

# Monsoon Journal



■ SURFCAST 1    ■ LINEUP 5    ■ OCTOBER 2006  
A PARFAIT MEDIA PUBLICATION

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Rainbow in Nilaveli, North East of Sri Lanka  
[humanityashore.org]

My Glory  
"Think where man's glory  
most begins and ends and  
say -- my glory was that I  
had such friends."

William Butler Yeats  
(1865 - 1939)  
Irish poet, dramatist

**In This Issue**

**GTA  
JOBS  
&  
CAREERS**

## Gearing up for Municipal Elections

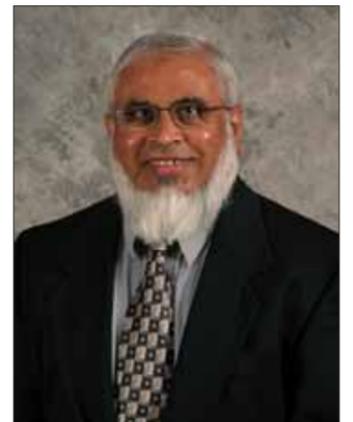
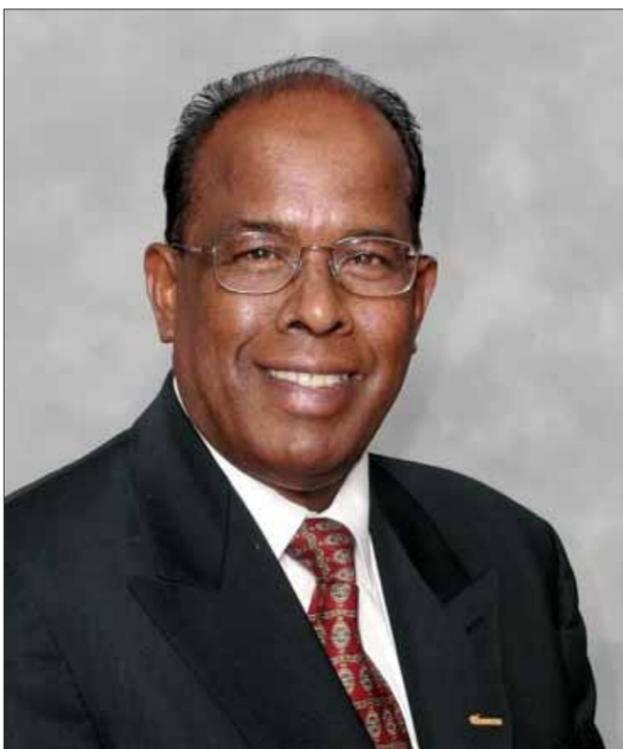
Campaigns for several Municipal and School Board elected positions, taking place on November 13, 2006 are in full swing. The Monsoon Journal, features profiles and platforms of some of the candidates amongst us: (Pages 36 & 37)

Candidate for York Regional Councillor  
Professor Elagu V. Elagupillai,  
M.Sc., Ph.D.

Logan Kanapathi  
Markham, Ward 7

Michael Thompson  
Toronto City Councillor-Ward 37

Abdul Hai Patel  
Scarborough, Ward 43



Surinder S. Lamba  
Markham, Ward 8

Thadsha Navamanikkam,  
Scarborough  
Ward 41



Neethan Shan



Warren Kanagaratnam

Candidates for  
School Board  
Trustees



Ketheesh Waran



Shan Thayaparan

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# दीवाली Greetings



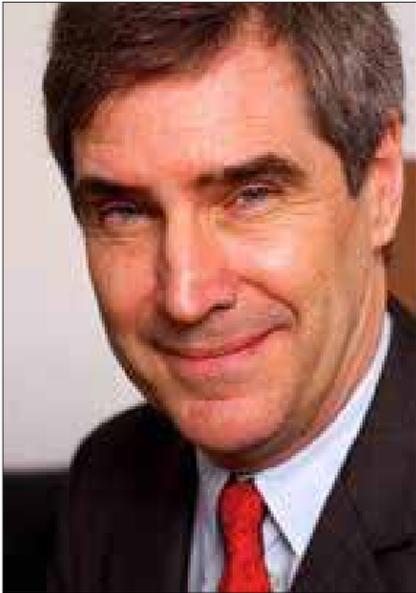
The festival of lights is here. All of us at RBC wish you and your loved ones a very happy Diwali and a prosperous year ahead. We look forward to welcoming you at your nearest RBC Royal Bank branch, or online at [www.rbc.com](http://www.rbc.com).



# Racing to lead the Liberals in the next Federal Election

The Liberal Party Leadership race is in its final stretch. The Fall season will be filled with the would-be leaders' pitch to win the position. Here is what the top four candidates, in the aftermath of the recently concluded delegate selection - say about their candidacy for the leadership; All three candidates who finished behind Prof. Michael Ignatieff MP, now hope to clinch the top position in second balloting:

**Michael Ignatieff, MP**  
Etobicoke-Lakeshore



"I feel very good about the results, we've got support from across the country."  
Highlighting his campaign platform, who was a Professor at Harvard University says, "Liberals should be bold, unafraid to identify the problems we must tackle and courageous in the solutions we propose. The country does not want to be administered, it wants to be led"

**Bob Rae,**  
Former Premier of Ontario



"Nobody's got more than 30 per cent at the moment, this is not a game which stands still. I don't mind. I've been underestimated in my life for a long time in terms of politics."  
About his candidacy for the leadership, Premier Rae says:  
"I am a Liberal because I believe the Liberal Party represents Canada at its best: diverse, innovative, fundamentally decent.  
I am a candidate for the leadership of the Liberal Party because I believe those values are under very real threat from the most shortsighted and partisan federal government I have seen in my lifetime: the Harper Conservative government. Together we can make a difference and build a future that benefits all Canadians."

**Stéphane Dion, Former Federal**  
Environment Minister



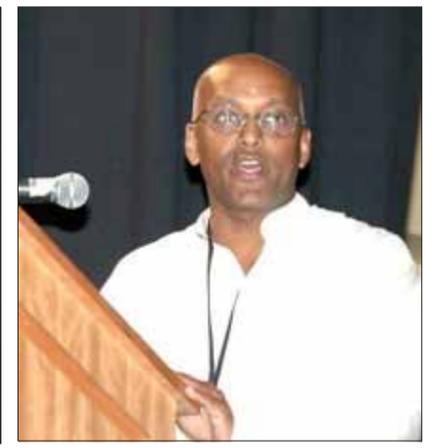
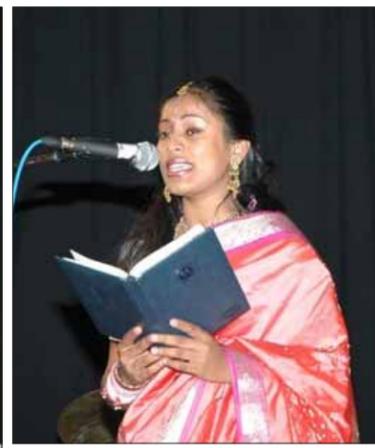
"And why I think I have a strong capacity to win is because I've presented the clearest vision, well in touch with that Canada needs to do."  
When the media asked about the possibility that he may play the role of kingmaker in the Dec. 3 leadership vote he smiled: "If it were a monarchy, I would say I prefer to be the king, but let's say that I will be a leader. I will rally to the winner's side, my only hope is that I rally to my own side," he joked.

**Gerard Kennedy, Former**  
Ontario Minister of Education



"I am more convinced than ever than we can - and we must - win. I know I can persuade the country to trust a renewed party - one that relates to ordinary working families, delivers results that matter and earns the respect of Canadians."  
Commenting about his well acclaimed role as Founder Director of Food Banks in Edmonton and Toronto, he says:  
"It would always have remained an abstract, if I hadn't met people who were in need. These were people who, through no fault of their own, were going hungry. This was not supposed to happen in Canada."

## TamilOne – New 24 hour Tamil TV Channel on Rogers Cable 622



Inauguration ceremony of TamilOne, a new 24 hour TV channel was held on Sunday October 1st 2006 at Metropolitan Centre, Scarborough. This channel is available free of charge (at Rogers Digital cable 622) to view during its inaugural month of October 2006. Community leaders, business entrepreneurs, artists and many others attended the ceremony. Photos by: Gnane Gnanendran (647) 388-3483

## Monsoon Journal

Printing the Winds of Change around us

*All lands home, all men kin.*

To say disagreeable things  
when agreeable are at hand is  
like eating unripe fruit when  
there is ripe.

- Kurall # 100

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

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delay to

416-441-4100

### 'SAAHITHYA AWARDED'

Muthurajah's poetry book  
'Tsunami', release on  
Saturday,

October 14th, 2006, at the  
Scarborough Civic Centre,  
140 Borough Drive, Scarborough  
between 5 and 9 pm.

More Info: 905-417-9649

## From the Publisher's Desk ..... Saluting Volunteerism

**"It's not how much we give but  
how much love we put into  
giving" - Mother Teresa**

We will never know all their names.  
We may not ever have a complete list  
of all the companies and religious  
groups and organizations and  
communities that pour relief in times  
of social needs and disasters.

But each and every individual, each  
and every business and company and  
corporation, each and every  
charitable and religious organization  
and every single individual and  
community that is sharing its time  
and treasure are recipients of the

unending thanks and appreciation  
from the everyday beneficiaries.

Communities around us are fortunate  
to be filled with individual volunteers  
who team up in - being the difference  
- to serve all humanity for a better  
future. Their volunteerism  
strengthens community life through a  
variety of activities that provide a  
safety net for individuals and families  
who are at risk of facing cutbacks in  
our everyday social needs.

The volunteer services in our  
communities include seasonal giving  
and charitable activities, care giving,  
community events, fundraising sports

events etc. The volunteers themselves  
say the participation brings  
community awareness, an attachment  
to the land we live in and the  
compassionate deeds, beats their  
hearts with immense satisfaction. In  
the meantime while providing a  
service to the non-profit community,  
volunteers themselves gain additional  
skill development that they can use in  
their own endeavours and contribute  
towards a better living for  
themselves.

Many times many do not know who  
the volunteers are, but more of us  
doing more of our share can only  
further enrich everyone's lives.

The Monsoon Journal salutes the  
volunteers, spirit of giving and  
volunteerism in our communities.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**6th ANNUAL TAMIL  
CULTURAL NITE**  
by

Tamil Cultural Association of  
Waterloo Region

Sat. October 14, 2006  
6:00 PM

Humanities Theatre  
Univ. of Waterloo

Admission Free

### Drama Festival 2006 by RR Creation

5 Dramas being staged at

Kalaingar Kegayalingam  
Auditorium

Presented by  
Kalaiventhan Kanapathy Ravindran  
& Ruby Yogathasan

Saturday,  
November 4, 2006 at 6.00 pm

Winston Churchill Cl  
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### Staying healthy with diabetes

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- Ongoing monitoring and control

Diabetes Clinic Day-Kennedy Road Pharmacy  
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freestyle diabetes products.  
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and have your Blood Sugar tested.

### UTHAYAM 2006

Ontario International Development Agency  
Presents

*"Nenjam Marappathillai"*

Musical Benefit Concert



World renowned Sri Lankan artist "Sangeetharatnam"

**Nagamuttu Rakunathan**  
with **Apsaras Dance Troupe**

Saturday October 21, 2006 @ 6:00 PM  
Sir John A McDonald Theatre  
2300 Pharmacy Avenue, Toronto  
Ontario  
(Pharmacy & Finch)

Saturday November 04, 2006 @ 6:00 PM  
Mont-Royal High School Auditorium  
50 Avenue, Montgomery  
Ville - Mont-Royal  
Quebec

Tickets: \$20.00  
Seniors & Children under 12: \$10.00  
For Tickets Call

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### Notice of Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC)

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The CTCC Annual General Meeting will be held on

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006

between

9:00am and 12:00 pm

At Embassy Restaurant

5210 Finch Ave. East, Unit 6-12,

Scarborough ( Middlefield Rd. / Finch Ave. )

CTCC members (current & former) are requested  
to accept this notice of AGM.

More information about the event is available at  
CTCC web site "WWW.CTCC.CA"



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“ அனைவருக்கும் இங்கு ஒரே சூழ்நிலை  
அதனால் என்றும் மனிதனாயிரு ”

**வீடு விற்பனை முகவர்**

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# TamilWeek

People in Sri Lanka marked the International Peace Day with demonstrations, prayers, and inter religious programmes on September 21 st 2006.

People of all walks of life in Sri Lanka want peace. They think peace is a distance dream, but speaking out without fear on Peace day is important to them; because they think the more silent they are - the worse they have to face in the future.

**Pathmapriya Vallipuram  
Gopalakrishnan**



"My parents and younger sister are staying in Jaffna. There is a daily curfew in Jaffna from 6PM to 6AM. There is no fuel. Scarcity for essential items. People have to wait for a long time in the queues to buy things. The prices in shops have sky-rocketed. People are eating less to safe food for future.

There is not enough cash flow in the banks. Communication is completely cut off from the rest of the world. The main highway A9 from Jaffna to Kandy is closed for more than a month. The commercial flights to and from Jaffna have been stopped. People have to wait in long queues to get access to travel by ship to Trincomalee.

Patients are suffering. The power supply in interrupted very often. There is a heavy presence of military in Jaffna. People are afraid to move freely, especially young girls. I am very worried about my younger sister, who says she does not know what the future holds for her.

People are affected psychologically. Educational activities are at a standstill. Jaffna used to lead academically. But it is deteriorated. There is no access to media to travel and report tee fact independently, therefore the rest of the world is not aware of the prevailing situation in Jaffna.

It's a pity that my Sinhala friends do not know what's happening in Jaffna, and they keep asking me, "You have everything in Jaffna, why do you need peace?" I want to do something for peace. Because people are suffering endlessly" says Pathmapriya Vallipuram Gopalakrishnan (26) an Accounts Assistant of National Peace Council.

**Karunathunga Welikala:**

"I was teaching in Mannar from 1971 to 1978. I learnt to speak and write in Tamil during that period. I had a lot of Tamil friends. I do not have any Tamil friends now, because I moved from North to South to work. Today I am talking in Tamil after twenty five years,

## Voices for Peace

By Dushiyanthini Kanagasabapathipillai



which gives me a great pleasure. I do not have the need to speak in Tamil in Galle, where I live.

The innocent civilians are suffering. If a bomb goes off in the country, Tamils get arrested immediately, and harassed. Bombs neither have hearts nor minds to think whether the people who will be killed are Tamils or Sinhalese or Muslims.

We Sinhalese living in the South have not witnessed the war directly. But we as human beings bear the burns of war. The whole village used to get together and mourn fro days, when the dead bodies of our fellow villagers used to come in large numbers during the height of war.

We Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims of this country have to live in peace and harmony. We all have to work towards peace with dignity" says Karunathunga Welikala (59) a retired teacher from Galle.

**Velusamy Kumaraguruparan:**



"Tamils of Sri Lanka had been discriminated since independence. That led to freedom struggle. We lost thousands of valuable lives, millions of people displaced during war. We have learned a good lesson through a dirty war.

Now there is a Ceasefire in Sri Lanka. But violence still continues. We are not sure of our lives. People of North and East are dying without food. Muslims and Sinhalese are suffering on the other hand. However there is discrimination while helping the needy.

There are racists amongst us. But we have to cross the hurdles, and work for a permanent peace. We civilians want peace" says Velusamy Kumaraguruparan (43) ,General Secretary of All Employee's Progress Front of Badulla

**Nushrath Begum:**

"Each community suspects the other communities in Sri Lanka. Because the past incidents have put the people in this position. This is not a healthy environment. We civilians have to stay away from politics, and try to



understand the other communities better.

Violence escalating everywhere in Sri Lanka. After couple of years of peace, the situation is sliding back to war. It's very dangerous. We can't travel freely anywhere, and anytime we want.

All have to put pressure on warring parties to cease hostilities, and start the negotiations without further delay to ensure peace and stability" says Nushrath Begum (30) of Sri Lanka Muslim Women Society in Kurunegala.

**Balasundaram Nirmanusan:**



"My mother is sick in Jaffna. But I am unable to go to my home town to see her. I feel very sad for not being able to see my mother. Jaffna is completely cut off from other parts of world.

Death is immediate in Jaffna, whereas death is bit delayed in Colombo. People get shot quite often in Jaffna, but people get abducted very often in Colombo. Death is decided by seconds in Sri Lanka.

Peace should be the priority. But it should not go behind privileges. There are many, who take peace for various advantages. Peace should not be bargained. Peace should be for people, not for politicians" says Balasundaram Nirmanusan (26), Jaffna District Co-ordinator for People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL)

**Philip Murugaiah:**

"Human security should be assured. Violence escalating in East again. Innocent civilians are targeted. A strong international community presence is important in the East to protect the civilians.

Killings, abductions, displacement are on the increase, although we have a Ceasefire Agreement. But either party does not seem to implement it. It's becoming more and more dangerous.



People are living with fear.

People's lives should be protected. The parties have to create an environment, where people can live without fear. Then only the negotiations can start once again.

And the Diaspora community should contribute to peace in a more healthier and useful way" says Philip Murugaiah (32), Mission Director of Team of Youth for Development, Understanding and Progress (TYDUP)

**Sivagnanaselvam  
Sivakumaran:**



"I stand here for peace. People have the right to live, and not to die. We have to create a good environment for our children to live peacefully", says Sivagnanaselvam Sivakumaran, Programme Co-ordinator of World Solidarity Forum.

**Shanthi Sachchithanatham:**



"Lets stop the killings. People's plead for peace should be a continuation. We all should think how can we contribute to peace. We care. And there should be a political equilibrium", Shanthi Sachchithanatham, chairperson of Vizhuthu.

[Courtesy: Humanityashore.org]

It is only an ignoramus who may not know India had a hand in arming some militant groups in the 80s. This is a factor on which most Sinhalese harp on - feigning total innocence. What is the real story?

