

A *parfait media publication*

Monsoon

Journal

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Toronto welcomes FeTNA 2013: the largest Tamil convention in North America

By: Manjula Selvarajah

Cue the dancing, singing and plates of hoppers – a scrumptious dish found in local Tamil restaurants.

Thousands of people from Toronto's Tamil community are expected at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts on July 5, 6 and 7 for what organizers are calling the largest ever North American Tamil convention.

Held annually for the last 25 years in U.S. cities, the founding organization, the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA), is bringing the convention to Toronto for the first time.

Visitors from across North America and Canada can expect to see a dance rendition of a historical novel, meet Kollywood stars, network at a day-long business forum and even hit a singles event designed to help them find a mate.

Anu Kanagasabai, a convention volunteer, says registered attendees seem to be drawn to different things at the festivities. "Some want to learn, some want to network and some are just looking forward to a fun-filled weekend," he said.

He plans to attend the entire convention and is excited about seeing more interactions between Toronto's film industry and Kollywood. Kollywood, a South Indian variation of Bollywood and the second largest film industry in Asia, caters primarily to a Tamil audience.

"I have loved Kollywood movies since I was a kid, but now that I am in my 20s, I really like the Kollywood-influenced movies that are being made by Canadian



Tamil film crews," Kanagasabai said.

One such local director, Lenin Sivam, will be at the event, back from the screening of his new film at the Shanghai International Film Festival where it was nominated for the prestigious Golden Goblet Award. His feature, A Gun and A Ring, is based on stories about Canadian Tamils.

Another Toronto-based writer and director Senthil Vinu will be discussing his documentary on a renowned Tamil scholar Thaninayagam Adigal. Adigal's contribution to research on Tamil language and culture will be commemorated

at FeTNA 2013.

Piragal Thiru, a coordinator for FeTNA 2013, says the annual event helps cement relationships between member organizations.

"People have the opportunity to meet and work out ways to collaborate on everything from not-for-profit to business ideas," he said. "As with the 25 past FeTNA conventions, we hope they will be inspired to launch new ventures and, in some way, find a deeper connection to their cultural roots."

Thiru thinks one of the many highlights will be the roster of speakers at the

business forum part of the convention. It includes: Tesla Motors Chief Information Officer Jay Vijayan, White House Champion of Change Professor Sivalingam Sivananthan, and Automotive Parts Manufacturer's Association President Steve Rodgers.

"For Torontonians and Canadians, it is also a chance for us to showcase this city and country, home to the largest Tamil diaspora outside Asia," he said.

For more information on FeTNA 2013, visit www.fetna2013.com.

**More FeTNA coverage on
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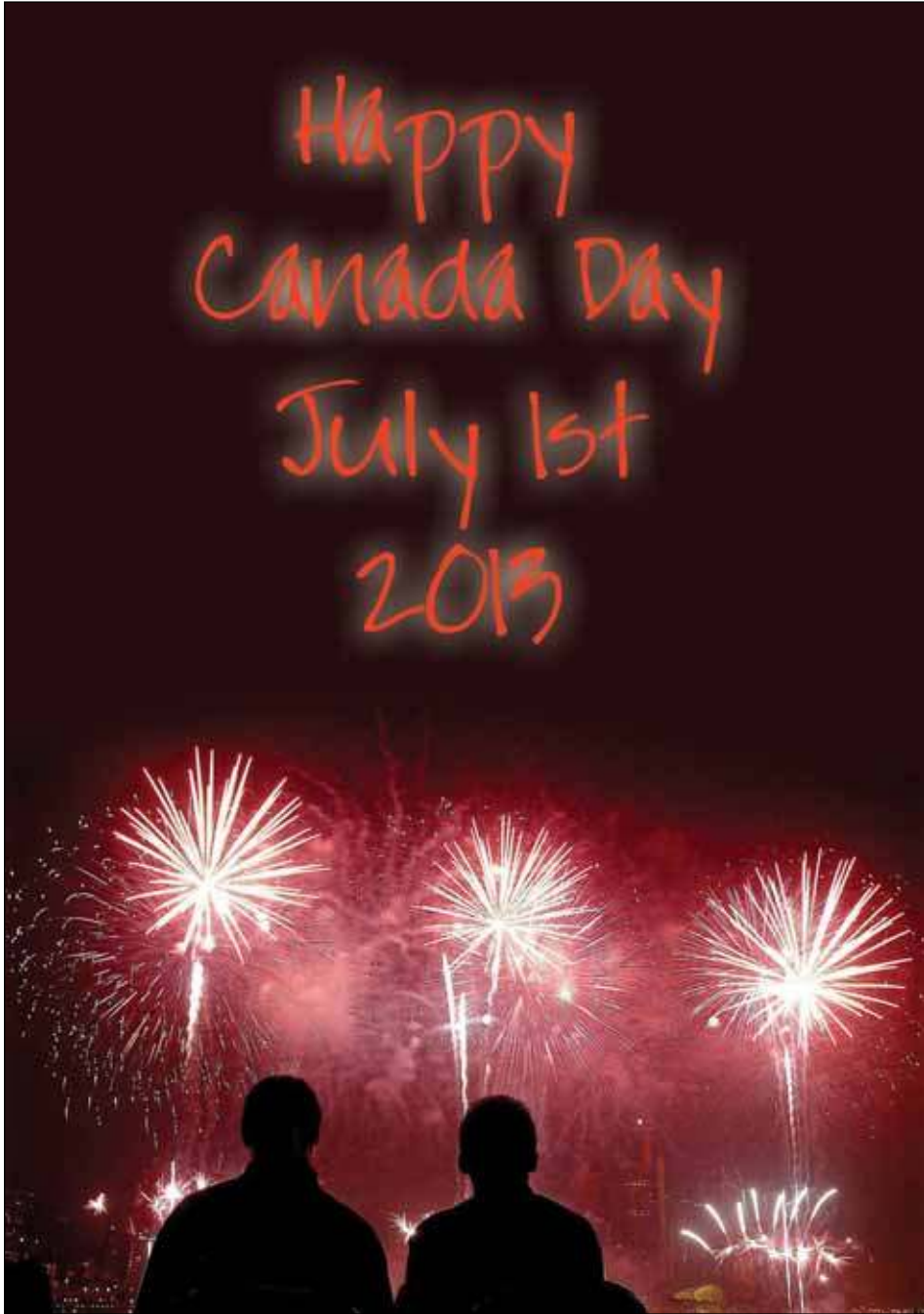
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Canada Celebrates World Refugee Day



Calgary, AB, June 20, 2013 — The Government of Canada has resettled almost 16,000 refugees to date and is on track to meet its commitment of resettling 20,000 Iraqis by 2015, Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism announced today on World Refugee Day. This represents the largest single commitment to resettle a refugee population in over 25 years.

To mark World Refugee Day, Minister Kenney will also participate in a roundtable with refugees hosted by the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary tonight.

"Canada has a long humanitarian tradition of providing protection to those truly in need and we welcome one in ten resettled refugees, more than almost any other country in the world," said Minister Kenney. "On World Refugee Day, we should be proud of Canada's major contributions to global efforts to resettle vulnerable refugee populations, and also recognize the efforts of countless organizations and individuals in Canada who help refugees to Canada settle, integrate and succeed in their new home."

Canada works closely with private sponsors, other countries and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to find viable long-term solutions to help refugees around the world. Canada already has one of the most generous resettlement programs in the world and the government is working to increase the total number of refugees and other individuals in vulnerable circumstances that we resettle each year. The Government of Canada has already increased resettlement assistance by 20 percent.

By 2018, Canada will also resettle up

to 5,000 mostly Iranian and Iraqi refugees currently in Turkey by 2018. This effort will help Turkey deal with growing pressures as a result of escalating violence in the region.

In addition, Canada also recently committed to resettling up to 1,000 more Bhutanese refugees over the next two years, many of whom already have family ties here. In total, Canada will resettle up to 6,500 Bhutanese refugees who had been living for nearly two decades in refugee camps in Nepal. More than 5,000 Bhutanese refugees have already arrived in Canada.

Canada's new asylum system, which came into force on December 15, 2012, has been implemented successfully and is already exceeding expectations.

"Under our new asylum system, genuine refugees fleeing persecution will receive protection more quickly—in a matter of months, not years," said Minister Kenney. "At the same time, by removing unfounded failed asylum claimants faster, we are ensuring that Canadians will continue to have faith in our asylum system and support our important humanitarian efforts."

Minister of International Cooperation Julian Fantino also made an important announcement regarding humanitarian assistance for refugees today. The Government of Canada is investing \$5 million over one year to provide refugees in Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda with three innovative technologies: streetlights, lanterns, and fuel-efficient stoves. This investment seeks to make refugee camps safer at night, especially for women and girls, who are more vulnerable to sexual violence.

For more information on Canada's refugee programs, visit the <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/index.asp>

Canadian Red Cross responding to flood evacuees across Alberta



(Ottawa) June 21, 2013 - Canadian Red Cross is responding on multiple fronts as more individuals and families are affected by flooding in Alberta. Canadian Red Cross is supporting the municipalities and communities affected and will continue to work closely with officials to ensure that the basic needs of evacuees are being met. The Red Cross has been mobilizing personnel and supplies such as cots, hygiene kits and blankets to meet needs as requested by the municipalities and counties.

"The Canadian Red Cross is actively working to ensure that all affected individuals and communities receive immediate assistance," said John Byrne, director general for disaster management at the Canadian Red Cross.

Current Red Cross Activities include:

- Supporting the City of Calgary with sheltering services, supplies and personnel to support flood evacuees

- Registration at County of Lethbridge

- reception centre

- Registration at City of Lethbridge reception centre

- Providing cots, blankets and hygiene kits to Blackie, DeWinton, and Nanton to support the evacuees of High River

- Providing cots, blankets and hygiene kits to Exshaw

- Canadian Red Cross is closely monitoring several other communities across the province and volunteers are on stand-by

All Canadian Red Cross support is provided at no charge to those in need. The best way to support those in need is through financial donations. Anyone wishing to support the ongoing Red Cross response to this disaster may do so by donating to the Canadian Red Cross Alberta Floods Response.

To donate to the Canadian Red Cross please call 1-800-418-1111 or go online to www.redcross.ca.

Statement by Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau on Canadian Multiculturalism Day

BRAMPTON, ON— Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau made the following statement today on Canadian Multiculturalism Day:

"Today, on Canadian Multiculturalism Day, we celebrate the incredible ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of our beautiful country.

From our earliest days as a nation, through to the official adoption of multiculturalism in 1971 and the later inclusion of this principle in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Canada's strength and vibrancy have long been built on the cornerstone of diversity.

Canadian multiculturalism quite simply affirms that all our citizens are truly equal, and that their individual contributions enhance and enrich our national character.

While our shared values and commitment to freedom and equality have certainly enabled Canada to prosper, this



would have been impossible without our unique ability to draw upon a variety of influences and traditions from around the world.

Canadian multiculturalism has ultimately come to symbolize our collective commitment to realize a more just and humane world, and today I join with all those celebrating Canadian Multiculturalism Day."

from the publisher's desk

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Mandela Day – July 18: In honour of the beacon of inspiration to the world

By Harrish Thirukumaran

Nelson Mandela International Day is globally realized through its registered approval by the United Nations. It is to be celebrated every year on July 18, which is Mandela's birthday. The primary focus of the occasion is to commemorate Mandela's commitment to the promotion of democracy, peace, and freedom. In addition, it calls for widespread volunteerism for the good of humanity in honour of his person.

Since the former president of South Africa has reached a critical stage in his lifetime it should be acknowledged why this day should be treated with strong international recognition.

Mandela is first seen as a human rights lawyer who legally fought extensively for social justices and equalities. His mission had been widely remembered through his struggle against the cruel Apartheid regime in his native South Africa. A system that literally meant 'apartness' had legalized racial segregation of black and white South Africans also simultaneously indicating social discrimination and racism. In addition, it had created an unequal colour barrier that had strongly favored white Afrikaners over various black ethnic groups. The system economically had indeed created large disparities between the groups through things like education and healthcare. The South African homeland was a place that promoted white supremacy.

Overall, the system had denied blacks the basic legal, social, political and economical rights. This political classification had undermined the essential values of a democracy and equality. Due to this, Mandela condemned this system

as an injustice and soon becoming a crucial figure fighting against the oppressive government because of its deprivation amongst certain racial groups.

Through his battles, Mandela had to endure grueling challenges and develop his notions to reform a corrupt system all in the advocacy for equalized opportunity throughout South Africa and its constituents. His anti-apartheid beliefs and abilities for its destabilization had and should be progressively recognized as a global political force and moral achievement among many citizens.

His contributions into restoring democratic principles to an authoritarian nation have been praised onto an ideological level that eventually leading to installation of a free political electoral system. He is also credited for introducing a multi-racial competitive structure that had guaranteed Nelson Mandela's tenure as South Africa's first black president. A truly historic moment that was much needed after a doctrine of a single racially dominated country.

Through widespread recognition of his political stances via a day of observance in his name, Mandela would be able to express his own social and economical ideals on a larger international scale for those who suffer different inequalities. On a domestic front, his policies of democratic equality were able to bring together the divided racial groups economically. Internationally, his policy of diplomatic mediation is also significant in resolving disputes.

Economically, his administration was pragmatically determined to eliminate poverty, mobilize healthcare, and disassociate discrimination.



Mandela's presidency indeed influentially assisted a stable South African political model and many sovereign states to follow it for years to come.

Though Mandela has retired from politics, his iconic legacy lives on in prosperity throughout many political affairs via the work of his NGOs and foundations. His actions and beliefs have been integral in the fundamental journey to successfully ensure a society where all people benefit regardless of colour, gender or sexual orientation. He is inevitably an idealized beacon of equality, freedom, and inspiration that must be followed to resolve the world's issues and in respect to his significant social reforms.

The world should and can be responsible enough to critically understand the man's qualities along with advancing his social egalitarian doctrine.

Nelson Mandela International Day can influence all nationalities, as a stable society is determined through the level of opportunity for the average person.

(Harrish Thirukumaran is entering his second year at Brock University, Ontario)

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Best Wishes from Monsoon Journal

Happy Canada Day - July 1st

Happy US Independence Day - July 4th



“In the life of any individual, family, community or society, memory is of fundamental importance. It is the fabric of identity” - Nelson Mandela

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

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Premier's Statement on Margaret Best

Premier Kathleen Wynne released the following statement on June 27th regarding the resignation of Margaret Best:

"I want to thank Margaret for her hard work on behalf of the people of Scarborough-Guildwood and all of Ontario.

Since her election in 2007, Margaret has been a passionate advocate for social equality and has made a real difference in people's lives. She held several cabinet portfolios, served on many vital committees dedicated to poverty reduction and social health, and introduced important legislative change.

As Minister of Health Promotion, she helped to ban smoking in cars when children are present and led Ontario's successful bid for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, which will showcase our region at its finest. And, as Minister of Consumer Services, she introduced the Wireless Services Agreements Act to strengthen protection for Ontario consumers.

In 2011, Margaret made history by



becoming the first African-Canadian woman to successfully win re-election to the Ontario legislature - a truly proud moment for our province.

Throughout her political and community involvements, Margaret has proved herself as a distinguished role model, a proud mother and a strong voice for Ontario's under-represented communities.

I wish Margaret all the very best in this new phase of her life and career."

Bob Rae Will Resign as Toronto Centre Liberal MP to be Chief Negotiator for First Nations Groups in Northern Ontario



Bob Rae spoke at the Donald Gow Memorial Lecture at Queens University in April 2013 about "Why Canada's First Nations People Can't Wait."- pic courtesy of: Queens University

Bob Rae, the Liberal MP and former interim leader of the party, will resign his Toronto Centre seat.

An emotional Rae, 64, told his Liberal colleagues of his decision at party caucus meeting. He had previously announced he was taking on a job as chief negotiator for several First Nations groups in northern Ontario who are negotiating with the provincial government over the Ring of Fire mining development.

Rae told reporters his work as a negotiator required too much of his time and made it impossible for him to continue as a member of Parliament.

"This is not about money, this is about time," Rae said at a media appearance Wednesday morning with Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau.

"It's been a very difficult decision and ... quite an emotional one for me," Rae said.

Rae was first elected as a Liberal MP in 2008 after he ran for the Grit leadership in 2006, finishing third. He assumed the interim leadership in 2011 after the defeat and resignation of Michael Ignatieff.

Rae was previously a New Democratic Member of Parliament in the late 70s, early 80s. He moved to provincial politics and quickly became leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario in 1982.

In 1990, he became the first NDP premier of Ontario.

Rae said he had an excellent relationship with Trudeau "that has only grown stronger over the last weeks and months."

He said he was "more than confident Mr. Trudeau will become prime minister of Canada," adding one of his big regrets is that he won't be there as an advisor for the "next leg of the journey."

TEXT OF BOB RAE'S STATEMENT

Some months ago I agreed to work with the Matawa Tribal Council in northern Ontario as their negotiator in dealings with the government of Ontario.

The Ring of Fire mining development will have a huge impact on the communities in the area and well beyond. How

positive that impact could be has yet to be determined, and will depend on the outcome of the discussions that are now underway, and will only intensify in the time ahead.

It has become clear to me that the full scope of the negotiator's job is no longer compatible with my also serving as a member of Parliament. And so I face a choice.

I have decided to return to my profession as a lawyer and mediator, to continue working for the Matawa Tribal Council, and to step down as the Member of Parliament for Toronto Centre.

This has been a difficult personal decision. I was first elected to Parliament in 1978, and was deeply honoured to have had the chance to serve again these past five years, as well as to lead the Liberal Party at a time of change and renewal. I have made wonderful friendships, and am so proud of the renewal and rebuilding that has been accomplished over the last few years. I'm leaving the party in confidence that the party is in good shape.

I am especially happy that as interim leader I was able to champion aboriginal issues, and share the importance of mental health with my colleagues. I also particularly enjoyed having the confidence of Stephane Dion, Michael Ignatieff and Justin Trudeau as foreign affairs spokesman for the Liberal Party. I shall miss this work very much.

I want to thank my constituents in Toronto Centre, my colleagues and friends in the Liberal Party and all parties in Parliament, my leader, Justin Trudeau, and the people of Canada for giving me the chance to serve. It has been an honour and a pleasure.

Helping to improve the life of First Nations people has been a longstanding commitment of mine, and this opportunity to serve is one I felt I could not decline.

I have told Mr. Trudeau and my colleagues that I shall continue to work for the Liberal Party, and I look forward to remaining engaged in Canadian public life.

JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE ASSOCIATION CANADA SPORTS AND PICNIC DAY - 2013

Sports and Picnic day of Jaffna Hindu College Association Canada will be held at Sunnybrook Park, 1102 Leslie Street, Toronto (Eglinton_Ave_E and Leslie) on Monday, July 01, 2013 at 10.00 am.

Jaffna Hindu and Hartley College cricket, Net ball & Soccer matches are some of the activities scheduled for the day.

We kindly invite all old boys, teachers and well-wishers to participate in the activities.

**** A Food Drive is also organized at the above event to help families in need. Please bring non perishable, canned food items with an expiry date later than September 30th, to donate. ****

For further details:

www.jaffnahinducanada.com

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A round the World

Singapore, Malaysia Face Economic Hit from Prolonged Smog

(Jun 23) SINGAPORE — Singapore and Malaysia could face a bigger economic impact than from their worst air pollution crisis 16 years ago if slash-and-burn fires in Indonesia continue to rage in the coming weeks, turning off tourists and raising business costs.

Restaurants, tourist attractions and some other businesses are already feeling the pain as haze envelopes the Southeast Asian neighbors, from Singapore's upscale shopping districts to Malaysia's popular beach resorts.

The haze crisis in 1997 lasted about three months and cost Southeast Asia an estimated \$9 billion from disruptions to air travel, health expenses and other business impacts. Economists and businesses say the costs are already mounting about a week since air pollution levels in the countries shot up to unhealthy and sometimes hazardous levels.

"The haze has definitely affected our business. Our sales fell around 40 percent in the past week," said Goo Wai Chien, who sells pizza and pasta at a hawker center in Singapore's business district. "But hopefully the situation is improving."

Much depends on how long the haze lasts and which way the wind blows the smoke that is coming mostly from fires set on palm oil plantations on Indonesia's Sumatra island. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has said the haze, which eased over the weekend and on Monday in the city state, could last a few weeks or until the dry season ends in Sumatra in September or October.

Extinguishing the fires, which smolder deep within peat, depends almost entirely on levels of rainfall.



Irvin Seah, DBS economist in Singapore, said the overall impact could be worse than in 1997 if the haze drags on.

"In 1997, the level of pollution was not this severe, and on the other hand the tourism industry's contribution to the economy was relatively smaller back then."

Tourism makes up 6.4 percent of Malaysia's economy and about 5 to 6 percent of Singapore's. Analysts see that sector taking an immediate knock, even if they cannot quantify the damage.

"The impact will be negative," ANZ, a bank, said in a research report, referring to Singapore. "Shopping, restaurants, bars and outdoor entertainment will all suffer during this hazy period."

Hotels, restaurants and other hospitality businesses also benefit from Singapore's prominence as a center for industry meetings and trade shows.

Perceptions of Singapore, which usually enjoys clear skies and relatively little pollution, could be the biggest casualty if

the smoke hangs over the island through September.

A conference this week on global nuclear issues with dozens of high-profile experts, including former U.S. secretary of state George Shultz and former secretary of defense William Perry, was postponed "due to increasingly hazardous weather conditions in Singapore", the organizers said.

"It would create a very negative impression and also deter tourist inflows. It would deter people thinking about moving to work in Singapore," said P.K. Basu, regional head of research and economics at Maybank Kim Eng.

Brokerage CLSA has estimated the damage to Singapore - a major financial center, aviation hub and tourism destination - could end up being hundreds of millions of dollars. Other analysts said it could top \$1 billion.

Singapore and its \$271 billion economy cannot afford a big hit from a prolonged pollution crisis or any loss of con-

fidence.

The economy - which is dominated by services, followed by manufacturing and construction - was stronger than expected in the first quarter due to a surge in the financial sector.

But exports have been weak, especially electronics, and economists now expect growth of 2.3 percent this year, slower than the median estimate of 2.8 percent in March, according to the central bank's latest quarterly survey released this month.

Francis Tan, an economist at United Overseas Bank, said if the smog in Singapore extends until September, with pollution rising to unhealthy levels from time to time, it could shave 0.3 to 0.5 percentage points off his 2013 growth forecast of 3 percent. That would mean up to \$1.2 billion in economic losses.

Among the biggest costs that businesses face from the haze is illness.

Hospitals and clinics in areas badly affected by haze in recent days had recorded a rise of more than 100 percent in asthma cases, Malaysia's director-general of health Noor Hisham Abdullah was quoted as saying by the Bernama state news agency.

Patients reporting other respiratory problems and conjunctivitis had also jumped, he said.

The Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, was veiled in thick smog on Monday, a day after parts of the southern state of Johor declared an emergency as pollution readings rose above the hazardous level.

Cheah Tuck Wing, the executive director of the Malaysia-Australia Business Council, said companies in Johor - which has attracted growing investment from neighboring Singapore - were already seeing a rise in worker sickness.

"People are not well and it will definitely affect production, that goes without saying. It has definitely impacted business, especially factories where a huge number of people are working."

- Reuters/VOA News

INDIAN CURRENCY SLIDES TO ALL-TIME LOW

by Anjana Pasricha

As the Indian currency slides to an all-time low against the dollar, the Indian Finance Minister is trying to bolster confidence in the country's flagging economy.

The rupee's slide this week came on the heels of steady losses over the last month. Overall the Indian currency has slipped by 8 percent since the start of May.

India's Finance Minister P. Chidambaram Thursday tried to calm fears that the falling currency will put further strain on the flagging economy. He said India's huge trade imbalance has triggered the slide. The current account deficit as it is called, is driven by the country's massive oil and gold imports.

Chidambaram pledged to stabilize the rupee.

"Countries with large current account deficits have taken a hit on the currency.

These include South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Turkey," he said. "Since India has a large current account deficit, the rupee is taking a hit. But I don't think there is any reason for panic. Yes, it does put pressure on inflation, it does put pressure on the subsidy bill, especially for imported commodities, but I think the rupee will find its level."

However, the rupee continued its slide on June 13.

Economists pointed out that the Indian currency has been battered more than those in any other emerging market in recent days.

Chidambaram also urged Indians to curb their voracious appetite for gold. Although gold imports have declined in recent weeks, they are still a massive strain on government finances. The country is the world's largest consumer of the yellow metal, but high prices and a fall-

ing rupee in the past year have meant that India is shelling out billions of dollars for gold purchases.

"People who want to buy gold must realize that every ounce of gold is imported. Every ounce," said Chidambaram. "No

gold is manufactured in India. You pay rupees, we have to provide the dollars. I would once again appeal to everyone, please resist the temptation to buy gold."

Despite the problems, Chidambaram is confident that India's economy is on the path to recovery, saying that inflation has cooled, and India is taking steps to control its large fiscal deficit.

One piece of good news has come in for Asia's third largest economy. On June



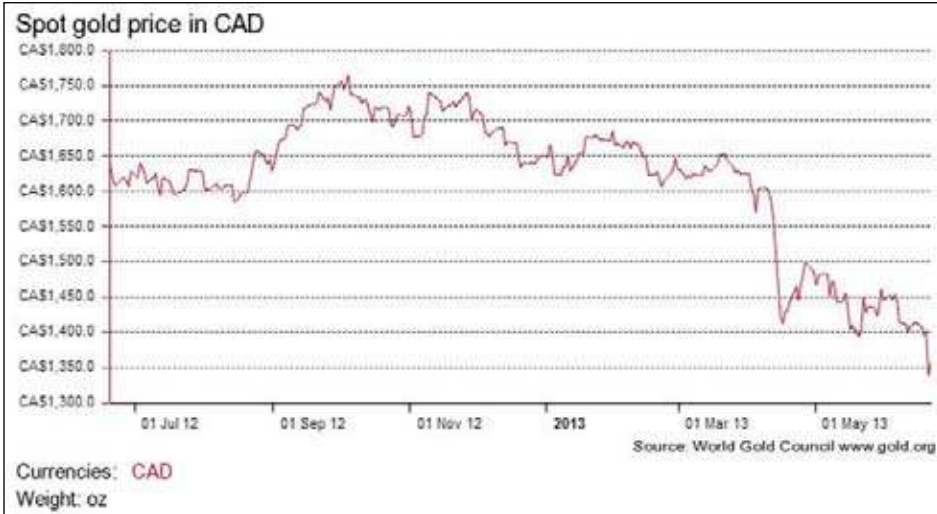
12, Fitch Ratings revised India's rating outlook to "stable" from "negative" on the back of measures taken by the government to contain the budget deficit.

That has come as a boost for a government which has been fighting to avoid a ratings downgrade in the last year.

