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Canada wants accountability in Sri Lanka established to have trust and confidence of war victims

"Canada welcomes international efforts underway to achieve long-term reconciliation and peace for all Sri Lankans", Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau

By Siva Sivapragasam

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in a message released on the anniversary of the 1983 'Black July' riots re-iterated the need to establish accountability in Sri Lanka 'to have the trust and the confidence of the victims of this war'.

"Today, we join Canadians of Tamil descent and members of the Tamil community to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the events of Black July," the Canadian Prime Minister said in a statement.

"As we pause to reflect on the dark days of the Sri Lankan Civil War, we must continue to work to heal the wounds of all those who suffered."

"Canada welcomes international efforts underway to achieve long-term reconciliation and peace for all Sri Lankans, but we reiterate the need to establish a process of accountability that will have the trust and the confidence of the victims of this war."

The Prime Minister said Canada's cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and sources of pride.

"On behalf of the Government of Canada, I extend my deepest sympathy and support to all those who have suffered immeasurable loss during the Sri Lankan Civil War," he said.

The UN has also encouraged the Government of Sri Lanka to adopt policies to promote political reconciliation and a credible accountability process for allegations of wartime violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has congratulated the Sri Lankan Government for setting up an Office of Missing Persons (OMP), "an important step for all Sri Lankans who are still looking for the truth about their loved ones."

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Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

July 23, 2017

A Personal Message from the Premier

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I join Canadians of Tamil descent and Tamil communities around the world in commemorating the events of Black July in 1983.

History is a great teacher — for those who are open to its lessons. That is why today, you pause to remember the victims of violent acts against Tamils. We also remember the lives lost and displaced in the Sri Lankan Civil War that followed. I offer my heartfelt sympathies to those who mourn loved ones who perished in this devastating conflict.

Reports of hate crimes in North America and around the world serve to remind us that we must remain ever-vigilant against all forms of bigotry and intolerance.

Occasions such as this are opportunities to learn from the lessons of history and pass the light of knowledge to the next generation.

Know that my thoughts are with you on this day of remembrance.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

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Canadian court clears four Sri Lankans of smuggling people

A Canadian court has acquitted four Sri Lankan migrants charged with smuggling 74 of Sri Lankan asylum seekers into in to Canada in 2009, The Canadian Press reported

British Columbia Supreme Court judge Arne Silverman said that while there was evidence of organized crime in the smuggling operation, he wasn't satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the men were connected to any crime. He also said the men were asylum seekers aboard the MV Ocean Lady get to asylum on the B.C. coast in October 2009.

"I have determined that these four accused were asylum seekers and that there is an air of reality to the defence of mutual aid."

The accused — Francis Anthonimuthu Appulonappa, Hamalraj Handasamy, Jeyachandran Kanagarajah and Vignarajah Thevarajah — smiled, laughed and shook hands with their lawyers after the judge released his ruling.

The Crown had argued the four accused were in charge of the smuggling operation and out to make a profit on people seeking asylum in Canada.

But Silverman said the Crown didn't prove its case.

"I am also not satisfied that their actions were to obtain either directly or indirectly a financial or material benefit, or that any of them obtained one."

The men were part of a group of 76 young men from Sri Lanka who arrived on B.C.'s coast in October 2009.

They travelled about 45 days across the Pacific Ocean seeking refuge in Canada from a civil war that ravaged their homeland, Silverman said in his decision.

Defence lawyers told the trial their clients were trying to escape poor living conditions and seeking a better life.

In 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that people providing humanitarian aid, including family members,

were exempt from smuggling laws.

But the Crown told the trial that the top court's exemptions didn't apply because the accused had a role in organizing and executing the voyage, which it said was a money-making scheme costing migrants thousands of dollars.

Sandbanks Provincial Park Receives International Eco-certification

Outlet Beach in Sandbanks Recognized as Clean, Safe and Accessible Through Blue Flag Designation

Outlet Beach at Sandbanks Provincial Park has received Blue Flag designation, an international eco-certification recognizing the beach as clean and accessible with great water quality, high safety standards and excellent shoreline and ecosystem protection.

Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Kathryn McGarry was at Outlet Beach today to raise the flag and celebrate this award along with Ontario Parks staff. To receive a Blue Flag, beaches and marinas must meet high international standards in four categories: water quality, environmental management, environmental education, and safety and services.

Sandbanks Provincial Park is one of Ontario's busiest provincial parks and, along with its amazing beaches, offers many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, including:

Camping on one of the more than 600 campsites including waterfront camping, tenting sites or trailer sites with electrical hook up.

Swimming, fishing, boating and a Visitor Centre with educational displays.

Hiking through multiple trails, including the accessible Sandbanks Dune Trail home to the largest dune system of its kind in the world, and rare wetland habitat that supports wildlife and unusual flora.

Canoeing the Outlet River and exploring its marsh habitat.

Ontario has more than 330 provincial parks, which cover more than 8 million hectares —which is approximately 7.5 per cent of Ontario's landmass.

Last year, more than 10 million people from around the world visited Ontario provincial parks.

Sandbanks Provincial Park is the second Ontario provincial park to receive Blue Flag Designation;

Wasaga Beach Provincial Park has been Blue Flag certified for 10 years.

Free copies of the Ontario Parks Guide are available online, at provincial park offices, tourism agencies, ServiceOntario, many local chambers of commerce and by calling 1-800-ONTARIO.

"Ontario is home to some world-renowned places, and our beaches are no different. Adding Outlet Beach and Sandbanks Provincial Park to the roster of Blue Flag beaches around the world is something everyone in Ontario can be proud of."

— Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

"Sandbanks is a natural fit for the Blue Flag program. Not only does Outlet Beach have stunning beaches and dunes, but Sandbanks Provincial Park has shown a commitment to environmental education, water quality, safety, accessibility, and ecological integrity."

— Brett Tryon, Blue Flag Program Manager, Environmental Defence

Message from the Governor General of Canada, following the Announcement of Canada's 29th Governor General

By The Governor General of Canada | His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston

July 13, 2017: BEIJING, CHINA - From Beijing, China, where I am currently undertaking an official visit with a delegation of distinguished Canadians, I am delighted to congratulate my successor, Ms. Julie Payette, on today's announcement by Her Majesty The Queen and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, appointing her as Canada's 29th governor general upon her installation this Fall.

Ms. Payette is one of Canada's most remarkable and accomplished citizens, and her appointment to the position of governor general of Canada is wonderful news for our country. It's a function I've been so privileged to hold for the past seven years, and I am certain that she will fulfil this role with intelligence, grace and energy, and that she will bring qualities of curiosity, courage and compassion to her mandate.

In Ms. Payette we welcome a Canadian of extraordinary achievement, admired by all, especially for her time as an astronaut who flew two missions in space. She has made Canada very proud and will continue to do so by connecting, honouring and inspiring Canadians as the next representative of Her Majesty The Queen.

It has been an immense honour to serve Canadians as governor general. My wife, Sharon, and I wish Ms. Payette the very best in her new role and offer her our fullest support and collaboration during this transition period. **- gg.ca**

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from the publisher's desk

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The annual flag hoisting was held on July 28th and the festival continues for another 25 days. Thousands of devotees from around the world are flocking to the historic Murugan temple in Sri Lanka North for the festivities. (pic: nalluran.com)

2017 International Day Against Nuclear Tests:

A New North Korean Nuclear Roadblock

On the last Friday of July 2017, North Korea launched another intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) as part of its ongoing missile tests. According to CNN, this is the 18th missile fired by the Southeast Asian country through 12 tests since February 2017. North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, through the country's government-owned media outlets, boldly claimed that this latest test demonstrates that the United States is within striking range by a nuclear weapon. Indeed, even some missile experts unaffiliated with the country agree that a North Korean ICBM could reach California within its range of 9,000 to 10,000 kilometers. David Wright, a physicist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, maintained if the missile's trajectory flattened out it, it could potentially reach as far as Chicago, New York, or Boston.

Although strike prospects are limited by the weight of the missile's payload, this event should renewurgency across the globeonpromoting nuclear weapons prevention in North Korea, and the rest of the world.This being said given that this test's timing coincides with the beginning the month of August, which marks International Day Against Nuclear Tests. During its 64th session, the General Assembly created this day of observance on December 2, 2009 in resolution 64/35. The day has been commemorated on the 29th of August since then. Accordingly, its overarching goal is to end nuclear testing based on its harmful effects on humans and environmental health and as a crucial step in fostering a peaceful nuclear weapons-free world.

A tool at the fore of this global issue has been the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), adopted on September 10, 1996 by the United Nations General Assembly. While it has had some success, with 166 countries of 183 signatories ratifying it, it has not stopped such testing as recently seen with North Korea, whom has not signed the treaty. Furthermore, even though this July 28 test was not necessarily a test of its nuclear capabilities, this missile test isanotherroadblock on the long trail towards a nuclear weapons-free world, as hoped for by this day. As such, from physicists to non-governmental organizationsto the general public, this day represents the array of educational activities, events, and messages held around the world bring attention to this issue, in order to effectively end nuclear testing.

These activities, as organized on 2010 commemoration, were expressed through symposia, conferences, competitions, publications, academic lectures, and much more.

Last year, the United Nations itself commemorated the event by marking the 20th anniversary of the CTBT though a panel discussion, presenting its latest progress, current and emerging challenges, and opportunities to enhance a global norm against nuclear tests. At the moment, with these significant developments emerging out of North Korea, this day seems all the more relevant.With the global scale and destructive nature of this issue, countries, including the United States and Canada, should keep in mind the value of soft power and persuasion in removing the nuclear roadblocks of North Korea and other such ambitious countries.

Contributed by
Harrish Thirukumaran

CLOUDS

- Kingsley

We love to watch the endless clouds
That floats along the sky like shrouds.
For; they are not constant, but vanish
Before we turn; our enjoyments finish.

Some are like busy traffic
Flowing along a hectic highway.
Looking up to see the same traffic
Float along the bluish highway.

Read of ancient kings in wars,
Seen on mounted elephants 'n horse.
Marching their ranks in scores;
Turn a while; to see them in force.

We see small tractors towing
Big trailers many times larger.
Similarly; see small cloudlets pulling
Bigger ones; many times bigger.

Can see animals grazing in meadows,
Delighted; turn to look again.
See no creature, even their shadow,
Displeased, but eagerly look again.

People love to see you move,
In different formation 'n shape,
But are sad to see you crave
To stand still in your transient race.

"Sometimes we stare so long at a door that is closing that we see toolate the one that is open" - *Alexander Graham Bell (March 3, 1847 –August 2, 1922) Scientist, inventor, engineer, and innovator*

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

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Biography of Julie Payette, OC, CQ

Julie Payette, OC, CQ

Ottawa, Ontario
July 13, 2017

Julie Payette is an astronaut, engineer, scientific broadcaster and corporate director.

From 1992 to 2013, Ms. Payette worked as an astronaut and flew two missions in space. She also served many years as CAPCOM (Capsule Communicator) at NASA's Mission Control Center in Houston, Texas, and was Chief Astronaut for the Canadian Space Agency.

She is well respected for her work in developing policies to promote science and technology. From 2011 to 2013, she worked as a scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and was appointed scientific authority for Quebec in the United States. Between July 2013 and October 2016, she served as CEO of the Montréal Science Centre.

Ms. Payette is active in multiple facets of the community. She has produced several scientific outreach short programs on Radio-Canada and is a member of McGill University's Faculty of Engineering Advisory Board. She has served on the boards of the Montréal Science Centre foundation, Robotique FIRST Québec, Drug Free Kids Canada, and the Montreal Bach Festival. She has long served on the board of Own The Podium, a granting organization dedicated to high performance sport in Canada, and has recently been appointed to the International Olympic Committee Women in Sports Commission. She has served as a Director of DéveloppementAéroport Saint-Hubert de Longueuil and of the National Bank of Canada.

Ms. Payette is a member of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec and a fellow of the International Academy of Astronautics. She obtained an International Baccalaureate from the United World College of the Atlantic in the United Kingdom, a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from McGill University, and a Master's in Computer Engineering from the University of Toronto. In addition, Ms. Payette can converse in six languages, holds a commercial pilot license and is an administratrice de sociétéscertifiée (ASC is equivalent to the Institute of Corporate Directors, Director [ICD.D] designation).

Ms. Payette has received many distinctions and 27 honorary doctorates. She is a Knight of the Ordre national du Québec and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Prime Minister Trudeau announces The Queen's approval of Canada's next Governor General

Ottawa, Ontario
July 13, 2017

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced that, on his recommendation, Her Majesty The Queen was pleased to approve the appointment of Ms. Julie Payette as the next Governor General of Canada. Ms. Payette will serve in succession to His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston.

The installation ceremony for Ms. Payette will take place in the fall.

Canada's next Governor General Ms. Julie Payette

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Canada News

Canadian financial institutions among eleven global banks partnering with UN to make financial markets more climate transparent

11 July 2017 – Representing over $7 trillion, eleven major financial institutions around the globe have joined forces with the United Nations to promote climate transparency in financial markets, the Organization's environment wing said today.

According to a news release by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), ANZ, Barclays, Bradesco, Citi, Itaú, National Australia Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Santander, Standard Chartered, TD Bank Group, and UBS have jointly committed to develop analytical tools and indicators to strengthen assessments and disclosures of climate-related risks and opportunities.

"The message from financial heavyweights is clear – climate change poses a real and serious threat to our economy," said Erik Solheim, the Executive Director of UNEP, in the release.

"At the same time, there are enormous business opportunities in taking climate action. Transparency on how financial institutions mitigate the risks and seize the opportunities of a two degrees pathway is crucial to move international markets towards actively supporting a low-carbon and climate-resilient future," he added.

In the news release, UNEP noted that increasing the amount of reliable information on financial institutions' exposure to climate-related risks and opportunities would also strengthen the stability of the financial system and help boost climate-friendly investments.

The partnership between the institutions and the UNEP Finance Initiative follows the recommendations by the Financial Stability Board (FSB)'s Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

The Task Force was mandated by the Board to develop voluntary, consistent climate-related financial risk disclosures for use by companies, investors, lenders and insurers. Its final recommendations were published in June and submitted to the G20 last week.

It is anticipated that results from the undertaking will encourage banks worldwide to adopt such climate-focused efforts.