The post-1956 Tamil disillusionment was expressed peacefully and via the Parliamentary path - as decent societies would do. The Dogs of War were set upon the Tamil Parliamentarians in 1957 and when Amirthalingam came into the House bleeding SWRD mockingly humoured "Aha, the brave badges of war, what?" or something similar. At almost the sametime thugs and IRC's from Kelaniya, Balapitiya, Hingukarakgoda were dispatched to the Gal Oya area to chase Tamils living for generations there - so that benefits of the Gal Oya scheme may be enjoyed exclusively by the Sinhalese. Is this fair in a land submitting to the religious philosophies of one of India's great sons - a Hindu; which many Sinhalese history-twisters find discomforting? At that time in the Inginiyagala area all 3 communities were living in harmony - until these Sinhala thugs came and set aflame the existing racial harmony. Did not Mrs B create a major blunder,

An "absolute overkill" today's analysts would say - by sending the army to the North in the early 60s a task that could have been handled effectively by the efficient multi-racial Sinhala-dominated Police at that time? Who gave her the "guli" to inappropriately send her confidante Gen Richard Udugama to set up new Army camps in the North - which the then radicalizing Tamil youth were to describe as the "Sinhala occupying army" It is the sight of these army camps, from which came the early indications of detention, assault and torture by army thugs on Tamils men, women and children that opened the eyes of the Northern youth to the growing possibility of engaging this unacceptable indignity against "the Tamil nation" by arms to protect their "land, language and innocent people" Would the Sinhala youth not do the same in their areas if the roles were reversed? My friend, the enlightened Tamil youth of that day were able to predict "the coming colours". (Ena pahata) - to use a Sinhalese expression. The anti-Tamil Dudley had the political

## Sinhala activism and India's amity for Lankan Tamils

By Seran Senguttuvan

sagacity to tell himself things can go out of control unless the "issues" of the Tamils then (articulated by some of the finest legal brains this country ever produced - in the Tamil side) are addressed. And, so came into being the Dudley-Chelva Pact, which, mind you, allowed only a minimum of what the Tamils wanted. That was the 2nd major agreement, mutually discussed for long and signed, that was to be torn to shreds at the behest of radical Buddhist priests. Then came Badi-ud-din and his brainwave Standardization - and thus was born Prabakaran's cousins in the form of several militant groups. The desecration of the International Tamil Conference in 1974 (?) further exacerbated the issue and was the product of those faceless and sinister forces engineering to destroy Tamil-Sinhala bonds. Their "cells" in the Police were the most effective tool with which this disruption was gradually realised - because, if you recall - it was through the radio network of the Police false stories of Tamils killing Sinhalese in Hingurakgoda, Nagadipa and so on were spread.

July 1983 was not an accident. It was a planned and well-executed plot in a larger conspiracy to eventually "finish off all Tamils" - one part of it being enacted now in the abduction and killing of rich Tamil businessmen. Although Tamils produced the greatest lawyers, doctors, engineers, architects whose services were gratefully utilised by the Sinhala majority - Mathew succeeded in convincing Sinhala activists - in the UNP, SLFP and other Sinhala political parties - that Tamil doctors, engineers and other professionals passed out entirely "cheating" in exams. Napoleon Bonaparte, a Corsican, with a heavy Italian accent - tried to prove he was more French than the French themselves - in the 18th century. ; Hitler, the Austrian, tried to outdo the Germans as did Mohamed Mahathir, a Keralite Muslim, in Malaysia in recent times. Alberto Fujimori, a Japanese

failed in that role in Peru in South America. So Cyril Mathew, originating from a low caste of tree-climbers from Kerala - tried to outdo the Sinhalese and became an ultra- Sinhala champion in 1983. It will take a long time for Tamils to forget the sad memory of Mathew's men marching Architect-Minister Kumarasuriyar - hands tied behind - at Galle Road, Wellawatta. Was Mathew or his cohorts ever brought before courts in a country where the Constitution promised Justice to all. How many prosecutions were obtained by the Govt all-Island in the '83 events, where thousands of Tamils were killed, robbed and raped.

Where is the Justice to the Tamils? Why did India arm some of the "boys" in the 80s? It is well known from the 1970s Indian leaders have been advising the Sri Lankan political leadership to address the Tamil issue. Sinhala-dominated governments of different political persuasions failed to read "the writing on the wall" and "landed" the entire country into the mess we are in. It is well known when JRJ delegated Athulathmudali to go and make peace with Mrs Indira Gandhi (whom JR had unwisely angered in several ways) she dismissed his initial pallaver and asked "What is the difficulty of your President in settling the growing Tamil issue? He has got 5/6th Parliamentary majority, does'nt he?" Well! If JR could not control the pseudo-nationalists in his team travelling in as many directions - Premadasa, Mathew, Athulathmudali, Gamini Dissanayake, Gamini Jayasuriya, Ranil Wickramasinghe - that's his problem; and now the entire country's. The feeling of the Sinhala government, armed forces, religious and political leadership was that the Tamils are only 15% of the population and we can settle it by our superior numbers and by various methods of trying to "put the Tamils down".

The bitter truth is, in sheer exasperation and against their own judgment, the Indians decided to arm Tamil militants

for the limited purpose of putting sense into the obstinate head of the Sinhala government that matters are reaching dangerous levels. It is a pity

JR, Premadasa, CBK and Mahinda all believed that "Gahala kera-ganda puluvang" (We can achieve our objective by force). Also, India had much reason to be angry with us in 1948 when over 2 million in the Hills were denied the Franchise - they enjoyed in the previous General Elections. They could have taken action what we would have perceived as "against us" but they didn't at that time, right?

Inspite of all this, many Tamils of today are ready to live in a future peaceful Sri Lanka - only if you can control the "rabid dogs" around you. One of those insulted, the highly respected Bishop Rayappu Joseph just last night (Sep 22) on TV in an uncontrollable outburst of anti-Tamil vitriol in the presence of Tamil MPs. There are a large number of decent, intelligent Sinhalese still in the country who sincerely regret the tremendous harm done to the Tamils, their history, their religion and cultural institutions and their pride. For those in the Sinhala side who still believe Tamils can be "destroyed" in various ways gradually as being done now both by the armed forces and the more dangerous forces in the Sinhala civil side, I would advise "give up" You will do more harm to the present and future Sinhala nation than the foolish campaign you are in. The 800,000 Tamils whom you caused to "leave" the country dearly miss their "home and their people" As Mangala Samarweera was to say - in a meeting when I was with him - "they" have good reason to carry a "strong wairaya" with them.

M. Sathasivam, Ethirveerasingham, Muralidharan are only 3 who contributed to a strong Sri Lanka composite. There could have been a hundred more of such men to enrich our country - if not for the "games" that were played to put the Tamils down. Of course, in more recent years, much damage was done by some Tamils to Sinhalese as well, which we all regret very much. But that breach was a result of an earlier breach in keeping the two sides temporarily apart. [TamilWeek.com]

Prairie Valley School Division, located in Southeast Saskatchewan, is focused on creating a collaborative, focused, learning

culture in which everyone has an opportunity to develop and display leadership skills. Within 48 rural municipalities and 52 urban municipalities, this new school division is dedicated to a mission of inspiring and empowering one another through their vision of leadership and learning in life. As a leading school division in student assessment, programming, and continuous improvement, the Prairie Valley Board of Education is committed to ensuring a high quality of education for students.

Accountable to the Board of Education to carry out the duties under the Education Act, its educational objectives and policies and for providing leadership in educational administration and instructional programming is the.

### Director of Education

As Director of Education, you are the chief executive officer for the school division, responsible for the effective and efficient operation of this \$70 million enterprise, with 1200 staff members, 46 schools and over 8,000 students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Building on the Board's newly developed strategic vision the Director will work collaboratively with the members of the Administration and Board to help shape the culture and identity of Prairie Valley School Division.

- A Masters Degree in Education is required along with familiarity with today's educational issues, indicators and innovations. As an administrator within an educational institution of some magnitude and complexity, you have already established a reputation for leading a High quality, values-based and caring school system.
- The position requires that the

candidates be eligible for membership in the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents (LEADS).

- A background consisting of experience in many diverse school divisions, including practice in a rural setting, First Nations communities and a previous amalgamation are considered assets in this role.

The Director of Education will have the ability to effectively lead change and communicate to establish an open, trusting and empowering environment with a commitment to continuous improvement in the education of children.

For more information on Prairie Valley School Division, please visit [www.pvsd.ca](http://www.pvsd.ca).

For confidential enquiries or to express interest in this position, please contact:

Holly Hetherington (306) 359-2550

[search@executivesource.ca](mailto:search@executivesource.ca)

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# Cricket-World Cup 2007

The 9th World cup tournament will be held in West Indies in 2007. This will be the biggest tournament yet, with the best 16 Countries in the World participating over a period of 40 days. This great tournament will bring together the best cricketers from around the world to parade their talents in front of a huge global audience with more than 800,000 spectators to attend the matches held in West Indies. In addition, this wonderful spectacle is forecast to attract a global television audience in excess of one billion viewers, which says everything about the tremendous growing power of cricket. Canada has been drawn in the same group with England, New Zealand and Kenya.

## History of Cricket in Canada

Cricket has deep roots in Canada. Played first by the regiments in the 1800's, it became such a major sport by the time of Confederation that Sir John A. Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada, declared it as Canada's National sport. It may surprise a great many that the first international competition in any sport was played at a cricket match between Canada and the U.S.A. in 1844. Cricket, in Canada and Eastern USA, was very popular during the last part of the 19th century, with many top English teams and the great players of the day touring North America during that period.

There was a strong resurgence in popularity prior to World War II and we are now once again experiencing another resurgence initiated by the vast growth of immigrants from countries that consider cricket as their heritage.

## Where do we stand

### Domestically:

- Some 6 million Canadians are avid followers of the sport.
- There are 27 (17 CCA affiliated and 10 non affiliated) cricket leagues in Canada, which are based in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Quebec.
- 20,000 registered and non-registered players are members of these leagues.
- 290 clubs comprising of 400 teams participate in the game.
- Over 120 private and public schools have cricket programs.

### Internationally: Team Canada:

- Qualified for the World Cup in the 2007
- Competed in the World Cup 2003
- Competed in the Commonwealth Games in 1998
- Competed in the World Cup tournaments in 1979 and 2003.
- Winners of the ICC Americas Region Under 19 tournament in 2002 & 2004.
- Won the ICC Americas Championship in July 2004.
- Crowned the Champions at the Americas region

## Team Canada Achievements

A Great day for Canadian Cricket!  
The World Cup bound Canadian team were hosted at Queens Park, the Provincial Legislature in October 2005. The team were recognized by the MPP's when they appeared in the public gallery. This honor was followed by a reception in the teams honor. The reception was attended by Premier Dolton McGuinty,

Minister of Immigration Colle, Minister of Sport James, other Ministers and MPP's attended. Other dignitaries in attendance included Consul Generals from such cricket playing countries such as; England, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Antigua, Barbados and Bangladesh. Representatives of the Toronto Mayors office were also in attendance.

Over 100 hundred members of the cricket community attended as well as 10 members of the media. In speeches made to the gathering the politicians acknowledged the growth and the importance of cricket in Ontario and Canada. Minister Colle recognized cricket as the fastest growing sport in Ontario. The Minister pledged to continue to champion cricket and encourage corporations to get involved with sponsoring cricket in Ontario. Events of this nature can only help to grow cricket and improve the financial support of cricket.

Pictures taken on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at the Canadian Cricket Association Gala Dinner in celebration of Team Canada and their host St Lucia in March 2007.



## Will Community/Cricket Lovers Support Sanjayan and any other players financially for the World Cup Tour



Minister of Immigration Colle above wearing Canadian Cricket Team outfit at the Canadian Cricket Association's Gala Dinner on Thursday, Oct 5, 2006, sponsored by St. Lucia Tourist Board. Minister, in his speech wished them and announced 1million dollars grant for the Team.

**Sanjayan** smiling (seated left) has been a member of the Canadian Cricket Team since 1995.

He is seeking monetary sponsorship for the next nine months as he takes time away from his work to concentrate on training for the ultimate dream of his life - playing in the World Cup. Please give this request some consideration at this critical juncture in his cricketing career.

Pledge your Sponsorship amount now: (For Tax Receipts please make all cheque payable to the Canadian Cricket Association and send name of recipient )



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# The Scarborough Hospital Starts Construction of New Emergency and Critical Care Centre

## ECCC will improve access and quality of care for all patients

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TORONTO (September 21, 2006)** - The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) is kicking off multi million dollar building that will house the new Emergency and Critical Care Centre (ECCC), improving access to services and quality of care for Scarborough residents. Funding for the building, scheduled to open in 2009, has been provided by the Government of Ontario and through The Scarborough Hospital Foundation's fundraising campaign.

The new state-of-the-art ECCC will be located on the north side of the Hospital's General Campus along Lawrence Avenue East and McCowan Road. The ECCC will feature an extended 15,000 square foot Emergency Department, 14-bed Intensive Care Unit, eight-bed Coronary Care Unit, and Diagnostic Imaging Department including MRI Centre, CT scanning, nuclear medicine and breast screening clinic.

"I would like to offer my acknowledgements and gratitude to the many people involved who have worked very hard to move this project forward," says Dr. Hugh Scott, President and CEO of The



Scarborough Hospital. "Thanks to the support of our staff and community, our ECCC Campaign has been a great success."

TSH has one of the busiest emergency departments caring for a community of close to one million people.

"This is the most important expansion project undertaken in the hospital's history," says Louise Leblanc, The Scarborough Hospital's Patient Care Director of Emergency Services. "The new department will revitalize our commitment to better patient care and safety, providing all our patients more space and quicker access to care."

"These are exciting times, not only for residents in Scarborough, but all of the GTA, as we begin construction on this project that will house the ECCC," adds Dr. Scott.

The Scarborough Hospital (TSH), Canada's largest urban community hospital, delivers innovative, high quality patient care, advocates for our community's health and wellness issues, and is a leader in research, teaching and learning. TSH is a regional treatment 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 corneal implants. For more information on The Scarborough Hospital, please visit: [www.tsh.to](http://www.tsh.to)

For more information, please contact:  
**Sherian Mondesir**  
 Communications Consultant  
 The Scarborough Hospital  
 Tel: (416) 431-8200 ext. 6594  
[smondesir@tsh.to](mailto:smondesir@tsh.to)



## Canadian Cricket-Team Gala Pictures on Oct 5, 2006



# Sivasamboo Thanapalan - did not run away from life and work



Thanapalan died on August 15, 2006. To mark the first month anniversary of his death, a Service of Thanksgiving was held in Jaffna.

On September 16, a Service was held in Colombo organized by the St John's College, Jaffna, OBA (South Sri Lanka). It was held at St Paul's Church, Milagiriya.

The tribute of the current Chairperson of the CMS Board of Governors, Bishop Kumara Illangasinghe, was read out. Fr

James preached the sermon. Members of the OBA read the Lesson and appropriate Tamil lyrics and English hymns were sung. A special song in Tamil was sung by T. Vipulananda Moorthy who took care of the choir with the organist.

After the Blessing pronounced by Bishop Kenneth, the College Song was sung. The Service was held in the presence of a number of family and friends.

All that was said and done at the Service was indeed a tribute to Thanapalan. He had to preside over the affairs of St John's in the midst of the war between the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka. He did not run away from Jaffna. He had to live a lonely life, for his wife and children could not be with him always. In fact, he missed his own daughter's ring ceremony. During his principalship he had to move the boys and the staff to Point Pedro, Chavakachcheri and Kilinnochi. The war did not make St John's to give up education.

The present writer being himself a product of a CMS School in Kandy, is glad that Thanapalan under God during difficult and dangerous times continued the work of the CMS folk who came from the UK to start this great place of learning in Jaffna in the 1810s. While we salute Thanapalan for his "not running away life and work" we must pray 'Father forgive' for those from Thanapalan's School and Jaffna now part of the Sri Lankan diaspora.

Like the Jews of old, these are away from Jaffna when Jaffna needs them. Also Sri Lanka.

Are they political refugees or economic? When the Lord of History meets us, we may be asked, where were we when St John's Jaffna and Sri Lanka needed us? Thanapalan, who chose to live dangerously, ultimately paid the supreme price with his death. For it is the considered opinion that it was the hard and difficult life that Thanapalan had to live that led to his illness and death. He could not therefore enjoy his retirement.

We thank God for Thanapalan. Pray for his family. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

- Sydney Knight



School children arrive at the reopened St. John's College, in Jaffna, about 300 kilometers (188 miles) north of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, Oct. 9, 2006. The schools were initially closed following protests by a student group affiliated to the rebels who opposed the schools operating while conditions in the area remained unsafe. (AP Photo/Vincent Jeyan)

## Children's voices for peace

Children from twenty three districts of Sri Lanka got together under one roof at Waters Meet Convention Centre (La Sallian Centre) in Mutwal, Colombo 15 on September 29th 2006, to mark Universal Children's Day which falls on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

This unique gathering brought children from Ampara, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Colombo, Galle, Gampaha, Hambantota, Kalutara, Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Mannar, Matale, Matara, Moneragala, Nuwara Eliya, Polonnaruwa, Puttlam, Ratnapura, Trincomalee, Vavuniya districts. Children from Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts could not attend due unavailability of transport. But they sent in their comments for the Year of the Child National Forum, held on October 1st 2006 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall.

Sixty four children between the ages of 11 and 18 representing all ethnic, religious, and regional groups participated. Extensive consultations with over 1,500 children were held in these districts during the past four months. The children have identified their current concerns on education, health, protection and safety, recreation, and other matters. They also presented these key issues on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, at the National Forum.

**Derrik Cruz (15)**



## "All wars, just or unjust, disastrous or victorious, are waged against the child"

Eglantyne Jebb (1876 - 1928) British humanitarian, founder of the Save the Children Fund and the International Save the Children Union, and author of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, adopted by the League of Nations, 1924.

