is always intense.

If you are constantly aware that all the other things are passing things and I am fundamentally life, you will remain intense. There is no other way because life does not know any other way to be. Life is always intense. It is only thought and emotion, which is deceptive.

Life is always intense. It is only thought and emotion, which is deceptive.

When it comes to looking at the nature of your thought or your emotion for that matter, any number of times in your life, it has made you believe so many things and after little bit of time it makes you feel like a fool for what you believed yesterday. Today your emotions tell you that this is the most wonderful man, then tomorrow your emotions tell you that this is the most horrible man and both seemed 100% true. So both your thought and emotion are tremendous instruments of deception. They can make

you believe just about anything.

Just look at your own beliefs – none of them will stand any kind of investigation. If I ask you three questions, your whole belief system will collapse. But your mind will make you believe different things at different stages in your life and firmly believe that is true.

So intensity means just going by the way of life. If you just exist here as life, pure life, it will naturally go to its ultimate nature. You are creating a huge hurdle in the process of life reaching its natural goal by becoming a thought, emotion, ideas, opinions, prejudices, anger, hatred and so many other things. If you just remain a piece of life, you will very naturally reach your ultimate nature.

It is not something that you have to strive for or struggle for. This is the reason I have always been saying – just maintain your intensity, the rest will happen. You do not have to look for the way to heaven. Just maintain your intensity. There is nobody who can either take this life to its ultimate nature or stop it. We can delay it or we can just allow it to go very quickly without any obstructions. This is all we can do.

Any spiritual process is about allowing it to happen as quickly as possible. You do not have to call for gods to come and help you, you just have to become life and nothing but life. If you can just exist here as life is, you will naturally be there.

*Inner Engineering is a program that offers tools to engineer one's self through the inner science of yoga. This program offers keys for meaningful and fulfilling relationships at work, home, community, and most importantly, within one's self. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ishayoga.org/introductory-programs/inner-engineering>. To find out how to participate in the program online, please go to: <http://www.innerengineering.com/>.*





# THAI PONGAL - THE THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL

**To Honour The SUN GOD For The Bountiful Harvest**

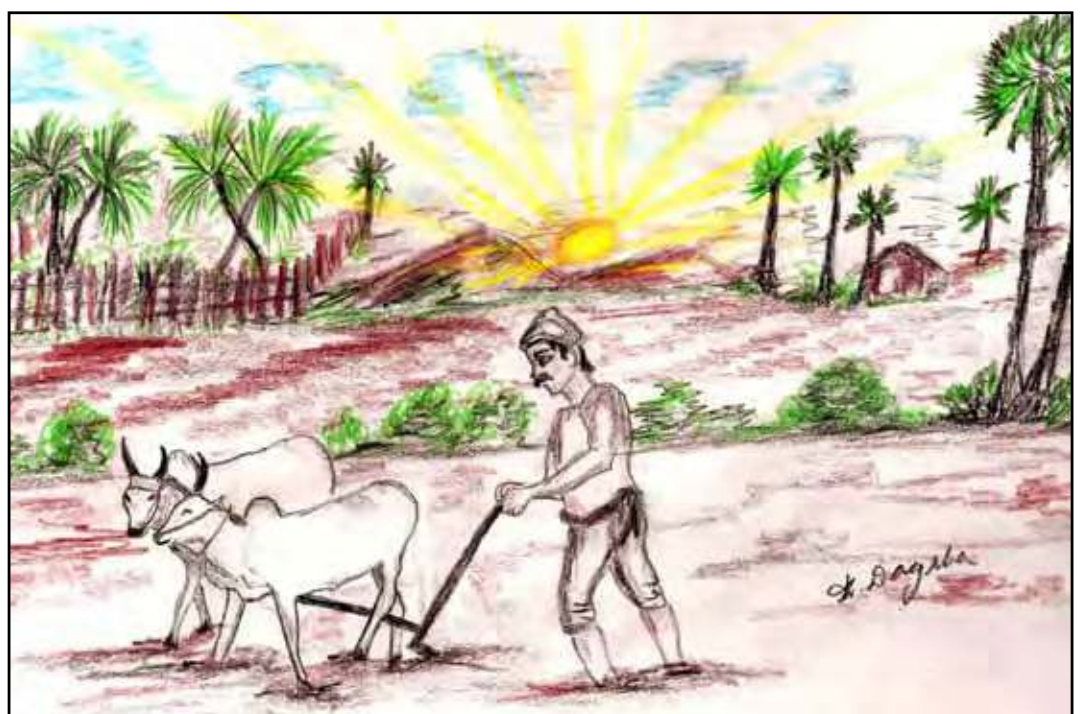
C. Kamalaharan

Thou art the busiest star,  
The source of all life forms.  
Without thee the earth is barren  
Cos' thou art the sustainer of life  
Vaporizing water into the sky  
And showering rain on crops.  
It's thy solar energy that converts  
Water and carbon-di-oxide to food  
In the lush green paddy plants  
Cultivated by the busy farmer.

In return for thy bountiful harvest  
Tamils spread far and wide  
On this auspicious 'Uttarayanam'  
When thee move northward  
And enter the zodiac sign Capricorn  
Celebrate THAI PONGAL on the first of 'Thai'  
The dawn of which opens new avenues,  
By boiling milk in water before mixing rice  
And rejoice as the milk spills over  
Symbolizing prosperity to the household.

Thai pongal is only a family affair  
Without the engagement of a priest.  
Instead the chief occupant takes his role  
While the lady busy at the cooking.  
The boiled rice with the traditional snacks  
While being served on a plantain leaf  
All the occupants circumambulate in piety  
Along the 'kolum' periphery in single file  
Offering flowers, singing 'Thevarams'  
And invoking thee for copious harvest.

Yet, thou art received with mixed feelings  
In cold climes during weather changes:  
In summer thou art warmly received  
While in winter treated with contempt.  
Yet, unconcerned thee continue to serve  
All living things without prejudice  
Rising at dawn in the eastern sky  
And setting at dusk in the western sky  
In accordance to Nature's law  
Relentlessly throughout eternity.





Special Feature

# CALENDAR- THE STORY OF ITS ORIGIN



Julius Caesar

a leap day is added to February every four years. Hence the Julian year is on average 365.25 days long.

The Julian calendar remained in use into the 20th century in some countries as a national calendar, but it has generally been replaced by the modern Gregorian calendar. It is still used by the Berber people of North Africa and by many national Orthodox churches. Those Orthodox Churches that no longer use Julian calendar typically use the Revised Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar.

## Gregorian calendar



Pope Gregory X111

The Gregorian calendar is the most widely used calendar in the world today. It is a reform of the Julian calendar, first proposed by the Calabarian doctor Aloysius Lilius, and decreed by Pope Gregory X111, for whom it was named, on 24 February 1582 by papal decree. Years in the reformed calendar continued the numbering system of the Julian calendar, which are numbered from the traditional Incarnation year of Jesus, labeled as the "Anno Domini" (AD) era.

The changes made by Pope Gregory also corrected the drift in the civil calendar which arose because the average Julian calendar year was slightly too long. The Gregorian calendar system dealt with the drawbacks in Julian calendar by dropping 10 days to bring the calendar back into synchronization with the seasons, and adopting the following leap year rule:

Every year that is exactly divisible by four is a leap year, except for years that are exactly divisible by 100; the centennial years that are exactly divisible by 400 are still leap years. For example, the year 1900 is not a leap year but the year 2000 is a leap year.

In the Julian calendar, all years exactly divisible by 4 were leap years.

## Determining the length of Day

We measure the length of time from midnight up to the midnight of the following day as one day. But according to astronomers, an indigenous race called Umbri that lived in central Italy during the second

century, defined a day as the time period from noon to the following day noon. Hebrews measured the time period from one sunset to the next sunset as a day. Babylonians, Egyptians Chinese and Hindu priests used to measure the time between two consecutive sun rises as a day.

Thus though all the ancient communities agreed that a day included day time and night time, they differed on how to calculate the length of a day.

## Development of seven day week

Jews introduced the system of measuring time by using a seven day week and it was accepted by Greeks. It is believed that this system arose because each of the four phases of Moon were seven days long and Babylonians considered seven as their holy number.

In any event, a seven day week based on heavenly luminaries eventually diffused both East and West, to the Romans via the Greeks, and to the Japanese via Indians and Chinese.

Hindu civilization employed a seven-day week, mentioned in the Ramayana, a sacred epic written in Sanskrit about 500 BCE, as Bhanu-vaar meaning Sunday, Soma-vaar meaning Moon-day and so forth.

## Evolution of the names of months

The 12 months in a year have been calculated based on the growth phase of Moon. September, October, November and December were named based on the Latin numbering system. July and August were named after the Roman emperors Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar. January and June derived their names from Greek Gods Janus and Juno. March was named after Mars, the Roman God of War. February was named after the Latin term februum, which means purification, via the purification ritual Februa held on February 15 in the old Roman calendar. The derivation of the name (Latin Aprilis) is uncertain. Since most of the Roman months were named in honor of divinities, and as April was sacred to Venus the Goddess of love, it has been suggested that Aprilis was originally her month Aphrilis, from her Greek name Aphrodite. There are no records regarding the origin of the name for the month of May.

## History of change in the number of days in Roman-Gregorian calendars

During the region of Romulus, a year consisted of 10 months and 303 days

In eighth century, Numa Pompilius, the second king of Roman Empire added two more months January and February and created a 12-month calendar consisting of 355 days

After six more centuries, Julius Caesar paid a visit to Egypt and after consulting some scholars decided to introduce some changes in the existing Roman calendar.

With the advise of astronomer Sosigenes of Alexandria new calendar with 365 days was created. It was divided into 12 months, and a leap day added to February every four years.

At the same time the seventh month of the year hitherto known as Quintilis was changed as July in honour of Julius Caesar

Augustus Caesar who ascended into power after the assassination of Julius Caesar changed the name of the eighth month from Sextilis into August in his honour. Also as per his request one day was reduced from February and added to August. As a result the number of days in February was reduced to 29 while the number for August was increased to 31 days.

## Raymond Rajabalan

Calendars have become very closely involved in our lives in some form or other. They have become a useful tool for us to remember the important religious days, keeping appointments, planning various events, scheduling holidays etc

During ancient times men measured time based on the phases of moon and the environmental changes that result from the orbital movements of Sun. With the passage of time, due to the growth of civilization in the various communities throughout the world, a number of improved methods of measuring the time were devised, resulting in the creation of the modern day calendar.

The word calendar owes its origin to the Latin word 'Kalends', meaning a ledger or accounts book. During various stages of the history of mankind, calendars were subjected to various forms of reforms by a number of scholars and astronomers resulting in the development of the modern day Gregorian calendar. This calendar having seven day week helps us to accurately measure the time.

## Evolution of Gregorian calendar



Numa Pompilius

It is generally believed that the first calendar was developed by Egyptians during 2500 B.C. Later on in 713 B.C., Numa Pompilius, the second king of Roman Empire promulgated a calendar reform that adjusted the solar and lunar years and

included the months of January and February in the existing 10-month calendar. This reformed 12 month calendar was used as the official calendar throughout Rome

## Julian calendar

The Julian calendar a reform of the Roman calendar was introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BC and came into force in 45 BC. It was chosen after consultation with the astronomer Sosigenes of Alexandria. It has a regular year of 365 days divided into 12 months, and



## WORDS OF PEACE

# The Divine Is Calling You

"Once," says Maharaji, "a little bunny rabbit was out jumping around when all of a sudden he saw a chicken. The little bunny rabbit was very fascinated by the chicken. The chicken had these pretty feathers. The bunny said to himself, 'Surely if I could be like the chicken, I would be so much better.'

"He noticed that there were a lot of chicken feathers lying around, so he covered himself with them and tried to infiltrate the chicken circle—but he was not successful. The chickens knew that he was no chicken! They would move away from him. This saddened the bunny even more.

"Then one day the bunny came across some butterflies, and he said, 'That's what I want to be like!' So the bunny painted his fur with the same kind of patterns and colors as the butterfly. He tried to fly, but he couldn't fly. He tried to be friends with the butterflies, but he couldn't. He grew even sadder.

"He kept making these attempts not to be himself again and again, because somehow, he could not appreciate his own beauty. He could not appreciate who he was."

This simple story, Maharaji says, reflects the human condition.

To us, he says, "the subject of the stars is infinitely interesting. An exploration of the heavens is infinitely interesting. Our fascination is with things other than ourselves—and yet the answer, the solution to all our questions, lies in the simplicity of understanding ourselves."

Maharaji, who is recognized internationally for his efforts to bring peace, has spent most of his life reaching out to people around the world with an extraordinary message. "The divine," he says, "dwells within you. The peace you are looking for is already inside of you.

"What do I mean by divine? I don't even care if you don't believe in God,"

Maharaji says. "If you're an atheist, fine. You do know there is something big going on. I mean, really big. This earth, just swirling around, at a huge speed—and not even being suspended from a fishing line! Then the moon, and the sun, and billions and trillions of stars, just there. That's what I mean by 'something big going on.'

"There are a lot of beliefs. But what do I know? I know that what is keeping this universe alive is also in me, keeping me alive. That's what I call the divine. My divine. Your divine. Everywhere, turning, burning, changing, creating, destroying, making things happen."

He says it is due to the presence of the divine that anyone is alive and breathing.

"Do you understand the significance of being alive?" Maharaji asks. "This breath comes in and out, courtesy of the divine. Yet we are more fascinated by our everyday agenda and schedule. 'Oh, I



have 76 text messages! People are calling me! That actually makes a lot of people feel good! If there's a day with no messages, it's, 'How come nobody is calling me?'

"The divine is calling you. It just gave you a gift. Did you accept it? It's the ultimate miracle of existence—your existence."

By knowing that divinity within, Maharaji says, we can begin to understand the beauty of being ourselves. When people step into that peace within them, he says, they will feel and experience peace—not a temporary peace, but permanent peace. Finding it is something he can help with.

"It's not that I only talk about this," Maharaji says. "My forte is not in talking. My forte is in letting a person experience what I talk about.

"Every fiber in your body wants to sing with gratitude. Not gratitude for a book, an idea, a thought or a person, but gratitude to the divine. That's why I call the divine divine—because to feel that, to know that, to understand that is the fulfillment of every quest that any human being has had on the face of this Earth."

To learn more about Maharaji, visit:

[www.wpog.org](http://www.wpog.org)

[www.tprf.org](http://www.tprf.org)

[www.maharaji.net](http://www.maharaji.net)

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Special Feature

# Emmanuel: Ensures Peace of Mind Essential for Secure Livelihood: X'Mas Message

By: JJ Atputharajah

The Tamil Christian Church of Canada presented its annual carol service on its third Sunday service at Scarborough. It was a well-organized, devotionally oriented service displaying the talents and resources at the church's command. The Rev. Ben Manickam currently of the Miracle Family Temple, Scarborough gave the message explaining how the presence of God in us will save us from the anxieties and worries of contemporary livelihood. He described how the modern developments exposed the 'uncertainty' of human lives. He referred to the incident at the Newtown, Connecticut, USA and pointed out that the lack of peace of mind in the case of one individual led to the loss of 28 innocent lives. He pointed out that the modern church will have additional responsibilities like psychological and psychiatric counselling to find cure for mental illnesses. He further went on to add that the prediction of the Mayan calendar which said that the world will undergo dramatic change on the 21st of December-probably a hoax- again underlined the need for a closer walk with God.

The film-Year 2012- which portrays of the problems that face humanity in the event of the destruction of the world - creates fear and uncertainty for human lives. Man must continue to be in touch with God all the time if he to have peace

of mind. Jesus-Emmanuel - God with us - is the experience that humans need to lead a secure life. Healing is indeed held as one of the primary functions of the Christian Ministry.