The finance minister promised more reforms in the coming weeks to boost investment and revive flagging growth. India's economy grew at a decade low of five percent last year. - VOA News



Sri Lanka domestic gold prices edge up after tax



“Gold prices in Sri Lanka’s domestic market have started to rise after the state slapped a 10 percent on imports”, writes Arun Perera in a report on the premier business web portal of the island – www.lankabusinessonline.com, quoting the industry. The report further stated:

On Friday, June 21 a gold sovereign (about 8.1 grams) the most popular benchmark price was quoted around 47,500 rupees for 22 carats up about a 1,000 rupees from a day earlier.

In March gold sovereigns were around 54,000 rupees when international gold prices started to slide in the wake of a strengthening dollar.

The price of a sovereign could reach up to 51,700 to 52,000 rupees as the tax takes effect, unless gold prices fall further, industry players said.

Gold prices to 1,269.45 US dollars a troy ounce, the lowest since September 2010, against from highs of 1800 to 1700 US dollars an ounce over 2011 and 2012, as the US Federal Reserve printed money for ‘stimulus’.

Following the collapse of the global commodity bubble in 2008, gold prices which peaked around 1,300 US dollars

an ounce, fell to 800 - 900 dollars an ounce. It again started to edge up as the Federal Reserve started to print money.

The Fed has indicated that it will end its dangerous ‘quantity easing’ money printing exercises this year, helping boost the real value of the US dollar against real commodities, which can potentially make food prices cheaper for the world’s poor and hungry.

During the ‘Great Inflation’ commodity bubble that ended in 1980 with co-ordinated US and British policy tightening, gold prices fell from close to 800 dollars and stayed below 300 US dollars during the so-called ‘Great Moderation’ period of the 1980s and 1990s.

Gold oil and other commodity prices against started to rise from the early 2000s as the Fed started its ‘mother of all liquidity bubbles’ which eventually created a global economic bubble which ended in the ‘Great Recession’.

Inflation became a global problem after the creation of the Federal Reserve in 1913. Before that money was gold or tightly pegged to gold. Until the creation of the Fed gold was only 20 US dollars an ounce.

Kumar Sinha, New Indian High Commissioner for Sri Lanka

Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha is the new Indian High Commissioner for Sri Lanka

Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha is a seasoned diplomat and during his 32 year career he has handled several important assignments at the Indian External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi and in Indian diplomatic missions in the Middle East, Europe, South America and the Permanent Mission of India at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Before coming to Sri Lanka, he was Additional Secretary in the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division at the External Affairs Ministry. He was Ambassador of India to Venezuela from January 2007 to August 2009 and Consul General of India

in Dubai from August 2003 to December 2006.

Earlier, he served as Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi (UAE) from March 2002 to July 2003. Before 2003, Sinha worked in different capacities at Indian Missions in Saudi Arabia, Italy and in the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi. In the mid-1990s, he served at Indian Mission in Pakistan and at the Permanent Delegation of India to United Nations.

Mr. Sinha joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1981.

Tens of Thousands Demand Full Democracy in Hong Kong



Tens of thousands of Hong Kong residents have joined a march to demand full democracy on the 16th anniversary of the territory’s return to Chinese sovereignty.

The demonstrators braved heavy rain from a tropical storm as the annual July 1st march began at the city’s Victoria Park and progressed to the Central business district.

Many protesters chanted slogans calling for the city’s unelected leader Leung Chun-ying to step down and for the government to ensure a free and fair election for his chief executive post in 2017.

Leung took office on July 1 last year after being selected by a committee dominated by Hong Kong’s pro-government establishment and Beijing loyalists.

Since then his popularity has slumped because of scandals involving his Cabinet

and conduct before taking office, and public anger about high property prices and a growing influx of mainland Chinese into the city.

China has agreed to let Hong Kong citizens directly elect their chief executive when Leung’s term expires in 2017.

But, the protesters who marched on Monday fear Beijing will block pro-democracy candidates from running. Some waved Hong Kong’s former British colonial flag as a sign of protest.

Earlier on July 1, Leung repeated a pledge to begin a public consultation about electoral arrangements for 2017 at an “appropriate time.” He made the comment in a traditional speech celebrating the 1997 anniversary of Hong Kong’s handover from Britain to China.

- VOA News

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A round the World

India floods: Unusual weather systems clash was trigger

"The floods have swept through a number of towns and villages in Uttarakhand", writes BBC's environment reporter Navin Singh Khadka in the BBC News web portal:

An unusually intensive fusion of two weather systems from opposite directions triggered devastating floods during the week through June 22 in northern India and western Nepal, authorities have said.

They say the monsoon advancing towards the west of South Asia combined with westerly winds for an unusually long time and with an extraordinary intensity, which resulted in days of torrential rains.

Weather authorities in India and Pakistan have warned there is still a threat that the dangerous combination will cause more devastating floods.

At least 560 people are known to have been killed and thousands are missing in northern India. The death toll is expected to rise further.

The worst-affected areas are in India's Uttarakhand state, where floods have flattened homes and swept away roads and bridges.

More than 40,000 people, many of them Hindu pilgrims, are still stranded in what the government has described as a "national crisis."

"Such interaction (between the two weather systems) does happen at times during this season but the intensity this time and the duration is something we have not seen for quite some time," BP Yadav, director at the Indian Meteorological Department, told the BBC.

The interaction lasted three days he said, the first such event for many years.

In Pakistan, experts said the westerly weather system arrived unexpectedly and had covered almost all of the country.

Qamar Zaman Chaudry, former director general of Pakistan's Meteorological Department, said this was highly unusual at this time of the year - the first occasion in 26 years.

He said May and June normally represented the dry season in Pakistan, with monsoon rains from July to September.

"The westerly weather system should be here only between October and April, but - quite bizarrely - we are seeing it at this time of the year and all over the country: from the Himalayan mountains to the coastal zones."

Mr Chaudry said the cause was unknown, adding: "It is difficult for us to link this single phenomenon to climate change."

But he added: "When we look at the abrupt changes in the climate and weath-

er patterns in our country during the last 10 to 15 years, it becomes easy to link this to the changes taking place around the globe."

Bill Hare, visiting professor at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, agreed that it was an intensive interaction between monsoon and westerly winds that resulted into the torrential rainfall.

"But the question is: is this intensity of interaction and resulting rainfall in any way linked to global warming?"

"In this specific event, we simply don't know but what we do know with a high degree of confidence is that these kinds of events, as a general statement, will be occurring more often in the future and will be more damaging as the globe warms.

"I think that's a fairly solid analysis from the physical science community," Prof Hare said.

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, in its fourth assessment report, says that it "is likely that warming associated with increasing greenhouse gas concentrations will cause an increase of Asian summer monsoon precipitation variability".

"Changes in the monsoon mean duration and strength depend on the details of the greenhouse gases emission scenario."



Debates continue on whether global warming has any role on the changing rainfall patterns around the world, but soot and urban smog pollution have also been blamed for disrupting the south Asian monsoon.

A report by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organisation in 2011 said: "They disturb tropical rainfall and regional circulation patterns such as the Asian monsoon, affecting the livelihoods of millions of people.

"They can change wind patterns by affecting the regional temperature contrasts that drive the winds, influencing where rain and snow fall."

Experts, however, say not much is known about why westerly winds reach the South Asian region when they are not supposed to.

"That is still an area which is still pretty unclear scientifically," says Prof Hare.

"But anything that brings a lot of moisture into the region and interacts with the convective energy of the monsoon will probably contribute to more extreme rainfall events."

- (BBC.co.uk)

Egypt Becomes 100th Country to Recognize Kosovo



Egypt has become the 100th country to recognize Serbia's former province of Kosovo as independent, the Pristina government said on Wednesday, June 26 - a milestone for the Balkan country's pursuit of full international acceptance.

"The oldest state in the world, Egypt, has officially recognized now the youngest state in Europe - Kosovo," Kosovo Foreign Minister Enver Hoxhaj said on Twitter.

A ministry official said this was the

100th recognition since Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in February 2008 with the backing of the West. The country of 1.7 million people is also recognized by the United States and 22 of the European Union's 27 member-states.

Kosovo's government hopes Egyptian recognition will spur other Muslim nations to accept the country as sovereign.

Serbia does not accept the secession of land it considers central to Serb identity and faith. Russia, a Serbian ally and

U.N. Security Council veto-holder, has so far thwarted Kosovo's hopes of joining the United Nations.

Serbia lost control of the territory in 1999, when NATO bombed for 11 weeks to halt the killing and expulsion of ethnic Albanians by Serbian forces trying to crush a guerrilla insurgency.

This year, Belgrade has bowed to pressure from the European Union to co-

operate with Kosovo, seeking the reward of membership talks that the bloc said this week would begin by January.

The Egyptian decision follows an EU-brokered deal in April to improve ties between Serbia and Kosovo, with Belgrade agreeing to cede de facto control of a small Serb pocket in the north of the majority-Albanian state. - VOA News

Britain urges justice in the case of UK tourist murdered in Sri Lanka

The British High Commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka issued the following statement on June 24, 2013:

It is now 18 months since the murder of British citizen Khuram Shaikh, and assault on his partner Victoria, while they were on holiday in Tangalle. The British High Commission is deeply disappointed that trial proceedings have not yet commenced and continues to call for the perpetrators of this terrible crime to be brought to justice. As well as being important for Mr Shaikh's family, justice being done will bring some assurance and peace of mind for other British tourists who visit Sri Lanka each year.



Khuram Shaikh



Bleak future for Sri Lanka's female-headed households

COLOMBO, 26 June 2013 (IRIN) - Four years after the end of a 26-year civil war and with donor assistance dwindling, tens of thousands of female-headed households in northern Sri Lanka face a difficult future, though many are developing innovative coping strategies.

"There is little evidence that the unique vulnerabilities faced by female-headed households are being considered in the government's policies," said Raksha Vasudevan, author of a just published report on female-headed households in the north.

"Although they may benefit eventually from the reconstruction of infrastructure and the opening of economic trade activities with the south, for now, it is mostly men who have accessed income-generating opportunities from these developments."

Researchers and humanitarians working with female-headed households, estimated at over 40,000 by the Centre for Women & Development (CWD) in Jaffna, say the north's patriarchal social structure, and an economy and reconstruction effort that favours males, have deepened their vulnerabilities.

"The research found that these vulnerabilities [of female-headed households] were simultaneously exacerbated by, and contributed to, psycho-social trauma and an ongoing fear of an unknown future," the report said. The precarious economic situation also made these women targets of sexual abuse and exploitation. "With

many still lacking homes with locking doors, they felt very exposed to attack at any moment," the author said.

Women whose husbands or partners were killed in the war say they are still struggling to make ends meet, while some continue to spend what meagre resources they have to locate their missing loved ones.

Seetha Kurubakaran, from the town of Paranthan in Kilinochchi District, said she had tried to seek work in various fields - from construction to the civil service (as a clerk) - but without success. All the jobs she sought went to men.

"I don't want anyone to favour me, but my situation is such that I need a job. I need to feed my family," the mother of two, said.

Out of desperation she took up sewing dresses at home, but her monthly income is less than US\$40. "I live [on] handouts, money my distant relatives living abroad send me," she said.

Her concern is that her family's generosity - and ability - to help her is being depleted.

There are no official statistics on unemployment rates in the north, but researchers and analysts believe it could be 10-20 percent, if not higher. Under-employment, where people earn less than a dollar a day, is also believed to be as high as 30 percent.

Ajith Nivard Cabraal, the governor of the Central Bank, told IRIN that since the

war ended, the government had invested \$3-4 billion in the north, with multimillion dollar construction contracts awarded to build back from almost nothing in some parts.

"Even from a low [reconstruction] base the 20 percent growth rate is impressive," he said.

However, most of the large infrastructure development projects are centred on the main A9 highway that runs through the middle of Northern Province; employment opportunities are rare elsewhere. And whether near or far from the highway, these projects offer women few jobs.

Meanwhile, many women are trying to do something about their situation in what the report described as "an impressive sign of their resilience".

"Through a variety of strategies that they employ in their everyday lives, these women endure, contest and resist the structures of domination imposed upon them. These strategies include creating innovative livelihood opportunities for themselves, accessing alternative support sources, tapping into family networks/kinship structures, various community practices of solidarity and resistance, and finding ways to normalize both the extraordinary circumstances in which they live and the uncertainties they face," said the study.

"During the war and even before that the practice of women breadwinners was very rare," said CWD head Saroja Siv-

achandran. "Even the limited job market still functions on that assumption."

"They are clearly discriminated against in hiring for most jobs, even though they are willing to work in non-traditional roles, and also face more difficulties than men in accessing credit," Vasudevan said.

Rupavanthi Ketheeswaran, the top government official in Kilinochchi District, agreed the situation was difficult for women, but said the authorities were working to ease their economic plight. "We will always go that extra step to help out in getting loans and other assistance to these women," she said, citing special preference on self-employment schemes, seed assistance for home gardens and the distribution of cattle.

However, such schemes should be far more wide-spread if they are to provide women with the sense of purpose and control over their daily lives they now need, said Sivachandaran.

"Female headed households should be recognized as a special needs group at the highest policy-making level," she added.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam fought against the government from 1983 to 2009 for an independent Tamil homeland in northern Sri Lanka.

- Via IRIN News (The humanitarian news and analysis service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)

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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.

A Call to Celebrate Diversity in Durham Region – and to Raise Funds for the Rouge Valley Healthcare System

“Durham Lifebeat” a 24 hour Musical Bandathon

A 24-HOUR “BANDATHON” - MUSICAL HAPPENING, WILL BE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE 27TH-28TH OF SEPTEMBER AT PICKERING HIGH SCHOOL IN AJAX TO BENEFIT THE ROUGE VALLEY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

Billed as a “Bandathon,” this fundraising initiative has developed into an exciting multi-faceted musical happening, and community development initiative. For the last month, a group of over 15 local multicultural, religious, social service organizations, and community leaders, have been meeting weekly with officials from the RVHS to consult and design the programming components of the Bandathon, pledging, and fundraising strategies.

According to Kim Dowds, the Communications Coordinator for the fundraising initiative, “the passion, and commitment to community, and volunteerism that these organizations bring to the table, is truly dynamic, and spiritually uplifting.”

She added, “the communities in Durham Region, particularly the municipalities of Ajax and Pickering, are growing in their diversity, multicultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-linguistic composition. Diversity, according to Dowds, is a great strength in all Durham Region communities. For this reason, The Rouge Valley Health System foundation is excited to endorse, and to be working closely with the organizers of the Bandathon fundraising initiative.

The September “Bandathon”, accord-

ing to organizers, “will rock all day and all night”, in support of the Rouge Valley Healthcare System. Organized in partnership with the Bavatharini Ever Giving Foundation, organizers have set the goal of raising \$100,000 for the hospital’s Foundation.

The idea for the 24 hour “Bandathon” came from Mathivasan & Help for Love Organisation that successfully raised \$164,000 for local hospitals by performing non-stop music for 48 hours. “Help for Love” is a charity event organized by Bavatharani’s Ever Giving Foundation, established to honor the memory the late Bavatharani Mathivasan, Co-founder and Music Director of Bavatharani’s Bharradhi Arts Kalaikkoyil, Ontario Canada.

Past events staged have included in 2008 “Help for Love”, a 24 hour non-stop music concert that raised \$39,000 for the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation.

In 2010, \$15,000 was raised for the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation.

In 2012, \$56,350 was raised for the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation.

Some of the photos from previous events organized by Bharadhi Arts can be seen here:

NEWS RELEASE FROM ROUGE VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM FOUNDATION:



News release

Calling all youth performers!

Community groups encouraged to be part of September Bandathon

July 2, 2013 — This September a band festival will rock all day and all night in support of the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation, with a number of multicultural groups teaming up to put local youth performers on stage in a 24-hour bandathon at Pickering High School.

Representatives from a number of cultural groups have teamed up with the Foundation to organize the festival and are already on the lookout for performers to fill out the 24-hour lineup of music. They are looking for every type of cultural background to take part and encourage everyone to be a part of the massive fundraiser, with every community group, regardless of size welcome to participate.

The event will start Sept. 27 and end Sept. 28 and anyone interested in being a part of the event should contact the Foundation to be considered. For more information or to register as a community group or performer visit: DurhamLifeBeat.ca. Email: info@DurhamLifeBeat.ca or call the Foundation and speak to Danielle at 905-683-2320, ext. 1501.

Rouge Valley Health System Foundation — Enhancing care in the community

The Rouge Valley Health System Foundation’s mission is to partner with the community to invest in superior health care at Rouge Valley Health System. The Foundation raises funds to support the purchase of leading-edge medical equipment and support major capital expansion projects.

Durham LifeBeat

Organized by a committee of Durham’s multicultural communities, Durham LifeBeat is a 24-hour bandathon to raise funds for Rouge Valley Health System Foundation.

Contact

Dave Stell, Communications Specialist, Rouge Valley Health System Foundation mobile: 905-626-6950 or dstell@rougevalley.ca

Dinesh Kumar, Durham LifeBeat mobile: 416-723-3042 or promote@durhamlifebeat.ca

Kim Dowds, Durham LifeBeat mobile: 289-388-9568 or info@durhamlifebeat.ca

Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering, 580 Harwood Avenue, Ajax ■ Rouge Valley Centenary, 2867 Ellesmere Road, Toronto
www.rougevalley.ca/rvhsf



Toronto East Dental Society Awards Night & AGM 2013

The annual awards night and the annual general meeting of the Toronto East Dental Society (TEDS) was held at the Toronto Don Valley Hotel and Suites on Thursday, 30 May 2013.

TEDS is the largest component society among the four Toronto societies with about 700 general and specialist Dentist members.

The Core Goals of the Toronto

East Dental Society are,

1. To promote optimal oral health
2. To create an environment for the delivery of quality, accessible oral health care
3. To promote the highest professional standards
4. To be a strong and effective organization
5. To assist members in meeting their professional economic respon-

sibilities.

Chief guest Dr. Arthur Worth, President, Ontario Dental association presented the service awards to all the award recipients, also a lecture on medical emergencies in the dental offices was given by guest speaker Dr. Bryan Waxman.

Among the guests were, Dr. Minna Stein, former Registrar, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

(RCDSO), Dr. David Segal-Representative, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, Dr. Raffy Chouljian and Dr. Andrew Syriopolous, Board members, Ontario dental association and Dr. Sheryl Lipton, Treasurer, Toronto Academy of Dentistry.

The event was chaired by the TEDS President Dr. Shanmugam Sivanesan.





New board members announced

Hospital welcomes new members at 15th Annual General Meeting of Members

Rouge Valley Health System's (RVHS) 15th Annual General Meeting of Members on Tuesday welcomed five new members to the hospital's Board of Directors, as well as the reappointment of directors. Each of the new members brings with them their own unique professional experience and a desire to make a meaningful contribution to the community.

New board members announced

Shane Hardy

Shane Hardy is a Partner at Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP where he serves as co-chair of the business law group and secretary of the partnership. He was called to the bar of Ontario in 2002 and advanced quickly to partnership at Cassels Brock, where his practice focuses on intellectual property and brand management. Shane resides with his young family in Ajax.

Susan Kerr

Susan Kerr is managing counsel of the Kerr Law Group Canada, providing corporate/commercial, dispute resolution and criminal legal services. She holds an Honours B.A. from York University, an LL.B. from the University of Western Ontario, many certifications and brings extensive business and legal experience to the board in health care, corporate and employment law, financial services, information technology and contractor

outsourcing. As a first-generation immigrant, Susan has a first-hand perspective on the challenges faced by new Canadians seeking medical assistance. She is an active provider of pro bono legal services to a variety of groups, including the Afghan Women's Organization, and currently serves as a member of the Mental Health and Justice Committee for Margaret Fraser House, and is a part-time professor in the paralegal program at Seneca College. Susan grew up in Scarborough and recently moved to the Durham Region.

Ome Jamal

Ome Jamal is an associate owner of a Shoppers Drug Mart, offering progressive years of experience in the areas of health care and senior management. She holds a degree in pharmacy from the University of Toronto. Since 2010, she has been a valued member of the Rouge Valley Health System's Community Advisory Group, where she has been involved in the hospital's approach to quality improvement and risk management at a strategic and operational level. Ome has helped to establish various health and educational programs for women's health and wellness and the elderly.

Jim Macpherson

Jim Macpherson is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Australia with 30 years of experience in audit, insolvency, restructuring and ad-

visory. The longtime Ajax resident is a licensed trustee in bankruptcy and now operates his own insolvency, restructuring and advisory firm. In that time, he has completed many corporate reorganizations, business investigations, shareholder dispute resolutions, receivership, and bankruptcy assignments.

Douglas Melville

Douglas Melville is ombudsman and CEO of the Ombudsman for Banking Services and Investments (OBSI), an independent national agency operating under the oversight of federal and provincial regulators, which resolves disputes between banking and investment firms and their clients. He is a specialist in alternative dispute resolution and has 20 years of experience within the financial services industry, having held a variety of senior roles within the banking and securities sectors.

Other reappointments within the RVHS board leadership include: Joan Wideman, who was reappointed to another three-year term, and reappointed as board chair for one year; Fred Clifford, who was reappointed vice-chair and chair-elect; and Terri McKinnon, who was appointed treasurer.

Brief profiles of all members of the RVHS Board of Directors are available on our public website at <http://www.rougevalley.ca/hospital-leadership>. The Board of Directors thanked its exiting

members, who have ended their terms with RVHS as part of regular turnover on the board. Those members are: Tom Atkins; Rhonda Lawson; John Rowinski; Loreen Paananen; and Ian Johnson. (All board members are volunteers.)

AGM closes a great year for patient services at Rouge Valley

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Members, which was held on Tuesday, June 25 in open session at the Rouge Valley Centenary hospital campus, also celebrated a year of successes in delivering quality patient care. A key highlight was a four-year Exemplary Standing accreditation, the highest level awarded from Accreditation Canada, a not-for-profit organization that sets standards for quality and safety in health care, and accredits health organizations in Canada and around the world. RVHS successfully met 98.2 per cent of the 2,025 Accreditation Canada standards. The hospital was evaluated in eight categories: Population Focus; Accessibility; Safety; Work life; Client-centered Services; Continuity of Services; Effectiveness; and Efficiency.

For more highlights of the last 12 months, please read our news release from June 19, 2013, at <http://www.rougevalley.ca/latest/a-year-of-big-successes-in-patient-care-at-rouge-valley>. The approved reports presented at this year's AGM are available at <http://www.rougevalley.ca/agm2013>.

Regional cardiac care enables student to live life fully

SPECIAL CARDIAC PROCEDURE PROVIDES CURE FOR ARRHYTHMIA PATIENTS

A specialized procedure provided by Rouge Valley's regional cardiac care team has allowed a teenage student in Whitby to have the active life she relishes.

For two years, boarding school student Sallie Lau lived with a rapid heart rate. She was diagnosed with Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome (WPW), a condition caused by electrical short circuits that were on the left side of her heart. These episodes can begin and end quickly.

"The sensation of the episodes was like a horse running very fast inside my chest. After an episode, I would be exhausted. It was draining on my body, and would sometimes take a couple of days to recover," says Sallie, a Grade 12 student at Trafalgar Castle girls school in Whitby.

For more than a year, the regional cardiac care program at Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) has been offering a specialized procedure to cure arrhythmias (an irregular heartbeat) like Sallie's, which arise from the left side of the heart. The transseptal cardiac procedure takes two hours to perform, and the patient is up and walking within four

hours and discharged from the hospital within 24 hours — sometimes even on the same day. Being able to treat WPW and other arrhythmias significantly changes patients' lives. It eliminates repeated visits to family doctors and emergency departments where treatment is otherwise done through medication.

The first transseptal procedure performed at Rouge Valley Centenary hospital campus was in February 2012. Prior to this, patients from Scarborough and Durham would have to be treated at a larger hospital specializing in more advanced cardiac care in downtown Toronto. On May 23, Sallie became the 46th patient to have the procedure done at RVHS.

"Sallie had very unique circumstances. Here she was in Canada at boarding school, with her family in Hong Kong. Treating her took our expertise at this procedure, as well our commitment to open communication with her family on the other side of the world. When Sallie came for visits, my team and I would videoconference with her family to discuss her condition, explain the procedure and go over any concerns they had. The relationship we built reflects

the tremendous amount of trust Sallie's family placed in Rouge Valley," says Dr. Bhavanesh Mankanjee, the cardiologist who performed the procedure.

During her two years at the boarding school, Sallie was making regular visits to emergency departments whenever her heart rate would suddenly increase. Everyday life was physically demanding on the avid tennis player. Her schoolwork would pile up when she was recovering from an episode, and catching up and keeping up were starting to weigh on her. Even getting around the school was a chore — founded in 1874, it has no elevators and plenty of stairs.

After several episodes and trips to the hospital, accompanied by the school's registered nurse Katie Douglas, Sallie was referred to cardiologist Dr. Mankanjee. As an electrophysiologist specializing in the treatment of arrhythmias, he was able to diagnose Sallie with WPW and recommend the transseptal cardiac procedure. Her mother flew to Toronto for the surgery to be there for comfort and support.

"There are many benefits of this procedure. I don't need a full day of rest anymore. I can play tennis and volley-

ball for the school team again. I have no spares and a full schedule of classes that I hadn't been able to attend. This has all changed," says Sallie.

Rouge Valley's regional cardiac care centre

Rouge Valley Health System has a leading cardiac care program, and is home to the regional cardiac care centre for the Scarborough-Durham area. The regional cardiac program consists of a highly-qualified and experienced team of more than 20 cardiologists and more than 100 health professionals, who serve the communities of east Toronto and Durham Region from both hospital campuses — Rouge Valley Centenary and Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering. RVHS delivers a complete range of cardiac services, including cardiac diagnostics and consultations, as well as regional services such as life-saving cardiac catheterization and intervention procedures, arrhythmia studies and management, and cardiac rehabilitation and education. Regional services are delivered in partnership with Lakeridge Health, The Scarborough Hospital, and the Central East Local Health Integration Network.



Gates Open home & garden tour a big hit

The homes of the Scarborough Bluffs area are well known for their unique architecture, beautiful gardens, and envied for their spectacular views of Lake Ontario, and a select number of these properties swung wide their front gates to welcome guests of the first Gates Open Home & Garden Tour, June 15, in support of the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation.

Seven gorgeous homes and a spectacular property of gardens were the star attractions for the self-guided tour, some of them very modern houses, while others were of historic interest. Several of the homes were of interest for how beautifully they have been restored or converted over the years from cottage homes, maintaining their character and charm, while making dramatic improvements.



Heart of it All Heart of it All plaque celebrates donors



From left, Gary Cubitt, Region of Durham CAO, Roger Anderson, Durham Region Chair, Dr. Joe Ricci, Program Chief of Cardiology, with cardiologists and campaign co-chairs Dr. Ram Vijayaraghavan and Dr. Paul Galiwango, along with Chad Hanna, Foundation President & CEO.

Since it was launched in 2011, the Heart of it All campaign has enjoyed a great deal of support from many different corners. The community donors to the campaign were invited to a special celebration June 17 at Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering hospital, where a plaque recognizing their generosity was unveiled. This same plaque hangs in Rouge Valley Centenary to recognize the donations also supported new machines there as well.

