

A *parfait media publication*

# Monsoon

*Journal*

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**Merry Christmas and Season's Greetings!**



Canadian dollar may soon be joining the elite club of global reserve currencies, according to a recent report by The International Monetary Fund. Analysts say it highlights growing clout and confidence in the stability of Canadian dollar around the globe. (pic: Bank of Canada)

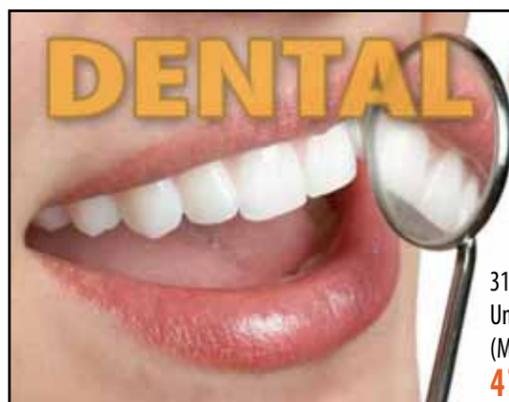


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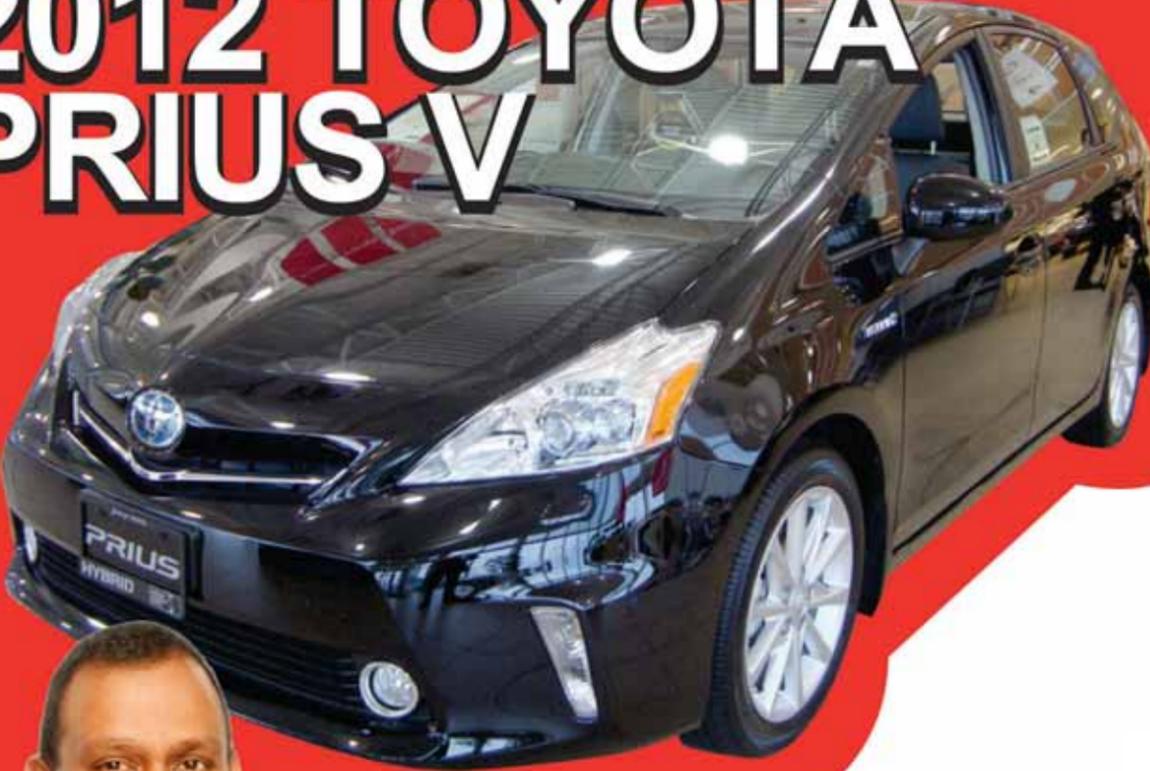


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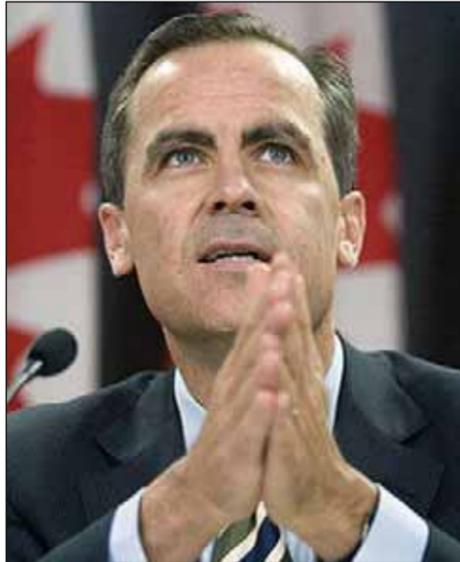
## Mark Carney quit his governor post for Bank of England

The Governor of Bank of Canada Carney announced on Monday, Nov 26th that he is stepping down as the governor of the Bank of Canada. Also he told in the press conference on Monday, Nov 26th that he accepted the job as governor of the Bank of England. He has confirmed the rumors that arose earlier this year that he may be in the running for the job to replace outgoing BoE's Mervyn King. Carney will continue as Bank of Canada governor until June 1st. His five-year term at the BoE begins on July 1, 2013.

"It was a difficult decision, but I think it was the right decision," Carney said, noting that he was honored to accept the role at such a critical time for the British, European and global economies. Carney will remain chair of the Financial Stability Board, a global body that monitors and makes recommendations about the financial system.

Canada's Finance Minister Jim Flaherty called Carney's departure bittersweet. "It is our loss. Of course it is," said Flaherty, addressing Carney as "Mark" and calling him a superb governor.

Carney, a former Goldman Sachs investment banker, brought a unique



and hands-on approach to the job. Given his experience in financial markets, he is often applauded for successfully guiding Canada through recent tough financial times.

Just before the press conference, the announcement made by Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne to Parliament and was viewed as representing a big break from U.K. tradition, which normally sees insiders getting such high-profile jobs, market commentators said.

## Ontario Continues to Grow the Greenbelt

### McGuinty Government Proposing Protection for Urban River Valleys, Glenorchy Lands

Ontario is taking steps to expand the Greenbelt to protect more green space across the province.

Public consultation meetings will start in December on adding the Glenorchy lands in Oakville to the Greenbelt. These lands would be protected to prevent development so future generations can enjoy them.

Ontario will also hold public consultation meetings on a new Urban River Valley Greenbelt designation that would protect publicly owned lands near urban waterways, such as the Don, Humber and Sixteen Mile Creek river valleys.

The Greenbelt is part of the McGuinty government's plan to permanently protect environmentally-sensitive land and farmland in the Greater Golden Horseshoe for future generations.

The new Urban River Valley designation would provide flexibility for municipalities to protect land in an urban environment.

Ontario has committed to planting twice the number of trees in Glenorchy than originally planned for 2013 under the 50 Million Tree Program.

The Greenbelt currently protects 1.8 million acres of agricultural and environmentally sensitive land around the

Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Research shows that the Greenbelt cleans the province's air, regulates its water systems, and provides tourism opportunities - all worth \$2.6 billion each year.

"The Glenorchy lands and our urban river valleys are vital parts of Ontario's natural environment. We appreciate the interest municipalities have already shown in protecting and expanding the Greenbelt. We look forward to working with our municipal partners to permanently protect these publicly owned lands and add them to the Greenbelt."

- **Bob Chiarelli**, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

"Preserving our natural environment is extremely important to the residents of Oakville. As Oakville and Halton continue to grow, it is important we maintain our green spaces for future generations."

- **Kevin Flynn**, MPP, Oakville

"Growing the Greenbelt is a step in the right direction. Our greenspaces and waterways are coming under greater pressure and must be protected. Future generations will be grateful for the foresight we are showing."

- **Rick Smith**, Environmental Defence

## Toronto Mayor Rob Ford found guilty, removed from office

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford was found guilty in a conflict of interest case and will be removed from office.

Justice Charles Hackland released his ruling on Monday, Nov 26th rejecting Ford's claim that his decision to participate in a debate over whether he should repay \$3,150 in questionable donations was a simple error in judgment.

But Mayor Rob Ford said as he is going to appeal against the rules and continue his job.

"The Mayor is the face of City government, both internally and externally. Maintaining the integrity of government is the Mayor's most important job," Hackland found, in part, according to a tweet by the Toronto Star's Robyn Doolittle.

John Mascarin, a municipal law expert who has been following the case, told the Toronto Star that "there's never been brouhaha of this magnitude in a major Canadian city."

During a quick scrum with reporters



just after noon Monday, Ford said he will appeal the ruling and plans to run for re-election. Hackland did place a 14-day pause on his decision to give time for the necessary administrative changes to be made.

The question had stirred for weeks over whether Ford would be removed from office over the controversy.

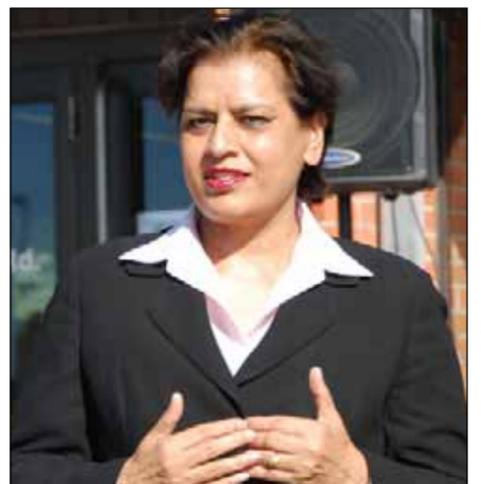
## Car Insurance Report embraces Mangat's anti-fraud bill

Mississauga-Brampton South MPP Amrit Mangat applauded an auto insurance anti-fraud report released recently that contained a number of her recommendations to address the root causes of fraud and keep rates low for GTA drivers.

"Ontario Liberals are taking strong action on auto insurance fraud and I am pleased that much of my private member's bill is reflected in this report. Stronger regulations for health-care clinics and protecting whistleblowers coming forward with evidence and testimony will get at the root causes of fraud, helping keep rates low for area families," said Mangat. "These items in my bill have been embraced in the Report's recommendations."

Mangat pointed out that Ontario Liberals are the only party taking strong action on auto insurance rates after years of skyrocketing increases under the NDP and PCs. Since 2004, auto insurance rates have risen at a slower pace than inflation while more recent changes like the creation of the Auto Insurance Anti-Fraud Task Force, has helped further stabilize rates.

"By contrast, the Horwath NDP attempted to pass legislation that would have forced families, including those in Brampton, Mississauga, Etobicoke and Toronto to pay more for auto insurance while keeping rates low for drunk and dangerous drivers. The misguided plan was resoundingly defeated in the legislature after the Ontario Provincial Police Association said it would "punish law abiding drivers," while Mothers Against



Amrit Mangat, MPP

Drunk Driving said it would, "increase the risk to Ontario road users".

"Meanwhile the Hudak PCs keep trying to run from their terrible record on auto insurance - they let rates rise by almost 45% and voted against all our reforms that have kept rates low," said Mangat.

"Ontario Liberal auto insurance reforms have stabilized rates following years of skyrocketing increases under both the NDP and PCs. This report and my bill represent the next steps by actually targeting fraud," said Mangat. "Instead of playing games with poorly-thought out schemes that would penalize local families, it's time the opposition parties do something constructive, join with Ontario Liberals and work to lower rates."

A full copy of the report: <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/autoinsurance/final-report.html>.

# from the publisher's desk

## Getting into the Holiday Spirit

**By: Krishni Narine**  
B.A (Hons)

As the holidays are approaching many of us take time to appreciate all of the simple pleasures in life. Like having a loving family and friends to share this time of year with, or being healthy enough to take part in all of the activities you have planned for the holidays. We also reflect on the year that passed and what we can change or keep doing for the New Year. New Year's resolutions come up every January with new goals and skills that we would all like to improve. In order to improve as a person it is important to reflect on what we would like to change. No one is perfect but we can always try to be a better person for ourselves.

Getting into the holiday spirit does not have to hurt your bank account. If you're looking for ways to celebrate the holidays there are many cost effective activities for you and the whole family to share.

For the winter lovers that

can handle the cold temperatures this time of year you can enjoy many outdoor activities like skating, snow tubing or snowshoeing. You can find many of these outdoor activities all across your community. These are fun ways to incorporate the whole family or can be enjoyed by just you and a friend. Just remember to dress warm for those cold winter days ahead of us. To the winter lovers at heart who appreciate this time of year indoors and want to be part of the holiday festivities, you too can celebrate. Making your own decorations out of odds and ends you have in your home can be enjoyable. It is also a cost effective way to spend time with your loved ones, and bring the holiday spirit alive right in your house. Baking cookies or cakes and decorating them with the holiday theme in mind would be a great way to celebrate and also satisfy the sweet lovers.

**The holiday spirit may also mean exchanging gifts to friends and family. If**

**you're still looking for that perfect gift for that special someone, why not make a donation in their honour. This is the gift that keeps giving and would make a difference in someone's life. Making a donation at a charity like a hospital or a food bank would help others in need and you would also receive a tax receipt for your donation. If you're looking to make a donation to count for your income tax, remember that you must make the donation before December 31st, 2012 for the donation to count for the 2012 year.**

On behalf of Monsoon Journal we hope you all have a wonderful holiday season. For everyone celebrating, we hope you have a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza, and Happy Hanukkah and for everyone have a very Happy New Year. Be safe this holiday season and we wish you all the best for the New Year.

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- Indira Gandhi -  
(1917-1984)  
Prime Minister of India

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### INDEX

	Page
Canada News	3 & 5
Publisher's Info	4
World News	6 - 11
Health & Care	12 - 23
Special Feature	24 - 37 & 62
Short Story	38 - 39
Cinema	40
Book Review	41
Business & Finance	42 - 43
Vacation & Travel	44
Community Watch	(45 - 56)
DTA	45 - 47
Hartley	48
Meleni & VAROD	49
St. Johns	50
TSH/Sethi	51
Mixed	52
RG Education Centers	53
TCASD	54 - 55
Silver Bells	56
<b>Regional News</b>	
Waterloo News	57 - 59
Whitby News	60
Markham News	61





## PM Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen Harper at Taj Mahal, Nov 5, 2012



## PM Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen Harper visited the Someshwara Temple in Bangalore, India, Nov 8, 2012 (pic: pm.gc.ca)



## Canada's tighter mortgage rules: How far is too far?

Has Canada's Finance Minister Jim Flaherty unnecessarily put the economy in peril by clamping down too hard on mortgage rules? A national mortgage industry group thinks so.

It's a bold call to make. But it may be too early to dissect the impact and that's why all eyes will be on home sales and jobs data.

In a report released recently, the Canadian Association of Accredited Mortgage Professionals argues the latest changes to mortgage insurance rules put in place this summer "are unnecessarily jeopardizing the health of Canada's housing markets and the broader economy." The report was written by the group's chief economist, Will Dunning, whose views the report states are his own and are "strongly felt."

"The housing resale numbers behave like a canary in the mine for us," says Dunning in a release. "Since the government tightened mortgage accessibility for the fourth time this past July we've seen a drop in resale activity that I think foreshadows an overall decline in the housing market."

The rule changes make it tougher to get a mortgage. They were largely aimed at helping to curb the rise in the debt-to-income ratio for households -- at a record 163 per cent in the second quarter -- fueled in part by a frothy real estate market. All this amid a tepid global recovery.

Something needed to be done given the economic hodgepodge. Tightening of the mortgage rules, so far, appears to have been a justifiable way to calm things down.

But Dunning argues the changes may be too powerful. Since the new rules took effect in July, Canadian housing resale

activity has shrunk roughly 8 per cent compared to a year before, he says in the report, which also provides analysis on first time homebuyers shut out of the market because of the changes.

He fears further slowing of housing activity due to the policy changes risks tipping the housing markets into unbalanced conditions, in which prices start to fall. Once that happens the outcome is anyone's guess, but the worst-case scenario is a downward spiral that "wreaks substantial economic damage."

The logic here is that house prices are intertwined with the job market, which affects housing demand and so on. Employment is a key driver in demand because it gives people the confidence and ability to make choices such as renting or buying a home.

All valid points to raise. That's why all eyes will be on data in the coming months.

Any numbers that hint of a broader housing slowdown will be key, as well as related house price data, says David Tulk, chief Canada macro strategist at TD Securities. Another clue is housing-related consumer spending. Home renovations and other house choices are a good indication of a consumers' confidence in house values.

"As long as interest rates remain low and as long as employment remains reasonably well supported, activity adjusts. Everyone just realizes it's just the new rules of the game," says Tulk.

"You may have denied that marginal buyer access to the market, but for everybody else there's enough of them out there that sales activity starts to increase."

## Prime Minister Stephen Harper and wife Laureen at the Humayun's Tomb in New Dehli, India on Nov. 5, 2012.





# “UN System owes Sri Lankan victims meaningful efforts, to achieve justice” - HRW

(New York) - The United Nations secretary-general's internal review on UN action in Sri Lanka should lead to specific and concrete measures to ensure the UN takes all needed measures to prevent mass atrocities in future conflicts, Human Rights Watch said today. The "Internal Review Panel on United Nations Action in Sri Lanka," commissioned by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and published on November 14, 2012, was a major recommendation of the 2011 UN Panel of Experts report on Sri Lanka's armed conflict. The conflict was characterized by deadly abuses against civilians by both sides, Human Rights Watch said.

The internal review found serious failings in the conduct of UN officials and institutions during the final months of fighting in 2008 and 2009 between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). It concludes that "there was a continued reluctance among UN country team institutions to stand up for the rights of the people they were mandated to assist" and that in Sri Lanka "some senior staff did not perceive the prevention of killing of civilians as their responsibility - and agency and department heads at UN headquarters were not instructing them otherwise."

"The UN internal review identifies the tragic mistakes that led the UN to fail in its most basic obligations to civilians in Sri Lanka," said Philippe Bolopion, UN director at Human Rights Watch. "It is a call to action and reform for the entire UN system. While Ban deserves credit for starting a process he knew could tarnish his office, he will now be judged on his willingness to implement the report's recommendations and push for justice for Sri Lanka's victims."

The internal review, written by former UN official Charles Petrie, also found fault with the UN Security Council, Human Rights Watch said. The "absence of clear Security Council backing," and its failure to even meet until it was too late, also explained why "the UN's actions lacked adequate purpose and direction," the internal review says. The review also emphasized, however, that "the primary responsibility for killings and other violations against the estimated 360,000 or more civilians trapped during the final stages of the conflict in the Wanni lies with the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE."

The internal review paints a grim picture of UN actions in Sri Lanka. In early 2009 the senior UN official in Sri Lanka,

Neil Buhne, "excluded his Human Rights Adviser from key meetings and from providing inputs on correspondence with the Government and UNHQ on human rights violations." While some UN staff "showed commitment far beyond the call of duty," in general there was a "failure to adequately confront the Government on its obstructions to humanitarian assistance" and the "unwillingness of the UN in headquarters and Colombo to address Government responsibility for attacks that were killing civilians," despite considerable evidence.

While the internal review noted the dilemmas facing an organization that was trying to avoid being expelled from a country when its services were badly needed, it decried an "institutional culture of trade-offs," concluding the UN had "the capabilities to simultaneously strive for humanitarian access while also robustly condemning the perpetrators of killings of civilians."

The internal review criticized the UN for failing to learn from past tragedies such as the genocide in Rwanda. It found that many lessons from the December 1999 independent inquiry into the UN's actions in Rwanda were forgotten in Sri Lanka, including the need for "political will" from the Security Council, a "leadership role of the Secretary-General," "human rights competence of staff on the ground," and the "importance of bringing human rights information to bear" at UN headquarters deliberations. The internal review also found that the UN leadership made the mistake of telling members states what they wanted to hear, rather than what they "needed to know if they were to respond."

"The UN's dereliction of duty in Sri Lanka is a stark reminder of what happens when human rights concerns are marginalized or labeled as too political," Bolopion said. "The UN's failure to learn from Rwanda shows that a mere report won't solve these deep-seated problems unless there is the necessary political will and commitment to implement the report's recommendations."

The internal review described problems of UN institutions and agencies in Sri Lanka that should be addressed in other countries where civilians are at risk, Human Rights Watch said. The UN country team in Sri Lanka was described by many UN staff on the ground as "very passive" and "weak." Some UN agencies were perceived as "quick to compromise on principles in the interests of increasing the profile of their agencies and gaining access to funding."

Human Rights Watch said that the

internal review should have requested further investigation of the responsibility of specific UN officials for the UN's failure to protect civilians in Sri Lanka. However, it describes in its annexes troubling efforts by the then-chef de cabinet, Vijay Nambiar; the under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, Sir John Holmes; and the UN resident coordinator in Colombo, Neil Buhne, to downplay alarming casualty numbers that were collected by UN staff members with a "rigorous methodology" and "of a standard comparable to best-practice on information collection in other conflict situations."

"The UN cannot just say that the system failed without explaining who was responsible for that system and taking appropriate disciplinary action," Bolopion said. "Accountability starts at home."

The internal review strengthens the call of the UN Panel of Experts for the secretary-general to create an independent, international mechanism to investigate violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed by both sides to the conflict and recommend measures to hold those responsible accountable.

The internal review noted that the UN Office of Legal Affairs advised Ban that he has the authority under article 99 of the UN Charter to establish such an inquiry. Instead, Ban sent the panel's report to the UN Human Rights Council and said he would welcome a mandate by an "appropriate intergovernmental forum" to establish such an inquiry.

The UN Human Rights Council called



on Sri Lanka in March 2012 to "initiate credible and independent actions to ensure justice, equity, accountability and reconciliation for all Sri Lankans," but has not acted on the panel's recommendation to set up an international inquiry.

In light of the system-wide failures of the UN to take all possible measures to protect the lives and rights of thousands of victims of Sri Lanka's armed conflict, Human Rights Watch renewed its call for Secretary-General Ban to create an independent, international investigation. Should he fail to do so, the Human Rights Council should establish such a mechanism when it considers a report by the UN high commissioner for human rights on Sri Lanka at its March 2013 session.

"The UN's attempt to appease the Sri Lankan government while it was committing mass atrocities against its own population proved to be a deadly mistake," Bolopion said. "The UN system can't rewrite history and respond as it should have, but it at least owes Sri Lankan victims meaningful efforts to achieve justice."

(Media Release, HRW, NY, NY)

## R. Prabhagan appointed Chief Editor of Virakesari Publications

Ratnasabapathy Prabhagan has assumed duties recently as the Chief Editor of the Virakesari Daily & Weekly newspapers which are the largest circulated Tamil publications in Sri Lanka. The publishers of these newspapers are Messrs. Express Newspapers (Cey.) Ltd.

Prabhagan is a senior journalist with over twenty-five years of newspaper experience. He initially worked for the Eelanadu, a leading provincial daily newspaper published in Jaffna, before he joined the Virakesari editorial staff. He is also gifted with considerable experience in the electronic media having worked for the MTV, a leading electronic media institution in Sri Lanka.

Ratnasabapathy Prabhagan, Chief Editor, Virakesari Daily & Weekly Newspapers (in pic)





## End of British Aid Marks Economic Shift for India

By Anjana Pasricha

Britain has decided to stop giving development aid to India - a country with rising incomes and a growing economy. The move marks a change in the global profile of the former British colony from a poor country dependent on foreign aid to an emerging economy which has itself become a donor nation.

Announcing the decision to stop direct aid to India by 2015, British officials said it is time to recognize India's changing place in the world.

In India, the move was met with a nonchalant shrug by political leaders. Foreign minister Salman Khurshid said "aid is past, trade is future."

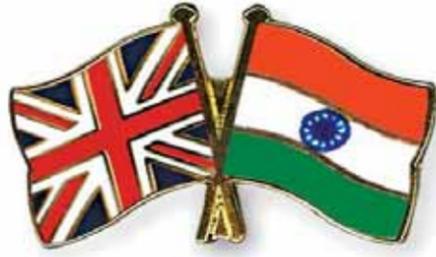
Earlier this year, President Pranab Mukherjee, formerly India's Finance Minister, had called the British annual aid contribution of about \$360 million a "peanut."

For many years after India's independence from British rule, New Delhi was among the largest recipients of foreign aid in the world.

But economist D.H. Pai Panandiker says that over the past decade, the aid has become insignificant to India.

"The equation has completely changed," notes Panandiker. "It is no longer the India of pre-2000. Post 2000 India is entirely different. The total annual export earnings would be \$ 300 billion. Against that aid of a small amount of a few million dollars becomes almost invisible. India is now self reliant, it does not need any foreign assistance to develop."

In fact, a growing economy has allowed a reversal of roles, and made it possible for New Delhi to emerge as a donor nation. In recent years, India has given a \$2 billion aid package to Afghanistan, and has extended lines of credit worth several billion dollars to African countries and Bangladesh. With a growing aid portfolio, India recently announced plans to establish its own aid agency.



Analysts say India wants to be seen as an emerging global power which is no longer dependent on handouts by richer countries.

However development experts point out poverty is still rampant in India, especially in underdeveloped regions of the country. Two thirds of the 1.2 billion people live on less than \$2 a day.

Addressing a seminar in New Delhi Friday, India's Rural Development Minister, Jairam Ramesh, says that nutrition and health remain critical issues for India.

"A country like Kenya has had a faster decline in infant mortality rates in the last five years than what India has witnessed in the last 25 years. We all know that the health system in India has collapsed. In many of the poor parts of India in fact, the public health system simply does not exist," Ramesh says.

Development economists say while foreign aid may only add up to a small amount, it makes a significant impact on poverty alleviation programs, and the time to "disengage" is not right. An author and commentator in New Delhi, Gurcharan Das, agrees.

"For the very poor it does matter, and very often development aid of this kind brings with it organization and technology and method of distribution which make it more efficient," Das says.

The decision to end British aid comes as many donor countries take a closer look at the need for foreign aid. It also comes at a time of economic gloom in Britain, where some have questioned handouts to Asia's third largest economy

- VOA News

## US concerned about attacks on students in Sri Lanka North

The United States Embassy in Colombo is concerned about recent threats to freedom of expression in Sri Lanka.

The November 28 beating of a reporter in Jaffna, harassment by Government of Sri Lanka officials of independent media outlets, and searches

without warrants of journalists all serve to stifle media freedom. Additionally, the Embassy is greatly concerned about reports of attacks on students in Jaffna. We call upon authorities to exercise restraint and respect peaceful demonstrations.

[US Embassy Press Release]

## Bangladesh Garment Workers Protest Deadly Blaze

Thousands of garment workers took to the streets of Bangladesh on Nov 26th to protest a factory blaze that killed at least 110 people.

Demonstrators blocked a major highway and some threw stones at a factory nearby on the outskirts of the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka.

Hundreds of workers were trapped in the fire that began late Saturday at the Tazreen Fashion factory outside Dhaka. Fire officials say a lack of emergency exits contributed to the deaths, with many workers jumping out of the multi-story building after being trapped in the blaze. Authorities are unsure what caused the fire.

The government has announced a national day of mourning for Nov 27th.

Bangladesh has about 4,000 garment factories that make clothes for international brands. The country earns about \$20 billion annually from overseas clothing sales, roughly 80 percent of its exports.

U.S. retailer Walmart issued a statement saying, "while we are trying to determine if the factory has a current

relationship with Walmart or one of our suppliers, fire safety is a critically important area of Walmart's factory audit program and we have been working across the apparel industry to improve fire safety education and training in Bangladesh."

A document posted on Tazreen Fashions' website said an audit conducted by an "ethical sourcing" assessor for Walmart gave the clothing manufacturer a "high-risk" safety rating. The website did not give details.

Work conditions at the country's garment factories are notoriously poor. Officials say at least 500 people have died in Bangladesh in garment factory accidents and fires since 2006. Activists say plant owners are rarely prosecuted for poor safety conditions.

On Monday, firefighters brought a new blaze at another garment factory outside Dhaka under control. Fire officials say there were no casualties at the 12-story building that contains several factories. The fire caused considerable damage to the building.

- VOA News

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# Changing face of Sri Lanka

In the future visitors to the Paradise Isle, Sri Lanka, will find most parts of the country, particularly the City of Colombo veiled in the garb of modernity. The skyline of the city of Colombo will definitely be changed once the numerous skyscrapers proposed under the Governments various multi million dollar development projects get off the ground.

Many strategic places within the city and the outskirts will be given a modern face lift bringing the country's infrastructure and architecture in line with international standards. While some of the modernization projects have already been initiated with the collaboration of foreign companies, others are yet to be launched with another a few more in the blueprint stage. Even though the question 'whether the country should venture into such high tech, high cost development projects to boost her image' is a moot point among many people, Sri Lankans both here and abroad can certainly boast about the changing face of their motherland in the near future.

The myriads of state of the art architectural structures such as spiraling skyscrapers that dot the skyline, modern sales outlets, boutique hotels and luxury apartment/office buildings with state of the art facilities, redesigned theme parks, recreation areas and sidewalks will be on par with those of most modern cities in developed countries.