The choir sang several Tamil lyrics to create an atmosphere of devotion and sanctity in the minds of the people who had gathered to worship together. The co-operate worship or 'kuuddo pirathanai' provided the appropriate atmosphere essential for the worship. Several other Tamil lyrics sung to the accompaniment of a variety of musical instruments - both western and eastern - enriched the service.

Special mention should be made of Christy Watson, the music director, his choristers and musicians who gave a very good performance to keep the congregation spell bound and realize the presence of God in their midst. Jeyanthan Anandarajah, the youth co-ordinator utilized his pedagogical skills to present a musical skit portraying the events leading to the Birth of Christ. Excellent sound system and synchronized lightening effects added to the wonderful effect the service had on the participants. The sound technicians Messrs: Sam Gunaseelan, Ahilan Selvaratnam and Praveen Devakadacham spared no pains to provide the appropriate technical background for the excellent presentation of the ' Carol Service-2012' by the Tamil Christian Church of Canada.



## PM Stephen Harper at the Ford Motor Company of Canada Ltd, Oakville



Oakville, Ontario on Jan 4th, 2013, Prime Minister Stephen Harper shakes hands with workers at the Ford Motor Company of Canada Ltd Oakville Assembly Complex.



Oakville, Ontario on Jan 4th, 2013, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces the renewal of the Automotive Innovation Fund (AIF) at the Ford Motor Company of Canada Ltd Oakville Assembly Complex.

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themed for all occasions, to be used throughout the year. The ground floor specialized in Wedding arrangements, samples of elaborate center pieces as well as wedding decor rentals.

All of the pieces were uniquely crafted, in her Japanese and contemporary designs, catering to the current modern trends in the floral world.

Monsoon Journal captured some of the display and brought here to those who could not make it to the unique show. The founder Shiam and her husband greeted all the guests warmly and accompanied them

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### VOICING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

As Tamil Canadians, many of us fled our homeland due to severe human rights violations during a longstanding, bloody civil war – one in which tens of thousands of our people perished. Home to the largest Tamil Diaspora outside of Sri Lanka, Tamil Canadians take our duty to promote human rights and seek justice for those in Sri Lanka very seriously. A big part of our human rights work has been at the UNHRC in Geneva.

In March 2012, the CTC delegation was in full force in Geneva, lobbying various governments and groups to advocate for the passage of the 2012 Resolution on Sri Lanka. In 2012, our team attended all three UNHRC sessions and also took part in Sri Lanka's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in November.

Most recently, CTC organized a press conference in the Canadian Parliament after the release of the Secretary General's Internal Review Panel on UN Action in Sri Lanka. CTC continues to respond to issues affecting Tamils in a quick and efficient manner. CTC has repeatedly called for an independent international investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity during the last stages of the war in Sri Lanka and we will continue to advocate for this in the coming months.

As a follow up to the November release of the UN report, CTC hosted Frances Harrison (author of "Still Counting the Dead") and Beate Arnestad (director of "Silenced Voices") in various forums, including panel discussions and screenings.



### CHAMPIONING FOR CANADIAN CAUSES

While CTC employees, Board of Directors and/or members actively meet or communicate with various bodies including but not limited to other national organizations, members and leaders of political parties, newspaper editors, foreign ministry officials, UN officials, and elected Tamil MPs with the idea of bringing peace and justice to Tamils in Sri Lanka, we also work to give back to this country we have started to call home.

After having organized walk-a-thons for three consecutive years in which we raised over \$130,000 in donations for Sick Kids Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, and



Amnesty International, this year we raised approximately \$50,000 for Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). CTC remains committed to give back to Canada and we will announce the recipient of our 2013 walkathon soon.

This May 2012, given the significance that the month plays in the hearts of many Tamil Canadians, CTC joined the David Suzuki Foundation and successfully planted hundreds of trees. From organizing blood donor clinics, marching in Canada Day parades, to helping the people who arrived on the MV Sun Sea, CTC will always be there.



### CTC REMEMBERS..

CTC has always conducted annual Black July remembrance days and in 2012, we held a captivating panel discussion at the Scarborough Civic Centre. CTC held an all party multi-faith session in the Canadian Parliament entitled "Vanished Voices" to remember the tens of thousands of lives lost in Sri Lanka's war. CTC has also initiated many petition campaigns in the past while being active participants in "Save the Doctors Campaign" and "No to Sri Lanka".

www.blackjuly83.com



### LEGAL CAMPAIGNS

In October 2012, CTC intervened in an appeal at the Supreme Court of Canada concerning the application of s. 34 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA). While the decision has not been rendered yet, CTC remains deeply concerned about the outcome of the appeal as it will have a direct impact on Tamil refugee claimants in Canada. In this light, CTC



has joined academics, political leaders and other NGOs in advocacy campaigns relating to Bill C4 and Bill C-31, legislation aimed to alter refugee laws in Canada.

We have also filed a lawsuit against Rohan Gunaratne, for defamatory statements made against CTC. The lawsuit is in its final stages and CTC is hoping for a favourable decision from the Court in early 2013.



### CTC HONOURS..

In 2012, CTC awarded Captain Gus Dalton, with the Leaders for Change Award in recognition of his courageous rescue of 155 Tamil refugees. 25 years later, CTC still remembers Gus and his crew for saving the lives of people who are now contributing citizens of this great nation.



Our goal for 2013 is to keep pressing the Canadian Government and the international community to call for an independent international investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Sri Lanka. To this end, the March 2013 session of the UNHRC is a crucial one. With your help and support, we will be there so that your voices can be heard in Geneva. CTC will continue to engage with mainstream media and will remain active by submitting op-ed pieces to major Canadian newspapers, as you would have seen through 2012. We will also endeavor to have an all-party group in Ottawa to help us.

Sri Lanka is expected to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from November 15-17, 2013 and CTC intends to oppose this all the way. We will call on State representatives to voice their opinion against this move and CTC will echo our government's call for a boycott. We will write to all 54 countries expressing our views so that your voices can be heard.

As announced in January 2012, the Tamil Community Centre

### PRESERVING TRADITION & LANGUAGE

CTC is honored to be chosen to host the 2013 convention of the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA), a body of more than 40 Tamil organization.



For the past 25 years, FeTNA has been hosting their annual conventions in various cities throughout the USA. For the first time in FeTNA's history, the Convention will be held in a Canadian city. This event brings together Tamils in the USA, Canada, India and the rest of the world. CTC is proud to be hosting this epic cultural event, scheduled to take place from July 5-7, 2013 in the Sony Centre in Toronto. This is a huge undertaking and we will need the help of every Tamil to make this a successful event.



### SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR JACK!

The late Honourable Jack Layton, was awarded the Service Excellence Award in 2012 to honour his lifetime work - a testament to his commitment and devotion to public service. Jack was more than a parliamentarian to Tamil Canadians – he was a dear friend who supported us during difficult times. Jack's son Councillor Mike Layton received the award on his father's behalf.

project is a work in progress and this will remain a priority on our 2013 agenda. Together with many Tamil groups we advocated declaring January a Tamil Heritage day/month in Ontario. The Premier announced it at the CTC Thai Pongal dinner last year and this has passed the first reading in the Ontario parliament.

We will also continue to dialogue with elected Tamil representatives in Sri Lanka to work towards a fair and just solution for Tamils in Sri Lanka so they can live with peace, justice and equality.

It is our sincere hope that every Tamil Canadian will take part in these activities. Together, we can all build a better world for our Tamil brothers and sisters everywhere.

Come help us in any way you can – Speak to us. Volunteer with us. JOIN us.

You can help us sustain these activities and more by becoming a member today! Advertise in the 2013 FETNA convention. Help us by donating towards our projects, including our work at the UN and boycotting CHOGM! We need you to walk with us to keep moving forward!



### TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR EVERYONE

Please visit [www.canadiantamilcongress.ca](http://www.canadiantamilcongress.ca) for more information of upcoming events, projects and how YOU can get involved! We need you! With your help we can achieve even more.

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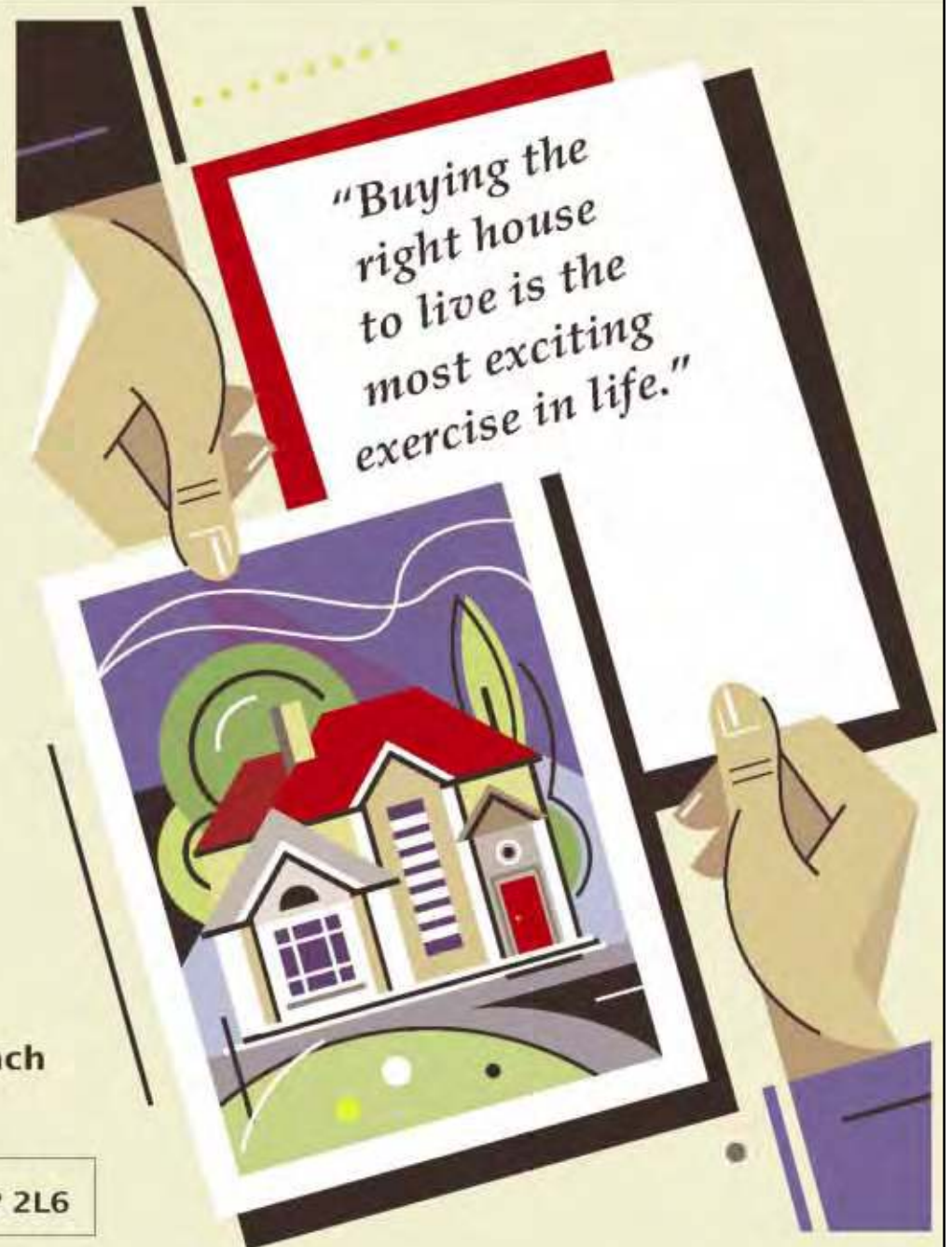
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## Children's Corner

The organization is run by motivated and influential high school students: Kush Thaker from Bill Crothers Secondary School, Steeve Vakeeswaran from Pierre Elliot Trudeau Secondary School, and Justin Leung from Unionville High School. The entire team shares the same undeniable passion of aiding youth and helping them stand out and make their own respective differences in the world.

Can Youth is a non-profit organization based in Markham Ontario that was created by youth for the purpose of serving youth. The fundamental mission of the organization revolves around the rhetorical question; "Can Youth?" As a collective, CanYouth believes that the current generation of youth really CAN make the difference in this world. We believe that youth possess the capacity to instigate positive change in this world and ultimately, we want to help them

about key issues that are important and relevant to youth. CanYouth provides a foundation for youth to express their interests, opinions and ideas collectively as one.

### CanYouth in the future

In the future, CanYouth can envision a prospective bright future filled with growth. We hope to expand our parameters across Canada so that all the youth of the nation can be interconnected. We hope to develop a framework that allows all youth to communicate and voice their opinions collectively as one force, as opposed to a countless number of scattered and diluted powers. In the future, CanYouth will seek to publish a variety of content that pertains to all youth in Canada, as opposed to only in York Region. The organization has confidence that over time, they will develop the influence and prestige needed to truly make an impact and difference in the

students, teachers and parents across Ontario.

*Please see the coverage posted at the end of Dec 31, 2012 by [www.yorkregion.com](http://www.yorkregion.com) regarding the issue with Ontario government and the ETFO/OSSTF.*

### Clock ticking for teachers, students

*Deadline day for deal between teachers, province*

The American "fiscal cliff" isn't the only deadline looming when the clock strikes midnight tonight.

York Region students and teachers are also ringing in the New Year with some trepidation.

If unions don't reach a labour deal with the Education Ministry today, the province has the power, under Bill 115, to impose its two-year "fiscal restraint" contract on teachers — and that has many worried about what lies ahead.

stances faced by school support workers, whose average salary is \$38,000 and who may be laid off multiple times a year.

CUPE members, including educational assistants, early childhood educators, custodians, librarians, instructors and secretaries, have two weeks to ratify the contract following a vote by their union leaders Jan. 5.

The union says it remains opposed to Bill 115, however, and plans to continue with its legal challenge to the bill.

The tentative deal came as a surprise to local York Region union members, who refrained from commenting until contract details are made known next week.

Public elementary and high school teachers remain at a stalemate with Education Minister Laurel Broten. If they don't reach agreements with their local boards by one minute before midnight, she may impose legislation freezing most teachers' pay, limiting their

# Can Youth functions Promoting youth ideas by high school students from Markham

provide themselves with their own unique and individual voices. However, just by looking around at the youth in Canada, CanYouth can already see and witness compelling evidence of effort through the numerous accomplishments and achievements that youth are involved with. This inspires us as an organization and we want to be able to help youth create individual significance and impact. Thus, as an organization, we are motivated by the desire to lend youth a hand by providing them an outlet for their own distinct voices.

### The goals of the organization

CanYouth seeks to support all youth initiatives. We acknowledge the fact that Canadian youth are all diversely talented with their individual own strengths and weaknesses. Whether it be a student's outstanding efforts in helping their community, a newly created organization that provides opportunities for children in third-world countries, or even an individual who has achieved intrinsic success in athletics or arts, CanYouth is proud of it all. As an organization, we support and endorse all of these efforts and landmarks. In turn, we publish this content to our website in order to empower and inspire action among readers who see these living proof examples. We hope that this process can successfully create a chain reaction of influence that revamps the way youth think about their own passions and ideas. By showcasing success, accomplishments and achievements, CanYouth hopes to spark action, and ultimately change. Finally, what sets CanYouth apart from other organizations is their key component regarding youth issues. At CanYouth, talented and influential youth are involved in writing



**Steeve Vakeeswaran, a student leader and co-founder of the youth initiative, CanYouth**

country. Finally, as an organization, we understand that the road ahead will be filled with many obstacles and challenges. However, CanYouth promises to dedicate all their efforts and time into serving youth across the country. We hope that the youth of Canada can accompany and support us through this rewarding journey and experience.