The campaign enjoyed the support of a few new events along the way, like our amazing Casino Rouge and a number of established annual events like the Fashion Show and February's To Rouge with

Love parties also supported the campaign in recent years. Those events represent hundreds of supporters that took part and gave generously. And that kind of support was matched by many Scarborough and West Durham community organizations and service clubs.

The Region of Durham, represented by Roger Anderson, the Region's Chair and CEO, helped unveil the plaque as the lead donor with a gift of \$500,000. In all, it was possible for five echocardiogram machines and even two portable machines to be purchased for both Rouge Valley Health System sites.

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

Rouge Valley Health System 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.



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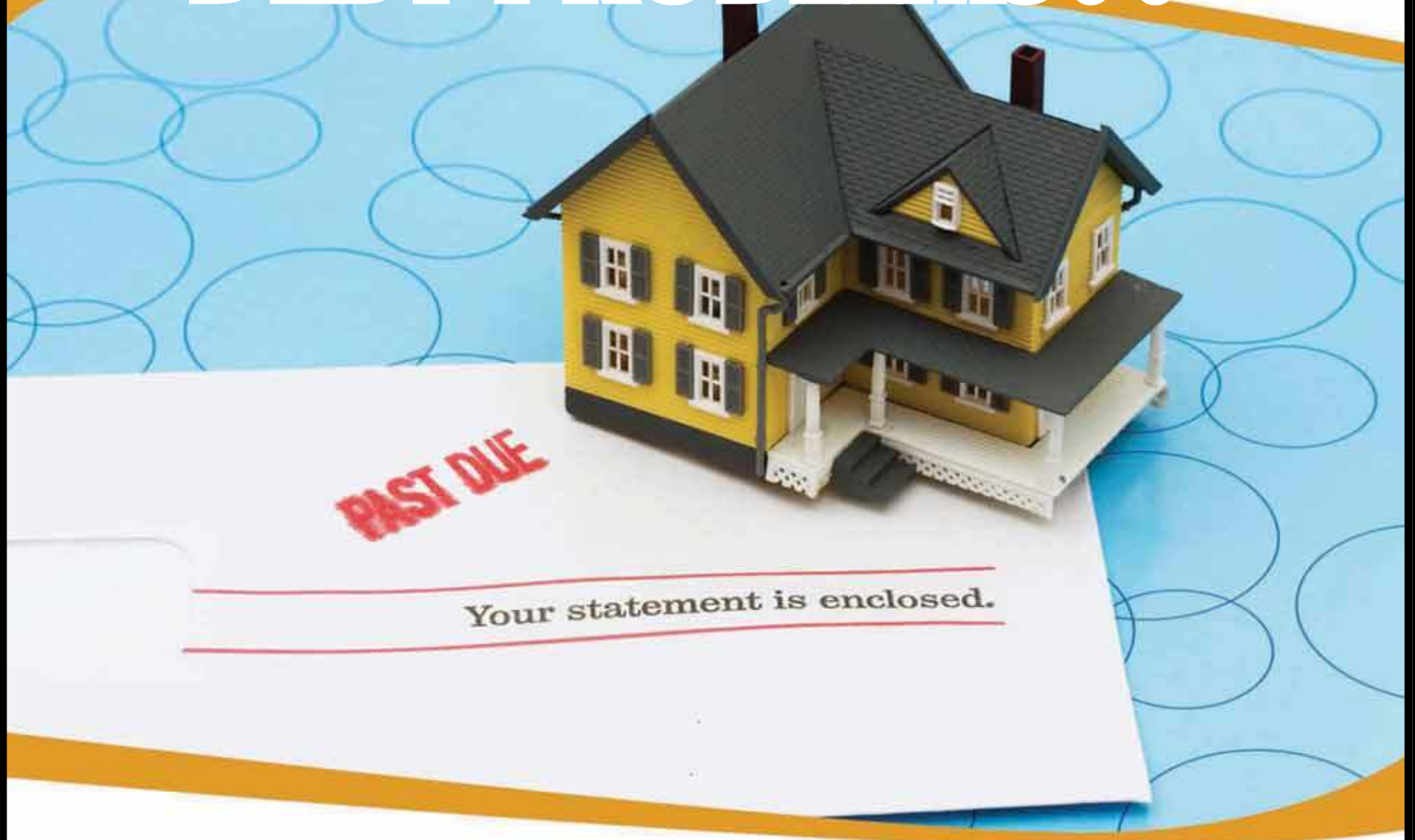
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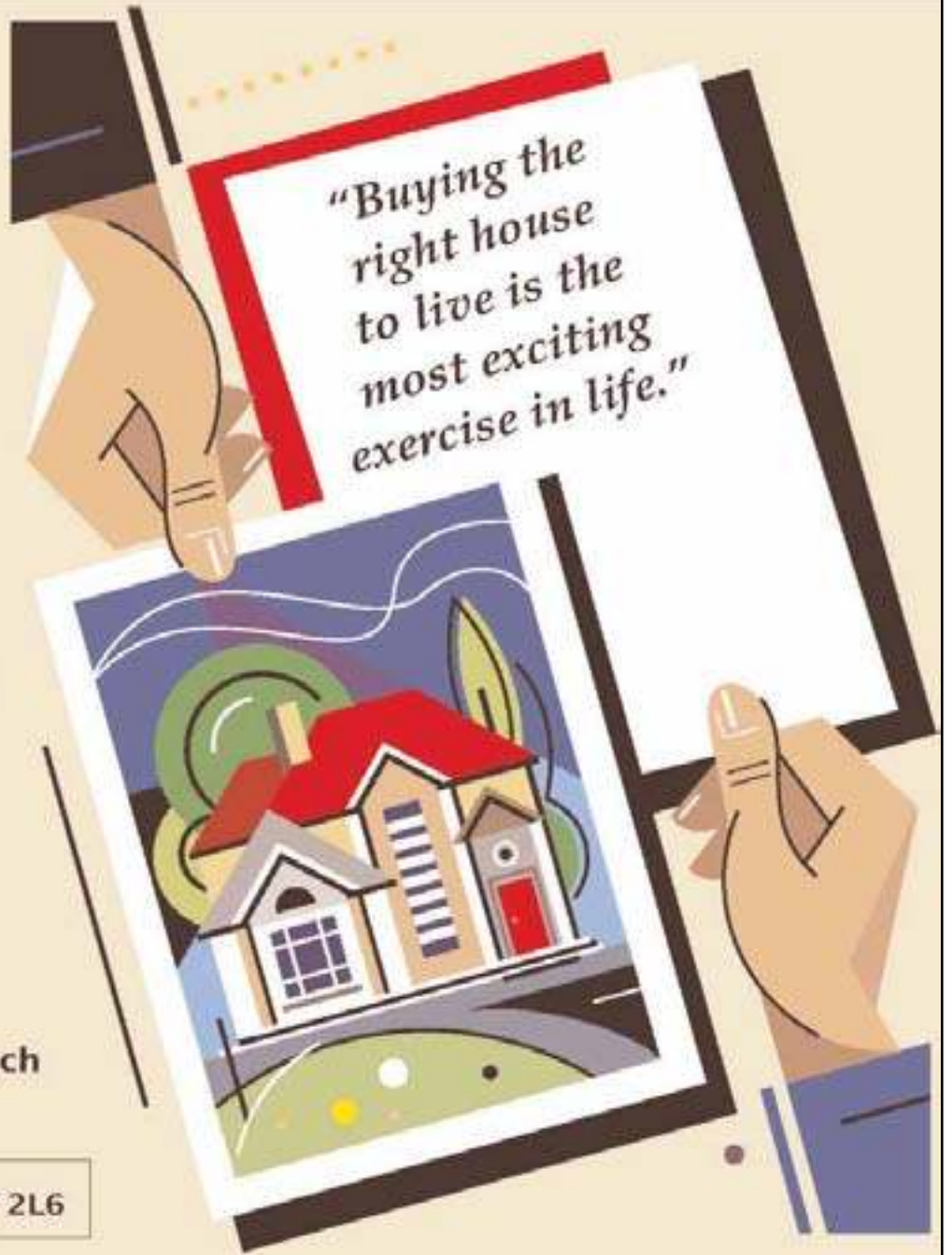
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CRICKET TOURNAMENT A GRAND SLAM FOR THE SCARBOROUGH HOSPITAL

EVENT RAISES \$50,000 FOR HOSPITAL'S CANCER CARE PROGRAM



Former Toronto Raptors player Jamaal Magloire and veteran cricket commentator Iftikhar Ahmed helped kick off the Scarborough World Cup of Cricket at the opening ceremony on June 22.

Scarborough, Ontario – June 24, 2013 – Hundreds of Toronto-area residents filled the fields of L'Amoreaux Park in Scarborough on June 22-23 as the Scarborough World Cup of Cricket made its debut with a grand slam.

Ten local teams competed in the inaugural cricket tournament, and while the Scarborough Muslim Association-sponsored team took home first prize, the ultimate winner was The Scarborough Hospital, which raised \$50,000 for its Cancer Care Program through the community-wide family event.

Second-place tournament winner was the team sponsored by ATN (Asian Television Network).

"The event exceeded our expectations, and is a testament to the growing popularity of cricket in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)," said Michael Mazza, President of The Scarborough Hospital Foundation (TSHF), which organized the event. "It also demonstrates that great things can be accomplished when the community comes together."

The Scarborough World Cup of Cricket – which the TSHF says will become an annual event – included the tournament, as well as cricket clinics, a family barbeque, an international food fair, and Teddy Bear "check-ups" performed by hospital doctors and nurses in field tents. Celebrities on-site included leading professional cricket player Umar Bhatti, popular level-three certified cricket coach Nadeem Khokhar, veteran cricket commentator Iftikhar Ahmed, and former Toronto Raptors player Jamaal Magloire.

In addition to the Scarborough Muslim Association and ATN, other event sponsors were Scotiabank, TD Canada Trust, Royal Bank of Canada, Habib Canadian Bank/Pakistan Consulate, The Islamic

Foundation of Toronto, Western Union, Arthur Fire Protection, Woburn Medical Dental Centre, Woburn Pharmacy, Scarborough Town Centre, Physiomed, The Valley Park Go Green Cricket Field, Remax Community Realty, and Physio-Fit.

"We thank all of our sponsors and the GTA community for attending the Scarborough World Cup of Cricket and supporting such an important cause for the residents of Scarborough," said Tournament Chair Nigel Samaroo.

According to Sari Greenwood, Patient Manager of The Scarborough Hospital Cancer Care program, the funds raised from The Scarborough World Cup of Cricket will help the hospital continue to provide high-quality integrated cancer care services to the community and high quality cancer care close to home for thousands of local residents.

"The Scarborough Hospital receives more than 24,000 visits annually to its

cancer centre, and the numbers are growing," Greenwood said. "Managed by a multidisciplinary team of oncologists and specially-trained nurses, the hospital's Cancer Care program is very strong, and with increased integration of services, our program will become

building projects for The Scarborough Hospital. Since its inception, the Foundation has worked with generous donors, volunteers and community members to raise the funds needed to help save lives, and support the hospital's vision to be recognized as



Local residents brushed up on their cricket skills at on-site cricket clinics held during the Scarborough World Cup of Cricket.

even stronger,"

Situated in the most diverse community in Canada, The Scarborough Hospital Foundation (TSHF) raises funds for state-of-the-art medical equipment and

Canada's leader in providing the best healthcare for a global community.

The team sponsored by the Scarborough Muslim Association took first place in the inaugural Scarborough World Cup of Cricket.



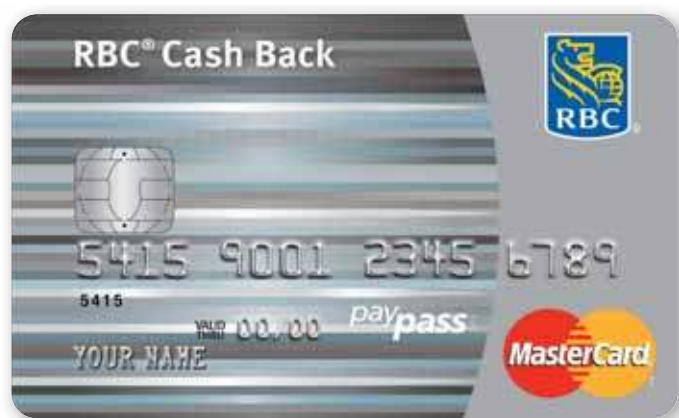


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TSH OPENS NEW SATELLITE DIALYSIS SUITE AT BRIDGEPOINT

For over 20 years, TSH has partnered with Bridgepoint Active Healthcare to deliver dialysis services to complex continuing care patients. This partnership has entered an exciting new phase with the opening of an updated satellite dialysis unit in Bridgepoint's new, state-of-the-art hospital that just opened this past April.

"TSH is home to one of the largest Regional Nephrology Programs in North America, with over 6,000 patients receiving care," said Robert Biron, President and CEO of The Scarborough Hospital. "Combined with Bridgepoint's leading approach in the care and treatment of adults living with complex health conditions, we are able to deliver a superior integrated care experience for these patients."

The modern unit offers many improvements that will enhance dialysis services, including:

- A 2,200 square foot space, with six dialysis suites running three shifts per day, providing hemodialysis for 18 patients.

- Dialysis stations which are 8' by 9', exceeding current infection control standards.
 - Ceiling lifts, as well as one station configured to accommodate bariatric patients.
 - Infrastructure for the future addition of nocturnal dialysis, which would allow patients to fully participate in Bridgepoint's rehabilitation and wellness services during the day.
- The event also included a special tribute to TSH Nephrologist Dr. Janet Roscoe who, over the years, has advocated, supported and provided for the care needs of Complex Continuing Care patients on dialysis. Dr. Roscoe was presented with a plaque honoring her work.

Robert Biron, President and CEO of The Scarborough Hospital, speaks during the opening of The Scarborough Hospital's new satellite dialysis unit at Bridgepoint Active Healthcare.



Hospitals' Facilitated Integration Planning Framework Supported by Central East LHIN

SCARBOROUGH (June 24, 2013)

The Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) Board of Directors has supported the Facilitated Integration Planning Framework proposed by Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) and The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) Boards of Directors. The two hospital Boards, at their respective special meetings on June 19, passed motions to approve the Planning Framework. Developed by the Integration Leadership Committee (ILC), the Planning Framework provides the planning steps that RVHS and TSH will take over the next four months to prepare a preferred integration plan.

The two hospitals, and now the Central East LHIN, have agreed to proceed with stakeholder engagement and due diligence in order to determine what benefits a merger of the two hospitals will provide to the Scarborough community.

In addition, after receiving feedback and advice from local MPPs and the TSH Board, the Central East LHIN Board has added a 30-day extension for the hospitals in recognition of their commitment to a robust and inclusive stakeholder engagement process. The submission deadline for the hospitals to submit a final report outlining their preferred integration plan has been extended to November 18, 2013.

The development of the Planning Framework is in response to a motion by the Central East LHIN Board on

March 27, directing the two hospitals to work together on a facilitated integration process to identify how the two hospital corporations can develop an integrated and coordinated model to support the delivery of high-quality, accessible and safe hospital programs and services for the residents of Scarborough.

In particular the approved Planning Framework, which was supported by the Central East LHIN Board, includes:

- looking at integrated leadership and governance for both hospital corporations at all four sites;
- looking at back office integration opportunities for all four sites; and,
- exploring the patient care service integration opportunities in Scarborough at the Birchmount, General and Centenary sites.

The integration planning process will not include patient care services currently delivered in the Durham cluster at the Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering site.

"Our hospitals can now get underway with the important work before us as health system leaders," said Rik Ganderton, President/CEO, Rouge Valley Health System. "Our goal and responsibility is to ensure

that local residents have access to high-quality and safe hospital care, while using tax dollars efficiently and effectively."

"Reaching out to our many stakeholders before decisions

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.



are made and to engage them in a meaningful way through our planning process is essential to get their valued input. We look forward to creating a shared vision on how our hospitals can better serve our communities and patients," said Robert Biron, President/CEO, The Scarborough Hospital.

Both hospital CEOs noted the ongoing commitment of their two hospitals to provide high-quality and safe care during any health system transformation.

Rouge Valley Health System 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

Situated in the most diverse community in Canada, The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) delivers innovative, high-quality patient care at two hospital campuses, Birchmount and General, and six satellite sites. The Scarborough Hospital is a regional centre for dialysis and is renowned for its sexual assault care centre and mental health programs. Affiliated with the University of Toronto, TSH is also a referral centre for vascular surgery, pacemakers and cataract surgery.

Patient would recommend TSH surgeons to anyone

When Lea Nagelberg needed surgery, her doctor referred her to Drs. Sarah and Vanessa Wong, Plastic Surgeons at The Scarborough Hospital.

Lea was so impressed with her surgery and the aftercare provided by Drs. Wong, she wrote a note to the hospital commending the plastic surgeons and their staff.

"We would like to put in a compliment for Dr. Sarah Wong, Dr. Vanessa Wong and their staff as they were all excellent," Lea wrote in her email. "They are all very sweet and professional. Job well done!"

Lea added that the aftercare she received was also fantastic, with her doctors following up with her

directly to ensure she didn't become ill.

"It takes a long time to recover," says Lea. "But they were on top of it to make sure I was okay, that the wounds were clear and that I didn't get an infection."

Lea was so pleased with the work they did and their professionalism that when her husband also needed surgery, she recommended he ask for a referral to see the sister surgeons.

"And we would highly recommend them to anyone else," says Lea.

Lea Nagelberg was so pleased with the care she received from Dr. Sarah and Dr. Vanessa Wong, she referred her husband to them.



COMMUNITY GROUP RAISES \$45K FOR HOSPITAL'S CANCER CARE PROGRAM

Despite inclement weather, The Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) held its 13th annual Charity Walk-A-Thon on June 3, and raised a record-setting total for The Scarborough Hospital Foundation.

The annual event, chaired by Mohan Sundaramohan, RBC Branch Manager at Morningside and Milner, raised an outstanding \$45,000 to support the hospital's cancer care program.

"We know that strong communities build strong hospitals, and partnerships, like that we have

with the CTCC, are key to providing the best healthcare for our global community," says Michael Mazza, President, The Scarborough Hospital Foundation. "They do great work, and their contribution towards our integrated cancer care program will help to ensure that our community has enhanced access to excellent cancer care close to home."

TSH is a leader in providing cancer care to Scarborough residents, and while the program currently experiences a high volume of patients, TSH provides excellent care while

maintaining low wait times. Over the next three years, TSH will implement its vision of integrated cancer care program – from screening to treatment – across the organization.

According to Sari Greenwood, Patient Care Manager of The Scarborough Hospital Cancer Care program, the hospital receives more than 24,000 visits annually to its cancer centre, and the numbers are growing.

"Managed by a multidisciplinary team of oncologists and specially-trained nurses, the hospital's Cancer

Care program is very strong, and with increased integration of services, our program will become even stronger," she says.

The annual Walk-A-Thon demonstrates the generosity and support of the Tamil community. Since its inception in 1999, the walk has brought people of all ages, backgrounds and professions together for a day of fun and to raise funds for a great cause. Over the past 14 years, the CTCC has raised more than \$200,000 for TSH with the help of its dedicated participants and sponsors.



The annual Walk-A-Thon, hosted by the Canadian Tamil Chamber of Commerce, has supported The Scarborough Hospital, and its programs, for more than 10 years.



Special Feature

DMK Chief Karunanidhi Writes to Manmohan Singh Urging PM to Prevent Repeal of Indo-Lanka Pact Signed by Rajiv and JR

(Former Tamil Nadu chief minister and leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Muttuvel Karunanidhi has written a letter to Indian Prime minister Manmohan Singh urging him to prevent the repeal of the India-Sri Lanka agreement of 1987 signed by Rajiv Gandhi and JR Jayewardena and requesting him to ensure the speedy implementation of the pact. The full text of the letter is reproduced below)

Dear Prime Minister,

I wish to bring to your kind notice the attempts of the Sinhala Extremist Groups led by Jathika Hela Urumaya to get the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka repealed and consequently the 1987 Rajiv - Jayawardane Accord abrogated.

This is reminiscent of the historical tendency of the Sinhalese to disown agreements and pacts made to pave way for the Sinhala-Tamil amity. From Mahendra Pact of 1925 to the agreement on a Cease-fire in 2002, nearly 14 Agreements and Pacts entered into so far have been flouted.

Therefore it is a historical fact that Sinhalese since 1925 had repeatedly rejected all offers by the Tamils for a harmonious living.

False promises and retraction from agreed positions had been the mindset of the Sinhalese leadership all along. You are aware that the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution is a direct consequence of a bilateral accord between two Nations viz., India and Sri Lanka. We, in India, have promised the Sri Lankan Tamils through this accord that we will underwrite and guarantee implementation of the Accord, because of the past bitter experience the Sri Lankan Tamils had with the Pacts they had entered into with the Sinhalese.

The Sinhalese Extremist Groups are planning to conduct protest marches, rallies and other forms of street demonstrations until President Rajapakse takes action to repeal the 13th Amendment and cancel the proposed September elections to the Northern Provincial Council.

Sri Lankan Defence Secretary and brother of President Mahinda Rajapakse, Gothepaya Rajapakse has gone on record seeking the repeal of the 13th Amendment.

As a consequence of the Rajiv-Jayawardane accord, President Jayawardane issued proclamation enabling the Northern and Eastern Provinces to be one administrative unit to be run by one elected Council. The merger was stoutly opposed by Sri Lankan nationalists. On 14th July 2006, after a prolonged campaign against the merger, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, a political party, filed three separate petitions in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka requesting a separate provincial council for the East.

On 16th October 2006, the Supreme Court ruled that the proclamation issued by President Jayawardane were null and void and had no legal effect. The North-East Province was formally demerged into the Northern and Eastern provinces on 1st January 2007. Rajiv-Jayawardane accord suffered a serious set-back in 2007.

Now, it is the duty and responsibility of India to intervene directly to see that the Rajiv-Jayawardane accord is implemented in its letter and spirit. That will enable a smoothening of the path towards conflict-resolution and ethnic reconciliation. India should not be a silent spectator to the events taking place in Sri Lanka at this critical point of time. D.M.K. and TESO (Tamil Eezham Supporters' Organisation) have been demanding "Re-



Greetings to Nonagenarian Kalaingar Karunanidhi from Tamil Star Prabhu, son of late Thespian Sivaji Ganesan. Kalaingar Karunanidhi celebrated his 90th birthday on June 3, 2103 ferandum" to be conducted among the Eezham Tamils and Diaspora Tamils under the supervision of the U.N.O. with a view to find a lasting political solution.

Let me remind you that since 1983, the inflow of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees into Tamil Nadu has been causing a drain on our resources. Nearly 2,25,000 refugees are in Tamil Nadu waiting to return.

Reversing the process of reconciliation and conflict resolution in Sri Lanka will worsen the situation in the traditional Tamil homelands of Sri Lanka. Further influx of refugees into Tamil Nadu will bring more hardships.

A merged province in the areas of traditional habitation of the Tamil speaking people, with an elected council with powers provided in the 13th Amendment including land and police powers, as provided in the Rajiv-Jayawardane accord is one of the priorities of the Sri Lankan Tamils. I am sure that you will appreciate the urgency of this issue.

I kindly seek your intervention to protect the rights and livelihood of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Kind Regards,
Yours sincerely,
M. Karunanidhi.

Friday Forum, a respected body of academics & professionals in Sri Lanka urges political parties to resist dilution of the 13th Amendment

The Friday Forum, a respected body of academics & professionals in Sri Lanka has urged political parties and civil society groups to oppose government moves to dilute the 13th Amendment to the Constitution and to make every effort to ensure a free and fair northern provincial council election under the present constitution.

The following is the full text of a joint statement issued by Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala and Professor Savitri Goonesekere: "The Friday Forum considers effective devolution essential to building trust and ethnic harmony, securing future peace and promoting good governance. The government has more

than once publicly committed itself to implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. It is thus with deep concern that we view current attempts to dilute the already limited provisions for devolution embodied in the 13th Amendment.

The proposed amendment will make it much easier for the Centre to override Provincial Councils. At present, if the Centre wishes to pass a law on a matter in the Provincial Council List, the Bill must be referred to all Provincial Councils for them to express their views. If all Provincial Councils agree, the Bill may be passed by a simple majority. If one or more Councils do not agree, a two-thirds majority is needed to make the

law applicable to the Councils that did not agree, but if passed only by a simple majority, the law will apply only in the provinces that agreed. This is a safeguard against interference by the Centre and many Provincial Councils outside the North and East too have disagreed with such Bills and asserted their independence. According to the proposed amendment, such a Bill will apply in all the provinces if a majority of the Provincial Councils agrees. This would make it possible for the Centre to easily impose legislation on Provincial Councils controlled by the Opposition. The Northern and Eastern Provincial Councils are likely to suffer the most.

The provisions relating to the merger

of provinces are also to be deleted. Presently, a merger can only be initiated by the President. Provincial Councils have no say in the matter at all. Further, the people of the East must give their consent at a referendum if the Northern and Eastern provinces are to be merged. We do not see the need to amend these provisions.

The proposed amendment also runs counter to the content and spirit of the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission to which the Government has repeatedly expressed its commitment. The government has adopted an LLRC Action Plan which we are told is already being implemented.

Contd. next page...



Broken Promises: It is vital that the Government of Sri Lanka realises that actions speak louder than words

By M. A. Sumanthiran

The Tamil National Alliance has repeatedly pointed out the consistent and continuing failure of the Sri Lankan government to fulfil its promises to the peoples of Sri Lanka. The proposed amendment to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution—currently the only concession to any form of devolution in Sri Lanka—is yet another example of this.

Perhaps, the most significant of the government's broken promises are those relating to a political settlement. The Sri Lankan government has for several years promised a power-sharing arrangement that will ensure that power is shared equitably amongst the peoples of Sri Lanka. President Rajapaksa's Joint Statement with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon soon after the end of the war in May 2009 contained several assurances relating to a political solution, one of which was

"...to proceed with the implementation of the 13th Amendment..."

Before the end of the war, at the inaugural meeting of the All Party Representatives Committee (APRC) and its multi-ethnic Experts Committee appointed by the President to assist the APRC, on 11th July 2006, the President said:

"People in their own localities must take charge of their destiny and control their politico-economic environment. ... In sum, any solution needs to as a matter of urgency devolve power for people to take charge of their own destiny. ... Any solution must be seen as one that stretches to the maximum possible devolution without sacrificing the sovereignty of the country given the background of the conflict."

At the 10th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in March 2009, Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe reiterated the President's pledge, saying,

"Our national discourse has been dominated for decades by an ethnic issue, which requires a political solution as a means to resolve problems. ... [o]n a recommendation of the All Party Representatives Committee, we are able to properly implement the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which was passed in 1987."

When the Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister G. L. Peiris visited New Delhi in May 2011, a joint press statement with the Minister of External Affairs of India stated:

"... the External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka affirmed his government's commitment to ensuring expeditious and concrete progress in the ongoing dialogue between the government of Sri Lanka and representatives of Tamil parties. A devolution package, building upon the 13th Amendment, would contribute towards creating the necessary conditions

for such reconciliation."