[Courtesy:HumanityAshore.org]

"We had teachers from Jaffna. But they all left, because of the current situation. Therefore we do not have teachers to teach us in the school. We were affected by earlier war. We wanted to improve our education during the ceasefire. Now due to the escalated violence, our educational activities have come to a stand still once again. When there is a war in a country, the worst affected of a community are the children. 70% of the children are affected by war, according to a recent research. Therefore we do not want another dirty war in our country. We all want peace" says Derrik Cruz (15), a student of Arippu Navodaya Vidyalayam in Mannar

**Fathima Nirosha Mahroof (16)**



" I was displaced from Mannar to Puttlam in 1990, when I was just a born baby. There is a misunderstanding among the Muslim community regarding the Tamil community after the recent incident in Muthur. Likewise there is a misunderstanding among the Sinhala community about the Tamil community, and vice versa. We cannot blame anybody for this. Because the incident led us to misunderstandings. We as children have to understand each other, and each other's community

better in order to have a violent free future for us, and for our sister and brothers in Sri Lanka" says Fathima Nirosha Mahroof (16), a student of Muslim Maha Vidyalayam in Puttlam

**Hemantha Jeyaweera (18)**



"I live in fear. Because I live in a border village, I do not know when my village and people will be attacked by the terrorists. I sleep in the jungle, and daily walk a long way to school. There a lot of children, who have given up their studies due to fear. Children have suffered a lot due to war. Children have to get together and act together" says Hemantha Jeyaweera (18), a student of Movila Oya Sripala Maha Vidyalaya in Moneragala

**M.S. Arafat (17)**

"I have a Tamil friend, who is also living in the same village. But due to fear and despair we do not meet each other. It's a shame, but we can't help. Because both communities do not like us meeting each other due to the prevailing situation in the East. We as children have to build bonds, not break bonds" says M.S. Arafat (17), a student



of Al- Noor National School in Valaichchenai.

**Prasala Selvarasa (14)**

"I met the children from the Sinhala community for the first time. They are very nice. Although we have language



barriers to communicate, I feel comfortable with them. And I want to try and talk to as many as possible friends" says Prasala Selvarasa (14), a student of Bharathi Vidyalayam in Batticaloa.

**Jeyanthi Hemamali (11)**

Jeyanthi Hemamali (11) from Matale sings "Smile While Live" a theme song for the Universal Children's Day along with her friends.



More on page 10

# Sri Lankan Government prevents ICJ observing inquest into deaths of 17 ACF aid workers

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) expressed deep concern on October 3, after the Sri Lankan Government informed it that the ICJ's official representative would be prevented from entering the country to observe the inquest into the killing of 17 Action Internationale Contre la Faim (ACF) aid workers in Muttur in August.

"It is regrettable that the

for the investigation into the deaths, as and when specifically requested by Sri Lanka. But the Australian forensic team is not mandated to observe the proceedings, assess whether they comply with international standards, or to report publicly. Such necessary technical assistance is not a substitute for independent observation.

Inquests in Sri Lanka are carried out



A goat wanders outside the ACF office in Muthur

Government has chosen not to allow our independent international observer to attend this vital inquest", said Nicholas Howen, Secretary-General of the ICJ.

"At a time when the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions have warned that investigations and accountability mechanisms have failed to bring justice to victims in Sri Lanka, it is particularly important for the Government to demonstrate that every stage of its processes, including inquests and trials, are open, transparent and credible", he added.

The ICJ had informed the Sri Lankan authorities that it intended to send a senior British based lawyer (Queens Counsel), to observe the inquest. However, the ICJ was informed that it could not observe these hearings and that its representative would not be granted an appropriate visa if he applied.

The ICJ sends observers all over the world to assess whether legally-related proceedings are carried out in line with national and international standards. Most recently the ICJ observed an inquest in Thailand. One of the international standards relevant to an inquest are the UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions.

The Sri Lankan Government has invited the Australian Government to provide technical forensic expertise

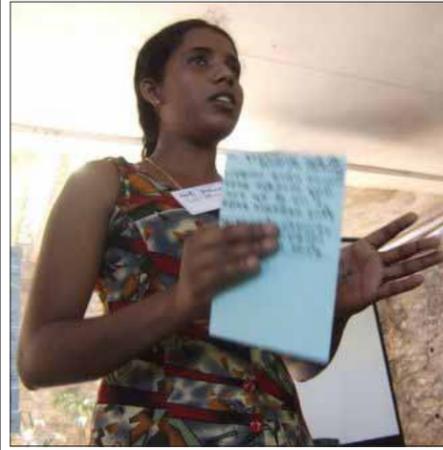
under the Code of Criminal Procedure Act No. 15 of 1979. This Act states that such inquiries shall be open to the public. The inquirer, however, can, on a case-by-case basis, decide to exclude the public in very limited and exceptional circumstances.

Seventeen aid workers from Action Internationale Contre la Faim (ACF) were killed in and around their office in Muttur, Trincomalee on or around 5 August 2006. The inquest, which began in the Muttur Magistrate's Court, was transferred to the Anuradhapura Magistrate's Court in early September. The inquest recommenced on 20 September, when the presiding magistrate summoned the witnesses to appear before him on 4 October, in Kantale. The ICJ called on the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure witnesses are properly protected against threats to their lives and well-being.

The ICJ said that this inquest should be the first stage in the process of establishing the cause of death of these 17 Sri Lankan aid workers, identifying who was responsible for their execution-style killings and commencing prosecutions against those responsible.

# Children's voices for peace

.....Continued from Page 9



Nimali Deepika (17)

"I neither witnessed the war nor suffered directly. But I understand the effects of a war. A lot of people are affected in numerous ways due to more than two decades of ethnic conflict. We all have to compromise" says Nimali Deepika (17), a student of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike National School in Kurunegala.



Sylvester Kamalraj (15)

"People use an alarm clock to wake up in the morning. But we, who are living in the Eastern part of Sri Lanka wake up with shells and bombs. We are quite used to this system. Our fundamental rights are violated. We make noise, but it's not heard anywhere. We have no assurance for our lives, anything can happen to us anytime. People are



suffering in various ways. Innocent people are caught in cross fires. We need peace immediately to stop all violence in the country" says Sylvester Kamalraj (15), a student of Mandoor Maha Vidyalayam in Batticaloa.



Krishna Priyadharshini (15)

"There are no Tamils living in my village. But I have heard about how the other communities suffered during the height of the war. I felt sorry for them. I am glad to meet my Tamil, Muslim brothers and sisters from North and East here. I want to make friends with Tamils and Muslims. There are many Sinhala friends of mine, who want to be friends of Tamils and Muslims" says Krishna Priyadharshini (15), a student of Dehigolla Maha Vidyalaya in Mahiyangana.

Noorul Nisha Caseem (16)

"Children should stay away from politics. We should not take sides. It's easy to mislead the children. But we should not be misled. Children have to understand the feelings of others, and respect them. We should not discriminate the other communities" says Noorul Nisha Caseem (16), a student of Lunugala Tamil Maha Vidyalayam in Badulla



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## MONSOON JOURNAL

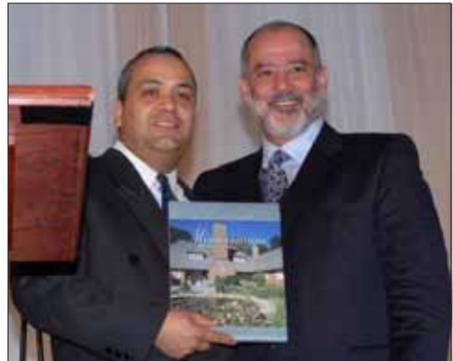
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# South Asian Dentists Laugh away the "Blues"!



On September 14<sup>th</sup> 2006, South Asian Dental Association (SADA) organized their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Gala at Payal Banquets in Mississauga. The evening was an astounding success as over 500 dental professionals and dignitaries gathered under one roof to enjoy the comic performance by Dr. Howard Elson, who is also a professional singer and a pedodontist from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Elson and his accompanist Bobby Cardillo had the audience roaring with laughter with satirical comedy and poetry revolving around the "Life

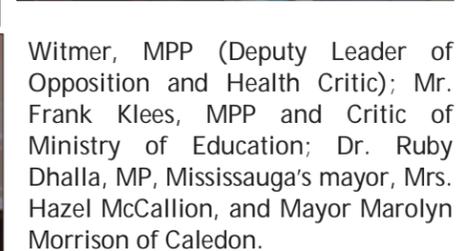


of a Dentist" in their debut performance in Canada.

SADA Gala was organized in conjunction with Henry Schein Ash Arcona's "What's New Night" which featured over 50 exhibits from various Dental Suppliers. The event was attended and supported by numerous politicians and dignitaries

who applauded SADA's endeavours and commitment to continuing education and community service.

In lieu of Health Week, who's who in the field of dentistry in Canada were present including Dr. Wayne Halstrom (President of the Canadian Dental Association), Dr. Cam Witmer (President of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario), Dr. Elio



Witmer, MPP (Deputy Leader of Opposition and Health Critic); Mr. Frank Klees, MPP and Critic of Ministry of Education; Dr. Ruby Dhalla, MP, Mississauga's mayor, Mrs. Hazel McCallion, and Mayor Marolyn Morrison of Caledon.

During the opening ceremony Dr. Ruby Dhalla, MP, presented an award to SADA President, Dr. Sanjay Uppal, in recognition of SADA's commitment to promote Oral Health Awareness. In addition, Mayor McCallion was very impressed with the show as she toured around the exhibits with the Gala Chair Dr. Neil Gajjar and acknowledged the "importance of dental health" and commended SADA on their involvement in the community.

SADA is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2003 and pioneered by Mr. Elesh Ruparel. Today, SADA's membership has grown to over 350 members of the dental community including dentists, dental hygienists, laboratory technicians, dental assistants, practice managers and receptionists.

In closing, Griha Craveiro of SADA thanked its corporate sponsors for the Gala who were represented by Mr. Bruce McKay, Vice President of TD Commercial Bank and Mr. Ken Croney, Toronto Branch Manager of Henry Schein Ash Arcona.

For more information and details visit [www.sadaonline.org](http://www.sadaonline.org)

Filice (President of the Ontario Academy of General Dentistry), Dr. Ian McConnachie (President of Ontario Dental Association) and Dr. David Mock (Dean of University of Toronto School of Dentistry) to name a few of the dental dignitaries.

This year, we were also honoured to have in attendance Mrs. Elizabeth



# Lights of Healing by CMDDA

Fundraising Gala by CMDDA  
In support of Providence Healthcare,  
Alzheimer's Unit

**On:** Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006, 6:30 pm

**At:** Sheraton Parkway  
Toronto North, Hotel & Suites,  
Richmond Hill.

**Key Note Speaker :**

**Dr. Mamta. Gautam.**

**Psychiatrist , University of Ottawa.**

**The Balancing Act - Coping with Stress at home and work**



## Offering Respite to Those in Need Creating a Home within the Alzheimer Day Program



a renovation," says Amanda Falotico, Director, Providence Community Centre. "The relocation of the ADP presents an opportunity for us to *custom design* the space for the unique needs of people with Alzheimer's Disease and dementia, while also taking into account the diverse cultural demographic."

The goal of the ADP relocation is \$2.5 million. **The relocation can only happen with donor support.**

Thankfully, philanthropic leaders in our community have stepped forward to help us in this urgent need. Most recently, the Canadian Medical and Dental Development Association (CMDMA) committed to raising \$50,000 for the ADP through its annual *Lights of Healing Gala*.

Funds raised by the CMDMA will support the creation of a **Den** in the relocated ADP. The Den will offer club members a place of respite, where music will play softly from a radio, and lamp lighting, a comfortable sofa and an illuminated globe will furnish the room for a cozy, home-like feel. The walls will be lined with a floor-to-ceiling bookshelf, offering a variety of books such as literary classics, multicultural fiction, historical maps, academic textbooks, and dictionaries. Table-top games such as Carrom and access to a computer in the room will provide the means for social interaction with staff and the benefits of mental stimulation.

If you would like to help support the CMDMA in reaching their fundraising goals through the *Lights of Healing Gala*, or would like to learn more about Providence Healthcare, please contact Diane Serpanchy at (416) 285-3666, extension 4231 or by email at [dserpanc@providence.on.ca](mailto:dserpanc@providence.on.ca). If you prefer to speak to somebody in Tamil, please contact Jeyasingh David at (416) 285-3666, extension 4152.

The nationally-acclaimed Alzheimer Day Program (ADP) at **Providence Healthcare** first opened its doors to the community in 1995. Ten years later, the ADP is still renowned for its innovation in being the first in Canada to offer its services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through a special 'clubs' concept.

Clients (or "club members" as they're known) of the ADP participate in therapeutic activities that nurture the mind, body and spirit, while their caregivers have access to education and support. The ADP's client and family-centred approach to dementia provides an affordable and realistic solution, enabling people with Alzheimer disease and other dementias to stay at home longer, before the services of long-term care are considered.

Each year, the ADP accommodates over 16,000 client service visits, and has grown to represent 27 nations, with staff speaking a total of 12 different languages. Many Tamil caregivers access services offered and organized through the Alzheimer Day Program (ADP). In fact, the ADP often works with Providence Healthcare's unique Tamil Caregiver Project to host community-wide education sessions to Tamil caregivers of loved ones suffering from Alzheimer disease and other dementias.

"Although the ADP is operating successfully, it's doing so in an environment that is cramped and inadequate, and desperately in need of

### Toronto Diabetes Symposium

Presented by the Diabetes Association and Sanofi-Aventis

**What:** The Canadian Diabetes Association and Sanofi-Aventis invites all to attend an evening of presentations and exhibits assisting people affected by diabetes.

**When:** Wednesday, Nov 8, 2006: 6.00 to 9.00 pm

**Where:** At Ontario Science Centre  
770 Don Mills Road. (Don Mills & Eglinton), Toronto

The 2006 Toronto Diabetes Symposium will feature by over 40 exhibitors offering products and services for people affected by diabetes, and keynote presentations by:

**Speaker:** Dr. Minna Woo, MD, FRCPC, PhD

**Topic:** Islet Cell Research in Type 1 and 2 Diabetes-Where are we now?  
Dr. Woo will deliver an update on islet cell transplantation and the new role of islet cells in type 2 diabetes research.

**Speaker:** Dr. Vera Bril, MD, FRCPC

**Topic:** Diabetic Neuropathy-What's New?  
Dr. Bril will offer the latest information on prevention and treatment of diabetic neuropathy, one of the most common complications of diabetes.

**FREE ADMISSION. FREE PARKING. OPEN TO PUBLIC**  
For more info, please call Gabriella Simo at 416-408-7144

Please Note: The Toronto Diabetes Symposium is part of the GTA Diabetes Symposium Series. Other events in the series include Peel Diabetes Symposium on Oct 25, the York Diabetes Symposium on Nov 15 and the Durham Diabetes Symposium on Nov 22. For more information on these events, please call 416-408-7144/1-800-226-8464 ext 7144

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# The Soothing Sound of Music

Innovative program for Alzheimer's uses music to promote self-expression

Nora Johnston had a soothing effect with the piano. As her fingers played across the keys, you could see her audience responding with bright eyes and gentle foot tapping. Some joined in, singing to classics like "Danny Boy" and "My Wild Irish Rose."

It was more than the music that connected Nora with her audience. In fact, everyone in the room, as well as Nora, had one thing in common. Each one was in early to late stages of dementia, including Alzheimer's.

Nora was a 'club member,' as clients are known, in Providence Healthcare's nationally-acclaimed Alzheimer Day Program (ADP) for three years, before she became a resident in its long-term care home, the Cardinal Ambrozic Houses of Providence. When Nora first joined the ADP, staff met with her daughter, Linda, to identify her interests and talents. Based on this information, ADP staff created a personalized program for Nora centred around her musical talents.

"It's amazing what you discover about new club members when you meet with each family for the first time," says Elizabeth Davison, manager, Alzheimer Day Program. "We have a yodeler who used to work in the house of the Von Trapp family and a ventriloquist who performed for fellow club members."

Playing the piano for an audience gave Nora a sense of purpose. "Each time we visited the ADP, I would tell my mother that we were going to a 'meeting,'" explains Linda. "My mother was actively involved as a church organist and choir director with the United Church for years, and so going to meetings was a part of her routine. She always came home from the ADP pleasantly tired."

Music has been proven to have a positive effect on people with dementia who experience a steady decline in their verbal skills. It relieves individuals from the pressure of having to speak and allows them to just enjoy the experience.

"Music is always on in the

background during social time and meals," says Davison. "We program it into the daily activities and bring it to life with props like an old-fashioned Victrola and a karaoke machine. It's also not uncommon to see a staff member singing to a client while walking in the ADP as a way to reduce anxiety or facilitate an activity."

The ADP has been open to the Toronto community since 1995, providing therapeutic activities for club members and education and support for their caregivers and families. Despite its success, the ADP has been operating in a cramped space, inadequate for people with dementia. Plans are underway to relocate the ADP to a more spacious location in Providence Hospital's outpatient area.

"We are really excited about this move," says Davison. "Our plan is to create a living room in a ballroom-style, with hardwood-like floors, an elegant chandelier and a grand piano. It will do wonders to support our music programming and allow us to



bring in more guest performers for our club members."

Recently, a Providence Healthcare Foundation board member, George Macri, established the Macri Matching Gift Fund in support of the new ADP Living Room. Every dollar donated to the fund will be doubled by Mr. Macri until the goal of \$250,000 is reached.

Anyone can make a donation to support the music program in the ADP through the Macri Matching Gift Fund. If you wish to donate and make a difference, please call (416) 285-3630.

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# Autumn Bowlathon 06' Supplement



**To the Readers of Monsoon Journal,**

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Monsoon Journal for highlighting the 2006 "Autumn Bowlathon" in support of Providence Healthcare's Tamil Caregiver Project in their newspaper supplement.

It is essential for an organization like Providence Healthcare, one that serves the community at large, to build public awareness of the importance of community participation in events like the Autumn Bowlathon. The foresight and generosity of publications such as the Monsoon Journal is very much appreciated in helping us 'spread the word' about the essential services being provided through the Tamil Caregiver Project.