"After the G20, the issue now is about implementation: how can the finance industry put the framework into practice and deliver disclosure that is meaningful? Through this and other industry-led working groups UNEP FI is helping the finance sector to do just that: move from awareness to action." said Christian Thimann, Group Head of Strategy, Sustainability and Public Affairs at the AXA Group, Co-Chair of UNEP Finance Initiative and TCFD Vice-Chair. **– UN.org**

"Oh Canada, we're so #CPAproud of you"

July 10, 2017: Millions of Canadians will celebrate Canada's 150th birthday on July 1, joining the nation as it commemorates its sesquicentennial. The Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada asked its members why they are proud to be a Canadian CPA.

"When I mention I'm a CPA, right away I see a shift in how a person reacts to me, showing me the trust and respect they have for the profession and in my abilities as a CPA," says CPA Canada member Jeany Shipley from Victoria, B.C. "This is a profession known for its ethics, integrity and breadth of knowledge. It fills me with great pride."

Submissions poured in from members across the country and the sentiments they contain are heartfelt. Some comments describe the pride members feel in working as CPAs and making an impact on Canada's growing economy. Others appreciate a profession that has given back to them time and again. Still others say the CPA designation has had a profound impact on their children's career choice – many choosing the designation to follow in their parent's footsteps and gain the fulfillment their CPA parents enjoy.

"We have much to celebrate. Our history is where this country's solid foundation of values was firmly established, paving the way for greater prominence and compassionate prosperity," says CPA Canada president and CEO, Joy Thomas.

CPAs are leaders, drivers and enablers of change. They are relied upon to keep organizations ahead of the curve. The CPA profession also plays an active role in shaping fiscal policy and financial best practices, and looks to the strength of its members to guide and influence knowledge areas ranging from big data to climate change.

"Our country's history is embedded with the Canadian ideal of good business, which recognizes the important roles that both economic growth and social benefit play in creating a healthy and thriving country," says Thomas. "It is an ideal we are proud of and work hard to enable, champion and safeguard."

What is the Canadian ideal of good business? It is a passionate yet practical commitment driven by CPA values and our CPA Code of Professional Conduct. This commitment champions and enables economic growth that also supports social development over the long-term. It is a desire, as Canadians, to make the world a better place.

"This powerful and distinctively Canadian ideal is a deep and meaningful part of who we are as a nation," says Thomas. "It is also at the heart of what makes the CPA profession and our membership so unique, so important, and so needed in this increasingly globalized economy."

CPA Canada has accomplished much, but there is always more to do.

"In order to achieve our vision as the pre-eminent, globally respected business designation, we must continue to promote the CPA designation," concludes Thomas. "But [we must] also educate and inspire others to embrace the Canadian ideal of good business."

That's an ideal worth sharing with the world.

(via: cpacanada.ca)

Medical Schools Can Solve Canada's Rural Doctor Shortage

By Sandra Banner

Timely medical care is all too rare for many Canadians.

Fewer than half can get a same-day or next-day appointment with their family doctor, according to a recent report from the Canadian Institute of Health Information. Fifty-six percent of Canadians have to wait more than a month to see a specialist.

These statistics are a bracing reminder of the nation's growing shortage of physicians, especially primary care doctors. More than 4.5 million Canadians lack a regular doctor. That's nearly 15 percent of the population.

Canada's leaders must act to reverse these shortages. Doing so will require an aggressive effort by medical schools and governments to encourage more young people to consider careers in family medicine -- careers that have an outsized impact on the health of Canadians.

Canada is short primary care doctors in part because graduates of Canadian medical schools are growing more reluctant to pursue careers in family medicine. Just one-third of Canadian medical graduates go into primary care.

These shortages take a toll on Canadians' health. Patients with no regular doctor are less likely to get annual exams or other preventive care. And the evidence shows that there's a strong correlation between a population with access to effective primary care providers and positive health outcomes.

The primary care shortage has hit Canada's rural communities hardest. One hospital in Preeceville in rural Saskatchewan, which serves 60,000 locals, recently began suspending emergency room services on a regular basis.

On Prince Edward Island, 4,000 patients are without a primary care doctor. According to the Nova Scotia Health Authority, over 25,000 residents are currently waiting to see a family doctor throughout the province -- up from only 6,000 last fall. More than 200,000 residents of British Columbia have no family doctor.

Last summer, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the College of Family Physicians of Canada recommended a dramatic increase in the number of emergency room residency slots. They say that the current shortfall of nearly 500 ER doctors could triple by 2025.

Since 2004, medical schools have been opening campuses all across the country. These are meant to encourage students from rural communities to enroll in medical school -- and hopefully return to practice in smaller communities.

Despite all these changes, millions of Canadians still cannot find a family doctor. Perhaps it's time to look outside our borders.

Institutions outside Canada can make a difference, just as they have in the United States. One-quarter of our southern neighbor's doctors are graduates of international medical schools. And among doctors practicing in the United States, half of those educated at med schools in the Caribbean are working in primary care.

St. George's University, a school on the Caribbean island of Grenada for which I serve as a consultant, has trained more than 1,200 Canadian doctors. Two-thirds of those grads are in primary care -- twice the share of graduates of Canadian medical schools.

Over 600 of our current students hail from Canada. Many are eager to train and practice in their own communities. That's why St. George's has partnered with the University of Saskatchewan Hospital and the Vancouver General Hospital -- to arrange clinical rotations for these doctors-in-training.

It's time to end Canada's doctor shortage. Provincial governments could fund more training positions for family medicine. Medical schools inside and outside Canada have a role to play, too -- by graduating and training more family physicians, and steering them to the underserved communities that need them most.

Sandra Banner is the consultant for St. George's University relations in Canada.

This Month in History: A ringing celebration for Alexander Graham Bell

On August 4, 1922 at 6:25 p.m., all telephone service in Canada and the United States was halted for one minute to mark the funeral of Alexander Graham Bell. The Canadian Bell Telephone Company, and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company dedicated this 'silent tribute' in honour of Bell, the famous inventor of the telephone. Bell had died on August 2 at his home, BeinnBhreagh, near Baddeck on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia.

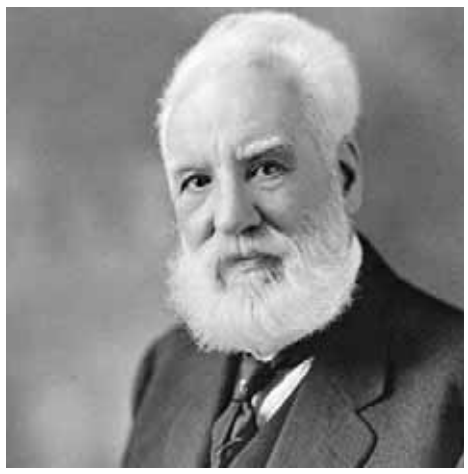
Although born and educated in Scotland, Bell spent a great deal of his life in North America. First immigrating to Brantford, Ontario, with his parents in 1870, Bell also lived in Boston and Washington, D.C. in the United States, and in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, conducting scientific research, making discoveries notably in sound, and teaching the deaf. On March 10, 1876, in the midst of developing a vocal telegraph, Bell was the first person to transmit speech using electricity. In doing so, he became one of the most well-known men in the world, and for good reason. With the telephone, it seemed as if anything was possible!

Bell, his wife, and their two daughters first visited Baddeck in the summer of 1885. The following year, Bell returned to establish their summer home, which he named BeinnBhreagh, or "Beautiful Mountain" in Gaelic. Over the years, the estate would become more and more elaborate. There, Bell continued to conduct experiments, this time involving kites and hydrofoils, and in 1909, he even engineered the first powered flight in the British Empire!

Following Bell's death in 1922, his daughters kept his remarkable inventions, ranging from telephone prototypes to tetrahedral kites and the original plane used in the first powered flight. Eventually they donated the artifacts to the federal government. In 1952, the Government of Canada commemorated the importance of Bell's inventions through the designation of Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, which opened two years later, near BeinnBhreagh. This historic museum houses Alexander Graham Bell memorabilia. An architecturally striking structure, its exhibits are dedicated to telling the story of Bell's extraordinary life as brilliant inventor, scientist and teacher of the deaf. Bell's aeronautical accomplishment, the first airplane flying in Canada, was also designated a National Historic Event.

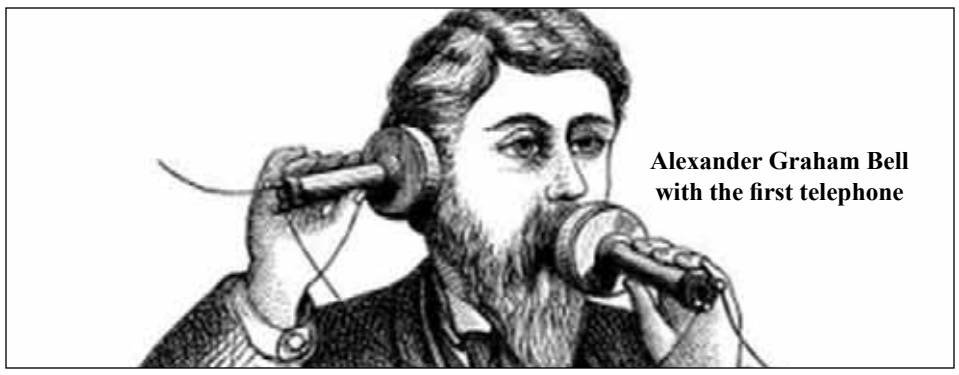
For more information about the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, please visit its pages on the Parks Canada and Canadian Register of Historic Places websites.

- Parks Canada (pc.gc.ca)



Alexander Graham Bell
(Born: March 3, 1847, Edinburgh, Scotland - Died: August 2, 1922, BeinnBhreagh, Nova Scotia, Canada)

The liquid telephone, the device Bell used to transmit the first intelligible sentence using electricity



Alexander Graham Bell with the first telephone

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Tamil Diaspora Doctors conduct medical relief camps in flood ravaged Sri Lanka rural South

Assistance to Flood Affected Communities as a Measure of Confidence Building Mechanism Among Peoples: Joint Statement by SarvodayaShramadana Movement and the Global Tamil Forum:

July 14, 2017: The Global Tamil Forum (GTF) in partnership with SarvodayaShramadana Movement conducted medical camps over ten days, in the floods affected rural villages of Kalutara and Matara Districts, concluding on the 11th of July 2017.

Having witnessed from overseas, the devastation caused by the recent floods in the South of Sri Lanka, and the agony and personal loss suffered by the people, Sri Lankans living overseas who are members of the GTF felt that they must come to the assistance of their brethren in Sri Lanka, in their time of need.

Although Sri Lanka has exceptional health services throughout the country, the Sri Lankans overseas who are settled in various parts of the world came together to contribute their medical expertise to the people in Sri Lanka, thereby building bridges between the Tamil and Sinhala communities, and uniting the communities through health and healing, a human need that transcends ethnicity, language, race and religion.

This initiative is also particularly to demonstrate the Tamil diaspora's willingness to bring their capacity and capability to help build trust between communities.

The goals of this initiative were to improve mutual relationships, humanise the other and signal positive intentions and also commitment to avoid conflict escalation.

Aim is also to help build working etrust by addressing easier but important day to day issues, which in turn would allow parties to address root causes of conflicts through dialogue and negotiations.

This is an important, critical first step in a fresh "bottom-up", inclusive, people-to-people reconciliation initiative carried out by the GTF in partnership with the SarvodayaShramadana Movement. It was facilitated by the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka.

The very fact that the beneficiaries responded positively saying that, "Tamil diaspora doctors and dentists came to our village and did a great service"in a Sinhala Buddhist village in deep South is testimony to this.

This initiative is seen as the first step to many more such partnerships to come, as the Chinese proverb goes "Journey of a thousand miles begins with one step".

During their stay in Sri Lanka, the doctors attended to approximately seven hundred and eighty patients. They were welcomed warmly by the people in all locations and the overseas medical professionals have offered to return, to provide medical care and attention during any time of future need.

As this was a rapid response to an emergency situation, the programme was put together in a very short time with quick planning. There were seventeen medical professionals from various disciplines and from eight countries - Australia, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, United Kingdom and the United States - who volunteered. They were joined by local professionals in Sri Lanka.

As joint organisersSarvodaya and GTF would like to very sincerely thank the volunteers, the support staff from both organisations, the Regional Directors of Health of Kalutara and Matara, both Honourable Ministers and staff at Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health, and the Diplomatic Missions in Colombo of the adopted countries of the overseas Sri Lankans. We are particularly grateful to the financial support rendered by the governments of Norway and Switzerland.

Finally, we were encouraged by the concluding meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, with the participation of Minister of Health Hon. RajithaSenaratne, Minister of Finance and Media Hon. MangalaSamaraweera, Minister of Resettlement Hon. Swaminathan, Opposition Leader Hon. R. Sampanthan, Member of Parliament Hon. M.A. Sumanthiran, Senior Members of Staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Representatives of the Missions of Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, UK and US.

(Full text of Media release by GTF)

UN chief congratulates Sri Lanka government on setting up office of missing persons

20 July 2017 – United Nations Secretary-General AntónioGuterres today congratulated the Sri Lankan Government for setting up an Office of Missing Persons (OMP), "an important step for all Sri Lankans who are still looking for the truth about their loved ones."

"The United Nations stands ready to support this process and the Secretary-General looks forward to [the Office] becoming operational as soon as possible, starting with the appointment of independent commissioners," said the Deputy Spokesman for the Secretary-General Farhan Haq, In a statement.

For many years, Sri Lanka's armed conflict was a matter of grave international concern. The United Nations supported political efforts to resolve the conflict and, during its final stages in 2009, strongly advocated respect for human rights and a humane and orderly end to the fighting.

In the aftermath of the conflict, the United Nations, through the work of its agencies, funds and programmes on the ground, has assisted with the safe and dignified return and resettlement of civilians uprooted by the conflict.

The UN has also encouraged the Government of Sri Lanka to adopt policies to promote political reconciliation and a credible accountability process for allegations of wartime violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

- UN.org

Sri Lanka's Northern Province lawyers protest against shooting at Jaffna Judge Ilancheliyan and his police bodyguard

Lawyers in the Northern Province stayed away from courts in protest of the shooting aimed at Jaffna Judge Ilancheliyan and Policeman who was escorting the High Court Judge. Picture shows lawyers protesting opposite the Vavuniya Courts Complex. Policeman Hemachandra who was the personal bodyguard for High Court Judge Ilancheliyan for seventeen years succumbed to his injuries while attempting to save the life of Judge Ilancheliyan.