Today everywhere one looks there is construction of some sort taking place, especially in the city of Colombo which is being spruced up with the accent on beautification. Gone are the parapet walls of most State buildings, in keeping with the modern 'open concept' theme in landscaping promoted under the Colombo city beautification and development programme. Streamlined constructions are



now being witnessed in the entire country and the infrastructure development too has escalated resulting in the Southern Expressway, well carpeted roadways such as the A! 2 and fly overs. Recently a rest area was declared open in Welipenna along the Southern Expressway. It would comprise of restaurants, spas, shops, coffee bars, a petrol filling station, large car park and also a children's park. The Makumbura Town too is to be developed in a similar fashion, while the Southern Expressway itself will be extended to Godagama, in Matara.

Along with these ongoing infrastructure development projects there are many ambitious projects taking shape in various parts of the country and the city of Colombo in particular. Steps have been taken to modernize some of the existing old colonial edifices while retaining its old world charm and also construct new ones infusing evolving architectural concepts.



One such project is the Colombo Town Hall Square project to be carried out with World Bank funding. Under the joint project by the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) and the Urban Development Authority (UDA), not only the Town Hall and its immediate precincts but also the Vihara Maha Devi park will be converted into a park of international standard. The Urban Development Authority which has now become part of the Defense Ministry has mapped out a series of programmes to be carried out under the development and beautification projects which include development of the Beira Lake, Race Course and D. R. Wijewardena Mawatha areas. Part of the Race Course building has already been converted into an upmarket shopping complex and the massive white edifice is a dazzling sight. Work on the adjacent structures are nearing completion and they will soon enhance the ambience of the entire area.

The USD 460 m. Krrish Square is yet

another ambitious development project that would get off the ground in the near future on a four acre plot of land in the heart of Fort, Colombo by the Indian Krrish Group. The Public Works Department (PWD) building was legally handed over to the Indian company recently by the UDA, and renovation work is already underway. With lofty towers akin to the Petronas Towers in Malaysia, the project will alter the skyline of the city of Colombo in a big way. Three towers will comprise luxurious apartments while the fourth tower will house a seven star hotel. The gigantic 350 metre, 11 storeyd Lotus Tower with its proposed revolving restaurant, along D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10 will also add to the glory of ultra modern structures in the country. It will be the tallest multi functional tower in the South East Asian region and will be visible to India and Bangladesh.

The overall development of Colombo Harbour too is on the pipeline. The 230 hectares to be developed under the Colombo Harbour Expansion programme will include properly designed roadways, mariners, hotels, apartments, a mini golf course and recreational areas. Construction work is scheduled to start next year.

The Government has also allocated a sum of Rs 328 million to give a facelift to the John De Silva Memorial Theatre and the National Art Gallery in Colombo. Renovations are expected to commence in December under the ageis of the Culture and Arts Ministry and the Department of Cultural Affairs.

The recreational area on the broad way in Battaramulla is another area that would leave many a visitor awe-struck with the 3 D art done along it for the first time in Sri Lanka. Final year University students entrusted with the task of beautifying the area have come up with the idea of having 3 D waterfalls and precipices that are really impressive.

- Colombo Correspondent

## Red rain in Sri Lanka due to algae

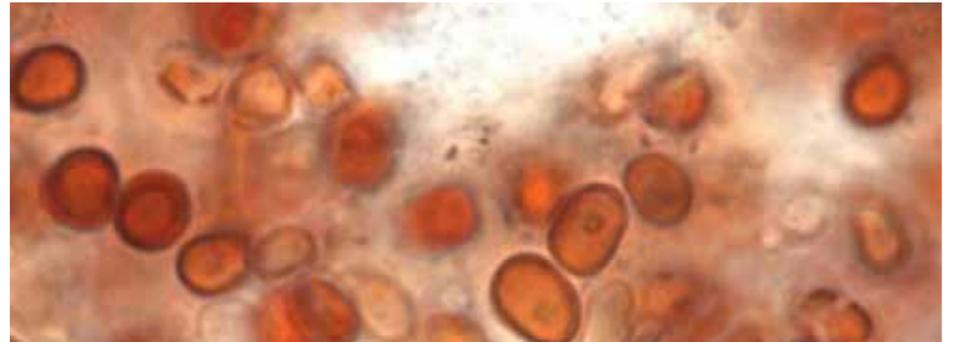
Considering the numerous incidents of phenomenal activities that were reported from various corners of the country during the recent past, it was no surprise that the residents of Sevanagala and Moneragala areas were greatly disturbed by the discovery of red coloured rainwater that was collected in various pockets in the vicinity following showers on November 15. Both the print and electronic media highlighted this phenomenon with some media even going to the extent of hinting at possible alien connections.

However, the blood coloured rain water found in several areas such as Manampitiya, Hingurakgoda and Padiyathalawa which was subject to several tests buy the experts at the Medical Research Institute (MRI) proved to be

the result of algae activity. This allayed the fears of any alien or meteoritic influences the residents nursed following the discovery.

The Director of the MRI, Dr. Anil Samaranayake instructed the MRI officials to carry out DNA testings to determine the propagation speed of the harmless, single-celled bacteria which has been identified as Trachelomonas. He explained that the bacteria which spread very fast also had the ability to change colours from green to red depending on the environment.

Meanwhile Professor Chandana Jayaratne of the Colombo University's Department of Physics has said that this type of algae showers, which results in blood-like rain, is a common phenomenon in Kerala, Southern India. There had



been several reports of red rain or blood rain (as it is also called by the experts) as far back as 1896, with the most recent one being in June this year. The Indian experts who had carried out research into these phenomena too had concluded that this occurred due to a locally prolific terrestrial algae.

The media hype and numerous theories put forward about alien invasions

and the possibility of the world ending on December 21, the date on which the ancient Mayan calendar ends, has triggered a panic button in most people, especially those in the villages. Any occurrence out of the ordinary is naturally connected to extra-terrestrial activity or as signs of an impending natural disaster.

- Colombo Correspondent



# Needs continue to outstrip housing construction in war ravaged Sri Lanka North

Rajina Mary, a 38-year-old widow and mother of four looks at her new home in Sri Lanka's northern former conflict zone as if admiring a long-lost relative. But in reality, the home's mostly unplastered walls bruise anyone who leans on them too hard, and there are large holes in the walls for non-existent windows and doors; the floor is cemented only in the living area.

No one wants to stay indoors between mid-morning and late-afternoon because the house heats up like a furnace due to asbestos roofing sheets.

"I need a ceiling," Mary told IRIN without removing her gaze from the home's skeleton. But she is still proud, knowing that she is an exception among 135,000 returnee families to be in any type of permanent housing - even if unfinished. "It may not be much, but it is my house. My new house."

In neighbouring Ambankulam village, Maheswari Salvadorai, 39, ran out of money to finish her home, which her

family started building in 2009 after they left a camp for displaced persons. Her family now retreats behind the unfinished home to a shed with tin roofing and mud walls, where they feel safer. "The doors and windows are still not secure, so we sleep in the old house," Maheswari said.

For these two women and their families, the two-and-a-half years it took them to get into permanent housing was a relatively short period. Tens of thousands of other families are facing an indefinite wait, say aid workers.

Donors and the government have pledged to build or repair a total of around 78,000 homes, of which the Indian government is funding 43,000. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) estimates war returnees need 170,000 homes.

For homes financed by the Indian government future occupants receive US\$3,800 in instalments, based on their

construction progress.

The spokesperson of the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka, Birender Yadav, told IRIN the goal is to build 10,000 homes by August 2013.

But this still leaves tens of thousands in need of housing, said Mahesh Gunasekera, IFRC's senior programme coordinator for northern Sri Lanka, which is overseeing 20,000 new housing constructions, the most of any group working in the north. "I have not come across a major project with this level of funding difficulties."

Gunasekera, who has worked on similar projects in Pakistan, Sudan and Nepal, calculated 129,000 homes must be constructed anew, while another 41,000 need "extensive" repairs.

Funding trends do not bode well for housing, he added. "Even if we feel that we can secure funding for 100,000 units, we are still left with a caseload of 70,000."

Construction of some 21,000 homes was completed as of 30 September and was under way on nearly 4,100 others, based on the most recent figures available from UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). Major repairs were completed on nearly 5,800 homes. About 550 "core houses" - basic, habitable structures, which occupants can later expand - were completed.

The IFRC's estimate of the north's housing needs do not cover the some 100,000 refugees expected to return from India, said Gunasekera.

He said IFRC expects them to return once the north reaches some level of normalcy. While not likely to happen "anytime soon", the agency's concern is that if and once housing is completed for current returnees, another wave will arrive.

According to Indian government figures, there are more than 100,000 ethnic Tamil Sri Lankans in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

"Housing has always been a top need, even before the first returns began," said Roopavathi Ketheeswaran, the top government official in Kilinochchi District in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, returnees Mary and Salvadorai are questioning whether the cost to get into their new homes is worth it. Maheswari pawned \$2000 worth of gold jewellery to a local bank to pay housing contractors. (A household's average annual income is a little over \$3,200).

Each took out \$2500 in loans to supplement the \$3,200 they each received from IFRC - which still turned out to be insufficient to build back to what they had before the war - **IRIN News**

(IRIN, the humanitarian news and analysis service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)

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

### Citi College 2012 Graduation Day

Citi College graduating class of 2012 celebrated their annual graduation ceremony in Toronto on November 17, 2012. A total of 95 graduates from various fulltime diploma programs graduated on Nov 17, 2012.

Citi College campus director Mr. Rainer Moeller delivered the welcome speech, College's job search instructor Ms. Rose Bellini delivered the convocation speech, and the event was coordinated by the college registrar Ms. Zahra Ali and Master of ceremony Ms. Jax Species.

Graduate Catherine Jimenez said the skills she learned at Citi College led her towards her job "a dream come true". Mr. Sathian Karunanathan a Network Engineering graduate told that the skills he learned from Citi College led him to his current job working as an IT manager at a leading radio station in Toronto. Other graduates Cherriti Sullivan, Andria Tucker, Vasantha Sritharan and Katherine Rybnikar in their speech thanked their instructors and admin staff for letting them have a wonderful learning experience and skills gained in short period of time.

The event came to an end with the vote thanks given by director of studies Mr. Thesa Theiventhiran.





# Obama and the Triumph of Democracy

By. JJ Atputharajah

The re-election of Barack Obama as the president of the US can be described as a triumph of democracy. The recent election was said to be a neck to neck fight and that it would be difficult for Obama to get re-elected. Some even said that the Americans have tolerated a black man for four years and it will not be allowed to continue. Yes; the Republicans fought tooth and nail to get Obama out but the democratic forces in the US rallied together and put the right man back in power. It was Obama's all inclusive democratic approach that triumphed over vested interests and capitalist mentality. The success also vindicates the maturity of American democracy. In his acceptance speech Obama mentioned about his ideals being watered by the principles of American democracy. His ideals reflected those of Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King. Obama has to face numerous problems which were purely circumstantial. Any candidate at US elections at this juncture has to face these problems. Unemployment at historic levels, economic disasters, 'sandy' thunderstorm all coalesced together to give him the most insurmountable problems. Yet he did not relent. He and his supporters fought hard and came as victors.

Obama succeeded due to the support of multiculturalism which has emerged as a powerful factor in American politics. The US is like Canada, a country of immigrants, though the whites are well entrenched in powerful positions financially and ethnically. The African, Hispanic and Asian Americans joining hands with progressive urban white voters together with large numbers of women who stood firm on their reproductive rights and the need for a more liberal society. Though Obama could not put in to practice many of the promises he made, people were able to visualize his difficulties and gave him the backing he very badly needed to succeed. Obama's principles reflected the innovative thinking of US liberalism. His success in states like Ohio, Florida and Virginia prove his popularity with immigrants from nearby countries.

The working class white Americans also had common cause with multi-ethnic groups. Obama's massive job stimulation programs became popular with these groups. The heavily industrialized states of the mid-east coalesced with the Democratic diversity coalition. Obama's all-inclusive approach had brought him the victory but his second presidency is faced with numerous problems. The coun-



try is politically divided into the blues and the reds-with the senate in control of the former and the house of representatives in the hands of the latter. Obama is intent on putting into practice the principles of democracy by calling the opposition for discussion to solve the country's economic problem and the fiscal cliff. The immigration policy of the Democratic Party appealed to the voters especially in Florida. Romney's strategy of blaming Obama for everything did not work. Majority voters believed that Obama inherited the economic problems from the

Bush administration.

Obama's success was also due to his progressive, liberal policies that appealed to majority of the American voters. It is indeed inevitable that a man with global links like Obama-Indonesia, Kenya, Hawaii - should succeed in these times of globalization.

Obama also had the advantage of being the incumbent. He attracted the public eye by responding to crises. The new Pew Research Center poll suggested that Obama's response to Hurricane Sandy helped his image the week before the election.

All in all it is indeed a victory for democracy. The strength of democracy lies in the fact that the majority opinion is mostly valued. The fact that democracy triumphed in the US, reinforces the confidence in democracy throughout the world. People all over the world will continue to think that America is a country that they can look up to for the challenges to democracy in their countries. Though all kinds of vested interests and capitalism were welded together to stop Obama from winning his second term of presidency, the forces of democracy brought him the victory. It is true that his problems are herculean but he will pursue for success in spite of the odds against him.

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# Common questions you may have about your children dental health!

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

I have received a few comments after reading my last month article about oral cancer. It appears that the readers would like to get the information and answers in an easily understandable format to the common questions they have about their health issues.

Here are the answers to the common important questions you may have about your children dental health,

## When should I take my child to the dentist for the first time?

It's important to get an early start on dental care, so that your child will learn that visiting the dentist is a regular part of health care. The first step is to choose a dentist for your child.

It may be your own dentist or one who specializes in treating children (Pediatric dentist). Once you have selected a dentist, call the office to find out at what age he or she prefers to see child patients for the first time. Canadian Dental Association encourages the assessment of infants, by a dentist, within 6 months of the first tooth coming in the mouth or by one year of age. The goal is to have your child visit the dentist before there is a problem with his or her teeth. In most cases, a dental exam every six months will let your child's dentist catch small problems early.

It's important to make the first visit a positive experience for your child - one reason why it's best to visit before a problem develops. If you think there is a problem, however, take your child to the dentist right away, no matter what age.

If you are a nervous dental patient, ask your spouse or another family member to take the child for the appointment. If your child senses that you are nervous, he or she may feel nervous too. When you talk to your child about going to the dentist, explain what will happen without adding things like "it won't hurt" or "don't be scared."

Be sure to get an early start on regular dental care at home. Start cleaning your child's mouth with a soft damp cloth before teeth come in and continue with a soft toothbrush once he or she has a first tooth. Limit the number of sugary treats you give your child, and focus on healthy food choices from the very beginning.

## Why do you have to take your child for dental check up?

You can find out if the cleaning you do at home is working.

Your dentist can find problems right away and fix them.

Your child can learn that going to the dentist helps prevent problems.

Your child's dentist may also talk to you about fluoride.

Once your child has permanent molars, your dentist may suggest sealing them to protect them from cavities. A sealant is a kind of plastic that is put on the chewing surface of the molars. The plastic seals the tooth and makes it less likely to trap food and germs.

When your child goes for a dental exam, your dentist can tell you if crooked or crowded teeth may cause problems. In many cases, crooked teeth straighten out as the child's jaw grows and the rest of the teeth come in.

If they do not straighten out, your child may have a bite problem (also known as malocclusion). This can cause problems with eating and with teeth cleaning. It can also affect your child's looks and make him or her feel out of place. Your dentist can suggest ways to treat this, or refer your child to a dental specialist (Orthodontist).

## Why do they take the Dental X-rays?

Only the X-rays can show decay or cavity between the teeth. They will also show if the teeth are coming in the way they should.

## Why bother to fill a baby tooth, since the tooth is going to fall out anyway?

Some primary (or baby) teeth will be in your child's mouth until age 12. The tooth that needs to be fixed may be one of those.

Broken teeth or teeth that are infected can hurt your child's health and the way your child feels about him or herself.

To do a filling, the dentist removes the decay and "fills" the hole with metal, plastic or other material. A filling can be a cheap and easy way to fix a problem that could be painful and cost more later because it stops decay from spreading deeper into the tooth.

If a filling is not done and decay spreads, the tooth may need to be pulled out. If this happens, your child may need a space maintainer to hold space for the permanent tooth.

When a baby (or primary) tooth is missing, the teeth on each side may move into the space. They can block the permanent tooth from coming in. To hold the space, your dentist may put a plastic or metal space maintainer on the teeth on each side of the space, to keep the teeth from moving in.

## Cleaning Teeth?

Young children are not able to clean their own teeth. As a parent, you must do it for them when they are very young and do it with them, as they get older.

When your child can write (not print) his or her name, your child is ready to do

a good job brushing. You should check to make sure your child does a good job.

You should start cleaning your child's mouth even before your child has teeth. It gets both you and your child into the habit of keeping the mouth clean, and it gives baby (or primary) teeth a clean place to come into. The goal is to wipe all parts of the gums and teeth.

Here's how to do it:

Lie your baby in a comfortable place.

Make sure you can see into your baby's mouth.

Use a soft baby brush or wrap your finger in a clean, damp washcloth. Then, brush or wipe your baby's gums and teeth.

Do not use toothpaste until your child has teeth.

## How to Brush?



**Step 1** Hold the toothbrush at a 45-degree angle to the teeth. Point the bristles to where the gums and teeth meet.

**Step 2** Use gentle circles. Do not scrub. Clean every surface of every tooth. For the front teeth, use the "toe" or front part of the brush. The key word is gentle. You can hurt the gums by brushing too hard.

## Any Toothbrush?

The best kind of brush is soft, with rounded bristles. It should be the right size for your child's mouth. You will need to buy a new toothbrush at least every 2 or 3 months or if the bristles get bent or worn down, they will not do a good job, and may hurt your child's gums.

## What Toothpaste?

Children under 3 years of age should have their teeth brushed by an adult. The use of fluoridated toothpaste in this age group is determined by the level of risk. Parents should consult a health professional to determine whether a child up to 3 years of age is at risk of developing tooth decay. If such a risk exists, the child's teeth should be brushed by an adult using a minimal amount (a portion the size of a grain of rice) of fluoridated toothpaste. Use of fluoridated toothpaste in a small amount has been determined to achieve a balance between the benefits of fluoride and the risk of developing fluorosis. If the child is not considered to be at risk, the teeth should be brushed by an adult using a toothbrush moistened only with water.

Children from 3 to 6 years of age should be assisted by an adult in brushing their teeth. Only a small amount (a portion the size of a green pea) of fluoridated toothpaste should be used.

Make sure the toothpaste has fluoride and your child spits it out. As excessive swallowing of toothpaste by young children may result in dental fluorosis.

## How to Floss?



**Step 1** Take a piece of floss about as long as your child's arm. Wrap it around your middle fingers, leaving about 2 inches between the hands. Use your index fingers to guide the floss between the teeth.

**Step 2** Slide the floss between the teeth and wrap it into a "C" shape. It should wrap around the base of the tooth, where the tooth meets the gum.

**Step 3** Wipe the tooth from bottom to top 2 or 3 times or more, until it is squeaky clean. Be sure you floss both sides of each tooth, and don't forget the backs of the last molars. Move to a new part of the floss as you move from tooth to tooth.

## Should my child always brush right before bed?

Yes. If you don't get rid of the germs (bacteria) and sugars that cause cavities, they have all night to do their dirty work. Plus, when your child is asleep, he or she does not produce as much spit (or saliva). Saliva helps keep the mouth clean. So brushing at bedtime is very important.

## Nutrition for Children

When your child eats or drinks sugars, the germs (bacteria) in your child's mouth mix with the sugars to make a mild acid. This acid attacks the hard outer layer of teeth (also called enamel). It can make holes (or cavities) in the teeth.

The damage that sugars do depends on how much sugar goes into the mouth and how long it stays in the mouth.

Any kind of sugar will mix with germs in the mouth. Natural sugars can have the same effect on teeth as white (or refined) sugar out of the bag! Many healthy foods contain natural sugars. Milk contains natural sugar.

If you put your child to bed with a bottle of milk, the milk stays in the mouth for a long time. This may cause cavities. Unsweetened fruit juice may have no added sugar, but fruit juice has natural sugars in it. If your child is always sipping juice between meals, the teeth are being coated in sugars over and over again.

**Contd. next page ...**



# Osler Recognizes Sikh Community for Generous Support of Brampton Civic Hospital

To date, the Sikh community has raised over 2.5 million for the hospital

In Brampton, William Osler Health System (Osler) Foundation hosted dignitaries, donors, members of the Sikh community, and Osler staff, physicians and volunteers at a special stewardship event to celebrate the generous support of the Sikh community for Brampton Civic Hospital. To date, the Sikh community has raised \$2,550,450 for the hospital.

"Fundraising for and supporting a state-of-the-art health system has been helped tremendously by the generosity of the Sikh community," said Kulvir Singh Gill, Osler Foundation Board Chair. "In particular, support by the founding members of the Canadian Sikh Campaign has been integral to our Foundation's successful fundraising efforts - including through the "Better Health Radio-thon" and annual Guru Nanak Car Rally - and we thank them for their time, their leadership, and their commitment to Brampton Civic Hospital."

The event also saw the presentation of the Diamond Jubilee Medal to Kulvir Singh Gill by The Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Labour and Minister Responsible for Seniors and MPP, Brampton-Springdale.

"With years of volunteer experience and involvement with various non-profit organizations like Seva Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity - Brampton, and the Sikh Arts Council, Kulvir is a true example of what this prestigious award is all about and certainly deserving of this honour," said The Honourable Linda Jeffrey. "William Osler Health System and its Foundation should be very proud of Kulvir and his contributions to this hospital, this community, and to this country."

Following remarks by Matthew Anderson, Osler President and CEO; Dr. Gurjit Bajwa, Emergency Physician, Etobicoke General Hospital; and Ken Mayhew, Osler Foundation President and CEO, two plaques recognizing the

contributions of the Canadian Sikh Campaign were unveiled. One plaque acknowledges Guru Nanak, after whom Brampton Civic Hospital's Emergency Services department was named and the second plaque recognizes the generosity of the Sikh community and the \$2,550,450 that has been raised to date.

"This recognition event and plaque unveiling is an opportunity to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Canadian Sikh Campaign toward health care excellence at Osler hospitals," said Ken Mayhew, Osler Foundation President and CEO. "This extraordinary effort gained international attention and praise and we look forward to working with the Sikh community in the future as we continue to expand Brampton Civic Hospital's programs and services, and as we redevelop Peel Memorial Hospital to meet the growing needs of our diverse community."

#### ABOUT WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH SYSTEM AND THE FOUNDATION:

William Osler Health System is a hospital system accredited with Exemplary Status from Accreditation Canada serving 1.3 million residents of Brampton, Etobicoke, and surrounding communities of the Central West Local Health Integration Network. Osler has the largest community cancer program in Canada and its emergency departments are among the busiest in Ontario. William Osler Health System Foundation fosters relationships in order to raise funds for Osler's capital, education and research priorities at Brampton Civic Hospital, Etobicoke General Hospital and Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health & Wellness (targeted for completion in 2015-16).

For more information: Cara Francis, External Communications Specialist, William Osler Health System, 905-494-2120 ext. 59467



(From left) Kulvir Singh Gill, William Osler Health System Foundation Board Chair; Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, William Osler Health System; Dr. Gurjit Bajwa, Emergency Physician, William Osler Health System; and Ken Mayhew, William Osler Health System Foundation President and CEO stand beside a plaque recognizing Guru Nanak, after whom the Emergency Services department at Brampton Civic Hospital is named.



(From left) Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, William Osler Health System; Kulvir Singh Gill, William Osler Health System Foundation Board Chair; The Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Labour and Minister Responsible for Seniors and MPP, Brampton-Springdale; and Ken Mayhew, William Osler Health System Foundation President and CEO congratulate Kulvir Singh Gill on receiving a Diamond Jubilee Medal

## Common questions...

Contd. from previous page ...

Water is the best drink to have between meals. Starchy foods, like teething biscuits, break down to make sugars. If these kinds of food stay in your child's mouth long enough, they will make the acid that can cause cavities. Your job is to clean your child's teeth, not to stop your child from having milk, juice, bread or noodles. Your child needs these foods to stay healthy.

Read the labels of the packaged food you buy. By law, everything ingredient in packaged food is listed by weight. So if a

sugar is listed first, you know that there is more sugar than anything else.

These are sugars you can look for on labels: corn sweeteners; corn syrup; dextrose; fructose; glucose; honey; maple syrup; molasses and sucrose.

Also, check to see if liquid medicines (such as cough syrup) have sugars. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to give you medicines that are sugar-free.

#### Snacks

Growing children need and like snacks. Here are some smart ways to

give snacks:

Limit the number of times a day your child eats or drinks sugars. If your child sips juice or pop while playing, he or she will have sugars in the mouth over and over again. Water is the best drink to have between meals.

Do not give your child sugar-rich foods that stay in the mouth for a long time like gum with sugar in it, suckers (or lollipops) and other hard candy. Stay away from soft, sticky sweets that get stuck in the mouth such as toffee, raisins and rolled-up fruit snacks or fruit leather.

Keep good snacks handy where your child can get them. Have carrot sticks or

cheese cubes on the bottom shelf of the fridge. Children like small things like small boxes of cereal, small fruits and vegetables, and small packs of nuts or seeds (provided they are safe for your child). Keep them in a low cupboard.

To keep your child from asking for sweets, do not buy them. If they are not in the house, you can't give them out. If you do serve sweets, limit them to meals. When your child is eating a meal, there is more saliva in the mouth. This helps to wash away the sugars.

Source: Ontario Dental Association and Canadian Dental Association



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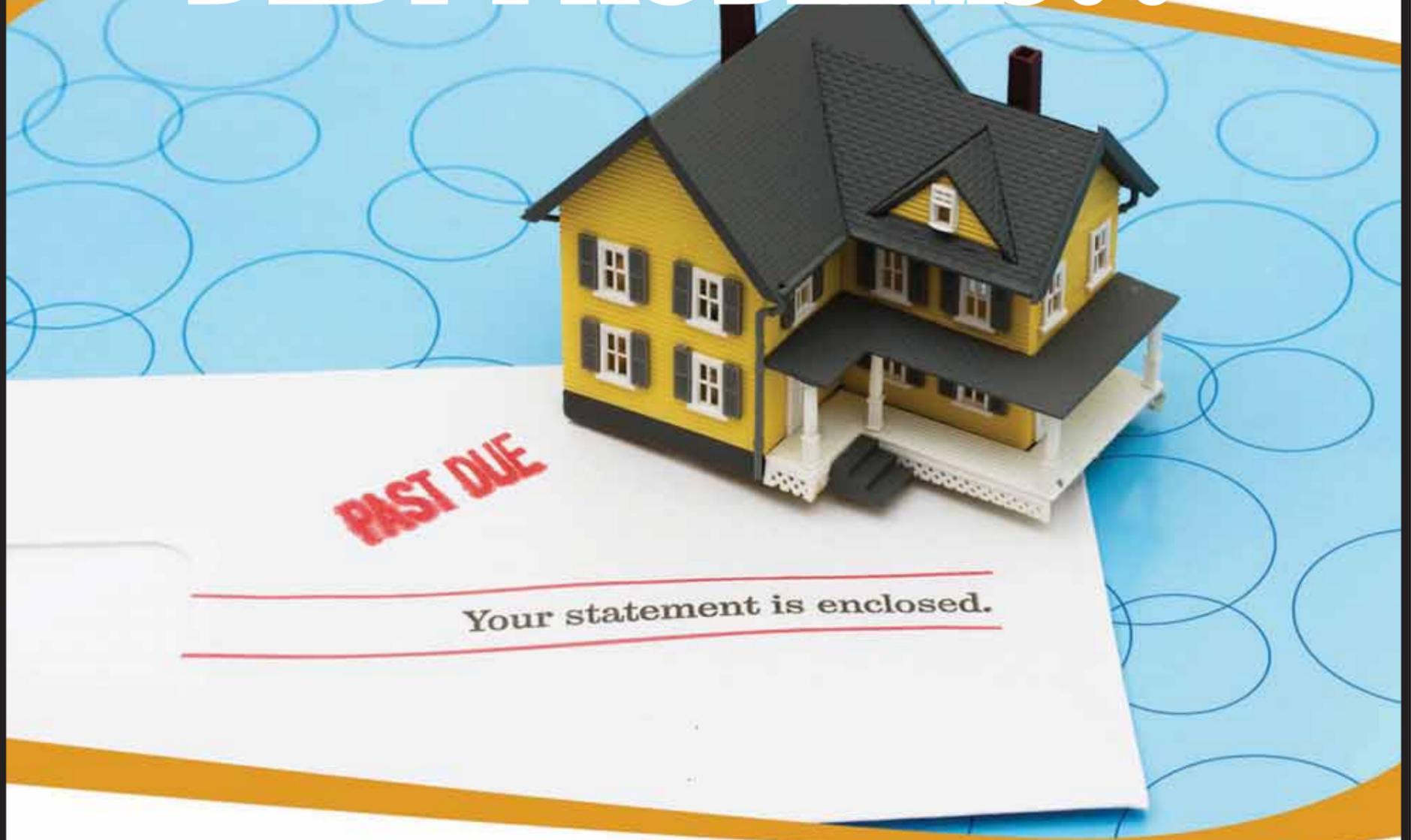
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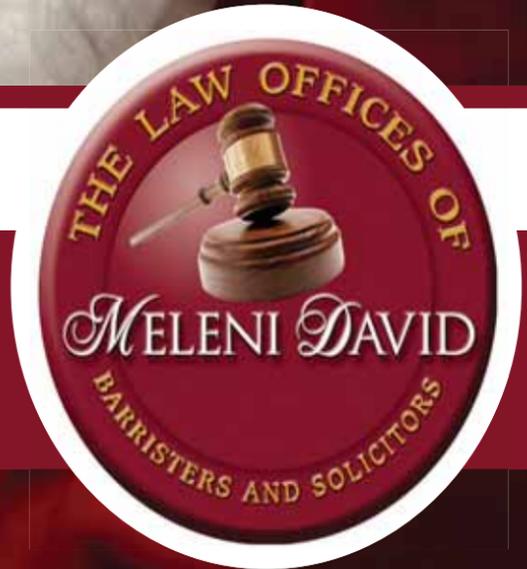
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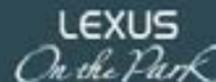
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## Gala raises \$1 million to support Chronic Kidney Disease program at The Scarborough Hospital



Dr. Neville G. Poy (middle) was honoured for his outstanding accomplishments at the first ever Scarborough World Gala Lifetime Achievement Award, which raised \$1 million for the Chronic Kidney Disease program at TSH.