The Autumn Bowlathon is a community-organized fundraiser that will ultimately raise \$500,000 to support the ongoing needs of the Tamil Caregiver Project. To date, more than \$130,000 has been raised!

The Autumn Bowlathon is a unique opportunity for people in the community, like you, to play an essential role in securing the future of the Tamil Caregiver Project and ensuring that it meet the needs of those it serves.

On behalf of Providence Healthcare, we would like to extend a special thank you to Kanish A. Thevarasa, CA, and the volunteer planning committee for spearheading this fundraising initiative. Thank you also to RJ Multi Litho Inc. for their lead sponsorship, and of course, to all the sponsors, donors, bowlers, and volunteers at the Autumn Bowlathon event.

The Autumn Bowlathon is a true example of the power of a community! With your support, Providence Healthcare will continue to meet the needs of the thousands of Tamil caregivers who will access the service in the future.

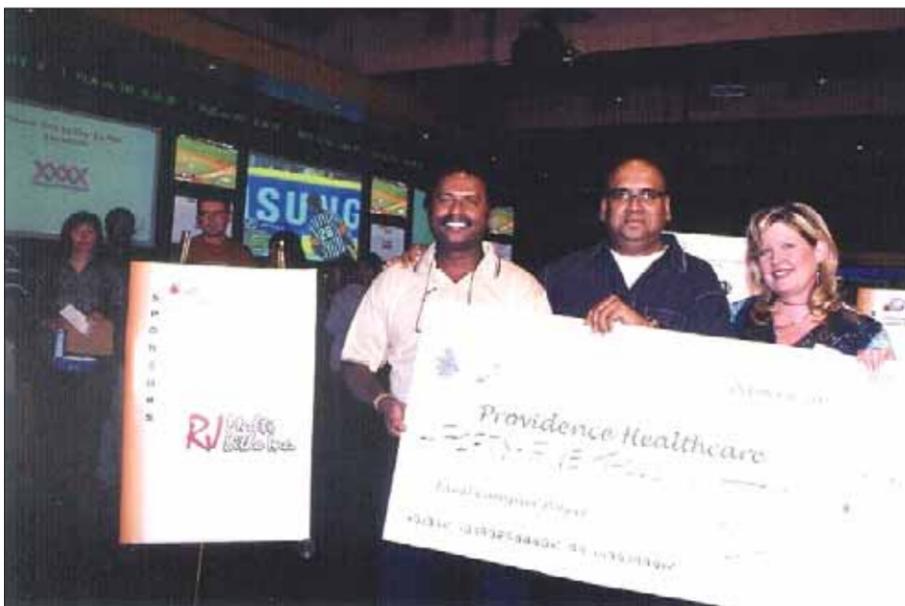
Sincerely,



**Mary Beth Montcalm**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Providence Healthcare



**Jennifer C. Stewart, CFRE**  
Vice-President, Foundation and CDO  
Providence Healthcare Foundation



Lead Sponsor Rajee Muthuraman, Bowlathon Chair Kanish A. Thevarasa and Vice President of Foundation from Providence Healthcare Jennifer Stewart Holding the cheque collected from the Event in 2005.



for Providence Healthcare



**Tamil  
Caregiver  
Project**

**Chair:**  
Kanish A. Thevarasa CA

**Co-Chairs:**  
Frank Barbosa  
Rajee Muthuraman

Mike Drak  
Dr. C.P. Giri  
Namita Kanishkan  
Kulwant (Steve) Mann  
Ranil Mendis  
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It is a pleasure to connect with the readers of Monsoon journal, via the supplement featuring the Autumn Bowlathon 2006 in support of Providence Healthcare's Tamil Caregiver project.

Serving the community we live in ensures the future well being of all of us. The growing support of the business community and dedication of the volunteers is very encouraging and it will allow us to exceed the ultimate fundraising goal and meet the ongoing needs of the Tamil Caregiver Project.

Creating awareness and channeling information across the community about the project also becomes an essential ingredient to achieve the goals of the project and its funding. The role being played by Monsoon Journal, in filling this need and getting the word out about the annual Autumn Bowlathon is highly commendable.

On behalf of the committee spearheading this fundraising, I would like to thank the volunteers for their dedication, business community for their generosity, and the Monsoon Journal for recognizing the event through the special supplement.

We stand ready to collaborate with more of you in the community, as we continue to volunteer for Providence Healthcare and its mission in meeting the needs of thousands of Tamil Caregivers throughout the future.

Sincerely,



Kanish A. Thevarasa CA, CMA  
Chair, Autumn Bowlathon  
Board Member and Treasurer, Providence Healthcare Foundation.

**Best Wishes for the  
Annual Autumn Bowlathon**



www.rjmultilitho.com

## Meeting the Needs of Tamil Caregivers in Toronto: Providence Healthcare's Tamil Caregiver Project, Sponsored by RJ Multi Litho Inc.

The Tamil Caregiver Project at Providence Healthcare is helping people caring for ailing family members through support, recognition and education. Jeyasingh David manages the program for Providence Healthcare, a leading Toronto health facility specializing in rehabilitation, complex continuing care, long-term care and community outreach.

"There is more stress on Tamil caregivers in Canada, particularly those who have recently immigrated," explains David. "For example, integrating the Tamil culture with the Canadian culture is challenging, since the roles of family members are quite different in each culture. Also, Tamils do not have the support of large extended families and neighbors that they had back home. Caring for a loved one at home requires more planning, more support from community services and a better understanding of health issues." More than 200,000 Tamils live in the Greater Toronto Area.

In response, Providence Healthcare launched the Tamil Caregiver Project in 2000 to provide targeted health care education and support to Tamil-speaking caregivers. Referrals for support are also given to services offered by Tamil community groups or to Providence's Alzheimer Day Program, a unique 24/7 service that provides caregiver relief, education and support, as well as recreation activities for clients.

"Our goal is to raise awareness about what support is available, and help Tamils access the programs and services that will help them find their



Close to 100 Tamils attended the education session on breast cancer and prostate cancer at Providence Healthcare in September. Dr. Varagur Venkatesan of the London Regional Cancer Centre and Associate Professor, Dept. of Radiation Oncology of the University of Western Ontario, spoke about early diagnosis, signs, symptoms and treatment options.

way through the complicated Canadian health care system," says David. All communication materials created are translated into Tamil to ensure that they are well received and used by the community.

Health education sessions have proven very popular. "Close to 100 Tamils came to a session in September on the early diagnosis, signs and symptoms and treatment options for breast cancer and prostate cancer," says David. Another recent health seminar focused on understanding palliative care, with discussions about living with the dying, and Saivite rituals before, during and after death.

In partnership with the Diabetes Education Community Network of East Toronto, the Tamil Caregiver Project also hosts regular sessions on diabetes awareness, which has attracted over 700 people since they began in 2002.

### Reaching Out

The Tamil Caregiver Project makes every effort to reach out to Tamil seniors, so education sessions and events have been arranged in hospitals and long-term care homes. "We even managed to have favourite Tamil dishes served at one long-term care home, and we closely work with staff at two



Tamil Caregiver Project Manager Jeyasingh David during the dedication of the altar at a local long-term care home where 25 Tamils benefit from weekly worship services hosted by spiritual support workers trained through the Tamil Caregiver Project.

other long-term care homes that have Tamil-speaking residents to facilitate the celebration of Tamil festivals."

"We also have trained Tamil Saivite/Hindu persons to provide spiritual support," says David. The Tamil Saiva Spiritual Support Worker Program brings spiritual workers into hospitals and long-term care homes to visit Tamil individuals who practice Saivism.

Since we opened our doors six years ago, more than 11,000 individuals have accessed our services. The program has been recognized as a 'best practice' in the health care industry, and David, along with Providence Healthcare's Director of Community Outreach, Amanda Falotico, were invited to present in Gatineau, Quebec at the National Conference on Caregiving in 2005.

The success of the Tamil Caregiver Project caught the attention of the Tamil business community, and today, working together with Providence Healthcare Foundation, the project is funded through a \$500,000 commitment from the community!

### Help for Muslim Caregivers

Providence Healthcare has used the Tamil Caregiver Project as a model for other culturally sensitive initiatives, including the 'Muslim Caregiver Project,' which has reached out to over 200 Muslim caregivers in the community.

### 'Caring for the Caregiver'

The concept of 'caring for the caregiver' is unfamiliar in the Tamil culture.

"We want Tamils to see how important it is to care for themselves, only then can they effectively care for others," says Providence Healthcare's Tamil Caregiver Project Manager Jeyasingh David. The project also strives to identify individuals in the community who are experiencing isolation, in order to facilitate their access to respite programs and services, as well as encourage attendance at cultural celebrations and entertainment.

### Tips for caring for someone with dementia

- Find out about the illness and how to provide care
- Accept your feelings - it may often feel like a roller coaster ride but recognize that you are doing your best
- Assess what you value most (e.g. taking a walk with the person you are caring for, spending time alone, or having a clean house, etc.)
- Share information and feelings with others so they can understand what's happening to you and to the person for whom you are caring
- Take a break from time to time - spend time with friends or at social clubs
- Look out for signs of depression (e.g. lack of appetite, sleeping too much/not enough, uncontrollable crying, guilt, suicidal thoughts)



Out-of-town retreats have been held for caregivers. Vacationing for the purposes of relaxation is crucial to the health and well being of caregivers. Caregivers can give more support to their loved ones when they feel healthy and rested.

- Seek the help of health professionals in the community. Call 211 for information on available services.
- Early planning for the future can help relieve stress. While the person you are caring for is still capable, sit down with him/her to discuss health and personal care decisions together, as well as review his/her finances.

### Do you know someone caring for an elderly parent at home?

Here are some tips to offer your help:

- Offer to spend time with their parent for a few hours so the caregivers may have an outing with their children.
- Before going to the grocery store, call to find out what you can pick up for the caregiver while you're there.
- When preparing rice, curries or pickles, double the recipe and freeze the extra servings for the caregiver

and family.

- Help with fall gardening by raking leaves, planting bulbs for spring and mulching flowers. Should the caregiver enjoy gardening, then provide respite while they have an opportunity to be active outside.
- Create a caregiver support team with them. Bring together seven friends who can each help for an hour once a week. Helping out as a group will add a social element for all of you.
- Stop by for an hour so the caregiver may take a walk to have time alone,



The Tamil Caregiver Project hosted an education session titled 'Know Your Hindu Client' for Toronto health professionals at Providence Healthcare in September to raise awareness about the unique needs of Hindus in the community. Above at left, Providence Healthcare Director of Community Outreach Amanda Falotico, Administrative Assistant Jane Rubiales-Ting, Hindu priests Somaskandakurukkal and Thirugnanasampanthakurukkal who presented at the session, and Project Manager Jeyasingh David.

fresh air and exercise.

### The Sponsored Relative

Most seniors from Sri Lanka arrive in Canada sponsored by their children. The sponsors undertake to support their relatives for ten years. The financial burden becomes acute when the sponsored need long term acute care or nursing home care. The Tamil Caregiver Project can help by giving direction and guidance in understanding the health care system and options available.

For more information in

Tamil or English:  
Tamil Caregiver Project  
Providence Healthcare  
3276 St. Clair Avenue East  
Toronto, Ontario M1L 1W1  
Jeyasingh David  
416-285-3666 ext. 4152  
j david@providence.on.ca

### Best Wishes for the Annual Autumn Bowlathon





# “Ask what you can do for your community”

By Krishni Loganathan



As I approached the building of RJ Multi Litho Inc., I spotted the first sign of success, a large rock that was engraved with the company's logo. Before entering the foyer, my eyes gazed at the number of donations RJ Multi Litho Inc. is giving to various organizations.

I noticed Providence Healthcare and Credit Valley hospital too being among them, and Providence Healthcare's Tamil Caregiver Project is the beneficiary of the Autumn Bowlathon, to be held on October 14, 2006.

RJ Multi Litho Inc was formally established in 1997 with three



Frank Barbosa

believes that giving money back to society in some way gives him a good feeling and that anything that motivates children are the key areas to which his donations go to. The types of organizations that his



Rajee Muthuraman

that is the only thing happens; He believes that one has to give back to society as well; otherwise the

personal achievement is useless, he says.

Rajee quotes President John F. Kennedy and M. G. Ramachandran, the Indian Icon, a great actor and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu - "It's not what your country can do for you, but it's what you can do for your country." Accordingly,

Rajee's aim is to help out anyway possible. And being an entrepreneurial owner of a successful business, he is doing his part for the community.



A Section of the Printing Area

employees in a small rented building by Rajee and Frank (partners for RJ Multi Litho Inc.). Seven years later they moved into their own building with their own design. Currently, there are 70 employees working for them; 34 full-time workers, 12 part-time workers, and 24 salesmen.

Although they are running a large company, Rajee still managed to find time to sit and chat with me. He

donations go to are hospitals, temples, schools, and sports etc. This is the third consecutive year that his company has donated money to Providence Healthcare.

In a world where the will of the people is to pass their assets to their beloved ones in the family upon their demise, Rajee believes that everything is lost, and one has not achieved anything in their lifetime if



Best Wishes for the Annual Autumn Bowlathon



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## About Providence Healthcare



Providence Healthcare is a leading Toronto health care facility, specializing in rehabilitation for patients who have experienced strokes, orthopaedic surgery, and lower limb amputation, or who need specialized geriatric rehab, assessment and treatment. We also provide complex continuing care, long-term care and community outreach. Although our clientele span all age groups, we have a particular focus on caring for adults who are facing the unique health care conditions and challenges associated with aging.

We provide our programs and services through three Integrated Care Divisions:

Providence Hospital

Cardinal Ambrozic Houses of Providence

Providence Community Centre

### The Tamil Caregiver Project

A unique program in Canada, the Tamil Caregiver Project at Providence Healthcare was developed in 2000 to provide targeted healthcare education and support to Tamil speaking caregivers within our community.

The goal of the program is to facilitate understanding and access to respite for caregivers as a quality-of-

life outcome. The program surveys and documents ongoing needs, provides information and education (all translated in the Tamil language) on the impact of diseases, and offers referrals to community agencies. All materials and sessions are provided in Tamil.

The Tamil Caregiver Project consistently strives to identify individuals in the community who are experiencing isolation, in order to facilitate their accessibility to respite programs and services. Great care has been taken to build a program that is culturally and language sensitive and responsive. The Tamil

Caregiver Project has helped more than 6,000 individuals since 2000.

The Tamil Caregiver Project relies solely on donor support to operate. Without leaders in our community like Kanish A. Thevarasa, CA, and his Autumn Bowlathon committee, this one-of-a-kind service simply would not exist.

**Funding from the community is essential.**

Just read on to see how this ground breaking pilot project is helping ...

**"As an interpreter, guide and**

**counselor, you are god-sent to my family to face the challenges in accessing social services and healthcare services."**

*Comment by a new Canadian and full-time caregiver husband, himself losing sight, and his wife almost blind owing to diabetes, who were both facing a language barrier.*

**"Thank you for translating so much material in such a short time for the Tamil speaking patient."**

*Comment by an acute care social worker helping a Tamil patient about to receive G-tube feeding.*

**"This has been a most rewarding and meaningful outing for us."**

*Comment by Tamil Seniors on the cultural exchange program with non-Tamil seniors in Parry Sound organized by the Tamil Caregiver Project.*

**"Thank you for empowering me to take control of my life and take positive action."**

*Comment by a woman abandoned by her husband, struggling with a middle-aged daughter suffering from depression.*



## TD Financial Group congratulates "Autumn Bowlathon"



Mike Drak,  
Manager,  
TD Commercial Banking

TD Financial Group is one of the key sponsors of Providence Healthcare's Tamil Caregiver Project, the Annual "Autumn Bowlathon".

"Monsoon Journal" talked to two important people about this project at TD, Mike Drak, Manager, TD Commercial Banking and Shamala Kumar, Small Business Advisor, TD Canada Trust. Both of them operate from the branch located at 3477 Sheppard Ave East (Warden & Sheppard).

Both TD staffers said that, they are extremely pleased and proud to be part of this fundraising event, and it's a joyous occasion which envisions a secure future for an important project in the community. They pointed out that, "one of the key aims of any successful community based activity is to ensure that information about the work is known and disseminated as

widely as possible". They congratulated "The Monsoon Journal" for taking this initiative.

Mike Drak and Shamala Kumar reiterated that TD Financial Group supports community based initiatives from coast to coast across the country, and strongly believes in the contributions of volunteerism. "Nurturing the spirit of volunteerism fosters a strong foundation across communities, and ensures the well being of all", they emphasized.

They went on to congratulate the organizers for taking such initiatives that encourage volunteerism and the spirit of contributing to the community. They conveyed their wish for the very best at the annual "Autumn Bowlathon" and the "Tamil Caregiver Project".