Hemachandra was promoted posthumously as a sub-inspector for his efforts to save the life of the judge. Judge Ilancheliyan was choked with emotion on seeing Hemachandra's widow and went down weeping at the widow's feet.

Around the World

Sri Lankan Teacher Gethsie Shanmugam wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

Gethsie Shanmugam, an 82-year-old Sri Lankan teacher who counseled war widows and orphans to overcome their nightmares are among the six winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awards, the Hindu newspaper reported.

Ramon Magsaysay Awards, which is regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, was named after the Philippine President who died in a 1957 plane crash.

Ms. Shanmugam and the other five recipients had been named and the awards are to be presented to them in Manila on August 31.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation said Ms. Shanmugam, a teacher and psychological counselor, won for braving bombings and threats of arrests in conflict zones to counsel war widows, orphans and children

Gehtsie Shanmugam

traumatized by three decades of brutal civil war.

"The winners were unafraid to take on large causes and refused to give up, despite meager resources, daunting adversity and strong opposition. Their approaches are all deeply anchored on a respect for human dignity and a faith in the power of collective endeavor," said Foundation's President Carmencita Abella.

YouTube star Lilly Singh named UNICEF goodwill envoy

On 14 July 2017, Lilly Singh met with a children's group, Bal Commando, supporting the sanitation movement in a village close to the city of Harda in Madhya Pradesh State, India. UNICEF supported the rural parts of the district to become open defecation free. Photo/UNICEF/UN071747/Brown

15 July 2017 – The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has appointed Indian-origin Canadian YouTube star and actress Lilly Singh as its newest Goodwill Ambassador.

In this role, Ms. Singh, known by her digital alias Superwoman, will use her unique cyber presence to engage children and young people and empower them to speak out about the challenges they face.

"I am honoured to join UNICEF as a Goodwill Ambassador, and to use my voice to support its mission of reaching every child," she said at a special event today in New Delhi. "The children I have met here are overcoming so many challenges – and they are living proof of what a child can achieve, if given a chance," she added.

According to a press release on her appointment, the 28-year-old has gained a huge fan base of over 11 million YouTube subscribers. This year, she released her international and New York Times bestselling book How To Be ABawse, and was recently cast in HBO's film adaptation of "Fahrenheit 451." Additionally, she was ranked 1st on the Forbes Magazine Top Influencers List in the entertainment category.

"Lilly Singh is already a Superwoman, helping empower girls around the world – and we are delighted that she will lend her passion and her powerful voice to speak up on behalf of the most vulnerable children," said UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Justin Forsyth. "Lilly is a role model to so many young people, especially girls, and we look forward to the role she will play in generating greater discussion – and greater action – around the value of girls in India and everywhere," said Yasmin Haque, UNICEF's Representative in India.

More than 50 per cent of India's population are below the age of 25 and India is already the second largest market for YouTube, Facebook, and many other video platforms.

Ms. Singh joins a list of other UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors that includes David Beckham, Orlando Bloom, Jackie Chan, MuzoonAlmellehan, Danny Glover, Liam Neeson, Priyanka Chopra, Ricky Martin and Shakira.

– UN.org

Sri Lanka Sells China Majority Stake in Strategic Indian Ocean Port

By AnjanaPasricha

July 29: Sri Lanka has signed a $ 1.1 billion deal with a Chinese company to sell a majority stake in a controversial deep port in a bid to slash debt and says it has addressed concerns that China could use the port for military purposes.

The deal was signed after months of renegotiation following strident opposition to the project. While critics at home warned that handing majority control to the Chinese threatens national security, neighboring India fretted about China gaining access to a strategic port in its immediate neighborhood in the Indian Ocean.

Built with a massive loan by China in 2010, the Hambantota port is seen as key to Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road initiative that aims to connect roads and ports across Asia and Europe and to its efforts to shore up its presence in the Indian Ocean.

The Sri Lankan government says that under the terms of the deal, Sri Lanka's navy will handle the security of Hambantota port and no foreign navy will be allowed to use it as a base.

"We are giving the country a better deal without any implications on security," Prime Minister RanilWickremesinghe told reporters.

The Chinese stake in the project has also been scaled back from 80 per cent to 70 per cent to blunt domestic opposition that Beijing should not get control of national assets.

Sri Lanka will have a majority stake in the firm dealing with security, ensuring that it controls what ships can dock there, while China will run the company in charge of business.

In New Delhi, South Asia expert with the Institute of Defense Studies and Analyses, SukhDeo Muni, said that while some of India's concerns have been met, the Chinese presence in the port would remain a worry.

"The project is dominated by the Chinese which may not be a very pleasant thing for India. To what extent Sri Lanka would be able to monitor them on some of the sensitive areas remains to be seen."

Since Hambantota port was commissioned, it has failed to generate much business and piled up massive losses. Some analysts say the Chinese investment was prompted not so much by the project's commercial lure as its strategic location on the busy sea lanes between Asia and Europe.

India was alarmed when a Chinese submarine docked at Colombo in 2014 and has since pressured Sri Lanka not to let Chinese naval ships use its ports.

India worries about China's steadily expanding footprint in its neighborhood – Beijing has been pumping in billions of dollars to build infrastructure in South Asian countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan government had promised to review the massive investments made by China during the tenure of the previous government led by Mahinda Rajapaksa, but it has been constrained by the massive debt it owes China.

The government said money from the Chinese firm's majority stake in Hambantota will be used to repay part of its foreign debt.

– VOA News

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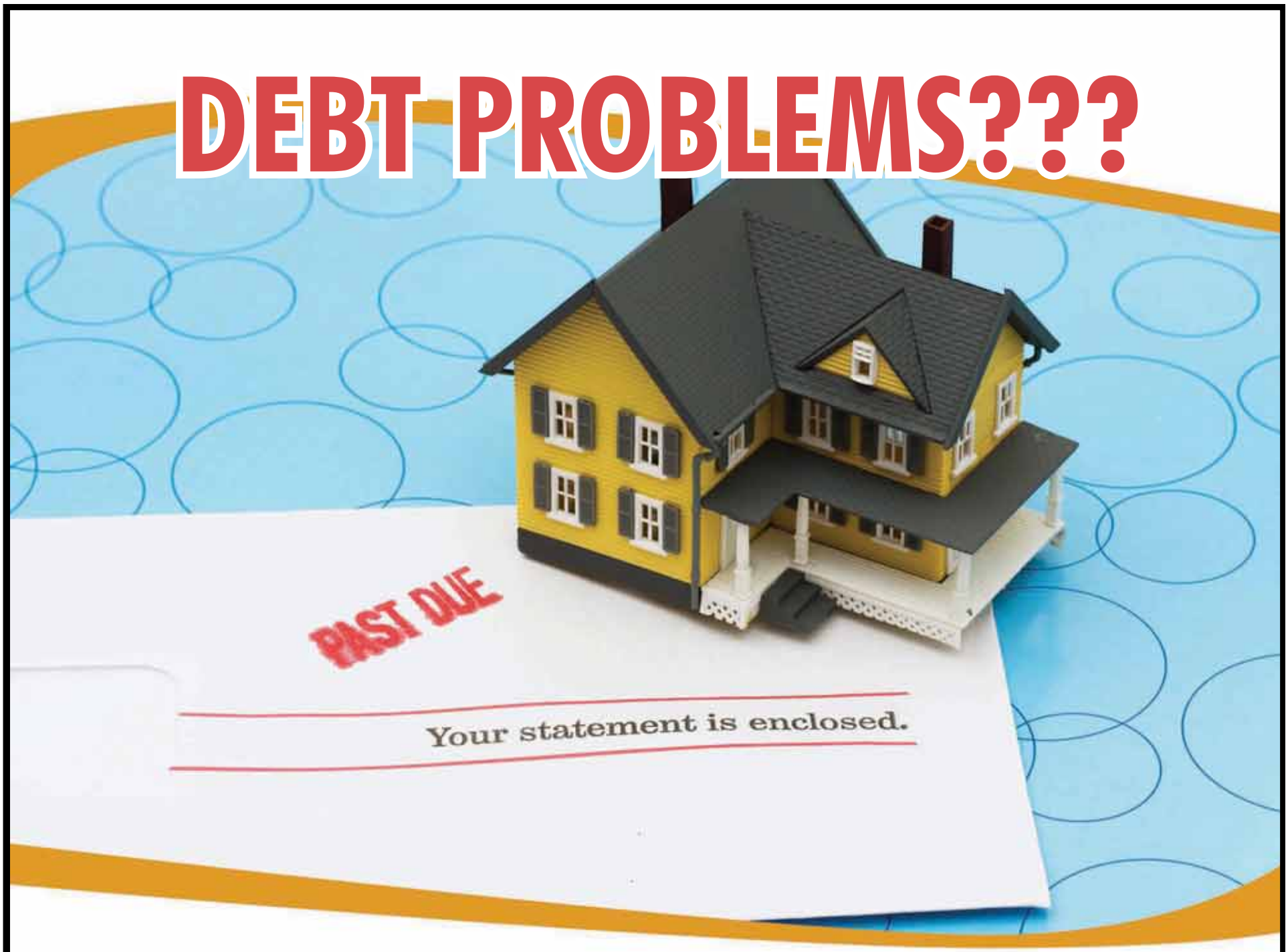

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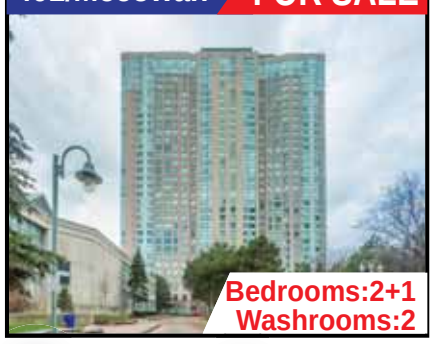

Bedrooms:2+1
Washrooms:2

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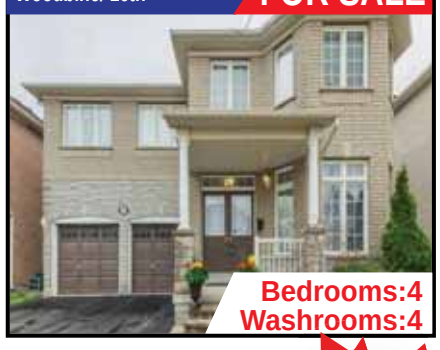

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HEAD LICE

by Sean Chai-Chong, Providence Healthcare Pharmacist

Whether it's at a summer camp or heading back to school, many children come back with a few more "friends" than we bargained for. Here's some information on head lice.

How do I know if my child has lice?

Your child might complain of a tickling feeling or something moving in their hair, itching and might have sores on their head from scratching. If you look closely in the hair you may be able to see nits, nymphs or adults.

How did my child get infested, they're normally so clean!

The cleanliness of your child isn't always a factor in how they get lice. They could get it by coming into contact with another person who has it or by sharing contaminated items like towels and hats. They can also easily get it by lying on a bed, couch or even hugging a stuffed animal that someone else with lice was in contact with.

Who needs to be treated if my child comes home with lice?

It's recommended that everyone in the house be treated if a child is found to have lice.

How do I get rid of these nasty bugs?

- Treat with a lice killing shampoo such as Nix paying special attention to the area behind the ears and around the neck. It's often recommend to do a second treatment one week later to make sure all the eggs and lice are dead.

- A non-medicated option is the V-comb which sucks out the lice into a filter bag you toss out.

- Wash the person's bedsheets, pillow cases, blankets, mattress pad and bedspread with hot water after treatment. Also wash clothes that have been worn in the last two days. If the item cannot be washed, seal it in a plastic bag for 2 weeks.- Vacuum furniture and floors to remove any hairs that might have lice or their eggs on them.

Sean Chai-Chong is the Pharmacist for Providence Healthcare's retail Pharmacy. The Pharmacy is located on the 2nd floor of Providence Hospital and is open to everyone Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information on Providence Healthcare, visit *www.providence.on.ca.*

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The Scarborough Hospital | Scarborough and Rouge Hospital | Rouge Valley Health System | Health & Care

A special message from Liz Buller, SRH's new President and CEO

Liz Buller

Friends,

I am so excited to begin my new role as President and CEO of Scarborough and Rouge Hospital (SRH), and I wanted to reach out to introduce myself, tell you a little bit about what I'll initially be focusing on, and how we can work together to make it a reality.

But first, I would be remiss without acknowledging the hard work done by SRH's interim CEO Andrée Robichaud over the past seven months. Her leadership has established a solid foundation among our team and in the community. I look forward to building on her work and wish her all the best as she returns to her roots to live in New Brunswick and begins a well-deserved retirement.

A little about me

As you may know, my background includes more than 30 years of health care experience, both in Ontario and in British Columbia. I am an emergency and critical care nurse by training and have had the privilege of serving in senior leadership positions for more than 20 years. In all of my clinical and administrative roles, delivering high-quality, patient and family centred care has been of the utmost importance to me.

As well, I believe that each and every team member – from staff, to physicians, volunteers, and students – has an essential role to play in contributing to our success. It's my job, along with members of the senior leadership team, to provide you with the tools and information you need to thrive and innovate at SRH.

Equally imperative to me is meaningful engagement with our community and our partners. The voices and perspectives of these individuals and groups are vital in helping us find solutions to the complex issues hospitals face. For SRH, these relationships will also be integral to the future success of our newly-merged hospital.

Some of my initial priorities

Over the coming weeks, I'll be meeting with our many internal and external stakeholders to learn more about the vibrant and diverse community that is Scarborough. I'm fortunate to be able to benefit from the team's hard work over the last seven months. My focus will also be to continue the efforts of standardizing our operations and the way we provide care, while integrating the community's voice to meet the unique needs of each and every patient.

How you can help

We strive to provide an outstanding care experience to all our patients, but we can't do that without your feedback. Over the coming months, I will be meeting with many of our community-based partners in care and will host engagement sessions for all community members to attend. I encourage you to remain involved and have your say.

More information will be provided as it becomes available, but please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing communications@tsh.to or communityrelations@rougevalley.ca.