Thanks a million to all staff, volunteers, physicians and community members who supported the first ever Scarborough World Gala Lifetime Achievement Award hosted on November 10 by The Scarborough Hospital Foundation.

The Foundation reached its goal to raise \$1 million for the Chronic Kidney Disease program at The Scarborough Hospital, which is one of the largest in North America.

“Supporting the Chronic Kidney Disease program is a major goal for the Foundation due to the thousands of patients in our community who live with this disease,”

says Michael Mazza, President of The Scarborough Hospital Foundation. “We want to ensure our patients receive outstanding quality of care in a modern facility, while remaining close to home.”

The event, hosted by CTV News personality, Anwar Knight, also honoured Dr. Neville G. Poy, a dedicated surgeon, researcher and community leader whose life’s work has had a profound and positive effect on the Scarborough and Greater Toronto Community.

He was Director of the First Burn Unit in Canada, and his keen interest in Hand

Reconstructive Surgery led to appointments in numerous educational and executive roles within the American Association for Surgery of the Hand. Dr. Poy has been active in the medical community as President of the Ontario Medical Association, Plastic Surgery Section, and President of the Sydenham Club, and was the first honorary member of the medical staff at The Scarborough Hospital.

Visit [www.tsh.to](http://www.tsh.to) for links to photos from the gala as well as two videos that were produced and unveiled for this special event.

## THE SCARBOROUGH HOSPITAL'S PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED AS LEADING PRACTICES

Accreditation Canada has recognized four of The Scarborough Hospital’s innovative programs as Leading Practices.

The Hospitalist Model of Care, the Early Pregnancy Assessment Clinic (EPAC), Paedlink and GAIN Geriatric Clinic were all recognized as noteworthy examples of high-quality leadership and service delivery.

The GAIN Geriatric Clinic opened in January 2010. GAIN is a regional partnership between TSH and three other hospitals and CCAC that work collaboratively with the Geriatric Emergency Management (GEM) Nurse, other Emergency Department professionals, inpatient teams and community primary care providers. They support seniors’ safety and capacity to remain at home and independent for as long as possible.

“Our GAIN Clinic is comprised of a team of innovative professionals working together to provide our patients with the right care, in the right place. This team works with high-risk seniors to help them to be able to remain in their home, and out of the Emergency Department,” says Debbie Driver, Nurse Practitioner, Clinic Lead. “The recognition of Accreditation Canada acknowledges the hard work of our dedicated staff.”

From April to June 2012, 88 per cent of seniors who were seen in the GAIN Clinic avoided repeat trips to the ED within one month of their visit.

The Paedlink and EPAC programs are under the leadership of Barbara Milana Scott, Patient Care

Director, Maternal Newborn & Child Care.

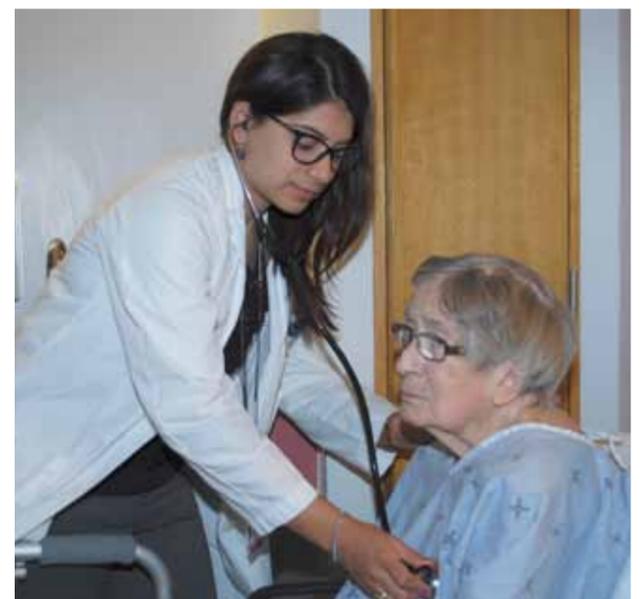
“This recognition highlights the commitment of staff to providing sustainable, creative and innovative services,” she says. “Our work in these two programs is helping make health care safer and more quality focused for clients and their families.”

EPAC is open to all pregnant patients at less than 13 weeks gestation with early pregnancy complications. The Clinic triages, evaluates, assesses and treat patients referred from family physicians, the Emergency Department, midwives, obstetricians, and other external partners. Care is provided by a Registered Nurse and an Obstetrician.

PaedLink diverts or expedites the care of low acuity pediatric patients (triage levels 3, 4 and 5) away from the ED to a PaedLink Clinic on the Paediatric Unit. Since its inception in 2007, it has helped reduce ED wait times by 42 per cent, to less than three hours from an average four-and-a-half hours.

The Hospitalist program, which was launched at the General campus in July 2010, was expanded to Birchmount in August. It fosters an inter-professional team approach to the care of medicine inpatients and creates a continuity of care for the patient and the team.

“We are proud of our Hospitalist program and pleased to see it recognized as a Leading Practice by Accreditation Canada,” says Nancy Veloso, Patient Care Director, Medicine. “With the Hospitalist program we see improved patient flow, patient experience and a



Hospitalist Dr. Neetu Nebhwani checks on Hubertina Galeza at the Birchmount campus.

better transition back into the community.”

Accreditation Canada will formally recognize TSH’s Leading Practices during Accreditation Canada’s annual Quality Conference in February 2013.

## Physicians launch fundraising campaign for Surgical Suites

Buoyed by the success of the Physician Campaign at the Birchmount campus to raise money for the new MRI, The Scarborough Hospital Foundation and physicians are poised to work together to raise funds towards the construction of new surgical suites at the General campus.

With the bar set high by physicians at the Birchmount campus – who raised \$1.2 million for their MRI campaign – Drs. Lloyd Carlsen and Pervez Ali, co-chairs of the Physician Campaign, hope they can convince 100 per cent of their physician colleagues at the General campus to donate to the new surgical suites.

“We would love to see us reach \$2 million towards that \$25 million goal,” say Drs. Carlsen (Plastic Surgeon) and Ali (Orthopaedic Surgeon).

With his long-time association with TSH, Dr. Carlsen thinks it’s important for TSH physicians to support the hospital to which they belong.

“It will benefit the surgeons, nursing staff and, above all, our patients, if we can bring our surgical suites up to current Canadian standards,” Dr. Carlsen explains. “If we have good operating



rooms inside a great facility like TSH, we will only enhance the quality of care in our communities.”

Much has taken place in our Operating Rooms over the decades that have kept TSH at the surgical forefront:

- Over the decades, Dr. Carlsen has donated towards equipment at what was then known as The Scarborough General Hospital: a microscope for the OR used by plastic surgeons and otolaryngologists, helping position

the hospital on the leading edge of the new field of microsurgery; a Coherent ultra pulse laser used by gynaecologists and the plastic surgeons; and he helped develop and fund a burn unit at the hospital, the first burn unit in Canada.

- More than 20 years ago, Dr. David Hodgkiss performed the first endoscopic gallbladder removal in a community hospital.
- Dr. Jim Rathbun,

internationally known for knee surgery, hosts surgeons from the U.S., Central and South America who come here to learn his techniques.

- In the 1970s and 1980s, when we had a large trauma service, a neurosurgical unit was developed. At that time, we were performing more neurosurgeries than downtown hospitals.

“As you can see, The Scarborough Hospital has always been on the leading edge of surgery, and the best way to continue to be at the leading edge is to build new surgical suites,” adds Dr. Carlsen, who reminds his physician colleagues that, “By donating, you are enhancing the hospital to which you belong and, let’s face it, you or a family member may need to be cared for in our surgical suites, and I’m sure you want to be cared for in ORs that are updated and at current standards.”

To view a video that showcases the need for new surgical suites, click on the link on our website at [www.tsh.to](http://www.tsh.to) and please feel free to share it with friends via email or through your social networks.



## New Centre for Complex Diabetes Care offers a team approach to patients

A new Centre for Complex Diabetes Care at The Scarborough Hospital will provide a 'one-stop shop' to patients living with complex diabetes.

Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, announced the new centre November 8 at The Scarborough Hospital's General campus. It is a project of the Central East Community Care Access Centre in partnership with Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Lakeridge Health and TSH.

"Diabetes is a disease that affects hundreds of thousands of Ontarians – and if left unmanaged, the complications can be serious. That's why our government is helping patients manage diabetes through the Ontario Diabetes Strategy and the high quality, comprehensive care offered by these new Centres for Complex Diabetes Care," she says.

There are currently 1.2 million Ontarians with diabetes, and with Scarborough's diverse population it is home to many people who are at a greater risk for diabetes, including those of Asian, South Asian and African descent.

"For people who have complex diabetes it's important they have a one-stop shop to get all the care they need," the Minister says.

The new centres are staffed by a specialized team of case managers, nurses, nurse practitioners, doctors, social workers, pharmacists and registered dietitians to help patients manage their diabetes through individualized support.

Dr. Paul Tam, TSH's Medical Director of Nephrology and Chronic Disease Management Lead, has been working with diabetes patients for 30 years.

"If this kind of team approach had existed back when I started it would have been heaven," he said. "A centre like this is a place where all of a patient's care will be co-ordinated."

Care includes stabilization and management of blood sugar, eye monitoring, counselling and mental health supports, insulin administration and monitoring, nutritional counselling and diet planning, monitoring and management of related cardiovascular health needs, and foot and wound care.

Garth Clarke has been receiving care for his diabetes at TSH since 2010. He was referred to the CCDC in September; because of its team approach he's gone from managing his disease on "autopilot" to taking charge of his health.

"It's great because they fashion everything to your unique needs," he says. "I'm feeling much better and things are looking better."

The addition of the CCDC at the General campus allows TSH to better treat its diverse community.

"As a leader in chronic disease management, The Scarborough Hospital is thrilled to be able to add the Centre for Complex Diabetes Care to our roster of specialized services. I am confident that this centre will result in



Health Minister Deb Matthews speaks with patient Garth Clarke about the new Centre for Complex Diabetes Care

fewer complications associated with diabetes, including reducing or delaying the need for dialysis, which will help us achieve our mission of providing an outstanding care experience that meets the unique needs of each and every patient," says Dr. John Wright, TSH President and CEO.

## THE SCARBOROUGH HOSPITAL ACHIEVES ACCREDITATION

### Surveyors praise hospital for 'era of transparency'

The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) was recognized for four quality leading practices and praised on "the cooperation and transparency of both staff and physicians" as it received a three-year accreditation from Accreditation Canada.

The Accreditation Canada Surveyors also granted TSH a 98.6 per cent overall compliance rate within all quality standards – higher than the 96 per cent it received in 2009.

"The Surveyors' report praises us on so many levels, including for our wide engagement of the community, staff, physicians and board in developing our Mission, Vision and Values which, as they state in their report, 'appear to resonate with staff members and drive decision-making,'" says Marla Fryers, Vice President, Clinical Operations at TSH.

Accreditation Canada is a not-for-profit, independent organization that provides healthcare organizations with a rigorous and comprehensive accreditation process. It sets standards for quality and safety in healthcare, and fosters ongoing quality improvement based on evidence-based standards and external peer review.

TSH hosted five Surveyors in late October 2012 and underwent a thorough week-long evaluation of both the General and Birchmount campuses. The hospital's community partners were also interviewed by the Surveyors.

The final Accreditation Canada report includes numerous positive comments about TSH's overall care delivery, citing the successful introduction of the new Model of I-CARE for nursing professionals and the introduction of the Hospitalist program.

"The value of engaging the community in service planning is ingrained in the culture of the organization, as is the engagement of physicians," the report's summary states. "The organization uses a wide variety of information about the community to assist in planning the scope of services. Staff members repeatedly reference a new era of transparency. Goals and objectives of the programs are clearly aligned with the goals and objectives of the strategic plan, and are measured and reported to the board of directors on a quarterly basis."

The next accreditation takes place in 2015.

## Survey seeks input on future of healthcare in Scarborough

The way that patients in Ontario receive healthcare is changing, and The Scarborough Hospital wants your input on the best ways to make those changes work for you and your family.

Community members are encouraged to share their feedback using a short online survey at <http://tshconsult.ca>

The survey is part of the hospital's efforts to engage the community on issues around health system transformation, and the need to refresh its strategic plan to adapt to the province's new funding model.

The province is moving from a funding model that is focused on healthcare providers, such as hospitals, to one that is focused on patients. For patients, this will mean receiving the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

For hospitals, it will mean that some services will move into community clinics, as long as they can be offered at the same high quality and at less cost. Other services now delivered by a number of hospitals in one area will be consolidated so that they can specialize, improving patient care and focusing on services that can only be done in acute care hospital settings.

As a result of this patient-centred approach to healthcare, The Scarborough Hospital must find \$17-\$20 million in savings under the new funding model in its 2013-2014 fiscal year to:

### Balance its budget

### Ensure that it has the cash flow needed to reduce its reliance on credit

### Invest in equipment, systems, buildings and priority areas.

The hospital is looking for community feedback on advice on what factors should be taken into account as it moves into a new era of patient-centred care and makes decisions on what hospital services should be provided and where.

More details about health system transformation and the process to refresh the hospital's strategic plan can be found online at [www.tsh.to](http://www.tsh.to)

## TSH's longest serving employees can be found in Tower Paediatrics

Much has changed in the past 40 years in the paediatric unit at the General campus of The Scarborough Hospital, but two things have stayed constant.

Paediatric RNs Kim Wang and Rita Clapperton recently celebrated a milestone of 40 years of service with The Scarborough Hospital and both have spent their entire TSH careers in paediatrics.

Kim arrived in Canada from Singapore in 1970 to study nursing in Thunder Bay; upon completion of her two-year-program she found herself competing against nurses who had completed the two-plus program, which meant they had a year of experience, so she started applying everywhere.

After applying to 44 hospitals, she found herself in Scarborough; she was drawn by its "small town" charm.

"Coming from Thunder Bay, I wanted another small town. I really liked small towns, they are friendlier," she says. "Scarborough was a small town."

The small town hospital Kim started working at on September, 25, 1972 has become a large and diverse city hospital, but the passion and compassion Kim has for her young patients and their families has stayed a constant through four decades.

"I love to take care of children," she says. "I get so much reward when I see them get better."

It was that love of her job that kept her at one hospital, in one department, for so long. Paediatrics is also a pretty special place – a fact to which Rita can attest.

"We're like a little family. There is good support here when you're having difficulties," she says.

Many of the nurses in the department have worked there for more than 20 years. They know each other well.

"We all work together, we help each other," she says.

Rita came to Scarborough after graduating from school in London, Ontario. She spent four years in paediatrics at Rouge Valley Centenary before making the move to the General in October 1972.

Back in the 1960s, Rita said there weren't a lot of career choices for women, but she's happy with the one she made.

"It was teacher, nurse or secretary; at that time, you didn't have the choice like now," she says. "I was happy that I picked nursing because it was the right choice."

Despite reaching a milestone few do in their career, neither Kim nor Rita are thinking about retiring anytime soon.

Rita hasn't given the "R" word much thought and Kim plans to work until the day before she turns 66.

"I'm very happy that I have a lot of energy and that I can still do my job well," she says.

And as someone who loves what she does, coming in everyday to take care of TSH's young patients doesn't feel like work anyway.

Rita and Kim are two of 116 TSH employees who reached the milestone of at least 25 years of service this year. They were recognized at a special dinner last month.



Kim Wang and Rita Clapperton have worked in the paediatric unit at The Scarborough Hospital's General campus for 40 years. The two are TSH's longest serving employees.



# Rouge Valley celebrates Patient Appreciation Day

## Annual event thanks patients for choosing RVHS

On Thursday, Nov. 8, Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) celebrated its fourth annual Patient Appreciation Day. The event is a way for the hospital to show their appreciation to their patients who, each day, choose RVHS as their community hospital.

During the event, volunteers acted as greeters, took turns at the entrances of each hospital campus to welcome patients and visitors, offering them a small token of appreciation and directions to where they need to go in the hospital. Management staff members also visited patients throughout the hospital to learn about their experience at RVHS.

Patients received medical diaries in which they can list their medications, and bookmarks in their rooms, thanking

them for choosing RVHS, which has two hospital campuses: Rouge Valley Centenary (RVC) in east Toronto, and Rouge Valley Ajax & Pickering (RVAP) in Ajax. The activities took place at the following times and locations on Thursday:

Rouge Valley Centenary, 2867 Ellesmere Rd., Scarborough - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., front lobby entrance off Neilson Road, and the Margaret Birch Wing entrance, located at the back of the building.

Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering, 580 Harwood Ave. South, Ajax - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., west entrance by the security office, and Harwood Avenue South entrance, by the gift shop.

# Good quality costs less

**RVHS Blog**

**By Rik Ganderton**

RVHS President and CEO

*Presented at RVHS 2012 Annual*

*General Meeting of Members*

It's my pleasure to provide my report on the successes of our team in the last year and to describe how we are preparing to meet the future challenges.

One of our favorite themes, as you know, is: Good quality costs less.

At its simplest, it means getting it right the first time. When we get it right the first time your parent, your daughter, son, or friend, doesn't have to stay in hospital for extra days as the result of an infection acquired in the hospital, or doesn't need to be readmitted because of a complication stemming from our care.

Our community will be pleased to know that our focus on infection rates remains strong. One of the simplest and most effective prevention measures for staff, patients and visitors is hand washing. Our hand hygiene compliance rates were at 80 per cent in 2010-2011, and have improved to over 89 per cent compliance in the last fiscal year. We can improve on that, but 89 per cent is a good start. And I thank our staff, doctors and volunteers for that. As patients and visitors you can help by ensuring you wash your hands entering and leaving the hospital and going in and out of your loved ones room.

**Less waiting - but more improvement needed**

We have continued to focus on emergency department (ED) wait times at both hospital campuses because our



patients are waiting longer than they should. Our patient volumes have increased significantly, with 117,000 emergency patient visits last year across both campuses. The amount of time a patient waits in emergency to be admitted to a bed has decreased from 78.8 hours in 2010-11 to 72.8 hours in 2011-12 at RVAP. This is in part reflective of needing more acute care beds to support this campus but also needing to improve our internal processes significantly. By focusing our efforts more on patient flow, from emergency department to a medical bed, we have already seen things improve to less than 40 hours in the three months to June 30, 2012. This is a great improvement, but still more work to do!

The time a patient at Rouge Valley Centenary waits in emergency to be

# Rouge Valley recognized with gold workplace award

## Hospital recognized in ministry and OHA 2012 Quality Healthcare Workplace Awards



(L - R) Michele Jordan, vice president, women's and children's program, quality improvement and transformation, RVHS; Shelley Davie, healthy workplace coordinator, RVHS; and Kathy Gooding, vice president, human resources; accepted the gold Quality Healthcare Workplace Award on behalf of Rouge Valley.

For the second consecutive year, Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) has been recognized with a gold Quality Healthcare Workplace Award for its actions in creating a healthy workplace for its 3,500 staff, physicians and volunteers.

The Ontario Health Association (OHA) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care - HealthForceOntario, sponsor the award, which is in its third year. RVHS was among 39 health care organizations across Ontario recognized for efforts to improve the workplace in ways that contribute to employees' quality of work life and the quality of the care and services delivered. The winners were honoured during last week's OHA's annual HealthAchieve conference at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

"We're honoured to have received this gold award. The fact that we have won gold two years in a row is significant. It means that while we have done a lot to support a healthy work environment for our staff, physicians and volunteers, and we have managed to stay focused on continuous improvement. Creating a healthy workplace is a priority at RVHS, and we're proud to be recognized," says Kathy Gooding, vice president, human resources, RVHS. She, along with Michele Jordan, vice president, women's and children's program, quality improvement and transformation, and Shelley

Davie, healthy workplace coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of RVHS.

The award has four levels - bronze, silver, gold and platinum - designed to encourage self-evaluation, learning and improvement. A high-caliber adjudication panel of quality workplace experts completed a rigorous assessment process when reviewing all the candidates, which focused on drivers of employee and organizational health.

The awards acknowledge an organization's efforts to help maximize the employees' workplace experience, the quality of patient outcomes and organizational performance. Rouge Valley's award submission highlighted many of its innovative initiatives, including: the Healthy Workplace Champion program, where designated staff act as front-line communication liaisons between the organization and colleagues in their units; training and development for staff; patient rounding in which management staff members receive patient feedback; RVHS' focus on respect for its constituents; better internal communication between the hospital and its employees; and more. In June 2012, the hospital signed the Healthy Healthcare Leadership Charter, an initiative of the Quality Healthcare Quality Worklife Collaborative reinforcing its commitment to a healthy workplace.

admitted to a bed was 50.4 in 2010-11 which was reduced to 43.1 hours in the fiscal year ended on March 31, 2012. In the last three months, we have reduced that wait to less than 33 hours. Again good improvement but more work to do. Our objective is simple—to have no

admitted patients waiting in the ED! We've had many important developments since last year's AGM that will help us get things right for patients today and in the future.

To read the complete blog go to <http://rvhsblog.blogspot.ca/>



# Rouge Valley renews its focus on patient experience

By Akilah Dressekie

Senior Communications Specialist,  
Rouge Valley Health System

A very simple act helped to get 39-year-old teacher Kerri Johns the appointment she needed for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan at Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering (RVAP).

Without the quick thinking of a Rouge Valley diagnostic imaging staff member, she may have waited months to be diagnosed with a slight tear on the ligament and cartilage in her knee. The new 3-Tesla MRI machine arrived at RVAP in August 2011, and already more than 3,000 scans have been performed, making it a much-valued tool for Rouge Valley patients.

"I knew that I could have been waiting months. But the fracture clinic unit coordinator walked over to the MRI department, and was able to see if an appointment was available. I was really thankful that she took that extra step. I'm very appreciative," says Kerri.

Sometimes improving a patient's experience only takes a small step; sometimes it's clinical expertise in a specialized program that makes the difference. Rouge Valley is focused on both big and small actions to make a patient's care in hospital as good as it can be.

Fifty-four year old Angelo Joucas survived a near-fatal heart attack thanks to the fast response and combined efforts of Durham Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and staff in Rouge Valley Health System's cardiac catheterization lab at Rouge Valley Centenary (RVC) in east Toronto.

"Heart attacks don't come any worse than this," explains cardiologist Dr. Peter Gladstone of Angelo's condition. "This was an unusual type, and it's universally fatal. He would have been dead within a few hours if he hadn't been

transported to Rouge Valley Centenary."

These are just a couple of the stories that are all being celebrated in Rouge Valley's quarterly publication, *The Echo*, in their Patient Experience edition - dedicated solely to telling the first-hand stories of its patients. In all, there are nine stories shared, each from patients or their family members, who received care at Rouge Valley.

## Renewed focus

While providing high quality clinical care has always been our focus, Rouge Valley recognizes that the patient experience is about much more than that. That's why the east Greater Toronto Area hospital has renewed its focus.

"It's always been our goal to be the best community hospital, which relates to our mission to be 'the best at what we do,'" explains Michele Jordan, vice president, women's and children's program, quality improvement and transformation. "We want people to say that they had the best patient experience at Rouge Valley. Not just clinically, but the whole experience.

Rouge Valley's Board of Directors, senior management team and physician leaders gathered for their annual retreat in 2011. At the event, Rouge Valley's Board of Directors made a commitment to becoming the best community hospital, which they determined involved creating the best patient experience. Together, they worked on an action plan to help improve the patient experience.

This was very much in keeping with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Excellent Care for All Act requiring hospitals to create a Patient Declaration of Values. Rouge Valley's contained three pillars: quality, respect and voice.

The hospital also engaged external experts to assess how well they were



The story of five year old Ajethan Prabakaran, with speech therapist Janine Heath, is one of the articles in *The Echo's* special Patient Experience edition available online at [www.rougevalley.ca/community-news](http://www.rougevalley.ca/community-news)

doing at providing the best patient experience. These customer service experts conducted a comprehensive assessment that included posing as "mystery patients", as well as interviewing patients, staff and members of the Community Advisory Group, a volunteer group of community members who provide feedback on policies and initiatives in the hospital. The group reported that, while the hospital did very well with providing clinical care, there were opportunities to improve on equally important aspects of patient care, including empathy and customer service. The findings from this assessment are now being used to develop a strategy for improvement.

## Constant improvement

Rouge Valley has implemented a number of different patient experience improvements over the past few years. Some that are already in place include:

Sharing patient stories at every meeting of the board's Quality & Risk Committee;

Patient communication boards in inpatient rooms;

Post-discharge follow-up calls to patients in post-acute care;

A new patient navigator role in the emergency departments, at both hospital campuses, and a systems navigator position in the hospital's breast screening centres;

Patient participation in Lean improvement events;

A full-time patient relations manager position;

Improved accessibility signage and way-finding, including additional wheelchairs for patients and their families; and

An annual Patient Appreciation Day to promote the hospital team's focus on patient experience.

"Providing the best patient experience is a huge journey. It's more than just a campaign, it's a commitment every day," says Jordan.

## Santa Claus Parade

The Rouge Valley Health System Foundation entered a float in the 2012 Santa Claus Parade in Ajax Saturday evening on Nov.10, and earlier in Pickering. Many hospital staff members and their children volunteered to share their community spirit.





# Finding Inner Freedom

by Sadhguru Vasudev

The struggle in a human being is always that he thinks freedom means getting somewhere. But wherever you go, you will not be free. Spiritually, there has always been talk of surrender. But the moment logical, educated minds hear the word surrender; they will build forts around themselves.

In spirituality when the word surrender is used, it means you surrender that which is false. It is just that the very way you have existed up to now, is just a falsehood. What you refer to as yourself right now is simply a collection of identifications that you have taken in your life. Yet if you sincerely look at your essential

enlarge your prison walls, but bondage is still there as long as you exist in separation.

In truth, no walls exist in creation. You just believe they exist, so separation is your limited and distorted perception of reality. When you seek ultimate freedom all that is required is the surrender of your illusions. And only when you surrender your illusions, reality happens. Reality, or truth, is not something that you can create; it is that which contains you. It holds you - you are existing in the lap of reality. It's just that reality has not yet become your living experience.

Right now in your experience, with all the multiple impressions that you have, you have built a world of your own. And this world is not real, it is not truth.



“Reality, or truth, is not something that you can create; it is that which contains you. It holds you - you are existing in the lap of reality. It's just that reality has not yet become your living experience.”

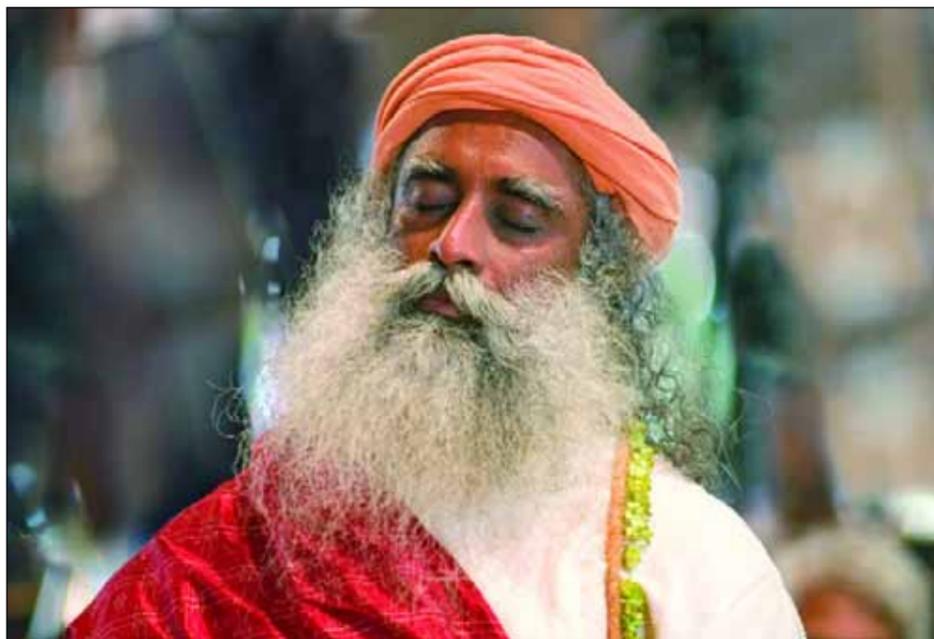
self, what have you got to surrender? You have nothing to surrender. Your essential self is that which has always been and that which will always be. When you realize this fact, your spiritual work is done - you have already surrendered.