Steeve Vakeeswaran, a student leader and co-founder of the youth initiative, CanYouth ([www.canyouth.ca](http://www.canyouth.ca)) was interviewed by the York Region news concerning the issue that concerns all

"Students have already been held hostage in this dispute. I am concerned," said Steeve Vakeeswaran, a Unionville High School student council leader. "After Dec. 31, we don't know what's further ahead."

The two sides in the labour dispute are at an impasse, but there were signs of movement during the weekend with a tentative deal announced yesterday between 55,000 CUPE education workers. Terri Preston, chairperson of CUPE's bargaining committee, said the agreement addresses the unique circum-

right to strike and ability to bank sick days.

She is expected to reveal her government's next steps Jan. 3.

Any strike activity after the contracts are imposed would be illegal.

Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation has made it clear there will be no extras or voluntary work if the conditions are imposed and the holdout unions have warned they will stage political protests in January.

Mr. Vakeeswaran said students are nervous about what they'll find when they return from Christmas break — an escalation in union tactics or extension of the extra-curriculars ban.

The Grade 12 student, co-founder of CanYouth, which showcases youth success, says he feels badly for Grade 9 students, whose view of school life has been blemished by the lack of clubs and sports.

It's unfair, he said, that they will miss out on opportunities he was able to experience in his four years in secondary school.

"I understand there are much bigger things here, the deficit, macroeconomic issues we have to deal with, but students have had such a huge hit with the loss of extra-curriculars.

We are caught in between."

### Opportunities

With such ambitious goals and motives, CanYouth requires a strong and talented group of student leaders to help manage and innovate it.

Shoot your resume and introduction to [steeve@outlook.com](mailto:steeve@outlook.com) or [kushthaker@gmail.com](mailto:kushthaker@gmail.com)

CanYouth is really flexible and they are ready to work out ways in which you can help!



# What are the necessary steps to maintain peace?

**Essay by: Govind Krishna Kumar Nair  
(Grade 10 RG Student)**

World peace – What many wish for, but few strive for. There are many factors that must be accounted for when on the quest for a peaceful tomorrow. Equal distribution of necessary resources throughout the world will diminish the total amount of conflicts. The union of the numerous political ideals into a hybrid to be followed by all countries would decrease belief-based fighting. Finally, creating an alliance between all countries will reduce international conflicts by instilling the fear of being outnumbered. The struggle for world peace requires multiple sacrifices, from both a personal and political standpoint. However, there are important sacrifices to make, as they will be the foundation for the future of humanity.

The unequal distribution of resources necessary for life is a major cause of conflicts around the world. Many impoverished areas, such as Africa, experience attacks every day for natural resources. Scarcity of food and water leads to civil wars. These wars are fought generally to establish control over any remaining source of the required resource. However,

these civil wars themselves take up large amounts of resources. This in turn increases fighting and depleting even more resources. This deadly cycle leads to poverty and reduces peaceful actions by the people. One of the only solutions is to get more economically developed countries (MEDCs) to provide support to the less economically developed countries (LEDCs) that are also in dire need of resources. It is now not enough to provide financial aid. Countries, such as Canada, with easier accessibility to fresh water can export it to countries in need. Without sacrifices by MEDCs, it is not possible for humanity to further its plans of a peaceful future.

Presently, there are different political ideals for managing a country. This includes democracy, communism, fascism, etc. Much fighting has occurred in the past over conflicting beliefs. The case in point for this is the USSR. After a temporary alliance during World War II to overthrow Hitler's Germany, the US and the USSR came out as the two superpowers as they raced to promote their own ideas. Many proxy wars were fought as a




**Essay competition winner Govind Krishna Kumar Nair, Grade 10 RG Student receiving the award from Mr. S. Selvaretnem, Managing Director, RG Education Centers**

result of this. Countries, such as Afghanistan, were split by the US-supported parties on one side and Soviet-supported troops on the other. Thousands of lives around the world were lost over the course of the cold war. Events such as these can be avoided by creating a singular ideal that is accepted by all countries. A global vote may be held to dictate which policies are to be added. If the majority of people are content with the new ideal, global belief based conflicts will decrease dramatically. Eventually, through multiple revisions, humanity may be able to eradicate wars caused by political differences. There are many sacrifices to be made to ensure the fair treatment of the entire human race. If enough people are willing to give up their own wants, we may be able to create one of the most substantial peace pacts in the history of mankind.

The creation of a singular alliance that encompasses all countries would likely almost eradicate international conflicts. An alliance of this proportion would dampen the likelihood of an international attack. If the alliance is made so that any country that attacks another without reason will be singled out, no country would want to break it. This can be conjoined with a worldwide upgrade of militaristic capacities. This would incite a form of conflict deterrence known as MAD (mutually assured destruction). If two opposing sides have access to weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear weapons, neither party would

want to initiate the fight. Launching the first attack comes with the high risk of a counter-attack of equal or even greater force. If this type of conflict is created, there will be no visitor or hope for an armistice as it would simply result in large scale reciprocated destruction. The idea of the MAD strategy is to prevent wars from forcing a stalemate where neither party may attack without serious consequences. As John F. Kennedy once said, "It is unfortunate that in order to produce peace, we must prepare for war". If countries can look past previous events and work towards peace as a common goal, it will be possible.


Sacrifices are the cornerstones of mutual correspondence within the world. Providing support to LEDCs in need of resources will reduce overall amounts of conflict, especially civil problems. The combination of political ideals to form a superior hybrid will considerably decrease conflicts based on beliefs. The creation of a major alliance involving all 196 countries on Earth would prevent international tensions from escalating. These are all peacekeeping tactics on a macro level. It is equally important to develop peacekeeping on a micro level. For these large scale plans to succeed, it is necessary for each person to realize the importance of maintaining peaceful intentions. It will take great effort and sacrifice, but the results will be exceptional. As the old saying goes, "Anything excellent is as difficult as it is rare."



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## Short Story

### Contd. from December issue

During the journey back to Nallur, Selveratnam simply felt as if he had lost the ability to reason: every which way he took his train of thought, he encountered a stumbling block. He second guessed every decision he had already made and vacillated over the ones he was yet to make: he wondered if he should have told everything about Kumar, then it dawned on him how he could have explained his role in sending Kumar away to India if he had believed in his innocence. He wondered if he should have put all the blame on Kumar, and then, he thought, how he could explain Mala's silence. The only

exchange for Mala's release. He couldn't believe how one's life could spiral out of control even when one strived so hard to distance oneself from the politics du jour.

When he pushed open the gate, the eerie silence ironically reminding of their dogs, smacked him on the face. He could see his wife's haggard face peeking out of a large bandage covering the whole head. She was waiting at the door ever since discharged from the hospital, defying the neighbors and her sister-in-law, yearning for some good news. She always had utmost confidence in her husband's power of persuasion. She believed if he was present during the raid, all these calamities could have been avoided. She was holding the door, straining her eyes,

more of a sticking point. From morning till evening his efforts to get a glimpse of Mala were stymied by the unknown higher forces. He was like a speck in the ocean, tossed around at the whim of its waves. As days rolled over he became more and more desperate, he saw his wife being pushed to the brink of insanity. He saw her withering away right before him and he had no ability to intervene.

A phone call at odd hours makes one jump out of one's skin, expecting bad news. That's what happened that day. Selveratnam hardly got up for the 6 o'clock Puja anymore. It had become a chore to fall asleep and even if he did, he could hardly maintain a decent one with-

past weeks. They had to pass several checkpoints before entering a hallway with offices. Selveratnam assumed that it might be where the high ranking officers were stationed. The stroll through the labyrinthine corridors finally came to an end in front of a large door guarded by two sentries, with whom the corporal had a chat before they took over the task of accompanying Selveratnam beyond the entrance. They frisked him once more before opening the door that led to another door, beyond which more guards appeared blocking the entryway to a large office for the Commander of the Jaffna peninsula. There was another wait and a frisk before he could enter through the final door.

The Commander was a middle aged man who got up and ushered Selveratnam in and made him comfortable in a chair across a large mahogany table. Once Selveratnam took the seat, he went around and took his swivel chair behind the table. And he quickly signaled the sentry away, wanting to be alone with Selveratnam. He then stared at

# THE TRAIL OF TEARS FROM THE LAND OF PALMYRAH

By: SIVAGAMI



way out from this conundrum was to debunk their theory that Mala was closely associated with Kumar, but in his way were these letters. Although they looked authentic, including his daughter's handwriting, he couldn't help wavering about their provenance. He wanted to vigorously challenge their authenticity, but something told him that if the army had the means to get hold of them, they might have more details about their origin and transactions. How to challenge something that he wasn't aware of until a few moments ago. He even wondered if Kumar and Mala were really involved with the LTTE behind his back; he couldn't rule out any possibilities. He felt disgusted suspecting his daughter, but about Kumar he wasn't sure: after all he was foolish enough to attend the meetings and who knew what his true beliefs were. He couldn't help being angry with Kumar for having drawn him and Mala unnecessarily in to this sordid affair. Now his only hope was to pull some strings in the Ministry of Defense and if need be, offer a ransom in

looking for Mala, and a few moments went by before she realized that Selveratnam had failed miserably. Her last hope was dashed and the disappointment was unbearable. She wouldn't wait for his lame explanation; she slowly retreated. Selveratnam knew that no words could console her at that point and when he said loud that he was planning to make more phone calls and was still optimistic, she wouldn't engage in the conversation-- he might as well spoke in to the empty space.

The next two days saw more phone calls with little progress. Everyone Selveratnam spoke to cited the mounting evidence the army was in possession of, including written material incriminating both and eyewitnesses vouching for their culpability. For obvious reasons the identity of the eyewitnesses could not be divulged. Even the ransom was considered beyond the scope, given the evidence pointing towards deep involvement with the LTTE; moreover Kumar being at large made the subject of Mala's release

out myriad interruptions. At times he would stay awake in bed for hours and lately he obtained the most sleep way after the crack of dawn. He looked at the wall clock when he picked up the phone with trepidation. It was 9 o'clock in the morning. The call had come from the army headquarters, asking him to come immediately. The person on the phone refused to give details.

The sun was ascending on the east when Selveratnam got in to the car. Sensing the urgency, the car driver hurriedly pushed the clutch to shift gears and didn't notice the black feral cat leisurely crossing their path. He almost ran over it. Selveratnam though sat quietly in the car; oblivious to the outside events. His mind was blank; he stopped speculating the outcome after so many disappointments. He had reached a point that no disappointment could make him more numb than he already was. But the driver couldn't be impervious by the cat crossing their path that early in the morning, considered a bad omen especially when one was about to start the day. However he was careful not to talk about its negative implication with Selveratnam. The car rattled along the road toward the army headquarters that had become so familiar to him during the past few weeks. He knew the drill when he reached the sentry tower. The army in turn showed less fuss when they saw the familiar figure walking towards them. After the initial formalities he was seated, waiting for the arrival of the officer. He was prepared for the usual long wait. But that day it was cut short by the early arrival of the officer, who sounded kinder than usual. He wondered if he was hallucinating. The first time in weeks he was taken beyond the moat in to the Fort, something he was praying for all these

Selveratnam nervously without saying anything. He looked as if he was not prepared to have a small talk but to deliver a message of paramount importance, but didn't know how. He cleared his throat several times, more like a nervous tic in preparation. Then he blurted out the message. Alas, even before the whole sentence was complete, Selveratnam was on the floor. He was unconscious with eyes rolling up and spittle running down his chin. The crash had brought the guards in and all were busy trying to revive him. Selveratnam hadn't even heard the latter part of the statement as to how Mala had died. It would have been beyond anyone's comprehension, even for people who didn't know Mala personally, how she could have concealed the cyanide for such a long time under the custody of the army, let alone using it to commit suicide. The question why would have only raised more questions than giving any answers. As soon as Selveratnam regained consciousness he insisted on seeing the body. Reluctantly the army complied, but placed several conditions: one was brevity on the viewing itself and the other was the refusal to handing over the body, citing the probable outcry over martyrdom resulting in an uptick in insurgency. They promised to perform postmortem in Colombo and cremate at government expense and handover the ashes on a future date. They brushed off the shouts and the howls of Selveratnam as manifestations of denial and hysteria. His howling of "you will pay for it" ricocheted from the granite walls of the Fort, made out of stones from the sixteenth century Nallur Temple, defiled and dismantled by the Portuguese and echoed around its corridors.

Continued in  
February 2013 issue...



Everything was over yesterday.

Verni and Parthipan went to the crematorium to get the ashes.

The Swedish citizen, who is in charge of the crematorium, had many files heaped on his desk. He was a heavy built man and had a pipe in his mouth.

"We can issue your mother's ashes on three conditions" he said. Verni looked up. "First of all if you are going to dissolve it in the sea, as per our law you have to get permission from the Ministry of Churches. Second you have to dissolve it about two hundred meters away from the beach."

"How do you expect us to travel that distance, by swimming?" Parthipan impatiently asked him.

"No, you can hire a boat or throw it into the sea, when travelling on the ship going from Sweden to Denmark."

"We could have pushed your mother alive into the sea instead of this."

"Please keep quite for a moment" said Verni.

"Can we stop the car on to a side on the bridge spanning over the sea from Sweden and throw it?" Parthipan started

"Please tell us an alternate suggestion."

"You could buy a small piece of land and bury this urn and then erect a tomb stone on it. You could come here on her remembrance day and pray."

"Don't agree to this. It will cost you at least ten thousand Crones. In our Sri Lanka currency it will amount to Two Hundred Thousand rupees. We could buy a small plot of land there. The fellow running the tomb stone business may be giving this guy a commission."

"It is not suitable to our culture. Our body made up of the five elements fire, water, air, land and sky must be returned to them." Verni remembered what he learnt in his Hinduism class in grade ten and told the Officer.

"I don't think we can achieve anything. I am also getting late to work. Your people who came for the funeral, has gone sight-seeing. They will return saying that they are hungry and whether you have cooked for them. I wonder whether they came to attend the funeral or to tour Sweden. Your brother's daughter is asking that she wants to taste the

are travelling and give us the particulars of your Passport and the time of travelling. We will hand over the urn at that time. We must make it sure you are travelling with it."

"Don't you believe us?" Parthipan was agitated.

"We believed you in the eighties. Later we noticed your doughnut like stuffs, puffed up cookies, young coconuts, flowers and the rest floating in our beaches, visited by our tourists. You have polluted our beaches".

Verni and Parthipan bent down and was silent.

At last they signed on the application form to get permission from the ministry, agreeing to dissolve it two hundred meters from the beach. They paid three hundred Crones for that as fees. (Rupees 5778.37 in Sri Lanka currency).

"Let your mom get peace and blessings in heaven".

Parthipan looked at Verni. She was bent down and tears came out from her eyes.

"We should not have brought mother here" she told her to herself.

"Where do you get these young coconuts from?" he asked as they were about to leave.

"We are importing from Thailand"

per that Verni got a full day and Parthipan half a day's leave.

But they had accumulated leave to go to Sri Lanka and hence Verni took four days and Parthipan four and a half days and attended to all the formalities. In between they had their usual quarrels.

"Sister is blessed to attend to mom's last rites" so saying many times her older brother spent a week with them and left for London not sharing in the funeral expenses.

"What we earn there is not enough for mortgage and children's tutor's fees. Now four of us came here on no pay leave, travelling by plane is an additional expense" said sister in law now and then like a movie trailer. Parthipan expected this climax of non payment for funeral expenses.

This was part of the reason for Verni to get mad at Parthipan sometimes.

Today Verni returned to work. Co workers expressed their sympathy in two or three sentences and went back to their computers. Around 8.30 an email was sent to all the employees from the Director.

Verni's co worker Metra lost her dog suddenly, which she was very fond of and is suffering from pain of mind and in deep sorrow, hence the administration is

# ASHES

Original in Tamil by Vasanthi - (Sweden)  
English version by Thuraiyuraan



thinking.