Shamala Kumar, PFP  
Small Business Advisor  
TD Canada Trust

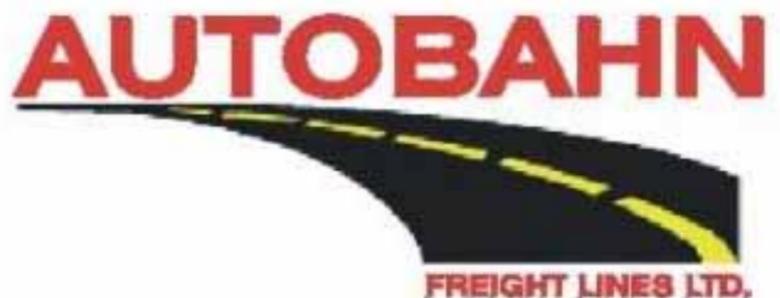
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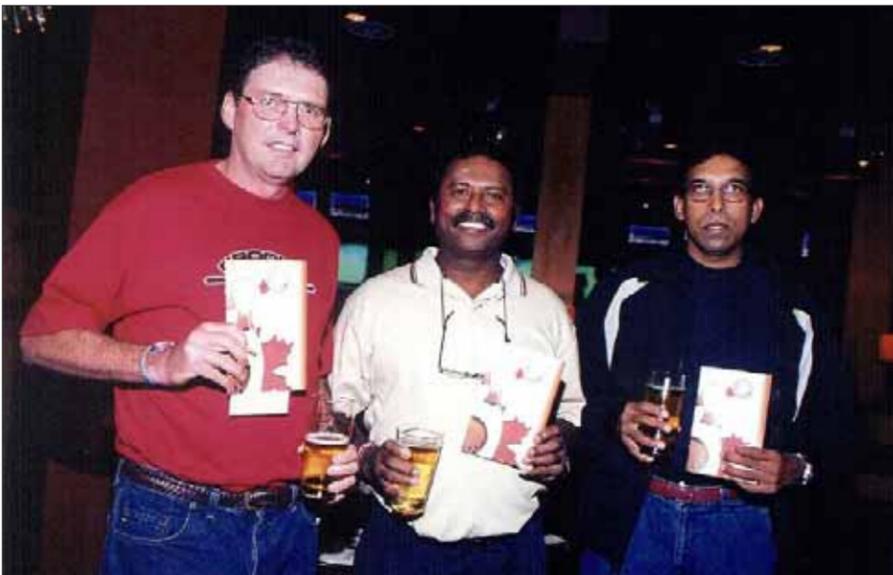
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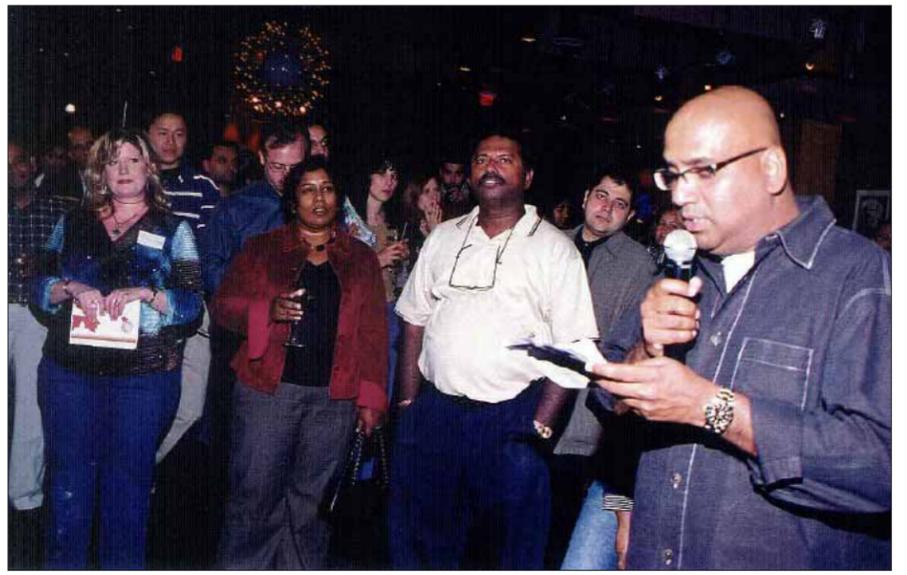
Best Wishes for the Annual Autumn Bowlathon



# Memories of Autumn Bowlathon 2005



Mike Drak from TD, Rajee Muthuraman and Andy Subasinghe  
Relaxing after one round of Bowling



Bowlathon Chair Kanish A. Thevarasa  
announcing the Winners



ICICI won the competition and celebrating as  
Lead Sponsor Rajee Muthuraman watches from left

*Best Wishes for the Annual Autumn Bowlathon*



*Best Wishes for the Annual Autumn Bowlathon*

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*Best Wishes for the Annual Autumn Bowlathon*



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# Diwali Release of South Indian Movies

By Anand. J

Following is a list of Tamil movies in alphabetic sequence that are likely to be released this Diwali 2006.

## Dharmapuri



Cast- Vijayakanth, Lakshmi Rai  
Director- Perarasu  
Producer- A.M.Ratnam  
Highlights - Vijayakanth's good showing in the Assembly elections and a decent showing of his latest movie 'Perarasu'. Vijayakanth and Director Perarasu has worked on a lot of punch dialogues for boosting the image of Vijayakanth and his party.

E



Cast- Jeeva, Ashish Vidyarthi, Nayantara.  
Director- S.P.Jhananathan Producer- Super Good films  
Highlights - Touted as the first tamil sci-fi thriller, this movie has Nayantara sans make-up and lots of mass elements.

## Thalaimagan



Cast- Sarathkumar, Nayantara, Seema Biswas  
Director- Sarathkumar  
Producer- Sarathkumar  
Highlights - Sarath Kumar's 100th film and his first directorial venture. An action thriller with Nayantara's glamour and terrific villain acts.

## Vathiyar

Cast- Arjun, Mallika Kapoor  
Director- A.Venkatesh  
Producer- AP Garden Films  
Highlights - Action king Arjun is back



with vengeance after a long time.

## Vattaram

Cast- Arya, Napoleon, Avinash



Director- Saran  
Producer- Saran  
Highlights - A mafia story which promises to be gripping with all commercial elements. Napoleon acts as a leading industrialist sans Veshti, Veecharuval and Murukku Meesai. Its make or break for Arya.

## Varalaaru(The Godfather)

Cast- Ajit, Asin  
Director- K.S.Ravikumar  
Producer- Nic Arts Chakravarthy  
Highlights - Ajit in triple role, Rahman's songs. Movie has been in the cans for a long time.

## Vallavan



Cast- Silambarasan, Nayantara, Reema Sen, Sandhya  
Director- Silambarasan  
Producer-P.L.Thenappan  
Highlights- The most anticipated film of the year. Yuvan's songs, stylish presentation and oodles of glamour. Silambarasan has three heroines and its his second directorial venture after 'Manmadhan'.

A rare coincidence of 4 movies all starting with 'V' may be aiming for Victory. Vallavan, Varalaaru, Vattaram and Vathiyar are those four movies and may be they got the queue from this year's biggest blockbuster 'Vettaiyaadu Vilayaadu'.

# Vettaiyaadu Vilaiyaadu Movie Review

By Anand. J

Direction - Gautham Menon  
Producer - Manickam Narayanan  
Music - Harris Jayaraj

Cast - Kamal Hassan, Jyothika, Prakash Raj, Kamalini Mukherjee, Balaji

encounter. Technically *Vettaiyaadu Vilayaadu* is chic and has been shot like a Hollywood thriller.

Jyothika is quiet and restrained. Kamalini is cute and plays a simple role with elegance. Prakash Raj is as ever bankable. Balaji as the villain is



Kamala Hassan

Gautham Menon has crafted a dark suspense thriller in his own style with lots of stylish cinematography, peppy songs and gruesome violence. It is technically superior ----- the edges are pared down to give that steely and glassy Yankee feel. The lighting is moody and menacing in turns, just the backdrop for an urban thriller. The editing is cutting edge where events coalesce in easy and effective links. The way Gautham explores New York is something that no other film director has done before.

The movie is gutsy- 'n'- gritty endeavour that ventures into excruciating details about the world of investigative cops and serial killers. Stylistically inventive throughout, Gautham's second foray (after the mega success of 'Kaakha Kaakha') into the mind of a cop and killers arouse interest and even admiration for its techno-razzle-dazzle and a restrained hot-'n'-cool performance from Kamal.

The tautly shot opening sequences gives us a glimpse into the life of DCP Raghavan (Kamal Hassan) who comes to Madurai to investigate the gruesome murder of Rani, daughter of the City Police Commissioner Arogyaraj (Prakash Raj) his close friend and mentor. Rani was brutally raped and body decapitated and her finger hung as a *dristi kair* along with three green chillies and a lemon, outside her house!

A devastated Arogyaraj and his wife immigrate to New York where they are butchered in their Long Islands house. This sets Tamilnadu police thinking and Raghavan takes up the assignment of tracking down the killer as it was Arogyaraj's last wish. The rest of the film is how Raghavan with the support of Anderson, a New York police officer and the FBI tracks down the suspects who are serial killers!

Then there is Aradhana (Jyothika) a girl whom Raghavan meets in US and saves from a suicide attempt after a failed marriage. Kamalinee plays Kamal's wife who was killed by some Tirunelveli goons in an

ok.

On the plus side, Ravi Varman's camera work, Gautham's slick direction, Harris Jayaraj's peppy music, effective screenplay and Kamal-Jyothika's romance. It is blatantly visible through out the movie that extra care has been taken by Gautham and Jyothika to avoid any intimate romantic encounters with Kamal and they have successfully done it.

On the negative side, the whole narration is very slow. Being a suspense thriller, expectations of racy narration gets smothered by slow paced romantic interludes and inexplicable flashbacks. Although Kamal has given a restrained performance, Gautham could have done this movie with any actor since the role of the cop didn't need any special skills. Kamal on the other side tries to give his best but literally there is no scope for acting. If the role of the lead cop would have been given to a new face, the whole movie would have been a better entertainer. Since Kamal is present, the expectations are sky high and the movie doesn't live up to the expectations. Nobody can figure out why the timelines were appearing on and off the entire film.

**Tail line** - Gory violence with bloodshed, main villian's screams through out the movie, unnecessary flashbacks if avoided would have made the film more racy.

**Punch line** - Odu Odu, Paakkama Odu (Better avoid watching with family).



Kamal Hassan, Jyothika

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# Diwali (Deepavali)

Supplement



The *Deepavali* festival this year falls on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Hindu children will be anxious to know why this is celebrated and how it is celebrated. The following may help the parents to tell their children the significance of this festival and how it is celebrated. Those celebrating their first *Deepavali* after the marriage will refer to it as the *Thalai Deepavali*.

India is a land of festivals. *Deepavali*, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated with fervor and gaiety. The festival is celebrated by young and old, rich and poor, throughout the country to dispel darkness and light up their lives. The festival symbolizes unity in diversity as every state celebrates it in its own special way.

*Deepavali* is a celebration of the four-day festival. The first day of the festival *Naraka Chaturdasi* marks the vanquishing of the demon *Naraka* by Lord Krishna and his wife *Satyabhama*.

'Puranas' have it that *Naraka*, son of *Bhudevi*, acquired immense power from a blessing given to him by Lord Brahma after a severe penance. He soon unleashed a reign of terror in the kingdom of *Kamarupa*, harassing celestial beings with his invincible might. Unable to bear the tyranny of the demon, the celestial beings pleaded with Lord *Krishna* to save them from his torture.

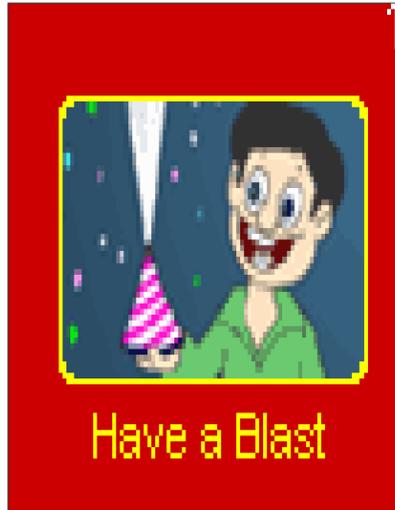
But *Naraka* could not be easily killed as he had a boon that he would face death only at the hands of his mother *Bhudevi*. So, Krishna asks his wife *Satyabhama*, the reincarnation of *Bhudevi*, to be his charioteer in the battle with *Naraka*.

When Krishna feigns unconsciousness after being hit by an arrow of *Naraka*, *Sathybhama* takes the bow and aims the arrow at *Naraka*, killing him instantly. Later Lord Krishna reminds her of the boon she had sought as *Bhudevi*. The slaying of *Naraka* by *Sathyabhama* could also be interpreted as an indication that parents should not hesitate to punish their children when they stray onto the wrong path. The message of *Naraka Chaturdasi* is that the well being of society as a whole should always prevail over one's own personal bonds.

The second day is *Amavasya* when *Lakshmi puja* is performed. It is

## Deepavali

By Kumar Punithavel



believed that on this day Goddess *Lakshmi* will be in her most benevolent mood and fulfill the wishes of her devotees. One version says that it was on this day that Goddess *Lakshmi* emerged from the *Paal Kadal* (Ocean of Milk) when the Gods and demons were churning the kadal (ocean) for nectar (*Amrit*).

The other version is that when Lord Vishnu in the guise of *Vamana*, sought three feet of land from the generous demon king Bali, the latter had to surrender his head as *Vamana* had conquered the earth and the sky in two strides. Lord Vishnu banishes Bali into the *Pathala Loka* (nether land) by placing his third stride on Bali's head. Later, pleased by his generosity, Lord Vishnu grants him a boon and he in turn requests the Lord to guard his palace at *Pathala Loka*.

Meanwhile, the Goddess is unable to bear the separation and her grief affects the functioning of the entire universe. Brahma and Lord Shiva offer themselves as guards and plead with Bali to relieve Vishnu. So, on the *Amavasya* day, Lord Vishnu returns to his abode and Goddess *Lakshmi* is delighted. It is believed that those who worship Goddess *Lakshmi* on this day will be bestowed with all the riches they desire.

The third day is "*Kartika Shudda Padyami*." On this day Bali came out of *Pathala Loka* and ruled *Bhuloka* as per the boon given by Lord Vishnu. Hence, it is also known as "*Bali Padyami*".

The fourth day is referred to as "*Yama Dvitiya*." On this day, sisters invite their brothers to their homes.

However, in the northern part of India it is celebrated as the return of *Rama* along with *Sita* and *Lakshman* from his 14 years of exile after killing *Ravana*. To commemorate his return to *Ayodhya*, his subjects illuminated the kingdom and burst crackers. For the *Gujaratis*, *Marwaris* and other business community *Deepavali* marks the worship of Goddess *Lakshmi* and also the beginning of the new financial year.

For Bengalis, it is the time to worship



Goddess *Kali* or *Durga*. The Goddess *Durga* continued her "*Vilaya Tandava*" (Devine Dance) even after killing *Mahishasura* the evil demon king.

To the Jains, *Deepavali* has an additional significance. It is celebrated as the day *Mahavira* attained the eternal bliss of Nirvana. The passing into eternity on the same day of Swami *Dayananda Saraswathi* (that leonine *Sanyasin* who was one of the first to light torch Hindu Renaissance during the last century) and Swami *Ramathirtha* (who carried the fragrance of spiritual message of Hindu Dharma to the western world) have brought the national / spiritual tradition of *Deepavali* right up into modern times.

*Deepavali* is a festival where people from all age groups can participate. They give expression to their happiness by lighting earthen '*Vilaku*' (lamps), decorating their homes, bursting firecrackers and inviting near and dear ones to their households for partaking in a sumptuous feast. The lighting of lamps is a way of paying obeisance to god for attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace, valor and fame.

It is the one time in the whole year that children volunteer to leave their beds



long before the day begins. In fact, the traditional oil bath is usually held at 3 a.m! is the only chore that stands between them and the pre-dawn adventures. They emerge, scrubbed clean to get into their festive attire, and light up little oil lamps, candles and scented sticks (*agarbathis*), the wherewithal for setting alight crackers and sparklers.

Who shall set off the first chain of crackers that go boom, bang and vroom? And who is the owner of the 10-minute 'banger' that steals the thunder from your little chain of needle-sized crackers? Does the boy next door have more crackers than me?

Competition is stiff, and even the little girls in silk frocks and their finery are watching out for the best sparklers, flowerpots, rockets and *Vishnuchakras*, which light-up the night sky like a thousand stars. Grown-ups are the soul of generosity. Festive bonhomie abounds.

*Deepavali* is a wonderful day to change one's way of living to a new one. Children should be encouraged to make resolutions to become good ones. The elders too could change their way of life to better themselves. It is never too late to become a better person!!

Happy deepavali to one and all.

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# “Vikku” - T. H. Vinayakram - master of the ghatam

By Kartik Iyer Raghupathi

Rhythm has always been a quintessential facet of Carnatic music, and in the modern generation of percussionists, perhaps no other individual has mastered the intricacies and the laya endowments of the ghatam to such a great degree as Sri Thetakudi Harihara Vinayakram. T.H. Vinayakram, affectionately known as Vikku, has transformed himself into an international celebrity with his imaginative and beautiful drumming on the ghatam.

The ghatam, a very ancient percussion instrument of South India, is a mud pot with a narrow mouth. From this narrow mouth, it shapes itself outwards to form a ridge. Primarily made of clay fired with brass or copper filings with some small amount of iron filings, the ghatam's size varies according to pitch. In addition the pitch can be altered to a small degree by the application of plasticine, clay or water. The ghatam is placed on the lap of the performer, with the instrument's mouth facing the belly. The artiste uses his fingers (including thumbs), his palms, and occasionally, even the fingernails to produce various sounds. Sometimes, the ghatam is turned around so that the mouth faces the audience, and the player is able to play more readily on the neck of the instrument.

Son of the noted and talented musician and percussionist, Kalaimamani T.R. Harihara Sharma, who among other things, played on the mridangam, morsingh, and the gettuvadhyam (the only stringed instrument used for percussion resembling the fretless veena, often employed by the famous Kanchipuram Naina Pillai (1889-1934) as an accompanying instrument), Vinayakram was a child prodigy. He started his concert career at the tender age of thirteen. A doyen of South Indian percussion, not only has he demonstrated his amazing dexterity in accompanying the great stalwarts of yesteryear and recent times - Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, G.N. Balasubramaniam, Madurai Mani Iyer, M.S. Subbulakshmi, and Maharajapuram Santhanam - but he has also displayed his creative and improvisatory genius in playing mind boggling rhythms for various fusion groups, such as Shakti and J.G. Laya. On the Carnatic music platform Vikku is renowned for his crisp play and deep knowledge of rhythm. He majestically finishes many a tani avartanam by throwing his ghatam in the air and catching it without missing a beat.