When you destroy the walls of falsehood that you have built, everything becomes one. Only when you merge with the existence, you are free. As long as you and the existence are separated there is no such thing as freedom. True freedom can happen only when 'you' are not. As long as you exist as an individual identity, separate from the existence, where is the question of freedom? You might

Every moment, even to exist here physically, you have to communicate with the rest of existence. But you go about believing you are a whole unto yourself. You deal with life as if you've got nothing to do with anything outside of your limited perception.

You cannot exist here for even a moment without interaction and contact with existence. So freedom and liberation means to drop that which you are identified with, the falsehood that you have created. It

means to tear down the walls that you have built between you and reality. To drop these false boundaries is what the spiritual process is all about.



Sadhguru Vasudev is a realized master, yogi and mystic, who has founded Isha Foundation, an international public service organization that strives for ultimate human well-being. For world-wide program information, visit [www.ishafoundation.org](http://www.ishafoundation.org)  
Toronto local contact 1-866-424-ISHA (4742) or email [Toronto@ishafoundation.org](mailto:Toronto@ishafoundation.org)

“For a person who is seeking liberation, the only way to truth is the destruction of all walls, which means the dissolution of your individuality. That is ultimate freedom. That is meditation. That is liberation.”

This work does not have to happen in any particular way, with any specific process or person. For those who are willing to know truth, there is always assistance. Spiritual masters simply create an atmosphere where it will become easier for a person to become free of his or her bondage.

For most people, without access to a certain presence which is larger than yourself, dropping limitations becomes difficult. Dropping identifications that you have carried for a lifetime is like jumping into the void - it is frightening. When you feel a presence which is bigger than yourself, it gives the needed support. It becomes easier to keep yourself, or what you think as yourself, aside.

Until you are able to keep yourself aside, there is no possibility of finding truth. When you drop your

limited identification, you no longer need to isolate yourself from the rest of existence. For a person who is seeking liberation, the only way to truth is the destruction of all walls, which means the dissolution of your individuality. That is ultimate freedom. That is meditation. That is liberation.

Sadhguru J. Vasudev is a contemporary mystic rooted as strongly in worldly and pragmatic matters as he is in inner experience and wisdom. Named one of India's 50 most influential people, he has addressed prominent global forums on issues as diverse as socio-economic devel-

opment, leadership and spirituality. He has served as delegate to the United Nations Millennium Peace Summit and the World Peace Congress and has been a special invitee to the World Economic Forum (2006-2009), the Australian Leadership Retreat (2006) and TED (2009).

His interviews are featured in The New York Times, BBC, Bloomberg, CNN and CNBC. He is the author of several books, the subject of four books and co-author of the Amazon Bestseller "Midnights with the Mystic". His public talks frequently draw crowds of over 300,000 people.

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



# The Score on Sports

## Argos defeat Stamps to win historic 100th Grey Cup!

By Tashvir Narine

The 100th edition of the CFL Grey Cup matchup will certainly go down as a special day for the Toronto Argonauts and their fans as their team did not disappoint when it mattered most. In front of a sold out home field Rogers Centre, the Argos dominated the Calgary Stampeders on Sunday November 25th to capture this momentous landmark. The victory should also prove to rejuvenate Canada's largest sports market with the NBA Raptors struggling and the NHL in lockout.

Toronto's Movember quarterback Ricky Ray led the offence with a couple of touchdown passes going 18-30 on the night with 230 yards together with one interception, being the first play of the game. But with Calgary failing to capitalize, he found Chad Owens during the following possession to put the Argos up. The Boatmen never looked back from here and with all cylinders clicking the Stampeders always looked second best on the field that night. Running back Chad Kackert had 133 yards on the ground and 62 yards receiving

to be named Most Valuable Player.

Teen pop star Justin Bieber aimed to dazzle fans during halftime however he was met with a hostile response from the Grey Cup crowd. Dressed in black and equipped with flashy dance moves, the 18 year old performed professionally despite the chorus of boos from the Toronto audience. Bieber grew up in Stratford which is under two hours from Toronto, however the assembly of football fans failed to appreciate his performances, which are geared towards a younger and feminine audience.

Ratings for the game were higher than last year's final on the west coast between B.C. and Winnipeg. This is partly due to the absence of professional hockey but football is an increasing attraction in Toronto with the NFL's Buffalo Bills coming here once a year to defend their home field. Fans took to the streets on the Tuesday following the game to catch a glimpse of the Grey Cup champions.

Even Mayor Rob Ford, whose time in office is currently

limited, took to the stage to announce that November 27th would be declared Toronto Argonauts Day in the city of Toronto. Ford and Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi had made a bet on the result of the game, which resulted in Nenshi donning an Argonauts' jersey to a council meeting a few days after the game.

One can only imagine that this celebration should bring momentum to the other Toronto sports organizations in this city. The Blue Jays are looking to be promising with new players added in the last month, and the Bills are in town on December 16th to play the Seattle Seahawks as part of the National Football League schedule. But even with these prospects, one cannot forget the 100th Grey Cup that was won by the home team on its home field by the Toronto Argonauts.



The Grey Cup is lifted by the Toronto Argonauts following their 35-22 win over the Calgary Stampeders



Grey Cup Toronto Mayor Rob Ford celebrates with the Argos during the festivities on November 27th

## Professional Athletes take to the field in the Movember Challenge



Toronto Argonauts QB Ricky Ray



Stoke City Striker Michael Owen

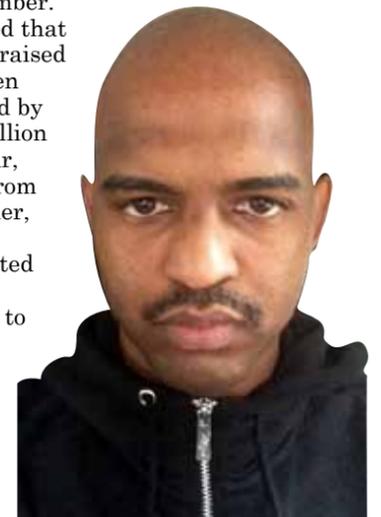
By Tashvir Narine

Like the pink ribbons in October, it has become a November tradition to see the crowds of men sporting moustaches in an attempt to raise awareness for prostate and other male cancers. Movember has taken the world by storm over the past few years, and it has done so without much help from professional sports one might also add.

Although, this Movember has seen an increase in the amount of exposure that Movember is gaining throughout mainstream sports. Canadian athletes also are leading the charge in this category, even with the NHL player lockout. In fact, the CFL season recently concluded with many players donning the closing stretch of their November Mo's whilst hoisting the elusive Grey Cup. Winning quarterback Ricky Ray will look back at the images from now on and remember that he held the trophy in Toronto with a rather stylish stache on that day.

A search of the Movember.com leader board showed that participants in Canada raised the highest amount when the earnings were sorted by country. Of the \$110 million that was raised this year, over \$36 million came from Canucks above the border, and almost \$27 million originated from the United Kingdom.

Congrats are in order to all that participated in this great cause as with each Movember day that passes by, we shall become another step closer in winning the fight against cancer for men.



Toronto Raptors Point Guard John Lucas III

**UNPARALLELED ANTICIPATION DELIVERS CONDO WITHOUT EQUAL**

■ **Tridel launches TEN YORK, Toronto's waterfront icon**



Considered the biggest condominium announcement in the GTA of 2011, the release last November of preliminary details about TEN YORK from Tridel generated headlines across North America.

“Less than a year after TEN YORK was first introduced to the public it is now poised to go on sale,” says Jim Ritchie, Tridel’s senior vice-president of sales and marketing. “The number of registrations that have steadily built since last November have been truly remarkable and demonstrate the heightened anticipation and pent up excitement for the launch of TEN YORK.”

Since the announcement, Tridel has have been working with their architect Rudy Wallman, Toronto city staff and local politicians, area residents and an independent peer review panel to create a condominium worthy of all the excitement.

The result is an iconic 224-metre, 65-storey glass tower at the corner of York and Harbour that will serve as a dramatic and remarkable addition to the Toronto skyline, at a AAA

downtown location. Add copy

Set on one of the most prominent locations in downtown Toronto, overlooking Lake Ontario and conveniently close to the subway, GO Train and VIA Rail service at Union Station, TEN YORK is steps away from the Air Canada Centre, Maple Leaf Square, the Rogers Centre and Harbourfront.

Boasting 694 residences starting from the mid \$300,000’s, the suites will range from smartly designed 564 s.f. one-bedroom suites to a spacious 3,858 s.f. three-bedroom design. Defined by the award-winning II BY IV Design Associates, the suites blend urban sophistication, timeless elegance, and modern technology (an imbedded fibre optic network throughout the building will provide lightning fast internet connection for residents).

Besides cutting edge technology, a prime location, and exquisite finishes, TEN YORK boasts an abundance of luxurious amenities. Offering a fully equipped fitness centre, as well as studios for spinning, yoga and cardio, and a juice bar

and lounge ideally suited for a post-workout wind-down, there is also an outdoor infinity pool, spa, and separate men and women’s saunas. The amenities also include a billiards room, media/gaming space, theatre, party venue and private dining room.

Reflecting on the amount of anticipation and attention that greeted the announcement of TEN YORK last year, Tridel’s Jim Ritchie is pleased with the development his company has responded with, noting that the massive coverage and heightened expectations “raised the bar” for this condominium and for Tridel.

“With unparalleled anticipation, we felt compelled to deliver a condominium without equal and that’s what we’ve done. TEN YORK is a one-of-a-kind condo opportunity for this market,” he adds.

The TEN YORK Presentation Centre is located at 4800 Dufferin Street. Hours are Monday to Friday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call 416-596-9888, e-mail tenyork@tridel.com or visit www.tridel.com



**KTV brings non-stop Kollywood action to Rogers Digital TV customers**

Rogers delights its Digital TV customers with the news of KTV’s addition to its line-up of Tamil channels. What’s even more thrilling, especially for its Tamil cinema fans, is that they can enjoy watching KTV on channel 687, as part of its introductory free preview until December 4, 2012.

A part of the Sun TV Network and one of the most sought-after channels back home, KTV is the only 24-hour Tamil movie channel that showcases an extensive collection of hit movies, and much

more. There are live events pertaining to movies, all in complete ‘kondattam’ (celebratory) mode. The camera also pans across ‘mahurats’, movie launch pujas, music compact disc release functions, snippets from in-production movies and shooting spots – events that generally don’t get much air time on regular channels. The channel also specializes in creating some exclusive movie-based programmes. Some of the popular programmes are ‘All in all Allamaelu’ and ‘Thirai Minagal’,

which highlights captivating moments from movies, to name a few.

Rogers Digital TV customers can simply tune in to channel 687 to enjoy the free preview. Not a Rogers customer? Call 1 888 ROGERS1 or visit rogers.com/multicultural for more information.





## WORDS OF PEACE

# The World of Now

"How happy would you be if every time you went home, you never got home-you got to your neighbor's, the one in front or the one in the back, but never to your home?" This is a question recently posed by Maharaji, who travels internationally and speaks to audiences large and small about the possibility of finding peace and contentment in life.

"That's how you are," he explains. "You never get to the moment called now. You always go looking for the next one or the last one, but the moment called now is where peace resides, because that's where you reside."

Maharaji often uses fables and allegories to illustrate his meaning. Here he tells an excerpt from an old children's story.

"Once there was a king," Maharaji begins, "and he asked his general to find

three idiots. The general went searching. He saw a man who had fallen on the ground. His hands were in front of him, fixed a certain distance apart, so when he tried to get up, he couldn't, because he wouldn't move his hands.

"When the general asked him what the matter was, the man said, 'My wife is redecorating our house, and she told me to buy a curtain this wide. I don't want to move my hands, because the dimensions will change, and my wife will be very unhappy.' So the general said, 'Could you meet me in the city square tomorrow?'"

"He went looking for a second idiot and saw a man riding his donkey, with a big load of wood on his head. He said to the man, 'You're sitting on the donkey, but why are you carrying this big load of wood on your head?' The man said, 'I love my donkey! I don't want my donkey to

have to carry the extra load of wood, so I'm carrying this on my head.' The general said, 'Could you meet me tomorrow in the city square?'"

"Then he started looking for a third idiot. By this time it was night. He saw a man on his hands and knees, searching under a street lamp. When he asked him what he was doing, the man said, 'This afternoon I was with some friends in the jungle, and my ring fell off, so I'm searching for it.' The general asked, 'If it fell off in the jungle, why are you searching for it under this lamp?' The man said, 'There is no light in the jungle, but there is light here, so I'm searching for it here.'"

There's a reason people find stories like this funny, Maharaji says: We laugh because we recognize something about ourselves.

The first idiot, he says, is like some-



one who is suffering and is not in peace, but is unwilling to change. The second idiot is like a person who believes that by enduring unhappiness, he is helping his loved ones, but he is ignoring reality.

The third idiot reminds us of the human tendency to look for peace where we know it has never been found, because it seems more convenient. Peace, Maharaji says, can only be found within, in the moment called now.

"Now is where everything called existence is happening," he says, "If you're looking for it somewhere else, then welcome to the world of the third idiot."

"Let's talk about what is there in now. You are there in now. This is the moment where peace is. When you are in this moment called now, you know you are okay."

Maharaji encourages people to think about his message and offers those who are interested a simple way to experience the peace he talks about. "Think about this moment called now," he says. "Think about peace on this Earth. Real peace begins with each one of us."

To learn more about Maharaji, call  
1 877 707 3221 Eng Toll Free  
416 431 5000 Tamil  
416 264 7700 Hindi  
[www.wpog.org](http://www.wpog.org)  
[www.tprf.org](http://www.tprf.org)



Award-winning TV series  
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## Special Feature

The Nativity of Jesus, refers to the accounts of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth in the Gospels and in various apocryphal texts.

The remembrance and re-enactment of the Nativity in the Christian celebration of Christmas signifies their belief that Jesus is the "Christ" or Messiah promised by the Old Testament. The main religious celebration among members of the Catholic Church and other Christian groups is the Church service at midnight on Christmas Eve or on the morning of Christmas Day. During the forty days leading up to Christmas, the Eastern Orthodox Church practices the Nativity Fast, while the majority of Christian congregations (including the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, many Mainline churches, and Baptists) begin observing the liturgical season of Advent four Sundays before Christmas-both are seen as times of spiritual cleansing, recollection and renewal to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

The New Testament provides two accounts of the birth of Jesus: one in the

"Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger"

In the Gospel of Matthew, the impending birth is announced to Joseph in a dream, in which he is instructed to name the child Jesus. A star reveals the birth of Jesus to three "wise men" (magi) who travel to Jerusalem from an unspecified country "in the east".

Joseph is warned by an angel in a dream to flee Bethlehem. Herod understands the phrase "King of the Jews" as a reference to the Messiah and he asked his advisers where the Messiah was to be born. They answer Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David, and quote the prophet Micah: "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage," a deceitful Herod tells the magi.

As the wise men travel to Bethlehem, the star "goes before" them and leads them

east; the massacre of the innocents; and the flight to Egypt. The Gospel of Luke mentions none of these but describes the conception and birth of John the Baptist; the appearance of an angel to Mary; the worldwide census; the birth in a manger, and the choir of angels; none of these is mentioned in Matthew. They explain the birth in Bethlehem in different ways (Luke says they lived in Nazareth and only moved to Bethlehem briefly for the census, Matthew implies that they lived in Bethlehem and only moved to Nazareth on their return from Egypt)

### Date of birth

The nativity accounts in the New Testament gospels of Matthew and Luke do

by Raymond Rajabalan

# Nativity of Jesus

**Gospel of Matthew** and the other in the **Gospel of Luke**. The birth narratives of Matthew and Luke have some elements in common. They both relate that Jesus of Nazareth was the child of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, a descendant of the Biblical King David. The narratives also present the conception, preceded by an angelic annunciation, by the power of the Holy Spirit

### Gospel of Luke

In the account of the Gospel of Luke, Mary learns from the angel Gabriel that she will conceive and bear a child called Jesus. When she asks how this can be, since she is a virgin, he tells her that the Holy Spirit would "come upon her" and that "nothing will be impossible with God". She responds: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word".

At the time that Mary is due to give birth, she and her husband Joseph travel from their home in Nazareth to Joseph's ancestral home in Bethlehem to register in the census of Quirinius. Having found no place for them selves in the inn, when Mary gives birth to Jesus she places the newborn in a manger

An angel of the Lord visits the shepherds guarding their flocks in nearby fields and brings them "good news of great joy": "to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord." The angel tells them they will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. The angel is joined by a "heavenly host" who say "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" The shepherds hurry to the manger in Bethlehem where they find Jesus with Mary and Joseph. They repeat what they have been told by the angel, and then return to their flocks. Mary and Joseph take Jesus to Jerusalem to be circumcised, before returning to their home in Nazareth.

### Gospel of Matthew



to a house where they find and adore Jesus. They present Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In a dream, the magi receive a divine warning of Herod's intent to kill the child, whom he sees as a rival. Consequently, they return to their own country without telling Herod the result of their mission. An angel tells Joseph to flee with his family to Egypt. Meanwhile, Herod orders that all male children of Bethlehem under the age of two be killed, the so-called "Massacre of the Innocents".

After Herod's death, the family return from Egypt, but, instead of going back to live in Bethlehem, fears concerning Herod's Judean successor Archelaus cause them to move to Galilee and settle in Nazareth, fulfilling a prophecy: "He will be called a Nazorean".

The prophecy is primarily sourced from Judges 13:5, 7, which say, "the boy shall be a Nazirite"; The author of Matthew explained the move to Nazareth as the fulfillment of the prophecy, "for he will be called a Nazorean."

### The Nativity description in Gospel of Matthew and Luke - A Comparison

These two Gospels present two very different accounts: the Gospel of Matthew relates the appearance of an angel, in a dream, to Joseph; the wise men from the

not mention a date or time of year for the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it has been traditionally celebrated on December 25 as Christmas, a date that can be traced as early as the year 330 among Roman Christians.

Before then, and still today in Eastern Christianity, Jesus' birth was generally celebrated on January 6 as part of the feast of Theophany, also known as Epiphany, which commemorated not only Jesus' birth but also his baptism by John in the Jordan River and possibly additional events in his life. Some scholars note that Luke's descriptions of shepherds' activities at the time of Jesus' birth suggest a spring or summer date

The Gospel of Matthew places Jesus' birth under the reign of Herod the Great, who died in 4 BC. The author of Matthew also recorded that Herod had all the male children in Bethlehem two years old and younger executed, based on a prophecy relayed to him by the magi that a new King of the Jews had been born in the town. The order's instruction of "two and under", along with the inference that it took Herod time to realize that the magi were not about to deliver the child to him, implies a birth no later than 6-4 BC.

The Gospel of Luke dates the birth ten

years after Herod's death during the census of Quirinius.

### Location

The Gospels of both Matthew and Luke place the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The Gospel of Matthew account implies that the family already lived in Bethlehem when Jesus was born. According to the Gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary (who lived in Nazareth) had traveled to Bethlehem to register for the census of Quirinius, because it was the town of Joseph's ancestors, the birthplace of David.

The Gospel of Luke account states that Mary gave birth to Jesus and laid him in a manger "because there was no place for them in the inn," but does not say exactly where Jesus was born.

### Three Wise men

The Magi bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Though traditionally described as wise men or kings, the Matthew Gospel account actually refers to magoi, or astrologers.

Neither the names of the magi nor their number are specified, but - because the gifts described are three in number - a tradition arose that there were three magi: Balthasar, Melchior, and Caspar. Balthasar is a Greek version of the Babylonian name Belshazzar, meaning "May Bel protect his life." Melchior means "The king is my light" in Aramaic. Caspar is a Latinized version of Gondophares, a Parthian (i.e. Persian) name. In free retellings of the Nativity events, the magi are sometimes called "kings" because of prophecies that kings will pay homage to Jerusalem and a king.

The Magi were said to be following a mysterious star, commonly known as the Star of Bethlehem, which had suddenly appeared in the sky, believing it to announce the birth of the king of the Jews.

On the other hand, the Gospel of Luke's account does not mention the Magi, instead having Jesus being visited by local shepherds, who had been informed in the night by an angel who said "Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." After this an innumerable company of angels appeared with the herald saying "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men." The shepherds went quickly to Bethlehem, finding the sign to be as the angel foretold, and subsequently publicized what they had witnessed throughout the area.

### Emmanuel

In Matthew, "an angel of the Lord" appears to Mary's betrothed husband Joseph in a dream and tells him: "she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins". The text continues with the comment: "All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us'"

**Let us remember the innocent baby born in an occupied and troubled land for the purpose of dying. It was a great paradox of history. A birth that found ultimate purpose of death. God came to the earth in the most vulnerable form but in the end there was Victory in defeat and Glory in humiliation.**

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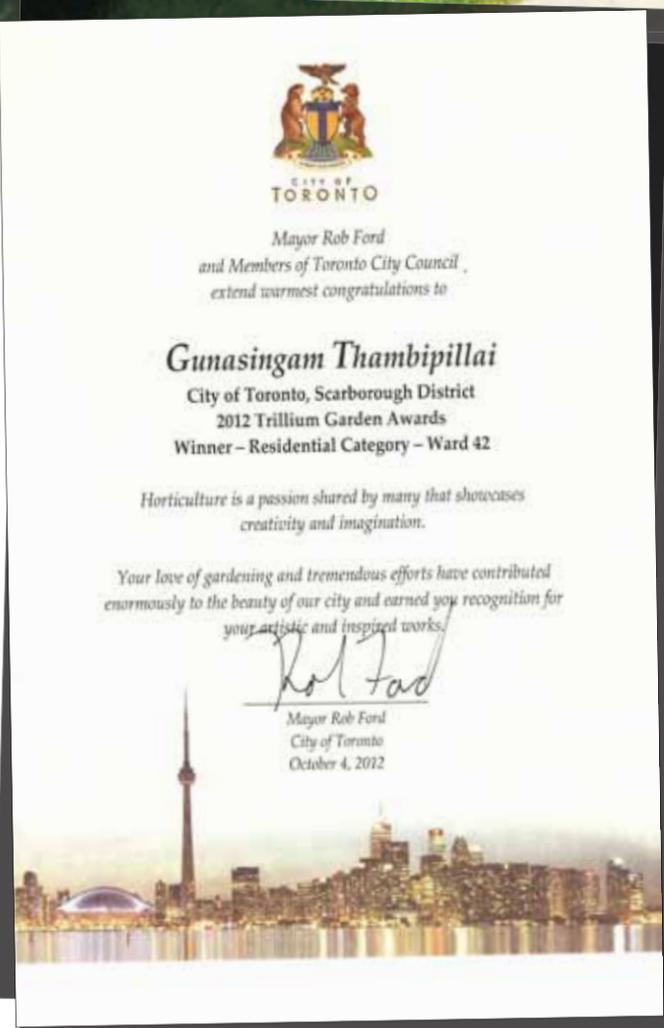
Guna with his family receiving award from City Councillors

Winning Garden

## Gunasingam family wins 2012 Trillium Garden Award

Gunasingam Thambipillai family is the proud winner of 2012 Trillium Garden Awards for City of Toronto, Scarborough District. The award was presented on Oct 4th by City Councillors Raymond Chow on behalf of the Mayor Rob Ford under Residential Category for Ward 42.

Horticulture is a passion shared by many that showcases creativity and imagination. Mayor Rob Ford congratulates Guna family for the contribution towards to make the city beauty by their love of gardening and tremendous efforts. Their artistic and inspired works were recognized by the city of Toronto Mayor Rob Ford.



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## Business Entrepreneur Kula Sellathurai receives Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal



Kula Sellathurai with his family and the Minister Hon. Charles Sousa

Business Entrepreneur & former President of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce Kula Sellathurai received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal recently at an official ceremony at the Parliament Building in Queen's Park.

The medal was presented to him by Ontario Minister of Citizenship & Immigration Charles Sousa.

Kula Sellathurai is the President & CEO of Inter-citi Logistics and the Senior Partner of Best Limo, one of Toronto's leading Limousine services. Messrs. Inter-Citi Logistics is a leading Courier Company which celebrated 20 years of business this year. Kula was the President of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce and also a Board Member of the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation. He was also the former President of the Canada-Sri Lankan Business Council.

During his Presidency of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce he took the Chamber to great heights when he organized the Chamber's tenth-year celebrations at the prestigious Roy Thompson Hall with a guest audience of over 3,000 guests. This was considered as one of the greatest events for the Tamil community in Canada and a landmark in the Chamber's 20 year history. As a Board member of the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation he played a crucial role in generating funds for the new Birthing Centre at the Centenary Hospital in Scarborough. Kula also received the Ontario Government's Award for Voluntary Service in 2003.

He is currently engaged as one of the committee member in the fundraising committee for the MRI for the Birchmount campus of the The Scarborough Hospital organized by the Varasithi Vinayagar Temple.

Kula is married to Sanjula and has a daughter named Akshaya. Seen here are some pictures taken at the Official Medal receiving function.



Kula Sellathurai receiving Diamond Jubilee Medal from Hon. Charles Sousa, Ontario's Citizenship & Immigration Minister

## Logan Rasiah a recipient of Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

Logan Rasiah, the President of Canwest Trucking Company is yet another member of the Canadian Tamil community who has been awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Rasiah's Canwest Trucking Company was formed in 1998 and is mainly engaged in the transport of cable and technical equipment. One of the major customers of his Company is Rogers Cable.

Mr. Rasiah was presented with the Medal by Hon. Brad Duguid, Ontario's Minister of Economic Development & Innovation at a ceremony held at the Parliament complex in Queen's Park.

Mr. Rasiah is also a Director for the Federal & Provincial Liberal Association of the Rouge River constituency.

Logan is married to Malathy and a proud father of three children.



Logan Rasiah receiving Diamond Jubilee Medal from Hon. Brad Duguid, Ontario's Economic Development & Innovation Minister

## Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council President Upali Obeysekere receives Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

The President of the Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council Upali Obeysekere has been awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in connection with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations this year. The Medal was presented to him by Ontario Citizenship & Immigration Minister Charles Sousa at a ceremony held recently at the Ontario Parliament complex.

Mr. Obeysekere counts over 30 years of work as a community activist and currently serves as the President of the Business Council for the second term. He was a Charter member of the Council since 1990.

He worked for IBM Canada for 17 years when he arrived from Sri Lanka and

subsequently left IBM to further his business interests. His Company pioneered the imports of Sri Lankan food products to cater to the needs of the growing Sri Lankan population in Canada. He also acted as the Canadian Representative for the Board of Investment Sri Lanka, a body which is responsible to attract foreign investment into the country. He is currently the Canadian Representative for the National Chamber of Industries Sri Lanka.

Mr. Obeysekere is married to Tamara and has three children and five grand children.

Seen here is a picture of Mr. Obeysekere receiving the Medal from Hon. Charles Sousa.



Mr. Upali Obeysekere receiving the Medal from Hon. Charles Sousa, Ontario Citizenship & Immigration Minister



# DEVOTEES OF SATHYA SAI BABA'S CELEBRATE HIS 87TH BIRTHDAY

By: Tashvir Narine

Quote: "Embodiments of Love! Do not pay attention to the day when the body was born and fulfil selfish ends by celebrating the event pompously. The day when you manifest pure feelings in your hearts, plant firm faith in the Divine Principle in your thoughts and cultivate unselfish enthusiasm to serve others, that day deserves to be celebrated as the Real Birthday." Sathya Sai Baba.

On November 23rd, devotees of Sai Baba remembered the birth anniversary of their guru with festivities all around the globe. This

calendar year would have celebrated the 87th such occasion however it also marked the second year without Baba's physical presence.

It has now been over a year and a half since Sathya Sai Baba departed his earthly form, after battling the onset of cardio and respiratory problems. During his lifetime though, Baba's followers numbered in the millions and his message of "Love All, Serve All" and "Help Ever, Hurt Never" echoed throughout the world. He often preached that there is only one God and his followers did not need to give

up their religion of birth to follow his teachings.

On his birthday, the ashram at Prashanti Nilayam hosted wonderful events including concert performances and addresses by keynote speakers. Around the world as well Sathya Sai Centres celebrated in a similar manner to celebrate the auspicious day. Here in Toronto, the Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Scarborough opened its doors all day to devotees with programmes both at morning and night.

Photos from Baba's birthday can be seen from the festivities at the

Mandir, which accommodated over 1000 devotees during this event. Among them was Prof. Srinivasan, an instructor who spent time teaching at the ashram and spoke about his experiences with Baba. Mr. Senthil Arumugam, Chairman of the Trust for the Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Scarborough, also spoke about the current situation of Centre's financials.

If you would like information about the Centre and future events, please visit [www.saicentre.net](http://www.saicentre.net) for more details.

Sai Ram





## Interview with Rev. N. J. Gnanaponrajah by the Monsoon Journal



*Script of Interview with  
Rev. N. J. Gnanaponrajah, Principal,  
St. John's College, Jaffna  
Sri-Lanka by the Toronto's Monthly  
English news paper Monsoon Journal*

### 1. School's present situation in academic achievements - a brief report.

St John's College continues to serve the community in spite of the adverse conditions that have prevailed in the region for the past few decades. We have developed well balanced programs to provide a holistic education for each student, along with the inculcation of good self discipline. The college obtained many awards at the Provincial and National levels in the academic and extra-curricular spheres.

About 20% - 30% of the students who sit for the Advanced Level Examination gain admission to University every year while about 50% - 60% become qualified to apply for university admission. At the Ordinary Level Examination, 100% from the English Medium students are successful. The first batch of students in the English Medium sat for the Advanced Level in 2011, where 93.3% of the students were eligible to apply for University Admission. Anandanadarajah Sanjayan was ranked 2nd in the country, in the GCE A/L 2011 Bio-Stream in the English Medium.