"No, that is an express highway. If you stop the car for no reason, you may have to pay a heavy penalty"

"Your Mom is making us to spend more money than she was alive".

"Why, you bought your new car from her social assistance money? She never knew that she is getting social assistance, till her death. She used to get money from me as though getting alms and sent it to our village temple." Verni wiped her eyes.

"Don't worry. Death may occur to any one at any time. We never knew at what time, what rose, we pluck from a garden for God's puja." the officer turned a priest for a moment and advised Verni.

food in McDonalds. Are they adding human flesh in Sweden and beef in London. I don't think your brother bought anything in McDonalds for them."

"Please stop for a moment slandering about our people."

"I think your husband is in a hurry". Even though he did not understand Tamil. The officer was able to guess from his behavior.

"No" said Verni to pacify him.

"The third alternative will be to carry this to your country and perform the rites as you like."

"You agree to that and later we can throw it somewhere"

"Ok we will do it like that" said Verni. "You have to let us know when you

said Parthipan with pride.

"Instead of drinking them you are pouring on the dead body. You smear them with red and yellow colors and keep them at the inter-sections. It is funny."

"You had better come. If we stay back we may have to dissolve his ashes along with your mother's too." Parthipan pulled her hand and started leaving.

"We can't understand them" the officer told his new girlfriend and his Secretary Rita. Luckily Parthipan didn't hear that.

For the death of close relatives like husband, wife and children one day leave and for parents, siblings, former husband or wife to attend the funeral service at the church half a day leave was given. As

granting her a week's leave. She will return to work on Monday after the funeral on Friday.

During the lunch break the entire talk was about Metra's dog. No one was worried about Verni's mom. Since she did not like to stay there for long, left for her seat.

Verni remembered the dog well. Metra was on two weeks leave last summer. She visited the office one day and showed her dog to every one. They all caressed and kissed it. Verni was the only one who stood there looking at it.

The dog felt thirsty. Metra went to the kitchen and brought water in a big white bowl every one used. The dog licked water from it. Verni felt uneasy and felt like throwing out. From that day whenever the bowl was used to prepare food by others, she refrained from eating it by saying she is fasting. How long she can carry on saying this. So one day she went to office early and threw it into the garbage bin. She felt relieved.

When Verni returned to work next Monday, the entire office was busy. All of them were standing around Metra and was expressing their condolences and inquiring about her dog and it's last days. She was boasting of cremating it instead of burying and they gave her part of the ashes in a white crucible and she paid 300 Crones (Rs.60,000) for it. She had that small crucible hanging from her neck on a black thread. All of them were touching it and admiring it.

Verni said her condolences and went to her seat.



# Sporting highlights of 2012



**April 8th - The green jacket is presented to Bubba Watson at the 2012 Master Tournament following his defeat of Louis Oosthuizen at the second playoff hole**



**June 21st - LeBron James takes the position as King of the NBA when the Miami Heat defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder to win the 2012 NBA Finals**



**July 31st - Michael Phelps wins gold in the men's 4 x 200m freestyle relay to claim his 19th Olympic medal, making him the most successful athlete of all time**



**August 9th - Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt breaks the Olympic record for a second straight time to win Gold in the 100m Men's Final**



**October 3rd - Miguel Cabrera finishes the 2012 MLB Season leading the league with 44 HRs, 149 RBI and a .330 average to capture the rarely seen Triple Crown**



**October 7th - The West Indians celebrated in Gangnam Style as they defeated Sri Lanka to win the World Twenty20 cricket finals**



**October 14th - Felix Baumgartner sets world sky diving record jumping an estimated 39 kilometres during the Red Bull Stratos**



**November 25th - Toronto Argonauts knock off the Calgary Stampeders to win the 100th Grey Cup in front of home crowd**



**December 23rd - Perhaps the greatest batsman of all time, Sachin Tendulkar retires from ODI cricket after a long and illustrious career**



# Florida's Housing Market Continues Upswing

[ORLANDO, Fla., Dec. 20, 2012] Closed sales, pending sales, median prices and average prices rose in Florida's housing market in November, while the inventory of homes and condos for sale shrunk, according to the latest housing data released by Florida Realtors®.

"The sizzle is back," said 2012 Florida Realtors President Summer Greene, describing the state of Florida's real estate market. "With home sales strongly trending up and the supply of homes for sale drying up, the market is hot. And we expect these trends to continue into 2013 with the jobs market improving, low

price for single-family existing homes in October was \$341,370; in Massachusetts, it was \$287,000; in Maryland, it was \$239,802; and in New York, it was \$209,000.

The median is the midpoint; half the homes sold for more, half for less. Housing industry analysts note that sales of foreclosures and other distressed properties continue to downwardly distort the median price because they generally sell at a discount relative to traditional homes.

Looking at Florida's year-to-year comparison for sales of townhome-condos, a total of 8,079 units sold statewide

last month, up 18.3 percent compared to November 2011. Meanwhile, pending sales for townhome-condos in November increased 30 percent compared to the year-ago figure. The statewide median for townhome-condo properties was \$112,000, up 23.1 percent over the previous year. NAR reported that the national median existing condo price in October 2012 was \$177,500.

The inventory for single-family homes stood at a 5.1-months' supply in November; inventory for townhome-condo properties was at a 5.3 months' supply, according to Florida Realtors. Industry analysts note that a 5.5-months'

supply symbolically represents a market balanced between buyers and sellers.

"Particularly striking in this market is the degree to which prices have risen," said Florida Realtors Chief Economist Dr. John Tuccillo. "This might be expected to be the case for median prices as investors absorb the inventory at the lower end of the market, but average prices are up dramatically as well – and that suggests we're seeing real appreciation occur in the marketplace, another sign of how solid Florida's real estate recovery has become."

[Media release by [floridarealtors.org](http://floridarealtors.org)]



mortgage rates continuing and consumer confidence getting stronger." Greene is regional manager of Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Florida 1st in Fort Lauderdale.

Statewide closed sales of existing single-family homes totaled 17,072 in November, up 24.4 percent compared to the year-ago figure, according to data from Florida Realtors Industry Data and Analysis department and vendor partner 10K Research and Marketing. Closed sales typically occur 30 to 90 days after sales contracts are written.

Meanwhile, pending sales – contracts that are signed but not yet completed or closed – for existing single-family homes last month rose 45.8 percent over the previous November. The statewide median sales price for single-family existing homes in November was \$150,000, up 11.2 percent from a year ago.

According to the National Association of Realtors® (NAR), the national median sales price for existing single-family homes in October 2012 was \$178,700, up 10.9 percent from the previous year. In California, the statewide median sales

## Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac Mortgage Serious Delinquency rates declined in November 2012

Fannie Mae reported that the Single-Family Serious Delinquency rate declined in November to 3.30% from 3.35% October. The serious delinquency rate is down from 4.00% in November last year, and this is the lowest level since March 2009.

The Fannie Mae serious delinquency rate peaked in February 2010 at 5.59%.

Freddie Mac reported that the Single-Family serious delinquency rate declined in November to 3.25% from 3.31%, in October. Freddie's rate is down from 3.57% in November 2011, and this is the lowest level since August 2009. Freddie's serious delinquency rate peaked in February 2010 at 4.20%.

Note: These are mortgage loans that are "three monthly payments or more

past due or in foreclosure".

In 2009, Fannie's serious delinquency rate increased faster than Freddie's rate. Since then, Fannie's rate has been falling faster - and now the rates are at about the same level.

Although this indicates ongoing progress, the "normal" serious delinquency rate is under 1%. At this pace, it will take several years until the rates are back to normal.

Courtesy: Calculated Risk: Real: Bill McBride (author since Jan 2005)

A full time blogger, Mr. McBride retired as a senior executive from a small public company in the '90s. Mr. McBride holds an MBA from the University of California, Irvine, and has a background in management, finance and economics.

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MANAGING YOUR MONEY

# Recipe for Financial Success in 2013

David Joseph M.A. (Economics)

A new year and a time for renewal—the time when many people look into their past and future and resolve to make changes for the better. Your overall quality of life is directly related to the overall quality of your finances so getting your financial life in order should be near the top of your list. Here are ten essential financial planning tips to make that resolution a reality in 2013.

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

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

3. Maximize RRSP contribution: Investing in RRSP eligible investments is the best tax-sheltered savings builder

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for most Canadians. Strive to make maximum contribution for faster and bigger potential investment growth. If you are having trouble coming up with enough money to fill your available RRSP eligible investment contribution room this year or if you have got unused room from previous years, an RRSP loan may be a smart strategy. The keys to the success of a top-up RRSP loan strategy are: Repay the loan as quickly as possible-preferably one year but, in most circumstances no longer than two years. Use your RRSP-related tax return to pay down your loan.

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

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

luxuries dressed up as necessities.

6. Check and revise your insurance coverage to match changing needs: As your life changes your need for income protection and estate planning changes. Be sure your insurance coverage keep pace. A common rule of thumb suggests you should maintain life insurance coverage equal to ten times your income. However the danger of a 'rule of thumb' is that it does not account for an individual's age, stage of life, or personal and family circumstances. Instead of relying on a 'rule of thumb' that may not apply to you, you'd be well advised to complete a thorough needs analysis with the assistance of a financial planner.

7. Make 'tax-efficient' investment decisions: Certain investments are more tax-efficient than others. For example, interest income is taxed significantly higher than dividends and capital gains-so it's often better to hold investments that earn dividends and capital gains outside your RRSP eligible investments and interest-earning investments inside



it. Take advantage of the Tax-Free Savings Plan (TFSA) eligible investments, which allows investment income to grow and be eventually received on a tax-free basis.

8. Establish an asset allocation plan that complements your financial planning needs: An effective asset allocation plan delivers a portfolio that includes the right balance of assets from the three categories-cash, fixed income investments and equities for steadier long-term growth.

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

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

**Disclaimer:**

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

## Setting up Small Business - Three ways

By Jay Wigna

Entrepreneurs would have to think about how to set up the small business. All businesses need a legal structure. We will discuss the three main legal entities you can choose from: Sole Proprietorship, Partnership and Incorporation. Each has advantages and disadvantages. Now we will briefly touch base on each of them with their own advantages and disadvantages.

Sole proprietorship is the cheapest, easiest and simplest, because there's very little you need to do except set up shop and go to work. This has immediate tax implications. You need to track all your business income and expenses, no matter how large or small. You'll need to report all your business revenue as personal income, something that could lead you into a higher tax bracket, but you will be able to deduct expenses incurred for business purposes. This can include

# TAX POINTS

things like the costs associated with the portion of your house where you run the business.

The biggest downside to operating this way is that it does not insulate your personal affairs from the business. If you owe creditors money, or if you get successfully sued, your creditors may target your personal property as they attempt to collect.

Second method of choosing the set-up is called Partnership. Partnership, just as it sounds, involves jointly owning a business with at least one other person. As with sole proprietorship, to make it happen, you need only go to work with your partner or partners. Provinces have legislation that govern the rules, but if you want to go this route, you should really consider meeting with a lawyer to draft a "partnership agreement." This is basically a rule book that sets out things like how business decisions will get made or what should happen if a partner wants

to quit. If this is how you want to organize your business, this is something you should seriously consider early in the game.

Note that there are some professions that may be organized as partnerships, such as law or accounting firms. These tend to use a more elaborate structure, such as "limited partnerships," which blend the advantages of partnership with some of the protections you can obtain through incorporation.

The third method is called Incorporation. Incorporation involves the



creation of a separate legal entity that can hold all of the business assets and liabilities. This gives the business owners technically, the shareholders of the corporation, a protection against any problems that might attach to the corporation.

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# Derivatives and Capital Market

**Arun Senathirajah**

ACIB, MBA (Banking Mgmt)

Even at times of fiscal cliff, capital turbulence, sovereign debt crisis or sub-prime mortgage crisis derivatives have helped to save the financial markets. Like knives, derivatives come in all shapes and sizes. In kitchen you can butter toast or cut steaks using the knives, nonetheless if put in the wrong hands, knives can lead to minor cuts, or even serious crimes. Today's sophisticated international markets have helped foster the rapid growth in derivative instruments. Many derivative products like options, futures, and swaps have served a useful purpose for decades. Derivative trading goes as far back as Greek and Roman times when derivative-like contracts were used for crop insurance and shipping purposes. In the U.S., options derivatives became legitimized under the Investment Act of 1934 before subsequently being introduced on the Chicago Board Options Exchange in 1973. Since then, the investment banks and other financial players have created other standardized derivative products like futures, and interest rate swaps. Securitization and other derivative products serve a healthy and useful purpose towards the aim of creating more efficient financial markets – especially when it comes to hedging.

## Benefits of Derivatives

In the hands of knowledgeable investors, derivatives can derive profit from changes in interest rates and equity markets around the world, currency exchange rate shifts, and changes in global supply and demand for commodities such as agricultural products, pre-

cious and industrial metals, and energy products such as oil and natural gas. Derivative instruments available to a traditional portfolio of investments can provide global diversification in financial instruments and currencies, help hedge against inflation and deflation, and generate returns that are not correlated with more traditional investments. The two most recognized benefits attributed to derivative instruments are price discovery and risk management.

Price Discovery Futures market prices depend on a continuous flow of information from around the world and require a high degree of transparency. A broad range of factors (climatic conditions, political situations, debt default, refugee displacement, land reclamation and environmental health, for example) impact supply and demand of assets (commodities in particular) - and thus the current and future prices of the underlying asset on which the derivative contract is based. This kind of information and the way people absorb it constantly changes the price of a commodity. This process is known as price discovery. With some futures markets, the underlying assets can be geographically dispersed, having many spot (or current) prices in existence. The price of the contract with the shortest time to expiration often serves as a proxy for the underlying asset. Second, the price of all future contracts serve as prices that can be accepted by those who trade the contracts in lieu of facing the risk of uncertain future prices. Options also aid in price discovery, not in absolute price terms, but in the way the market participants view the volatility of the markets. This is because options are



a different form of hedging in that they protect investors against losses while allowing them to participate in the asset's gains. If investors think that the markets will be volatile, the prices of options contracts will increase.

Risk Management Risk Management could be the most important purpose of the derivatives market. Risk management is the process of identifying the desired level of risk, identifying the actual level of risk and altering the latter to equal the former. This process can fall into the categories of hedging and speculation. Hedging has traditionally been defined as a strategy for reducing the risk in holding a market position while speculation referred to taking a position in the way the markets will move. Today, hedging and speculation strategies, along with derivatives, are useful tools or techniques that enable companies and investors to more effectively manage risk. Market Efficiency For example, investors who want exposure to the S&P 500 can buy an S&P 500 stock index fund or replicate the fund by buying S&P 500 futures and investing in risk-free bonds. Either of these methods will give them exposure to the index without the

expense of purchasing all the underlying assets in the S&P 500. If the cost of implementing these two strategies is the same, investors will be neutral as to which they choose. If there is a discrepancy between the prices, investors will sell the richer asset and buy the cheaper one until prices reach equilibrium. In this context, derivatives create market efficiency.

Reduction in Market Transaction Costs Because derivatives are a form of insurance or risk management, the cost of trading in them has to be low or investors will not find it economically sound to purchase such "insurance" for their positions

## Leverage in Securities Trading

Derivative products allows to buy higher priced stocks or underlying asset at a lower cost using the premiums paid in the derivative contracts depending on the type of products chosen. Hedge funds often leverage their assets by using derivatives. A fund might get any gains or losses on \$20 million worth of crude oil by posting \$1 million of cash as margin.

## Conclusion

Risk is an essential yet precarious element of investing. Regardless of what kind of investor one aims to be, having a basic knowledge of hedging strategies will lead to better awareness of how investors and companies work to protect them. Whether or not you decide to start practicing the intricate uses of derivatives, learning about how hedging works will help advance your understanding of the market, which will always help you be a better investor.