In January 2012, after meeting with President Rajapakse, visiting Indian Minister for External Affairs, S. M. Krishna speaking at a joint press conference with Minister G. L. Peiris, said:

"The Government of Sri Lanka has on many occasions conveyed to us its commitment to move towards a political settlement based on the full implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, and building on it, so as to achieve meaningful devolution of powers. We look forward to an expeditious and constructive approach to the dialogue process."

This is not the first such assurance made to the Government of India. On 25th December, the Indian External Affairs spokesman stated

"[I]n this context we have been assured by the government of Sri Lanka on several occasions in the past, of its commitment towards pursuit of a political process ... leading to the full implementation of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, and to go beyond, so as to achieve meaningful devolution of powers and genuine national reconciliation."

It is in this context that the government proposes to strip the 13th Amendment of the limited concession it offers to devolution.

The current framework under the 13th Amendment provides only modest protection to minority peoples in the event that Parliament seeks to legislate on a subject on the Provincial Council List. Article 154(G)(3) is a measure to prevent the central government from legislating on subjects allocated to the Provincial Councils (PCs) without first obtaining the consent of all PCs. Where one or more PC does not consent to a proposed bill, the central government has the power to either pass the bill by a simple majority, in which case the bill will become law ap-



"Stop Disappearances and Abductions" - Protest in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka, held on [International day against disappearances, August 30, 2012 - Organized by - Committee for Investigation of the Disappeared-Pic by: Vikalpa Voices

plicable only to the Provinces where the PCs agreed to the bill, or to do so by a two thirds majority in which case the bill will become law applicable to the entire country. The government's proposal to remove this safeguard will in effect render the 13th Amendment in terms of devolution of legislative power meaningless, as the central government at any given time could take away any or all powers vested in the PCs by passing legislation with a simple majority.

Not only has the government failed to keep its many promises to move towards a political settlement based on the full implementation of the 13th Amendment and build on it so as to achieve meaningful devolution of powers, it shamelessly proposes to strip away the limited concession to devolution that exists! The proposed amendment is majoritarian on two counts. First, it imposes the majority will of PCs on a particular Province by empowering Parliament to enact — through a simple majority — legislation on any Provincial List subject, provided a majority of PCs agree to the proposed

Bill. Second, it imposes the majority will of Parliament on a particular Province, as it empowers Parliament to enact such legislation through a simple majority rather than a special majority. A special majority is required only if a majority of PCs disagree with the proposed Bill.

To date, the government has been content with 'winning the war' and has made no attempt to take the next necessary step – to win the peace. This failure will make 'winning the war' and all its dividends meaningless. The peace can be won only if there is a genuine political will to do so.

It is vital that the Sri Lankan government realises that actions speak louder than words. And so far, when it comes to a genuine political will to arrive at a meaningful political solution, the government's actions have drowned out its words.

(M. A. Sumanthiran is a Member of Parliament, representing The Tamil National Alliance)

Friday Forum, a respected body of academics...

Coming just prior to the long-delayed elections to the Northern Provincial Council, now due to be held in September, constitutional amendments of this nature, as would any further attempt to dilute the devolution provisions of the Constitution, constitute a clear breach of trust with our fellow citizens in the North. Our country has just emerged from years of suffering endured during the armed conflict, and devolution of power under the 13th amendment is an important element in the path to peace and reconciliation.

Constitutional amendments including urgent bills based on political expediency are undemocratic and undermine

the rule of law. After losing four valuable years that could have been used to find a political settlement, democratisation and reconciliation, this move to dilute provisions on devolution will further undermine post-war democratisation in the North.

The Friday Forum urges all political parties and groups to oppose any move to dilute the 13th Amendment, and to make every effort to ensure that a fair and free election to the Northern Provincial Council takes place under the present constitutional scheme.

The following members of the Friday Forum endorsed the statement

Ms. Suriya Wickremasinghe, Dr.

Jayampathy Wickramaratne, Rt. Reverend Duleep de Chickera, Mr. Tissa Jayatilaka, Mr. Ahilan Kadirgamar, Dr. Deepika Udagama, Professor Arjuna Aluwihare, Ms. Sithie Tiruchelvam, Rev. Dr. Jayasiri Peiris, Ms. Anne Abayasekara Ms. Manouri Muttetuwegama, Mr. J.C. Weliamuna, Mr. Javid Yusuf, Dr. A. C. Visvalingam, Mr. Lanka Nesiiah, Professor. Camena Gunaratne, Ms. Damaris Wickramasekera, Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran, Dr. Devanesan Nesiiah, Ms. Shanthi Dias, Mr. Danesh Casie Chetty, Mr. Prashan de Visser, Mr. D. Wijayanandana, Mr. Mahen Dayananda, Professor. Ranjini Obeyesekere, Mr. Chandra Jayaratne.



Special Feature

IN THIS MONTH'S POST IN THE WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO SERIES, SADHGURU TALKS ABOUT THE CONTRADICTIONS INHERENT IN THE INDIAN WAY OF LIFE – TOTAL CHAOS OVERLYING A DEEP SENSE OF HARMONY.

Sadhguru:

India as a culture, with all its apparent disorganization, used to be very organized deep down. It functioned very systematically. Even today the nation has not broken down completely simply because of that deep in-built cultural organization. With all the surface disharmony, there is something deep which holds things together. It is not the government, the law, or the infrastructure which holds society together in India. There is something in people which still keeps things rolling. With the level of poverty that people face in India, still maintaining some sanity, going on with their activities and celebrating their festivals takes a different kind of in-built mechanism which was put in by the culture.

Western organization means everything is so organized. Then everything will happen like a machine – everything will be happening, but no life will be happening.

The beauty of our culture is that it is disorganized. But if you do not find harmony in the disorganization of what it is, then a disharmonious mind, a disharmonious body, and a disharmonious social situation takes away all possibilities from a human being. Let's say you happened to go into your kitchen and everything was mixed up – you do not know where anything is. It may be fun for a day trying to find everything, but if it happens every day and if you have to do it in a certain time-bound way, it takes away a lot of possibilities in you. Just trying to fix your morning coffee becomes a full-time job. That is the kind of situation we have created in the nation. Doing simple things has become a full-time job for intelligent people who could be doing a lot more. In small communities, in certain corporations, industries and businesses, people are getting organized in small ways and in small units. But this organization is coming in a very westernized way, which is again extremely stressful for the human being.

Western organization means everything is so organized. Then everything will happen like a machine – everything will be happening, but no life will be happening. It is very easy to give a hard and fast rule, "Just do this." Everything looks organized but then when life does not happen, people have a huge longing to break the rule. This is what is happening in the West. For no reason, a whole segment of population is striving to somehow break the rules that are working well simply because life feels restricted in the whole process of organization.

Yoga as a science and a practice is such that if people bring this into their lives, they can maintain an inner organization even if the outside situations are going totally crazy.

The spiritual paths in India lived total-

ly disorganized because they did not want anything to be suppressed. Right now, we do not have enough space in the country to be too disorganized. If it was just one person per square kilometer, you could act crazy. But when there are this many people, how you place every step matters. With the kind of population and spaces available around us, I think a little more organization would make life much more saner than what it is right now because if you allow too much life to happen, things will collapse. Maintaining that balance – allowing enough freedom for life to happen freely, but still you are organized enough so that you do not waste the fundamental human potential within yourself has always been the essence of my focus when it comes to people and activity. Yoga as a science and a practice is such that if people bring this into their lives, they can maintain an inner organization even if the outside situations are going totally crazy.

Brahmacharya has always been an integral part of the spiritual process. Sadhguru speaks about what brahmacharya is, and who a brahmachari is.

Sadhguru:

"Brahman" means "the divine" or "ultimate," "charya" means "the path." If you are on the path of the divine, you are a brahmachari. To be on the path of the divine means you have no personal agendas of your own. You simply do what is needed. You have no personal ways of deciding where you should go in your life, what you should do, or what you like and dislike; all these things are simply taken away from you. If you do this unwillingly, it can be an absolute torture. If you do it willingly, it makes your life so wonderful and beautiful because there is nothing to bother you anymore. You simply do what is needed; life is so simple. Once you have given yourself like that, you do not have to bother about the spiritual path or worry about your spirituality. It is taken care of. You do not have to really do anything about it.

People may think a brahmachari is making a great sacrifice and is being denied life. But it is not so at all. If someone is a brahmachari only by dress, yes it is true, life is torture. But for a person who is truly walking the path of the divine, the petty pleasures that the world offers will become totally meaningless. Once you enjoy the inner pleasures of your being, the external pleasures become totally meaningless.

Everyone should become a brahmachari, not necessarily in terms of lifestyle, but internally.

Does it mean everyone should become a brahmachari? Everyone should become a brahmachari, not necessarily in terms of lifestyle, but internally. Everyone should be on the path of the divine. Brahmacharya does not just mean celibacy. That is just one of the aspects that have been taken up as a supportive system. To become a brahmachari means you are ecstatic by your own nature. You can be married and still be a brahmachari. It is possible because you are joyful by your own nature; you are not try-



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
Toronto local contact
1-866-424-ISHA (4742) or email
Toronto@ishafoundation.org

ing to extract joy from your husband or wife. This is how it should be. The whole world should be brahmachari. Everyone should be joyful by their own nature. If two people come together, it should be a sharing of joy, not extraction of joy from each other.

An Investment For The Future

Why has a certain order been set up? If one is just seeking realization at the end of his life, it could be taken care of in many different ways. I can fix a date with you for that day! But if one wants to explore, and not only explore, if one wants to be a useful instrument in making it happen to many other people, then brahmacharya becomes significant. Brahmacharies are an investment for the future, to keep spirituality in its pristine purity and transmit it from generation to generation. A small, core group of people are needed. They are initiated in a particular way which turns their energies in a completely different direction. Everyone need not take that step, nor will we take everyone because it is not necessary, and neither can they put in the sadhana that is required or demanded out of them.

All of us have eaten mangoes, but how many of us have planted mango trees, made them grow and then eaten mangoes?

All of us have eaten mangoes, but how many of us have planted mango trees, made them grow and then eaten mangoes? Most people have eaten mangoes because someone else planted the mango trees. In every society, out of a thousand people, at least ten people have to take care to plant mango trees. Similarly with this, a few people have to take the path of brahmacharya. People who are willing to dedicate themselves to other's wellbeing are needed in society. If there is no one thinking about others wellbeing, that society is definitely heading for ruin. That is what has happened to society right now. There are very few people thinking of everyone's wellbeing.

Like A Rocket!

Essentially, this human mechanism is a certain energy system. You can keep it with many openings and transact with the world in a certain way or you can make this into a close-circuit system so that it becomes very integrated. A rocket goes up because it is firing only on one side. Suppose it fires on all the sides, it is not going to go anywhere, it will just dissipate itself. Or it will go somewhere without direction and fall apart. What we are trying to make out of a brahmachari is just that he fires only on one side. One that fires only on one side is going to go straight up and there is a particular purpose to creating such a system.

It is a weapon with which you can bomb the world with a spiritual process.

When you have a close-circuit system like that, it is a powerful instrument. This instrument could be employed or deployed in so many different ways. It is a weapon with which you can bomb the world with a spiritual process.

Monks have been there in every culture because wherever there was a genuine enlightened process, they always wanted some mechanisms to be wired in such a way that they are completely integrated systems. There is no transaction outside. It is totally by itself. Those systems are needed if you want to shake the world in a certain way and want to create certain processes and access certain things. If you want to put a satellite beyond the atmosphere, you need a rocket. If you want to just fly around in the atmosphere, an airplane will do. That's the difference. When you are planning and projecting to do something which is beyond certain limitations, brahmacharies become necessary.

Sadhguru J. Vasudev is a contemporary mystic rooted as strongly in worldly and pragmatic matters as he is in inner experience and wisdom. Named one of India's 50 most influential people, he has addressed prominent global forums on issues as diverse as socio-economic development, leadership and spirituality. He has served as delegate to the United Nations Millennium Peace Summit and the World Peace Congress and has been a special invitee to the World Economic Forum (2006-2009), the Australian Leadership Retreat (2006) and TED (2009). His interviews are featured in The New York Times, BBC, Bloomberg, CNN and CNBC. He is the author of several books, the subject of four books and co-author of the Amazon Bestseller "Midnights with the Mystic". His public talks frequently draw crowds of over 300,000 people.

Founded by Sadhguru, Isha Foundation is a non-religious, non-profit organization with over 200 centers worldwide and over one million volunteers. Isha Foundation offers Inner Engineering Online – a practical approach for inner transformation in a fast paced world. The course designed by Sadhguru presents simple, yet powerful tools for an individual to experience life on a deeper level with more awareness, energy, and productivity. This program is an ideal opportunity for those with time and travel constraints to experience the same profound effects of the traditional Inner Engineering program, which has impacted millions of people over the past 25 years. To learn more, view the free Introductory Talk, or to register visit www.InnerEngineering.com

Website: www.ishafoundation.org / email: toronto@ishafoundation.org / Local contact: 416 300 3010



LAUGHTER: A SPECIAL TALENT FOR OUR CREATIVITY



Authored by

S. Pathmanathan

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Laughter is a special gift received by humans. Until now it is believed that only humans have the ability to laugh. Though we have been gifted with this special ability it is unfortunate that many of us are unable to make the best use of this talent due to a variety of reasons.

Laughter is a human behaviour regulated by the activity of the brain. Medical research has proved laughter is a wonderful medication for the body, helps creativity and expression of happiness and pleasure. This ability also helps in social interaction.

There is a special field of study called Gelotology which is the study of laughter and its effects on the body, from a psychological and physiological perspective. Its proponents often advocate induction of laughter on therapeutic grounds in complementary medicine. The field of study was pioneered by William F. Fry of Stanford University, England.

It has now been learnt that every child laughs 300 times a day while adults laugh on the average only 20 times in a day. It is also learnt that infants attempt to smile within 17 days of being born and have the ability of being able to have a full fledged smile with 4 months

Robert R. Provine, a neuroscientist and Professor of Psychology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA has studied the development and evolution of the nervous system and behavior, including human social behaviour. His widely cited book *Laughter: A Scientific Investigation* was selected as one of The 25 Books to Remember from 2000 by the New York Public Library, and his articles are reprinted in *The Best American Science Writing 2006* and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2006*. Robert Provine said: "Laughter is a mechanism everyone has; laughter is part of universal human vocabulary. There are thousands of languages, hundreds of thousands of dialects, but everyone speaks laughter in pretty much the same way." It has now been learnt that the mechanism for laughter is centered around the regions of the brain namely mesial thalamus, hypothalamus and subthalamus.

According to Greek Philosopher Herodotus, There are three kinds of laughter:

- That done by those who are innocent of wrong-doing, but ignorant of their own vulnerability.
- That done by those who are mad.
- That done by those who are overconfident.

However it has been proved by medical research that Laughter is great medicine

Thomas Hobbs of Malmsbury, was a 16th century English philosopher, best known today for his work on political philosophy. He once stated that "people laugh due to happiness that arises all of a sudden.

“ A day without laughter is a day wasted. ”

- Charlie Chaplain

According to French Philosopher Henri Bergson "laughter is the result of intelligent action for the purpose of humour"

Non-human primates

Though it was believed that only humans have the ability to laugh, it is now learnt some members of the family of monkeys too can express laughter.

Chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos and orangutans show laughter-like vocalizations in response to physical contact, such as wrestling, play chasing, or tickling. This is documented in wild and captive chimpanzees. Chimpanzee laughter is not readily recognizable to humans as such, because it is generated by alternating inhalations and exhalations that sound more like breathing and panting. It sounds similar to screeching. The differences between chimpanzee and human laughter may be the result of adaptations that have evolved to enable human speech. According to Dr. Brian Carroll, It is hard to tell, though, whether or not the chimpanzee is expressing joy. There are instances in which non-human primates have been reported to have expressed joy. One study analyzed and recorded sounds made by human babies and bonobos (also known as pygmy chimpanzees) when tickled. It found that although the bonobo's laugh was a higher frequency, the laugh followed the same spectrographic pattern of human babies to include as similar facial expressions. Humans and chimpanzees share similar ticklish areas of the body such as the armpits and belly. The enjoyment of tickling in chimpanzees does not diminish with age.

Research has noted the similarity in forms of laughter among humans and apes (chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, orangutans) when tickled, suggesting that laughter derived from a common origin among primate species, and has subsequently evolved prior to the origin of humans.

Various animals such as Dogs, Rats, Cats have also been observed to express laughter like emotions. Especially the dogs express their affection in a variety of ways including wagging their tails, rolling over, resting their heads on the lap of their owner etc. However it is difficult to pin point with accuracy if those expressions are similar to human laughter.

There are numerous quotes about laughter. One of them a Yiddish proverb states "what soap is to body laughter is to the soul". Laughter is actually an effectively strong medicine. In fact, the world famous monthly magazine *Readers Digest* devotes a couple of

pages under the section "Laughter is the best medicine". Laughter is beneficial not only for the upliftment of the mind but also provides a sense of humour and increases resistance to diseases and protects the heart.

Dr. Michael Miller of University of Maryland, Baltimore, USA made a study of a group of 20 non-smoking, healthy volunteers, equally divided between men and women, whose average age was 33. The participants had normal blood pressure, cholesterol and blood glucose levels. Volunteers were shown funny and disturbing movies to test the effect of emotions on blood vessels.

Using laughter-provoking movies to gauge the effect of emotions on cardiovascular health, researchers at this University have shown for the first time that laughter is linked to healthy function of blood vessels. Laughter appears to cause the tissue that forms the inner lining of blood vessels, the endothelium, to dilate or expand in order to increase blood flow.

When the same group of study volunteers was shown a movie that produced mental stress, their blood vessel lining developed a potentially unhealthy response called vasoconstriction, reducing blood flow. That finding confirms previous studies, which suggested there was a link between mental stress and the narrowing of blood vessels.

Dr. Miller also says "We don't recommend that you laugh and not exercise, but we do recommend that you try to laugh on a regular basis. Thirty minutes of exercise three times a week, and 15 minutes of laughter on a daily basis is probably good for the vascular system."

At the social level, laughter is very essential to build relationship among relations and friends. It has been found that laughter has proved to improve the quality of life of many who have been affected by mental disorders. Many international magazines have given prominence to humour because of the overall beneficial effects of laughing and interacting with others. Furthermore laughter helps a person to get rid of fear, relieves tension. Many countries have taken great efforts to promote humour and have developed a variety of TV Programs. Just for laughs is very popular Montreal based Canadian comedy program that helps to relieve the tension of every day life.

Indian Physician Dr. Madan Kataria inaugurated Laughter Yoga club in 1995. As of 2011 there are over 2000 laughter clubs in 65 countries and there is every indication that many more laughter clubs are being created, worldwide indicating the beneficial effects of such gatherings.

There is an Irish saying "A good Laugh and a long sleep are two best cures for anything". As such let us all resolve to try our best to feel Happy and live in harmony with everyone around us,

S. PATHMANATHAN AUTHOR



Profile of the author S. Pathmanathan

The author S. Pathmanathan obtained an Honours degree in Geography in the prestigious University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and served as an Assistant lecturer in the same University for two years. Later he completed Diploma in Education at the University of Colombo. A few years later he enrolled himself for Masters Degree at the University of Jaffna.

Having served in Nuwaraeliya as an in service Educational Advisor from 1971 till 1979, he served as a lecturer at Kopay Teachers Training College in 1983.

He immigrated to Canada in 1985 and served as a coordinator for the Montreal based organization named *Thamilar Oli* and contributed to the growth of an organization named "Youth Volunteers" and was also instrumental for the publication of two journals - *Elankeetru* and *Thamilar oli*.

Once he moved to Toronto he developed an interest in Psychology and Sociology and has contributed hundreds of well researched articles on a variety of topics. Mr. Pathmanathan has published three volumes of books under the Title *Sinthanaip Pookal* and has been well received by scholars in Canada, India, Sri Lanka and in many other countries.

He has received two service awards by the government of Ontario and in 2002 he got a special award by "Tamils Information" journal for Literary service.

Last month *Monsoon Journal* published one of his article revised and translated by one of our features editor Raymond Rajabalan. In view of the overwhelming response from the readers of various communities, it has been decided to continue publishing many more articles in the following months.



THE CHIEF OCCUPANT



C. Kamalaharan

Body severely aching and wounds festering
 Murugesu Thata groans in pain as he mourns
 Seated in the arm chair, his waist above bare
 He relives his 'golden' past that had fled so fast

Born in an affluent atmosphere
 Became prominent in every sphere
 Held prestigious positions
 And owned prized possessions

As the chief occupant of the house
 He maintained discipline without grouse
 Everyone was at his beg and call
 Ever alert to respond to his call

And lo! retirement made him a babysitter
 With strict warning not to be a hitter
 But soon things turned bitter
 As he wasn't a fitting mentor

With his resignation his activities were curtailed
 With his wife's demise they were derailed
 Gradually he lost his authority
 And control over his property

At home too he was secluded
 In family affairs he was excluded
 And left in the backyard to fend for himself
 While others spend lavishly for themselves

His fearful eyes became tearful
 His agile body became fragile
 Became a laughing-stock for others to mock
 A formidable hero has become a timid zero

Spending sleepless nights
 In the room without lights
 He trudges in the enclosed space
 With his mind in complete haze

With diabetes and BP taking the toll
 He longs earnestly for the 'final' call
 Once a chirpy man has become a shaky man
 Languishing lonely as a cheap occupant

SRI LANKAN MAITHILI RAMAN APPOINTED ACTING US ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE CRIMINAL DIVISION OF THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT



A U.S citizen of Sri Lankan origin Ms. Maithili Raman has been appointed Acting us assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the US Justice Department.

She is the daughter of yet another distinguished Sri Lankan A. Tharmaratnam (who later was in the IFC of the World Bank Group) and the grand daughter of C. Loganathan, former General Manager of the Bank of Ceylon. Maithili's parents are from Vadamaratchi in Jaffna. She received her degree from the Yale University and her Law degree from the University of Chicago.

Mathili Raman, the newly appointed Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the U.S. Justice Department and successor to Mr. Lanny Breuer, is widely acclaimed in legal circles as a trailblazer in the Justice Department.



MAITHILI RAMAN

As head of the Criminal Division, Ms. Raman oversees nearly 600 attorneys who prosecute federal criminal cases across the country and help develop the criminal law. She also works closely with the nation's 93 United States Attorneys

in connection with the investigation and prosecution of criminal matters in their districts. Ms. Raman has been serving in the Criminal Division since August 2008, first as Acting Chief of Staff and, from September 2, 2009 to March 1, 2013, as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Chief of Staff. Ms. Raman has received numerous honors and awards, including the Director's Award for Superior Performance and the Special Award of Honor from the International Narcotic Enforcement Officers. Ms. Raman began her legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.



WORDS OF PEACE

We Need Peace

“Peace may not need us,” says Prem Rawat, an internationally renowned ambassador of peace, “but we need peace. It is when peace dances in our hearts that we become beautiful.”

Born in India, Mr. Rawat has traveled the world since he was teenager telling people that, to live the good life everyone wants, peace is not just an option. “It is a quintessential element,” he says, “and if that element is not present, then whatever we are doing in our lives can be a joke.

“Imagine if you will,” he says, “a guitar that is beautifully crafted, with mother-of-pearl inlays, gold knobs for tuning, the most exquisite wood—but no strings. What can you do with this guitar? You can play it like a drum, hit somebody over the head with it, use it as a table. You might sit on it if it’s not too delicate. Well,

basically you can do anything you want to do with this guitar, except for one thing—play it. If it doesn’t have strings, that’s the one thing you cannot do. You can do everything else, but for everything else, this guitar wasn’t made. It was made to be played.”

In the same way, he says, “without peace, we can still do anything else we want to do—but is that what we were made for? Is that the reason we are here? Is it not our potential to experience peace?”

Mr. Rawat speaks about a way to experience that peace—not just once, but every day. The peace everyone is looking for is within, he says, and he can lead anyone who is thirsty for it to that well.

How does that journey begin? “To wish, from the depth of your heart, to be

fulfilled—and to know, in no uncertain terms, that your wish will be granted. To wish for wisdom, knowing that the wisdom you seek resides in you,” he says.

“In a way, all I’m telling you is, ‘Please, put some strings on the guitar.’”

In public presentations, Mr. Rawat often answers questions about the experience of peace he offers.

Q: Many people say that in order to find peace, it is necessary to reject this world, and yet to me, there is so much in the world that is beautiful. What can you say about this conflict?

PR: We all like beauty. You may find a rose beautiful. Do you really think that rose is trying to attract you? The rose doesn’t want you. You will destroy it, you will devastate it—and you are not a good pollinator. You don’t go around, rose to rose, putting your head in there. A bumblebee is a perfect pollinator. Everything that the rose is, is for that bee, is for that butterfly, so that it can help it pollinate. So why do you find it beautiful? There is something in you that is beautiful, and it connects to beauty and wants beauty. So all I am saying is, also find that beauty inside.

Q: I want to feel peace, but the reality is I am often filled with anger. Can you help me overcome these feelings?

PR: You carry peace in you every day. To know that peace, to feel that peace—that’s reality. Not your explosions of anger. When you are not in that reality,



then you are a victim of everything else. Anger. Fear. Doubt. Are these things real? Of course, but, their reality is the absence of the true reality, just as darkness, in itself, is nothing. It’s just the lack of light.

What am I? I am a work in progress. The key word is not work; the key word is progress. You should know that peace that resides in your heart. You should know that joy that resides in your heart. This is who you are; this is what you have been given.

To learn more about Prem Rawat, visit:

www.wopg.org

www.tprf.org

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Special Feature

Two Sri Lankans receive top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards of 2013

By SIVA SIVAPRAGASAM

Srinivasan Suppiramaniam Two Canadians of Sri Lankan origin - Srinivasan Suppiramaniam & Indira Samarasekera have received the top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards of 2013 out of 600 nominations received.



lished and there were negative perceptions about the community. I faced many challenges eliminating the stereotype imaging, but I worked with diverse community leaders and also made use of the media to promote understanding of the Tamil community and raise awareness about its true identity.”

With his expertise in the field of mass media communication, Suppiramaniam is eager to advance the art and culture of his community. So much so that not long after he graduated from the Ryerson Institute of Technology and got into the Canadian workforce, he set up the first Tamil community program Kalaapam on

skills and at the same time gain Canadian work experience and become familiar with the system. There are ample opportunities and openings, and one must be innovative to make use of these options,” he says.

Dr. Indira Samarasekera



Dr. Indira Samarasekera is the 12th President and Vice-chancellor of the University of Alberta, one of Canada’s most respected research-intensive universities. She is the first woman to hold the post.

Samarasekera was doing her PhD studies in metallurgical engineering studies at the University of British Columbia, but almost quit as she struggled to leave her son at daycare. Her PhD ad-

viser told the Fulbright-Hays Scholar not to give up, saying: “You have been given all these talents. Don’t waste that.”