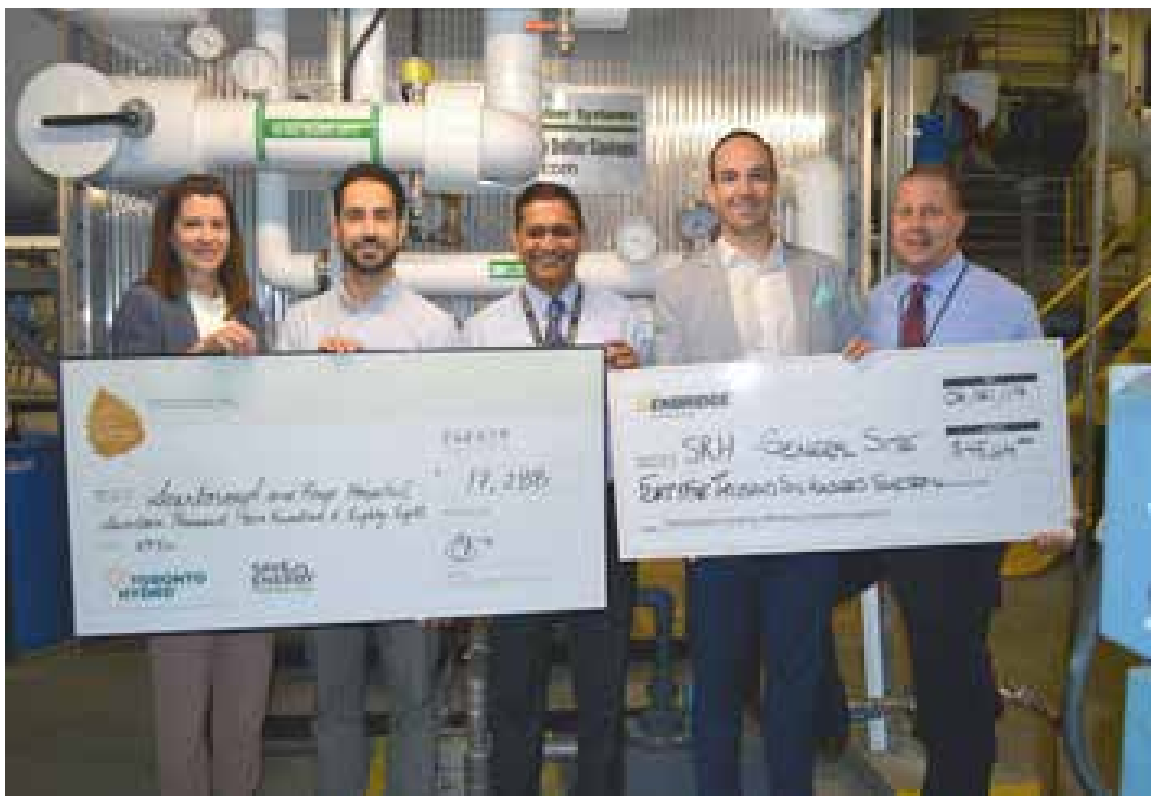
It's an honour to be joining the exceptional team at SRH. I'm looking forward to being a part of our journey to create a truly integrated hospital system and a shared vision for improved health care in Scarborough.

Sincerely,

Liz Buller

President and CEO

GENERAL SITE RECEIVES MORE THAN $62,000 IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES



Scarborough and Rouge Hospital's (SRH) General site has received rebates from Enbridge Gas and Toronto Hydro totalling more than $62,000 for the hospital's work to improve energy efficiency.

A rebate of $45,614 was awarded by Enbridge Gas for installing a Flue Gas Economizer in the boiler room to establish better steam plant efficiency.

"It's our pleasure to award SRH with this incentive," said Matt Cannon, Energy Solutions Consultant at Enbridge Gas Distribution.

"By installing a Flue Gas Economizer, wasted heat that would have previously been sent up the hospital's chimney can be captured and utilized for other hot water heating processes; resulting in a substantial reduction in the hospital's reliance on natural gas."

The Flue Gas Economizer installation is part of a larger energy savings project SRH has been implementing at the General site with its partner Ameresco Canada Inc., a leading energy efficiency and renewable energy company. The project is meant to create a more comfortable indoor environment, reduce long-term operating costs, and meet stringent environmental standards set by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Other efficiency measures implemented as part of the Ameresco Canada project include a site-wide lighting and water fixture retrofit, chiller replacement, and steam plant optimization.

In addition to this work, six speed controlling drives – known as Variable Frequency Drives – were recently installed in the air handling systems at the General site. Toronto Hydro has funded 50 per cent of this project with a rebate of $17,288.

"These Variable Frequency Drives have reduced the hospital's electricity usage by 733,834kWh annually – the equivalent of taking 82 houses off the grid. This is a substantial reduction for the hospital and they should be proud of their work towards energy efficiency and savings," said Jana Jedlovska, Key Account Consultant, at Toronto Hydro.

"We're grateful to Enbridge Gas and Toronto Hydro for these extremely valuable rebates, which will be used to reinvest in green projects," added Tyler Crocker, Director, Environment and Facilities, at SRH.

"SRH is committed to partnering with our local utilities to find new and innovative ways to make each of our three sites more environmentally friendly and efficient."

Scarborough and Rouge Hospital receives nearly $5 million in provincial funding for hospital repairs and upgrades

Scarborough and Rouge Hospital (SRH) has received nearly $5 million in funding through the government of Ontario's Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF) to make upgrades and repairs across all three of its sites.

SRH is truly grateful for this investment from our partners at the Ministry of Health, which will help the hospital to provide the very best quality experience for patients and their families.

HIRF allows hospitals to make critical improvements to their facilities, including infrastructure items, such as replacements of roofs, windows, heating and air conditioning systems, fire alarms, and back-up generators.

The funding SRH has received will be used to replace environmental control systems, update electrical infrastructure supporting patient care spaces, modernize aging elevators and doors that secure sensitive patient care areas, and revitalize critical roadways on the sites.

Infrastructure improvements of this nature can be difficult for hospitals to fund locally, and the support of the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund allows community hospitals like SRH to continue to deliver world-class care close to home.

HOSPITAL A LEADER IN OFFERING NEWBORN HEART DEFECT SCREENING TEST SOON TO BE PROVIDED ACROSS ONTARIO

Newborn screening for critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) that has been offered at Scarborough and Rouge Hospital (SRH) for nearly three years will soon be available to infants across Ontario.

CCHD refers to a condition where a baby's heart, or major blood vessels around the heart, has not formed properly. CCHD screening is a simple test that measures the level of oxygen in a newborn's blood. Low levels of oxygen in the blood can mean that the baby may have a problem with their heart.

CCHD screening is done using pulse oximetry; a non-invasive, point-of-care test uses a sensor with a light that is placed on the baby's right hand and one foot. If there is a difference between the readings from the top limb and the bottom limb, physicians can perform more in-depth tests to rule out a heart defect. The test is done between 24 and 48 hours after the baby's birth.

The Ontario government recently announced that CCHD screening would be added to the 29 conditions newborns are screened for through the provincial program Newborn Screening Ontario.

"We are so pleased that this potentially lifesaving test is being added to the wide range of serious, but treatable diseases that we screen for in newborns," said Dr. Peter Azzopardi, Medical Director and Corporate Chief of Paediatrics for SRH's Birchmount and General sites.

"We began this evidence-based screening in September 2012 at our Birchmount and General sites in order to ensure that every baby born at our hospital was getting the very best care possible."

Dr. Karen Chang, Chief of Paediatrics for SRH's Centenary site, agrees, adding that "the Centenary site has also been an early adopter of the screening with a protocol in place for the last two years."

"SRH has long been a progressive, forward thinking hospital when it comes to newborn screening," explains SRH Paediatrician Dr. Kushal Raghubir.

"For instance, in 1996, we pioneered universal screening for sickle cell disease for all infants born at the hospital; a process that was ultimately adopted at all hospitals across Ontario. Our leadership in CCHD screening builds on this proud history."

In developing the CCHD screening protocol, the hospital worked closely with its two midwifery partners – Diversity Midwives and Sage-Femmes Midwives – to ensure a standard process.

"Our midwives have been involved every step of the way, and actually helped to spearhead the use of the screening at the hospital," said Tama Cross, SRH Midwifery Division Head, Birchmount and General sites.

"What's more, we are trained to perform CCHD screening both in hospital and in our patients' homes for those who choose to have home births, or who leave the hospital shortly after giving birth."

Dr. Azzopardi points out that the use of CCHD screening has definitely helped to pick up potentially fatal heart issues in babies.

"Just recently, we had a baby who was almost ready to go home and clinically, the baby looked well, but when the nurses did this test, the baby had a low oxygen level. The baby immediately was transferred to Sick Kids Hospital and had surgery. If that test hadn't been done, there's a good chance that baby may not have survived."

CCHD screening will be expanded to all newborns in Ontario by January 2018.

SRH Surgeon Co-Winner of Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons' Award

Dr. Jason Pennington was honoured as co-winner of the Thomas Dignan Indigenous Health Award for establishing the Office of Indigenous Medical Education at the University of Toronto's (U of T) medical school, and promoting Indigenous health within the curriculum.

When Dr. Jason Pennington walked into the Scarborough and Rouge Hospital's (SRH) General site for his first shift in 2007, he didn't plan to transform medical education.

But over the next decade, he did just that. And this year on June 21, National Aboriginal Day, Dr. Pennington, a general surgeon of Huron-Wendat descent, was honoured as a co-winner of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons' Thomas Dignan Indigenous Health Award.

For Dr. Pennington, educating medical students and physicians about Indigenous health, culture, and knowledge is a passion and a calling.

"The health inequalities of Indigenous people are so great," he explains. "And it won't change until all medical schools, physicians, and health institutions take the time and effort to better understand Indigenous people and culture. This includes becoming more accepting of our traditions and practices. We need a renewed relationship based in truth, sharing and respect." Dr. Pennington grew up in the vicinity of his reserve, Wendake, which is just north of Quebec City. His mother was a nurse, and his grandfather had a wealth of traditional knowledge around making snowshoes, hunting, fishing, and trapping, and – as Dr. Pennington learned after his death – traditional medicine.

"My grandfather had a wealth of knowledge," Dr. Pennington explains, "but he never spoke about it because, at the time, Indigenous healing practices and spirituality were considered taboo, it wasn't so long since it had been illegal."

With his co-winner, Dr. Lisa Richardson, he created the Office of Indigenous Medical Education at U of T, and is working to increase focus on Indigenous health within U of T's medical school. The medical community has made strides in recognizing the importance of Indigenous health since Dr. Pennington attended medical school twenty years ago. Then, there was only one lecture on Indigenous health in the whole four years of the curriculum, and he was one of very few Indigenous medical students.

At U of T, Dr. Pennington and Dr. Lisa Richardson, have formalized an Indigenous Student Application Pathway, a parallel pathway for Indigenous students to apply for admission. Thanks to this initiative, the medical school now has Indigenous students in each year of the four-year program.

Dr. Jason Pennington

They also developed a more extensive and less didactic curriculum. One novel elective in Urban Indigenous Health sends Indigenous and non-Indigenous medical students into the city to learn what it's like to be an Indigenous person in urban Toronto. Students meet with healers, attend powwows, participate in drumming circles and attend sweat ceremonies at various Indigenous organizations around the GTA. The medical students write a reflective piece and come away with an often transformative understanding of colonization, its impacts, and what their role should be as a health provider for Indigenous patients.

After medical school and surgical residencies, Dr. Pennington chose work in Scarborough because of the community's cultural diversity – including a diverse Indigenous population. The Indigenous population in Scarborough, may not be as large or visible as other groups but it includes First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people from all across Turtle Island (North America).

Dr. Pennington is optimistic about improving Indigenous health care in Scarborough, at SRH and across the CE-LI-HN. The old TSH Mission "to provide an outstanding care experience that meets the unique needs of each and every patient" really resonated with the general surgeon who feels that this is consistent with the Indigenous health concept of Cultural Safety. "Cultural safety is applicable to all patients, and people, who are different to you," he notes. "When you have insights into your personal biases and awareness of your patients' culture and beliefs, you will have better interactions with your patients, which leads to better health care for everyone."

Special Feature

Tamil Fest 2017

Aug 26-27, 2017

Scarborough's largest street festival "Tamil Fest" 2017 is expected to beat last year's attendance of 175,000 when it hits Markham Road again on August 26 and 27.

The popular "Tamil Fest" street festival is the largest of its kind outside the Indian subcontinent where attendees numbered over 175 000 at last year's event with visitors coming from the Greater Toronto Area, surrounding Provinces, the US, India and Sri Lanka. The event showcases and highlights the achievements of individuals and collective achievements of the Tamil Canadian community. The event is a show-piece to share Tamil culture within Canada's national mosaic framework.

The festival hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) in its third year envisions the festival to be a unique platform to showcase and highlight the Tamil Canadian community in a unique platform. This is a free event and attendees look forward to the last weekend of August each year for the event with anticipation. This year's festivities will once again be held on Markham Road, South of Passmore Avenue and north of McNicoll Avenue on August 26th and 27th.

Many great food options and local vendors will be present once again with special performances from headliners that will be announced soon. This year's title sponsor, Formula Honda and Powered by sponsor, Bona Fide Mortgages will be displaying interactive displays as well throughout the weekend.

A fully dedicated kids zone with a numerous variety of inflatable rides will be an attraction this year with options for children to purchase a play all day bracelet for $20.This family friendly event is suitable for anyone looking for a great time to end the summer and enjoy a day out with family or friends.

Tamil Fest is hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress which is a non-profit organization serving the voice of Canadian Tamils.

For more information on Tamil Fest, announcements on upcoming performances or opportunities to volunteer visit www.TamilFest.ca.

International Tamil Internet Conference (TIC) in Toronto:

August 25-27th, 2017

The International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil (INFITT) is pleased to inform that the 16th Tamil Internet Conference 2017 will be held in the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus in the Greater Toronto Area during August 25-27th, 2017.

The INFITT annual conference is co-sponsored by the University of Waterloo Centre for Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence, IEEE Canada and with the support of the University of Toronto.