## TAX POINTS

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The term described as "limited liability corporations," it is being referred to this structure's ability to cap the shareholders' risk exposure at the extent at which they've invested into the business.

Incorporation involves few more paper work that involves preparing annual financial statements, corporate tax returns, updating minute books etc. For a home-based business that's picking up limited revenue from sales on the Internet or at flea markets, and if you're able to fund your activities from your own limited cash flow, perhaps incorporation isn't worth it.

A big part of the decision will depend on your personal tax situation. It might make a lot of sense to keep your busi-

ness income parked within the corporation, rather than adding it into your personal revenue stream for tax reasons. Incorporating might also open the door to some small business tax credits. Though incorporation offers a lot of protection, keep in mind that personal liability can attach to a lot of things. A common example is that if you seek financing, your lenders might demand that you provide a personal guarantee on the funds.

You would definitely talk to your accountant to determine the right time to incorporate your business, whether to do it when you start your business or at a later time. There could be tax advantages depending on your situation as to when you should incorporate.

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# Jaffna Central Nite 2012 in Toronto held on Nov 2012 at Claireport

Photo Courtesy: Digital Gnane





Recent Events

# York Region Senior Tamils committee celebrated Deepavali festival

York Region Senior Tamils committee celebrated Deepavali festival on 2nd Dec 2012 at Rouge River Community hall in Richmond Hill.

The function started with Canadian National Anthem, followed by Tamil Thai Valthu and two minutes silent to Honor the past people.

It was really a wonderful day with

some activities, like small children group dance, nice karnatic songs and some speeches.

The senior members belongs to that centre gave a nice kolattam dance and a villupattu.

Some of the photos taken at the event can be seen here.



Here are a few memories captured at Promar Ltd.'s Customer Appreciation Night held on December 22nd, 2012.

# KAMAL, THE MAN ON A MISSION



## Cinema & Entertainment



The wait is finally over. The much-awaited audio of Kamal Haasan's *Viswaroopam* was launched in a gala manner in Chennai on Dec 7th evening in the presence of who's who of Tamil cinema.

The audio release itself was unique in that it was held at three venues in Tamilnadu on a single day.

Kamal, who is donning the lead role and also directing the movie, must have been a rather busy man as he was venue-hopping, so to speak.

The audio was launched first in Madurai, then he headed to Coimbatore before the grand finale in Chennai. Maestro Ilayaraja, veteran filmmaker Bharathiraja, directors N Lingusamy, Dharani, A R Murugadoss, Santhanbharathy, producer UTV Dhananjayan, thespian Sivaji Ganesan's sons Ramkumar and Prabhu were among those present at the function. Fans of the actor thronged in large numbers to make it a special occasion.

The music composer trio of Shankar, Ehsaan and Loy were present and said they were humbled by the presence of Ilayaraja at the event. Kamal made a grand entry on the stage along with the two lead ladies Andrea and Pooja Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion, Kamal Haasan, said, '*Viswaroopam* is a novel attempt which he had made keeping faith in his fans. I know that they would welcome any new attempt'.

The actor - director said that his fans are always receptive to new attempts and it gives him the courage to try innovative things on screen.

He further said that the movie has come good and reiterated that the adulation from his fans keeps him going.

On Ilayaraja, Kamal Haasan said, it was appropriate for him to release the first copy of the audio as he always considers his elder brother to release the audio'.

On his part, Bharathiraja, said, 'Kamal Haasan's dedication and commitment to excel is well known. At a time when every other actor would hesitate to the role of Sappani in 16 Vayathinalae, Kamal had the guts to take it.

He has knocked the doors of Hollywood now bringing joy to millions of Tamils. He is a pride of Tamils and needs to be celebrated, Bharathiraja added.

Shankar Ehsaan Loy described it as an unforgettable experience working with a legend like Kamal Haasan.

- newstodaynet

## Kamal Hassan in 'Viswaroopam'

## Kamal Haasan justifies decision to release film first on DTH



Unfazed by opposition from theatre-owners against his decision to release his Tamil film '*Viswaroopam*' on Direct-To-Home (DTH) platform also, veteran actor Kamal Hassan Friday said the effort was an "evolutionary growth" and insisted it was the "way to go forward."

Seeking to assuage any apprehension, he said the effort of monetising his film has been done in a way without disturbing the "ecosystem of the cinema business."

Announcing a tie-up with Airtel DTH, one of the firms that will telecast his film on January 10, next year, he said the film would be released in 390-odd theatres but the aim was to take it to 450 in the state.

"Like satellite television this (effort of releasing the movie on DTH) is an evolutionary growth... The monetisation is very well-planned and we debated it with DTH companies without disturbing the ecosystem of the (cinema) business. This is the way to go

forward," the '*Sadma*' star said.

The opposition came from those who were not screening the movie, he said.

He claimed this was a 'first-of-its-kind' initiative across the globe and said it was in no way an experiment as "we are making use of the technology and money which is already there."

In such a case the content developer will also benefit monetarily and enough anti-piracy technology has been incorporated, he said.

There would be no advertisement and the movie will be shown by five DTH providers on January 10, a day ahead of the film's release in theatre, he added.

Theatre owners are up in arms against the national award winning actor's decision to release the film on DTH, and have been threatening to boycott his movies.

The film stars among others actor Rahul Bose, filmmaker Shekhar Kapoor and Andrea Jeremiah.

- PTI

## Vidya Balan weds Siddharth Roy Kapoor



Bollywood actress Vidya Balan and Siddharth Roy Kapur at their wedding ceremony in Bandra, Mumbai

Bollywood actress Vidya Balan tied the knot with UTV head Siddharth Roy Kapoor on Dec 14 in a ceremony which saw a mix of both Punjabi and Tamil traditions.

The wedding rituals went on for over an hour at the well-decorated Green Mile Bungalow in Bandra in the presence of family members of the bride and groom.

"The wedding ceremony is a mix of both Punjabi and Tamil traditions. The food served is South Indian," a source close to Vidya told PTI.

The 34-year-old actress underwent three changes in costume during the wedding ceremony, one of them being a mustard saree with a pink blouse, matching the 38-year-old groom's yellow kurta and pink turban.

The wedding festivities for the couple began on December 11 with a private dinner which was followed by a mehendi ceremony on December 12.

Vidya, who never confirmed rumours about her relationship with Siddharth, stayed mum about her wedding as well and the celebrations are being kept as private as possible.

The '*Kahaani*' actress, who was born in Kerala and grew up in Mumbai, made her Bollywood debut with the 2005 film '*Parineeta*'

## SUNNY LEONE WANTS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN BOLLYWOOD

After making her debut in Bollywood this year, porn star-turned-actress Sunny Leone wants to be taken seriously in the industry.

The 31-year-old star of Pooja Bhatt's erotic thriller *Jism 2* said she is ready to learn and work hard as long as she gets the right kind of roles.

"I am not a veteran actress. I am just one film old. But I am ready to learn, I am a good learner. I want people to take me seriously. I want to be offered good roles in film so that I get the opportunity to prove myself. I am a no drama person and I want to work with people who are like that," Leone said.

She has already signed her second Bollywood assignment - Ekta Kapoor's horror movie *Ragini MMS 2*. She will start shooting for the film from January 1, 2013.

The Indo-Canadian star will be giving her first live dance performance this new year's eve at an event organised by Studio 169 in the capital. When asked if she is open to do item numbers in Bollywood, she said, "Well why not? Item numbers are important in Bollywood and they are fun to do."

Leone also said her porn star career has been a topic of discussion in India ever since she landed here but her image will change in people's mind with time.

"I am aware that I have a particular image here. There is a perception about me. But I don't really worry about it. I am very confident about myself. I don't want to change anyone's mindset. I don't care what they think about me. But I am hopeful that it will change with time," she said.

When asked who she admires the most among Bollywood actresses, she said, "It has to be Vidya Balan. She is a no frills actress. Her acting is so real. She has proved that actresses are not required to be a glam doll to survive in Bollywood. It is inspirational."

Leone, who rose to fame in India after participating in *Bigg Boss 5*, says the reality show was a turning point in her career.

"I love *Bigg Boss*. My career took a 360 degree turn after participating in the show. The love that I got from the Indian fans after the show is mind blowing. I cannot thank the show enough," she said.



Sunny Leone

## SIVAJI 3D, A VISUAL SPLENDOUR

Everything involving Rajnikanth always arouses curiosity. The man of many hits, who celebrated his 63rd birthday on 12 December, should be a happy man now.

His 2007 blockbuster *Sivaji* is back and in a new form to cast its spell on fans. Thanks to advancements in its technology, the film is all set to scorch the screen in 3D format thanks to AVM, famed producers of Tamil film industry and visual effects giant Prasad.

Directed by Shankar, the film features Rajnikanth, Shriya, Suman and Vivek in the lead. Remember it raked in moolah at the box office, just like any other Rajnikanth film released then.

With the likes of K V Anand behind the camera, Rahman scoring the music and Sujatha penning the dialogues, the mass entertainer was adored and admired by all.

Five years later, now comes *Sivaji* in 3D. The high point is that it has proved that Kollywood technicians are on par with Hollywood as far as 3D conversion is concerned. Thanks to good work by Prasad EFX, pioneers in 3D, Real Image and the support of AVM, the film is a treat for Rajni fans.

It was all about one man's fight against corruption to create an equitable society. Trimmed by half an hour, the 3D version is racy and entertaining with amazing visual effects. The real experience of watching Rajnikanth so close to their seats is what the film ultimately provides.

If the future of cinema is 3D, the name in Tamil cinema AVM has already embraced the change and makes a perfect start



Rajnikanth

- newstodaynet

## Bollywood Reacts to Delhi Gang Rape

Actor Amitabh Bachchan expressed his anger over the Dec. 15 gang rape of a Delhi student in a moving bus, saying that even an animal wouldn't behave in such a manner.

"Wanted to say so much of the day but so disturbed by the gang rape case in Delhi. Atrocious and unforgivable. The fear of system, of order, of conduct guided by justice, is fast disappearing," tweeted Bachchan.

The victim, a 23-year-old paramedical student, was gang raped and brutally assaulted in a moving bus by four men who also attacked her male friend and threw both of them out of the vehicle. Actress Priyanka Chopra also tweeted about the incident. "This is not just a crime against women. It's a crime against society. With so much being said about how women need to dress appropriately or behave appropriately, I find this whole dialogue absurd," said Chopra.

"Midnight's Children" filmmaker Deepa Mehta said that Delhi is nothing like it used to be before. "How can someone commit such a horrific crime? In my days, Delhi was nothing like this and we never feared going out alone or in a group. But today things have become horrible here," said Mehta.

Other film personalities like Bipasha Basu, R. Madhavan, Dia Mirza and Anupam Kher vented their ire on Twitter.

"Disturbing and horrifying news all over. Wish that our world were a better place. Wish someone could really heal the world," tweeted Basu.

Shah Rukh Khan posted on Facebook, "If we dont punish the rapists then rightfully we will be punished...soon....very soon...when this inhuman crime hits our homes and families [sic]."

- PTI



# TAMILS CHAMBER HOSTS HOLIDAY BUSINESS MIXER IN PEEL REGION

A holiday business mixer amidst the seasonal glitz was hosted by Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce on December 13, 2012 at the Grand Victorian Convention Centre, Radisson Plaza Mississauga - Toronto Airport. It is the first members networking event by the newly elected board of Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) and President Sritharan Thurairajah.

Sritharan Thurairajah pledged to hold an event in Peel Region as part of the "Five Point Plan" he proposed during the annual general elections held on Oct 27th last year and it was full filled during the holiday season.

The event was attended by well over 100 members and guests. There were 3 presentations for the evening sponsored by Century 21 Rouge Realty, The All Boys Autism School and Minnal TV and informative sessions were held by all three sponsors.

Attendees at the event had the opportunity to hear directly about the impact of 'Real Estate to the Economy' by Brian Rushton, Senior Vice President, Operations for Century 21. The presentation was with courtesy of Century 21 Rough Realty, an independently owned and operated Real Estate Brokerage run by a team of dedicated and trusted professionals backed by the internationally renowned and reputed Century 21 brand.

Several other members introduced their businesses and offered to network with rest of the members.

(CTCC) Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce was formed by a group of visionaries in 1991 - to develop and foster entrepreneurship among the Tamil business community that has been growing rapidly within the Canadian economy since those early years.

Some of the photos taken at the event can be seen here.

*Photo courtesy: Digital Gnane*





# CENTURY 21 ROUGE REALTY INC. CELEBRATES ANNUAL AWARDS FUNCTION-2012

Century 21 Rouge Realty Inc. celebrated its Annual Awards & end of the year function last month with a large guest turnout at the J&J Swagat Banquet & Convention Centre in Markham.

Century 21 Rouge Realty Inc. is an independently owned and operated Real Estate Brokerage run by a team of dedicated and trusted professionals backed by the internationally renowned and reputed Century 21 brand image which maintains a strong presence in the Real Estate market. The Company has 7,500 independently owned & operated broker offices worldwide.

Century 21 Rouge Realty Inc. is at present staffed by a dedicated team numbering several members who have earned the trust, respect and confidence of the public who wish to have the services of a Real Estate agent when it comes to buying or selling a home. The company operates all over the province of Ontario covering both residential and commercial properties. The Company provides professional training to both existing members of the team and to those newcomers who wish to make

Real Estate business their career. It is expected that by 2013 the team would be increased in number.

Last month's awards function started off with Krishni Narine functioning as the MC for the show and the guests were entertained to light music before the presentation of the Awards.

**This year's Award winners were the following:**

- Top Producer: **Selvan Puvaneswaranathan**
- Top Rookie Award: **Thakshaan Jayaranjan**
- Achievement Award Winners:
  - Thas Vallipuram**
  - Praba Kandasamy**
  - Suba Aynkharan**
  - Herman Anton Hunte**
  - Yoga Sivagnanasundaram**
  - Chandrew Chandrasekar**
  - Agnelo Almeida**

Also top 5 producers were awarded with Mini iPad

sponsored by Law office of Gary Anandasangaree, Senthuran Sooriyakumar, TD, Senthuran Punithavel, the Co operators, TJ Manoharan, a buyer's choice Home Inspections and Jeya Selvaratnam, Reliable Professional Home Inspection services.

Logan Velumailum who is the Broker of Record for the Company welcomed the guests and briefed the guests about the Company and thanked the sponsors and those who made presentation of the Awards. Logan is gifted with several years of experience in the Real Estate business and is now with Century 21 Rouge Realty Inc. He has been actively engaged with the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce since its inception and was President two times and a Board Member for several years. His wealth of business experience and knowledge flows from his experience in client services for nearly twenty-years, originally in Insurance and later in Real Estate.

Guests were entertained to a sumptuous dinner at the end of the proceedings of the function.

Seen here are pictures taken at the Event.