Samarasekera had been the first female mechanical engineer in her native Sri Lanka, then went on to do a master’s in materials engineering at the University of California, before coming to B.C. After completing her PhD, she became a professor and consultant with global steelmakers, known for her groundbreaking work on process engineering of materials. In 2000, she became vice-president of research and held the Dofasco Chair in advanced steel processing at UBC.

Five years later, she was invited to head up the University of Alberta. Under her administration, a renewed vision was established and close to \$1.5 billion in capital construction was completed including the National Institute for Nanotechnology, the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science and the Edmonton Clinic in partnership with Alberta Health Services.

“I believe that the University of Alberta is at a turning point — that we are a strong, creative, forward-thinking institution that must define its future,” she said in a recent university address.

Dr. Samarasekera has received honorary degrees from the Universities of British Columbia, Waterloo, Montreal, and Western in Canada, and Queen’s University in Belfast, Ireland.

Indira is the daughter Dr. & Mrs. Arulpragasam of Manipay, Jaffna and an old girl of Ladies College, Colombo.

The contest was by the Canadian Immigrant Magazine and sponsored by RBC Royal Bank. A total of 30,000 online votes were received to select the winners

Srinivasan Suppiramaniam has come a long way from being a newcomer in Canada who struggled through financial difficulties and ethnic stereotyping, then upgrading his skills, landing a job at Rogers TV, to his present-day success story.

The Sri-Lankan born immigrant, who is today the CEO of Ceylon Broadcasting Inc., has made it his life’s mission to create programs for ethnic communities in Ontario. “When I came to Canada, the Tamil community was not well estab-

CH10 Rogers cable. “It has always been a desire to help my community whether it is through employment or income opportunities. Another inspiration was to work for the integration of the Tamil community into mainstream society to create mutual understanding,” says the prolific community volunteer and fundraiser.

“For the majority of new Canadians, it is hard at the beginning as many of them cannot find jobs in their own fields. They have to upgrade their education and

SIVAN ILANGKO, CPA, CA APPOINTED ASSOCIATE PARTNER AT ERNST & YOUNG LLP.



Sivan Ilangko, A Chartered Accountant, has been appointed as an Associate Partner at the prestigious Ernst & Young LLP, a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services.

Sivan Ilangko who comes from Jaffna had his primary education at Naranthani Roman Catholic Tamil School and his secondary education at Jaffna Hindu College in Sri Lanka. Ilangko attained his Chartered Accountant designation both in Sri Lanka and Canada.

He began his accountancy career with KPMG in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and was seconded to the firm’s Maldives office for a term. He later joined Ernst & Young in Bahrain, where he was also seconded to Ku-

wait and New York. He arrived in Canada in the year 2001 and joined Ernst & Young in Toronto. Ernst & Young is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services employing a workforce of 167,000 spread over 140 countries.

Ilangko has a wide range of experience serving companies in the financial services industry, including securitization, mortgage companies, banks, mutual funds, hedge funds, broker dealers and asset managers. He has presented financial reporting development seminars and hedge fund symposiums at Ernst & Young. He has also has taught accounting and auditing courses for audit professionals. He has been involved with the firm’s prestigious Ernst & Young Entre-

preneur Of The Year® Awards program for several years.

Apart from his professional career Sivan Ilangko has also associated himself with active community work. He is the Vice President - (Internal Affairs) of the Canadian Tamils’ Chamber of Commerce, serves as the Treasurer of the Stouffville Multicultural Association and Co-Founder and Director of the Centre for Leadership and Innovation. Ilangko is also a Relationship Manager of Ascend Canada, an organization formed to address the shortage of Pan-Asian leaders in Corporate Canada.

Ilangko is married to Premajothy (Prema) and is the proud father of Ahillan and Athirai.

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Special Feature

JOHN BODDY HOMES PRESENTS 'EAGLE WOODS'



BEDFORD ELEV A



PARKLANE ELEV A

John Boddy Homes, voted 'Best Home Builder' in Ajax/Pickering for the sixteenth year in a row for this year's Readers' Choice Awards, has just broken ground in its newest community in south Ajax, 'Eagle Woods'. Located just minutes east of Toronto, and within walking distance to shores of Lake Ontario, 'Eagle Woods' combines the closeness and convenience of city living with the beauty and tranquility of the neighbouring lakeshore. 'Eagle Woods' currently offers spacious two-storey, freehold townhomes and will feature later semi-detached homes as well as detached homes in two-storey, back-split and side-split designs. Homes start at 1,700 square feet and will range up to 3,534 square feet in size. John Boddy Homes offers full-depth traditional size lots with a minimum of 110 feet in depth and 'Eagle Woods' will offer a great selection of extra deep lots, pie shaped lots, pond lots, conservation area lots, golf-course lots and walkout basement lots. With such a broad range of house sizes and styles, 'Eagle Woods' has the ideal home to suit every preference. From the unique exteriors and charming streetscapes, to the elegant interiors, various John Boddy Homes include impressive standard features such as vaulted ceilings, double door entries, décor columns, mirrored sliding closet doors, ceramic kitchen backsplashes, double basin bathroom vanities with make-up counters and so much more. Their gourmet kitchens, welcoming great rooms, cozy gas fireplaces and elegant dining rooms with coffered ceilings are all spacious and comfortable, making them the perfect location to enjoy time together with family or entertain friends. In addition, some models include impressive extras such as classic French doors, transom windows and custom octagonal skylights allowing light to travel throughout the home for a bright and spacious feel.

For their homeowner's convenience, most homes from John Boddy include main or second floor laundry rooms, kitchen breakfast bars, walk-in pantries, private water closets, interior garage access, high efficiency furnaces and basement rough-ins for future bathrooms. Other features include arched entryways,

custom millwork, window mullions on all front and rear facades and decorative garage doors featuring appealing window lites. Custom landscaping packages and paved driveways are also included in all homes providing the renowned curb appeal that enhances the entire 'Eagle Woods' community.

Innovative floorplan designs combined with an extensive array of standard features included with every new home have become a corporate trademark of John Boddy Homes. Not only does a John Boddy home offer such striking standard features, there are also a wealth of opportunities to upgrade, making their homes as unique as each individual homeowner. The 'Eagle Woods' Sales Office will feature a Décor Centre that contains a wide range of upgrade items to select from in order to customize your home. Their knowledgeable décor consultants allow home buyers to make upgrade selections on site, enabling them to conveniently personalize their home.

When you purchase a new home in 'Eagle Woods' there are no hidden closing costs. John Boddy Homes pays for H.S.T., education levies, development charges, water and hydro meter hookup fees, boulevard tree planning, a landscape package and paved driveway.

Currently John Boddy Homes is offering an incentive package of 5 appliances or Builder's Premium Hardwood 5/8" by 3" in the Great Room and Dining Area, as well as a 6 months Roger's Package which includes free internet, phone, cable and a HD PVR.

John Boddy Homes now offers exclusive in-house financing and mortgage services through JBH Financial Services Ltd. JBH Financial Services is able to provide you with the convenience of purchasing the new home of your dreams and qualifying for a mortgage all in the same place. JBH Financial Services works with most major banks and lending institutions and offers a six-month rate hold through National Bank. These six-month rate holds allow you to lock in the lowest rates available while guaranteeing you the security and peace of mind of knowing that your rates will not increase before your house closes.

The 'Eagle Woods' community offers many important neighbourhood amenities such as places of worship, fully equipped parks and easy access to both Ajax and Go-Transit Services. Toronto is easily accessible from nearby Highway 401. Located just south of a host of shopping and recreation centres, 'Eagle Woods' allows residents all the amenities of the urban lifestyle while providing the serenity of the neighbouring lakeshore.

Since 1955 John Boddy has been involved in the construction of thousands of new homes throughout Ontario and has earned a reputation as an accomplished builder of fine residential communities. Of significance are the award winning 1000-acre 'Bridlewood Community' developed during the 1960's and 1970's in Scarborough; the 'Forestbrook Community' in Pickering developed in the 1980's; 'Willowcreek' in Peterborough; and, more recently 'Eagle Ridge on the Green' and 'Eagle Glen' in Ajax developed from the 1990's until present day.

The John Boddy Homes team of experienced management, planners, designers, supervisors, marketing and sales personnel has distinguished itself by creating innovative and unique designs in truly outstanding communities that meet the needs and desires of today's families.

New model homes for the 'Eagle Woods' community are under construction and will be open by the Fall of 2013. Drop by the current Sales Presentation Centre located on Stevensgate Drive, north of Rossland Road West, one half kilometre west of Westney Road three kilometres north of Hwy. 401.

Sales Presentation Centre hours are Monday through Thursday 1:00pm to 8:00pm; Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 11:00am to 6:00pm; closed Friday.

Let their friendly knowledgeable staff help you determine which John Boddy home is perfect for you and your family and get set to join the ever growing 'Eagle Woods' family community.

For more information, please call (905) 619-1777 or visit their website at www.johnboddyhomes.com.



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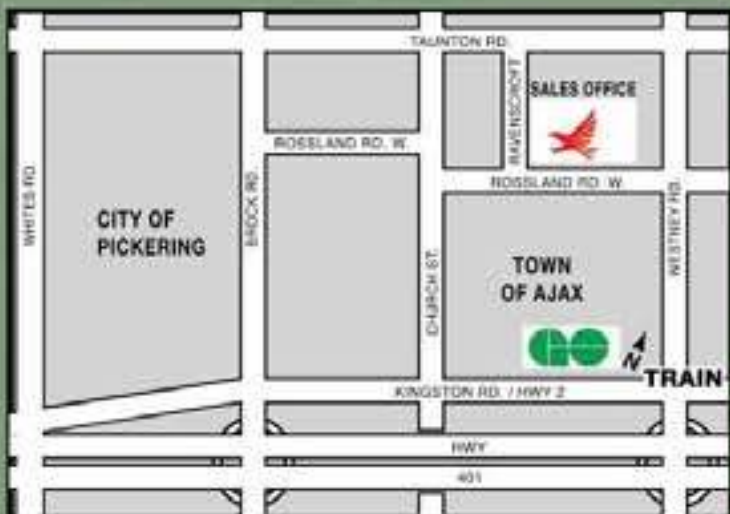
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Special Feature

Special United States Tamil Political Action Council (USTPAC) Meeting in Toronto on July 6

A special semi-annual meeting of United States Tamil Political Action Council (USTPAC) will be held at the Champagne Ballroom West at the Novotel Toronto Centre Hotel on July 6th from 1 PM to 3 PM.

USTPAC has extended a cordial invitation to all those seeking the well-being of Tamils to attend this special event that slates the participation of several guests of honour.

One of two all-member meetings of USTPAC is held in conjunction with the annual FeTNA convention. The other is in held along with the Ilankai Tamil Sangam Annual General

Meeting in New Jersey during November.

USTPAC

The United States Tamil Political Action Council (USTPAC), founded in 2009, is a grass root advocacy organization committed to work for a political solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. To this end, USTPAC coordinates advocacy and political activism on a national scale.

Vision

The vision of the USTPAC is for peace, freedom and equality based on the belief that every human is created

equal, and for a civilization that is free of oppression and discrimination in any form based on race, ethnicity, color, gender, language, religious beliefs, caste, and sexual orientation.

Mission

A. Use all democratic, non-violent and lawful means available in the United States, and international laws towards achieving a peaceful political solution to the conflict between the Sinhala and the Tamil speaking peoples living in the island of Sri Lanka, that recognizes the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

B. Provide assistance to the Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka to safeguard and exercise their rights based on the universally accepted principle of self-determination of peoples.

C. Offer assistance to the people living in the North-East region of Sri Lanka towards humanitarian, educational, cultural, economic and political wellbeing.

D. Act as a voice for, and provide assistance to the Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka and any oppressed people living in any part of the world.

United States Tamil Political Action Council

அமெரிக்கத் தமிழர் அரசியற் செயலவை

USTPAC Semi Annual Meeting - 2013

Saturday, July 06, 2013 1:00 - 3:00 pm

(FeTNA - 2013, by Sony Centre - Champagne Ballroom West, Novotel Toronto Centre Hotel)

தமிழ் இன ஆர்வலர்கள் அனைவரையும் அன்புடன் அழைக்கிறோம்

இனத்தின் இருப்பு - நீள்பார்வை 2020

TAMIL RESILIENCE - VISION 2020

1. Towards Justice and Peace - நீதி, நிலை அமைதி நோக்கிய பயணிப்பு

Update on USTPAC Programs on Advocacy and Diplomacy in Washington and at the United Nations

2. 2020 Outlook - Best & Worst Scenarios - யதார்த்த நோக்கு 2020 எழுச்சியா? வீழ்ச்சியா?

A realistic medium range look at the worst and best outcomes of the Tamil struggle, and inviting discussion on ideas to lead to the best outcome through concerted action.

3. Ask Our Leaders - தாயகத் தலைவர்களும் நிலைப்பாடுகளும் - கேள்வி/பதில்கள்

A question and answer session with leaders from Tamil homelands on current events including NPC elections and Tamil Nadu student uprising

GUESTS OF HONOR:

TNA Parliamentarians R. Sampanthan, MA Sumanthiran, E. Saravanayavan and T. Sritharan, Canadian MP Rathika Sitsabaiesan, C. Mahendiran (CPI), CV Wigneswaran (Retired Supreme Court Judge), Fr. SJ Emmanuel (GTF), Thamilaruvi Manian, Callum Macrae (Producer- No Fire Zone), Frances Harrison (Author- Still Counting the Dead), Prof. N. Sriskandarajah

Other USTPAC affiliated programs at FeTNA

Friday 1:00 - 3:00 pm - WTO Meeting, and Book Release "Sri Lanka: Still Counting the Dead", speech by author Frances Harrison

Friday 3:50 - 4:50pm - Global Tamil Hour - special address by Frances Harrison

Saturday 3:00 - 5:00pm - Global Tamil Forum meeting, including screening of No Fire Zone, and discussion with producer Callum Macrae

LENDING A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

US*TPAC

Meet Callum Macrae at GTF's screening of "No Fire Zone"



Callum Macrae

The Global Tamil Forum (GTF) invites you to attend the screening of No Fire Zone followed by a discussion with Director and Producer, Callum Macrae. No Fire Zone is a feature length film that captures the bloody and heart-wrenching account of thousands of civilians who were herded into what the government called 'No Fire Zones' during the final months of the Sri Lankan civil war.

No Fire Zone provides a devastating narrative of the daily horror visited upon thousands of innocent civilians. The film portrays a harrowing account through the haunting voice of witnesses who survived the armed conflict and through chilling footage recorded by both victims and perpetrators. The film will be followed by a panel discussion.

Callum Macrae is based in the United Kingdom and has been making films about wars across the globe for 20 years. His documentary entitled Sri Lanka's Killing Fields has earned him a Nobel Peace Prize nomination! Callum's powerful film provides further evidence of alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sri Lanka's war.

The side session will take place from 3:00 - 5:00 pm on Saturday July 6th, 2013 in Champagne ballroom at the Novotel Toronto Centre Hotel. (via GTF Press Release)



HINES AND TRIDEL ANNOUNCE ANTICIPATED LAUNCH OF AQUALINA AT BAYSIDE TORONTO

New Condominium Part of \$1.1 b Mixed-Use Development Located on the Waterfront in Downtown Toronto

Tridel, Canada's leading condominium developer and international real estate firm Hines, today released details of their new condominium development called Aqualina at Bayside Toronto, the first residential phase of a 13 acre mixed use development called Bayside Toronto. Valued at over \$1.1 billion, Bayside will be the first neighbourhood in downtown Toronto to feature two million square feet of residential, commercial and cultural uses, all on the water's edge.

"Hines' master-planned approach to the neighbourhood- and the lifestyle amenities and opportunities they envision for the site- make this not only an incomparable condominium project for Tridel, but for the city," says Tridel President, Leo DelZotto.

Designed by world renowned Architects, Arquitectonica, the 363 suite condominium will spearhead Hines' ambitious plan to develop Bayside Toronto into the premier neighbourhood on Toronto's downtown waterfront.

"Aqualina will offer purchasers iconic architecture, distinctive interiors, desirable amenities, and an unparalleled waterfront location," says Jim Ritchie, Tridel's Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing. "As the only Waterfront Toronto site adjacent to the lake, in East Bayfront, this site offers condominium purchasers a tremendous value distinction. There are few condominium locations which offer this intimate a connection with Lake Ontario, and fewer still that are as fully integrated into the development of the surrounding area as Aqualina at Bayside Toronto."

The largest private sector development to date as part of Waterfront Toronto's mandate to revitalize the city's lakefront areas, Hines' plan for the site includes the creation of more than two million square feet (190,000m²) of commercial, retail, cultural and residential development.

"Hines was selected by Waterfront Toronto in 2010 to transform the site into a dynamic yet sustainable mixed-use development, and to make it Toronto's foremost waterfront neighbourhood. We see today's announcement as a major step toward making Bayside Toronto a reality," says Avi Tesciuba, Hines' managing director, Hines Canada.

"Bayside Toronto is an integral part of our overall revitalization efforts in East Bayfront which is fast becoming a vibrant new community defined by extraordinary design, award-winning parks and public spaces, sustainable development and leading edge telecommunications infrastructure," says John Campbell, President and CEO of Waterfront Toronto.

Aqualina at Bayside is a result of the creative vision of Arquitectonica's New York office, an award winning architectural firm based in Miami. The project is being led by the firm's partner Bernardo Fort-Brescia who is bringing an innovative and distinctive geometric approach to the exterior design of the 13-storey condominium.

Aqualina will be defined by a series of distinctive prismatic cubes made of glass and steel, featuring facades accented by angled fenestration and balcony designs intended to maximize views of the Toronto cityscape and lake.

The condominium's interior public spaces and amenity areas will be designed by the award-winning Canadian firm of II BY IV Design Associates. Landscape design for the condominium will be led by West 8 + DTAH the award-winning team also responsible for the design of East Bayfront's public realm including the streetscapes, water's edge promenade and boardwalk. West 8 + DTAH is also leading the design for the revitalization of Queens Quay which includes a new south side promenade, off-street Martin Goodman Trail and integrates the proposed Light Rail Transit line through the community.

Aqualina Bayside will contain 363 condominium suites, ranging from one-bedroom to three-bedroom residences designed with families in mind. Suite sizes will range from 560 square feet (52m²) to just over 2,100 square feet (195m²).

Among the distinctive features of Bayside, is what is likely to be the fastest residential Internet service in the city. Delivered by Beanfield Condoconnect's ultra-high speed broadband fiber-optic network, users will enjoy wireless speeds up to 100 megabits a second.

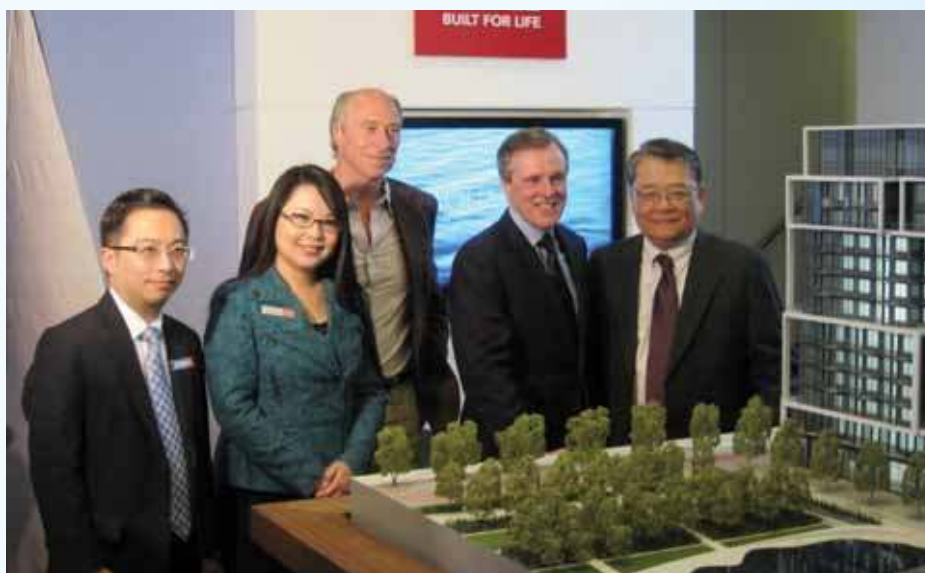
Aqualina at Bayside will pursue a LEED Platinum designation and will be

part of Toronto's first LEED®-ND Gold neighbourhood.

Tridel, which was selected as the exclusive residential partner by master developer Hines, has established a reputation as Canada's leading environmentally sensitive, green residential developer earning several industry awards and distinctions for its Built Green. Built for Life®. approach, including be-

ing named BILD's Green Builder of the Year five out of the past seven years.

This commitment to sustainable development is shared by Hines, who was among the earliest supporters of the LEED program in North America, having developed over 102 million square feet (9.4 million m²) of LEED Certified, pre-certified and registered properties in six countries.



From left to right: Winson Chan (Regional Sales Manager), Winnie Chan (Regional Sales Manager), Leo DelZotto (President), Jim Ritchie (Senior VP of Sales & Marketing) and Sam Fung (VP of Sales).



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26th Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America's (FeTNA)

26TH YEAR CONVENTION IN TORONTO

For the first time ever in its 26 year history, the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America's (FeTNA) convention will be held in Canada from July 5 to 7 at the Sony Centre located in downtown Toronto. The Canadian Tamil Congress will be hosting the event.

Strengthening solidarity of Tamils, the convention will attract Tamil scholars and special guests from USA, India, Malaysia, Europe and more. FeTNA Convention will include events that explore Tamil literature, arts, discussion panels on current issues, forums for young professionals, networking events for entrepreneurs, and light music show.

FeTNA 2013 is dedicated in tribute of Father Xavier Thaninayagam Adigal, marking 100 years remembrance of the Tamil Scholar.

FeTNA is a non-profit, literary, cultural, charitable, and nonpartisan organization that aims to cultivate, promote and foster the advancement of knowledge in Tamil language, history, literature and culture. By providing a platform for Tamil Sangams in the USA and Canada to connect and share resources, FeTNA's annual convention has become a must-attend event and the highlight of Tamil entertainment in North America.

Ever since becoming a member organization of FeTNA in 2010, Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) has demonstrated its commitment to increasing the awareness and participation in FeTNA conventions.

Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America is an umbrella organization of Tamil organizations that function within the North American Continent.

The objectives of FeTNA include:

- To cultivate, promote, foster, and develop the advancement of knowledge in Tamil language, literature and culture.
- To cultivate, promote, and foster the exchange of ideas and understanding between the Tamil people and other cultures.
- To advance the economic well being of Tamils through empowering entrepreneurs and small businesses in North America as well as in Tamil Nadu, India.
- To promote better understanding and foster friendship among various Tamil associations in North America and to encourage the formation of new Tamil Sangams.

- To act upon charitable causes directly concerning the welfare of Tamil community living throughout the world

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) founded



in 2000 is non-profit organization . well respected as a vocal advocate of issues that matter to Tamil Canadians.

Objectives of CTC Include:

- Promote the positive and productive integration of Tamil Canadians
- Uphold Canadian values of human rights, multiculturalism, religious and cultural diversity, gender equality, pluralism and volunteerism
- Champion for equality, equality rights and equal opportunity for all diverse groups, in particular gender equality, by working towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination and intolerance
- Advance the research, study and usage of the Tamil language and culture
- Develop and enhance working relationships with other ethnocultural groups in Canada.

The theme for #fetna2013 convention is Yaathum Oore; Yaavarum Kelir. This is a line from a song written by KaNiyan Poongundranaar and found in Puranaanooru (ancient Tamil literature). The line illustrates the humbleness of Tamils who consider all towns as one, all people as our kin.

Highlights at the convention:

- Tamil Arts/Heritage**
- The event will feature Tamil academics and orators and Tamil leaders.
- Auditions have been completed and practices are in progress with over 100 local dance artists preparing for Kalki's

"SivakamiyinSabatham" dance drama - choreographed by Madurai R. Muralidaran.

- EelaththuNaattuKoothu - "Vaenthanin Seetram" presented by Manuel Jesuthasan and Tamil Literary Garden is also expected to be a hit!

- Several initiatives are planned to highlight the life and the literary work of Eelam's own Thani Nayagam Adigal. A panel discussion, an exhibition and a book release is being organized as part of this tribute. More importantly a documentary on ThaniNayagam is produced by a recognized filmmaker.

- "The Legend of Ponnivala" an aincient tale from Kongu Naadu by Dr. Brenda Beck will be on display.

Competitions (from KJ to Post Secondary Students)

- Thamil Pride and Proficiency Competition and Thamil Isai competitions.

Business Forum

With the support of Government of Ontario and Invest Toronto, FeTNA's business forum - increasing investment and trade opportunities between Tamils Canada, USA and Tamil Nadu; Many prominent business leaders of fortune 500 companies from Tamil Nadu and North America are expected to speak at the business forum.

Workshops for Youth

- Number of informal and engaging workshops for youth on Tamil identity, culture and history, net working event for young professionals, and entrepreneurs will be held.
- Pure Tamil hip hop artist Nakeeran will be at the Convention and will participate in the youth forum.

Young Professionals Network

Join in on one of Toronto's most popular annual young professionals' event exclusively for emerging Tamil professionals. This event guarantees to grow your network as you have ample opportunities to interact with emerging professionals from a variety of sectors and industries.

Science / Medicine

Canadian Tamil Medical Association will host Continuing Medical Education (CME) at FeTNA. Medical professionals can earn up to 3-4 credits by attending this session. This will also provide an opportunity to network with other professionals across Canada and USA. Pre-registration required.

As part of the scientific advancement workshop, several leading scientists and educators from leading North American academic institutions will be presenting their contribution to the medical and scientific advancements. The workshop will provide opportunities for education, networking and allowing the exchanging of ideas between scientists from a variety of disciplines all centering on scientific advancements.

Light Music Show on July 6th

Several guests from Tamil Nadu, Eelam, UK, Malaysia and many other places are confirmed to attend. They include Singer Mano, Thamil Isai fame Charulatha Mani, Super Singer fame Sathyaprakash and Pragathi.

Producer Actor and Director Samuthirakani, Director Kalaipuli Thanu, Comedian Robo Sankar, Actors Ilavarasu and Oviya and Pure Tamil hip-hop artist Nakeeran are also anticipated to attend and perform at FeTNA 2013.

If you live in the GTA, you may register to attend FeTNA 2013 by visiting a store agent near you. For further registration information, please call:

416-240-0078.



Oviya at the recent music audio release of the film she stars in, "Moodar Koodam" - Oviya is anticipated to attend the FeTNA 2013 Convention in Toronto.



ILAVARASU, ACTOR WITH THE CAPABILITY TO MAKE HIS PRESENCE FELT IN A MINOR PART

Actor Ilavarasu is among the array of stars attending the FeTNA 2013 Convention in Toronto. Here is an article profiling an actor who makes lasting impression through his minor roles in any Tamil movie; "Spontaneity scores" – written by Malathi Rangarajan is reproduced here, courtesy of The Hindu:

Did you know that Ilavarasu who came up with a stupendous show in the recently released Muthukku Muthaaga as the caring father and loving husband, started his career as a cinematographer?