Research papers in all the areas of Tamil Computing had been solicited. We have identified two key areas for this year's conference: Deep Learning and Data Science. In addition to these thematic areas, Conference Program Committee welcomes regular research papers on the following topics:

- Natural Language Processing (NLP) applications in Tamil, Spellchecker, Grammar checker,
  Text Analytics/Mining, Sentiment Analysis, Speech recognition, TTS Systems, Search engines,
  Machine Learning, Machine Translation, Data-mining, etc.
- Corpus linguistics
- OCR and Handwriting Recognition
- Tamil "enabling" in mobile platforms (smartphones, tablets, etc.) with particular emphasis for
  Tamil Apps for use on iOS, Android and Windows platforms
- Open Source Tamil software and Tamil Localization
- Computer- and online-assisted Teaching, Learning of Tamil
- Tamil content and delivery via Internet: Blogging, microblogging, Wikipedia, Podcasting,
  social networks
- Tamil Digital Library, Digital Archiving
- Tamil Linked Data, Semantic Web, Data Science pertaining to Tamil, Tamil Ontologies,
- Learning Management Systems, Virtual Learning,

This is the first time this conference is being held in Canada, and it happens to be the 150 year of Canada.

We would bring out a Conference Proceedings containing the Conference papers, Greeting messages from prominent people (from education, government etc.).

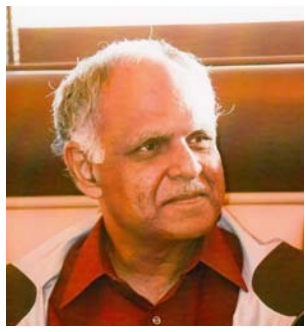
We are also going to bring out a Vizhaa Malar (a multi-coloured publication) in which some general articles accessible to general public related to the conference topics would be brought out.

This is an event where some 100 researchers would come together to present their research findings (both in English and Tamil), but there are a few events open to general public, without paying conference registration fees

(Conference Registration Fee is $150 for nonmembers. IEEE members get $25 discount and INFITT members get $50 discount).

Mr. Muthu Nedumaran from Malaysia is one of the Keynote Speakers, Another one of the Keynote Speakers is Professor Andrew Wong (Fellow of IEEE) of the University of Waterloo. A third Keynote Speaker is Dr. Li Deng, Chief Scientist of Artificial Intelligence at Microsoft and one of the most cited authors of Deep Learning

Please see the Conference Website:
http://tamilinternetconference.org/



Prof. C. R. (Selva) Selvakumar is the Chair of this 16th TIC and also the Chair of the Conference Program Committee.

Professor C. R. (Selva) Selvakumar was born in Tamil Nadu, India. His Ph.D. dissertation was based on a new analytical approach to solve semiconductor device equations in heavily and non-uniformly doped regions. His interests are in analytical modeling and generic approaches.

Since 1985 he has been with University of Waterloo, first as a Postdoctoral Fellow and later as Professor, in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. For ten years (1996-2005) he had served as the Director of Waterloo Centre for Materials Technology (WATMAT) which had 38 Faculty members as its members. Professor Selvakumar was a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University (2003) and a Visiting Faculty Member (1992) of Stanford University's Department of Electrical Engineering. He received Marsland Fellowship Award in Information Technology in 2003. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the University of Waterloo and a member of the University of Waterloo Senate for three years (2006-2009). He served as Technical Program Committee Chairperson of the 1994 IEEE Bipolar/BiCMOS Circuits and Technology Meeting. He served as a Chairman of the Kitchener-Waterloo IEEE Section Electron Devices, Circuits and Systems Chapter. He is cited in American Men and Women of Science 1992 edition. **Dr. Selvakumar** is a Senior Member of IEEE.

Prof. Kumaraswamy Ponnambalam,
Department of Systems Design Engineering,
University of Waterloo

Chair of the Local Organization Committee

Professor Ponnambalam obtained his Ph.D. from University of Toronto and current short profile is given below:
Design Optimization under Uncertainty:

Development of new methodologies for design optimization under uncertainty explicitly considering risk and applying the newly developed techniques in engineering including civil, chemical, electrical and environmental engineering problems are some of our main objectives. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the many applications, much of the work has been done in collaboration with colleagues from both inside and outside the university.

In addition, he is also working in the Application of Intelligent Systems, to hydrology and water resources, decision making in health, control of satellite communications, and fault detection analysis.

Key Note Speakers

Muthu Nedumaran
(Founder, CEO, Murasu Inc.)

Andrew K.C Wong
(Distinguished Professor Emeritus)
B.Sc.(Hons), M.Sc., PhD,
IEEE Fellow

Dr. K. Kalyanasundaram
(Swiss Federal Institute of Technology [EPFL])

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Special Feature

WORDS OF PEACE

Today, people are constantly running around looking for something to entertain them. "I'm bored," we say. Perhaps that's because we're looking for fulfillment in the wrong place, says Prem Rawat, an internationally respected ambassador of peace.

"Life is not boring," Mr. Rawat says, "The only thing that's boring is boredom. We don't have to have a party; we don't have to have music to find excitement in live. Life itself is very exciting, and the deeper you go into it, the more exciting it is."

Mr. Rawat has devoted himself to bringing a simple but profound message of peace to people everywhere. Peace, he says, is not something that must be negotiated. It's not the gift of politicians. It sits in the heart of every human being, waiting to be discovered.

"Looking around in this world and trying to figure out its craziness is a full-time job," he says. "When bad times come, we don't like that. We want explanations, because the brain doesn't like ambiguity."

It's that fear of not knowing what will happen, Mr. Rawat says, that sends people to fortunetellers or to believing in one-size-fits-all ideas to explain everything. "If anybody comes along with an explanation, people say, 'Wow. that's great,'" he says. "We get infatuated with explanations."

One of those explanations, Mr. Rawat says, is that all you need to find success and fulfillment is money. People think that is only they had more money, it would solve all their problems. They'd be able to do everything they've always wanted to do. Their lives would be transformed.

"There are people who don't pray for money," he says, "and yet they have so many investments and so many successful companies that they have to figure out how not to make money. Is that what you want?"

Those who despair of finding serenity and joy in their lives, Mr. Rawat says, may get caught up instead in the explanation that it's not available on this Earth; you will only find it if you get to heaven after you die.

"Religions could change the world if they just told their followers that if they want to go to heaven, they should create heaven here first," he says. "Really, nothing would have to change for them in terms of their doctrines. If they just said that one thing, this world would be a different place."

Mr. Rawat offers an alternative way of living this life, one that is rooted in experiences, not theories and explanations.

"I don't have any religion to preach," he says, "but I say, 'Make heaven here,' because it's here already.

"You have to appreciate that I have been doing this for a very long time. There's a lot of experience here that is talking, and one of my experiences is that if you want to keep your eyes closed, no matter how much light anyone may bring, darkness shall prevail.

"Open your eyes. See the obvious. See the joy of being here. It's not horrible. It's beautiful. It's not bad. It's divine.

"In life," Mr. Rawat says, "we have to choose what we want. What I offer is not about explanations. Life is not about explanations. Human beings have been trying to explain away life for a very, very long time. So far it's amounted to nothing.

"I say there are no explanations. Experience life. Experience that joy of living. Find that peaceful feeling in the heart, and enjoy it. It's simple.

"Do you know what I've found in my life, what it really boils down to? It boils down to happiness and feeling good about today, feeling good about now. For that, you don't need money. Even with all those debts, even with all the bad news you can possibly get, you can still be happy, and isn't that what you want? If that's what you want, you can have it. It's up to you."

To learn more about Prem Rawat:
1 877 707 3221
416 431 5000 Tamil
416 264 7700 Hindi
www.wopg.org
www.tprf.org
www.premrawat.com

Genius Hour to Follow your Passion

By: Janani Srikantha

You may have heard the terms "Genius Hour" or "Passion Project" at your child's school or even your own place of work. So, what do they mean?

Genius Hour originated from Google, who allowed their engineers to spend 20% of their time to work on their own research project. The vision behind Genius Hour was that if people work on a project that interests them, their productivity will increase. It is said that this policy has been extremely effective, and almost half of Google's projects have been created by employees during their Genius Hour time.

A Passion Project is something that people work on, outside of their regular job or class time, that gives them satisfaction and is their contribution to the world.

Both of these ideas can be merged to allow children to use their natural curiosity and develop many skills, including data handling, critical thinking, and communication skills, both during their summer vacation and in the school year.

Asking a Question

An Essential Question will begin their line of inquiry. This is a question that doesn't have an single, brief answer. Instead, it is a question that allows children to actively think and explore, and leads to more questions.

It is important that the Essential Question is connected to the child's interests. It is their Passion Project, and for them to be motivated to inquire further, they need to truly enjoy their topic of learning.

Essential Question	Non-Essential Question
How does art shape culture?	What symbols did Egyptians use in their art?
How would our economy be different without computers?	Which computer programs help a business?
What is the connection between animals and survival?	Is a dog a good pet?
What is the impact and limitation of our geometric knowledge in the real world?	What shapes can be used to make a bridge?
How does participation in sports impact lifestyle?	Is playing on the school basketball team a good hobby?
How does my environment affect my learning or behaviour?	What are examples of ways I can organize my notes?
Is there ever a "just" war?	What caused WWII to occur?

The scope of Essential Question is vast, and there are many inquiries that children can begin. While creating an Essential Question, keep in mind:

1) Does it address a personal interest?

2) Is it open-ended?

3) Does it lead to more questions?

4) Is it thought-provoking, and require deeper research and analysis?

5) Can it be re-visited through multiple perspectives at different points in time?

6) Does it lead to big ideas and possible action?

Planning Your Project

Now, that your child has a question, they need a document that can scaffold their learning. This can be either done on a big piece of chart paper, in their notebook, or even online, depending on their comfort level and what they find easy to access and use.

They need a chart or divided sections that they can complete as they work on their project. These sections can be titled:

- What do I know?
- What do I want to know?
- How do I find out?
- What have I learned?
- What action will I take?
- What new questions do I have?

These questions aren't linear, but can be answered in an any order. It is advisable to begin with "What do I know?" and "What do I want to know?", and then proceed to "How do I find out?" However, as they gain knowledge, what they want to know may evolve and new questions may be asked in the middle. This may influence how they gather information. They may decide on an action, and then be inspired to take a different action later on. It's a very organic process that uses children's exploration of their world and resources.

Finding Information

I always encourage the use of primary sources, as it allows children talk to experts in the field and have hands-on experiences. They learn to write an email that explains what they are interested in and request to learn more. They learn to seek places in their city that they can visit to gather information. These are essential life skills that children will need to use, and it's a great opportunity to hone these skills. The Toronto Public Library has amazing books and resources for students to use. There is also the Internet, where children begin to learn how to find reliable and valid sources. This is a great opportunity to talk about which sources they can trust more, and how they can verify their information by using multiple sources. Applications such as NoodleTools are user-friendly and help children keep track of their sources.

Sharing Learning

It important that children have the opportunity to share their learning, whether it be with a big or small audience, as their understanding and contribution is valuable. They may want to create a blog to showcase their progress and findings. They can present their Passion Project at an event with their family or community. They may begin a YouTube channel. There are plenty of ways that children can be creative to express and share their learning.

Taking Action

When children are deeply invested in their learning about a topic that interests them, they will often be inspired to take action. They will want to share their knowledge. They will want to build. They will want to create. They will want to find a solution to a problem. This will all lead to more questions, which is what true learning is all about. And, who knows, maybe a new Passion Project will emerge.

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

Special Feature

"BLACK JULY": The countdown of generational firsthand stories: BLACK JULY

By Thiru K. Thirukumaran

Here we are again at another anniversary of the pogrom in Sri Lanka known as "Black July".

The violence was a harbinger that dissipated Tamil life in the city of Colombo especially, and to the generation of that my father. It escalating a brutal war along with triggering an island wide mass migration of Tamils for thirty years plus is history.

My father's generation was an important component and formed a significantly affluent presence in the other ways also diverse as Tamils living in Colombo. The generation of my father, having born in the North during "pre-independence" Ceylon or shortly thereafter and then notably in vast numbers moving to Colombo to build their professional education/career/entrepreneurship, family, indulging in the arts and spiritual part of their enriched lives are diminishing in number in the capital city nowadays.

British Empire

Early on they began exiling the isle of Serendipity in the aftermath of July 1983 and now the natural law too creeping upon with the inevitable reality. This is a somber count down as those with firsthand experiences of that saga of Tamil life become non-existent and now it will become another abstract dark memory etched in this world. Their life churned through living under different constitutions, a linguistically different official language act introduction, putting down roots and growing a family and only to see separation from their loved ones in their golden age.

My father's generation sought stability and attained a fulfilling life despite signs of instability drawing few years after the British Empire handing over the reign to the ethnicity belonging to the majority inhabitants of the isle. In their professional lives and beyond, in dedicated contribution of the chosen field to belonging to the city and society at large, my father's generation never compromised their values along ethnic lines. They also forged a lifetime of friendship not only with their Tamil colleagues from other Tamil areas of the isle but also across ethnicities.

Their perseverance and esteemed citizenship gave us their next generation a cosmopolitan life and the encompassing exposure to diversity before stepping out of Sri Lanka, though personally I didn't realize the value of these environs fully while living there.

Northern Birth

My father left home from his native Madduvil-North in the wee hours of a morning as a 21 year old leaving behind his four other siblings and parents in their quintessential Tamil home and village sitting on the edge of Mudaliya Vayal (Mudaliya Paddy field) to the hustle and bustle of the capital city. He left the place in possession of their generational credentials in sticking to the scripture of Tamil values and admiration to apply the lingering English work practices in their careers. The pogrom of 1983 however ended their hope of life in retirement if not the North but also not with their children and other extended families living in close proximity.

This July 1983 violence was third such occurrence for my father's generation and the most severe in the city and country they called home. My father faced life or death situation only on the first of the three major attacks against Tamils, during that first one in 1958. My parents were living at that time in Ratmalana. This town apparently was a much sought after enclave by Tamils at that time. This town is probably the only centre tree-lined section in all of Galle Road, the main thoroughfare in the city.

Southern Life

My father, we called him Pappa, I think told me Ratmalana was urbanized to the vision of the then Prime Minister Sir John Kottalawela. Sir John held office until in 1956 and then the years saw violence unleashed on Tamils, majorly in 1958 but there was no shade from the violence to scores of Ratmalana Tamils. Many of them burnt to death in Ratmalana and neighboring towns. My father said he slept in nearby bushes of manioc plants and fortunately my mother was temporarily in her ancestral home in Kalvayal in the North at that time. Pappa was presumed no more until he arrived there weeks later.