Team, and two students represented the Under -17 Northern Province Cricket Team.

Cadet Corps and Western Band have been reorganized and added back to our school program. Rugby, Weight Lifting and Karate have been recently introduced into our school activities. In order to enhance student participation, two Teams - "A" and "B" have been formed in Cricket and Soccer at the Under -11, 13, 15 and 17 age group categories.

The Villu Paatu team won the 1st Place at National Level for the third consecutive time at the National Tamil Day Competitions (2010, 2011 & 2012). S.P. Bieshman and E. Abeesan won the President's Scout Award. The School was also awarded "the Best Environment-Friendly School of the year 2011" at the Provincial level.

### 3. You have taken on some very ambitious projects that are quite a distance from the school. How are these projects shaping up and what are some of the reasons behind the undertaking of these projects?

Rev. N. J. Gnanaponrajah, Principal, St. John's College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka reading Nov 2012 issue of the Monsoon Journal at the residence of old Johnian Rajkumar Parameswaran during his visit to Toronto to participate for the Alumni Silver Jubilee Celebration on Nov 3rd by St. John's & Chundikul Alumni Association - Canada.



### 2. Sports achievements in general.

In sports, G. Abraham Anojan won the 2nd Place with Colours in the Under 17 Discus Throw, and P. Banupiriyam won the 3rd Place with colours in the Under 19 Discus Throw in 2011 at National Level. At the National Karate Championship - 2012, V. Nevathan - Gr 4- Kumite - 3rd Place & Kata - 2nd Place, S. Santharuban - Gr 5- Kumite 3rd Place and A. Thanushan - Gr-8- Kumite - 1st Place & Kata - 3rd Place. Became 2nd Runner up in the Soccer Under 19 division 3 tournament, organised by the Foot Ball Federation

This year, Badminton Un-19, Tennis Under -19, Carom Under -19 and Karate Teams Under -15 & Under -17 emerged Champions at the Provincial Level. In 2011, five students represented the Northern Province Under-15 Cricket

There is a dire need at the present time to help communities that were significantly impacted as a result of the war and the many families who are underprivileged with limited access to good education. There are also many children who have lost one or both parents in the war. We believe that to rebuild those devastated communities we need to provide access to good education in a caring and compassionate environment for those war impacted children. Four hundred and thirty (430) such children impacted by the war have already been enrolled with scholarships at St. John's, who would have been deprived of education due to poverty and limited access and lack of resources. Hence, the need has risen for the school to take on such endeavours of the college to be extended 'away' from school to help war affected children. I am pleased to



Rev. N. J. Gnanaponrajah, Principal, St. John's College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka with Logan Velumailum, old Johnian and Publisher of Monsoon Journal

say that the displaced children are very appreciative of the care and support given to them. Our efforts to provide support to these children have been made possible by the generous support of the past pupils and the well-wishers around the globe.

the life of our school is the celebration of 190 years of devoted service to the community. Please allow me to invite you all to join with me to express our heartfelt thanks to God for the blessings which we have received in the past as we celebrate the 190th Birth Day of the

### 4. Anything you have to say to the Diaspora.

Through the Holistic education we can help re-build the society once again to self sufficient. St John's welcomes expertise and talents from abroad to raise the standard of education as per international standards and developments. We invite, encourage and anticipate the engagement and support that could be extended by the past pupils and the well-wishers around the world. We have already worked out a plan for 5 years to develop the college, community and war affected areas.

Those who wish to support and partner with us in our rebuilding and support initiatives can **contact us at:**

#### Sri-Lanka:

Name: **Rev. N. J. Gnanaponrajah**  
e-mail: [stjohns@sltnet.lk](mailto:stjohns@sltnet.lk) or  
[gnanaponrajah@yahoo.com](mailto:gnanaponrajah@yahoo.com)  
Phone: **0094 777 154 093** or  
**0094 212 222 432**

#### Toronto:

Name: **St John's College Old Boys Association**  
e-mail: [sjccgc-canada@rogers.com](mailto:sjccgc-canada@rogers.com)

Another significant milestone in



Rev. N. J. Gnanaponrajah, Principal, St. John's College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka with Rajkumar and his wife Navina

school in the year 2013.

I would also like to thank the editorial board and management of the Monsoon Journal for providing me the opportunity to share my thoughts with your readership.

### 5. Your final thoughts:

As we go about our busy lives let us reflect on the following:

"Do we pledge to uphold the human spirit and traditions:

Are we living a life of meaningful principles and values?

Do we love our fellow human beings and share our resources;

Are we applying our knowledge for human progress?

Are we spreading peace and understanding in the world; And to shine as light in darkness."

Photo Courtesy: Digital Gnan

# Abi Singam Law Professional Corporation opens office in Toronto

Abimanyu Singam who has been practicing law in the areas of real estate, family, immigration, wills and estates opened his new law office on Friday, November 23, 2012.

The new office of Abi Singam Law Professional Corporation was ceremonially opened on November 23, 2012 by Mr. Singam's mother, retired teacher and author Mrs. Ehanayakivalli Singam. The event was attended by many dignitaries, professionals, and members of the community. "All my life, my mother has been a source of support and encouragement for me and that is why she was the perfect choice for this special event", said Mr. Singam.

Throughout the evening there was a constant flow of family and friends dropping in to wish Mr. Singam success with his law office.

While welcoming the guests and speaking about how exciting this is for the family, Ms. Tharsi Yoganathan, wife of Mr. Singam noted that "it is with dedication, commitment, and perseverance one can achieve what he has achieved and we are all very happy that so many individuals from the community are here to support us in this endeavour".

Mr. Singam also took the opportunity to thank his family for their continued support and then went on to thank his long-time friends and lawyers, Mr. Gary Anandasangaree and his wife Ms. Harini Sivalingam who had been very supportive throughout the last several

years.

Mr. Anandasangaree in his speech noted that he was very proud and pleased to be at the event and that Mr. Singam has been part of many important projects and has played a crucial role in many of the organizations that are now serving the Tamil-Canadian community. He concluded his address by wishing his friend great success in his law practice.

Mr. Sritharan Thurairajah, the President of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce and the President of Life 100 Financial Services conveyed his best wishes and noted that the firm could always count on his support.

The evening wrapped up with Mr. Singam himself thanking all his well-wishers and said he was looking forward to their continued support and trust in him and his legal team.

Abi Singam Law Professional Corporation handles Family and Real Estate Law, and Wills and Estates. The office is located at 8130 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 201, Toronto, Ontario. The office of Mr. Singam can be contacted at 416 724 4224 or at [abi@singamlaw.com](mailto:abi@singamlaw.com).

Monsoon Journal congratulates and wishes Abi Singam Law Professional Corporation for great success in the future.

Courtesy: Tamils.com



Tamils Chamber President Sritharan Thurairajah with Abi Singam family



Abi Singam's mother cutting the ribbon for official opening



Lawyers Gary and Harini with Abi Singam family



Abi Singam with staff from Law office of Gary Anandasangaree



Staff at Abi Singam Law Office

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## Special Feature

### PEOPLE'S POET!

Charming and significant as the term is, it is a warm tribute not only to the poet but also to the people - for the people had their monarchs and ministers, their warriors and saviours, their seers and saints, miracle - mongers and priests, but had no poets - and from ages past there were poets in abundance, poets who supplemented the scriptures or who polished the palaces by their poetry, but poets who sang for and about the people, in the people's tongue, were very very rare.

The poet's voice hid the function of the temple bell or the palace drum but rarely did that voice represent the innermost thoughts of the people and when at times poets spoke about the people, it was to point out to them, how greedy the world is, how sinful is silver and how ungodly is gold and such like sermons -



(Former Tamil Nadu Chief minister "Arignar" C.N. Annadurai, M.A. Delivered his first English Speech over the All India Radio on Bharathi: THE PEOPLE'S POET" in the Year 1948. The text of that speech is published here to celebrate the Birth anniversary of the bard on December 21st)



If one poet gave the people a sweet song about the powers of Garuda of Maha Vishnu, up rose another to supply us with a sacred sonnet about the stately bull of Siva, or the beautiful peacock of Muruga or even the ugly buffalo of the all powerful God of Death Yama. All these poems were of the highest order, looked at from the artist's point of view - there was rhythm, diction, smilies, metaphors, parables, - all in abundance except reason.

things worldly; the worthlessness of human life, the littleness of mankind and they presented a poetic picture of the unknown world heaven up above the clouds, and the hell underneath the earth - the telescope was in the womb of science hence heaven existed, and the poets entertained the people with imaginary descriptions about the theological worlds! The ignorant stood amazed and the intelligent adored the art and not the thought.

rivers, lyrics about love and verses about valour - these are enough to secure a place of honour in the poets gallery.

But to discharge the duties of a people's poet, one has to cross hurdles of hatred, take many a dive into dangers and should not think about patronage and popularity. Though a selected circle of friends knew and spoke about the poetic genius of Subramania Bharathi, the people as a whole were almost unaware of their poet till at a later stage, and then too, it was the poems of a political colour that was presented to the people, and not the poems, which a people's poet alone can conceive and deliver.

We had poets in abundance. The shepherd sleeping inside a temple forgetful of his home and vocation, the goddess returning after her midnight supervision, the smile on her lips on seeing the simpleton, her curious idea to make him

# Subramania Bharathiyar: The People's Poet

sermons that supplemented the royal rod and the whip of the aristocrat.

Poets became in due course one more important item in the Royal paraphernalia, one more policeman, who filed the case here and asked the high heavens to deliver the Judgment later on. These poets spoke in a different tongue altogether and were far from the people. They despised the crowd from where they rose, and used their poetic genius to gain admission in the royal palace, and when once there, they went on weaving wordy wreaths for monarchs of all sorts, provided his gold was pure. The poets of the Sangam period, are noble exceptions to this sorry rule, and they are the poets least known to the people of our days.

Poets either became vendors of virtue in verses or became pleasure - merchants and they found it hard and unprofitable to become the People's Poets. That is the reason why we find no outstanding people's poet after the Sangam Age in Tamil Nadu.

### POETS OF YORE

Virtue itself came to be considered as an investment for a happy life in another world. Hence, poets who came after the advent of this false and pernicious theory began to extol the particular bank of dispensation for which they were the self appointed agents. Like the clever banker or the active insurance agent, these poets began to pour forth rhymes in abundance, about the soundness of their Bank, about the delightful dividends and the bright prospects.

by C.N. Annadurai



'Arignar' C.N. Annadurai  
(15 September 1909 - 3 February 1969)

These poets thought that the temple bell did not work well and thought it their duty to lend their poetic strength to supplement the sound - duty or no duty, it was such a paying job that there was a rush in that direction.

Poets assumed an attitude of superiority - they enjoyed the common-man's confusion, they tried to compromise contradictions and beautify absurdities - they were loud in their denunciation of



Subramania Bharathiyar (December 11, 1882 - September 11, 1921)

### ROLE OF PEOPLE'S POET

It is not easy to take up the role of a people's poet-Bharathi rose equal to this stupendous task. It is easy to become the poet of the classes, some sweet sonnets about the silvery moon swimming in a sea of blue, some poems about the twinkle of the stars, fine poems about the fragrance of the flower, the rhythm in

a poet, a gentle pat and the touch of the divine rod, the wonderful result-these were known to the people.

One becomes a poet, because of the divine touch, and it is his duty to sing devotional songs to a particular deity or to all this theory held the ground so strongly, that he people were not prepared to meet the people's poet, even when one came forward.



The people will cast a look of contempt and suspicion on one who says boldly, "I am the people's poet, I sing for them and about them, because I am one of them," there would be no recognition and the more radical his poems are, the more vehement will be the opposition. And in this dangerous ground, we find Subramania Bharathi taking steady steps victoriously.

#### BHARATHI'S AGE

Bharathi was born on the frontier of two eras - the feudal orders was in full force in his homeland, Ettayapuram had a palace surrounded by huts, age-old castes were still in power, he himself was a Brahmin by birth-but side by side with feudalism and sanathanic order of society, modernism was peeping new with sorrowful and scornful eyes, and there was challenge in the look of the new era, Bharathi was born during that period and more could have imagined that he will become the warrior in the duel between the old order and the new -for in the old order of things his was a comfortable place.

#### BHARATHIAR'S CLAIM TO GREATNESS

He was born moreover in this land of paradoxes a land where arrogance and humility, cruelty and kindness march together-where there is energy in abundance and absurd contemplation strong enough to dissipate the energy, a land of some dazzling ideas and millions of mute people, a land where there is courage as well as fear, the land of faith as well as despair. Byron and Bruke landed here just then, only to meet Bharatham and Bagavatham.

The booming of the gun became familiar to the ears of the people and the age-long temple drum was not silent in such a land of paradoxes and perplexities Bharathi was born, and in such a land history moves but slowly and it needs a strong push if it should move at all, Bharathi's claim to greatness rests chiefly on those he gave the push, as the people's poet.

Bharathi was not merely the bard of Nationalism he was certainly the morning star of reformation only because he was the people's poet. He was the angry with the foreigner, and wanted his country to become free but that was not his goal that was not to be his end. It was but the beginning-he wanted to free his country-men from all shackles, wanted them to rise up in the estimation of the world, wanted to see, a new land peopled by men and women of a new type altogether.

He found the people enveloped in fear. Fear was written on their very faces. They were afraid of anything and everything, not only did they fear the foreigner and his gun but their own brethren chanting some slogans-they were afraid of ghosts and phantoms.

#### FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Such a people, cannot become the standard bearers of freedom, and a land peopled by such cannot lift its heap high,



Portrait of Bharathiyar in Chennai (1920)

and look straight at the world, even if the foreign power is driven out. Hence Bharathi wanted his countrymen, to drive out the fear from their mind -to shed off inferiority complex. He instilled into their minds hope and courage, he placed before them their own hidden powers and pointed out to them, how that innate power is being wasted, the slumber of the masses, their gross ignorance and superstition, their inferiority complex and their caste prejudices Bharathi saw clearly, and he determined to root out these evils, and none but a people's poet could have been so deeply interested in these problems.

But Bharathi knew full well, that it was the age of the common man-the era of democracy-and he wanted the people to fight for freedom-he did not deliver more devotional hymns to the divinities, nor did he send poetic appeals to the princes of the land-he addressed the man with the plough, the woman at the cradle, and even the children at the playgrounds, he did not, like the poets of a bygone age, pointing out, ancient scripts in support of freedom, but placed before the masses the world events of importance, the freedom movements of distant lands.

He announced to the people, the dawn of freedom in Italy through the marvelous resurrection of the masses; thanks to Mazzini the patriot-he painted in glowing colours the picture of France after the revolution, and placed a brand new picture about Russia, free from the shackles of Czardom. free Belgium, free

France, Red Russia-these were the pictures, he also presented them with a pen-picture of countrymen at Fiji islands, and like Shakespeare he asked, look at this picture and at that! That is the people's poet.

One who is not afraid of pointing out the follies and foibles of his own people, one who is not afraid of showing to his own people, how slow they are in thought and action whereas peoples of other lands were moving fast and faster to a nobler sphere of activity amid life. He was not afraid of the privileged class, and did not falter to place the full facts before the people.

As the people's poet it was his duty to unmask hypocrisy wherever it was to be found, and he did that with remarkable courage and enthusiasm.

#### CONVERSATION CONDEMNED

There is an attempt by interested parties to enlarge the portrait of Bharathi the National Bard, not entirely because they love that portrait but because, they think that portrait's immensity will conceal from the public eye, the other portrait of Bharathi that the people's poet. Bharathi's poems are no mere hornets.

The people's poet, was not afraid to lay bare the absurdities of ancient systems and thoughts and in almost infuriated tone, he ask those who champion the cause of conservation in very strong words, 'Fools! Do you argue that things ancient ought on that from times immemorial, and dare you argue that because these are ancient, these should prevail?'

#### LIVE IN THE PRESENT, SHAPE THE FUTURE

In ancient times, do you think that there was not the ignorant and the shallow-minded! And why after all should you embrace so fondly carcass-dead thoughts.

Live in the present and shape the future, do not caste lingering looks to the distant past, for the past has passed away never again to return so says Bharathi-and there-in we meet. He gave a moral code for the masses, not unrelated to life, as some of the ancient code were, he boldly differed from the ancient codes and placed before the people, a new vision altogether. He refused to allow the thought of Maya philosophy to have a hold on the people- he ridiculed that theory, strongly and infuriated the Asramites, but he was not afraid of the consequences. A people immersed in such a thought, Bharathi said, will become inactive, unprogressive and such a people will become worth -less.

#### HIS RELIGION

Hunger and poverty and ignorance, he will not tolerate, and he raises his powerful voice against the tyranny of the rich, and threatens the whole world with dire consequence even if a single individual is made to starve. He wants the people to lead a full life develop their faculties improve their commerce industrialize their land - and enjoy all the benefits of the new era. His religion is not to be priest-craft and slogan-shouting-his religion is service to humanity and brotherhood in the broadest sense.

#### TASK UNFINISHED WILL BE FINISHED

The task that lies before the people's poet, is a mighty one. It is his task to make the people realize new truth, take a new path, and get a new process of valuation altogether. It is his task to release the people from the clutches of the Astrologer, and place before them the Astronomer, his is the task to drive out the Alchemist from the people's mind so that the chemist can come in. His is the task to push aside the priest so that the teacher can get a place.

The people's poet has the mighty task of driving out the influence of the miracle monger so that the medical man can find a place in the order of things. Superstition is to be fought out, so that science can flourish.

In short the people's poet has the task of a revolutionary-and more difficult than that of the revolutionary, for the people are apt to mistake the tyrant for the saviour and the saviour for the tyrant.

He fought with courage, and though the battle is not over yet, and though he is no more alive, he has given an armoury of thought, enough for the successful termination of the flight, and that is the best and lasting tribute that one can pay to this people's poet, in its fullest and noblest sense. And there are men for the job and it will be finished.



## Short Story

### Contd. from November issue

A quick glance inside was worth a thousand words: the stench coming from the decomposing carcasses of the dogs near the gate, the bootprints around the trampled flower beds; the intermittent wail, breaking through the din. In that instance he was transformed in to a decrepit old man; he limped through the last few yards with fading hope, yet yearning for last-ditch miracles. The house itself was in an unspeakable mess and in the middle was his sister sitting on the floor, being consoled by a bunch of women. The absence of his wife and Mala had killed the remaining modicum of

could influence the Ministry of Defense and then he got the number to the Army Headquarters in Jaffna and nervously made a call as well. He then asked someone to take him to the Army Headquarters. He knew that his presence in the hospital was not going to be of any use, but bringing Mala home was this dotting father's priority.

The car was not moving fast enough for Selveratnam, but he refrained from vocalizing his conflicting feelings; a good move on his part, given the volatility of the situation; the last thing he wanted to do was to antagonize the driver who was willing to risk for his sake. The darkness was pervading his beloved Jaffna Town:

entertainment. The car went past the clock tower towards the old Dutch Fort: people wouldn't dare to go this way at any hour of the day, let alone at night. If not for darkness, their faces would have betrayed the terror they were experiencing at that moment; and Selveratnam couldn't help thinking how grateful he should be for the driver, for taking such a risk for such a paltry reward. They could now see the Fort appearing in the distance like a black giant in recumbency, blending with the darkness, punctuated by flickering lights, in its backdrop. The car moved along without encountering any obstacles; but the occupants were on pins and needles, expecting the unexpected. No roadblocks or sentries or

why Mala was detained as opposed to have been released, it became clear to Selveratnam that the army was convinced that Mala knew the whereabouts of Kumar, but was not willing to reveal. He had come prepared to portray a loose acquaintance between Kumar's family and his in Colombo. But after having received this vital information that Mala had thus far not admitted their true relationship-- at least according to what he had so far gathered from the officer-- he was willing to go that route even if it was a bait. Because it seemed safer to pretend an ignorant father than to reveal any knowledge of Kumar. He tried to convince the officer that neither he, nor Mala had anything to do with Kumar and they were barking up the wrong tree. The officer wasn't prepared to buy the argument so easily; instead he redirected his interrogation toward Selveratnam himself. And Selveratnam in turn barely managed to answer the questions without raising suspicion. He fumbled explaining his absence during the raid and his answer of absolute ignorance of

# THE TRAIL OF TEARS FROM THE LAND OF PALMYRAH

By: SIVAGAMI



hope. He felt being consumed by an utter despondence; he let a wail escape violently as if it was kept against its tremendous buildup and it drowned everything around. There was an eerie silence between his wails and sobs; he kept asking where his wife and daughter were, and everyone volunteered to talk about his wife being in the hospital, but no one was courageous enough to tell what had happened to his daughter.

The neighbors worried how he would react, so they revealed only the bits and pieces of the truth, telling that Mala was taken for a short interrogation to the army headquarters. They were surprised to see Selveratnam becoming more animated after hearing that Mala was still alive; his listless body sprung in to action. He rummaged through the debris, looking for the telephone-- a luxury in Jaffna-- and when he finally got hold of it, he was glad that it was still in working condition. He made a few calls with trepidation to Colombo to see if someone

the sparsely spaced road lights illuminated the small patches under them leaving the large swaths of land in the dark; and the headlights of the car cleaved the darkness like the brand new cloth being cleaved by a pair of scissors at the hands of an experienced tailor on Mohammedan Street. The difference was the cleaved parts got quickly reunited behind the car as it moved forward. The cool breeze had extenuated the sultry temperature, but they were not in the mood to marvel at the nature's courtesies. The birds' muffled sounds coincided with the dusk and the cicadas were in their early warmup act. Most of the houses were still in the dark while some had the bare minimum to get by. As the car reached the center of the Town, the commercial establishments exhibited less stinginess, brightening the surroundings liberally. The tallest building in Town, the clock tower had a single light on at its highest point, like a lone star in the sky. The frogs in the nearby pond were practicing the chorus to join the performers for the nightly

warning shots, so they proceeded slowly; and the sleeping giant started taking a discernible shape as they went closer.

The atmosphere sprung to life when the first sentry point appeared at a distance: a warning came through the loudspeaker in broken Tamil, asking them to stop the car and get down and walk forward with both hands up in the air. When they did they saw soldiers coming out of their hiding and surrounding them; they quickly made sure that they didn't have any concealed weapons. The car was inspected next and was driven away from the Fort. They went the last few yards on foot to the sentry. After hearing their request the driver was sent back to his car and Selveratnam was further questioned of his motives. The more they listened to his story the more perplexed they became as to how they should deal with his request at that hour. His doggedness and the self-proclaimed stature in the Government eventually forced them to seek the guidance of their superiors. His plea would have been ignored and he would have been on his way out by now, had it not been for his presumed status and fluency in Sinhala. After a few telephone exchanges back and forth an officer finally arrived to have a dialogue with him. The fact that his request was accommodated at that hour gave Selveratnam the encouragement that the calls he had made didn't go waste and the wheels of government were in motion. The officer too acknowledged that, at the behest of the Ministry of Defense, his daughter's case was getting the full scrutiny.

The officer was friendly and engaging; but had an air of superciliousness about him. As the details unfolded as to

Kumar, he sensed, had a negative effect altogether. The statement that the army was making a grave mistake must have irked and challenged the officer. Momentarily the officer had lost his composure, but hurriedly gathering back, he went to work trying to make a case for the army as to why the detention was imperative. He pulled a bunch of foolscap papers from a briefcase and showed them to Selveratnam as the true copies of the correspondence between Mala and Kumar. All were written in English with a few Tamil words interspersed, and some of them were unequivocally in Mala's handwriting. Seeing the two sets of letters and the contents, and some of them in Mala's handwriting, Selveratnam became speechless. It took a while for him to come out of the shock and when he did, his protesting of not having been persuaded of its authenticity sounded very weak even to him. He wondered when and why they came in to being and how they fell into the hands of the army. He couldn't blame anyone but himself for their existence. While he was still in his dazed state, the officer cleared his throat and gave ample cues that he was about to wrap up the conversation and call it a night. He sternly told that if no one would come forward with information about Kumar or if Mala herself would remain adamant not to cooperate, then her detention would continue. He firmly told Selveratnam that no visiting would be permitted at that hour and he couldn't guarantee if it would be the following day. Crestfallen, Selveratnam left the Fort empty-handed. It was a rude reminder of how easy it had become for a minority to windup on the wrong side of events.

Continued in  
January 2013 issue...



(Ignorance and prejudice are fuelling the spread of a preventable disease. World AIDS Day, 1 December is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS.... It's up to you, me and us to stop the spread of HIV and end prejudice - worldaidsday.org, 2006)

Among the patients in the OPD sat Murali in a somber mood, awaiting his turn. As soon as his token number was called, he entered the room and took his seat by the side of the doctor.

"Tell me, what's your problem?"

"I feel uneasy doctor; headache, fever, sore throat, painful swallowing and fatigue."

"Since when?"

"For the past three days."

"Did you take any medicines?"

"Yes doctor, I took panadol (equivalent to Tylenol) every six hours, but was of no avail."

With the stethoscope in readiness he said, "take a deep breath" and continued "any rash in your body?"

"Yes doctor."

Raising his eyebrow, he continued further, "any nodes you feel as marbles

done and requested him to turn up after a week.

After spending sleepless nights, Murali trembling with anxiety arrived at the clinic after a week, with a pale, sick and mournful face. The doctor with the medical report in his hand began, "Murali, I don't know how to present this to you. You have been diagnosed HIV positive." Tears streaming down he cried, "how could it be, I haven't had any relationship with a woman."

"Then you might have contacted the virus through homosexual relationship."

"That too is impossible, I have never indulged in such activities, doctor."

"It is also possible through blood transfusion."

"So far doctor, I have neither been a donor nor a recipient of blood."

"Could it be during casual contact doctor?"

"No Murali, it's not possible, HIV is not contacted by day to day activities in the workplace, schools or social settings. It is also not transmitted through shaking hands, hugging or casual kiss. Furthermore it can't be infected from a toilet seat, a door knob, dishes, drinking

rest of his/her life, without developing the next dangerous stage - AIDS"

With a gasping sob Murali asked, "isn't there any permanent cure for this?"

"So far only one person had been cured. Timoty Ray Brown, popularly known as Berlin Brown had been cured after a marrow transplant in Germany. Two more patients in Boston, U.S.A are nearing cure, while still undergoing anti-retroviral treatment. May be, soon a permanent cure might be found."

Murali was hospitalized and treatment began immediately. Meanwhile news had spread far and wide about Murali contacting the dreaded disease. Fearing contact, he became alienated from society and was a hapless chap, having abandoned his ICMA course halfway. None visited him except his parents. He became a self-imposed exiled tragic figure. To add to his woes his girl friend Meena's indifference tormented him. Of late she kept herself aloof from him. She was his sweetheart whom he planned to marry. Daily he expected her arrival during visiting hours, but she never turned up. Having waited long, one evening he gave her a call. She took the

my thought, how can I think of other women, please understand me." "What is there to understand, you are a cheat, I can't trust you any further" saying so she slammed the phone and left the place. Murali felt that the whole world was crashing on him. Her stringent reply, referring to him as a cheat kept on churning in his mind.

Murali became aware that Meena was too stubborn to be convinced and that it will be a futile attempt to win her heart. He was also aware that his days are numbered and so thoughts of Meena gradually left his mind. With the hope that he could at least prolong his life, he became a good patient, carefully following the doctor's instructions and taking the medicines according to the time schedule. He knew that the HIV virus if not checked would lead to the next dangerous stage - AIDS. He was always on the look out for any symptoms of AIDS: swollen lymph glands, diarrhea, shaking chills, soaking night sweats, cough, shortness of breath, weight loss, blurred vision and appearance of white spots or sores on the tongue or in the mouth.

All the staff in the hospital were kind and helpful to him, particularly the nurse Uma for whom service is in her blood. She was always at his beg and call, attending to all his needs. She was a pillar of strength for him; whenever she had time she remained at his bedside, spoke to him gently and kindly, encouraging and assuring him that through God's providence he would be cured soon.

Murali led a methodical life, attending to early morning prayers, taking meals on time, reading books and browsing through the internet to find more information on HIV. One day while browsing, he can across more vital information about the causes of the HIV infection; the administration of injection with unsterilized needles and syringes and also the use of the barber's razor. At once his mind took him to the days he had been detained in a temple as a refugee. The precincts of the temple were fully packed with refugees who had to rough out with the bare necessities. There weren't adequate toilet facilities and being the peak of the rainy season, many were badly infected with diarrhea, among them a few infants died of dehydration. It was at this crucial stage that an RMP set up a makeshift clinic in the vicinity of the temple and treated the patients. The needles he had were sterilized by a spirit lamp. Furthermore a barber who 'makes hay while the sun shines' used his one and only razor to shave the faces of the gents, who had no shaving sets. Murali at once realized the cause of the HIV virus in him; he too was injected during treatment and got his face shaved. Murali at once brought this to the notice of the doctor who said, "you are quite right, this might be the reason. You continue the treatment and have faith in God. For your good heart there is a possibility for a miracle to happen."

Contd. on Page 40...

# GRATITUDE

under your skin?"

"Yes doctor."

He deliberated for a moment and said, "you must immediately see a Hematologist."

"Who is a Hematologist, doctor?"

"He is a doctor who specializes in diseases of the blood, spleen and lymph glands. He treats conditions like anemia, clotting disorders, hemophilia, leukemia and lymphoma."

"Why should I see him doctor, any serious problems?"

"I suspect you to have contacted HIV virus."