Ilavarasu has proved his mettle as an actor of calibre

The Prabhu-starrer Panchalankurichi marked his debut as a lens man, after which he went on to work in a dozen films behind the camera, including Ninaithaen Vandhaai and Iniyavala, before director Bharatirajaa made him stand before it. Cheran is another maker who regularly taps his potential. Can you forget Ilavarasu, the carpenter, in Paandavar Bhoomi? "I'm still very much a camera person, and I keep myself abreast of the latest developments in the field. It's just that I'm biding my time," laughs Ilavarasu. Meanwhile as an actor he has completed 54 films and continues to go strong.

Going by his spontaneity as a performer, he must be a sought-after character actor.

"Not exactly, in cinema, actors gain recognition only if the film is a hit," he shrugs. "Though I'm quite busy I know that commendable performances don't translate into meaty roles."

Yet, Ilavarasu has the capability to make his presence felt in a minor part. Another aspect that draws attention is that he runs the gamut of emotions with élan. Rip-roaring comedian (Imesai Arasan 23 am Pulikesi), heartless father (Goripalayam), compulsive braggart (Porkalam), diligent statue maker (Pokkisham) — time and again, Ilavarasu has proved that he can pull off any role. The poignant part he plays in Muthukku Muthaaga is a reiteration. Says Ilavarasu: "Rasu Madhuravan is a friend, particularly after Maayaandi Kudumbathaar and Goripalayam. And his maturity in handling heavy emotions is amazing. When he told me the story of Muthukku ... I was floored by the father's role. 'The part is for Nasser,' Rasu informed and offered me another role, which eventually went to Rajk Kapoor."

Ilavarasu couldn't bring himself to ask Rasu for the part. "But my wife suggested I talk to him. 'Instead of going around looking crestfallen, it's better to get it out of your system,' she said. So I spoke to him, and he graciously gave it to me," he smiles. Ilavarasu was honest enough to tell Nasser about it, and being a friend, the latter laughed it off. Now that his performance is winning him accolades, Nasser called up Ilavarasu to compliment him and with a chuckle added, "So this was the role you hijacked from me."

"Frankly I never expected such an overwhelming response, I thought the plaudits will go only to Saranya," says Ilavarasu. She plays his wife in the film. But he must have got an inkling of what was to follow, when Rasu Madhuravan came home after the final editing one night, held his hands and in a choked voice said, "You've done an excellent job."

Apprenticing under 'Stills' Ravi for the shutterbugs experience, Ilavarasu then joined cinematographer B. Kannan's unit and worked in 24 films. Kannan was an inseparable part of Bharatirajaa's creations. That was when he observed Bharatirajaa closely. "He would enact every scene," recalls Ilavarasu. So when suddenly during a shoot, the director asked him to take position in front of the camera for a miniscule part, Ilavarasu did it with ease. The film was Vedam Pudhidhu. Pasumpon, Vijayakanth's Thavasi and more followed. A spate of acting offers changed Ilavarasu's route.

As an actor, Ilavarasu is a natural. "Probably following Malayalam films of the past ardently has helped me imbibe a lot from them. In those days I was a regular at Blue Diamond and Ega cinemas which often screened those films. Even now I yearn to work with the greats in Kerala," he says. A dream that should be realised soon!

Notes of passion: CHARULATHA MANI



Charulatha Mani

Charulatha Mani, the popular Carnatic and Cine Playback singer is among the featured artistes performing at The 26th Annual FeTNA Convention in Toronto.

The musical journey of Charulatha Mani will be in full form in Toronto, as she is scheduled to render Carnatic as well as Cine music at different concerts at the Convention and FeTNA attendees are in for an immense musical experience.

Chitra Swaminathan of The Hindu has profiled the young musician Charulatha Mani as follows:

A mechanical engineer, Charulatha Mani followed her heart and made music her career. "I just want to be connected with music," says the young crooner, "whether it is kutcheri or films does not matter. Each has its own charm and challenges."

Her first film song was Kaakka Kaakka from the film Naan Avan Illai.

"Though I am basically a Carnatic vocalist, I wish to sing different types of songs in films. It's extremely satisfying for any artiste to be versatile," says Charulatha.

But it was a weekly show on Jaya TV that first brought Charulatha's talent to the fore. Isai Payanam, a film songs-based show on classical ragas, conceptualised and anchored by her, was telecast for two years.

"The programme was so successful that I still get offers from outside India to do Isai Payanam concerts." This October, she performed at various places in the U.K. and is now preparing for her Carnatic concerts in the Middle East. The DVDs of Isai Payanam have been released and it is also available on youtube (www.youtube.com/isaipayanam).

"The idea came up during the usual family discussions at the dinner table. Then during a concert recording for Vijayadashmi on Jaya TV, I happened to casually mention it to some of the staff and they instantly liked the idea," smiles Charulatha. She feels such shows can help more people understand the beauty and nuances of classical ragas. Her sound classical training - first under her mother Hemalatha Mani, a veena artiste and then the renowned vidwan Sandhyavandanam Srinivasa Rao, the late Calcutta K.S. Krishnamurthy and Venkatrama Iyer — ent an edge to the programme.

"When in school, I remember sitting with my mother on stage during her performances," says Charulatha. This exposure and experience have given her the confidence to venture on a musical journey.

Presented in an interesting format - What Charulatha Mani offered was a concert-cum-lec-dem:

The Musician is best known for presenting concerts in an interesting format its certain to

render to the fans delight both Carnatic as well as Cine melodies.

Here is a portrait of Charulatha Mani's Carnatic Music talents – captured at a concert in Mylapore Fine Arts Club by R. Ramakrishnan for The Hindu:

Charulatha Mani provided a totally different fare when she chose to make it a concert-cum-lecture-demonstration. Chembai, MDR and even Semmangudi in his later days used to interact with the audience. The conservative among the music lovers would not allow such liberties.

Charulatha frankly confessed that she could not help it, especially after her foray into the musical journey programmes that she has been conducting. Either before or after every piece, she not only sang the arohana-avarohana of the raga, but also demonstrated a few raga phrases and sancharas. She presented the pallavi of several compositions in the same raga. The audience enjoyed the fare, a few even finding it educative. Charulatha chose Papanasam Sivan's Rithigowla composition 'Thathvamariya Tharama' as the opening piece after a brief virutham, 'Paalum Theli Thaenum.' The niraval was at the usual 'Mathisekaran makane.' The credit goes to Madurai Mani Iyer for popularising this song.

She went on to delineate Bindumalini, a janya of Chakravakam. It was indeed a river flowing in a mountainous terrain. She presented a few breath-taking swara sancharas. Tyagaraja's bhava-laden 'Entha Muddo Entha Sogaso' came out with all its supple charm. The saint has chosen this particular raga for this composition not without reason. 'Who can describe your beauty and magnificence, O Rama?' Tyagaraja wonders.

While V. Suresh Babu on the violin offered a brief but excellent exposition of the raga, S.J. Arjun Ganesh on the mridangam provided soft support to the piece.

Muthuswamy Dikshitar has sung in praise of the numerous temples that he had visited. One such is the Pasupatheeswara temple in Kashmir. He had chosen Siva Panthuvrali, popularly known as Subha Panthuvrali for this kriti. She explained the Dha-Ga prayoga that gives an element of poignancy to the tune. She gave glimpses of 'Ennalloorage' of Tyagaraja and 'Sri Sathyanarayanam' of Dikshitar too. The madhyama kaala lines 'Soaka Haram Subhaphalapradhakaram' was selected for niraval and kalpanaswara. She will do well to curb the inclination to use higher decibels in the upper notes. Kulsekhar Azhwar's 'Sediya valvinaikal theerkkum' provided the prelude for Ambujam Krishna's 'Enna Solli Azhaththhaal' in Kanada. She then gave glimpses of 'Sukhi Evaro,' 'Sri Narada' and 'Alai paayuthe.'

Charulatha Mani concluded the concert-cum-demonstration with a thillana.



EXPLORE NEW MARKETS AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN ONTARIO AND TAMIL NADU!

Date: Friday, July 5, 2013

Time: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Place: Hotel Novotel Toronto Centre, 45 The Esplanade, Toronto, Canada, M5E 1W2

Join the opportunity to network with well reputed experts from various sectors who have successfully innovated to capitalize on the changing market at the FeTNA 2013 Business Forum. Explore the growing innovative nature of the automotive industry; new power generation in solar; the growing importance of the South Asian consumer in North America or how your business can give back to the community through a comprehensive corporate social responsibility practices. Learn how all of these can benefit your growing business – whether you already established and looking to expand, or seeking new ideas to invest.

The forum will bring together investment and business leaders, along with government policy makers to network, exchange best practices, and gain insight on how trade and investment can benefit businesses in the global marketplace. Speakers include:

Dr. Sivananthan:

Dr. Sivananthan is a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor and Director of the Microphysics Laboratory (MPL) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and is the founder and CEO of EPIR Technologies Inc. On May 29, 2013, Dr.



Sivananthan was named one of eleven people who are Immigrant Innovator “Champions of Change” by the White House, and one of the five “Outstanding Americans by Choice” by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Steve Rodgers:



Steve Rodgers is the President of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers’ Association. APMA is the national association of original equipment producers of parts, equipment, tools, supplies and services to the worldwide automotive industry. The association was founded in 1952 and has over 400 members which account for 90% of independent parts production in Canada. In 2012, the auto parts industry had over \$C24.8 billion in sales and 83,000 employees.

Vijay Setlur:



Vijay Setlur is an Adjunct Marketing Professor, freelance soccer journalist and aspiring sport business leader with a passion for soccer, especially Canada’s men’s national team. Currently, he teaches sport and tourism marketing in the Bachelor of Business Administration program at Schulich School of Business-York University in Toronto, where he applies an industry-centric approach to business education. In just three years, his students have completed 43 consulting projects for 33 organisations across North America, Europe and Asia – including the likes of FIFA, NBA, Molson Coors Canada and CBC.

Jay Vijayan:



Jay Vijayan is the Chief Information Officer for Tesla Motors. Jay and his organization are responsible for business applications, infrastructure, network, security and systems operations for all of Tesla including the support of engineering, manufacturing, corporate business groups and the global sales, marketing and service business groups.

Poornima Vijayashanker:



Growing up in the age of the personal computer revolution, Poornima Vijayashanker was always fascinated by technology. She taught herself to type at 10 on her mother’s typewriter, and then took apart her first computer at 14. Her father was a hardware engineer. When he said he made “chips” she thought potato chips, and when he said wafers, she thought cookies! Eventually her dad took her to his fab when she was 9, she sat and watched how chips and wafers were made and tested. Not disappointed at the lack of treats, she was utterly amazed by how everything was mechanized! Inspired by all that technology could do for humanity, she double majored in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Duke University. After graduating she moved out West to be in the heart of tech, Silicon Valley.

Partners of FeTNA 2013 Business Forum are the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment, Invest Toronto, the Canadian Tamil Chamber of Commerce and Asian Television Network (ATN).

For information on how you can participate, please email us at business@fetna2013.com.

Sivakami Sabatham





My grandmother's brother Father Xavier Thaninayagam

(BA, DD, MA, MLitt, PhD)

by Kevin Philipupillai

This is a biographical note I wrote about my grandmother's brother, a priest and academic who was prominent in the study of Tamil literature, history and philosophy. The article was written as part of a publication commemorating the 140th anniversary of the school he attended as a boy growing up on the island of **Kayts**, off the northern coast of Sri Lanka.

Rev. Father Xavier Stanislaus Thaninayagam believed that his mother tongue deserved a place in the front row of the world's great languages. In a Master's thesis he presented at Annamalai University in 1947, he wrote:

"With Greek and Latin, Tamil shares the misfortune of having lost the vast portion of its ancient literature... Yet what has escaped the ravages of time, though not even a hundredth of the actual output, reveals elements so original and fresh in the history of literature and throws such new light on the history of the world, that to study the literary features of ancient literatures or to describe the world as it was at the age of Asoka or Alexander or Augustus, it would not be sufficient to take count only of Greek, and Latin, and Sanskrit and Chinese. It would be equally necessary to consider Tamil."

Thirty-two years after his death, we remember him for his efforts as a "roving ambassador for Tamil."

Fr Thaninayagam as a young priest

Fr. Thaninayagam was born in Kayts on August 2nd, 1913. He attended St. Anthony's College, Kayts (1920-22) and St. Patrick's College, Jaffna (1923-30) before accepting a vocation as a Catholic priest. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in philosophy at St. Bernard's Seminary, Colombo (1931-34) and then spent five years in Rome studying theology, finishing in 1939 with a Doctorate of Divinity from the University de Propaganda Fide. He later acquired two Master's degrees in the study of Tamil literature at Annamalai University and a Ph.D. in education in London.

Fr. Thaninayagam lectured in the Department of Education at the University of Ceylon from 1952



Father Xavier Thaninayagam
(12 August 1913 - 1 September 1980)

to 1961. He moved to Kuala Lumpur in 1962 to become head of the Department of Indian Studies and eventually dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Malaya. As a strong proponent of the academic study of Tamil language, literature and philosophy, he played a major role in forming the International Association for Tamil Research and in organizing the first World Tamil Conference, which took place in Malaysia in 1966.

My grandfather, now 92, still passes along precious bits of advice collected from the brother-in-law he considered an intellectual and moral guide. My father's siblings remember frantic preparations for visits from their refined and elegant uncle. But Fr. Thaninayagam died in 1980, before anyone from my generation was born. With no direct experience of the man, my cousins and I have had to rely on photographs and anecdotes.

However, we now find that the priest is not as far away as we thought he was. It turns out he left published works on the shelves of libraries at our own universities. Roberts Library at the University of Toronto lists seven titles under his name. And a few months ago, my father found a bookseller in the U.S. with a copy of the dissertation his uncle wrote to complete his theological studies in Rome. Presented to his supervisors in 1939, *The Carthaginian Clergy is a historical study of the fledgling Christian community in North Africa in the third century AD* — a hundred years before that same community produced St. Augustine. The young Fr. Thaninayagam, possibly wondering how to reconcile his Roman Catholic education with centuries of Dravidian religion and philosophy, wrote that he wanted to see how the early North African clergy chose to approach their own ancient Carthaginian and Egyptian heritage.

The Carthaginian Clergy is peppered with passages in Latin, French, Italian and the other European languages Fr. Thaninayagam learned before he mastered his mother tongue. As a young alien in one of the centres of European learning,

how and when did he realize that the language of his parents in Kayts had as much wisdom to offer as the languages of Rome and Paris? The question is as relevant for young people in today's Tamil diaspora as it was for a 26-year-old seminary student in the Tamil diaspora of 1939.

Whatever the immediate cause, it is clear that in his thirties Fr. Thaninayagam flung himself into the study of his own heritage. He had a special interest in how the ancient Tamil poets described and fed off the natural world. Years later, when delivering the Second Thirumathi Sornammal Endowment Lecture, he argued that ancient Tamil civilizations had evolved sophisticated ideals of humanism and universal kinship. In an article in the Hong Kong periodical *Eastern Horizon* in 1966, he wrote that Tamil deserved special notice as the only Indian language whose literary life spanned both the ancient and modern periods. He wanted to pull Tamil out from under the shadow of Sanskrit.

It was important to Fr. Thaninayagam that Tamil language and literature be studied at a high level by people who were not themselves Tamil. In 1968, he wrote in the editor's introduction to *Tamil Studies Abroad: A Symposium*,

"Though Tamil is a Dravidian language with an ancient and uninterrupted literary and artistic tradition, it is studied in most foreign universities mostly because of its peculiar linguistic characteristics or because it is a tool for field work in Tamil districts."

He felt that literature, philosophy and religion — the soul of the culture — were not getting sufficient attention abroad. The book, published for presentation at the Second International Conference of Tamil Studies in Madras, was a survey of the state of Tamil Studies around the world. He compiled and edited entries about pioneer scholars and ongoing work in France, Germany, Britain, Czechoslovakia, the USSR, the USA, India beyond Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and elsewhere. The collection functioned both as a history of the field and as a directory to further future association.

My cousins and I are members of a generation which is wary of stature and suspicious of traditional institutions. We experience two conflicting impulses when it comes to this prominent relative. First we feel the urge to emphasize the blood we share with him. But then we feel the obligation to assess him as objectively as we would any other prominent person. It is wonderful to be able to engage with his published works. It would have been more wonderful still to engage directly with the man himself.

"If Latin is the Language of Law and of Medicine French the Language of the Diplomacy German the Language of Science And English the Language of Commerce Then Tamil is the Language of Bhakti The devotion to the sacred and the holy." —Father Xavier S. Thaninayagam

Back cover of "The Carthaginian Clergy," presented as a doctoral thesis in 1939 and published after WWII

Kevin Philipupillai is freelance journalist living in Toronto.

He is the grandson of Mrs. Theresa Philipupillai (sister of Rev. Fr. Xavier S. Thaninayagam) and Mr. V.A. Philipupillai (who taught at St. Anthony's College, Kayts)



ATHLETE, MUSICIANS, ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AMONG THE WINNERS OF THE RBC TOP 25 CANADIAN IMMIGRANT AWARDS



Basketball star Steve Nash, dancer Wen Wi Wang and community activist Izzeldin Abuelaish among the 2013 recipients

NBA All-Star and philanthropist Steve Nash, dancer and choreographer Wen Wei Wang, physician and activist Izzeldin Abuelaish and other community leaders from across Canada are among the winners of the fifth annual 2013 RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant awards, presented by Canadian Immigrant Magazine. The awards celebrate the inspiring stories and achievements of immigrants to Canada.

"These 25 award winners are a diverse group, ranging from artists to philanthropists to entrepreneurs from a variety of ethnicities across the country," says Margaret Jetelina, editor of Canadian Immigrant Magazine. "Each of these winners has an inspiring story about overcoming challenges and making their country a better place to live. We are proud to present our top 25 award to these very deserving recipients."

Over 600 nominations were received in just two months, from which 75 finalists were shortlisted by a panel of judges comprised of past winners and dignitaries. More than 30,000 votes were cast online, the highest number received in the award's history.

The Top 25 winners were honoured at awards ceremonies on June 20 in Toronto and on June 26 in Vancouver. The program is proudly supported by title sponsor RBC Royal Bank

and associate sponsor Chevrolet. The awards program is also supported by the Toronto Star, Metro, Sing Tao, CBC Toronto and South Asian Focus.

"These winners are role models, not just for new Canadians, but for all Canadians who will be inspired by the valuable contribution these individuals have made to their communities," said Paul Sy, director, Multicultural Markets, RBC. "These extraordinary individuals are living proof that anyone can make a difference and contribute to the rich fabric of Canadian life."

The RBC Top 25 award winners received a commemorative plaque and a \$500 donation towards a registered Canadian charity of their choice.

This year, Associate sponsor Chevrolet recognized one of the 25 winners with the Chevrolet Ingenuity Award for showing exceptional creativity and skill on his or her road to success. The winner is Sukhdev Toor, that was announced at the Toronto ceremony on June 20.

"The Canadians recognized by the RBC Top 25 Immigrant Awards are passionate, innovative and resourceful," said Marc Comeau, vice president, sales, service and marketing for General Motors of Canada. "At Chevrolet, we are proud to celebrate these remarkable individuals and their ability to inspire others to reach for their dreams."



Top 25 Immigrant Award Winners – 2013

The RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award winners of 2013 are (in alphabetical order):

- Izzeldin Abuelaish (Toronto / Palestine)
- Zahra Al-Harazi (Calgary / Yemen)
- Sara Eftekhar (Vancouver / Iran)
- Luis Guillermo Guerra (Vancouver / Mexico)
- Steve Gupta (Toronto / India)
- Rany Ibrahim (Halifax, Nova Scotia / Egypt)
- Jawahar (Jay) Kalra (Saskatoon / India)
- Sharifa Khan (Toronto / Hong Kong)
- Leticia La Rosa (Charlottetown / Philippines)
- Sing Lim Yeo (Vancouver / Malaysia)
- Luisa Marshall (Vancouver / Philippines)
- Steve Nash (Vancouver / South Africa)
- Aleksandra Nasteska (Montreal / Macedonia)
- Anar Popatia (Coquitlam / Kenya)
- Indira Samarasekera (Edmonton / Sri Lanka)
- Ginni Sethi (Toronto / India)

- Mamdouh Shoukri (Toronto / Egypt)
- Aminata Sillah (Winnipeg / Sierra Leone)
- Sukhjot Singh (Mississauga / India)
- Narine Dat Sookram (Kitchener / Guyana)
- Srinivasan Suppiramaniam (Markham / Sri Lanka)
- Sukhdev Toor (Mississauga / India)
- Michael Tulloch (Richmond Hill / Jamaica)
- Wen Wei Wang (Vancouver / China)
- Winnie Wong (Toronto / Hong Kong)



Srinivasan Suppiramaniam, Top 25 Immigrant Award Winner with RBC Royal Bank Officials Imtiaz Seyid, Jennifer Tory and Mark Beckles. Royal Bank sponsored the contest run by the Canadian Immigrant Magazine.



Winners and audience

கனடாவில் முதன்முறையாக



Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America
வட அமெரிக்கத் தமிழ்ச் சங்கப் பேரவை

கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவையுடன் கிணைந்து வழங்கும்

300கிற்கும் அதிகமான கனடா, அமெரிக்கா மற்றும்
பன்னாட்டுக் தமிழ்க் கலைஞரோடும் அறிஞரோடும்
தமிழ் போற்றும் கியல் கிசை நாடகப் பெரு விழா



தமிழ்த்தூது நுனிநாயகம் அழகனாரின்
நூற்றாண்டுச் சிறப்பு விழா

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பாடகர் மனோ ரிராஜன்ரோவின்
அகன் கிசைக்குழுவுடன்
வழங்கும் மெல்லிசை



கவிஞர் யுகபாரதி கலைமை
தாங்கும் கவியரங்கம்



நடிகர் கிளவரசு கலைமை
தாங்கும் பட்டி மன்றம்



மனுவேல் யேசுதாசன் தமிழ் கலக்கியக்
கோட்டத்துடன் கிணைந்து வழங்கும்
வெந்தனின் கீற்றம் ஈழத்து நாட்டுக்கூத்து



பீறேம் கோபால் கனடியக்
கலைஞரோடு வழங்கும்
நடன நிகழ்ச்சி



கலைமாமணி ரோபோ சங்கர்
வழங்கு ரகசக்கவை அரங்கம்



மதுரை முரளிகரன் வழங்கும்
கல்கியின் சீவகாயின் சபகம்
நாடடிய நாடகம்



முனைவர் தமிழருவ் மணியன்
வழங்கும் சிறப்புச் சொற்பொழிவு



அக்துடன்

தமிழக
வணிக அரங்கு

கிளம் கிதாழில் முனைவோர் கருக்கரங்கு
கிளையோர் பட்டறைகள்

போட்டிகள்

தமிழ் மொழிப் போட்டி
கலக்கிய வினாடி வினா

தமிழ்க் கேள்
மானவர் போட்டிகள்



கின்றும் பல முக்கியத்து நிகழ்வுகள்

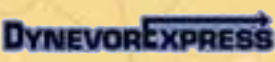
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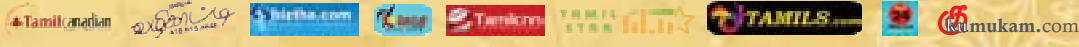
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நுழைவுச் சீட்டுகளுக்கும் பதிவுகளுக்கும்

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by Arun Senathirajah
ACIB, MBA (Banking Mgmt)

Interest Rates and Spending

Changes in interest rates can have both positive and negative effects on the markets. When a central bank changes the rate at which banks borrow money, this has a ripple effect across the entire economy. Existence of lower interest allows borrowers to spend money now, instead of waiting to save the money to make a purchase. The lower the interest rate, the more willing people are to borrow money to make big purchases, such as houses or cars. When consumers pay

stock, interest on bonds. In current environment as interest rates have fallen significantly, consumers and businesses are expected to increase spending, causing stock prices to rise. There is an inverse relationship between bond prices and interest rates, meaning that as interest rates rise, bond prices fall, and as interest rates fall, bond prices rise. The longer the maturity of the bond, the more it will fluctuate in relation to interest rates. As interest rates fall, it becomes easier to borrow money and many companies will issue new bonds to finance expansion. This will cause the demand for higher-yielding bonds to increase, forcing bond

of this idea is the willingness of an investor to take on risk to reap a potentially greater reward. This is one of the most basic tenets of the financial markets; the more risk you take on, the greater the compensation you need to receive. Investing in the stock market is considered to carry more risk than the bond market and, therefore, it generally provides greater returns for investors in the long run.

End of an Era of Low Interest Rate

Interest rates affect the economy by influencing stock and bond interest rates, consumer and business spending,

After almost five years of historically low rates, there are some upward movement in the cost of money. If the economy continues to improve, interest rates are going to move higher in the next few years, perhaps more quickly than many people expect. Since there are symptoms of recovery of US economy from the long period of slump since the western financial crisis now the long period of low rate of interest rate policy of the Federal Reserve might change in the future. That means interest rate may decrease in the coming months and causing stock prices to fall. "The Fed has worked very hard to get stock prices and home prices ris-

Era of Low Interest Rate and Market Activity



less in interest, this gives them more money to spend, which can create a ripple effect of increased spending throughout the economy. Businesses and farmers also benefit from lower interest rates, as it encourages them to make large equipment purchases due to the low cost of borrowing. This creates a situation where output and productivity in the economy to increase.

Impact of Lower Interest Rates on the Stock and Bond Markets

Investors look for highest rate of return in the form of dividends in blue-chip

prices higher. Anyhow, the lower rates that are found on bonds, especially government-backed bonds, are often not seen as enough by investors. This is the main driving force behind investors not wanting to invest in bonds. Most investors are more attracted to the potential double-digit returns that the stock market can produce, which are not seen as often in the debt market. Despite the perception, the bond market can be very profitable for investors, as investing in bonds is considerably safer than investments in the equities market. The underlying concept

ing to help the economy, and I don't think they want to back away from that in any way," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

Opportunity to make Money

In either higher or lower rate of interest and resulting volatility of the stock market, Opportunity awaits for well trained and skilled traders specially in Day Trading to make money while having control over investor's capital.

ing to help the economy, and I don't think they want to back away from that in any way," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

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MANAGING YOUR MONEY

The tangible benefits of financial advice


David Joseph,

M.A.(Economics), CFP®

It seems obvious that the best way to achieve your financial and retirement goal is having access to sound financial advice grounded in a comprehensive financial plan. Among other things, financially advised households are twice as likely to save for retirement at all ages; have significantly higher levels investable assets at all ages; improve their regular saving for retirement at all income levels; rate themselves as more financially knowledgeable; and are more comfortable making the financial decisions they need to make to plan for their future.* (IFIC Value of Advice Report 2012).

Recent research* (IFIC Report 2012) on the financial situation of Canadians, our savings and investment behaviours, and our attitudes toward retirement and savings advice has demonstrated the significant value of delivering financial advice to the public, at all income and asset levels.

Advice has a positive and significant impact on financial assets.

Advisors perform tasks vital in the financial lives of their clients including improved financial literacy, developing a culture of savings and investments, developing and executing a financial plan, selecting appropriate financial vehicles and products and improving investment

decision making.