Pappa: Sangarapillai Kanapathypillai and Ammah: Neelampikai Ammal lived in Ratmalana since 1955.

This early shattering didn't prevent a sprawling perseverance for Tamil arts, religious life, institutions and periodic festivities that sprung year after year. Tamilness thrived in Colombo in every aspect as much as in Tamils' cultural capital of Jaffna in the North or Batticaloa in the East.

Tamil arts flourished within schools and outside, there were popular drama and theater, publication of Tamil novels, then there was the across the Palk-Straits popular Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Tamil Service, a small but much appreciated Tamil film industry, the Tamil pop song scene and so forth. Employees of few of the government ministries hosted Tamil Art festivals, notable among them and growing in popularity year after year was "The Navarathri" celebrations by the Customs Department officers. Newspapers Thinakaran, Virakesari and Sinthamani delivered exemplary journalism.

The merchant scene was spectacular. From eateries, to wholesale commission agents in Pettah, printers, sari palaces and Jewelry boutiques glittered commerce. The city centre of Pettah and the commercial establishments were studded with pockets of piety belonging to all four faiths. Wellawatte, which has now become the number one enclave for Tamils had three popular book stores selling English and Tamil titles; Daniels, Rizwi and Vijayalakshmi book depots interestingly were run by Tamil speakers of three different faiths. This perhaps was coincidental, nevertheless they reflect the character of the city suburbs at large.

The Ramakrishna Mission in Wellawatte, was the venue for numerous festivals along with its spiritual presence, a children's park

Pappa ~ Sangarapillai Kanapathypillai (Aug 20, 1929 - Dec 13, 2013) & granddaughter Harshini at home in Dehiwela; Dr.Harshini Sriskanda is currently a Pediatrician in Toronto, Ontario

Ramakrishna Mission, Wellawatte during the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Swami Vivekanada

and an invoking library too by the Wellawatte shoreline. The Vivekanada Society in Kotahena conducted grade level exams in Hinduism and the Tamil Methodist Church on Moor Road Wellawatte was iconic and they still are. The Vivekanada Society in Kotahena was even admired as better functioning than its peers in India by writer Priyadarshi Dutta of Kolkata during Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary in 2013!

Dehiwela Home

The 1977 violence on Tamils and the 1983 pogrom spared us out of simple luck and a vigilant neighborhood of non-Tamil ethnicity. Since 1970 our family was nestled in Dehiwela at the seaside home custom built by my parents. It still stands fortunately through the 1977 and 1983 mayhems as the neighborhood was home to a senior officer in the Army belonging to the burgher community. In July 1983 the Army officer's family opened their doors especially to Tamil children, ladies and also other Tamils in the neighborhood to spend nights or anytime in their premises whenever they felt needing added safety.

Furthermore the rolling hooligans were prevented from coming down our lane by Sinhala municipal workers known to us and more Sinhala folks at their usual hangout spot of a nearby "thara maduwa" - firewood shop. I used to take "pongal" sweet rice for them after celebrating Thai Pongal right out our front porch. This "thara maduwa" is also no longer there after more urbanization.

The house was doing fine but I along with my brother in law of six months left home in the morning of that Monday, July 25th to a vehicle dealer in Orugodawatta in Colombo North not realizing the nature of the day ahead. We decided to walk to my father's office located within the old parliamentary complex on the Galle Face, the seaside promenade of the city. It wasn't like we were brave, but only opted for walking without realizing the unfolding horror all around. We safely completed a terrifying walk seeing burning cars and passengers being pulled and dragged from buses en-route to Galle Face. But my father already left the office and was given protection to safely reach home. We were held up in the parliament building over a couple of nights until we were taken home after the curfew was lifted.

The situation remained unsafe for anyone to move about, yet my forever courteous DSS school friend Dr Thushara Rodrigo dropped by at our house one day during this week in 1983 to checkout our wellbeing.

The violence continued unabated for several days and on Friday, July 29th it was at its peak. It was called "Kotti Dawasa" meaning Tiger Day with rumor mills working that Armed Tamil youth were in the city. Many Tamils died that day and there were no verified reports of armed youth.

I seldom discussed Tamil Nationalistic politics or any ethnic biases my father encountered in-depth with him at home. His most noted quip about any political settlement for ethnic matters as far back as I could remember to his passing away is, "They won't give anything", meaning no devolution of power would be forthcoming. Growing up in Dehiwela, I remember he would subscribe to one English, and one Tamil newspaper every day and multiple newspapers on Sundays. He never brought home nor have I seen him reading "Suthanthiran", meaning the firebrand Tamil journal of Nationalistic politics. But he would regularly read Saturday Review that was edited by Gamini Navaratne and published from Jaffna, he liked the good journalism of this newspaper.

As a Director of the General Treasury, he very much liked Minister of Finance Ronnie De Mel than anyone else during his career. I also gather that he very appreciated the manner and politics of leaders Colvin R de Silva, Dr N.M. Perera, Pieter Keuneman and Bala Tampoe. His closest contact with any Tamil leader was with TULF leader Appapillai Amirthalingam regarding his dealings as the leader of the opposition and the Treasury.

My father retired in the late eighties, moved to Toronto in the early nineties and passed away in December 2013.

Global Diaspora

The following year of "Black July", like the same age my father leaving his home in the North, I too left Sri Lanka at 21 and never having to live through the rough and tumble of the horrendous war and repercussions that followed the pogrom. This year's passing of the July pogrom adding yet another milepost, as I am the same age 54 today just as my father was in 1983.

Nowadays at every turn I tend to recollect the age of my parents to plot its relevance to the chores of the life of my own. Some of the global or personal upheavals of the day makes me anxious about what future holds, perhaps not the same at that level but still worrisome. But then I am part of the global Tamil diaspora scattered far away from our ancestral habitats. Likely forever I will miss the glory of living in my ancestral homeland in the North just as my father also saw this dream evaporating.

Historical currents in the Indian sub-continent has moved people far across the globe as far as the Caribbean two centuries ago. Workers in the tea estates of central Hills in the isle of Serendipity though nearby, a historical event of those times such as the colonial rule shipped them away from their native Villages in India.

These make me think I am a tiny dot amongst humans living outside of their homelands, uprooted willingly and unwillingly in the course of history. But only those generational firsthand stories can vividly portray the times and perspectives of those lives prior to the calamities or the real desire to relocate from their homelands.

This will apply to my generation as well!

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A thing of beauty is a joy forever – John Keats

Panoramic view of NY skyline

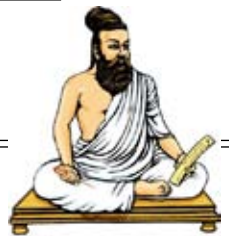
The Battello Restaurant

The Town Square Park

Light Rail Service by Hudson Bergen Exchange Place

C. Kamalaharan

Is there anything more fair
Than thy spectacular beauty!
A sight so grandeur and breathtaking
As I gaze through the window
From a height in the 41st floor
Of our towering apartment.
What a panoramic view of NY skyline!
Stretching from Mid Town to Down Town.
The skyscraping buildings along the coastline
Glittering in the smokeless sky
Are sights very much appealing to me.
Motor boats plying between NY and NJ
Transporting officers and tourists
Across the bustling Hudson river,
The majestic luxury cruse liners
Cruising with affluent tourists
And the light rail service packed with officers
Shuttling to and fro within Jersey City
Are enrapturing sights to boost my morale.
The busy Yacht harbour with motor boats
Neatly docked on either side of the Battello,
The ever busy restaurant that caters for
Birthday parties and other social events
Are enthralling sights I view from outside
As I sit on the bench alongside the walkway.
The lush green Marine Park through which
I daily stroll along the neatly paved walkway
And through the Town Square park,
The gathering of the elders
And continue along the waterfront walkway
With blooming red roses on one side
And the waterfront on the other side.
What a glamorous area it is
For brisk walkers joggers and sightseeing visitors!
I could not but be gay in such a jocund company.
But can I go on appreciating the beauty forever?
I have to move out due to obligations,
And so its time for me to say goodbye
To one of the most picturesque places on earth
And move to the tranquil countryside
From posh scenery to lush greenery
To be attuned to the calm and beauty of nature
And live in peace serenity and harmony.



Special Feature

Valluvar's Views

- Pinterest

Making of a Wife

Helpmate

Though Valluvars' ideas were encrypted centuries ago, they still hold good for the edification of human values and daily life. The ideal wife would be one who would uphold the prestige of her family within the limits of her husbands resources. She has to wrench herself from her original moorings and orient her attitudes and even her husband's home in the family of her adoption. The Bible says that a prudent wife is from the Lord. If wife lacks nobility of character, family life will become bleak and then all the other assets like wealth, status and the rest will be of no consequence. Naladiar expresses the same idea when it says the life of a man will be a barren desert if he is not blessed with a competent wife. If the wife possesses a noble soul, he may not be lacking in anything but if she lacks this attribute there will be nothing in life for him. The Bible speaks of the same idea when in

"Pennin peruntahkka yavula katpennum,
Tinmaiyun dakap perin"

the Proverbs Solomon says ' a virtuous woman is the crown of her husband ; but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones. Valluvar gives a profound exhortation of a wife in his couplet:

When rendered in English, it means what greater treasure can there be, than a woman who has the lasting strength of chastity or character. Bible extols the same idea when it says 'A wife who can find?, She is far more precious than jewels'. Valluvar goes further and says, "A virtuous woman who knows no other God but her husband may command the very clouds to pour forth rain and they will do so". A good wife will not spare herself in her triple duties of protecting herself, her husband and the good name of her family. Valluvar himself confessed that his life was a blessing to all due to the exemplary character of his wife-Vasuki ammaiyar. Bible relates the idea that a husband's life-span will be extended through the noble deeds of a wife of sterling character. There is no need for a guard or protector for a woman of chastity. Her will is the best safeguard of her honour. In Ramayanam Kambar wonder's the chastity of Sita elegantly when he ponders: was it Rama's Right conduct or her father Janaka's fate or the strength of her own chastity?. A woman helps her husband to win name and fame, which she has helped to attain, not only in this world but also in the next. In silappathikaram, Illangovadigal describes the city of Pumpuhar as one in which the women were spotlessly clean in their character. A man who is not fortunate to have a good wife that helps him along the path of honour and glory, may not dare to walk like a lion in the midst of his enemies. Drooping hands and weak knees are caused by the wife who does not make her husband happy. Valluvar ends his ideas on the making of a good wife by asserting that a good wife brings beauty and happiness to family life and good children are its fine ornaments.

LIFESAVING SOCIETY
The Lifeguarding Experts

Public Safety Canada / Sécurité publique Canada
Funded through the Search and Rescue New Initiatives Fund (SAR NIF)

Canadian Safe Boating Council
Conseil canadien de la sécurité nautique

NEW CANADIANS ENCOURAGED TO START BOATING THIS SUMMER

Lifesaving Society launches multi-language, online boating safety program

Toronto, ON – July 20, 2017 – The Lifesaving Society, Canada's leading organization responsible for drowning prevention, has launched an online boating safety program targeted to new boaters, particularly new Canadians who may be experiencing recreational boating for the first time. START Boating is a comprehensive program designed to teach basic boating and water safety skills. The program will launch today in English, French, Mandarin, and Cantonese; followed by Hindi and Tagalog at the beginning of August.

The program consists of a series of online, interactive videos, which guide the user through the basic skills needed to safely enjoy a day on the water. While suitable for all boaters, the program was developed with Canada's growing immigrant population, especially newcomer families, in mind.

A record number of immigrants (320,032) arrived in Canada between July 2015 and July 2016,1 and a recent study conducted by Statistics Canada estimates that nearly one in two Canadians could be either an immigrant, or the child of an immigrant by 2036.2

"Many new Canadians come from countries where they don't participate in activities like swimming and boating for recreation, says Barbara Byers, Public Education Director for the Lifesaving Society. "When they come to Canada, where water-based activities are extremely popular, they want to participate, but don't always have the knowledge or skills they need to be safe. We created this program in multiple languages because we want to reach out to make sure they are prepared before they set out on the water."

This is particularly important as research conducted by the Lifesaving Society has found that while the majority plan to spend time in and around water, new Canadians living in Canada for five years or less, are four times more likely to be unable to swim than those born in Canada. 3 This suggests they are at greater risk for drowning.

Recreational boating is part of the Canadian experience

Boating is a very popular recreational activity in Canada. Research indicates that 46% of Canadian adults participate in recreational boating activities.4 A study commissioned by the Lifesaving Society found that 31% of new Canadians planned to participate in boating activities during the summer months.3

While developing the program, the Lifesaving Society conducted focus groups of new Canadians representing communities whose first languages are Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, Tagalog and French. Feedback from the groups confirmed that new Canadians want to embrace activities like boating, which they consider part of the Canadian experience.

"… when you live in Canada, you would like to do things that you didn't do back home and you want to do what Canadians are doing too."

- Tagalog Focus Group Participant

START Boating allows users to choose from one of four vessel types – canoe, kayak, stand-up paddleboard (SUP) and small outboard motor boat. Many of these vessels represent entry-level craft, those most likely to be operated by those new to boating.

The most recent comprehensive study on drowning in Canada, the Canadian Drowning Report5, found that together, canoes and powerboats under 5.5 metres, account for 46% of all boating-related deaths in Canada.

The introductory video begins with a family planning to spend a day on the water, and as the family continues on their journey, the user can click on additional videos that demonstrate:

- what to wear and what to pack;
- how to understand right of way, mapping, markers and areas to avoid;
- how to call for help in an emergency;
- how to use safety equipment including how to fit a personal flotation device.
- important skills like paddling, launching their boat and righting and re-entering from the water.

After viewing the videos, focus group participants commented that they saw boating as an activity they would like to participate in with their family. They also noted that the program helped them to understand that there was much more to boating than just renting or purchasing a boat and getting onto the water. After watching the videos they reported feeling safer and more prepared.

" This video has greatly increased my interest in kayaking and made me more confident in participation"

- Mandarin Focus Group Participant

The program is available at www.startboating.ca and will also be linkable through a variety of partner websites including Canadian Safe Boating Council, PaddleSmart, AdventureSmart.ca and Smartboater.ca.