Vinayakram first became known in the West in the mid 1970s as a member of the group Shakti, which consisted of the jazz guitarist John McLaughlin, violinist L. Shankar, tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain, and Vikku. The extraordinary speed and precision of his duets with Zakir Hussain captivated international audiences. Vikku once commented on the brilliance of this fusion group:

It is universally acknowledged that Shakti's music is unique. In this group I played ghatam. Many of the compositions performed in this group were inspired by traditional Indian ragas, which resulted in grand appreciation from Indians, as well as audiences in the West. Only through this group did I have the new experience of entering the world of fusion music, and I think we were able to exhibit and develop our individual talents to the maximum extent possible. This liberty given to the artist resulted in achieving the fullest coordination and success in the group. Shakti, being the predecessor of many and various contemporary bands, could hence be termed the 'Godfather' of fusion music."

Vinayakram has also performed with J.G. Laya, an experimental group which includes pianists and other percussionists.

Having traveled all over the world, with exposure to various forms of music and teaching experience both in India and the United States (Vinayakram was with the Centre for World Music (Berkeley, California) for some time), Vikku is an international musician in every sense of the word. As a master of ceremonies once uttered prior to a concert in Toronto, Canada in 1993:

'Mr. Vinayakram is a jet-setter; day before yesterday he was performing in Madras, and a week before he was in Germany, and then tomorrow he is going back to London, starting a tour on the seventh, coming back on the tenth to Cleveland, and going back to Germany on the fourteenth....'

Vinayakram has a number of titles and awards to his name, including: "Astana Vidhwan" of Kanchi Kama Koti Peetam, "Ghatam Nagamani" given by Sri Sri Sri Jayendra Saraswathi, "Kalaimamani" given by the government of Tamil Nadu, India, and the First Sangeeth Natak Academy award for ghatam in 1988.

In addition to these attainments, Vinayakram became the first South Indian artist to ever receive a Grammy Award in 1991 for Best World Music Album for his participation in Mickey Hart's "Planet

Drum" in which he played ghatam and morsingh. It is noteworthy that Vinayakram donated all of the royalties he received from this Grammy Award to Kanchi Kama Koti Peetam. In addition, Vinayakram was a nominee for the 38th Annual Grammy Awards for Best World Music Album for his participation in 'Raga Aberi' along with L. Shankar on the ten string double violin and Zakir Hussain on the tabla (the piece on this album is a Ragam-Tanam-Pallavi in Raga Aberi set in a tala cycle of 4 3/4 beats). Vinayakram is also noted for his accompaniment in the first Carnatic concert given at the United Nations in New York by M.

S. Subbulakshmi in 1966. Currently, T.H. Vinayakram is the principal of his Sri Jaya Ganesha Thala Vadya Vidyalaya Percussion School in Madras.

Vinayakram's younger brother and my guru, T.H. Subash Chandran, also an accomplished ghatam artiste, is perhaps the greatest modern day exponent of "konnakol." This verbal utterance of the rhythmic syllables is an art that is becoming dangerously close to obsolete. T.H. Subash Chandran is keeping alive an art that has had such illustrious practitioners as Pakkiriiah Pillai and Vellore Gopalachari (father of current day mridangmist Vellore Ramabhadran).

Vinayakram has two sons who are currently making names for themselves in the field of Carnatic percussion, namely, the elder V. Selvaganesh and the younger T.H.V. Umashankar. Unlike his father, however, Selvaganesh's chosen instrument is the khanjira - the South Indian version of the tambourine. Umashankar has taken up his father's instrument, the ghatam. Both being popular accompanists, they are currently accompanying a number of Carnatic musicians in concerts in India.

Currently, Vinayakram has two albums of his on the market. One, entitled "Thala Vadya Katchery", is a masterful gathering of violin, konnakol, mridangam, khanjira, ghatam, morsingh, and dholak. The



“Vikku” Master of the Ghatam

album is conducted by Vinayakram and assisted by T.H. Subash Chandran. Another album, entitled "Swara Laya Mela," presented by Vinayakram and coordinated by Subash Chandran, is a rendering by the Sri Sri Maha Periyava Group. This group contains a number of young and experienced instrumentalists, and the album contains compositions which are swara representations of jathis, which have been set to tune in various ragas to result in sublime music. Other albums of Vinayakram include "Together", a gathering of Vinayakram along with both of his sons, and "Moon Over the Isles", an assembly of various percussionists from Vinayakram's school. Another album of Vinayakram which is expected to arrive on the market soon is entitled "Generations" and involves Vinayakram, Subash Chandran, Selvaganesh, and Umashankar; one especially unique song on that album is a piece involving three ghatams set at different pitches, played by Vinayakram, Subash Chandran, and Umashankar. Vinayakram has also published two books: 'Art of Mridangam' in English and 'Mridanga Pada Bhodhini' in Tamil.

All that can be said when this listener thinks about the music and rhythms produced by Vikku are the epithetical utterances of "saabash" and "ballay" which Vikku himself says repeatedly on the concert platform.

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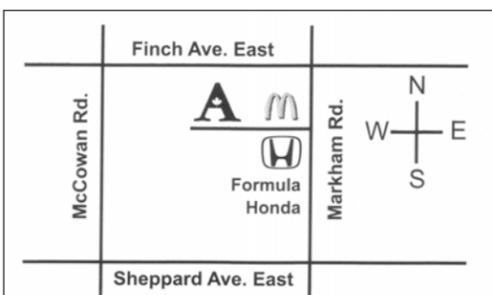
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# Palmyrah Parfait



**Padmini Ramachandran**, who was amongst the first heroines to make it big in the Tamil film industry, died of a heart attack in Chennai on September 24, 2006. She was 74. Born in Poojappura in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on June 12, 1932, Padmini started learning classical dance at the age of four and at the age of ten, she had her *arangetram* or dance debut.

Her entry into the film world was



rather unexpected. The legendary dancer Uday Shanker, on seeing her dance performance invited her to act in the film he was making. Thus Padmini became the heroine of the Hindi film *Kalpna* and started a career in Movies spanning a period of over 40 years. The film garnered her a lot of appreciation. More so, because of her eclectic style and charismatic dance moves. Padmini had two sisters, Lalitha and Ragini who were also dancers. The trio was popularly known as the "Travancore sisters". Her first Tamil film *Manamagal* (1950), which was directed by N S Krishnan, was a huge hit.



This was followed by *Thooku Thooki*, which saw the Travancore sisters dance to the song "Sundari Sundari." Her first movie with Shivaji Ganesan was *Panam* (1950). *Panam* was the beginning of a partnership that saw Sivaji and Padmini star together in 60 films.

## Tribute to Padmini

By Anand. J

With a film career that spanned over 40 years, Padmini went on to become a top star in Bollywood as well as in Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, and Telugu cinema. Padmini, affectionately called Papi, had a style of her own and gave memorable performances in her films.

Padmini's charisma as a dancer allowed her to cross all regional boundaries and she excelled in many different styles from Bharatnatyam to Western. She acted with all the leading heroes of her times, which include legendary stars like Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, Sivaji Ganesan, MGR, Prem Nazir, and Raj Kumar.



Along with Vijayantimala, her South Indian compatriot, Padmini could also be credited with popularizing Indian classical dance in Hindi Cinema which went on to become a prerequisite for every Bollywood film during that time.



Her memorable films include *Ethirparadhadu*, *Meenda Sorkam*, *Uttama Puthran*, *Theiva Piravi*, *Thooku Thooki*, *Mannandi Mannan*, *Madhurai Veeran*, *Rani Samyukta*, *Rajarajan*, *Rickshawkaran*, *Arasilankumari*, *Punarjanmam*, *Amara Deepam*, *Vanjikottai Valiban*, *Chitti*, *Kuzhandaikaga*, *Pesum Deivam*, *Irumalargal*, *Thillana Moganambal*, *Vietnam Veedu* all in Tamil and *Snehaseema*, *Adhyapika*, *Ummithanka* in Malayalam among others. Her last film in Malayalam *Nokketha Doorathu Kannum Nattu*, depicting the role of a grandmother won many accolades.

Padmini paired with the late Sivaji Ganesan and M G Ramachandran in many films. If Gemini Ganesan-Savitiri and MGR-Saroja Devi were a formidable pair in 1950s and 1960s, the Sivaji-Padmini combination was lethal in films like *Uttamaputharan*



and *Thillana Moganambal*. Movie watchers remember her powerful dialogue delivery in *Theiva Peravi*. Padmini also gave a stupendous performance in MGR movies like *Mannadhi Mannan*, *Rani Samyukta* and *Madurai Veeran*.



Her prominent Bollywood films are *Payal* (1957), Babubhai Mistry's *Mahabharat* (1965), Raj Kapoor's *Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai* (1961), and *Mera Naam Joker* (1971). Padmini was showered with accolades for her performance in the Hindi film *Chanda Aur Bijli* with the late Sanjeev Kumar. Padmini's favourite directors were Raj Kapoor, V Shantaram, Guru Dutt, Sridhar and K S Gopalakrishnan, among others. Nicknamed *Natiyaperoli* (a great light of dance), she would completely involve herself in the characters she enacted -- whether she played a dancer in *Thillana Mohanambal* or a middle class Brahmin woman in *Vietnam Veedu*

She got married to Dr. KT Ramachandran in 1961. Following her



Sivaji Ganesan and Padmini in 'Deivapiravi', one of the earlier successful directorial ventures of Krishnan-Panju.



marriage she left the soaring acting career and settled for family life. She made a base for herself in the United States and in 1977 opened her classical dance school in New Jersey, The 'Padmini School of Fine Arts'. Her school is today one of the largest Indian Classical Dance institutions in America. Padmini is survived by a son, Prem Ramachandran, who works with Warner Brothers, and lives in the United States.



During the Indo-China War in 1962, Padmini went to army camps and entertained soldiers with her dance-drama performance. Late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was impressed with her performance as a teenager. She was a member of the Congress party and gave speeches in many political meetings during the 1967 and 1971 Lok Sabha and assembly elections for the party.

Padmini made her last public appearance at a function to felicitate Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi on September 23.

Her niece Shobana, nephew Vineeth, cousins Sukumari and Ambika are all popular artists in south Indian film industry.



## Deepavali

A colorful festival that is celebrated by all Hindus worldwide is Deepavali, which is also known as the festival of lights. This festival usually falls around late October and November. One important practice that the Hindus follow during the festival is to light oil lamps in their homes on Deepavali morning. By lighting the oil lamps, the Hindus are thanking the gods for the happiness, knowledge, peace and wealth that they have received. The Hindus consider Deepavali as one of the most important festivals to celebrate.

### The Legend -

There is even an interesting legend behind this festival. The story goes that Narakasura, a demon, ruled the kingdom of Pradyoshapuram. Under his rule, the villagers suffered a lot of hardship as the demon tortured the people and kidnapped the women to be imprisoned in his palace. Seeing his wickedness, Lord Krishna set out to destroy the demon and the day Narakasura died was celebrated as Deepavali, the triumph of good over evil!

### Preparations -

Preparation for Deepavali starts usually at least two to three weeks before the festival. It is known that the Hindus will be busy cleaning their houses to prepare for the festival. Some would even renovate their houses to prepare it for Deepavali. Usually the family will shop for new clothes and for accessories to decorate their homes. Prior to the festival, Indian shops will be selling festive items like Deepavali greeting cards, carpets, Punjabi suits and flowers. The Hindus will frequent these shops when they are shopping for Deepavali.

### Celebrations -

The Hindus usually awake early in the morning of deepavali around 3am and the first ritual will be having an oil bath, which is an important feature of Deepavali. Hindus will be dressed in their new clothes on Deepavali. Most of the ladies would be clad in silk saris or Punjabi suits of various bright shades. Hindus particularly dislike dressing in black on that day, as they consider black an inauspicious color for the festival. Hindus would also pay their respects to the elderly and most families would go to the temple after having breakfast. This is also an important practice for them. The reason why

# Deepavali & Navarathri

By. Anand. J

they would be going to the temples is to pray to get happiness and prosperity on Deepavali. The houses would be decorated with oil lamps and children will play with firecrackers to celebrate the festival. On the first day, they would not go visiting but would stay at home to welcome the guests who visit them.

### Food -

Visiting Hindus during Deepavali will be an interesting activity, as you will get to taste a wide variety of delicious food. In every home that you visit you are bound to be served with a tempting spread of sweets. Some of the popular sweets are halwa, burfi and laddu. Hindus love eating spicy food and for non-vegetarians they indulge in favorites like chicken tandoori, prawn sambal and fish head curry. In homes of Hindus who are vegetarians popular dishes like thosais, idlis and naans are prepared.

## Navarathri

Once in a year during the month of October the temple organizes Navarathri festival with pomp and splendor. Navarathri and Vijayadasami are the festivals celebrated over a period of ten days. The first nine days constitute the Navarathri festival. Navarathri itself means nine nights (Nava means nine and rathri means night). The "Dassera" or "Vijayadasami" is the last and tenth day festival. The term "Dassera" is derived from the word for number ten i.e. Dasha (in Sanskrit).

In Sri Thendayuthapani Temple, the festival is celebrated with Lord Thendayuthapani (also called Murugan) as the main Hero. On the tenth day, Vijayadasami is celebrated by placing God (Urchavar - the idol which is carried around) in a Silver Horse and going on a city procession. Before beginning the procession the chief priest sends arrows to all six directions around a banana tree from his bow, which symbolizes the Lord killing the demon (Devil).

During the ten-day celebrations, the God is decorated beautifully and placed in the Alangara Mandapam (Function Hall) that is with in the

temple premises. During the first nine days concerts are organized in which Indian music (Carnatic, Tamil, Hindustani, etc), dance and religious songs are played on the stage in front of the Alangara Mandapam. Everyday function is briefly described below.

### Day 1 Rajangam

Raja means king and angam means parts. So Rajangam means king and his government. This scene depicts the Lord Murugan who wore a saint look to be seen as a King holding scepter in his hand. He safeguards the humankind with the six parts of his government viz Army, Citizen, Finance, Ministry, Friendship and Defence.

### Day 2 - VennaiThazhi

This scene portrays the Lord as a person who steals butter and cheese from the house of a shepherd. Cheese (white color) symbolizes our clean, pure heart, which the God likes from us.

### Day 3 - Markandeyar

This scene depicts Lord Murugan as Lord Siva, who kicks Yama (God of Death) to safeguard Markandeyar. This represents a story in which fate can be won by mind and devotion. The story is: Yama came in front of Markandeyar, when the later was performing Siva pooja (prayer). Seeing Yama, Markandeyar hugs the Siva Statue Lord Siva appeared in front of him and saved him. (The name of the holy place where this incident is stated to have happened is Thirukkadaiyur in Tamilnadu, India). It is believed that people who go to Thirukkadaiyur and worship Lord Siva get his blessings for longevity.

### Day 4 - Venuganam

Lord Murugan is seen as Kannan who plays the flute. The flute is a musical instrument made up of thin bamboo stick. All living creatures (Men, women, cows, goats, birds and trees) are fascinated by the music played by Lord Murugan.

### Day 5 - Kannappa Nayanar

A true devotee of Lord Siva, Thinnappan, a hunter of the forest near Sri Kalahasti, prayed to him by preparing pork, tasted it and offered to God (Siva Lingam). On the sixth day he saw the God bleeding and he removed his eyeballs and pasted on the Siva Lingam (God Statue). Hence Thinnappan was given the name Kannappan (Kann in tamil means an eye) by Lord Siva. This illustrates the man's devotion to God. Here Lord Murugan represents Lord Siva (Murugan's Father).

### Day 6 - Oonjal

Lord Murugan appears as Mother Goddess who swings in the heard of true devotees. This scene reflects Human beings who roam in between happiness and sorrow and obtain peace through prayer.

### Day 7 - Pittuku Mann Sumandal

When the Vaigai river in Madurai was flooding the king ordered everyone to volunteer to bring sand (mann) to build a river bank to control the flood. Lord Siva became a coolie (manual worker) for an old woman called Vandhi who sells Pittu (sweet rice flour). Lord Siva got pittu as wage from the old woman for carrying out the orders from the king on behalf of the old woman. But, he slept after eating. The king saw him sleeping and gave him a canning punishment. Lord Siva gave a holistic appearance to the king. Here Lord Murugan represents Lord Siva.

### Day 8 - Kalinga Narthanam

This scene illustrates Lord Kannan, who killed a devil kalinga, which was a five-headed snake on the Yamuna River and danced on it. Here Lord Murugan represents Lord Kannan.

### Day 9 - Saraswathi Poojai

The scene depicts the Goddess of knowledge, Saraswathi who performs a prayer to Lord Siva.

### Day 10 - Vijayadasami

Vijayadasami means a day of Victory. Lord Muruga is paraded in a silver horse, with bow and arrow. The Lord arrows a banana tree from his bow, which symbolizes killing the demon (Devil).

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**Entrepreneur Asin**



Asin is one of the top rated heroines in the South Indian Film Industry. Having won accolades for her stupendous performance in Ghajini, she has been offered a powerful character in the movie 'Dasavadharam' by Kamal. What is not known to many is that this cheerful actress was an entrepreneur before she entered the film industry. She was managing various businesses under the careful governance of her father. After getting busy with her assignments in Tamil and Telugu films, she has handed over the businesses to her close associates and relatives. Asin is always escorted by her father to all her film shootings and her mother is a doctor by profession.

**Dasavadharam Jayaprada**



Jayaprada is the latest addition to the stellar star cast of Kamal's Dasavadharam. She is the third official heroine of the movie after Asin and Mallika Sherawat. She is being paired with one of the 10 Kamal Hassan's in the film. Nearly two decades before Kamal and Jayaprada acted together in the memorable movie 'Sagara Sangamam' (Salangai Oli in Tamil)



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**Tid Bitz**

By Anand. J

directed by ace director K Viswanath. Both Kamal and Jayapradha are learned classical dancers and they made an excellent pair in the movie 'Sagara Sangamam'. It will be a treat to watch them together after a long time.

Hassan. Let us hope that her big dream comes true.