"What! I have contacted HIV virus!", he broke down and sobbed uncontrollably.

"How can it be doctor!"

"It is mostly contacted through heterosexual relationship."

"But doctor I have had no such relationship."

"I only suspect it. Don't get excited, the blood test will reveal. So hurry and fix an early appointment."

Murali thoroughly dejected, returned home and fixed an appointment for Monday. It was a horrible week of nerve-racking ordeal for him, lamenting, "how could it be and how could I face people with this social stigma, that has crept into me without my knowledge."

At the clinic after an agonizing wait in the lobby, he entered the doctor's room with a haggard look and took the seat opposite the doctor. After going through the note sent by Murali's family doctor, the Hematologist directed him to go to the clinical laboratory where tests were



glasses, food, pets, and through sharing towels or bedding." Not knowing what to say Murali sat brooding.

"Well Murali, we shall find out the reason later but you must begin treatment immediately."

"What treatment doctor?"

"You have to take antiretroviral treatment."

"What is antiretroviral treatment?"

"Antiretroviral treatment is the administration of drugs for infections by retroviruses, primarily HIV. It's a combination of at least three antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to suppress HIV virus."

"Will that cure the illness?"

"You see, as it is HIV virus will weaken the immune system which will no longer fight certain types of infection and cancer. And so antiretroviral treatment can only slow the weakening of the immune system. Can't say if treatment is done at an early stage one can lead the

By: C. Kamalaharan

receiver and on finding that it was from Murali she remained speechless. "Meena! what happened to you, your silence deeply hurts me, have you forgotten me?" Her silence continued "Tell me Meena what is wrong with you?" Breaking the silence she said, "Well Murali, I regret very much to tell you that I do not wish to have any further dealings with you." "Why Meena?" "I never expected you to degrade yourself by indulging in immoral activities. You have contacted HIV through sex. Look Murali, if you have contacted a deadly disease that is not contacted through sex, I will marry you. But as it is, tell me how can I marry a person who has indulged in sex?" "No Meena, you have misunderstood me. I am not such a guy." "How can you deny Murali, the report says so, what more I need." "Listen Meena, you are always in



Cinema & Entertainment

# Aishwarya not prepared to work with father Rajinikanth

Aishwarya Dhanush, who made her directorial debut with Tamil movie '3' this year, says her one-film experience is not enough to work with her superstar father Rajinikanth.

The 30-year-old said just because she is Rajinikanth's daughter does not necessarily mean the actor will work with her.

'I might be his daughter but in profession he is an actor and he should be convinced with the work. Moreover, I am not ready to work with him yet, I am just one film old. Just because he is sitting at home or has dates free does not mean he will work with me,' Aishwarya told PTI on the sidelines of the ongoing IFFI.

The filmmaker shot to fame as she appeared in the video of the song 'Kolaveri di', sung by her actor husband Dhanush, which went viral on the net.

After the release of '3' in March 2012, Aishwarya says she is not working on any project yet and is taking things slow.

'The good part about the profession is we have the liberty to wait. I am not rushing into anything yet. I want to be convinced with my work and unless that happens I can't make a movie,' she said.

On her husband making his Bollywood debut with 'Raanjhnaa', Aishwarya said, 'I am very happy for him. He is a talented actor and deserves the best. I visited him on the sets in Delhi.'

The newbie director also said she would love to make a Hindi film when the right opportunity comes.

'The problem in South is we don't



have access to too much of Hindi cinema. When I made '3' I wanted to release it in Hindi but didn't get distributors. I would love to work on a Hindi film if I get the right opportunity.'

Aishwarya might not be ready to work with her father yet, but her younger sister Soundarya is already working on an ambitious animation project 'Sultan - The Warrior' starring Rajinikanth.

'She is working on the project right now and we are looking for a January release. I haven't seen the film or even parts of it but I know she is working hard. Animation is not easy and requires a lot of work on detailing which need ample of time,' Aishwarya said.

The movie is in 3D and will see Rajinikanth as a warrior. The animation has been done at Soundarya's Ocher Studios.

- PTI

# Manisha Koirala diagnosed with cancer



Bollywood actress Manisha Koirala has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer media reports in India and Nepal said. The 42-year-old reportedly fell unconscious, leading to recent hospitalization.

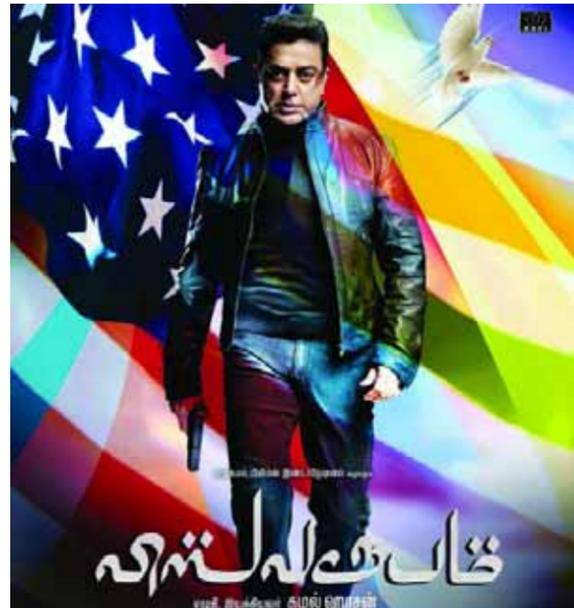
Manisha, who hails from a prominent family in Nepal, has worked in several Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam movies. She is known for her performance in films such as 'Bombay', 'Khamoshi' and 'Company'.

Her grandfather Bishweshwar

Prasad Koirala was the Prime Minister of Nepal during the late 1950s-early 1960s, as well as two of her late great-uncles, Girija Prasad Koirala and Matrika Prasad Koirala. Her father Prakash Koirala has also been a prominent politician and a Cabinet Minister.

Koirala debuted in Subhash Ghai's Saudagar in 1991. She was recently seen in Ram Gopal Varma's film Bhoot Returns (Ghost Returns).

# Kamal Haasan's Viswaroopam to release on January 11, 2013



The much-awaited audio of Kamal Haasan starrer Viswaroopam will be launched in a gala manner on 7 December (Friday) across three cities of Tamilnadu.

According to a press release, the cast and crew of the movie will fly to Madurai on 7 December where the audio would be released at Velammal College Grounds.

The movie features Pooja Kumar, Andrea, Rahul Bose, Shekar Kapur in key roles. Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy are the music composers.

An official announcement from Kamal said that the movie would hit the screens in three languages -Tamil, Telugu and Hindi. Directed and produced by Kamal himself, the film, which deals with international terrorism, features Kamal, Andrea Jeremiah and Pooja Kumar in lead roles.

Recently the trailer of the movie was launched in 11.1 Aura sound technology, which is the first time ever in the Asian film industry.

# GRATITUDE

Contd. from Page 39

It did happen due to Divine intervention; no traces of AIDS and the symptoms of HIV too gradually disappeared. Murali became active and energetic. The doctors after a thorough examination gave him a clean chit, "you are free from the dreaded disease", they said. For Murali what was despair turned out to be ecstasy. He thanked the doctors, the nursing staff, particularly Uma and bidding them goodbye he left the hospital.

Back home he resumed his studies and by sheer patience, perseverance and conscientious effort he cleared the remaining parts of the ICMA and secured a good position as an accountant in a firm. Murali's speedy recovery, his return to normal life and his academic success were the talk of the town. The stigma of his contracting HIV virus was cleared, as an accidental contact.

His parents were keen to have him settled in life. They were in the look out for a suitable bride for him. They also gave him the option to select his partner.

One day while browsing through his computer he received an unexpected mail. It was from Meena, "I am delighted to hear the good news that you are free from the deadly disease and are back to normal. Congratulations on your success in the ICMA programme and for securing a good position. I wish to meet you personally and convey my sincere wishes." Murali didn't reply to her mail. Mail after mail followed, he kept silent.

Speculations about Murali's matrimonial affair reached Meena. She repented

for her folly in demeaning him and with the thought of reconciliation with him before its late, she arrived at his doorstep and pressed the bell. His mother arrived, opened the door and let her in. With a sense of trepidation and hesitation, she entered the sitting room where Murali was seated. Murali on seeing her, received her warmly, requested her to take a seat and in a pleasing manner greeted her, "how are?" "I'm fine and how are you?" she responded. "I'm also fine", said he. Overwhelmed by his kind gesture, her eyes lit with excitement. "He is the same Murali, not having undergone any change, inspite of my abusing him", she mused.

Just then a pleasant looking girl entered the sitting room with cups of tea on a tray. Meena was taken aback and gestured to Murali who she was. Without mincing words, he said, "she is my fiancée Uma, whom I am going to marry soon." His statement came as a thunderbolt to her and she not knowing what to say remained silent. Murali continued, "she was the one who was serving me in the hospital and continues to serve here. It was her loving care and deep concern for me that was instrumental for my speedy recovery. She was the pillar of strength throughout my ordeal. As an expression of gratitude, I chose her as my life's partner." Meena not knowing what to do, got up from her seat, wished them Happy Married Life and left the place, thoroughly shaken with disappointment writ on her face.

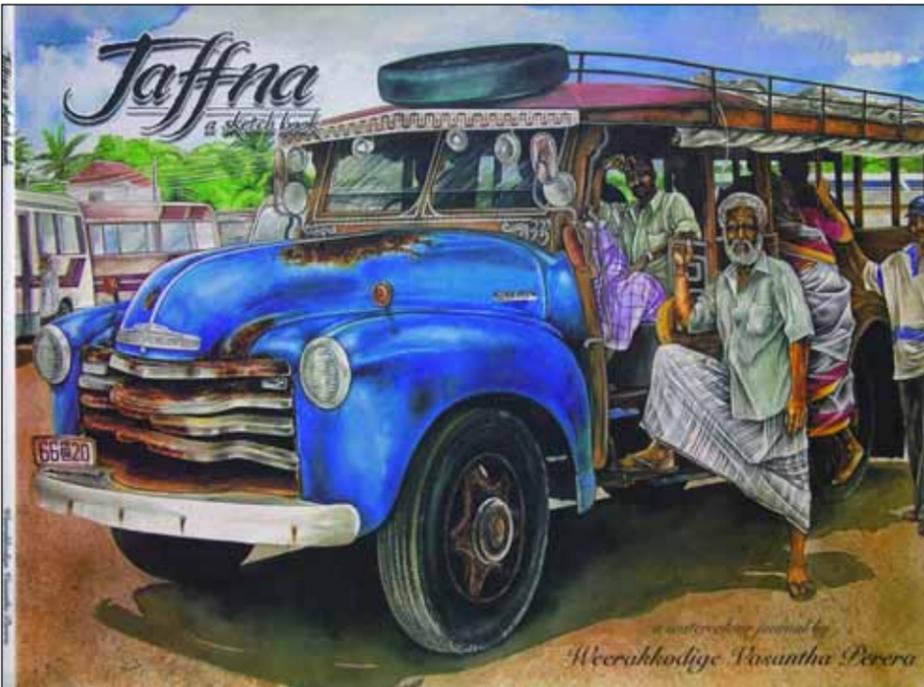


**BOOK REVIEW**

# Jaffna

## - A Sketchbook of Paintings

by **Vasantha Perera**



**Reviewed By**  
**Siva Sivapragasam**

The ravages of a thirty year war has certainly taken its toll on the scenic beauty and panoramic views of the Jaffna peninsula in Sri Lanka. With the war over, the people are slowly getting back to their normal pre-war life behind the cadjan curtain in spite of the drawbacks that they are still facing.

It is against this background that author Vasantha Perera tries to capture some beautiful color images of Jaffna through paintings in his book "Jaffna A Sketchbook".

"Jaffna A Sketchbook" is certainly a treasured book to possess and it captivates any reader to view the panoramic images with text, of a peninsula that has inherited a historic scenery backed by an equally precious culture. Vasantha is like a wandering artist capturing the finest images of Jaffna. To those who imagine

that Jaffna is a harsh landscape these paintings will prove otherwise that the peninsula is both beautiful and striking.

In spite of the hardships the people endured due to the war, Vasantha praises them for the strength of their soul that has remained and their determination to make the best of the lot left to them. He was amazed by the resilience of this group of people with their hopeful eyes and betel stained smiles.

The paintings in the book reveal this - the brightly coloured saris & sarongs, the spicy foods, the traditional dances etc. It had taken the author almost three and a half years to complete the sketches in the book.

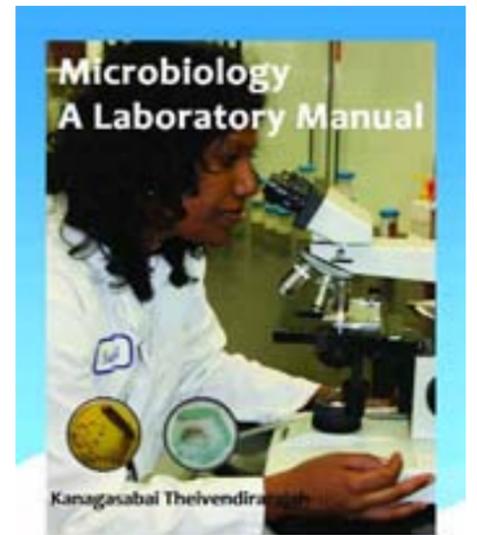
Jaffna, a Sketch Book is a water colour journey of the peninsula which Vasantha has painted of what he wanted to see and what he wants us to see.

*(Those interested in purchasing the book can contact the author at [vasanthart@gmail.com](mailto:vasanthart@gmail.com))*

# Book Launch

On November 15th 2012 Dr. K. Theivendirarajah released his book entitled "Microbiology- A Laboratory Manual" at the Auditorium of Alpha Laboratories Inc., in Toronto. This book will be useful to students following microbiology courses in the universities, colleges and other academic institutions. It is also quite useful to new comers to Canada with a degree in microbiology and are looking to work as microbiologists in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and other industries. Many tests, assays and protocols used routinely in these work places in Canada are well described. Dr Theivendirarajah has worked for 18 years at Alpha Laboratories Inc., as chief microbiologist and as consultant. He shares his industrial microbiology experiences in this valuable book.

Dr. Theivendirarajah who was the former Professor of Botany and Head of the Department at the University of Jaffna is planning to go to Sri Lanka to distribute his books free of charge to the microbiology departments at universities

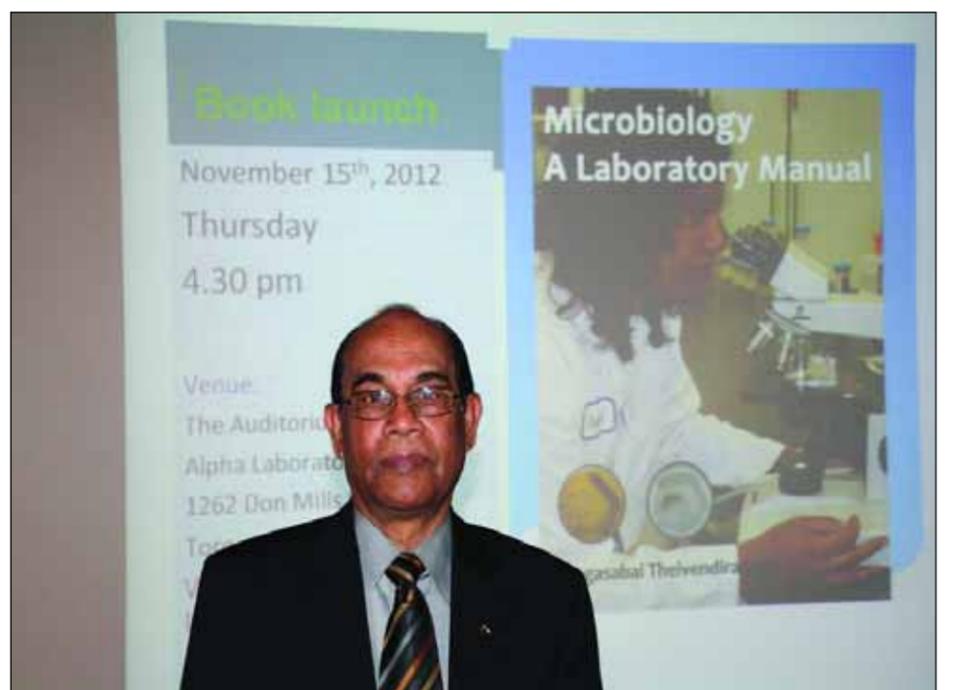


Cover page of the book

in Jaffna, Batticaloa, Colombo, Peradeniya, Kelaniya and Ruhuna. This book is available for sale in North America, priced at \$20.00 per copy. Dr. Theivendirarajah can be contacted by phone # 416-335-3453 or by email: [ktrajah39@gmail.com](mailto:ktrajah39@gmail.com) regarding the sales.



Dr. Theivendirarajah is handing over the first copy of the book to Dr Joseph Kurian, President and CEO of Alpha Laboratories Inc.



Dr. K. Theivendirarajah, author of the book

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# Understanding Mortgage Insurance

**David Joseph M.A. (Economics)**

Buying a home? Renewing an existing mortgage? In either case, there's something you need to consider. What happens to your home if you should become incapacitated or die? Would your family be able to stay in their home?

Mortgage financing is probably one of the largest financial commitments you will make in your life. Safeguarding that commitment from the curves life may put in your path, means having the right kind of risk protection. Most lending institutions offer mortgage insurance when you arrange a mortgage with them and it's the "easy" way to get coverage. But before you say yes, here are a few things to think about.

The lender's representative who arranges your mortgage is usually not licensed to sell insurance products and cannot provide you with advice or guidance with respect to the insurance or provide guidance in answering the questions on the enrollment form for mortgage insurance. Here's what can happen and has been documented in some cases: On the mortgage insurance form, you are asked to answer some general questions about your health and you do so to the best of your ability without realizing that your answers may not provide full disclosure the insurance company needs. For mortgage insurance, the underwriting (the process of choosing who and what the insurance will insure) is done at the time of claim-so while you may believe

you are covered, at the worst possible time, the coverage can be uncertain.

A policy obtained through a lending institution has no cash value and benefits are paid directly to the lender not to your beneficiaries at a time when the money may be required the most. Your lender is the owner and the beneficiary of the policy so if you decide to move to another lender for a better interest rate or for a new mortgage on a new home, you would have to re-qualify medically



for coverage, maybe for higher premiums, or you may no longer be eligible for coverage. Another important feature to consider is that your mortgage insurance pays out only the amount owing on the mortgage at the time of claim. Your coverage decreases as the mortgage is paid down but your premiums remain the same so the cost of your insurance actually increases as your coverage decreases.

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**Disclaimer:**

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

There is absolutely no coverage when the mortgage is paid off.

There is no doubt insurance is necessary protection for your home and family. But before making the decision, look at other options like getting the coverage you need with a personally owned life insurance policy. Protecting your mortgage with a personal insurance plan can offer you and your loved ones better

## Some tax shelters (Donation) can bite

By Jay Wigna

As the end of the year looms, this is also the period where tax shelter season is upon us.

Tax shelters are most heavily marketed during the last few months of the year as taxpayers scramble to reap the purported tax savings in 2012, which often entails buying the shelter before Dec. 31. While you may have not been approached about this year's crop of tax shelters yet, a recent decision of the Tax Court may be enough to send a chill down any potential tax shelter investor's spine.

This is the 2012 case of KATHRYN KOSSOW, (Appellant) and HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN. In 2000, 2001 and 2002 the Appellant participated in a leveraged-charitable donation arrangement promoted by Berkshire Funding Initiatives Limited and Talisker Funding

# TAX POINTS

Limited (the "Berkshire Program" and sometimes "Program"). As a participant in the Berkshire Program, she made purported donations to and received charitable tax receipts from in the amounts of \$50,000, \$60,000 and \$50,000 in 2000, 2001 and 2002 respectively (the "Donations"). In the present appeal, the Appellant's Donations were funded by 20% cash from her and 80% from a 25 year, non-interest bearing loan provided to her by one of the promoters of the Berkshire Program. That means she received donation receipts far in excess of the out-of-pocket cash outlays.

She learned of the Berkshire Program in October 2000 from her investment advisor, and participated in 2000, 2001 and 2002. She testified that she was attracted to program because, according to its promotional material, it "donated to several arts-related organizations and the program would allow her to make a larger donation than she could otherwise

make to support the arts." According to her testimony, "the tax savings was a secondary consideration."

Consequently, she invested \$17,000, \$20,400 and \$17,000 of her own money in the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 and received donation receipts for \$50,000, \$60,000 and \$50,000 respectively. Prior to 2000, the judge noted her donation history over the previous eleven years ranged from a low of \$201 to a high of \$1,360.

The main issues in this appeal were,



whether the Donations made by the Appellant were gifts within the meaning of subsection Income tax Act ("Act").

Under the Income Tax Act, you can claim a donation tax credit for gifts to a registered charity.

Contd. next page...

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# Are Prices of your Stock Holding Sliding Away? Time to Understand Put Options

**Arun Senathirajah**

ACIB, MBA (Banking Mgmt)

Is sagging market taking away the value of your stock holding you bought would be profitable one?

We all know and some you have experience in lost on your holdings during IT stock crumbling in around 2000 global financial crisis in 2008-2010. Further investors are still being panicked by Euro Nations sovereign debt crisis contagion being impacted on North American markets - specially, US and Canadian. Experiences of lost value of your investment in Nortel holding and recently on RIM stock cannot be overlooked. How can you protect yourself during this turmoil?

## Time to Understand Put Options

Put Options enable you to sell the underlying stock at a price fixed right now no matter how low it falls in future. Put options really used as a tool to capture value as the underlying stock drops and then sell the put options at a profit! Apart from being an incredibly flexible and risk limited leverage instrument, Put Options are fantastic hedging instruments for any stock portfolios.

Put Options are stock options that gives its holder the POWER, but not the obligation, to SELL the underlying stock at a FIXED PRICE by a fixed EXPIRATION DATE. A Put option represents the right (but not the requirement) to sell a set number of shares of stock (which you do not yet own) at a pre-determined 'strike price' before the option reaches its expiration date. A put option is purchased in hopes that the underlying

stock price will drop well below the strike price, at which point you may choose to exercise the option.

### Cost Effective:

Put Options allow investors to do something relatively unfamiliar to the stock trading world and that is, to profit from a downturn in stocks without getting into margin calls or shorting anything. Shorting stocks exposes the investor to unlimited upside risk whereas buying put options puts at risk nothing more than the price you paid for the put options. There is no shorting needed. No shorting, No margin, Limited Loss and Unlimited profits is what sets the buying of Put Options apart from shorting stocks.

Put Options are financial contracts between a buyer and a seller. The seller or 'writer' of Put Options is giving the Buyer of those Put Options the right to sell to him stocks at a price fixed and agreed upon in the Put Options contract. The buyer or 'holder' of these Put Options can now hold on to them, hoping that the stocks will drop in price over time, before the Put Options contract expires, and then either sell the Put Options on to another buyer at a higher price or buy the stocks at the prevailing market price and then exercise the right vested in the Put Options to sell the stock to the seller at the higher agreed price, turning a profit.

Clearly, the seller or 'writer' of Put Options is expecting the underlying stock to stay stagnant or to go up so that he/she can make a profit out of that sale without having to really buy the stocks from the holder of the Put Options.

The buyer of those Put Options is clearly expecting those same stocks to go down and is willing to pay a small price to speculate on such a move. This expectation is also captured in the popular investor sentiment indicator known as Put Call Ratio. Put Call Ratio is the ratio of the amount of put options traded versus call options traded.

### Put Options Example

X Co. shares are trading at \$40 right now. \$40 strike price Put Options are trading at \$2.00.

Anita expects X Co. shares to go down on her holding of 100 shares of X Co.

bought at \$40.

Peter expects X Co. shares to go down too and bought 1 contract of Put Options of X Co. (representing 100 shares) for \$200.

X Co. Falls To \$30 During Expiration of the Put Options

Anita would lose \$1000  $((\$40 - \$30) \times 100)$  from the drop.

Peter would make \$800  $((\$40 - \$30) \times 100) - 200$  from the same drop in net profit after deducting the price of the Put Options, which is a 400% profit!

Benefits of Put Options

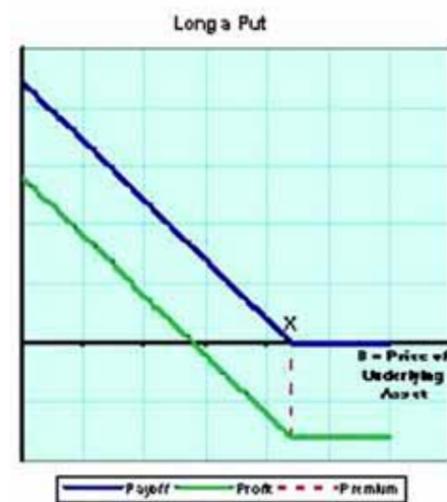
" Able to profit from falling stocks without needing margin.

" Can be used to hedge against stock or options trading positions.

" Extremely flexible. Can emulate payoff of stocks or put options through synthetic positions.

By understanding the volatility of the price of stocks and options, using Technical Analysis may keep you on the right side of the markets. Spending your time to study it is usually handsomely rewarded. How to make money on the premium variation of put options please contact: 416 525-8213

asenathi@hotmail.com



## TAX POINTS Contd. next page...

The issue in the case was whether the donations made by the participant were actually "gifts." Prior jurisprudence has concluded that "a gift is a voluntary transfer of property owned by a donor to a donee, in return for which no benefit or consideration flows to the donor."

The Canada Revenue Agency initially reassessed her, denying only the 80% portion of the donation funded by the loan but then came back and subsequently disallowed 100% of the donation tax credits.

The judge concluded that there could be no "gift" because in return for making her cash donation, the participant received 25-year interest-free loans the judge called "significant benefits" given that she did not have to pay interest on a commercial loan for the

difference between the cash donated and the value of the donation receipts received.

While the participant's lawyers argued she should at least be entitled to a tax credit for the cash portion of her donation, the judge disagreed saying that there was "only one interconnected transaction here. No part of the Donation was given as a gift without expectation of a return."

The result this case is that if you participated in a leveraged donation scheme, you could end up not getting any tax benefit for the actual cash outlay. Further, recent pronouncements from Canada Revenue Agency indicates that your 2012 refund can be on hold until such time the donation scheme is audited which can take many years.

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## Travel Destinations

by Sami Appadurai

Consequently, the victory of the Indian independence war opened the gates widely for many other colonies of Britain in Africa and in Asia to follow the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi. Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast, engaged in an armed struggle and won independence in 1957 and many more in 1960's. It is my personal conviction that Mahatma Gandhi should have been given a better place in the world's history and I also feel that if Ghandi would have done what he did in India in any other part of the world his recognition would be stronger still .

Over eighty percent of the Indians are Hindus, and though they gained simultaneous independence with Pakistan, Pakistan officially commenced it on 14th August 1947 and India postponed its celebrations to the following day, August 15th 1947 due to the reason that it was not an auspicious day. Still, India is a secular state and offered a couple of high ranking

strength of their children. Even though these elites account for a small portion of the entire population of India, their strength in rebuilding the nation is great.

The second group of people are leading a traditional life with some conveniences of modern life. They are mostly brought up in a rural life and are becoming influenced by the urban life and they remain in their areas and do not intend to migrate to the cities. They have been somewhat modernized and provided with modern infrastructure that has elevated their status as dwellers of towns than villages. Though many of them do not have post secondary educational status, still they have the thirst for the life of those who are highly educated and desire to reach the status of the cream of the crop.

The third group has the bulk of the masses and is also the deciding factor in the parliamentary elections. Their literacy rate is low compared with the other two groups. They mainly depend on tradition-



# Exploring India in Search of Instant and Everlasting Happiness

by Samy Appadurai

political positions to non-Hindus as deserving Indians, such as A. P. J Abdul Kalam for the presidency ,and Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister still India is a secular country and has given due place for other religions. India being the most populous democratic county and growing to the stage of one of the world's strongest powers is also part of the rising sun of the east and has inherited the values of the one of the world's ancient civilizations.

India became a victim of European colonization particularly in the fifteenth century by the Europeans in search for spices. The explorers landed in the central part of the North American continent and were colonized mainly by the Spanish. They believed that they had reached the western part of India and named those islands as the West Indies. The Portuguese subsequently disembarked at some islands in the Indian Ocean and named them as the East Indies. Even today the natives of America are popularly known as Native Indians and the citizens of India as called East Indians. Finally they landed in India and colonized and followed by the Dutch and the British for five centuries.

In India I observed that the population seemed to be divided into three different stages of development. I saw the recent post secondary school graduates who resided mainly in the cities and their thoughts and lifestyle. In short, they are part of the modern global family. Although they are proud to practice their age old traditional heritage values, in their day to day life, they are heavily influenced by the west. They would not mind losing some of their old values as they are viewed as outdated and clash with their so-called modern ways. But the older generation considers this as a bitter pill to swallow because of the higher education and economic

al agriculture which has very little or no insurance for their economic activities. When my tourist guide Mr. Elangovan, took me to the rural areas on the road by car, it was very hard to drive because of the bad conditions of the road with dusty wind due to the lack of regular rainfall from the North east Monsoon winds. I don't think it is mainly caused by the global warming, as we felt the warmer winter seasons in recent years in Canada. Their source of income is hardly enough to meet the expenses for their basic needs. There is very little economic security and the clouds of uncertainty hover constantly. I am sure, that some Indians may not like this but I would say that a portion of them have been living under a poverty level for so long that some put the blame on "karma", that is what they consider the balance of good and bad deeds of the last birth.