Courtesy: Ninaivukal & Digital Gname



Lawyers Abi Singam & Gary Anandasangaree and Lathan



Rajeef Koneswaran with his brother Vijay and his family



Rouge Realty Salespersons, Mansoor Bajwa, Joey Quiambao and Rajeef Koneswaran with Senthuran Sooroyakumar, Mortgage Specialist, TD



Rajeef Koneswaran with his parents



Mohan Thurairajah, a guest at the function receiving a door prize from Lawyer Abi Singam sponsored by Kokul Kumaraswamy, Mortgage Specialist, RBC Royal Bank



Mike Ahilan, Senior Mortgage Specialist, RBC & Santha Panchalingam, President, Santha Electrical & Plumbing



TD Bank's Small Business Advisor Moon Mahalingam sponsors a door prize and presents to a guest Vijayakumar Ratnasingam, the winner



Akila Senthil, Mortgage Broker & Gname Gnanendran, Photography & Graphic Consultant



Guests at function, Lathan, Vince Sinnadurai, CIBC and Realtor Sasi Kunaratnam



Thusy Thurairatnam from Print Fast & Karuna Vincent from Digi Media



Buffet Dinner in progress



Elanko Rathnasabapathe, Kumar of Cash Point & Vijay Senathirajah



Rajeef Koneswaran with his brothers Ranjit and Vijay



TJ Manoharan, Home Inspection Services and guest



Rajeef Koneswaran with his family



Dance performance



Rajeef Koneswaran with Vince Sinnadurai, Senior Mortgage Specialist, CIBC



Vince Sinnadurai, Senior Mortgage Specialist, CIBC & Abi Singam, Barrister & Solicitor



Neil Anandarajah, IT, Senthuran Sooriyakumar, Mortgage Specialist, TD & Moon Mahalingam, Small Business Advisor, TD



# CENTURY 21 ROUGE REALTY INC. CELEBRATES ANNUAL AWARDS FUNCTION-2012



Rajeef Koneswaran & Logan Velumailum from Century 21 Rouge Realty



Top Producer Award winner Selvan Puvaneswaranathan receives award Gary Anandasangaree from Law office of Gary Anandasangaree Professional Corporation, Logan Velumailum, Broke of Record on left.



Century 21 Rouge Realty Awards on display



Achievement Award winner Thas Vallipuram receives award from Lawyer Gary Anandasangaree, Logan Velumailum on left



Emcee for the Awards function Krishni Narine, Co-ordinator, Community Development, The Scarborough Hospital Foundation



Achievement Award winner Chandrew Chandrasekar receives award from Mike Ahilan, RBC & Past President, CTCC, Logan Velumailum on left



Achievement Award winner Herman Hunte receives award from Bobby Ramgoolam, Asst Vice President - Home Trust Company, Logan Velumailum on left



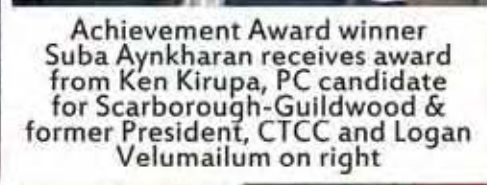
Achievement Award winner Agnelo Almeida receives award from Lawyer Gary Anandasangaree



Staff at Century 21 Rouge Realty, Suganya and Joanne with Rajeef Koneswaran, Broker



Achievement Award winner Yoga Sivagnanasundaram receives award from Bobby Ramgoolam, Asst Vice President - Home Trust Company, Logan Velumailum on right



Achievement Award winner Suba Aynkharan receives award from Ken Kirupa, PC candidate for Scarborough-Guildwood & former President, CTCC and Logan Velumailum on right



TD Bank's Mobile Mortgage Specialist Senthuran Sooriyakumar sponsors a mini iPad to Top Rookie winner Thakshaan Jayaranjan



Senthuran Sooriyakumar, Mortgage Specialist, TD & Moon Mahalingam, Small Business Advisor, TD



TJ Manoharan, Certified Home Inspector from a Buyer's Choice Home Inspections sponsors a mini iPad to Achievement Award winner Praba Kandasamy



Law Office of Gary Anandasangaree sponsors a mini iPad to the Top Producer winner Selvan Puvaneswaranathan



the Co Operators franchise owner Senthuran Punithavel sponsors a mini iPad to Achievement Award winner



Attendees of Century 21 Rouge Realty for the Awards function



Achievement Award winner Praba Kandasamy receives award from Neethan Shan, President of Ontario New Democratic Party, Logan Velumailum on left





# HomeLife/GTA Realty celebrates annual awards nite

HomeLife/GTA Realty celebrated its annual get together and awards nite on Wednesday, Dec 12th at Star Walk Restaurant grandly with attendees by GTA salespersons, their families and many business friends of GTA Realty.

Several salespeople were recognized and the main award winners are given below:

**Top Producer award:**

Nel Ketha

**2nd and 3rd award:**

Raj Paramasamy & Siva Sivagnanam

**Best Sales Rep. Awards by Tridel:**

Sanjay Parisha, Siva Sivagnanam, Thana Suseenthira

**Best Sales Rep. Awards by Concord City:**

Ananthan Arunasalam, Vahini Nithianandan





Recent Events

# 10th Annual Dinner Dance by Sri Lankan Accountants Association of Canada

Sri Lankan Accountants Association hosted its 10th annual dinner dance on Saturday, Dec 1st at New Jaasmin Banquet Hall. The function was attended by members, their families of the association and many others from the community. Guests were entertained with live show by Mega Tuners led by Aravinthan who is also an accountant and a member of the association. It was a memorable evening for the guests as the organizers did their best with entertainment, dinner and dancing to the end.

Some of the photos taken at the event can be seen here.



**SAAC President Pon Sritharan, CGA is addressing the audience**



**SAAC Vice President Ari A. Ariaran, CGA is welcoming the audience**



**Secretary Sherlyne Rasiah, CGA is delivering the vote of thanks**





# Madduvil Welfare Association celebrated its THENAMUTHAM 2012

Madduvil Welfare Association celebrated its THENAMUTHAM 2012 on November 10th 2012. The event was a success and it was fun. This function took place at the Thornhill Presbyterian Church hall. The event began promptly at 7.30 pm and ended at 11.30p.m. The function was attended by many members, youths and children. It was a night filled with great dances, speeches, plays

and singing. The chief guest of this event was Mr. Mohan Subramaniam and our special guest was Ms. Rathika Sitsabaiesan MP. The event ended with Dinner. Monsoon Journal congratulates President Nanthini Wijendran and the board members of Madduvil Welfare Association for organizing a great performance.



# Unveiling of Plaque dedicated to the Senior Tamils Society of Peel by the Credit Valley Hospital Foundation, Mississauga

A ceremony was held in recognition of the donations given by the Senior Tamils Society of Peel, to the Credit Valley Foundation with unveiling of two plaques with the Name "Senior Tamils Society of Peel" inscribed in English and Tamil, one on a bench at the Hospital Garden Terrace and another at Exam Room in Carlo Findal Peel Regional Cancer Centre.

The fund for the donation was collected by conducting Annual Walk-a-Thon since 2003 up to date, and was donated to hospitals and charities. A total of \$ 80,000 was collected from which a major portion was donated to Credit Valley Hospital Foundation that amounted to \$35,456.00

The event was held on Thursday at

10.30 am on November 22, 2012, attended by the Board of Directors, members and past presidents of the Senior Tamils Society of Peel, and the Vice President and other officials of The Credit Valley Foundation.

The main agenda of the event was address by the President STSP Capt S. Santhiapillai, followed by unveiling of the Plaques, handing over of donation for year 2012, by the Vice President and Chairman of the Walk-a-Thon STSP Mr Sathanathan. Receiving the cheque, the Vice President- Credit Valley Foundation Ms Mehagan thanked the members of the STSP for the hard work and all annual contributions to this date, and the function concluded with refreshment.





Recent Events

# Senior Thamils Honoured

Scarborough Senior Thamils' Association honoured twelve Seniors of the Association who reached the age of 75 years as of December, 2012, during the 9th Annual Christmas Day celebration held on 17th December, 2012 at the Recreation Hall of the Neilson Seniors' Apartment at 1315, Neilson Road, Scarborough.

The President of the Association, Mr. Muthiah Thevarajah presided. Hon. Miss Rathika Sitsabaiesan, M.P., Scarborough-Rouge River was the Chief Guest and the Special guests were Hon. Mr. Bas Balkissoon, M.P.P., Scarborough-Rouge River, Toronto City Councillor Dr. Raymond Cho, Ward 42 - Scarborough- Rouge River and Toronto Family Service Development Worker, Mr. Naga Ramalingam. Rev. Dr. Vinsen Samuel, Head of the Tamil Christian Church of Canada, Toronto and Mrs. Florence Nightingale Samuel were the Guests of honour at the occasion.

The President and the members of the Executive Committee of the Association honoured all these guests with 'Golden Shawl'. They then presented the twelve members of the Association with 'Platinum Anniversary Medal' and Greeting certificates.

The children and the grand-children of the members participated in the Christmas Day celebration and entertained the Seniors.

Rev. Dr. Vinsen Samuel delivered the Christmas Day message and Mrs. Florence Nightingale Samuel gave away prizes to the participants.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks by the Secretary of the Association, Mrs. Jeyarane Poopalasingham.

Rev. Dr. Vinsen Samuel delivered the Christmas message and Mrs. Florence Nightingale Samuel gave away prizes.

Some of the photos taken at the event can be seen here.



### ONTARIO SRI LANKAN PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION (OSPA)

#### assists Sri Lankan Pensioners

At the Ontario Sri Lankan Pensioners Association (OSPA) Board of Directors meeting held in the Council Chambers in the City Hall at Scarborough Town Centre certain important matters concerning Sri Lanka pension payments and award of pensions were discussed and decisions were taken

- (1) to assist the members to complete and forward the periodic Life Certificates to the appropriate authorities
- (2) to assist the members to obtain the basic pension increases and allowances that have been granted to all pensioners
- (3) to assist those government servants who had served the requisite period for pension entitlement under their contract of employment and failed to obtain the pension award due to displacement and/or for reasons beyond their control.

(4) to assist the spouses of deceased pensioners to obtain payment of Widow and Orphan Pension (W&O.P).

For the purpose of assisting them the members are advised to renew their membership and other pensioners are requested to enroll themselves as members in order for the OSPA to assist them.

The following members of the Board of Directors may be contacted to renew membership or to enroll as a member.

- Regis (President) 647 285 9336, Silva (Vice President) 416 293 8592, Maya (Vice President) 416 291 6667, Thambi (Secretary) 289 997 0934, Thanga (Treasurer) 416 266 7895. Vivega (Asst. Treasurer) 416 296 0136, Mathi (Coordinator) 416 879 6301, Sundar (Asst Coordinator)



# Tamil Heritage Month

Tamils have a rich heritage that has been preserved for thousands of years. As archaeological evidence suggests, The Tamil language, the mother of all Dravidian languages, has been in existence as long ago as 5000 years and serves up until today as a prime medium in which through our heritage exists.

Our Tamil culture literary masterpieces, Silappathikaram, Tolkappium and Tirrukural, our dance, Nattiyam/Koothu, our Tamil classical music, have all added great richness to our heritage. As a Diaspora community, to ensure that our rich culture is continually preserved and protected, it is essential for Tamils to be educated about their

Tamil heritage, and of the richness of our history.

Tamil Heritage Month serves as a month for Tamils to celebrate their culture, traditions, history, literature and festivities, providing both Tamil youth and the mainstream.

"Pongal" the Tamil festival of the harvest season, and is celebrated with cheer and splendor across the Tamil community. Pongal is the embodiment of Tamil culture. It is during Pongal that the best in the nature and the skills of the people are brought out.

Tamil Pongal brings family reunions and get together, forgetting enmities and personal rivalries and March towards

reconciliation. If one has the ability to chase away the darkness of ignorance and arrogance from within one could attain greatness since ones inner beings is resplendent with peace, love and compassion. Indeed in everyone's heart and mind burns a different light that is light of knowledge and warmth of human love and compassion.

This coming year 2013, Tamil cultural and Academic society is going to celebrate their Tamil Heritage month celebration with the following activities:

- Essay competition
- Kolam Competition
- Art Competition

And our grand Pongal event to be

held on 26th of Jan 2012 in Durham.

On behalf of the Tamil community of Durham, TCASD proudly announces that they received the Tamil Heritage month proclamations from the following cities for January 2013:

- City of Pickering
- Town of Ajax
- Town of Whitby
- City of Oshawa

There are many Tamil Heritage month celebrations has been organized for the month of January 2013.

You could find more info on Tamil Heritage month celebration on <http://tamilheritagemonth.com>



தமிழர்கள் வாழும் நாடுகள்

**Town of Ajax**  
By the Lake

The Corporation of the Town of Ajax  
Hereby Proclaims

January 2013

as

Tamil Heritage Month

Presented on Behalf of  
The Mayor and Ajax Council

November 12, 2012  
Date of Recognition

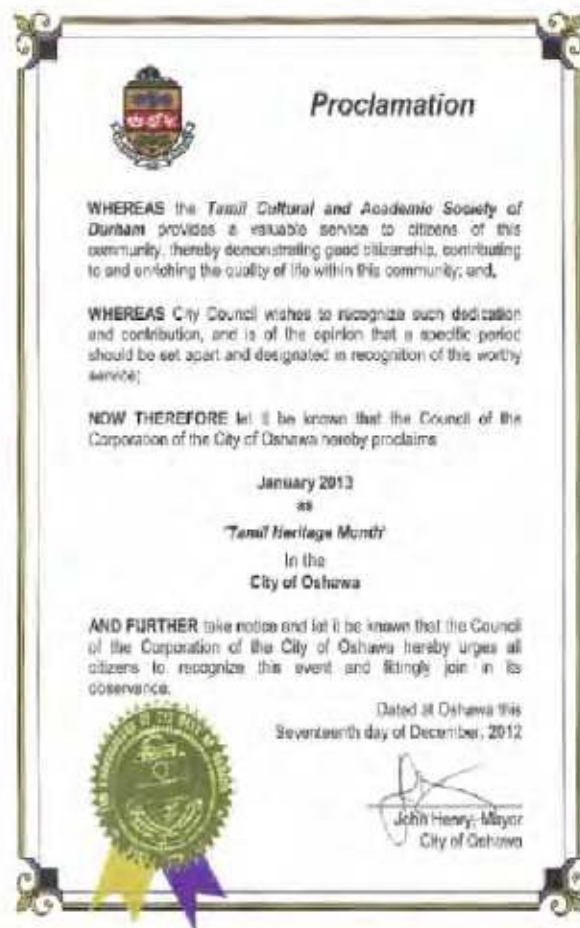
*Steve Parish*  
Mayor Steve Parish

TAMIL POPULATION OUTSIDE OF TAMIL NADU	
-India: 8,000,000 (outside TAMIL NADU)	-Switzerland: 52,000
-Sri Lanka: 2,500,000	-Suriname: 50,000
-Malaysia: 2,100,000	-Indonesia: 50,000
-South Africa: 505,000	-Guadeloupe: 40,000
-Burma: 500,000	-Jamaica: 35,000
-Singapore: 410,000	-Brunei: 25,000
-Canada: 400,000	-Netherlands: 20,000
-United Kingdom: 300,000	-Martinique: 15,000
-Trinidad & Tobago: 250,000	-Norway: 13,000
-United Arab Emirates: 200,000	-Thailand: 10,000
-Saudi Arabia: 200,000	-Maldives: 10,000
-Kuwait: 180,000	-Sweden: 10,000
-United States: 135,000	-Denmark: 9,000
-Mauritius: 130,000	-Bahrain: 7,000
-Reunion: 126,000	-New Zealand: 5,000
-Fiji: 110,000	-China (Hong Kong): 5,000
-France: 105,000	-Seychelles: 4,000
-Guyana: 100,000	-Qatar: 4,000
-Italy: 100,000	-Vietnam: 3,000
-Germany: 65,000	-Cambodia: 1,000
-Australia: 65,000	
<b>TOTAL TAMIL POPULATION OUTSIDE OF TAMIL NADU</b>	<b>16,835,000</b>

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# TCASD Makes a Joyful noise Carol Service 2012

December is the month, where we all celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is not only an important month for Christians, but it is also a month of joyful holidays for all of us. In order to celebrate the importance of this precious month and to appreciate the diversity present in our community, the Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham took part in the Pickering Community's Make a joyful noise Carol Service. The event took place at the Pickering Council Chambers on

the 6th of December 2012. The young singers of TCASD took part in the carol service with such enthusiasm and spread their Christmas spirit to everyone who was present at the event. The young singers were all dressed in red and green and they for sure did take us back to the time in Bethlehem when Christ was born. Some of the songs that were sung are Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer, Jingle Bells, Deck the Halls and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.