Advice positively impacts retirement readiness.

Canadians trust their advisors, feel positive toward them, and feel more confident they will have enough money to retire comfortably.

A comprehensive financial plan should include investment planning, cash flow planning, education planning, estate planning, insurance planning, retirement planning and income tax planning- and here's the key- to be successful, your plan must be tailored to you. It makes sense to seek the advice of a financial advisor who will take you through the following six step planning process:

1. Goal setting: Setting goals and objectives is the first step of any financial planning process- if you do not know where you are going how can you know when you get there, or decide which route to take? Some may be short term in nature, others long term. These goals are the building blocks to any sound financial plan.

2. Data gathering: Gathering all the pertinent financial information to understand your current financial situation. No matter where you are heading, you need to assess where you are now, and what you already have in place for the journey.

3. Financial Analysis: Analyzing the

David Joseph, M.A.,CFP, Financial Consultant
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Tel: (416) 491-7400 Ext. 674, Toll Free: 1-888-491-7415 Fax: (416) 491-7416

 Website: <http://www.investorsgroup.com/en/david.joseph/home>

data to determine whether you are on track to achieve your financial life goals, and to identify alternative strategies to achieve those goals.

4. Plan formulation and recommendation: Developing a written financial plan which contains recommendations and action plan for achieving your financial goals and improving your overall financial life. Your financial plan should confirm that your goals are achievable, and appropriate recommendations will help define what you need to do to ensure that you reach these goals.

5. Plan Implementation: A financial plan is only helpful if the recommendations are put into action. Implementing the strategies will assure you reach your destination.

6. Monitoring and Plan review: Financial planning is not a one-time event. You should review your plan regularly, ideally at least annually or as major life events occur. Follow-ups and annual reviews are critical to ensuring you main-

tain a clear focus in order to succeed.

Canadians agree that Financial Planning pays off by delivering real value. Two recent studies- "The Value of Financial Planning" and "The Value of Advice" report a majority of Canadians agreed that by choosing financial advice, they accumulated more assets and were better prepared, financially, for retirement. Most also felt that integrated financial planning improved their ability to save, made them less concerned about their financial situation and feel better about having the discretionary income to lead the life they want-and very importantly, it gave them greater peace of mind.

Disclaimer:

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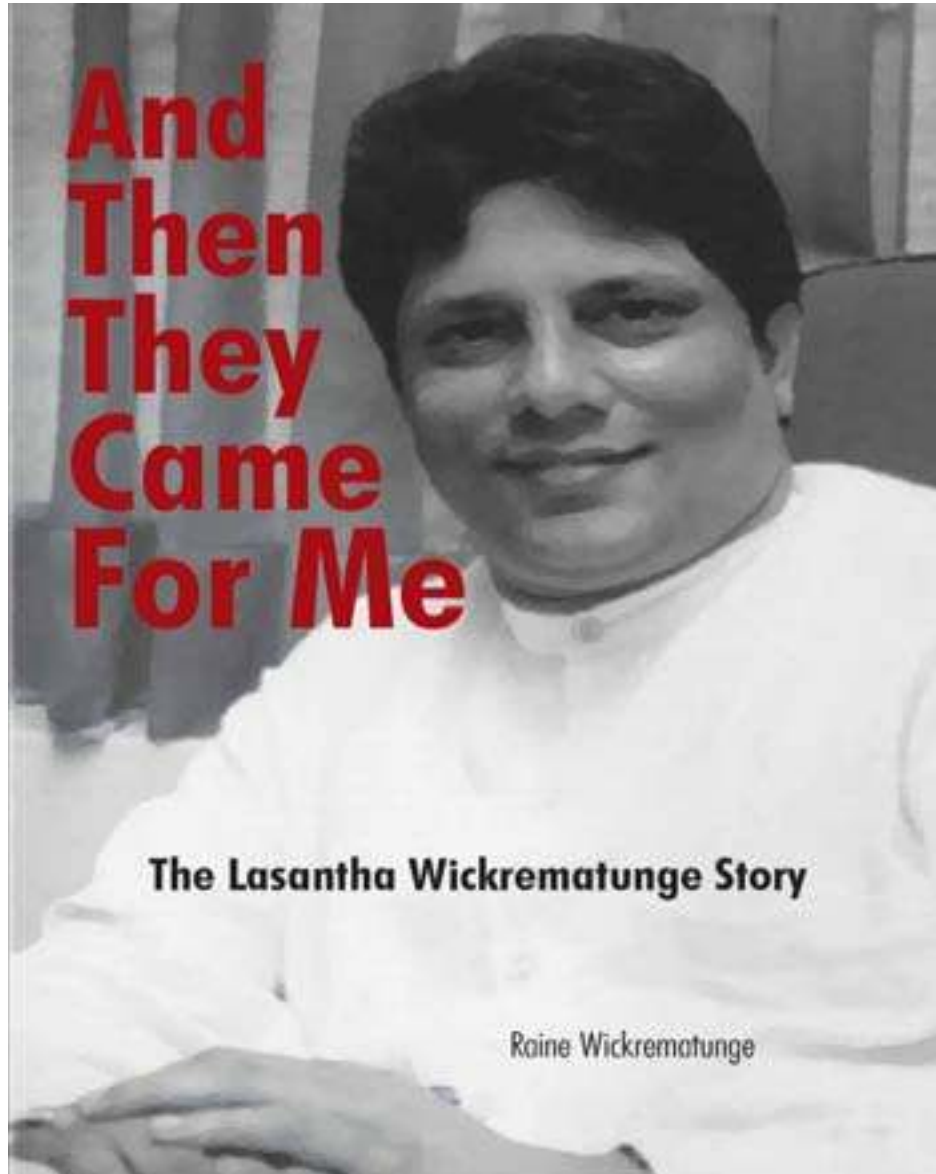
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BOOK REVIEW



Special Feature

And Then They Came For Me The Life & Times of Newspaper Editor Lasantha Wickrematunga



By Siva Sivapragasam In Journalism, Truth is a process.

The slogan for his newspaper was "Unbowed and Unafraid". He reflected this in the contents of the newspaper and the editorials he wrote. But the slogan also brought triumphs and tragedies to the newspaper.

Lasantha Wickrematunge (Former Editor - Sunday Leader) was gunned down in broad daylight for running a fearless and forthright newspaper not succumbing to any political pressure. He sensed danger while he lived and wrote his own Obituary before he died.

Now, after five years of his death, comes a book about him written by his ex-wife and journalist Raine Wickrematunge titled "And Then They Came For Me".

Lasantha's story is one of courage; a story of a man whose gutsy and fearless stance for what he believed in, never wavered, even in the face of grave harm. Indeed, during his tenure in journalism, 1981 – 2009, he was a thorn in the flesh of five successive presidents and countless other powerful personalities.

Written by Wickrematunge's ex-wife, journalist Raine Wickrematunge,

the book captures in detail the story of this fearless editor beginning with his early life, his entry into journalism, his political work, the triumphs and tragedies of the Sunday Leader, his brilliant investigative work and the many trials and tribulations he and his newspaper faced, ending with his murder in January 2009. The book is also full of stories and anecdotes from his personal and professional life that throw light on the man behind the public persona.

Lasantha's weekly political commentary "Inside Politics" under the pen-name Suranimala was eagerly awaited by the thousands of his readers every week on Sunday mornings. He even reported cabinet discussions and other inside scoops.

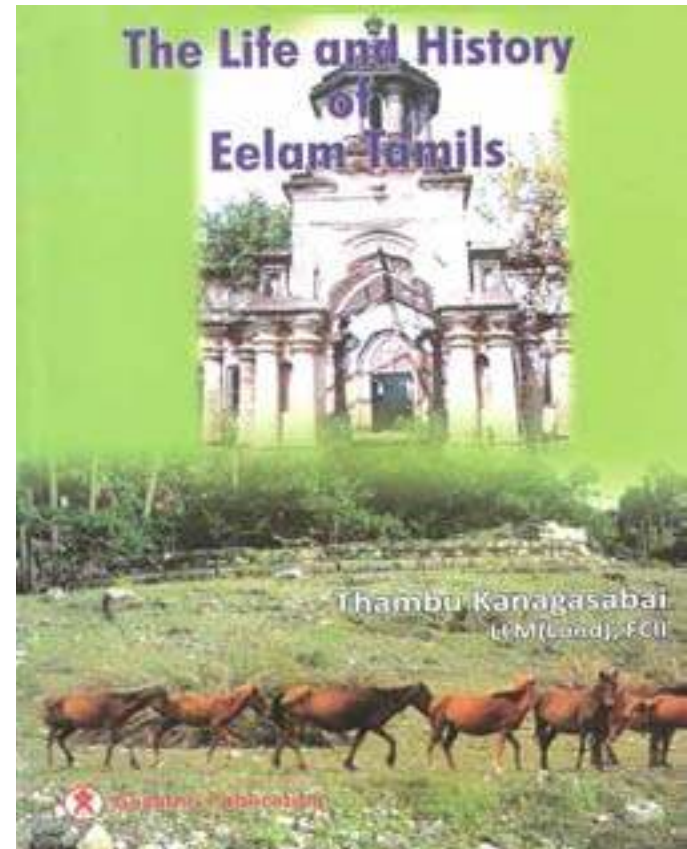
"And Then They came For Me" is the story of a man who lived, breathed and finally died in the pursuit of the truth.

The book is a must read for those who new Lasantha and to those who did not know him.

"Only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government" - (US Supreme Court on Pentagon Papers)

(The book is available for purchase online by contacting the Publishers via their website www.authorhouse.co.uk)

The Life and History of Eelam Tamils



The Book was released in Colombo in November 2012 chaired by Retired Justice C.V. Vigneswaran. The Book comprehensively and lucidly deals with the Ancient inhabitants of Ceylon, Nagas who later became Tamils and Sinhalese after the entry of Tamil and Sinhalese languages .

Subsequent migrants from India increased the population of both communities. The book deals with the origin of Tamil, Sinhalese languages, Saivism, Buddhism along with the ancient Easwaran Temples. Invasions from South India are detailed with importance of Cholas during AD 10-11. The development of caste system is also dealt with. The Laws prevailing among Tamils in North and East are also detailed. Of particular interest is the chapters dealing with Eastern and North Western provinces' Inhab-

itants who are not closely inter woven with the North. Also traditional customs practiced during weddings, funerals are also detailed along with the traditional games of the Tamils.

In short, the book carries wealth of information relating to history of Ceylon and Tamils from BC 500 to AD 1529 when Portuguese invaded Ceylon. The book is of educational value to any student of history and informative to any one interested in the history of Tamils in Sri Lanka. The book contains nine chapters and is written in English and Tamils to serve the expatriate community as mentioned by Prof. S. Pathmanathan in his foreword.

Further information please contact the author Thambu Kanagasabai: 647-343-6821



The first copy of the book is received by Mr. K. Kanag Easwaran P.C from Retired Justice C.V. Wigneswaran while the author of the book Thambu Kanagasabai looks on. This book is to be released shortly in Toronto.



Manivannan:

Artiste with a Passion and Mission

By K. Thirukumaran

“Does the Wind have rest? Does it have?”

Tamil Actor and activist Manivannan passed away to the deep sadness of his fans and admirers after a cardiac arrest, on June 15.

Tamils the world over are expressing words of tribute, sadness and condolences hearing the untimely death of one of the great multifaceted artiste of these times. Manivannan was 59. He is survived by his wife Sengamalam, son Raguvannan and daughter Jyothi.

“Rain drop, rain drop it gets together in the earth, Soul drop, soul drop it gets together in sky”

A Global Tamil organization – in the TamilAmerican Twitter feed on twitter.com/tamilamerican tweeted the sadness of Tamils around the globe and said, “Our Tribute to Manivannan & heartfelt condolences to Family~His own starrer melody fitting salute to this great soul”, with a link to a song in one of the blockbusters he starred, “Sangamam”.

Lyric from song in Sangamam ~ “You made me to dance, without dancing ~ First worship to your feet which put anklet to my feet~”

“Stand in your own leg, win the earth, Which is spinning on your head”

The song “Malai Thuli Malai Thuli – Mannil Sagamam” in the film “Sangamam” starring Manivannan though written by Poet Vyramuthu with A.R. Rahman’s music tells the passion of Manivannan in every sphere he touched. “Cloud is for rain, you’re for art, let’s unite



and dance” and all lyrics in this song (used as sub-titles in this article) melodiously amplify Manivannan’s words and deeds even after his active roles in the filmdom diminished somewhat through the turn of the millennium.

Manivannan’s political satiric wit is admired to that of great thespian M.R. Radha. Manivannan remarked recently that the references make him feel like winning the Oscar, yet also humbly stating that though he followed the “Radha style” he nevertheless didn’t scratch the surface of great contributions by “Nadigaverl” M.R. Radha.

“Shore won’t get any message if a fish cry in the water”

The actor moulded every genre of his role with a mission of goodwill through his passion in arts and later in socio-political advocacy as well. His early activism is rooted in the principles of Periyar and the Dravidian Movement.

Commenting on partaking with the often “controversial” “Naam Thamilar” movement, Mannivannan said he is an ordinary member giving voice in various platforms as called for regarding sufferings of Eelam Tamils at the hands of Sri Lanka, and not as one who formulated policies of the “We Tamils” movement.

“Oh! Ae Heart! Heart! Don’t die until we win in the challenge”

In an interview aired in May this year Manivannan said that every movie made has its own struggle. This struggle may happen via psychosomatic or economic forms. It could very well be physical or the movie script tough spots and it is the struggle undertaken passionately that overcomes hurdles to carry forward to the end he said. Quoting Fidel Castro, Manivannan said that it is “the need for struggle that harbingers an awakening or innovation”.

Though he rendered his talents in several aspects of movies from script writing, directing and acting in over 400 movies to even singing, it was the position of Director that is his most passionate of the craft, Manivannan said.

“There is no failure for art! No Failure!”

In the film “Kogulaththil Seethai” song – “Kogulathu Kanna Kanna” written by Director Agaththiyan to music composition by Deva, Manivannan perennially voices for the song and appears in the final segment of the melody making it even more memorable.

The Tamil moviedom glitters with his epic starrer films such as “Ullaththai Alli Thaa”, “Avvai Shanmugi” to several political satires such as “Amaithi Padai” and can be said he re-ignited a golden era in Tamil films in many ways. “Director” Manivannan’s 50th film Nagaraja Chozhan MA MLA, just released on silver screens.

“Every drop of my tears will become diamond, diamond”

There was a time I wanted to watch a movie only if it was a Manivannan starrer. I was delighted to see him in person a decade ago at the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA) convention held in New Jersey in 2003. The years’ passing solace that “Manivannan is here with us” however now seems very brief, with his untimely demise. RIP, Manivannan, you live in the hearts of millions of Tamils globally.



Manivannan in “Kogulaththil Seethai”



10TH AGM - SRI LANKAN ACCOUNTANTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



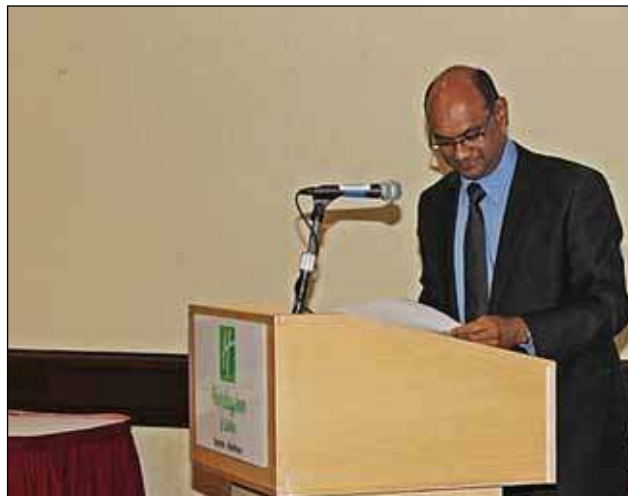
The Executive Committee 2013-2014, Sri Lankan Accountants Association



Pro-term Chairman, Prabha Kanagaratnam CGA, CA (Sri Lanka) announcing the names of the elected executive members for 2013-2014 year.



President elect Mathi Kandiah CGA, CPA(USA), addressing the general membership at the 10th Annual General Meeting held at Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Markham.



Secretary elect Rajan Tharmarajah CGA, CA (Sri Lanka), conducting the affairs of the 10th Annual General meeting.



Lucian Jeyarajah CGA, appreciating the out-going executive committee for the excellent work done during 2012-2013



Jega Jegatheeswaran CGA participating in the discussion for the changes in the SAAC constitution



Kuna Rajaratnam CGA, giving an introduction to the 3rd Honorary member of the Association



Dilani Gunarajah Barrister & Solicitor receiving the Honorary membership from Mano Thillainathan of Scotiabank/Honorary member of SAAC



Dilani Gunarajah Barrister & Solicitor addressing the membership after receiving the honorary membership



Christine Poopalasingham CGA, delivering the vote of thanks



SAAC members about to enjoy a Sri Lankan style dinner after the AGM



CONSECRATION CEREMONY AT SATHYA SAI SCHOOL

JUNE 15, 2013



Audience



City of Toronto - Consecration Ceremony certificate

Sathya Sai School celebrated a unique Consecration Ceremony in its new building premises at 451 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough, on Saturday, June 15, 2013. The school is an independent, non-profit school and purchased the property in January 2013 in order to expand its special offering of "academic plus character" education. Construction will begin shortly to completely rebuild the interior of the structure by September 2014.

The Consecration Ceremony brought

system. There is a great need to transform our hearts and minds so that all of humanity can live in harmony. Sathya Sai School is a paradigm school based on the educational philosophy of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, which combines secular education with character education in order to raise human awareness. By practising universal human values in our daily lives, we can transform ourselves and society, and make Canada a country of character and peace.

of mankind. This water was then sprinkled upon all who were gathered and around the premises to sanctify the new building.

MPP Bas Balkissoon and Councillor

Dr. Raymond Cho both congratulated the Sathya Sai School and supporters for the school's accomplishments and efforts to create a better society. Councillor Cho presented Principal Dr. Revathi Chennabathni with a Certificate on behalf of Toronto City Council and Ward 42, Scarborough-Rouge River on the occasion of the New School Consecration Ceremony:

Today is a very exciting day for the Sri Sathya Sai Education Trust of Canada as this new school will be a most welcome addition to the fabric of our community. This new school will help students develop critical thinking skills, strong positive character, a passion for learning and a commitment to helping others.

Thanks again to the excellent and ongoing co-operation between the City of Toronto, The Sri Sathya



Mr. Raymond Cho (Councillor for Scarborough-Rouge River) presenting the congratulatory note to Dr. Revathi, Principal, Sathya Sai School

together religious leaders from Hinduism (Swami Kripamayananda), Buddhism (Bhante Saranapala), Zoroastrianism (Ervad Dr. Jehan Bagli), Judaism (Mr. Harvey Shuter & Mrs. Julie Shuter), Islam (Imam Habeeb Ali), and Christianity (Rev. Father Damien McPherson) in a multi-faith ceremony to invoke blessings for the successful completion of the school building project.

Present at the function were about 500 people comprised of children, school parents, teachers, trustees, members of the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organization, and community leaders. Among the special guests were Hon. MP Rathika Sitsabaiesan, MPP Bas Balkissoon, City Councillor Raymond Cho, Dr. Thayapanan Thayaparan, Chairperson of the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organization of Canada, and T.R. Pillay, founding principal of the school.

The multi-faith leaders then took turns to lead the actual consecration blessings. One at a time they intoned prayers and chants from their respective religions, holding a cup of water to receive the sacred blessings. Addressing the audience, they spoke words of appreciation for the multi-faith gathering and words of wisdom garnered from their sacred scriptures and teachings. Congratulations were



Children ushering the faith leaders



Children procession ushering the Inter faith leaders

Chennabathni giving thanks to all the teams of people who volunteered their time to make the Consecration Ceremony such a positive and momentous event in the school's history.



Inter faith Leaders, Political leaders, Sathya Sai Baba Organisation Council members, Trustees and other team members



Inter faith leaders - Reverend Dr. Bante Saranapala, Mr. Harvey Shuter and Mrs. Julie Shuter, Ervad Dr. Bagli, Swami Kripamayananda, Imam Habeeb Ali and Reverend Father Damien McPherson

The Consecration Ceremony began at 9:00 AM with a stirring procession of Sathya Sai School students and students from Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centres across the GTA, with multi-faith representatives leading groups of children dressed in traditional religious garb and carrying banners for the human values of Non-Violence, Truth, Peace, Love, and Right Conduct.

The welcome speech was delivered by Dr. Thayapanan who stated that all the violence and consumerism in our society today indicated that there was something lacking in our educational

given to Sathya Sai School for leading the way in values education and helping to create a world where all are respected. Each religious leader then poured their cup of water into a larger vessel, wherein all the waters from all the faiths were mingled, symbolizing the Unity of faiths and the Unity

Interfaith leaders, Miss. Rathika Sitsabaiesan, MP - Scarborough-Rouge River, Mr. Bas Balkissoon, MPP Scarborough-Rouge River, Dr. Thayapanan, Chair, Sathya Sai Baba Organisation, Canada and Sai School officials

Sai Education Trust of Canada and the Community. This new school will produce everlasting benefits for generations of Sri Sathya Sai students.

Congratulations on starting construction of this new school. I look forward to the completion of the school building.

The program concluded with Principal Dr. Revathi

By Ms. Edith Recht
Administrative Assistant
Sathya Sai School of Canada

Sathya Sai School children procession ushering the Inter faith leaders





Grand Opening of Re/Max Community Realty Inc.

on Sunday, June 16, 2013

Re/Max Community Realty Inc. celebrated a grand opening on Sunday, June 16, 2013 with Co-Agents, Brokers Managers, Broker Owners, Bank Officials, Leaders from the Community, Friends and Family members.

Followed by ribbon cutting ceremony and welcome speech by Logan Velumailum, Gurinder Sandhu, Executive Vice-President, Regional Director, Re/Max Ontario-Atlantic Canada Inc and RBC's Regional Vice President Pennie Santiago congratulated the management team and stated that they have the fullest confidence of Re/Max Com-

munity Realty team for a successful future.

Re/Max Community Realty Inc. opens to serve the Real Estate needs of the Community and expects to hire more sales representatives and expand their business operation.

Prior to the grand opening, a grand launch ceremony of Re/Max community Realty Inc., attended by all of their sales representatives and Re/Max head office staff including Gurinder Sandhu, Executive Vice-President, Regional Director, Re/Max Ontario-Atlantic Canada Inc., was held on Tuesday, May 21st at Delta

Toronto East.

After the announcement of the launch earlier, Gurinder Sandhu, Rajeef Koneswaran, Broker and Logan Velumailum, Broker of Record held a press conference and explained how the leading Real Estate Franchisor in Canada and Around the world. Re/Max awarded this Franchise, Re/Max Community Realty Inc., the very 1st one under a Tamil owned management. Prominent TV, Radio, On-Line and Print media personnel attended this exiting and groundbreaking Real Estate news in Toronto East.

Earlier on May 21st, Re/Max Com-

munity Realty Inc. opened its doors for business at Morningside & Sheppard. The new Re/Max franchise in east Toronto is situated amongst a diverse population and the groundbreaking event was broadcasted and publicized through several media.

The office is conveniently located, opens daily and agents are on duty at the office hours and ready to serve all of the walk in customers as well.

Some of the photos taken at the grand opening on June 16th can be seen here.





REFLECTIONS: FRIENDS OF HON. DAN McTEAGUE GATHER AT SPECIAL EVENT

Monsoon Journal had an opportunity to meet with former Liberal MP for Pickering-Scarborough East, The Honourable Dan McTeague PC (Privy Councillor) during a gathering with friends at Black Dog Pub on Thursday, June 27th.

It was a small but well attended event; Liberal MPP for Pickering-Scarborough East & Minister of Consumer Services, Hon. Tracy MacCharles, Pickering Mayor David Ryan, Chris Kvorca, VP, Pickering-Scarborough East Federal Liberal Association were amongst the guests.

Speaking to Dan, he showed fullest enthusiasm in commenting that he is looking forward to a more “plentiful” announcement when the new federal riding boundaries are settled. In the meantime he said that he is busy as both the President of the Pickering-Scarborough East Federal Liberal Association and as an Energy Analyst with Canada’s largest energy consumer site, tomorrowsgaspricetoday.com, which gives Canadians in over 200 cities a valuable heads up on the direction of the next day’s fuel prices in their towns and cities.

He further stated that he also continues to use his prior experiences as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and leading numerous consular efforts aimed at helping Canadians in difficulty abroad (2002-2006).

Dan McTeague with 18 years of parliamentary experience and a good grassroots base plans to re invigorate Canada’s diplomatic assets, by engaging the strengths of our own broad and diverse cultures, to restore even handedness in our approach to human rights and the protection of those values abroad.

Speaking at the gathering Dan stated that Canada has lost its way under the rigid, black and white ideology of the Conservatives. We no longer have the credibility as we once did, to advocate the doctrine of the Responsibility to Protect in which Canada could deploy its reputation to encourage nations of the world to act and intervene in circumstances where a state has engaged in abuses and violations against its own people.

He added that “only do we no longer seek to bring actors in failed or failing states to account before the

Court of International Justice, a creation of Canada, we no longer punch above our weight, opting instead to buy into the line of Government’s who’s track record on human right, are a foregone conclusion”.

Dan indicated his confidence and fully intends to retake his seat, adding it was “lost in 2011 to a Government that has surrendered the principle and practice of human rights to ideology” and he will contest “under the Liberal banner which has stood for the protection of human right, equality and the dignity of human beings at home and abroad”.

Finally, Dan McTeague assured that he has a solid reputation in ensuring consumers and small business having a leveled field on which to be protected and prosper. “There are few who understand the significance of Competition law or who have spent a generation ensuring our laws and market practices, benefit all, not just large vested interest who feel at home with the Harper Government”, he pointed out.

Some of the photos taken can be seen here.





Canadian Film Made World Debut at Shanghai International Film Festival on June 19, 2013

Toronto, Canada - Eyecatch Multimedia Inc. is pleased to announce that emerging Canadian filmmaker Lenin M. Sivam's new feature, A Gun & A Ring, made its world debut as an Official Selection at the 16th annual Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF) on June 19, 2013.

The much-anticipated second feature film from Sivam uses brilliantly interwoven montage of characters to explore the harsh realities faced by different generations of Tamil Canadians who try to re-build their lives in an adopted land but are unable to let go of their past

framed by violence, death and conflict in Sri Lanka.