The concept of karma and the rebirth are two of the fundamental religious beliefs not only to the Hindus, but also to other predominant Eastern religions such as Buddhism, Sikhism and, Jainism. It comprises a great portion of the world's population of seven billion inhabitants of the world. Let me explain these two concepts. What I have understood is that every living thing has not only life but also each and everyone including the plants and animals has souls and it has been interpreted in many ways. In Sanskrit and Tamil the soul is referred to as "Atma". Gandhi was addressed as Mahatma Gandhi and the title of Mahatma means a great soul that is above the soul of an average man. Let us now account for all good things and thoughts that someone has made in this birth as credits and the bad actions and thoughts are debits and the balance, either credit or

debit will be carried forward to the next birth, and until the balance becomes zero, the final stage in which he or she will have to follow the cycle. When he has reached the stage of being totally detached from materialistic desires as Lord Buddha clearly mentioned that desire is the cause of human suffering you have reached the optimum level of success and this is called "Nirvana "

I have gone through the natural aspects of Indian life in general and let me take you to the richness of wisdom and guidance for everlasting happiness for everyone, irrespective of colour, race, education, religion, wealth and social status. No matter who we are and where we are, and regardless of all differences from the ancient primitive man in the stone age to the space age, we all have one and only goal in our life and that is to be happy forever. This desire has been with us from the first man who was differentiated from the higher level of monkey, almost 6.5 million years ago and has remained unchanged to the modern man. The ancient man began to live more inclined with the animals at the early stages and then as he is being the only tool making creature, he was able to make a new life and it reached to a higher stage and produced civilizations from that point into the space age. Are we to say that the modern man with all of his enviable and tremendous progress and achievements is happier than the primitive man? The progression of modern life never even brought happiness into an arithmetic progression. There is a tremendous change in the container but not in the content.

This reminds of a time when I was invited to deliver a speech by an American Organization. I delivered a speech on 'Materialism versus spiritualism "and while giving my speech, I expressed my

point of view on today's American life. I said" when today's Americans fled from their homeland, some of the British in the United Kingdom, referred to the people in the thirteen colonies as poor people. But today, America is the only world power with abundant wealth, better social amenities, health and education but still what the British said, remained unchanged, because the modern Americans could not reach a better state of happiness even with having all of that wealth".

I am proud to say that India is enviably rich in spirituality than any other nation of its calibre and I am sure that the dissatisfaction of the modern man has reached its peak level. Furthermore, whether you like it or not you will inherit the Indian moral values and I have seen them penetrating into western culture in the form of vegetarianism, yoga and meditation.

In spite of its success, India is still facing some very heavy challenges. Within the country issues such as social inequality, threats from terrorists within and from outside along with separatist movements from groups such as the Maoist rebels continue to keep India on its toes. As it keeps moving forward, India will have to learn to move quickly if it plans to stay ahead.

In conclusion, it appears to me that India accepts the technological advancements, the democratic process in politics and its outcome in overall economic progress. However its spirituality is the jewel in its crown and will continue to keep India in good stead.

*Samy Appadurai is a renowned broadcast journalist, author, educator and public speaker who makes his home in Toronto.*



# Durham Tamil Association's 11th Youth Festival - Dedicated to ANBU ILLAM in Mullaitivu, Sri Lanka

On November 10, 2012, Durham Tamil Association held their 11th Annual Youth Festival at J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate in Ajax. It was a grand affair with 186 kids showcasing their talent on stage through 23 separate stage performances. The night was filled with numerous highlights. The opening program STRINGS OF MELODY was an extra ordinary fusion of Violin, Keyboard and Drumpad by the students of BRUNTALAYA SCHOOL OF SOUTH ASIAN VIOLIN, Guru being Mrs. THULASI RAGUNATHAN. WELCOME DANCE was a symbol of Ancient Art Bharathanatyam by young performers from ATPUTHANALAYAM, Guru being Mrs. ATPUTHARANI KIRUBARAJ.

Another classical rendition "ABNAYAM" by students of BHARATHALAYA DANCE ACADEMY was simply breathtaking, young Guru being Ms. NIVEDHA RAMALINGAM, our long standing youth member. DTA was extremely proud to have UGESH VAKEESAN, first male Bharathanatyam Dancer along with a group of dancers representing KALAI NATIYALAIYA FINE ARTS SCHOOL OF BHARATHANATYAM in SALANGAYIN SANGAMAM choreographed by his mother Guru Mrs. KALAIMATHY VAKEESAN.

MAENUSHA RAGUVARNAN's elegant dance to SARIKA NAVANATHAN's live song was treat to our eyes and ears, made both of them SHINING STARS of DTA. It also showcased the high caliber of our youth talent. To mark the REMEMBRANCE DAY and to pay respect to the fallen soldiers, O' Canada was played in Piano by our talented youth JEREMY FRANCIS along with youth members of DTA including few autistic children holding Canadian Flag, touched many hearts.

Programs depicting Tamil musical art such as SHRUTHILAYAM was a soothing Classical Vocal performance by three groups of little girls by AMIRTHA GANA MANDRAM, Guru being Mrs. MANORANI THUSITHARAN. DANCING DOLLS of the evening were LUXSIYA MUTHALITHARAN and PEERAVEENA SIVAKUMARAN, who gave a stunning performance for a popular number. Another highlight was, "I am who I am", a program designed to highlight the bullying in high schools directed by PRESHANTH DINESHKUMAR, RISHI SURESH, KARAN JOSHI & SHENDOSH MADHUSUDHAN sent a strong message about the need to proactively combat bullying in high schools. It was a proud evening for DTA to witness youth from various communities in this ANTI-BULLYING show.

Grade 8 students of EAGLE RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL gave a stunning dance performance choreographed by Ms. KATIE BURNS expressing the pain of bullying. Participants representing Africa, Afghanistan, Canada, China, India, Pakistan Nepal and Sri Lanka in their traditional attire, performed a colorful fashion show with Martin Beckett - Director of Education, Durham District School Board. The program UNITY IS STRENGTH, highlighted Durham District School Board's role in uniting all communities under one

umbrella. In addition, COMEDY EXPRESS screen played and directed by KABITHAN RAVICHANDRAN & UMA SURESH, proved our youth boys could stage a Tamil Drama with lot of comedy, dance and song. CLOUD 9 was a heart throbbing Hip Hop dance by our youth boys, choreographed by ASHLEY ARRUDA from Town of Ajax. REMIX GALATTA choreographed by BANUJA GANESALINGAM, DURHAM LITTLE SUPER STARS choreographed by DEEPA SIVASANGAR and FUSION STEPS choreographed by MAENUSHA RAGUVARNAN were all of great caliber and reflected hours of hard work by respective groups. VINNAI THODALAM was a new program dedicated the Autistic children and youth of DTA.

KRISHAN THANANJEYAN, an autistic child accompanied by his brother MYURAN THANANJEYAN on Mirudangam gave an outstanding Carnatic Vocal performance which brought tears to many. In addition to Krishan, 4 other autistic children performed during the event. RHYTHMS was a medley program to introduce the talented young singers of Durham Tamil Association. Above all, KOLLYWOOD TWISTERS & UNITY IN DIVERSITY performed by a group of 39 little kids aged four to eight years, choreographed by UMA SURESH, simply stole the show.

PATH OF LOVE, a program dedicated to all mothers of DTA was the Grand Finale of this Youth Festival. Flowers were given to all mothers who had sacrificed their pleasures to help their children. It was an emotional moment to see all mothers proudly witnessing their children getting the Trophies. Special Appreciations to our first time Master of Ceremony - LUXSIYA MUTHALITHARAN, PEERAVEENA SIVAKUMARAN, ASHLEY KUGARAJ, KEERAN SIVANESAN, SINTHU SHANTHAKUMAR, VITHUSHAN VIJAYAKUMAR and ABHISHEK RAVI who entertained the audience with their humour.

Numerous dignitaries attended the event. MPP Joe Dickson, MPP Tracy MacCharles, Pickering Mayor David Ryan, Deputy Mayor Lorne Coe, Councillor Peter Rodriguez, Regional Councillor Jennifer O'Connell. Shashi Bhatia from MP Chris Alexander's Office and Joe Mckinnon from MP Corneliu Chisu's office also brought greetings from respective MPs. DTA was honored by the greetings of Durham Regional Chair Roger Anderson, Chief Constable Mike Ewles, Mayor of Ajax Steve Parish and Mayor of Whitby Pat Perkins. While Esther Enyolu - Executive Director WMRCC graced the occasion with her husband, Vaqar Raees - President of Friends Indeed, Roland Rutland of Bahai Community, Ahmad Tariq Fahimi - President of Canadian Afghan Council and Yan Brumwell of DACA, Gopal Bhandari of Nepalese Canadian Community Services witnessed the program with their whole family. Also, representatives from City of Pickering were on hand to grace the occasion including Robert Prochilo of Town Of Ajax.

Durham Tamil Youth not only displayed

their talent but also used the occasion to raise money for children of Annai Illam, an orphanage in Mullaitivu. DTA raised close to \$3,000 from donations of \$5 per person from the sold out event. All donation proceeds once fully tabulated will be forwarded directly to Annai Illam, Mullaitivu.

During his speech, Josh Suresh, President of Durham Tamil Association, highlighted role of cultural heritage and community service in developing stronger leaders for tomorrow. He also stressed Durham Tamil Association's commitment and the community's responsibility to rebuild a generation decimated by decades of war and atrocities in Sri Lanka.

Overall, it was a fun filled event for a great cause. Durham Tamil Association whole heartedly thank all sponsors, medias, volunteers, parents and youth for their contribution to make this event a great success.

Martin Beckett - Director of Education, Durham District School Board, honored the following students for their achievements:

PIRAVENA SELVAKUMAR - McGill University, Bio-Science (1st Year). Piravena has made several volunteer contributions to her community. She completed over 300 hours of volunteer service for the Rouge Valley Hospital and received her 300 hour pin. As part of DTA's Youth Committee, she has volunteered her time to assist with Youth Festivals, Spook Fests, Christmas Parties and other events.

SINTHUJAN KANGATHARAN - UOIT, Business Information and Technology (2nd Year): Sinthujan achieved Dean's Honour Roll Award in during his year at UOIT semesters. He successfully overcame biggest challenges in his high school life into great opportunity purely through his hard work, discipline and dedication. Sinthujan is also a great Hip Pop Dancer and choreographed numerous programs for our Youth Festivals

SIVI PRADEEPAN - Carlton University, BA Law(1st Year): Sivi is classically trained vocalist and has been singing from age 5. She is a member of Young Singers Choir from 2001 to 2012. She has represented DTA in numerous events since her early childhood.

SHOWMIKA RAVINDRAN - University of Waterloo, Criminology (1st year). Showmika is grounded well rounded student. Showmika is also a great dancer who had choreographed several items for DTA's Youth programs and help organize several DTA events

MALVERN FRANCIS - Seneca College, Accounting (1st Year). Malvern is a well-rounded student and a distinguished athlete and an excellent soccer player. Malvern is currently representing Seneca College in Nationals Championships in Vancouver.

KRISH DINESHKUMAR - Trent University, B.Sc in Mathematics, 1st year. Krish is the 2012 Valedictorian. He is also active participant in the Pine Ridge Secondary's Dragon Boat team.

KAPILARASU KARUNANEEDHI - Kappi chose to serve the Country first and

joined Canadian Armed Forces instead of pursuing a college education. He is currently serving with First Canadian Mechanized Brigade as a Army Communication & Information Specialist in Edmonton, Alberta. He is the first DTA youth to join our Armed Forces.

During the event, MPP Tracy MacCharles honoured two DTA long standing members who were recipients of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Winners. A new commemorative Medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country. At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. Our own Dinesh Kumar and Kula Sellathurai received this prestigious award recognizing their life long contribution to Community Service.

Dinesh Kumar is one of DTA's founding members and a past President. As President of DTA, Dinesh secured numerous inter-community alliances and partnerships so we can serve our community better and function effectively. Dinesh has been the face of Durham Tamils for many years and carried out numerous community improvement projects.

For instance, as Chair of School Community Council at Pine Ridge Secondary School, Dinesh organized numerous programs including the Breakfast Club. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal is a testament to his years of service to the community. DTA is very proud of Dinesh and grateful to his significant contribution to our Durham Community. We thank him for his years of service and wish him the very best.

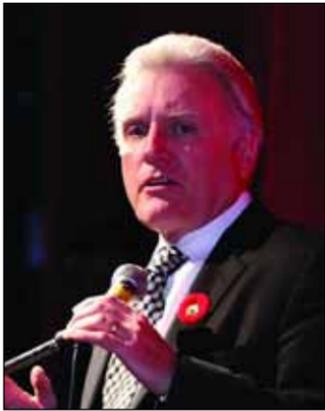
Kula Sellathurai has been involved in community service for well over two decades. Notably, he spearheaded numerous Walkathon fundraising campaigns for a Birthing Centre at Scarborough Centenary Hospital. In fact, to recognize this great initiative, a section of the building has been named as Canadian Tamil Wing. Kula is a prominent businessmen and sponsors and supports numerous DTA events. In addition, Kula is a former president of Canadian Tamil Chamber of Commerce. Last week, Mid-Week Magazine recognized him as a top 25 South Asian Entrepreneurs. We are very proud of Kula's achievements and his contribution to Canadian Tamil Community and wish him the very best.

Councillor Peter Rodrigues honoured another young icon Sarika Navanathan proudly represented Durham Tamils at Vijay TV's Junior Super Singers 3 Competition. She finished among the top 18 out of 20,000 participants. In addition, Sarika represented DTA in numerous functions. We are thankful for her contribution and proud of her great achievement. We sincerely wish she will conquer many more milestones such as this and continue her honorable service to Tamil Arts and Culture.

See page 46 and 47 for pictures...



Pictures taken at DTA's 11th Youth Festival (Details on page 45)



Pickering Mayor DAVE RYAN @ DTA's 11th Youth Festival



DTA's 11th Youth festival Welcome Speech by Mrs THUSHYANTHI GUNARATNAM



DTA's President JOSH SURESH @ 11th Youth Festival



DTA's Young MC ABHISHEK RAVI



MARTYN BECKETT Director of Education, DDSB Appreciating SINTHUJAN KANGATHARAN & KRISHANTH DINESHKUMAR for their HONOUR ROLL



Singer SENTHIL KUMARAN @ DTA's 11th Youth Festival Supporting ANBU ILLAM



DTA's 11th Youth Festival SHINING STARS SARIKA NAVANATHAN



12\_Singer PARTHI PUVAN @ DTA's 11th Youth Festival Supporting ANBU ILLAM



DTA's 11th Youth Festival SHINING STARS MAENUSHA RAGUVARNAN



DTA's Scholarship Sponsor DAN GANESAN @ 11th Youth Festival



Audience @ DTA's 11th Youth Festival - 10th Nov 2012



DTA's 11th Youth Festival ABINAYAM



DTA's 11th Youth Festival ANTI BULLYING



DTA's 11th Youth Festival ANTI BULLYING



DTA's 11th Youth festival CLOUD 9



DTA's 11th Youth Festival DANCING DOLLS



DTA's 11th Youth Festival FUSION STEPS



DTA's 11th Youth Festival I AM WHO I AM



DTA's 11th Youth Festival PATH OF LOVE A Dedication To Mothers



DTA's 11th Youth Festival FUSION STEPS



DTA's 11th Youth Festival KOLLYWOOD TWISTERS



KRISHAN THANANJEYAN @ DTA's 11th Youth Festival



DTA's 11th Youth Festival REMEMBRANCE DAY



DTA's 11th Youth Festival REMIX GALATTA



DTA's 11th Youth Festival SALANGAYIN SANGAMAM



DTA's 11th Youth Festival SHRUTHILAYAM



DTA's 11th Youth Festival SHRUTHILAYAM



DTA's 11th Youth Festival STRINGS OF MELODY



DTA's 11th Youth Festival UNITY IS STRENGTH



DTA's 11th Youth Festival WELCOME DANCE



DTA's DINESHKUMAR Honoured by MPP TRACY MacCHARLES



DTA's Humorous MCs ASHLEY KUGARAJ & KEERAN SIVANESAN



DTA's Vibrant MCs LUXSIYA MUTHALITHARAN & PEER-AVEENA SIVAKUMARAN



DTA's Young Comedian RAVI UNCLE



DTA's 11th Youth Festival



DTA's Emotional Evening PATH OF LOVE A Dedication To All Mothers



LIGHTING OF THE TRADITIONAL LAMP @ DTA's 11th YOUTH FESTIVAL



MPP JOE DICKSON Appreciating the Performers of DTA's 11th Youth Festival



SHASHI BHATIA & UMA SURESH @ DTA's 11th Youth Festival KOLLYWOOD TWISTERS



Hartley College Principal Mr. N. Theivendrarajah

# The 24th Annual Hartley Nite



■ Current Principal from Sri Lanka, the guest of honour received standing ovation

■ Rajezwaran re-elected as President for the 3rd term

The 24th Hartley Nite and Annual General Meeting of Hartley College Past Pupils Association's Canada/USA branch were held at the Queen's Palace Banquet Hall on the 3rd day of November, 2012. The event was attended by around 200 past pupil, well wishers and their families marked the end of yet another successful year in the history of the association. Mr. N. Theivendrarajah, the current principal of Hartley College and the patron of the association graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.



Hartley College Principal Mr. N. Theivendrarajah presenting Mrs. Mathuram Pathmanathan with "Service Excellence Award"



Hartley College Principal Mr. N. Theivendrarajah presenting Mrs. Thilaka Thanvendiran, mother of Shiyam Tahavendiran with "Achievement Recognition Award" on his behalf. Shiyam Thavendiran won the International Master (IM) title, the second highest titles in chess in 2012.



Raj Rajezwaran, President, Hartley College Past Pupils Association Canada & USA on right

The Canada/USA branch of the Hartley College association was formed in 1988 by old Hartleyites who were eager to contribute back to the society they came from. During the past twenty-four years, the association has been a firm proof that individuals can come together and function successfully towards a common cause regardless of various backgrounds and differences. The association has 230 Life members and is well represented by a committee which is a perfect mixture of youth and experience combining really well. During this time the Association has collected close to one hundred thousand Canadian dollars from members, well-wishers and through various fundraising events for the benefit of the school and other worthy humanitarian causes. As part of many initiatives of the Association, we host our annual general meeting and get together to facilitate fellowship among Hartleyites living in Canada and USA. This year's event was the 24th such occasion.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was presided over by Mr. R. Rajeswaran, the president of the Association. Secretary of the Association Mr. A. Rabikanth presented the activity report of the association for the year and the Treasurer of the Association Mr. N. Navaneethan presented financial statements. The election of the new executive committee was conducted by Mr. V. Eeswaranathan, one of the vice-patrons of the Association. Most members of the 2011/12 executive committee were re-elected unanimously for the 2012/13 committee. Mr. R. Rajeswaran was re-elected as the president for a third consecutive term.

After the AGM, the annual Hartley Nite took place. Re-elected President Mr. R. Rajeswaran thanked the Association, patrons and executive committee for giving him the opportunity to serve as the president of the Association and expressed pride about the achievements of the Association.

The most anticipated item in the agenda was the speech of our Guest of Honour, the Principal of Hartley College, and Mr. N. Theivendrarajah. They say excellent leaders are excellent public speakers, and Mr. N. Theivendrarajah was one such leader. In a bilingual one hour speech (In Tamil and English) that got a deserved standing ovation the principal demonstrated his commitment and sheer passion towards the school. His speech was divided and delivered in three parts, Pre-Theivendrarajah reign, Theivendrarajah reign and Future. He was very frank about the difficulties he faced in taking over a school in an environment

that is no longer an easy ride for administrators, and his track record is there as a proof for his handling of those difficulties. Hartley College's outlook has taken a new shape infrastructure-wise during Mr. N. Theivendrarajah's tenure. And if his future plans are to be implemented successfully the students at Hartley will enjoy state of the art educational facilities. He requested all the old Hartleyites to come forward and support the school and the community. He stressed the fact that it might be a considerable contribution or not, but the contributors will be rewarded by the almighty in some way or another. Mr. N. Theivendrarajah's time at Hartley College is already illustrious and he will surely be remembered as a great visionary in the history books of Hartley College.

Following the principal's speech, Mrs. Pathmanathan, an active and the only female member to serve in the committee as vice-president was honoured by Mr. S. Sivarajah on behalf of the association. Mr. Shiyam Thavedran, who became the first International Master of Chess from Srilankan origin, was also honoured by the association. The association had 5 new life members and they were introduced to the rest of the members by the master of ceremonies Mr. Vel Vivekananthan.

The last part of the Hartley Nite was the fellowship and entertainment for Hartleyites and families. Games for kids and adults kept the crowd engaged all the way through the night. Dinner was served for all while happy Hartleyites were busy chatting to their friends and families. Nostalgias were aplenty. The event came to a happy conclusion with the distribution of prizes for the winners of the games. The 24th Hartley Nite and Annual General Meeting of Hartley College Past Pupil Association's Canada/USA was a grand success and the association enters its 25th year in 2013 rejuvenated and confident.



Hartley College Board Members with Hartley College Principal Mr. N. Theivendrarajah



## Recent Events

## Friends of VAROD meet in Toronto to raise funds

By: Donald Joseph.

VAROD (Vanni Rehabilitation Organization for the Differently Abled) is a Charity based in Sri Lanka in the Vanni Region. The Main Mission of this Charity is to provide the basic necessities of life to 'Persons with Differently Abled' from conflict areas. The 25 year long war has led to a large number of severely disabled persons who need to live to their full potential and VAROD's objective is to provide the educational, economic, medical and social infrastructure to allow them to do so.

The Executive Director is Rev. Fr. Albert Arulraja who was in Toronto to raise funds for the Charity. Last year, a Group of Friends in Toronto sent funds to Fr. Arulraja and because of this support Fr. Arulraja wanted to meet this group to seek further financial assistance for the Charity. In this regard, Walter, Jude and Donald thought it best to invite more friends at this meeting to widen the support base in Toronto.

The Conference room at Howard Johnson Hotel for the meeting on Saturday, Nov 10th was sponsored by Jude Francis's friend who is the Chief Accountant for the Hotel. Also, Jude Francis picked up the tab of \$220.00 for a full English breakfast for all the attendees.

Jude Francis opened the meeting with thanks to all the members for attending on such short notice. He then introduced Rev. Fr Arulraja who explained the Mission and Objectives of VAROD, the immediate financial needs and current projects. In this round table discussion, all of them praised the priests for the excellent humanitarian service they are providing in Sri Lanka.

Rev. Fr Arulraja indicated that the immediate need is to replace the temporary shelter for the patrons of VAROD. Therefore VAROD needs to build seven permanent brick houses and Fr. Arulraja has asked the members to finance the cost of one of the houses, at an estimated value of CAN \$ 30,000.00

The initial plan is for each of the 13 members to raise \$1,000 from our friends and family within the next quarter or two. If its successful in reaching all or

most of this goal, then the funds would be sent to Fr. Arulraja's Trust Account in small amounts.

Second Action Plan is, eight members from the thirteen will form a committee which will meet once a month to provide updates on the collection of funds and to determine what other steps can be taken to meet the target etc. The next meeting was scheduled for the first week of December.

Sam Asokan, one of the attendees decided to kick start the fund raising process by giving a \$1,000 donation at the meeting and Donald Joseph also donated \$600.00 which he brought to the meeting from his friends and family.

It was decided in the meeting to set up a Trust Account for the funds with three members assigned as signatories.

In this regards, it was also decided to open a VAROD Arm in Canada and will be registering in Toronto according to appropriate process. This is currently work in progress and Walter Sebastian has taken the initiative to inquire and set up this new trust account.

The committee will meet and make the necessary decisions in the next month regarding the establishment of the Charity and the Opening of the Trust Account. In the meantime, the \$1,600.00 already collected will be held by Donald Joseph until the bank account is opened.

Fr. Arulraja provided some digital photographs of their services from VAROD which we can use to raise awareness of this Charity and which will be useful in our campaign to raise the funds needed.

Jude, Walter and Donald thanked all of them for supporting this cause.

Contact Information and the Address Details for VAROD:

VAROD - Vanni Rehabilitation Organization for the Differently Abled  
Executive Director: Rev. Fr. Albert J. Arulraja.

4th Mile Post, Mannar Road,  
Katpagapuram,  
Pambaimadhu,  
Vavuniya,  
Sri Lanka.

Email: varodserve@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.disablesvanni.org>



Rev. Fr. Albert Arulraja



Friends of VAROD with Rev. Fr. Albert Arulraja

## Lawyer Meleni David receives Social Services Award from National Ethnic Press & Media Council

Meleni David, an entrepreneur and lawyer is the recipient of an Award for Social Services from the National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada. She received the Award from David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario at a ceremony held at Queen's park early last month.

Meleni was also selected earlier this year as one of the top 25 immigrants of

Canada for the year 2012. This Award was presented by the Canadian Immigrant Magazine and sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada. Her Legal firm - The Law Offices of Meleni David, was also chosen by the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce for an Award for Best Marketing in the year 2010. She runs a lucrative legal practice in Toronto.



Meleni David receiving award from David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario



Melini David with her spouse



Executive Committee with Rev. Fr. Albert Arulraja



# ST. JOHN'S – CHUNDIKULI GIRLS' COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO

It was the fall of 1988 when about 250 past students of the above schools got together at West United Church hall under the interim chairmanship of Tulin Ratnam and Ms Padmini Jeyanathan and laid the foundation for the formation of this association. Former Vice Principal, the late Mr. J.T. Chelliah of St. John's college and former Principal of Chundikuli Girls' college Ms. G.E.S.Chelliah were very much behind the formation of the association and then in it's successful activities. During the last twenty five years, the association celebrated the 175th anniversary of St; John's College and the 100th anniversary of Chundikuli Girls' College and continues to be involved in the successful development of the goals of both the schools.

Over the period the association had

the privilege of hosting many of their Principals and

Vice principals in Toronto. Dr. E.S. Thevasagayam, Mr. S. Thanapalan, Mr. K. Ganeshalingam, Rev. N. J. Gnanaponrajah, Ms. M. S. Devanayagam and Ms. T. Rajaratnam were hosted by the association in the past. This year, the association had the rare privilege of hosting both Principals Rev. J.N. Gnanaponrajah and Ms. Dushy Thuseetharan as guests of honour at the 25th anniversary dinner dance with more than 350 guests at J&J Swagat Convention Centre at Markham on Saturday, Nov 3rd.

The association celebrates many activities every year, the major ones being the Cricket match with

Jaffna Central College, Seniors nite, Vaani Vizha, Dinner dance, and Carol service. The association participates each year in the sports festival organized by the Tamil School Sports Association.

The displaced Children's fund and SJC'87 Initiative groups are very actively involved in maintaining hundreds of war displaced children in both schools.

In addition a very supportive Teachers Welfare Fund is also in place at St. John's College, thanks to an old boy of S.J.C.

The electricity generator, the sick room, the staffroom at St. John's College are all some of the gifts from members of our association to their Alma Mater. Not to be out done the Chundikuli past students donated to the school,

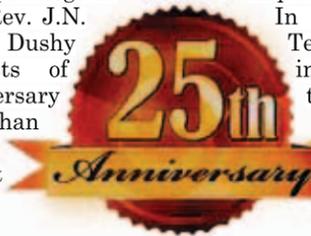
nearly ten thousand dollars towards the construction of classrooms to accommodate more displaced students.

This year the dinner dance was special because of the 25th year celebrations. Four members of the association Mr. T. Thavarasalingam, Mr. Sithamparanathan, Mrs. Lydia Senthivel and Mrs. K. Thavarasalingam were honoured for their continued contribution as members of the ex. committee.

All in all, it was a very special gathering of loyal past students who are the backbone of these two famous and prestigious institutions of the Northern Sri Lanka.

**Photo Courtesy:**

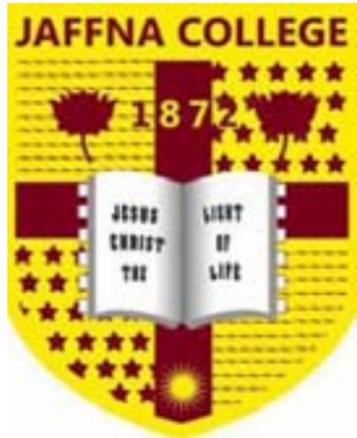
**Yoga Arulnamby, Past Co-Chair of St. John's – Chundikuli Girls' College Alumni Association Toronto (2007 to 2009)**







# 21st Combined Carol Service - Jaffna College & Uduvil GC



By JJ Atputharajah

The Alumni of Jaffna College and Uduvil GC were able to stage yet another carol singing event recently at Scarborough, much to the delight and praise of their audience. Rev. Dr. Lyman Kulathungam who gave the message said that Christmas should be remembered for its spiritual significance and not for the materialist enjoyments provided to the public by the commercial gimmicks. Jesus was born in our midst to set the values right for the redemption of humanity. Made for spirituality, we wallow in introspection. Made for joy, we settle for pleasure. Made for justice, we clamour for vengeance. Made for relationship we insist on our own way. Made for beauty, we are satisfied with sentiment. Christians are called to leave behind all these frailties and follow Christ.