# Durham Tamil Association's 12th Annual Kids Christmas Party

Over 120 families including 135 kids and 43 youth participated in Durham Tamil Association's annual kids Christmas party which was held at East Shore Community Center on Saturday December 8, 2012. The 2012 edition was a grand affair with numerous fun activities for the kids. The program started with Christmas Carols trained and conducted by Jeremy and Joshua Francis. 19 children participated in the program and proved their talent in singing. Sarika Navanathan entertained everyone by singing hit Tamil numbers.. Dan Ryan

the magician, swept away the crowd with his numerous magic tricks. In addition, a talented local face painter was on hand to paint faces. She tirelessly painted everyone until the last child. Similarly, a local balloonist Jonathan was on hand to entertain the kids as well. He created balloon animals, flowers and other figures. They both worked away tirelessly despite the never ending line ups.

The highlight of this year's kids Christmas party was the "Joy Christmas Village" and Peace Mountain hand made by Kanga Sivanathan, Karthick Gopal

and Rishi Suresh. Finally, Santa showed with his reindeers and Elves. He brought gifts and candy canes for all the children. Basically, the children were treated to fun and frolic and they had a blast. They had 8 different fun activity stations taken care by our youth. The festive season is all about charity and what better way to share the spirit of giving. Consequently, the children collected toys and food for the not so lucky ones. Shireen Whitmore, a local community activist, baked a gigantic fruit and gummy cake for the children and donat-

ed it to DTA. So, the kids enjoyed Christmas cake, pizza and other short eats. Again, it was our pleasure to welcome our long term patron Corrado of Pizza Pizza for his kind and continuous support. This year, there was a mascot team including reindeer, snowman, penguin and Sheep entertained everyone especially the children by giving away candies and stickers. Thanks to our well wisher Margaret. Finally, this 5 hours of fun event got over with Christmas gift sponsored by Suresh Sellathurai to all families.



Aditya Ravi getting his face painted by Joanne @ DTA's 12th Annual Kids Christmas Party



All mothers with Santa @ DTA's 12th Annual Kids Christmas Party



Ginger Bread Station @ DTA's 12th Annual Kids Christmas Party



DTA's 12th Annual Kids Christmas Party- 8th Dec 2012



Magician Dan Ryan with DTA's Arani @ DTA's 12th Annual Kids Christmas Party



Paviyan Aravinthan getting gifts from Santa @ DTA's 12th Annual Kids Christmas Party



This year's main attraction being this hand made snow mountain and village by Kanga Siva ,Rishi Suresh & Karthick Gopal



Creative Balloonist Jonathan @ DTA's 12th Annual Kids Christmas Party



DTA's Christmas Carols Team and conductor Jeremy Francis @ DTA's 12th Annual Kids Christmas Party



Recent Events

# Durham Tamil Association's Jingle Bells Team at the Rouge Valley Ajax Hospital

About 19 DTA kids and youth participated in a Christmas Carol program trained and conducted by Jeremy and Joshua Francis. This Jingle Bells Team performed for the patients who were missing their family during this Holiday Season at the Ajax hospital. To entertain and to share the joy of Christmas, DTA Youth organized this program on Dec 16th for the first time. Many patients

were brought to the Hospital cafeteria by their family, who enjoyed this half hour show. Also, DTA was extremely proud to be the pioneers in Durham Region, for initiating it's children and youth to write individual Christmas Greeting Cards for all the 250 patients of Ajax Hospital. All the cards were presented to Mr. David Brazeau.



DTA children & youth wrote 250 Christmas Cards to all the patients @ The Rouge Valley Ajax Hospital 2012



DTA kids singing Christmas Carols @ The Ajax Hospital 2012



Durham Tamil Association's JINGLE BELLS TEAM with conductor Jeremy Francis

# Durham Tamil Association's participation at the Human Rights Forum in Ajax

On Saturday, December 8th, 2012 the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Ajax held a Human Rights Forum to honor the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As part of the forum, Delany Kandiah, one of the Senior Youth Committee made a comprehensive presentation titled "Human Rights in the Making: Let's Make a Difference", which emphasized the importance of Human Rights. Delany's presentation gave significance to why and how Human Rights are a powerful system to empower individuals and our society. She elaborated the need for us humans to understand and value our rights to promote positive movements in our community.

To support her case, Delany analyzed Human Rights in various environments such as schools, the workplace, home, and community. As a Psychology major, Delany also incorporated some terms relating to Human Rights in the eyes on an individual and society. As an individual, these rights work to satisfy a human's basic needs to live and have access to services available in the community. She insisted, as a society, we should maintain and promote Human Rights to spread peace and learn to treat others with respect, fairness, and worthiness. Not only should these rights be used to protect and serve ourselves but, to also help others and change the world. She also pointed out us humans are very social, therefore; we have the need and

love to express our behaviours, feelings, thoughts, and opinions. Through using our individual freedoms, people need to embrace our diverse world and be passionate about helping others. Further, she illustrated the need for youth to advocate the significance of Human Rights through education and community service.

In closing, Delany summarized her presentation as follows: everyone has only one life and we all want a healthy world to live in. Everyone should remember that Human Rights are there to protect you and society, so use them wisely and make a difference. In summary it was a presentation well beyond her years. Everyone who attended the event applauded the performance. A little girl who started as a kid performer eight years ago, skillfully demonstrated that she is well on her way to become future leader. It was truly a proud moment for Durham Tamil Association.

In addition to Delany, seven junior youth participated in the reading of Human Rights declaration. The participants were Jessihan Ravichandran, Keeran Sivanesan, Sarika Navanathan, Geeththanah Gnaneswaran, Ashley Kugaraj and Salini Sivalingam. These youth were talented personalities in various arts and sports activities. They displayed their awards and trophies as per the request made by Human Rights Forum Committee.



Trophies & Awards won By DTA Youth



DELANY KANDIAH of DURHAM TAMIL ASSOCIATION



Participants including Youth of Durham Tamil Association



# Christmas tradition blends in with culture in Waterloo

Waterloo: Christmas is a tradition Waterloo-Guelph Tamil community has been celebrating over the years. The year end celebrations blend in the community sprit and Tamil culture. The celebration took place at Christ Lutheran Church Hall in Waterloo on December 8th.

Rathy Abraham, assistant Secretary of Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region, welcomed the guest and introduced the MC for the day, Miss. Sindhuri Nandhakumar.

Sindhuri commended the Tamil community to give back to the community in

the form of donation or volunteering. Donating food to Cambridge Food bank was the season sprit that needs to be maintained.

Tamil language school children did a Nativity play, which was the highlight of the event. Mrs. Kunamalar, the teacher

commended the students for expressing Tamil language with grace.

Miruthangam and musical programs followed along with a visit from Santa. Dinner was served at the end.

Mr. Peter Braid, MP kitchener - Waterloo was the guest of honor.





Waterloo



Regional News

# BRICs and mortar

By James Jackson, Chronicle staff

A nation once known as the brightest jewel in the English crown is quickly becoming the apple of Waterloo's eye.

From Oct. 29 to Nov. 9, a small group of representatives from Canada's Technology Triangle and Mayor Brenda Halloran were in India for economic talks with some of the country's highest-ranked officials and dignitaries, and the early returns look promising.

"I have to tell you, I was overwhelmed by the response," said John Jung, the CEO of CTT. "We have had numerous emails back and forth talking to partners in the region and over the next few months we will see pieces of this coming to fruition."

While in India, the delegation visited

of global gross domestic product by 2050.

A recent trade mission by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to India reflects the federal government's determination to open doors in the country as well. India was Canada's 15th-largest trading partner in 2010 and, according to Industry Canada, in 2011 Canada traded more than \$5 billion worth of goods with India. Exports alone increased 31 per cent compared to 2010.

Jung and Halloran said India has been high on the list of priorities for the city and local businesses because of its unique connection to Waterloo. The country is one of Research In Motion's fastest-growing markets and in 2011 the Waterloo tech company sold 11 million devices while reeling in 87 per cent year-



City of Waterloo Mayor Brenda Halloran met Savita Gupta (left, South Delhi Mayor), Arti Mehra (former Delhi Mayor) and Meena Aggarwal (Mayor of North Delhi) during her overseas trip to India

some of the country's largest cities, including Delhi and Mumbai.

The trip was part of a globetrotting economic development plan by CTT. Kitchener Mayor Carl Zehr jetted off to Germany with the group last June and was in Brazil last year. Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig was in China in April.

In March the mayors hosted their first summit to discuss the value of sending local politicians on trade missions to burgeoning markets. Their combined efforts have brought 60 major companies to the region, translating into an economic boost of about \$1 billion, CTT said.

Jung acknowledged his firm's decision to target the so-called BRIC nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China) as part of their economic plans for Waterloo. The company has identified more than 240 foreign companies operating in the region and the emerging BRIC nations are poised to be the new economic powers in the coming decades.

Goldman Sachs chair Jim O'Neill coined the concept of the BRICs more than a decade ago and some analysts predict the four countries (along with South Africa) will account for almost 40 per cent

over-year revenue growth.

The region is also home to a burgeoning Indian community. Between 2001 and 2006, more than 2,000 immigrants came to Waterloo Region from India, the most of any country.

China was second over the same period with more than 1,800 new immigrants.

Jung said those ties are so strong one Indian company couldn't wait for the delegation to arrive in October and sent representatives to Waterloo two months early.

The ties also meant CTT and Halloran had the opportunity to talk with senior government officials and participate in closed-door meetings arranged by the federal and provincial governments while they were there.

"Normally that happens over many years of relationship-building," Jung said.

The mayor was particularly struck by the generosity and welcoming nature of India's people. She said strong parallels exist between the City of Waterloo and India, particularly in the technology sector where incubators similar to

# Cambridge Food Bank receives donation from the Tamil community

Waterloo, Dec. 8: When Rathy Abraham, assistant Secretary of Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region, first approached the Cambridge Food Bank about doing a fundraiser for them, she told them she wanted to do something a bit different.

Rathy says they had just the idea. Together they decided to do a Facebook and E-mail campaign and posted a photo of what the Food Bank most needed, ask-

ing people to share that photo with their friends. At the end of the campaign they received food worth of \$500 from the community.

Rajivi Nadarajah, the vice president says the Food Bank is so grateful for all donations at this time of year, but reminds people there is a need the other 11 months of the year as well. Mr. Peter Braid, MP for Kitchener-Waterloo was in hand to wish well to the community.



(From L-R) Suresh Abraham, Prakash Venkataraman, Hon. Peter Braid, MP & Rajivi Nadarajah

Communitech are prevalent.

Yet she also saw the developing side of India — the second-most populous country in the world with 1.2 billion people — and that experience served to reinforce in her mind why the Region and the City of Waterloo need to help in any way possible.

"They are developing so quickly, but there are a lot of challenges," Halloran said. "They don't have a lot of the same social infrastructure that we have and their physical infrastructure is in dire straits."

"There is a lot of garbage and a lot of their roads and sewers are crumbling."

Halloran has ample experience travelling around the world on behalf of Waterloo. In June, she became known as "the auntie mayor" in China when she logged on with the social networking site Sina Weibo, which boasts more than 300 million registered users. She has visited China on several occasions to promote Waterloo and its business community.

In 2009, Waterloo signed a friendship agreement with the municipal government of Chongqing, in Sichuan province,

home to 33 million people and one of China's biggest cities. Since that agreement was signed, numerous Chinese delegations have travelled to the region to explore further economic partnerships, Jung said.

CTT has targeted several sectors in which strong partnerships could be forged with India, Jung said, including information and communication technology, food and good processing including agri-research and food security, as well as clean technology and high-tech manufacturing.

CTT and the city are in the process of arranging a public meeting next month to fully explain the trip and the potential benefits for both the city and the region.

While Jung is excited about the long-term possibilities of Waterloo Region partnering with India — he said the recent trip was among the best of his 30-plus years in the business and more than 100 delegations abroad — he also tempered some of his enthusiasm with one key point.

"Economic development can take years," he said.



## Regional News

### Survey Seeks Input on Communications in Whitby



As Whitby expands and communications methods evolve, the Town is seeking input on the best ways to communicate with its residents, businesses and other stakeholders.

The Town is therefore conducting a Citizen Communications Survey. Community members are encouraged to share feedback about communications in general, what kinds of information they want the Town to provide, and what methods of communications they prefer.

The purpose of implementing this survey is to measure satisfaction with and seek input on potential enhancements to the Town's 'two-way communications' with the community. The results of the survey will be applied to the development of the Town's Corporate Communications Strategy.

The Citizen Communications Survey can be taken online at [www.whitby.ca/citizensurvey](http://www.whitby.ca/citizensurvey) or in person at any Town of Whitby facility. For more information, please email [communications@whitby.ca](mailto:communications@whitby.ca).

### Sustainability: Feed-in Tariff Program

On October 29, 2012, the Council of the Town of Whitby approved the recommended guidelines for 'Requests for Municipal Council Support' and adopted the blanket resolution for Category A projects for renewable energy projects under the Ontario Power Authority's Feed-in Tariff (FIT) 2.0 Program. The sole purpose of this resolution is to enable the applicant to receive priority points under the new FIT Program rules and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of municipal approval in relation to the application or project or any other purpose.

The guidelines for 'Requests for Municipal Council Support', application form and fees are now available on the Sustainability page of the Town's website: [www.whitby.ca](http://www.whitby.ca).

For more information regarding the OPA's Feed-in Tariff program, please visit <http://fit.powerauthority.on.ca>, or email [sustainability@whitby.ca](mailto:sustainability@whitby.ca).

### Proposed Public Nuisance By-law

The Town of Whitby invites the community to comment on the proposed Public Nuisance By-law. The Town of Whitby is considering the implementation of a Public Nuisance By-law in an attempt to mitigate undesirable nuisance behaviour in the Town.

The by-law is being considered as a result of concerns brought forward by the Durham Regional Police Service with respect to disruptive, destructive and occasionally violent behavior in Whitby's downtown. This behavior is primarily taking place on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the late evening and early morning hours.

The proposed by-law will provide the police with the ability to regulate undesirable behavior in public areas of the Town, such as vandalism, carrying open liquor, fighting and urinating in public.

Visit [www.whitby.ca/by-laws](http://www.whitby.ca/by-laws) to read a copy of the proposed Public Nuisance By-law. To obtain a paper copy of the proposed Public Nuisance By-law, please visit the Town of Whitby, By-law Services, 575 Rossland Road East, Lower Level, Whitby, ON L1N 2M8.

If you would like to provide comments on the proposed by-law, please send an email to [bylaw@whitby.ca](mailto:bylaw@whitby.ca), or hand-deliver or mail your comments to the Town of Whitby, By-law Services, 575 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON L1N 2M8.

The comment period closes on January 25, 2013.

### Sports Facility Study

The Town is currently developing terms of reference for a Sports Facility Strategy. This study is intended to provide guidance for the provision of sports facilities over the next 20 years. The strategy must respond to population growth, trends in sports, changing demographics and community fiscal resources. The strategy study is expected to commence in early 2013. For more information, please email [parks.rec@whitby.ca](mailto:parks.rec@whitby.ca) or call 905.430.4310.

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities Observed at Third Annual Town of Whitby Accessibility Event

The Town of Whitby's Accessibility Advisory Committee, in partnership with the Whitby Public Library, hosted its third annual event to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Friday, December 7, 2012.

"The Town of Whitby has adopted one of the most comprehensive Accessibility Standards in the province for both physical space and providing excellent customer service," said Mayor Perkins. "As one of the Town's newest facilities, the Brooklin Community Centre and Library is an excellent example of the Town's commitment to accessibility."

Participants, including a group of Grade 5 students from nearby Meadowcrest Public School, had the opportunity to participate in activities that demonstrated some of the day-to-day challenges faced by people with disabilities. Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee were on hand to discuss the work the Town of Whitby is doing to enhance accessibility for the citizens of Whitby.