**Friendly Sneha**



Born and brought up in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, Sneha has one of the best smiling faces among all actresses. She is a very talented actress but has had a scandalous career so far with rumor mills churning stories about her links with actor Srikanth, and then Nag Ravi and later with a leading Jewellery shop owner in Chennai. She has put up a brave face amidst all these rumors and is in a film signing spree in both Tamil and Telugu films. Her biggest dream which is yet to materialize is acting with Super Star Rajinikanth. She made her presence felt with her beautiful smile and subtle performance in the movie 'Vasool Raja MBBS' acting opposite Super actor Kamal



**Dream Girl Trisha**

Having acted with Mega star Chiranjeevi in the movie 'Stalin', actress Trisha is on cloud nine. Box office reports suggest that Stalin will beat all the box office records of previous Chiranjeevi movies. Trisha was a strong contender to act opposite Rajinikanth in the movie Sivaji but she lost it out to upcoming actress Shreya. Infact Rajinikanth recommended Trisha to Chiranjeevi when the latter was searching for a heroine for his movie. Currently Trisha is the only actress who is said to have huge fan following associations in both Tamilnadu and Andhrapradesh. One of her fan association in Chennai has adopted 11 orphan kids and has vouched support to raise and educate those 11 children. Trisha is proud about this act by her fan association and she has reportedly donated a huge sum to the Orphans home. Way to go Trisha.

**Bold Bhavana**



Actress Bhavana who debuted in the film 'Chithiram Pesudhadi' has been bold so far to turn down offers which had glamour quotient. She has been very stubborn in rejecting offers which has anything to do with glamour. She believes that glamour doesn't suit her and she is looking for only meaty and character roles. Everyone has praised her role in the movie Chithiram Pesudhadi and she is waiting with bated breath for her upcoming movies 'Veyyil' opposite Bharath and 'Deepavali' opposite Jeyam Ravi.

**Rising Nayantara**

After the exploding success of



'Chandramukhi', Nayantara's star status rose to dizzying heights and she was flooded with offers from Tamil and Telugu films. She has a string of films ready for release this Diwali which will make her star status even more strong. Her forthcoming movies 'E' with Jeeva, 'Vallavan' with Silambarasan and 'Thalaimagan' with Sarath Kumar are all getting released this Diwali. Her recent telugu movie 'Boss' with Nagarjuna is carrying good reports and she has reportedly increased her salary to a high undisclosed amount. Whatever said, producers are queuing up to sign up Nayantara in their movies with higher amounts. Nayantara is truly rising.

**Unpopular Kamalini**



Kamalini Mukherjee became very popular by acting opposite Kamal Hassan in the blockbuster movie 'Vettaiyadu Vilayadu'. She has also starred in two telugu film hits namely Godavari and Anand. She is getting unpopular by her infamous acts like turning up late for the film shoots and hiking her salary. At this early stage of her career, rumors are afloat that she has secretly married a business tycoon. She has also reportedly refused to act opposite Nagarjuna in the telugu movie 'Ramados'. Kamalini has a long way to go before she establishes herself as a dependable actress. She better watch out.

**Distinctive Shreya**



This 'Mazhai' actress has earned a very rare distinction of acting with a Father-in-law and Son-in-law though not in the same movie. She is acting as the coveted heroine in the much expected movie 'Sivaji' and she is also acting with Rajini's son-in-law Dhanush in the movie 'Naveena Thiruvilayaadal'. She is believed to be under a contract with Director Shankar until the end of 'Sivaji' film shoot.

(Continued on page 31)



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(Continued from page 28)  
Lonely Reema



Actress Reema sen is the only actress who doesn't boast of any managers or assistants. She is neither escorted by her parents nor her assistants. She manages all her call sheets for her films. She confides all her secrets to one of her close pal 'Vishal'. Recently she had a tiff with actor Silambarasan regarding her costume in the movie 'Vallavan' and later it was amicably settled. Starting her career with the movie 'Minnale', she has acted in a lot of tamil, hindi and telugu movies. Although she has acted in



different languages, she likes tamil movies the best. She considers 'Chellame' as one of her favorite movies.

**Nadia Returns**

Nadia Moidu who scorched the southern screen in the 80's is back in Tollywood. She plays Venkatesh's sister-in-law in Selvaraghavan directed *Andari Matalaku Andhale Veruley* (AMAV). For the last one year Nadia who is married to her childhood sweetheart is living in London with her husband and two kids. Remember that she had made a fantastic comeback in Tamil with the movie 'M Kumaran Son of Mahalakshmi' a remake of *Amma Nana O Tamil Ammayi* as the hero Jayam Ravi's young mother. But since then, Nadia has been very choosy and did not want to play mother to all heroes. In AMAV, she has a very strong role crucial to the story

**Controversial Ramya**

Ramya Krishnan has defied all the notions in the film industry about the heroines. She has been a heroine in the South Indian film industry for more than 15 years and, even after her recent marriage with director Krishna Vamshi, multilingual actress Ramya Krishna is getting a good number of offers. She has been involved in a lot of controversies the latest being a role she played in a telugu movie 'Baa Baaro Rasika'. In this film, Ramya plays the role of a middle-aged spinster, fatally attracted to a



# Bollywood Blitz

By Anand. J

**Don** – Tipped to be one of the biggest remakes in Bollywood stars Shah Rukh Khan in the lead role which was originally played by evergreen superstar Amithab Bachchan. The original 'Don' was released in 1978 and was later remade in all south Indian languages. 'Billa' a tamil remake version had South Indian Superstar Rajinikanth playing the lead role. Priyanka Chopra plays the role played by Zeenat Aman in the original. The other prominent role in the movie which was played by Helen will be played by Kareena Kapoor in the new version. The rest of the star ensemble includes Isha Koppikar, Arjun Rampal and Bomman Irani. The new Don gets releases all over the world by October 20. Watch this space for the film review and box office reports.

Mallika Sherawat is all set to debut as an item girl in a South film called Preethi Eke Bhoomi Melidhe. Apparently, she has charged the makers a bomb for the film which requires just six days of shoot. This is not the first time she will be seen in the south. She also starring opposite Kamal Hassan in a tamil film 'Dasavadharam'. Apart from this she is also doing an item number in Mani Ratnam's Guru starring Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai.

Om Puri, a renowned character artist, will be playing General Zia-ul-Haq, late president of Pakistan, in a forthcoming film, *Charlie Wilson's War*, and giving him company will be Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts. The film is being produced by Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman and is being directed by Mike Nichols. The film also stars Amy Adams and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Water is headed to the Oscars but no it is not India's entry but rather Canada's official entry to the Oscars. Since the producer of the film is Canadian, it became Canada's entry. Director Deepa Mehta was elated with the development

and so was actor Seema Biswas who was also part of the film's cast. Deepa Mehta's Water stars John Abraham, Lisa Ray and Seema Biswas in pivotal roles.

**Aishwarya Rai** - A surge of admirers who came to watch actor Aishwarya Rai shoot a commercial in Dubai caused massive jams on city roads, local media reported. The news of Rai spotted on a street spread like wildfire and hundreds of fans thronged the scene. Motorists were forced to wait for a long time as the roads were closed at regular intervals resulting in chaos and traffic congestion. Traffic jam was also seen on the Shaikh Zayed Road from Dubai to Jebel Ali owing to motorists slowing down to catch a glimpse of the former Miss World, the *Khaleej Times* reported.

**Remakes** – There are a slew of films that are being remade and it seems to be the fashion of the day in Bollywood these days. Don, Umrao Jaan, Satta pe Satta, Sholay, Mr India are some of the movies that are being remade currently. A number of films are lined up for consideration as well. The most awaited among these are Don and Sholay.

Actors Aly Khan and Irfan Khan are all set to foray into Hollywood with Micheal Winterbottom's English film 'A Mighty Heart'. Irrfan plays a pivotal role in the film, which is an adaptation of the book 'The Mighty Heart' that is based on the life of Daniel Pearl. Angelina plays Mariane, wife of Daniel Pearl. Dan Futtermann will be playing Daniel Pearl while Irrfan will be seen in role of a captain who was a part of the investigations. The film was supposed to be shot in Pakistan. However, Irrfan has been apparently denied a visa to Pakistan. So buzz is that Angelina will come down to India to shoot for the movie which is slated to release in 2007.

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# Thiruvachagam, Tirunelveli and Rev G.U. Pope

**"Rev Father Pope has indeed integrated himself with Manikavasagar, in meaning and rhythm of Thiruvacagam."**



Rev. G. U. Pope



Swami Manikavasagar

President of India, His Excellency A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed the Convocation of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli on 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, 2006.

He spoke of Rev G.U. Pope, who translated Thiruvachagam to English in his address. "Tirunelveli and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University has extraordinary role models whom the student and faculty can emulate", the President said in his address.

vasagathirkum urugathaar" and it is very much true in the case of Rev. Dr. G.U. Pope.

Excerpts from the address by President Abdul Kalam:

"His world is the Vedam; ashes white He wears;

Rose-red is His form; His drum is the Natham;

MOTHER! SAITH SHE.

His drum is the Natham; to the Four-faced,

And to Mal too, this Lord is the Lord;

MOTHER! SAITH SHE."

Rev Pope started his first Tamil lesson in 1837. On the publication of Thiruvacagam this translation work, he mentions that "this ends as I supposed a long life of devotion to Tamil studies. It is not without deep emotion, I thus bring to a close my life's literary work."

Some years ago when this publication was hardly projected one evening after prayers, Rev Pope was walking with the Master of Balliol College. The conversation turned upon Tamil legends, poetry and philosophy. During a pause in the conversation, the master said in a quick way "you must print it". To this the natural answer by Rev Pope was "Master I have no patent of the mortality and the work would take very long". I can see him now as he turned around – while the Moon light fell upon his white hair and kindly face – and laid his hand upon my shoulder saying "to have a great work in progress" is the way to live long. You will live till you finish it. I certainly did not think so then, though the words have often come to my mind as a prophecy, encouraging me when weary and have been fulfilled while he has passed out of sight. The perseverance of Rev G U Pope is definitely a model worth emulating for all of us. Rev Father Pope has indeed integrated himself with Manikavasagar, in meaning and rhythm of Thiruvacagam.

English translation work of Thiruvachagam composed by Manikkavachagar undertaken by Rev G.U. Pope was published on his 80th birthday in 1900. It contains the history of the saint poet and the valuable notes on the South Indian System of Philosophy and Religion.

Rev. Dr. G.U. Pope (1820-1907), an eminent English Professor, came to the Tamil Nadu and took constant efforts to propagate the real importance about the classical language 'Tamil'. He was Professor of Tamil in Oxford University and having read the Tamil literature he arrived to Tirunelveli and stayed at Sawyerpuram, a rural place in Tirunelveli district. Having gone into depth and enjoyed the contents of "Thiruvacagam" by "Manikavasagar", he translated the same into English. There is a proverb in Tamil "Thiruvacagathirku urugathaar oru

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**B**haratha Natyam is a highly disciplined art that can only be learned through many years of training and practice. Nivitha Manickavasagam has been learning classical Bharathanatyam from her Guru, Mrs. Sureka Radhakrishnan for eight years. Her dream came true when she performed her Arangetram on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 at the Armenian Youth Centre, Scarborough. The auditorium was



filled to capacity with artists, art lovers, family and friends.

Tamils consider Bharathanatyam as a divine art. This classical dance that was mainly practiced in Tamil Nadu and Srilanka has now spread all over the world.

The Chief Guest for Nivitha Manickavasagam's Arangetram was Mirundanga Vidwan, Karaikuddy Krishnamurthy, and the Guest of Honour was Prof. E. Balasundaram. Karaikuddy Krishnamurthy's Mirundangam, Sangeetha Pooshanam, Pon Sundaralingam's Vocal, Isai Gnana Poopathy Kesavamoorthy's Violin and Venugana Varshiny Kamala Sathasivam's Flute combined with the excellent Nattuvangam by, Guru Sureka Radhakrishnan and her creative yet classical choreography

## Memorable Arengetram of Nivitha Manickavasagam

By R. S. Narayanan

and Nivitha's flawless performance made this Arengetram one of the best this writer has seen in Canada.

Nivitha showed how capable a dancer she is with her vigorous footwork, crisp movements, and sculpturesque poses. There was pin drop silence during the dances and appreciative thunderous applause at the end of the dances.

The program commenced with Ganesha Sthuthi, the prayer to Lord Ganesha. The repertoire of Bharathanatyam is extensive. She performed all requisite nine items as per the tradition set by the Kalakshetra. This is understandable as her Guru Sureka Radhakrishnan is a Post Graduate Diploma holder of this temple for fine arts in India. Nivitha's performance started with Mallari, it was followed by Jatheeswaram, Shabdham and Varnam.

Varnam true to its name lends colour to a dance recital and embellishes it with variety and vibrancy. Nivitha in her thirty minutes Varnam portrayed the intricate techniques of Bharathanatyam. She displayed her abundant talent in rhythmic footwork, abhinaya, hand gestures and crisp body movements in this long and demanding item. Her Varnam was choreographed



exquisitely by Sureka Radhakrishnan to Madurai Muralidaran's song, "Maye manam kaninthalur purivaye". Nivitha's swift footwork yet perfectly timed to thalam and her incredible Bhava in the performance of her Varnam left me and the audience wanting for more. Prof. Balasundaram in his speech remarked that he felt that Madurai Meenatchi came in person and performed this varnam on the stage.

After the intermission, Nivitha performed Keerthanam, Patham, Ashtapathi, Javali and Thillana. She captivated the audience interpreting the various songs with excellent footwork, body movements and changing expression as she portrayed various characters.

It should be noted that all items except the Ashtapathi for this Arengetram was choreographed by Sureka Radhakrishnan. The Ashtapathi was choreographed by none other than Rukmini Devi Arundale.

Prof. Balasundaram noted that Nivitha's participation in various performances in Toronto and the experience she gained from these performances contributed in part for her successful Arangetram. He remarked that this is the best Arengetram he has seen in his more than twenty years of association with Bharathanatyam as a writer and producer of dance events. He also added that this Arangetram was an achievement for Nivitha and she has earned the recognition of the audience as a talented dancer. There is no doubt that she will continue to give great dance performances.

Karaikuddy Krishnamurthy in his speech said that he was able to see perfection in all aspects of Bharathanatyam in Nivitha through out the performance of her Arengetram from Mallari to Thillana.



He also remarked that his job as Mirudangam player was made easy by the excellent Nattuvangam by Sureka Radhakrishnan and the musical giants supporting the Arengetram. He praised Sureka for the two songs she composed for this Arengetram. He congratulated Sangeetha Pooshanam Pon Sundaralingam for setting the lyrics to very appropriate Ragam and Thalam.

This writer was happy to note that the Arengetram was not interrupted by many speeches and the dance was given pride of place. Both the speakers were involved with the arts and culture of the Tamil people and were eminently qualified to preside over such an important event.

Nivitha is entering the University this year to continue her higher studies. I hope she will continue to learn and practice dance along with her university program. May Lord Nadarajah and Goddess Saraswathi bless her to excel both in Bharathanatyam and in her academic studies!



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# Manmohan Singh meets, praises UK Indian diaspora

## UK Indians have lived up to Nehru's expectations

Full Text of Address by Hon. Manmohan Singh at Indian Community Reception in London, Oct 9, 2006

"I am delighted to be here with members of the Indian community in the United Kingdom, which as the High Commissioner has just now said, is among the most well-established communities of the worldwide Indian Diaspora.

The Indian community, of whatever faith, in the UK is truly exceptional in terms of educational attainments, economic profile, social integration and cultural vibrancy. They are an enormous asset to the country of adoption and a matter of pride for all of us back home in India.

The integration achieved by the community of Indian origin is a shining example of successful adaptation and contribution of any community in the United Kingdom. There is no room for the clash of civilizations in India and the Indian community is a vibrant example of that, with Indians of all faiths and persuasions doing equally well.

Our plural society has ingrained in every Indian the virtues of tolerance and co-existence among cultures, languages, religions, political and social views, and varied ways of life. I believe that this background has something to do with the astonishing ability to adapt,

which has characterized Indians wherever and whichever part of the world they have gone.

It is particularly true of Indian achievement in a free society like the United Kingdom which cherishes individual worth, and which has extended political, economic and social freedoms to successive waves of immigrants. When applauding the remarkable success of our countrymen in this land, I would also like to pay tribute to the openness of British society, which has created an enabling climate for our people to do well and to flourish.

India is on the move today. The Indian economy has recorded high rates of growth on a sustained basis since our process of economic reforms began some fifteen years ago. India is among the most attractive destinations globally for doing business. This is indicative of the extent to which the Indian economy has successfully globalized. Several Indian companies have expanded their global presence in various sectors across the world, including in this country.

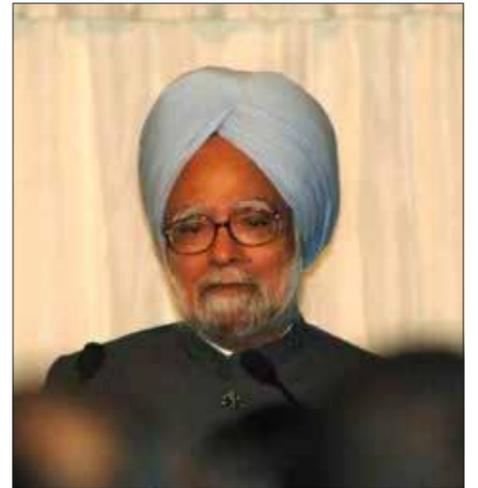
India is proud of its remarkable achievements in sustaining 8% growth of its economy for the fourth year in a row. The buoyancy and vitality of our

economy is a measure of the creativity of our people which has been unleashed after full-scale economic reforms were undertaken in the early 90s. While doing so we are engaged in a massive task of fulfilling the basic needs of our teeming millions.

In my interactions with Prime Minister Blair, the British political leadership and with the captains of business and industry, I see recognition of the new India that is emerging that is on the horizon. I do believe that India and the United Kingdom can join hands, as we are both well equipped to take advantage of the knowledge economy, which will shape the 21st century.