The events associated with the birth of Jesus reminds us of the values of humility, human dignity and holiness. There were a number of choirs both Seniors and Juniors singing both in Tamil and English. The organizers had made it a point to enrich the service with new talents especially children and

grand-children of old boys and girls. The classical songs rendered by the choirs reflected their commitment and expertise in the tasks they undertook. Instrumentalists both in Tamil and English uplifted the quality of the carols sung. The calypso carols sung by the English choir was very entertaining and filled the audience with the 'feel' of the season.

The choir directors Vinita Kirupanantharajah (Tamil), Parmar Roweena, Sharmini Sabaratnam (English) gave the proper training and direction for the choristers to give of their best.

Unlike other years, pains were taken to provide quality singing in both Tamil and English and that was highly commended by the devotees. There were also common carols selected for the congregation to join and sing. The experience that the congregation obtained by participating in the service brought memories of X'mas time observances in the homelands. The organizing committee led by the secretary Jayanthini Chelliah and Treasurer Richard Dharnmarajah had accomplished a great task for the glory of God.

## Early Learning opportunities are offered free of charge at the Scarborough East Ontario Early Years Centre

The Tamil United Church (TUC), a Mission Unit of the United Church of Canada in partnership with the Ontario Early Years, Scarborough East Site is offering the following:

Early Learning programs for children ages birth to 6 years, and their parents and caregivers.

Provides you the opportunity to organize Recreational, health and fitness classes and other learning materials for parents and grandparents while their children are in a program.

Offers Information & Referrals to other community programs.

Offers parenting programs inclusive of parents/grandparents and caregivers.

Depending on group size, the above can be offered at the following Early Years Centre sites:

- a) 110, Mornelle Court, Scarborough (Ellesmere Rd/Morningside)
- b) 100, Galloway Road, Scarborough (Galloway/Kingston Rd)
- c) 4218, Lawrence Ave East, Unit 15 (Lawrence/Morningside)
- d) 30 Corvette Ave. (Kennedy/Eglinton)

If you are interested in attending at any of these Centre's,

**Please contact: Jeyaratnam at (647) 340-2113 for more details**

TUC Focus: "On growing spiritually and support difficult social issues faced by Tamils both in Canada and in Sri Lanka"

## LCBO stores raise funds for Saint Elizabeth Foundation



Starting November 11, the public can help support family caregivers in their local communities by making a donation at any of the over 625 LCBO stores across Ontario. Donation boxes for the Saint Elizabeth Foundation will be displayed at LCBO checkout counters until December 8.

The Saint Elizabeth Foundation is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for the advancement of knowledge and charitable initiatives in home and community care. The Foundation's Caregiver Support Program provides families in need with the assistance they require to care for their loved ones at home, including providing respite or "relief" care free of charge. The program has provided over 100,000 hours of respite care to overburdened family caregivers across Ontario. Saint Elizabeth staff has made over 35,000 visits to hundreds of families - visits that are funded entirely by charitable donations to the Saint Elizabeth Foundation.

"We would like to thank the LCBO, its employees and especially its customers for answering the call for increased resources in the area of family caregiving," says Janet Holder, Chair of the Saint Elizabeth Foundation. "The

LCBO's network of stores across Ontario is a very effective way for us to raise awareness and funds for this critical issue."

"LCBO is pleased to partner with the Saint Elizabeth Foundation and provide support to a variety of worthy causes," says LCBO President & CEO Bob Peter. "Generous LCBO customers and staff improve the lives of countless Ontarians and help communities throughout the province."

The Saint Elizabeth Foundation is one of 28 provincial and numerous local charities that will benefit from LCBO's province-wide donation box program in 2012. In 2011, LCBO raised a total of more than \$6.2 million for charities through special programs and initiatives, of which \$5.7 million was raised through in-store fundraising. In addition, LCBO's annual dividend transfer to the Ontario government, which totaled \$1.63 billion in fiscal 2011-12, excluding taxes, supports a wide range of important government programs, services and priorities, including health care and education.

The Saint Elizabeth Foundation thanks the public for its support when shopping at their local LCBO store from November 11 - December 8, 2012

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## Recent Events

# The Monster in the House

Once upon a time, there was a small village. In the village, there was a mountain, a mine, and a town. On the mountain, there was a mansion that held a special cure known as Vine Snatch.

In the village, there was a hut and in it lived a boy, his sister, and their sick mother. She was sick from a disease called Anchestis. To cure her from the disease, the boy and the girl knew they had to get a hold of a Vine Snatch.

One day, the boy and his sister were watching T.V. On the news, they heard that the Riddles, the residents of the mansion at the top of the mountain had moved out. More importantly, the last Vine Snatch could be found inside. However, the mansion was full of haunted spirits.

The boy and his sister had an idea. They made a plan of how to get the cure. First, they would have to journey through the haunted mine, then climb to the top of the mountain.

At night, they set off on their journey to the haunted mine. In the mine, the lights flickered and ghosts and witches

Story by:  
**Haneish Puvitharan**  
(Grade 4 RG Student)

could be seen. While exploring the mine, they suddenly felt the ground shake. An avalanche started! They ran as fast as they could, and finally, they managed to escape. Out of the mine, they saw in front of them, the mansion they had been trying to get to.

They went into the mansion, and in it were monsters, like ghosts and witches. Within a flash, the boy stepped into a trap and got tied up by ropes. When he looked to his sister, he realized that she was gone. The boy untangled the ropes, and within a flick, he was free.

While looking for his sister, the boy found a map called, "Eatagaboon". The map showed that the Vine Snatch was in the attic and that his sister was in the basement. He wondered where he should get first. Finally, he ran to the basement and saved his sister. They followed the map to the attic, worked together, and



Story Competition Winner Haneish Puvitharan, Grade 4 RG Student with the certificate and award presented to him by RG Education Centers.

finally got the Vine Snatch.

When they came home, they gave their mother the Vine Snatch and her complexion immediately grew healthier.

As her mother continued to recover for the next few days, the boy and the girl told their mother all about their adventure.



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# Navarathri Celebration

Navaratri means nine nights in Sanskrit and symbolizes the triumph of good over evil. On this occasion, devotees worship all nine forms of Goddess Durga. Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati are worshiped for three days each asking for their blessings in different aspects of a person's life. The first three days are worshipped for Durga remover of miseries of life and gives power and energy. The next three days are for goddess Lakshmi, who is considered to have the power of bestowing on her devotees the inexhaustible wealth. The final set of three days is for worshipping the goddess of wisdom and knowledge, Saraswati. In order to have all-round success in life, we need the blessings of all three aspects of the divine

mother, therefore, the worship for nine nights is important. Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham members in partnership with Ajax Academy celebrated Navarathri on Oct 22nd evening which was one of the nine days. Many families from the Durham region attended this festival for their 5th year. The evening was filled with devotional songs, prayers and devotional dances for peace, wealth and knowledge. It was a wonderful opportunity for the families to gather to pray and explain the significance of this Hindu festival to their children. Festive vegetarian snack was brought in by each family and shared amongst everyone. Sincere thanks to the coordinator of this evening.



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# Ajax Santa Clause Parade

Once again for the 5th time Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham (TCASD) was pleased to participate in the Ajax Santa Clause Parade. This year's theme was Santa's Magical Parade of Lights took place on Nov 10th in the evening and TCASD float was looking bright and magical as ever before. The Parade started at Bayly Street and Mackenzie Avenue and proceeded east on Bayly Street to Harwood Avenue and north to Achilles Road. It was an evening complete with music, magic, lights and lots of cheering and smiling children lined on the street to watch the parade and of course the big guy in red Santa. Wow what a wonderful way to start off the holiday spirit! TCASD float was beautifully decorated with lots of lights and Christmas decorations to capture the essence of Christmas. Little boys and girls of TCASD members were in the float enjoying smiling and waving to the crowd. Thanks to the parade decorators, children and parents for coming out.





# Silver Bells Spirit of Christmas 2012 Dinner Dance

It was an amazing Sri Lankan Christmas event, Silver Bells Dinner Dance, which took place on the 1st of December 2012 at the Scarborough Convention Centre, Ontario. For the participants, this event gave a great opportunity to meet Sri Lankans and they had a night filled with dance, music and entertainment. The highlight was Sri Lankan singer Ronnie Leitch who performed at the event along with local band Sampath and the Showcase. Congratulations to Elanko, Chairman, Event Organizing Committee and other members Roshan, Prathib and others for a very good performance. Some of the photos taken at the event can be seen here. **Photo Courtesy: Digital Gnane**





# Operation Christmas Child Spreads Joy

WATERLOO - Shoe boxes coloured in crayon were stacked like Christmas trees in the foyer of the NCR Building warehouse on Thursday November 28th.

Stuffed with holiday goodies, the boxes are the only gift many children in developing countries will receive this Christmas.

"A lot of these kids can't go to school if they don't have school supplies or clothes. You can help a kid get an education and have a semi-normal life," said Kathy Mizen, regional collection co-ordi-

nator of Operation Christmas Child.

Candy, crayons, hair brushes, toothpaste and calculators will be sent to kids in developing countries as part of the program. Eighty-two million boxes have been distributed since the program's inception in 1993, said Mizen.

Mizen said that each year the program goes to different developing countries. This year Cambodia is included in the long list.

In the Waterloo region, Waterloo is the main collection center for sorting and

packing for the boxes in Ontario. Mizen said this year she expects 8,000 boxes to be donated, the most since 2003. Boxes collected in Ontario are sent to South America and Central America.

The Canadian goal is to donate 750,000 boxes this year.

Dharini Sivakumar, the secretary at Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region, said members have been donating their time and energy for the past 13 years to give back their service to the community. Our members go in as a

group or individually during various volunteer hours.

"Kids don't really have a good understanding of how fortunate we are," said Indra Logendran, the President of the association. "So if I can touch their lives by bringing light to this, it makes me feel better and they feel better in the end."

Anjali Abraham and Prabha Mani, said they enjoyed packing box with a stuffed animal, crayons and candy because kids in other countries don't get Christmas presents like they do.





# New era of mobile learning is here, Kitchener conference told

Peter Lee/Record staff

KITCHENER - For the generations of children born in the 21st century, book learning has taken on a whole new meaning. Books are now apt to be tablets or smartphones, and they contain more than words and pictures. The new generation of "digital natives," as Kunal Gupta, chief executive of Polar Mobile calls them, expects to also have fun while learning.

Gupta, who was speaking at a "Mobilize" conference hosted by the Waterloo-based e-learning solutions company Desire2Learn on Monday at Bingemans conference centre, says the fact that these digital natives are practically born tethered to mobile devices is changing everything.

The conference was attended by about 500 people, including educators and students interested in digital media jobs.

Gupta's company makes mobile applications for traditional media companies such as national and international newspapers and broadcasters now finding that about 25 per cent of their audience is accessing content from mobile devices. That will likely grow to 50 per cent in the next few years, he added.

"Technology has changed the way we discover things, search for things; the

way we communicate," he said.

"It has already changed education," said Gupta, a University of Waterloo graduate whose company is now based in Toronto.

"The way that young people learn and get inspired is totally different, even from when I went to school, which was only five years ago," he said in an interview.

"If you walk into a classroom today, everyone is on their smartphones and tablets and they are not necessarily just Googling the word the professor just said. "They are distracted by something more exciting, so I think we need to use technology in the classroom to better engage the students."

Some companies, such as Spongelab Interactive, are involved in the "gamification" of learning. Spongelab, a Toronto-based production studio, brings together scientists, educators, artists, animators and programmers to create interactive learning games such as Build a Cell, and Build a Body, which are "drag and drop" learning games that teach students biological structures.

Jeremy Friedberg of Spongelab said gamification of education really isn't new. "Education is already gamified. There is something you are working toward and there is something that is



motivating you to achieve an end goal," he said. "In high school, it's your diploma. In university it's your degree. The question is: Is it a good game? Is the game doing what we want it to do?"

Education is great at getting people to pass standardized tests, but in this day and age, if critical thinking and creativity are the goals, learning games can help students and they have been proven to improve their performance, he said.

The games can give students a head start. The Build a Body game was made

for high school students, but Friedberg says his four-year-old loves it too and has figured out how to assemble all the bones of the body in proper order.

The conference also dealt with issues such as making the learning environment equitable for students from less affluent homes and how to ensure the content on smartphones and tablets brought to school remains appropriate for younger children.

[rsimone@therecord.com](mailto:rsimone@therecord.com)

## Globalisation makes second language a bonus

By: Lakshmi Sivakumar

Canada is known for having two official languages, English and French, yet its diverse languages that make Canada a unique place of diversity.

Learning extra language is an opportunity, which some of us miss out. A country like India has hundreds of languages with a population of more than a billion. Indians do take advantage of learning extra languages and look for better opportunities in life.

The big advantage of learning a second language is that it can really help your career. Globalization means that it is now necessary to do business with people who speak different languages. As a result employers are constantly looking for people who are able to speak additional languages. If you have a job skill and the ability to speak more than one language you will find yourself in huge demand with employers. Of course this will depend in large part on what languages you are able to speak.

Being able to speak a second language also means that you will be able to go and work in other countries. We are expanding our knowledge and thinking skills. The younger you are better the

brain functions. So, that extra language will stick into your head. We focus better and the fear is not there. Travelling and research will be a cake walk. Your ability to talk to others and gain knowledge beyond the world of English can contribute to your community and your country.

Discover new worlds! Get an insider's view of another culture and a new view of your own. Studying a new language, reading other people's stories, and connecting with people in their own language can be a source of pleasure and surprise. Connect with other cultures. Learning about other cultures will help you expand your personal horizons and become a responsible citizen.

I admire the immigrants who come to our region and learn English as a second language. They go to night school to learn the language; some carry a language translator. Their determination to learn the language is very aspiring. It's a struggle, like any foreign obstacle but at the end they want to be another successful Canadian. Due to globalization ESL students around the world have risen dramatically.

My Tamil language teacher, with lim-



ited resources encourages us to learn and write Tamil. She uses drama as a technique to improve language skills. Her goal is to make sure we learn the language with confidence, interact and improve vocabulary. We participated at the Tamil Cultural nite festival and won awards.

I went through French immersion and see a lot of opportunities for young Canadians. At the end, I feel parents have to make commitment and encourage their children to be part of the learn-

ing process. If we lack, we would have difficulty in competing with new comers.

This is my last opinion column. I enjoyed every bit. I did research and spoke to people. I must thank the staff members at the Record Newspaper for selecting me. Youth editorial is a good program and I would encourage youths apply for next year.

Lakshmi Sivakumar is a student at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute in Kitchener.



# Top performing U.S. mutual fund bets on BlackBerry revival, increases RIM stake

TORONTO - Donald Yacktman, whose \$19-billion mutual-fund firm has outperformed peers by picking undervalued stocks, is leading a rush of investors betting Research In Motion and its BlackBerry smartphone can recover.

Yacktman Asset Management bought 12.2 million RIM shares last quarter, doubling the firm's stake to about \$252 million, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Yacktman sees value in the BlackBerry's 80 million users worldwide, its physical keyboard and the promise of a new operating system, even as the phone's U.S. market share has dropped to less than two per cent from 8.5 per cent a year ago.

"People do like to use the keyboard, and there is a big embedded base," Yacktman said in a telephone interview from Austin, Texas. "This company could be worth a lot more."

His increased investment may have made Yacktman \$30 million to \$54 million as of Tuesday's close, given he bought the stock between the quarterly highs and lows of \$6.31 and \$8.29. Yacktman doesn't disclose the exact day on which he buys or sells a stock.

RIM has climbed 70 per cent since Sept. 24, when the most recent rally began.

Yacktman relies more than peers on picking individual stocks rather than indexes, a strategy that helped his firm outperform other mutual funds in the longest economic slump since the Great Depression.

The \$7.1 billion Yacktman Focused Fund has returned 12 per cent over the past five years, putting it in the top one per cent of comparable funds, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

The first BlackBerry 10 phones will go on sale in February, following a delay

of more than a year. The lack of new models has made it harder for RIM to compete with Apple's iPhone and devices that run Google's Android.

RIM accounted for just 1.6 per cent of U.S. smartphone sales during the 10-week period ended Oct. 28, research firm Kantar Worldpanel ComTech reported Tuesday. That compares with 48 per cent for Apple and 47 per cent for Android.

RIM fell 11 percent to \$10.72 on Nasdaq on Tuesday, the biggest one-day drop since June, after the Kantar report. Before that, RIM had climbed for eight straight days, its longest rally in four years.

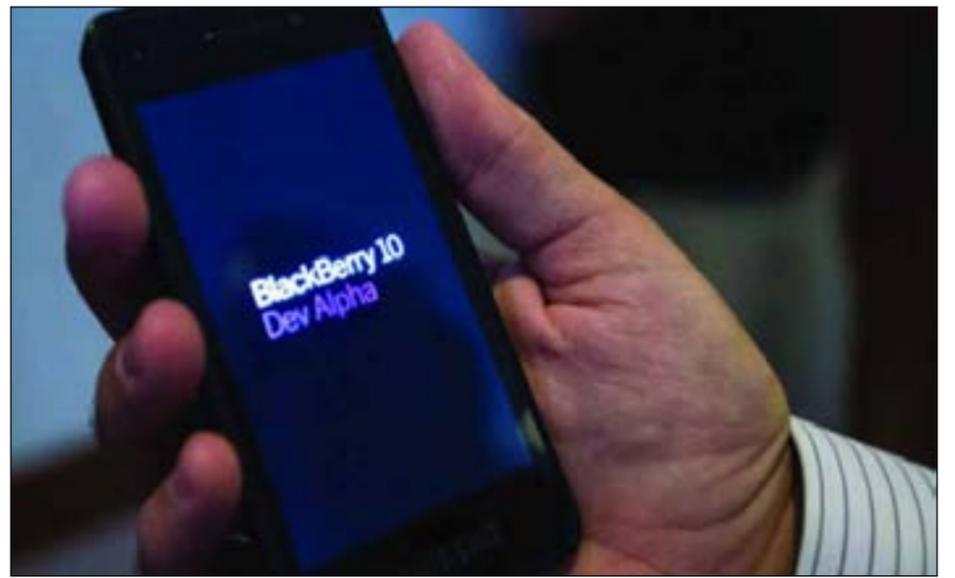
Yacktman's firm increased its RIM stake to 4.5 per cent by the end of last quarter, making it the fifth largest shareholder, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Fairfax Financial Holdings, founded by RIM board member Prem Watsa, is the biggest investor. RIM co-founders Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsillie are second and third, followed by Primecap Management Co.

Still, Morgan Stanley analyst Ehud Gelblum chalks up the stock's run-up to "irrational exuberance." While that optimism may help maintain the shares over the next two to three months, there's no evidence that BlackBerry 10 can even become the industry's third-place finisher, he said this week in a report.

Microsoft's Windows Phone is vying for the No. 3 spot, and its market share has already vaulted past RIM's in the U.S.

RIM is counting on BlackBerry 10 and pent-up demand from its installed base of 80 million subscribers worldwide to break a five-quarter streak of declining year-over-year revenue. Chief executive officer Thorsten Heins also expects a wave of upgrades from RIM's govern-



ment customers, he said earlier this month.

Other investors have been raising their stakes in RIM. Renaissance Technologies Corp. bought 9.9 million shares last quarter, increasing its stake to 3.2 per cent. Viking Global Investors bought 4.6 million shares, having previously held none. And Franklin Resources raised its stake by 3.9 million shares to 3.3 percent.

Some investors may be wagering that some or all of RIM will be acquired, providing a payday even if BlackBerry 10 fails. RIM hired JPMorgan Chase & Co. and RBC Capital Markets in May to help explore its strategic options, though Heins said in September that its focus is on negotiating a software licensing deal or other partnership.

Jefferies & Co. and CIBC raised their ratings on RIM this month. Even short-selling investors, who had previously bet on RIM shares falling, have bought into the stock. Ironfire Capital President Eric Jackson said he bought an undisclosed number of shares last week.

"Most are greatly underestimating how many loyal subscribers will upgrade

to BB10 in calendar 2013," Jackson said.

New technology may not be enough to reverse the tide for RIM, said Morgan Stanley's Gelblum. He cites Palm Inc.'s WebOS, which failed to turn around the company even after being well received in 2009. Palm was bought by Hewlett-Packard the following year, and the WebOS products were eventually scrapped. "Ultimately we believe BB10 is too late," Gelblum said in the report.

Sixteen analysts recommend selling RIM's stock. Twenty-eight others have the equivalent of a hold rating, and six recommend buying the shares.

There's still a lot to like as a RIM investor, aside from BlackBerry 10's prospects, Yacktman said. The company had more than \$2 billion in cash and short-term investments last quarter, up from the previous three months. Its intellectual property also may be valuable to an acquirer.

"Cash, patents and embedded base - it seemed to us there's a fair bit of value there," he said. "And that's why we've done what we've done."

**Bloomberg News**



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### Merry Christmas

### and Happy New Year 2013



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Regional News

# Town of Whitby Undertakes Corporate Communications Strategy



As the Town of Whitby continues to grow, developing and following a strategic and integrated approach to communications, especially 'two-way communications,' is fundamental in building a healthy, sustainable and inclusive community.

The Town of Whitby is therefore undertaking a Corporate Communications Strategy. The purpose is to improve the Town's 'two-way communications' with citizens, businesses and other stakeholders resulting in a more engaged community with a broader awareness of and input on Town policies, programs and services.

A Corporate Communications Strategy is a roadmap for effective communications. The goal of the Corporate Communications Strategy is to ensure that communications across the Town of Whitby are coordinated, effective, responsive, timely and accessible.

The main objectives for developing a Corporate Communications Strategy are to:

- provide a structure for how the town can best communicate information to residents,
- optimize the use of technology and build upon the proliferation of social media and new media channels,
- align communication practices with the way residents prefer to be communicated with by the town, and
- examine needs and protocols for employee communications.

The Corporate Communications Strategy will outline a vision, strategies and actions, and an implementation plan that will guide communications at the Town of Whitby. The Town of Whitby currently uses a number of methods to communicate with citizens. These include Council meetings, Mayor's Town Hall meetings, the Town's website ([www.whitby.ca](http://www.whitby.ca)), The Whitby Perspective newsletter, Parks and Recreation Activity Guide, Experience Our Downtowns magazine, Seniors In Motion newsletter, annual Waste Calendar, newspaper advertising, media releases and advisories, and facility advertising.

Community engagement to develop the Corporate Communications Strategy is essential. Soon, a detailed public opinion survey will be available at [www.whitby.ca](http://www.whitby.ca) and in person at Town facilities, but you can offer your input now by answering these two questions:

1. How would you like the Town to communicate with you?
2. How would you like to communicate with the Town?

You can drop off your hand-written comments at any Town facility, or email your responses to [communications@whitby.ca](mailto:communications@whitby.ca). Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

### Have Your Say on Other Town Projects

Public participation throughout Town projects is encouraged! If you would like to become an Interested Party and be notified of future consultation opportunities, please contact the following departments to have your name, address and email added to the invitation list:

**Port Whitby Studies**  
Email: [portwhitbyplan@whitby.ca](mailto:portwhitbyplan@whitby.ca)  
Phone: **905.430.4306**  
Web: [www.whitby.ca/PortWhitbyPlan](http://www.whitby.ca/PortWhitbyPlan)

**Waterfront Parks and Open Space Master Plan**  
Email: [parks.rec@whitby.ca](mailto:parks.rec@whitby.ca)  
Phone: **905.430.4300**  
Web: [www.whitby.ca/phase2waterfront](http://www.whitby.ca/phase2waterfront)

**Heritage Conservation District Study for Downtown Whitby**  
Email: [downtown@whitby.ca](mailto:downtown@whitby.ca)  
Phone: **905.430.4347**  
Web: [www.whitby.ca/downtown](http://www.whitby.ca/downtown)

**Official Plan Review**  
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**Town of Whitby:  
December Events and Meetings**  
<http://www.whitby.ca/en/Calendar>

### JCI Whitby Santa Claus Parade

December 1, 2012, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

### Christmas Dance (Whitby Seniors Services Members)

December 1, 2012, 7:30–10:00 p.m.

### Operations Committee Meeting

December 3, 2012, 7:00–10:00 p.m.

### Christmas on a budget (Whitby Seniors Services Members)

December 4, 2012, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

### Public Open House: Detailed Design for a Stormwater Quality Pond within the Pringle Creek Watershed in the Area of Manning Road and Garden Street

December 4, 2012, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

### Public Meeting: Port Whitby Community Meeting, Secondary Plan Update, Community Improvement Plan, Urban Design Guideline

December 5, 2012, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

### Free Seniors Blood Pressure Clinic (Whitby Seniors Services Members)

December 7, 2012, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

### Whitby Brass Band - Christmas Concert

December 7, 2012, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

### Dinner and a Show Hosted by Whitby Seniors Activity Centre

December 9, 2012, 4:00–8:00 p.m.

### Regular Meeting of Council

December 10, 2012, 7:00–10:00 p.m.

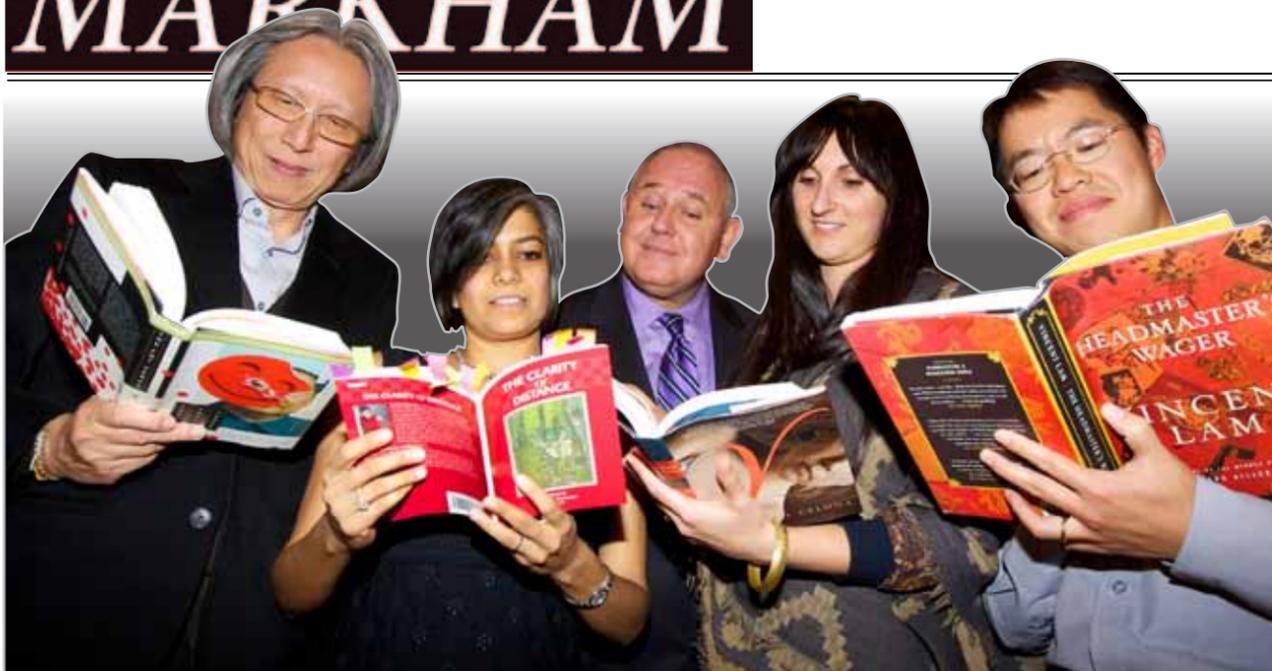
### Management Committee Meeting

December 18, 2012, 2:00–5:00 p.m.

# MARKHAM



## Regional News



Mayor Frank Scarpitti joined (from left) authors Chan Koonchung, Ayesha Chatterjee, Marjorie Celona and Dr. Vincent Lam for Markham's second annual International Festival of Authors at the Flato Markham Theatre on October 23.



(From left) Olympic athlete and two-time Pan Am champion Michelle Li; TO2015 Pan Am Games CEO Ian Troop; Mayor Frank Scarpitti; and Olympic Athlete Christine Robinson break ground at the Pan Am site Official Groundbreaking Ceremony on October 9, representing all participating parties in the 2015 Pan Am Games.



Ward 5 Councillor Colin Campbell joined residents for games, tours and demonstrations on November 10 at the Community Open House and Official Grand Opening of Fire Station #99.



Mayor Frank Scarpitti (centre) and Members of Council gathered in Council Chamber on November 8 to recognize residents and staff of the City of Markham who have made special contributions to their communities and beyond.



The first fire truck leaves Fire Station 99!



Children (10 & under) had a chance to get spooky and trick-or-treat their way around the Markham Museum grounds for Scaryfest (October 27 and 28), where they encountered ghosts and goblins of all sorts.



(L to R) Councillor Logan Kanapathi; Mayor Frank Scarpitti; Honourable Michael Chan, MPP; Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP and Regional Councillor Joe Li assembled to light a lamp at the Diwali celebration on November 5, at Armadale Community Centre.

**REGISTER NOW FOR WINTER 2013 PROGRAMS! RECREATION, CULTURE & LIBRARY**

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Aquatic program registration opened Nov. 27.  
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Varley Art Gallery | 216 Main Street Unionville, Markham | 905-477-7000 ext. 3275 | [www.varleygallery.ca](http://www.varleygallery.ca)



Special Feature

# Great Heroes Day 2012

Thousands of Tamils gathered for Great Heroes Day Events around the globe on Tuesday, November 27th. In Picture: Several sessions of paying homage were held at Markham Fairgrounds, near Toronto.



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