Reducing the risk of drowning and Search and Rescue (SAR) incidents

In addition to drowning prevention, one of the main goals of the program is to reduce the number and severity of marine search and rescue (SAR) incidents. While boating-related drownings have remained consistent over the past several years, SAR incidents continue to rise.

10 Safe Boating Tips

On average, 125 Canadians drown in boating incidents each year. More than 80 percent are men. More than 80 percent are not wearing life jackets. On the road, you wear your seat belt because you know you won't have time to put it on in an accident. On the water, think about your life jacket the same way. It won't work if you don't wear it.

1. Cold water is deadlier than you think. Prepare for the shock of cold water - always wear a life jacket.
2. Impaired boating is illegal. Leave the alcohol onshore.
3. Check the forecast before you go out. Return to shore immediately if bad weather approaches.
4. Operate powerboats responsibly – don't speed close to shore and slow down when the water is choppy.
5. Stay seated! You can easily fall out of a small powerboat, canoe or kayak.
6. Properly load your boat. An unbalanced or overloaded boat could take on water or capsize.
7. Be prepared. Ensure your vessel has the required safety gear on board, and sufficient fuel.
8. Carry a VHF radio or cell phone in case you need to call for help.
9. Always tell someone where you are going, when you will return and who to call if you are overdue.
10. Get trained. Boating is fun and easy if you know how.

The Lifesaving Society hopes that education programs like START Boating will help to prevent SAR incidents and create safe and responsible new boaters, who know how to call for help if it is needed and how to survive while they wait for help to arrive.

Contribution funding for the Start Boating program was provided by the National Search and Rescue Secretariat, part of Public Safety of Canada

About the Lifesaving Society

The Lifesaving Society is a full-service provider of programs, products and services designed to prevent drowning. We save lives and prevent water-related injury through our training programs, Water Smart® public education, drowning prevention research, aquatic safety management and lifesaving sport. Each year, more than 1,000,000 Canadians participate in the Society's swimming, lifesaving, lifeguarding and leadership programs. For more information, please visit *www.lifesavingsociety.com*

About the Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC)

CSBC is in the business of promoting safe and responsible boating throughout Canada. It is an alliance of members committed to preventing boating injuries and drownings and works to achieve its mission by providing common core education messages and resource materials that members can use in their education efforts with boaters. For more information please visit *www.csbc.ca*

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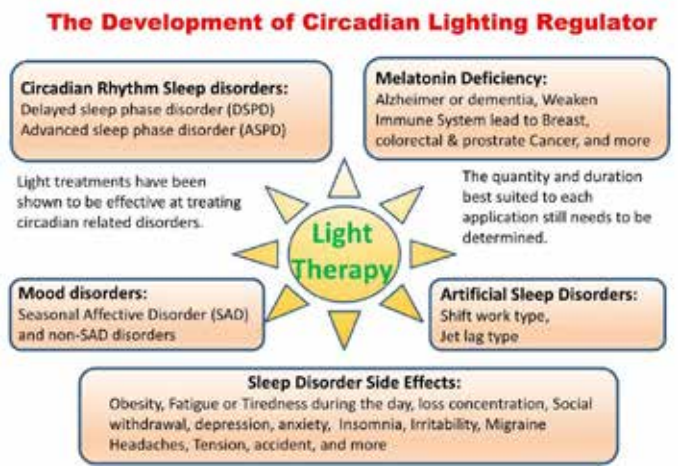
THE BIOLOGICAL IMPACT OF NATURAL AND ELECTRICAL LIGHT ON HUMAN HEALTH

A SEMINAR FOCUS ON CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL WORK IN THE FIELD OF LIGHT & LIGHTING

By: Uthayan Thurairajah

With Dr. Thiruvaran

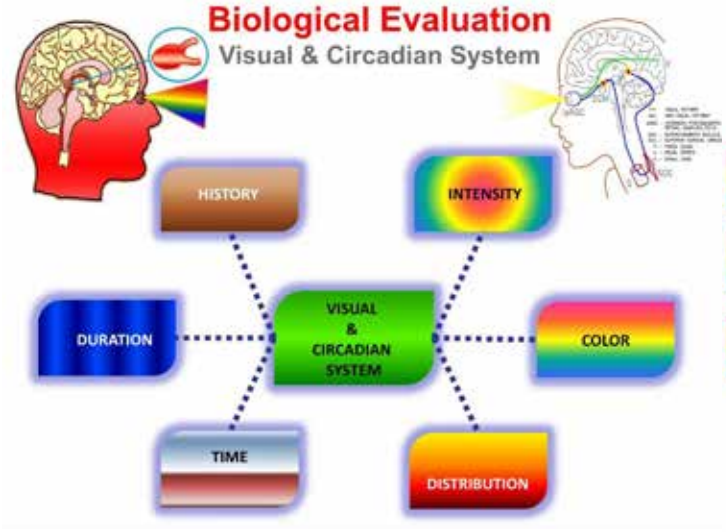
With Dr. Atputharajah



Kilinochchi is an Agricultural city and growing Industrial City in Northern Province of Sri Lanka. The City is an ideal location for Jaffna University. Kilinochchi Campus of Jaffna University is an innovation hub of Northern Sri Lanka where the Faculties of Agriculture, Engineering, and Technology are located. Jaffna University is working very hard to get this as the Knowledge center, which is directly echoed by the name Ariviyal Nagar.

Kilinochchi area has lost thirty years of economic development due to the war. Therefore the Government's focus on developing this area to attract industries, higher education, and technical institutions. The presence of these faculties stimulates the invention and innovation in this region which is proven to be the driving forces behind modern economic development.

The Mission of the Faculty of Engineering is to foster and promote engineering nationally and globally by offering qualified Engineers with social, economic and ethical values, and environmental awareness, who contribute to sustainable development.



Seminar

The University of Jaffna time to time invite experts who have offered a significant contribution and knowledge to the field of science and engineering. The author was invited to present a seminar to the department of civil, computer, electrical and electronic engineering, interdisciplinary studies as well as graduate students, professors and staff. The seminar also open to all other department professors and students.

The presentation of seminar involves the interaction of people and light (non-ionizing radiation). It is the cross subject matter which requires the combination of knowledge from the field of illuminating engineering, physics, physiology, psychology, biology, mathematics and ergonomics in a built environment. To practice efficient lighting design, one needs to understand how light can be used to enhance the health, safety, and productivity as well as influence comfort, perception, and behavior.

Photobiology affects human physiology and behavior both directly and indirectly. The direct effect includes melatonin suppression, lower serotonin production, elevated cortisol level and increased core body temperature. The indirect effect is resetting of the internal circadian clock, non-visual receptors, and the effect they have on our body rhythms, health, and behavior. The presentation provided a comprehensive summary of the theories and applications of various governments around the world regarding the issue of optical radiation, including scientific evidence and case studies.

Current Research:

Canadian Researchers at McGill University have discovered a molecular basis for the cancer preventive effects of vitamin D, how its active form Vitamin D shuts down tumor cells. A Person who has higher blood levels of vitamin D survive longer time. Vitamin D can be acquired from sunlight during the spring and summer months and limited dietary sources. Sun avoidance and inadequate dietary intake have created vitamin D deficiency.

McGill professors David Goltzman, and John White, the Faculty of Medicine, discovered that the active form of vitamin D to restrain the function and production of cMYC. Protin cMYC stimulates cell separation and is active almost all cancers. Their results published in the National Academy of Sciences. For the past several years, there has been considerable interest in the role vitamin D plays in improving health and preventing disease. The former finding shows that low levels of vitamin D have been directly associated with various forms of cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Interdisciplinary Studies

The problems of education, global warming, sustainability, public health cannot be solved by any one institution, one government, one corporation, or one non-profit. A collaborative model is needed. It is where the leadership under the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering is looking for a collaborative effort to achieve these objectives.

A new vision is required to respond to local, national, and global opportunities and challenges. Leaders must integrate knowledge and talent from individuals, institutions, and organizations, and government to promote the common good. There also is a critical need for scholarly work to understand and advance proven concepts essential in integrative leadership.

The University of Jaffna created interdisciplinary studies. It has defined integrative leadership as fostering collective action across boundaries to advance the common good. The interdisciplinary studies can be assigned to multidisciplinary research, classroom and public education to solve some of the most challenging issues.

Interdisciplinary studies are important to build a new field of research. It can bring individual, team, organizational, and societal leadership to support on complex science and engineering problems for the local and global needs.

Incubation Centre

The Faculty of Engineering at Kilinochchi has the following departments: Department of Civil Engineering, Department of Computer Engineering, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and Department of Interdisciplinary Studies.

The Faculty of Engineering is trying to establish an incubation center at the Kilinochchi premises of the University of Jaffna. The Incubators are the heart of any vibrant innovation culture because they help the inventors and innovators with initial stages of development. It can provide basic facilities like space, communication infrastructure, internet facility, prototyping, and testing would significantly increase the number of innovative commercially viable products.

The Incubation center will provide the local population, students, and staff to come up with commercially viable, innovative solutions to the local and regional industries. It will further provide opportunities and training for young graduates to explore entrepreneurial path, increasing small businesses and start-ups. Therefore, the incubation center should be established in Kilinochchi premises as soon as possible to create a sustainable innovation culture helping innovative ideas to become commercial enterprises contributing to accelerated economic development.

All the Engineering Students, Faculty and staff attended the seminar including Dr. Atputharajah, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Dr. Thiruvaran, Head, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. The author received outstanding hospitality and appreciation for his contribution to the Electrical Engineering, health and Lighting field.

Right after the seminar, Dr. Atputharajah showed the faculty of engineering facility including staff residence. Dr. Thiruvaran indicated in his appreciation that "Our students and we received an impressive presentation in an area that we never exposed to that depth." Several media personals conducted interviews and arranged the program with Uthayan. It was a great honor and experience to visit the home land after a long time in exile.

Uthayan Thurairajah, PhD, RSE, LC, P.Eng., is a Senior Engineer at WSP|MMM Group with over twenty years of experience in Electrical Engineering and Lighting field, and he also holds a Lecturer position in the Department of Communication and Design at Ryerson University. Uthayan is a member of several Canadian and international professional association including Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine (AIHM) and Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR). He has worked on multi-disciplinary lighting and electrical projects for the Ministry of Transportation, several Towns, Municipalities, Regions and others. Ha carries out research on the subject of light and lighting and taken part in several projects. He also has extensive research experience in the value of lighting design in the mental, emotional, and social well-being of a person. He is a frequent presenter and author on lighting design & health. He is passionate about integrating science and health into the lighting design.

Business & Finance

MANAGING YOUR MONEY

Don't give your money the silent treatment

David Joseph, M.A.(Economics), CFP®, CLU, RRC.

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Finances can be tough to talk about, but keeping your money issues a secret can be bad for your personal and financial health.

Many of us don't like chatting about our finances. A 2014 study* asked people what their most difficult conversation would be and 44 percent said personal finances.

But this silence around money encourages people to remain uninformed about financial options and strategies and to hide resulting financial errors. Plus, we seldom know what our loved ones think about money, and misunderstandings fester when we don't communicate. Studies have also shown that keeping secrets, whether financial or not, can result in stress, anxiety and even depression.

Yet, despite plenty of good reasons to open up, people find that money is a difficult topic to discuss because it often comes with an emotional attachment. Take financial planning. Yes, the technical details can be complex but it also requires people to think about aging and their own mortality and the risk of financial loss or a family's financial stability when poor investment choices are made.

As with other hard-to-discuss topics, it's often easier to stay quiet than to admit that you're deep in debt or have another money-related problem. But studies show that talking about money can reduce feelings of financial stress and help you make better money decisions.

Of course, talking is easier said than done. When you're ready to open up, accept that the discussion will inevitably not just be about money, but also what it symbolizes. Start by acknowledging your own emotional relationship with money and understand that finances trigger different feelings in others.

It helps to have a goal in mind about what you want the talk to accomplish, and to start conversations about money with professionals that you have no emotional connection with before sharing financial feelings with loved ones.

And a very important check-up on the monetary engine that keeps you going every day, that makes it possible for you to achieve your life goals – your finances. If you haven't done it before, start this year to take stock of your financial life using this 10-point inspection and personal ratings list. It will definitely pay off in the long run.

Where am I?

1. I am satisfied with my current financial situation.

2. My spouse and I have sufficient life, disability and long-term care insurance for our situation as it is today and as it may be in the future.

3. My mortgage is affordable but is it possible to reduce my monthly payments?

4. I periodically analyze my household spending and identify ways to save.

5. I would have trouble finding the money to pay for a financial emergency.

6. I would have to change my lifestyle if my spouse lost their job and/or pension income.

7. I worry about the loss of principal due to stock market declines or crashes.

8. I'm concerned that I will not have sufficient retirement savings.

9. I pay too much income tax.

10. I am concerned about my estate and providing for my spouse and other beneficiaries after I'm gone.

A great way to start your "money" conversation is by talking to your professional advisor who can provide the financial knowledge and planning that will reduce stress and emotion and make it easier to communicate your financial goals, dreams and concerns with others.

Disclaimer:

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

Canada 150: How a Bank Note Tells a Story

The Bank of Canada is marking the country's 150th birthday by issuing a commemorative bank note. You can buy some lunch with this special $10 bill, but take a good look at it first. Its visual elements are full of meaning and help to tell a story about our history, land and culture.

Bordering the large window are 13 maple leaves representing each of Canada's provinces and territories. The three metallic leaves at the bottom of the window reflect the leaves found on the shield of the coat of arms, which represent the many peoples of Canada.

At the bottom of the large window is an image of Owl's Bouquet, a stone-cut and stencil print by acclaimed Inuit artist Kenojuak Ashevak. A Companion of the Order of Canada, Ashevak has produced artwork that has been featured on a Canadian stamp and coin, but never before on a Canadian bank note. Ashevak lived and worked in Cape Dorset, Nunavut, the last territory to join Confederation, in 1999.

The pattern that appears across the top and bottom of the note is based on the distinctive Assomption, or arrow sash, which is an important cultural symbol of the Métis people. The sash also has significance to French-Canadian culture.