"It is our mandate to advise and assist council in developing strategies to identify and eliminate barriers for people of all disabilities," said Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair Richard Turner. "It is especially important for our youth to be introduced to barriers the disabled face in their daily activities. Through events like this we are able to bring first hand, some of the common obstacles faced and how they are dealt with."

For more information on accessibility at the Town of Whitby, please contact Michele Cotton, Accessibility Coordinator, at 905.430.4300 x2331 (TTY 905.430.1942) or email [cottonm@whitby.ca](mailto:cottonm@whitby.ca).



### Parking During Snow Clearing Operations



Please be advised that vehicles are not allowed to park on any road in Whitby between 2:00 and 6:00 a.m. from November 1, 2012, until April 15, 2013.

This parking regulation is designed to keep Whitby's streets clear of vehicles so that snow plow operators can clear away ice and snow quickly and easily during the overnight hours when there is less traffic volume.

In addition to this restriction, vehicles are not permitted to park on the road at any time while the Town's snow plow operators are clearing ice and snow. Vehicles may be ticketed at any time during snow clearing operations, not just when the plow is on the street. If a snowfall is forecast, it's a good idea to move your vehicle off the road.

Please ensure that you follow these regulations and keep vehicles off Whitby's roads. Your cooperation will help speed up snow clearing operations and will make the roads safer for everyone.

For more information, please visit [www.whitby.ca/parking](http://www.whitby.ca/parking).

### Town of Whitby: January Events and Meetings

<http://www.whitby.ca/en/Calendar>

**Planning and Development Committee Meeting**  
January 7, 2013, 7:00–11:00 p.m.

**Special Meeting of Council—Budget**  
January 10, 2013, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

**Operations Committee Meeting**  
January 14, 2013, 7:00–11:00 p.m.

**Management Committee Meeting**

January 15, 2013, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

**Wendy's Free Skate**

January 19, 2013, 2:15–3:15 p.m.

**Special Meeting of Council—Budget**

January 21, 2013, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

**Council Meeting**

January 21, 2013, 7:00–11:00 p.m.

**Planning and Development Committee Meeting**

January 28, 2013, 7:00–11:00 p.m.

**Audit Committee Meeting**

January 29, 2013, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

### Town Departments

#### Contact Information

General: 905.668.5803 • [info@whitby.ca](mailto:info@whitby.ca)

#### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

905.430.4300 • [administrator@whitby.ca](mailto:administrator@whitby.ca)

Public relations, management, financial control, policies, human resources

#### Human Resource Services

905.430.4313 • [jobs@whitby.ca](mailto:jobs@whitby.ca)

#### COMMUNITY AND MARKETING SERVICES

##### Parks and Recreation

905.430.4310 • [parks.rec@whitby.ca](mailto:parks.rec@whitby.ca)

Parks, arenas, pools, recreation programs, health club, Seniors' Activity Centre, sports fields, Port Whitby Marina, community centres, Community Connection, special events, tourism and sponsorship

##### Economic Development

905.430.4303 • [ecdev@whitby.ca](mailto:ecdev@whitby.ca)

Commercial and industrial land and building inventory, industrial directory, community profile, business assistance

##### Corporate Communications

905.430.4300 x7463 • [communications@whitby.ca](mailto:communications@whitby.ca)

Media relations, corporate website, corporate publications, communications policies and procedures

##### CORPORATE SERVICES

905.430.4300 • [treasury@whitby.ca](mailto:treasury@whitby.ca)

905.430.4304 • [tax@whitby.ca](mailto:tax@whitby.ca)

905.430.4315 • [clerk@whitby.ca](mailto:clerk@whitby.ca)

General inquiries, Council/Committee secretariat, municipal information systems, municipal elections, animal services, business, marriage and lottery licences, birth and death registration, records, by-laws, property tax, purchasing and budgets, municipal measures, Town property

#### FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

905.668.3312 • [fire@whitby.ca](mailto:fire@whitby.ca)

Emergency planning procedures, fire suppression, fire prevention, life saving and rescue operations, fire safety education

#### PLANNING

905.430.4306 • [planning@whitby.ca](mailto:planning@whitby.ca)

Planning and development, official plan, zoning, plans of subdivision and condominiums, committee of adjustment, downtown development, revitalization and sustainability, LACAC Heritage Whitby, Accessibility Advisory Committee

#### PUBLIC WORKS

##### Capital and Development Engineering

905.430.4307 • [engineering@whitby.ca](mailto:engineering@whitby.ca)

Engineering review, subdivision and site plan approval, lot grading, road watch program, design of municipal infrastructure, environmental assessments, traffic engineering, construction inspection, bicycle planning, crossing guards

##### Building and By-Law Services

905.430.4305 • [building@whitby.ca](mailto:building@whitby.ca)

Building, plumbing and sign plans examination, permits and building inspections, municipal addressing, municipal law enforcement for property standards, noise, illegal dumping, zoning, signs and parking regulations

##### Asset Management

905.668.3437 • [assetmgmt@whitby.ca](mailto:assetmgmt@whitby.ca)

Life cycle costing, utilities and energy management, construction methods and materials, GIS and inventory data collection

##### Operational Services

905.668.3437 • [operations@whitby.ca](mailto:operations@whitby.ca)

Parks, playground and Town property maintenance, forestry services, horticultural services, maintenance of roads, bridges, sidewalks, boulevards, fences, street lights and parking lots, waste collection, winter control, seniors driveway and windrow clearing program

# MARKHAM

## Regional News

### MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HON. FRANK SCARPITTI



Building Markham's Future Together: We've come a long way and our future looks bright  
Happy New Year – and what a perfect opportunity to celebrate all that we've achieved so far, and set new plans for a bright future ahead.

I personally found 2012 very exciting. We moved from town to city, gained significant new employers, expanded our city's green space and infrastructure, and held important celebrations and festivals where everyone is welcome. Along the way, we won awards for excellence and successfully achieved a Guinness world record.

Our commitment is focused on a sustainable approach. Our long-term strategy, called Building Markham's Future Together, contains six strategic priorities — Growth Management, Transportation and Transit, Leisure, Environment, Diversity, and Municipal Services. We have actions plans for each area.

We're championing projects for our community's liveability and wellbeing from the opening of the largest outdoor skating rink in the GTA at the Civic Centre, to the brand new Cornell Community Centre and Library, to breaking ground for the new Pan Am Centre, to the new Fire Station 99 and the Rodick Road extension, and more.

I'm proud that Markham offers excellent quality for residents and employers alike, with highly accessible community services and beautiful public spaces and places. Building Markham's Future Together means we all have a say in shaping our community. To keep apprised of the latest projects, visit [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca) or join our many public meetings and community events.

*Best wishes for a happy and safe 2013.*



Jolly Old Saint Nick made a stop at the Markham Santa Claus Parade on November 24 before heading up to the North Pole to finalize Christmas preparations.

Olympic Bronze Medalist Mark Oldershaw served as Grand Marshall at Markham's 2012 Santa Claus Parade, lead the parade north on Main Street the chilly morning of November 24.



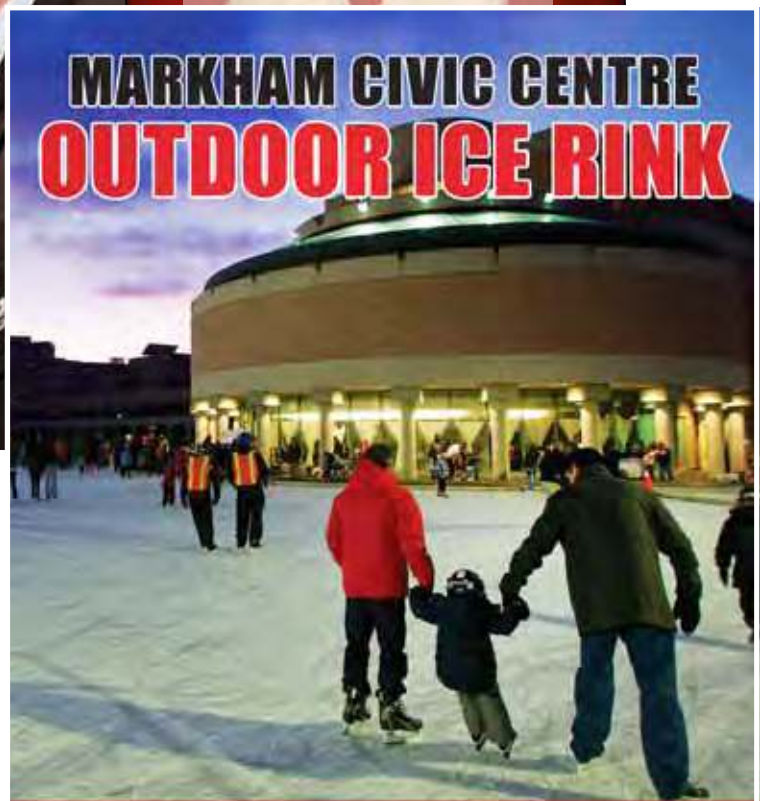
Santa took home two awards including "Best Community Float" at Unionville's 32nd Annual Olde Tyme Christmas and Candlelight Parade on December 7.



The Suburbanaires serenaded guests at the City of Markham's Remembrance Day ceremony at the Flato Markham Theatre on November 9. Residents of every age came out to participate in the event and pay tribute to Canadian veterans.



Nominees gathered with Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Councillor Logan Kanapathi (center left) and Regional Councillor Gord Landon (center right) at the City of Markham's 2012 Achievement & Civic Recognition Awards Gala on November 19 at the Flato Markham Theatre. The ACRA Awards recognize and celebrate residents that have made a unique and outstanding contribution to the community.



**Free Public Skating**  
Monday - Sunday • 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

<b>Skate Rental Hours:</b>	<b>Skate Rental fee:</b>
Fridays 5 - 10 p.m.	Adults \$10
Saturdays 12 noon - 10 p.m.	Children \$5 (helmet incl.)
Sundays 12 noon - 8 p.m.	



9350 Markham Road  
905-294-4576  
[markhammuseum.ca](http://markhammuseum.ca)

## BARNs

Explore the ongoing transformation of agricultural buildings in our community.

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## LIFE IN THREE CENTURIES

1812 1912 2012



Learn about wars, disasters, achievements and novelties over the past 300 years.



# Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces meeting with first nations leadership

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today issued the following statement on a planned meeting with a delegation of First Nations leaders coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations:

“On January 24, 2012, I was pleased to participate in the historic Crown-First Nations Gathering. On that day, the Government of Canada and First Nations committed to making progress in the following areas:

Improving relationships and strong partnerships between Canada and First Nations respectful of Aboriginal and Treaty rights as recognized and affirmed in the Constitution Act, 1982;

Building effective, appropriate, transparent and fully accountable governance structures;

Empowering success of individuals through access to education and opportunity;

Enabling strong, sustainable, and self-sufficient communities;

Creating conditions to accelerate economic development opportunities and maximize benefits for all Canadians;

Respecting the role of First Nations’ culture and language in our history and future.

“The Government and First Nations committed at the Gathering to maintaining the relationship through an ongoing dialogue that outlines clear goals and measures of progress and success. While some progress has been made, there is more that must be done to improve outcomes for First Nations communities across Canada.

“It is in this spirit of ongoing dialogue that, together with Minister Duncan, I will be participating in a working meeting with a delegation of First Nations leaders coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations on January 11, 2013. This working meeting will focus on two areas flowing from the Gathering: the treaty relationship and aboriginal



rights, and economic development.

“The Government of Canada and First Nations have an enduring historic relationship based on mutual respect,

friendship and support. The Government of Canada is committed to strengthening this relationship.”

## Ontario Protecting Consumers Seeking Financial Help

### McGuinty Government Taking Steps to Regulate Debt Settlement Companies



Ontario intends to regulate debt settlement companies to protect consumers from exaggerated claims and abusive practices.

Through new regulations, the government will:

- Ban debt settlement companies from charging up-front fees
- Limit the amount of fees consumers are charged
- Require clear, transparent contracts
- Implement a 10-day cooling-off period.

The government has posted regulatory proposals for public comment.

Taking strong action to protect Ontario consumers is part of the McGuinty government's commitment to educate and protect Ontario families by ensuring a fair, safe and informed mar-

ketplace.

Ontario is joining other provinces like Alberta, Manitoba and Nova Scotia, which have introduced regulations to crack down on debt settlement companies.

There are over 20 debt settlement companies operating in Ontario.

The Ontario Association of Credit Counselling Services receives over 100 complaints about debt settlement companies a month.

Average consumer debt in Ontario is up to \$25,447 in the second quarter of 2012, compared to \$24,721 in the second quarter of 2011.

For every dollar Canadians earn, they have \$1.64 in unsecured debt: Statistics Canada.

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### Life 100 Insurance & Investments Inc. 2012 Events



Best wishes for a happy new year filled with health, happiness, and spectacular success



Best wishes for a happy Thai Pongal and our sincere thanks for your loyalty and goodwill throughout the year



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**When a critical illness strikes, the last thing you want to worry about is money**

We've all thought about our future and we've dreamed about the things we want to accomplish and experience. We also know that life can sometimes take unexpected turns that change our plans.

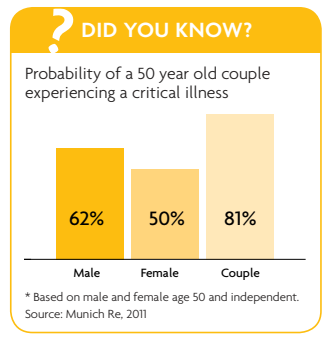
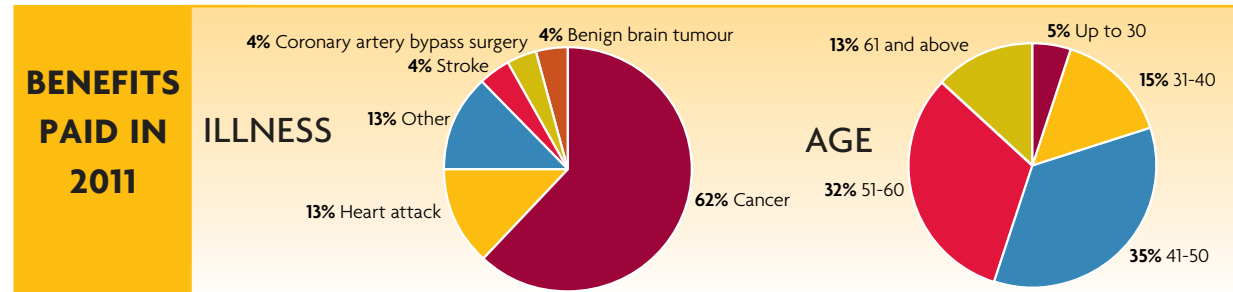
One of those unexpected turns is being diagnosed with an illness. Fortunately, medical advances mean more of us are surviving serious illnesses than ever before. Because the road to recovery can be stressful and costly, the last thing you'd want to worry about when you're recovering is your finances.

**If you were faced with a serious illness, how might your plans and current lifestyle change?**

**What would you choose to do? These are questions worth asking yourself.**

**Helping Canadians focus on recovery, with over \$155 million in claims paid**

Sun Life Financial is here to help. With Sun Life Financial's critical illness insurance, you can concentrate on improving your quality of life if a serious illness takes you by surprise.



**Here are some details on how we helped Canadians in 2011:**

- Our average claim amount paid: \$76,259
- The average age of a benefit recipient: 49
- Claims paid within five years of policy being purchased: 36%

**Questions?**

We're here to help you achieve your goals for the future, with reliable health insurance solutions. Sun Life Financial has been a pioneer in providing critical illness insurance to Canadians for years and we continue to offer innovative solutions to help you achieve lifetime financial security. **Talk to me today about creating a plan for your future.**



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