We have close understanding of each other's political institutions and traditions and a shared commitment to democracy and fundamental human rights. We would welcome your continuing active engagement with the political process in the United Kingdom.

The transformation under way in India, ladies and gentlemen, is, in my opinion, one of the most far-reaching revolutions of this century. More than a billion people are seeking their salvation within the framework of an open society and an open economy committed to rule of law and



The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing at the reception hosted by the Indian High Commissioner in UK, Shri Kamlesh Sharma in London on October 09, 2006.

fundamental human rights. I invite you all to participate in this adventure of creativity and enterprise any way you can.

In concluding, I wish to recall to you Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's advice that Indians living abroad should be loyal to the country of their adoption while keeping a place in their hearts for India. I am happy to note that all of you have lived up to that injunction. I thank you."

October 6, 2006 at 8:38 pm ·

Filed under [Press Releases](#)

### 50,000 from around the world will win

#### "Green Card"

The 2008 Diversity Immigrant Visa Lottery was formally declared open in Washington, DC on October 4, 2006. This program allows randomly selected applicants to immigrate to the United States on an expedited basis, provided they meet all the criteria. A person may only enter the lottery if he or she has:

- 1) citizenship of a qualifying country (Sri Lanka and the Maldives both qualify); and
- 2) either a high school equivalent education (Six G/C O-Levels including compulsory subjects) or work experience within the past five years in a profession that requires at least two years of training or experience to perform. Individuals wishing to participate in the visa lottery are

## U.S. Diversity Visa Lottery Now Open

strongly urged to apply early to avoid any possible delays. 50,000 individuals will be selected for the lottery worldwide.

The lottery registration period will run until December 3, 2006. The lottery will be conducted entirely by electronic means over the internet. Paper entries will no longer be accepted. The State Department has established a website for the submission of entries, which can be accessed at:

[www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov)

Successfully registered entries will result in the display of a confirmation screen containing the applicant's name, date of birth, country of chargeability (the country the applicant enters the lottery from), and a date and time stamp. This confirmation screen can be printed as

proof of registration in the lottery. An applicant may only register ONCE; more than one entry will result in automatic disqualification.

People selected for an interview to obtain an immigrant visa will be notified in April/May, 2007. If they qualify, they will then have a one-year window in which they may emigrate to the United States. Under last year's Diversity Visa lottery program, 506 Sri Lankans qualified for immigrant visa interviews.

#### Important Notice

No fee is charged to enter the annual Diversity Visa program. The U.S. Government employs no outside consultants or private services to Operate the visa lottery program. Any companies or intermediaries who offer assistance to prepare DV casework for

applicants do so without the authority or consent of the U.S. Government. Beware of persons or companies making claims of affiliation with the U.S. Government or promising improved odds of selection. A qualified entry submitted electronically directly by an applicant has an equal chance of being selected by the computer at the Kentucky Consular Center as does an entry submitted electronically through a Paid intermediary who completes the entry for the applicant. Use of any outside intermediary or assistance to prepare a DV entry is entirely at the applicant's discretion.

Every entry received during the lottery registration period will have an equal random chance of being selected within its region. However, receipt of more than one entry per person will disqualify the person from registration, regardless of the source of the entry.

[Full Text of Press Release, Embassy of the United States of America, Colombo, Sri Lanka]

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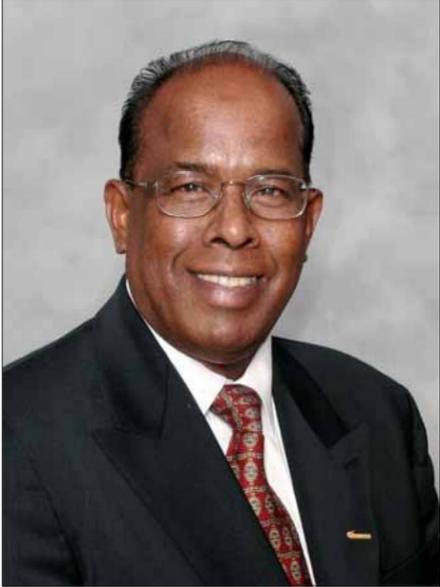
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# Gearing up for Municipal Elections



An Amazing Story of a Tamil Canadian Icon, Professor Elagu V. Elagupillai, M.Sc., Ph.D.

For York Regional Councillor

Dr. Elagupillai, nuclear scientist, businessman, administrator, professor and a community leader, a long-time Markham resident, is a candidate for the York Regional Councillor from Markham, in the upcoming municipal election due on November 13, 2006.

Dr. Elagupillai believes that, Markham is blessed with diverse cultures, 58 per cent of its population composed of ethnic minorities, the most diverse town in Canada. He thinks it is a unique strength, and we should capitalize on the diversity of Markham. He believes that the Region must build a Canadian Centre for Diversity and Multiculture as a national symbol, and he expects the federal and provincial counterparts to support this initiative.

Dr. Elagupillai is strong on environment. It comes from the teachings of his father. He wants to have a long term strategy to protect and preserve the environment. He believes that our environment is a precious commodity and we should learn to respect it with devotion. He is not comfortable with the ever increasing rate of disappearance of our farm lands. He promotes the establishment of green belts, walking trails and side walks. He wants a high density residential corridors along major regional road, such as Highway 7, to ease up the pressure on our precious farm lands. He dares to propose that, in about 20 years from now, we may need a subway line along Highway 7, linking the Yonge subway lines, and we should start thinking about it now itself.

With regard to crime, he is determined to make Markham a crime free society. He wants stricter enforcement, coupled with education and rehabilitation.

Dr. Elagupillai believes that business community is the backbone of our economy. It is the business which puts money into the resident's pocket, or into the government tax coffer. Therefore, the Region must create incentive program to attract business, particularly targeted business into Markham. He wants to encourage the business community to develop a innovative partnership program with the Region to create employment opportunities.

Elagupillai's journey now has him striving to make a difference in the City of Markham. and his goal is to have a Prosperous, Healthy and Compassionate Markham, where each of us can have a quality life with plenty of opportunities, and more family times.



Strong Leadership. Proven Results.  
Logan Kanapathi  
For Markham Town Councillor  
Ward 7

Markham is a growing, vibrant city. To balance this growth while maintaining our quality of life will require leadership that can reach out to individuals from different backgrounds and confront the problems that we commonly face.

Over the last 13 years, my wife and I have lived and raised our children in Ward 7. We established thriving businesses, while getting involved with the local community. I have demonstrated a continued commitment to public service over this time. My volunteer and community work illustrates a proven track record of leadership and resolving local problems.

It is my desire to take my commitment to the residents of Ward 7 to a higher level. I want to bring my extensive political experience, community knowledge, business expertise, drive and passion to the position of Markham Town Councillor.

Surinder S. Lamba,  
Markham, Ward 8



Hello, my name is Surinder Lamba. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to introduce myself. I have been a resident of Markham for over twenty years, I'm married and am the father of two young boys. I am an affective member of our community and am involved in a wide variety of community activities. Currently, I am a supervising driving instructor, and I teach at both Humber college and Centennial college. I was also an entrepreneur who ran a business (Scarborough Textiles) on Gerrard street for twelve years.

As you know, in the upcoming election I am running to become the councillor of Ward 8 in Markham. As a long time



City of Toronto's slogan for Municipal Election 2006

resident in Markham, I am aware that we face a number of issues in our Ward. I would like to address, what I believe our four priorities should be.

- 1) Lack of public transportation
- 2) Uncontrolled housing growth
- 3) Lack of sports and activity facilities for our growing youth population.
- 4) A need for safer neighbourhoods.

As a councillor, I commit to you, the residents of Ward 8, honesty, hard work, reliability, accountability and most importantly availability. I will be a very strong voice for Ward 8 if elected to council.

Michael Thompson,  
Scarborough Centre, Ward 37



Michael Thompson was elected to City Council in 2003, following a successful career in business and municipal government.

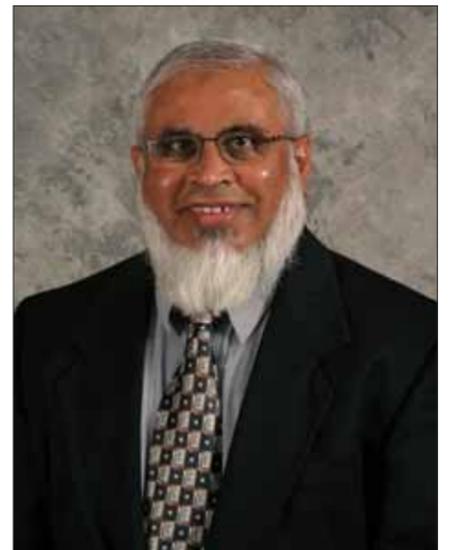
Michael's first term achievements have been impressive. He has been Toronto's strongest voice on community safety, leading the City to add police officers and take strong action to curb gang violence, drugs and street crime. He created the Taste of Lawrence street festival, helped launch after school and weekend programs for kids, introduced a revolutionary positive ticketing program to build bridges between young people and police, started the ball rolling on a new skateboard park, initiated improvements to recreational facilities, playgrounds and playing fields, raised funds for disadvantaged youth, and paved the way for the launch of an in-school floor tennis program and a cricket league.

Michael believes that business plays a vital role in Scarborough's success. When a major employer in our ward planned to move its operations, Michael negotiated an agreement that will keep their plant, and its jobs, in place for years to come. He created Scarborough's largest annual job fair, bringing thousands of local people together with potential employers. He also works daily

with individual local employers to ensure that their business activities are in harmony with our community's needs.

In the next term, he plans to work to upgrade transit and public infrastructure, open more public facilities to young people, initiate new services for seniors, attract new companies to Scarborough, and build partnerships with business to provide jobs, training and mentoring for teens.

Abdul Hai Patel, Scarborough,  
Ward 43



The exciting race for Councillor in Ward 43 is gaining momentum. The ward extends from Highway 401 south to Lake Ontario and its residents reflect the diversity that makes Toronto the great city that it is. However, "Scarborough residents are not getting a fair share of public services from Toronto City Council," said candidate Abdul Patel in his official launch statement. "I will work hard to address the differential in treatment." Patel successfully launched his campaign in early September and has received an excellent response from constituents. As an area resident for the past 12 years, Patel seeks to fight for a "fair share for Scarborough". His achievements include being a Former Ontario Human Rights Commissioner, Member, Board of Governors, Scouts of Canada, and Member of the Advisory Council of the Toronto Police Chief to name a few. He has extensive involvement in community development and international relief work. Most recently, Abdul officiated over Toronto's Memorial for the Tsunami victims at City Hall and Scarborough Civic Centre. He participated in meetings with Mayor David Miller, Provincial and Federal Government representatives to lobby for increased government aid to the affected regions and initiated a number of local fundraising relief efforts. During his launch, Patel identified community safety, public transportation, green space development and conservation as well as greater community involvement as the basic elements of his campaign.

(Continued on page 37)

During the weeks leading up to the municipal election, Abdul Patel will be knocking on the doors to talk about specific issues and concerns and what he can do to make our community a better place to live. On November 13th, vote for a "Fair Share for Scarborough."

**Thadsha Navamanikkam**  
City Councillor Candidate  
Ward 41 - Scarborough Rouge River



As a long-time resident of the Rouge-River riding, Thadsha Navamanikkam is deeply passionate about her community and city. Thadsha who studied History and Political Science at the University of Toronto has been an active professional in the social service sector in the past five years. An award recipient of the prestigious Toronto Youth Cabinet Advocacy Award, she is dedicated to public service and has a proven track record of standing up for her community.

In her capacity as the program facilitator at Malvern Family Resource Centre, she worked in three elementary schools of Toronto District School Board in the Rouge River riding. Later, taking on another challenging yet rewarding role as a coordinator at Women's Place, she assisted hundreds of women through training, information counselling, support and mentoring. Thadsha, in her most recent role was the Executive Director for CanTYD, a pioneering youth serving agency for Tamil youth in Toronto. She oversaw youth development programs in eight high schools in the GTA.

Thadsha brings extraordinary experience, passion, and perspective into her role for council. She is a dynamic community activist, an articulate leader, and is now one of the youngest women in this upcoming municipal election with a remarkable background at the age of 25.

Thadsha has prepared herself well for the political arena in the past five years through numerous training programs including the intensive training she received from the Canadian Centre for Political Leadership, the Forum on Women's Activism in Constitutional and Democratic Reform in Ottawa and through the United Nation's (UN) World Urban Forum this summer in Vancouver. Thadsha feels that the City of Toronto needs representation from marginalized communities. In addition, Thadsha, who has been featured in many mainstream media including Toronto Star and TV Ontario (TVO) for her work with children, youth and women, feels that there definitely needs to be effective representation of women in the three levels of government.

To learn more about Thadsha Navamanikkam, her platform and her campaign please visit her website at [www.electthadsha.ca](http://www.electthadsha.ca)

**Neethan Shan**  
for York District School Board Trustee  
(Wards 7 & 8)

Neethan Shan, who currently works as a Program Director, at Boreal Institute for Civil Society (an Institute affiliated with University of Toronto through Munk Centre for International Studies) is running for the position of Public School Trustee in York Region District School



Board in Area 4 (wards 7 and 8) of Markham.

Neethan's passion for youth work and his interest in social sector grew as a result of his volunteer experience as an outreach worker for CanTYD in high schools. With this experience, he began at Malvern Family Resource Centre (MFRC) as a youth worker at the age of 21.

In 2001, he was chosen to take the lead role as the Executive Director of the organization and to take CanTYD to the next level, from a youth based volunteer run organization to a youth led social service agency with staff. Within a year of his work at CanTYD, CanTYD became one of the leading organizations in Scarborough for youth engagement and youth development based programs.

Neethan later attended teachers college (Bachelor of Education). He is currently qualified to teach junior high and high schools in math and science subjects. While studying, Neethan also helped a small senior wellness agency, Vasantham, to develop programs for seniors.

In 2003, Neethan had begun managing youth programs at MFRC. As the manager, within two years, MFRC youth programs had flourished. He had initiated many new programs including Malvern Youth Cabinet, Law and Order team, Photo Club, Image Campaign, Need Assessment project and many more.

Neethan has also been working with Parent Action on Drugs, a non-profit agency looking at drug awareness and prevention strategies. He has been delivering two programs on behalf of them: Strengthening Families Program and Peer Empowerment Program.

Neethan has participated in numerous committees over the last ten years including Youth Gang Work Group (City of Toronto), Malvern Community Coalition, Community Use of Schools Council, Scarborough Youth Task Group, Tsunami Relief Coordinating Committee, MY LIFE Ryerson Research Advisory Committee, Aisling Discoveries Buddy Builders Advisory Committee and many others.

To see details about Neethan Shan's community involvement and accomplishments, or to see his platform and to know what other prominent community members from diverse backgrounds say about Neethan Shan, please visit [www.neethanshan.ca](http://www.neethanshan.ca)

**Warren Kanagaratnam** for School Board Trustee under TDSB (Scarborough-Agincourt)



Warren has worked for many years with and for politicians of all three levels of government. Now he has decided to run as a trustee for Ward 20 in Toronto District School Board, which covers city council Wards of numbers 39 & 40.

Having served as a professional Accountant cum Administrator for about 35 years in various positions, he now has his own consulting company in the city of Scarborough. He worked in Scarborough for a company continuously for 11 years prior to starting his own consulting company, which he has been operating for the last 4 years.

He lives in Scarborough Agincourt area for the last 10 years, where he is running as a trustee. Altogether he has lived in Scarborough for the last 18 years. He is very much attached to Scarborough city and takes part in many community activities as well as in sports activities. To show his attachment for Scarborough, Warren played for the Peace Games for Tennis between Scarborough and Indianapolis for six years till this Peace Games between the cities ended 3 years ago, after 28 years.

Warren's children both studied in Scarborough and wife still works in Scarborough.

Warren is a very amiable person who works very closely with all elected individuals in Scarborough- Agincourt area and he hopes these elected individuals will give their blessings and support for his new endeavour to be a school trustee.

**Ketheesh Waran**  
for School Board Trustee under TDSB (Ward 17)



Ketheesh being a former employee of Toronto Board of Education worked extensively with Parents, Teachers, and Students also has sound knowledge of School systems and issues associated with it.

Ketheesh a Service Delivery Executive of IBM Canada; is a decisive, action oriented and result driven Project Management Professional specialized in the project management and team leadership of System Development Life Cycle and infrastructure projects. Possessing extensive skills and experience in Enterprise Resources Planning, Vendor Management and Customer relationship.

Ketheesh is the president of SACEM; a voluntary community service organization. The Mission of SACEM is to work for the welfare and progress of communities in Canada. The history of

the association shows how SACEM has constantly reviewed its service programs and also regularly added new ones to meet the challenges of an evolving environment and serve the community more effectively. SACEM programs have covered a wide range of fields from Health Education to Enlightened Parenting as well as from Computer Training to Fighting Drug Addiction. In the process SACEM has not merely acquired experience but has also truly become a "Learning Organization".

**Shan Thayaparan**  
for School Board Trustee under TDSB (Ward 21)



Shan Thayaparan has been living in Scarborough's Malvern area for the past fifteen years. Given the diversity of Malvern, He believes it is a good place to bring his family up and learn and enjoy all cultures and languages of the world. Scarborough Rouge River is truly representing the whole world in a snap shot. We all have to appreciate it and improve it continuously.

He first came to Canada in 1986 as an immigrant and has a firsthand understanding of the challenges immigrant families and children face.

As a parent with three kids currently in the public school system he has a vested interest in the state of Toronto's public school system. As trustee he would work towards an education system that is more value-based, inclusive, and understanding of the needs of Scarborough's diverse community for both your kids and his.

Shan's experiences as a Tamil community worker, Seneca College student, business owner, real-estate agent, and most of all as a parent and proud Canadian will help him make bridges with other trustees, councillors, MPPs, and MPs at all levels of government to ensure our younger generation have a bright future ahead of them.

The above profiles were sent to Monsoon Journal by the respective candidates.

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