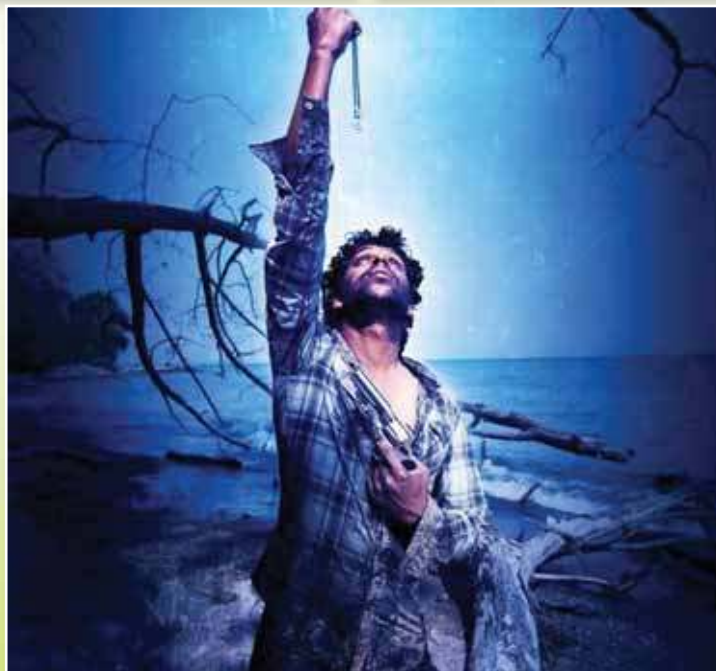
Selected from more than 1,600 movies from over 100 countries and regions, A Gun & A Ring is also one of 12 films in the running for the prestigious Golden Goblet Award, the highest prize awarded at the festival.

"To be officially selected for a major festival such as the SIFF and to be nominated for the award is an important recognition of our work and vision," said Sivam. "Everyone who worked on it volunteered their time and resources since they were passionate about sharing this story."

A Gun & A Ring follows Sivam's critically acclaimed debut film, 1999, which was named as one of the Top 10 Canadian Films at the 2009 Vancouver International Film Festival and won the much-coveted Audience Choice Award at the 2010 ReelWorld Film Festival.

The SIFF, founded in 1993, is China's only competitive international film festival accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations.

Eyecatch Multimedia Inc. is a Toronto-based indie film production company founded by young entrepreneur, Vishnu Muralee.



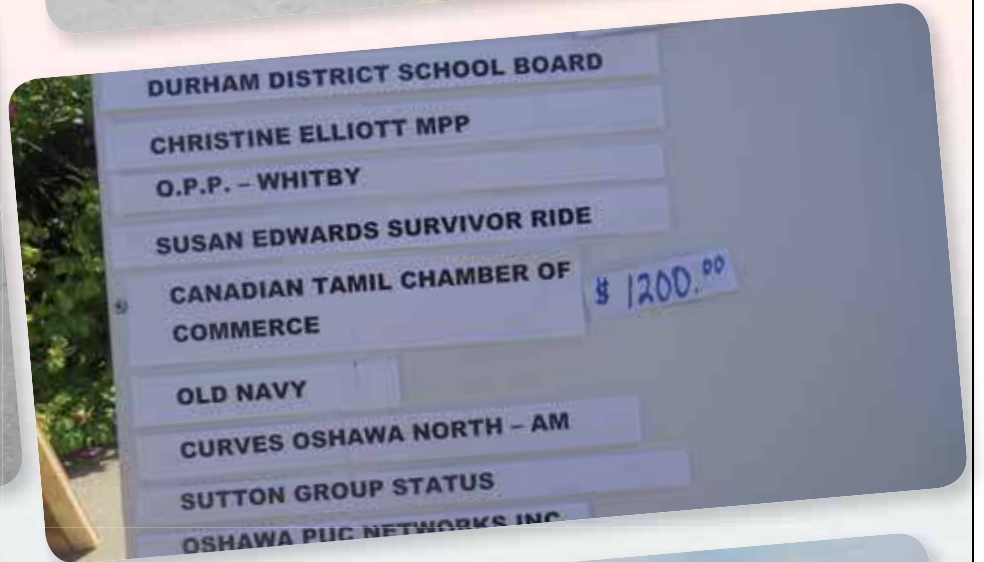


Community Watch

Big Bike Ride in Whitby for Heart & Stroke Foundation by Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce on June 19 2013

Congratulations to Team captain, Ajith Sabaratnam, Vice President - Membership for Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce for organizing and collecting \$1,200 for about 20 min big bike ride in Whitby for Heart & Stroke Foundation on June 19th, 2013. Some of the photos taken at the event can be seen here.

Photos by Digital Gnane.





Tamil Literary Garden Awards - 2013

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

The 13th annual awards function of Tamil Literary Garden was held in Radisson hotel on 15 June 2013.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to a leading writer in Tamil, Mr. Nanjil Nadan who has made significant contributions in the last 35 years. He has written 6 novels, 9 short story collections, 2 collections of poetry and 6 essay collections. He has also written script for a Tamil movie that was well received. The lifetime achievement award was presented by Professor R.S.Sugirtharajah from U.K and C.Balamurugan from USA.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award, the following awards were also given. Fiction award to Kanmani Gunasekaran for his novel 'Anjalai' and non-fiction awards to Prapanchan for his book 'Thazap Parakkaatha Paraththaiyar Kodi' and Appu for his book 'Vanni Yuththam.' The Poetry awards were given to ThvaAbira for his collection of poems 'Irul Thinra Eelam' and to Nilanthan for his collection of poems 'Yukapuram.'

Information Technology in Tamil Award given in honour of Sundara Ramaswamy was awarded to Muguntharaj Subramaniam from Australia and the student essay contest award was given to Mira Ragnathan from Germany. The translation awards were given to M.A. Susila for her book 'Asadan' translated from English to Tamil and Vaidehi Herbert for her books Nedunalvaadai and Mullaipaattu translated from Tamil to English.

A special recognition award was given to Mr & Mrs. Aseervatham for their commitment to Tamil and sponsorship.

The event was well attended by scholars, writers and well-wishers from Canada and abroad.



Nanjil Nadan receiving award from Rathika Sitsabaieasan. Also in the picture is A. Muttulingam



Lifetime achievement award received by Nanjil Nadan from Prof R. Sugirtharajah and Mr C. Balamurugan



Vaidehi Herbert receiving award for translation from Kumar Ratnam



Mr & Mrs Nandakumar presenting the Poetry Award to Theva Abira



Mr. Logan Kanapathi (Markham City Councillor) presents the Award for Information Technology in Tamil to Anand Unnat. Seen in the picture are also Thirumurthi and Aarani.



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Sameera Zulfika's Book Release at Scarborough Civic Centre - June 1st

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Durham Tamil Association



DTA at Audley Recreation Centre Official Opening Ceremony - Ajax

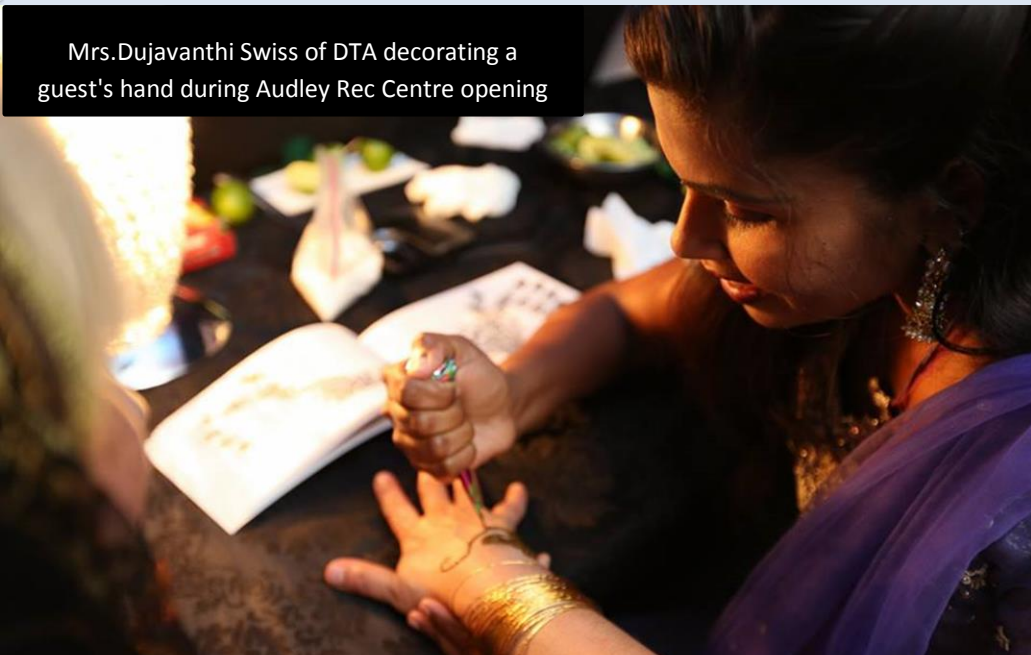
The Audley Recreation Centre, a new community hub is a place where all Ajax residents can come together to learn, work, and play. The grand opening was arranged in a very luxurious manner on Saturday June 8th from 1 pm till 4 pm to all residents of Ajax, bringing interest to all age groups. The day were filled with live entertainment, Celebration cake, skateboard competition, cultural performances, games and activities, buskers and so much more!

Durham Tamil Association had a booth set up to grant service for the public who came for the opening function with various activities like Temporary Tattoos for kids, Henna, Rice Art which is an ancient art. The youth volunteers of DTA came in large number to this occasion. They decorated the booth with kuthuvilaku and other symbols of Tamil culture which made other nationalities to take a picture of our stand. The guest were fascinated by the Henna and Rice Art. Entire guests who visited our booth were happy and returned with a cheer on their face. We were honored to see Mr. Chris Alexander visiting our booth and he was pleased to see the good works of Durham Tamil Association and said we are all over the place promoting the social services to human kind of all walks of life.

MP Chris Alexander with TEAM DTA during the opening ceremony



Mrs. Dujavanthi Swiss of DTA decorating a guest's hand during Audley Rec Centre opening



DTA Props up Stilettoes for the Cure

"Stilettoes for the Cure" is an event that is not only celebrated by women but also raises funds for cancer research and supports our community. This breathtaking event took place in Heydenshore Pavilion - Whitby on Friday June 7th at 6 pm. There were 350+ high heeled guest gathered together in the most stunning costumes as it was called the Arabian Nights. The room was strikingly decorated, the food was sumptuous and the entertainment was magical. This fundraising event was founded by Oshawa's Tina Dezi and Whitby's Tamara McKee, the main goal of this occasion is to bring together women from of all walks of life together for an evening of fun and excitement as they bid on some of the most beautiful shoes. Among the shoes donated were pairs from ET Canada's Cheryl Hickey, Dragons' Den's Arlene Dickinson and eTalk's Tanya Kim. All auction proceeds were donated to the Heather Griffith Breast Assessment Center and the Canadian Center for Abuse Awareness to help women, men and seniors here in our own community. Durham Tamil Association played a vital role at the event by setting up a booth and providing Henna services that left women looking all pretty and happy!. All the participants of the event were overwhelmed by the Henna work done by the DTA youth volunteers, which went on till 11 pm. We had 9 youth volunteers along with three women working nonstop to make all the women happy and cheerful. Tamara appreciated DTA's kind service and wanted us to work with them all year around as she felt she could rely on us. All this hard work from our youth volunteers have gave them a real sense of pride for helping to improve the lives of people affected by cancer.



Luxsiya Kanthavanam of DTA decorating a guest's hand with Henna @ Stilettoes for the Cure



Tamara McKee with TEAM DTA @ Stilettoes for the Cure June 2013

TEAM DTA getting ready for the Ajax Home Week Parade



DTA @THE AJAX HOME WEEK PARADE

The astonishing 43rd Ajax Home Week celebration by MPP Joe Dickson swept away thousands of hearts during the massive and colorful parade that took place on 14th June in Durham Centre. The main goal of the Ajax Home Week is to say thank you to the wonderful people of Ajax including all business and commercial community who have supported the non profit organisations and service club throughout the year. Durham Tamil Association proudly took part in Ajax Home Week celebrations and particularly the fascinating parade. DTA's four member PINNACLE BAND launched their musical extravaganza during the parade and took the crowd with them. Also, Sarika Navanathan mesmerized the audience with her sweet voice. DTA overwhelmed the crowd by the luxurious Limousine with members dressed in colorful traditional outfits bringing lots of cheers to the loving people of Ajax who were witnessing this historical parade.





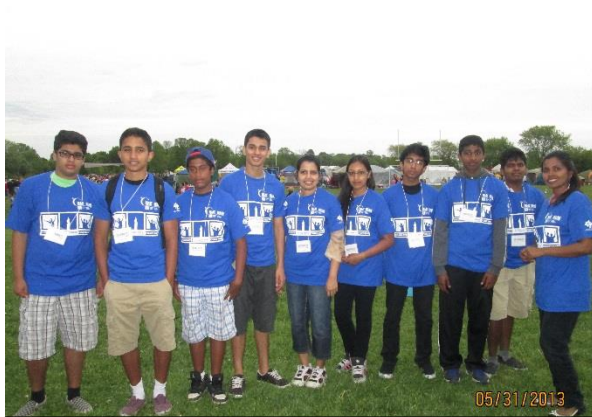
Durham Tamil Association @ the Relay For Life

JUNE 2ND, 2013

Relay for Life is an inspirational, non-competitive, 12-hour overnight fundraising event that brings communities together to celebrate life and fight against cancer. At Relay, people gather with cancer survivors at the sports field and take turns walking laps all night. People stay overnight in the decorated tent to enjoy music, food, activities, entertainment and to celebrate life. Relay participants make a commitment to raise at least \$100 and are supported with the tools to reach their goals. DTA played a vital role in this event as we had many youth volunteers partaking in this occasion, both on May 31st and June 1st. The volunteers actively involved in major works like clean up, providing information to the guests and also participated in the fundraising event. DTA creates volunteering opportunities not only to expand their network, but also enable them to enhance their communication skills.



TEAM DTA with Sharon Alipanopoulos of Canadian Cancer



TEAM DTA @ Relay For Life on 31 May 2013



DTA Cleanup crew after Relay For Life

Durham Tamil Association supports Pickering Village Festival

The Pickering Jazz Festival had been held at the Pickering Village for the past 10 years. This year, DTA played a key role from 6th – 9th of June 2013. The 4 days and nights of music and entertainment at the Pickering Village was a real treat for the community as it had music from near and far. Enjoying a weekend of music and sharing in our little community. The Music is the focal point but JAZ is more than that. It's something that local residents have come to look forward to over the years. They came to listen, dance in the streets and enjoy some sumptuous food. The program flagged off with DTA's brand new Pinnacle Band, consisting of Jeremy Francis and Joshua Francis. This young musicians entertained the crowd in full stretch. DTA's proud icon Ms.Sarika Navanathan's melodious Tamil song accompanied by another dancing icon Ms. Maenusha Raguvarnan was a true treat to the audience. The event would not have been complete without DTA's charismatic performances brought out by the amazing talented choreographer Mrs. Deepa Sivasangar. Young girls dressed perfectly like belly dancers not only proved their dancing prowess, but also made the audience dance to the step by tapping along with their young partners. Durham Tamil Association not only participated in the event but also assisted in the community cleanup activities. Youth volunteers got together to clean and improve public spaces during the four day musical celebration. It is a great social benefit as it creates more vibrant, healthy, safe, and sustainable communities. DTA always instructs the youth to involve in these kind of activity as they will acquire the skills and knowledge while working with the community. This also increase their social connectivity.





Multicultural festival brings the world to Kitchener-Waterloo

KITCHENER — From the smells of barbecued kebabs to the sounds of an Anishnabeg powwow, local residents immersed themselves in the diversity of this region this weekend.

Thousands attended the 46th annual K-W Multicultural Festival in Victoria Park, which featured international food, music, dance and craft vendors. “I think our focus is just bringing people together,” said Lucia Harrison, executive director of the K-W Multicultural Centre.

“This is a community-building festival.” At the main stage of the festival, residents crowded around to watch dancers and performers from more than 30

local ethnic associations such as the Central Ontario Chinese Cultural Centre, Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region and the University of Waterloo Indian Connection.

With cultural booths and food vendors showcasing 18 different countries including India and Sri Lanka, hundreds of cultures were represented at the event. Throughout the day, Harrison said, she could see people of different cultures dancing to each other’s traditional music.

On Roos Island, members of local Aboriginal communities hosted a powwow to introduce the public to their culture. “We’re just trying to show everyone in the

community that we are First Nations and that we’re in the community,” said Mark Lavallee, the youth co-ordinator for Anishnabeg Outreach.

“A lot of people aren’t aware that there’s a large Aboriginal population here.” Lavallee said there are an estimated 10,000 people who identify as Aboriginal in the Kitchener and Waterloo area. “We’re a growing and big population — we’re not a minority anymore,” he said. Onlookers were encouraged to join in dancing during the powwow. Lavallee said the interaction helps quash stereotypes and show the broader public who Aboriginal people really are.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne visited the festival. She spoke to the members of the Tamil community who organised the Indian and Sri Lankan food stall. She noted and thanked the Secretary, Mr. Sivakumar and Director of Public Relations Mr. Bala Thambapillai for showing the community that we are here ... we’re not something but a leading organisation in the society.

Tamil dancers from Sri Abiramy dance of Waterloo and Indian connections were part of the cultural troops that entertained the guests.



Ontario Premier visits Sri Lankan & Indian food stall at the KW Multicultural festival on June 22

(L-R) Dennis Loyola, Chandrika Anjariya, Ontario Premier Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Kitchener MPP Hon. John Milloy, Bala Thambapillai, Ragu Sivaramakrishnan, Siva Kumar of the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region.





Waterloo multicultural family fun brings the culture together

Waterloo: The John M. Harper branch library of the Waterloo Public Library and the YMCA hosted the first Multicultural Family Fun Day on the 15th of June. It was organised by a group of Multicultural associations, including the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region.

The event was inaugurated by the Mayor of Waterloo Hon. Brenda Halloran, Hon. Peter Braid – MP Kitch-

ener and other dignitaries. The President of Pakistan Cultural association welcomed the guests and thanked the respective organisation for the support extended.

A variety of cultural programs including Chinese, Indian, Sri Lankan, Latin America, Africa were showcased. Mrs. Dharini Sivakumar from the Tamil Cultural Association explained the guests the significance of the dance from the Tamil community. Rajiv Nadara-

jah and Bala Thambapillai represented the association. The highlight of the day was from the Indian quiz master Mr. Lloyd Saldanha. He entertained and presented “Knowledge is fun” Show.

There were food courts and commercial stalls. The successful event attracted more than five thousand people.





WHITBY
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Regional News

Survey Seeks Input on Diversity in Whitby

www.whitby.ca/diversitysurvey

Whitby is growing, and the Town of Whitby Ethno-cultural and Diversity Committee is seeking public input on identifying cultural, societal and gender barriers in the community and fostering a greater understanding of diversity issues.

The Committee has therefore developed a Community Survey that will assist in gaining a better understanding of the diversity needs of the community, the barriers residents face related to culture and diversity and recommended solutions to eliminating those barriers. The results of the survey will serve as an evaluation of current and future programs and services for the community.

Council established the Race Relations and Diversity Committee in 1996. In 2012, the name was changed to the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee of Council (EDAC). The Committee's Terms of Reference were also updated to reflect the changing diversity of the community. EDAC is made up of one appointed Council member and seven community member volunteers. One of the goals in the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference is to provide input in the development of a public engagement strategy for the residents of Whitby for the purpose of ensuring discussion and public feedback on current ethno-cultural and diversity issues.

The survey is available to the public until

September 30, 2013. Whitby residents can complete the online survey at www.whitby.ca/diversitysurvey, or fill out a paper copy in person at the Municipal Building, Town of Whitby recreation complexes, Whitby Public Library branches and Town special events throughout the summer.

For more information, please contact Sarah Klein, Manager of Recreation, Town of Whitby, at **905.430.4338** or kleins@whitby.ca.

Town of Whitby Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Recognizes Youth Volunteer

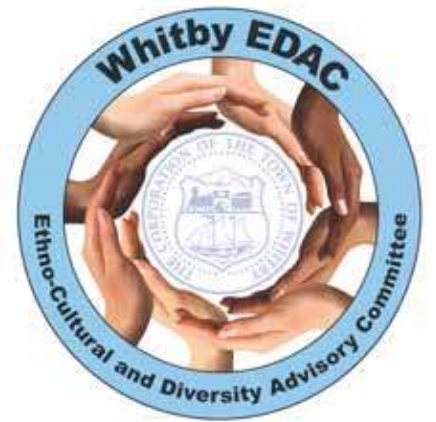


On June 6, the Town of Whitby Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee recognized Abhishek Ravi for his volunteer work. Councillor Ken Montague, the Mayor's designate to the Ethno-cultural and Diversity Advisory Committee, presented a certificate of appreciation to Abhishek for his volunteer work in the community.

Abhishek is a Whitby youth who is part of TEAM Youth of Durham Tamil Association (DTA). Every year, DTA involves youth in support of Cancer research. In April, a team of 26 youth volunteers from DTA stood at various locations to collect money for the Canadian Cancer Society through its Daffodil Campaign. This year, Abhishek raised \$2141.25 in 14 hours.

The Durham Tamil Association takes pride in preparing youth to be exemplary future leaders. The association achieves this goal by encouraging youth to take the lead on community volunteering activities. Being recognized by the Town gives youth the motivation and the encouragement to do more volunteer activities within our community.

<http://durhamtamils.com/>



Event Name	Location	Date	Time	Event Name	Location	Date	Time
Canada Day County Town Carnival	Victoria Fields, 500 Victoria Street West, Whitby	July 1, 2013	Noon - dark	Wendy's Free Swim	Anne Ottenbrite Pool, Iroquois Park Sports Centre, 500 Victoria Street West, Whitby	July 13, 2013	1:30-3:30 p.m.
Culture in the Square: Cassava Latin Rhythms	Whitby Public Library, Main Branch, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby	July 2, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Culture in the Square: Station Gallery Kids in the Square	Whitby Public Library, Main Branch, Celebration Square, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby	July 16, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Music in the Park: Terri and Rick Just for Kids	Rotary Centennial Park, 800 Brock Street South, Whitby	July 3, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Music in the Park: Whitby Old Time Fiddle Club	Rotary Centennial Park, 800 Brock Street South, Whitby	July 17, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Newcomers Welcome Program for Seniors	Whitby Seniors' Activity Centre, 801 Brock Street South, Whitby	July 4, 2013	1:00-3:30 p.m.	Newcomers Welcome Program for Seniors	Whitby Seniors' Activity Centre, 801 Brock Street South, Whitby	July 18, 2013	1:00-3:30 p.m.
Music in the Park: Terri and Rick Just for Kids	Grass Park, 41 Baldwin Street, Brooklin	July 4, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Music in the Park: 2nd Shift	Grass Park, 41 Baldwin Street, Brooklin	July 18, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Culture in the Square: The Ben Show featuring Ben Burland	Whitby Public Library, Main Branch, Celebration Square, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby	July 9, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Culture in the Square: Whitby Idols Live in the Square	Whitby Public Library, Main Branch, Celebration Square, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby	July 23, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Music in the Park: Jim Parker Kids Show	Rotary Centennial Park, 800 Brock Street South, Whitby	July 10, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Music in the Park: Bruce Gorrie Trio	Rotary Centennial Park, 800 Brock Street South, Whitby	July 24, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Newcomers Welcome Program for Seniors	Whitby Seniors' Activity Centre, 801 Brock Street South, Whitby	July 11, 2013	1:00-3:30 p.m.	Newcomers Welcome Program for Seniors	Whitby Seniors' Activity Centre, 801 Brock Street South, Whitby	July 25, 2013	1:00-3:30 p.m.
Music in the Park: In Between	Grass Park, 41 Baldwin Street, Brooklin	July 11, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Music in the Park: All Star Jam Band	Grass Park, 41 Baldwin Street, Brooklin	July 25, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Movies in the Park: Zoo Keeper	Willow Park, 50 Willow Park Drive, Whitby	July 12, 2013	9:00 p.m.	Movies in the Park: Rise of the Guardians	Civic Recreation Complex, 555 Rossland Road East, Whitby	July 26, 2013	9:00 p.m.

Volunteers Needed

One of the greatest strengths in any community is its volunteers, and Whitby is no exception. Whitby Harbour Day is a summer celebration of Whitby's historic harbour with fun for the whole family. If you are interested in volunteering at this community event on July 27, 2013, please email volunteer@whitby.ca or call **905.430.4310**.

Event Name	Location	Date	Time
Whitby Harbour Day	Port Whitby Marina, 301 Watson Street, Whitby	July 27, 2013	12:00-10:30 p.m.
Culture in the Square: Ron Cross and Random Acts of Rhythm Drumming Program	Whitby Public Library, Main Branch, Celebration Square, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby	July 30, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Music in the Park: Raffaele Marchione	Rotary Centennial Park, 800 Brock Street South, Whitby	July 31, 2013	7:00-8:30 p.m.

Whitby In Bloom Free Garden Tour
Saturday, July 27, 2013 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Register online at www.whitby.ca/whitbyinbloom or at:
Whitby Civic Recreation Complex
Iroquois Park Sports Centre
Whitby Seniors' Activity Centre
Brooklin Community Centre and Library

Whitby Harbour Day
July 27, 2013 • 12:00-10:30 p.m. • Port Whitby Marina, 301 Watson Street, Whitby

www.whitby.ca/harbourday

MARKHAM



Regional News

Volunteers came together to plant flowers at the Civic Centre on June 8 for the Community Wildflower Planting & Volunteer Recognition Event



To kick-off Pride Week in York Region (June 15 – 23), Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Members of Council were joined by Linda Keith, President of PFLAG York Region, and Detectives Brett Kemp and Detective Constable Mark Topping of the York Regional Police Hate Crime Unit, to raise the Pride flag at the Civic Centre on June 17.



Over \$40,000 was raised in support of United Way York Region at the City of Markham's second annual golf tournament on June 6 at Angus Glen Golf Club and Conference Centre. (L to R) Andy Taylor, Markham's Chief Administrative Officer; Dennis Flaherty, Markham's Director of Corporate Communications and Community Engagement; and Carmen Clayton, United Way York Region's Campaign Manager show off the big result of the day.



Mayor Frank Scarpitti and members of the Markham Lightning Soccer Club celebrate the official opening of the City's newest artificial turf sport field at Mount Joy Community Centre on May 24.

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Mayor's Seniors Hall of Fame Awards

Nomination Deadline: September 13, 2013

If you know of a deserving Markham resident (aged 60+), who has lived here for 10 or more years, show your appreciation and nominate them for this prestigious award.

Nomination forms are available at all Markham Seniors Centres, Community Centres, Libraries, the Markham Civic Centre and at www.markham.ca

Join TO2015 and the City of Markham as we celebrate the Two-year Countdown to the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games!

Join the party - celebrate world-class sport and the Americas and Caribbean culture

- Table tennis & badminton demonstrations
- Water polo & golf activities
- Children's crafts
- Food vendors
- Music of acclaimed world music artist Amanda Martinez

Wednesday, July 10, 2013
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Markham Civic Centre
101 Town Centre Blvd.

www.toronto2015.org

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Capture Markham from your perspective. Submit your best outdoor images to MyPhoto@markham.ca for possible use in Markham Life Magazine, on our website, in our facilities and in other City publications.



Capture your summer fun! We are looking for photos of:

- Markham's unique natural outdoor beauties
- fun family activities
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