Worn by habitants, the sash became a hallmark of the voyageurs and fur traders in the 18th century. Representing Canada through meaningful visual content is a key aspect of the Bank's formal bank note design principles. The artwork by Ashevak, the arrow sash pattern and the portrait of Senator James Gladstone—who represents the role of Indigenous peoples in government—allow the Canada 150 bank note to represent First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The note also depicts Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir George-Étienne Cartier and Agnes Macphail, three parliamentarians who've made significant contributions to Canada's political history.

In addition, the note incorporates symbols of Canadians' military service, including a vignette of the Hall of Honour, the central corridor of the Centre Block, and the Memorial Chamber Arch of the Peace Tower, both on Parliament Hill. Today, the Hall of Honour is decorated with various plaques commemorating the original Parliament building (destroyed by fire in 1916), Confederation and the First World War. The Memorial Chamber was dedicated in 1927 to all Canadians who died in military service during the First World War. It has since come to honour all Canadian men and women who gave their lives in service to their country.

The Canada 150 note began circulating on June 1. In all, 40 million commemorative notes will be distributed through Canada's financial institutions. To get one, simply visit your local bank or credit union. Most of them will have a limited supply of these special notes to distribute over the counter. This is only the fourth commemorative note issued by the Bank of Canada in its 82-year history.

Visit www.bankofcanada.ca/ bank note150 to learn more about the design and security features of the Canada 150 note. Follow the Bank on Twitter (@bankofcanada) for the latest news about this special note marking the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

IT Workers favoured in the Express Entry System

Recent developments in the express entry system show that candidates in certain IT occupations have been prioritized through various programs. Numerous resources indicate that there is a significant demand for IT workers in Canada. The express entry system helps both the Canadian employers as well as the internationally qualified and experienced IT workers to meet the current demand.

Certain provinces have introduced Express-Entry aligned nomination systems to select its workers. If a candidate receives a nomination from any of the provinces, he / she will receive additional 600 CRS points which will undoubtedly make the candidate eligible for an "Invitation to Apply". In order to benefit from Express-Entry aligned nominations, the candidate must already be in the Express-Entry pool.

In June the government of Ontario prioritized information and communications technology professionals and selections were made from the candidates already in the express entry pool. A list of specific IT and communications occupations were released in this regard. Similarly, provinces of Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick have also recently selected IT industry specific candidates from the express entry pool for nominations by their respective provinces. Although none of these provinces have indicated when they would engage in an exercise like this again, the recent developments appear to set a trend in selecting specific occupational categories from within the express entry pool. Therefore, if anyone is interested in benefitting from provincial nomination support, it is in their interest to enter the express entry pool.

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HOW TO STOP LIVING PAY CHECK TO PAY CHECK

If you've ever been to one of those payroll loans shops and taken an advance on your salary, you might be in financial trouble. If you barely make it — or can't even quite make it — to your next pay day, you're living in a vicious financial loop where you can never get ahead. You're likely paying exorbitant interest because you can't make more than minimum payments on your debts; you may never build up equity in your home. Even the smallest of emergency situations, like an unexpected car repair or a sick pet, can be a trial. Big, life-altering situations like serious illness or divorce can be devastating. Thinking of going on a vacation to a resort or a new car? Forget it.

It's a hard habit to break, but it can be done. The first thing it will take is the acknowledgement that you didn't get here by magic — the decisions you've made in the past and the way you've chosen to handle your money are why you're living pay check to pay check. Once you get real about what got you here, it's time to get real about your spending. Check out our last post for some help making a spending plan.

Be prepared to cut. Do whatever it takes for as long as it takes — getting off the pay check-to-pay check merry-go-round will be worth it. Start with little things, like turning off lights when you're not in the room and taking your lunch two or three days a week. Move on to carpooling and ditching your cable television. Then, take on the big stuff, like selling your motorcycle or getting by with one car between you. Then, start talking to your family about the really, really big stuff, like whether you should be selling your house, using the equity to pay off your debts, and renting an apartment for a couple of years.

Start putting away a small amount for savings, even if it's just $25 or $50 a check. Have it taken directly from your bank account on pay day and put into a tax-free savings account (TFSA), where it will require a special request and 24 hours' notice to get at it. It makes it hard to buy on impulse, and over time, you'll be surprised how many small amounts add up.

Pay your bills as soon as they're due, and pay more than minimum on credit debts, even if it's just $5 or $10 more. It will make a big difference in how long it will take to pay them off, and how much your borrowing will cost you. Get in the habit of keeping just one credit card with you, with a small limit, strictly for emergencies, and leave the rest at home.

Also get in the habit of tracking your spending, maybe forever. Keep a little journal and write down every penny you spend for the first few weeks, and then when you've developed better habits, start looking at your spending perhaps once a week. If your expenses start creeping up again, act to reduce them. Consider turning a hobby into a part-time venture, or volunteering for overtime at work to increase your income.

Take responsibility and act now. Get the help of a qualified Credit Counsellor to help you stop living pay check to pay check. **(CALL - 416-650-5400 / www.gtacredit.com / page # 37)**

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Business & Finance

Ottawa commits to smart buildings across Canada

By: Steve Randall

The federal government says that it will roll out its Smart Buildings initiative to up to 100 public buildings across Canada over the next three years.

As part of a commitment to making buildings more efficient and reduce greenhouse gases, the government ran a pilot in the National Capital Region, and will now expand it.

Smart Buildings improves the way the government monitors and controls mechanical, heating, cooling and lighting systems. "The Smart Buildings initiative allows us to make a real impact by implementing innovative technologies and identifying opportunities for energy savings. The result is lower overall energy costs for federal buildings and a reduced carbon footprint.

I am proud that the Government of Canada is taking steps to be a leader in protecting the environment," said Steven MacKinnon, parliamentary secretary to the minister of public services and procurement.

Courtesy: Real Estate Professional (REP) on July 25, 2017

Toronto condo prices soar 28%

By: Steve Randall

Toronto's home sales may have seen a big slump in June but the condo market has shown relative resilience in the second quarter of 2017.

Toronto Real Estate Board data shows that 8,223 condo apartments were sold between March and June, down 8% from the same period of 2016. The average selling price continued rising sharply though, up 28.1% to $532,032 for the TREB market area as a whole and to $566,513 for the city of Toronto.

"Despite the recent dip in overall GTA home sales, the condominium apartment market was quite resilient, especially when compared to low-rise market segments," said TREB president Tim Syrianos. "Condo apartment sales accounted for a greater share of overall transactions during the spring compared to the same period last year. Market conditions also remained tight, which resulted in the continuation of strong annual rates of price growth."

New listings of condos were up 0.7% year-over-year to 13,682.

Courtesy: Real Estate Professional (REP) on July 25, 2017

Ontario Implementing New Protections for Condo Residents this Fall

New Laws to Build Healthy and Sustainable Condo Communities

Ontario is moving forward to better protect condo owners and residents by increasing consumer protections in Ontario's condo communities.

On July 25, 2017, the Minister of Government and Consumer Services, Tracy MacCharles, announced new protections for condo communities taking effect this fall. Changes will include:

Regular mandatory updates about the condo corporation to help improve communication between boards and owners.

Improving condo corporation governance and addressing conflicts of interest by introducing new disclosure requirements for directors, including whether they are not owners or occupiers of units in the condo or if they have interests in contracts involving the corporation.

Mandatory training for condo directors to improve how condos are managed and operated.

Clearer rules to make it easier for condo owners to access records of their condo corporation.

New notices, quorum and voting rules to make it easier for owners to participate in owners' meetings.

Tracy MacCharles Minister of Government and Consumer Services

Mandatory education requirements for condo managers applying for a general licence.

The government will also designate two new administrative authorities:

The Condominium Authority of Ontario (CAO), when designated on September 1, 2017 will provide education and promote awareness of condo owner rights and responsibilities, as well as provide important information for condo corporations. On November 1, 2017 it will also be responsible for managing the Condominium Authority Tribunal which will resolve disputes about access to condo records. Going forward, Ontario will consult with the public to identify other disputes the Tribunal could resolve.

The Condominium Management Regulatory Authority of Ontario (CMRAO), when designated on November 1, 2017 will regulate and license condo managers and providers.

Protecting condo residents in Ontario is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUICK FACTS

There are currently 1.6 million people living in condos in Ontario and more than 50 per cent of new homes being built in the province are condominiums.

There are more than 750,000 condo units in Ontario, up from 270,000 units in 2001.

The CAO and CMRAO were created as part of the implementation of the Protecting Condominium Owners Act that was passed in 2015.

The government received about 200 recommendations for condominium law reforms through its public consultation process.

"Addressing the growing needs of condo communities across the province and supporting long-term sustainability of condo living is key to our government's mandate. Creating new consumer protections will help to build more sustainable condo communities so residents moving into condos today and in the future will be able to look forward to healthy condo communities and peace of mind in the place they call home."

- **Tracy MacCharles**, Minister of Government and Consumer Services

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Monsoon Kitchen

GENIE SISTERS SAMAYAL SANTHAI

Welcome to our recipe corner! We sisters will entice you with recipes that we have fallen in love with and teach you a little Tamil along the way, as all the ingredients will have their Tamil names. Both of us love to cook and we have developed very different styles. Niranjini has a very refined palate and cooks more contemporary world cuisine with an Asian touch. Rajini is a seasoned homemaker who loves making traditional dishes for her friends and family. Follow us on Instagram: @ninjaeatsfood and @tamil_food

Eat more, learn more!

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

Rajini, lives in Toronto and has a background in psychology. Her speciality is in Tamil food from around the world, catch up on her meal ideas on Instagram @tamil_food.

CHICKEN GHEE ROAST

Summer is finally here and with it the entourage of barbequing, celebrating everything that is Canadian, Tamil and of course food related! Toronto based Chef. Roshan, founder of Kitchen Guerilla has created a range of sauces that is pretty much all you will need for the perfect BBQ. Tried and tested his Uraippu sauce (Not for the faint hearted), range of habanero and Jerk marinades are a must. What we use in this recipe is the OG Tamil Meat Seasoning Powder which has become a kitchen staple in many households. This recipe is ideal for those looking for an alternative recipe to as usual wow your guests at the bbq or at any summer party.

Stock up now at Warraich Meats in Markham, or contact him on Facebook or Instagram for deliveries.

Ingredients:

- 1 whole chicken, cut into pieces
- ½ cup ghee
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 10 curry leaves
- 2 heaped tbsp of Kitchen Guerilla's OG Tamil Meat Seasoning powder
- ¼ tsp turmeric powder
- 1 lime (Optional)

Method:

Marinate the chicken pieces with 1 heaped tbsp of Kitchen Guerilla's OG Tamil Meat Seasoning powder for at least an hour, overnight ideal. In a deep frying pan, pour the ghee in and wait for it to warm. Add the onion and curry leaves and stir until the onions are translucent, not brown. Add the marinated chicken and the rest of the seasoning powder along with the turmeric powder and mix well. Continue to stir the chicken every so often until the chicken is cooked. Alternatively cook the onions and curry leaves and throw the chicken on the barbeque with the rest of the spices and mix together, add a splash of lime and you've got a dish to remember either way this will be a dish to remember.

Chef. Roshan, founder of Kitchen Guerilla

The seasoning powder is pre-salted, so there is no need to add salt to this dish. It has a huge amount of generous spices, none need to be tempered before the addition of the onions. Replace the chicken for shrimp or beef and it still will taste amazing!

Try making this recipe this month and do hashtag #monsoonjournal on Instagram and send us your pics, comments and feedback. Spread the love (and recipe!)

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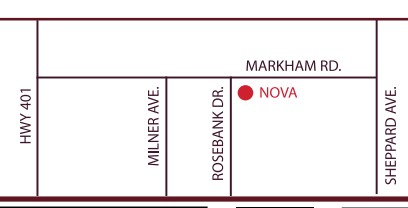

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Ajay Oberoi
Government Certified Counsellor

Community Watch

CTHA supports three preschools in Batticaloa with teacher salaries and healthy lunches for children

The Canadian Tamils' Humanitarian Association (CTHA) as a non-profit organization has been actively working on various rural community development projects in Sri Lanka since it was formed in 2015. They are currently supporting three preschools with six teachers' salaries and a healthy lunch for 80 under-privileged rural children in Batticaloa. The purpose of this project is to encourage children from vulnerable groups to stay in school from a young age, better prepare them for primary school, and reduce overall school dropout rates which are very high in the area. CTHA hopes that by stressing the importance of early childhood education, parents from the community are also more encouraged to send their children to school.

On May 29th 2017, CTHA organized a Kalai Vizha for students from all three preschools to come together and participate in. The children showcased their talents including singing, dancing and various other artistic skills. It was very heart-warming to see them perform and spend an afternoon together.

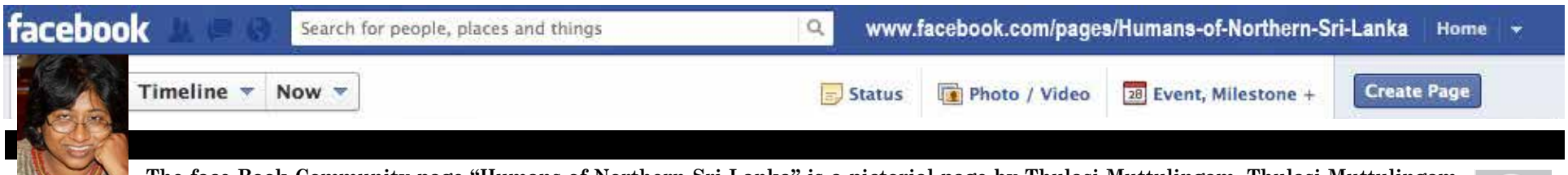
On July 21st 2017, CTHA organized a sports meet which was organized by one of CTHA's core team members Shanathani Thuray. Shanathani will be supervising all CTHA projects in Batticaloa until she return to Canada in July 2018..

For more information, please check out our website at cthacanada.org, follow us on Facebook, or contact us directly by email at cthacanada@gmail.com.

By: Saranga Sriranganathan

Saranga Sriranganathan obtained her BMSc degree from Western University with an honours specialization in physiology and pharmacology. She will be starting her MSc back at Western this fall. She is very involved with social community work and hopes to pursue a career in medicine to serve local communities as well as assist with international aid.

Saranga is currently the President for the Canadian Tamils' Humanitarian Association (CTHA). She hopes to recruit many young volunteers to the organization and set up a platform for them to showcase their unique ideas to fundraise and raise awareness for vulnerable populations in developing countries.

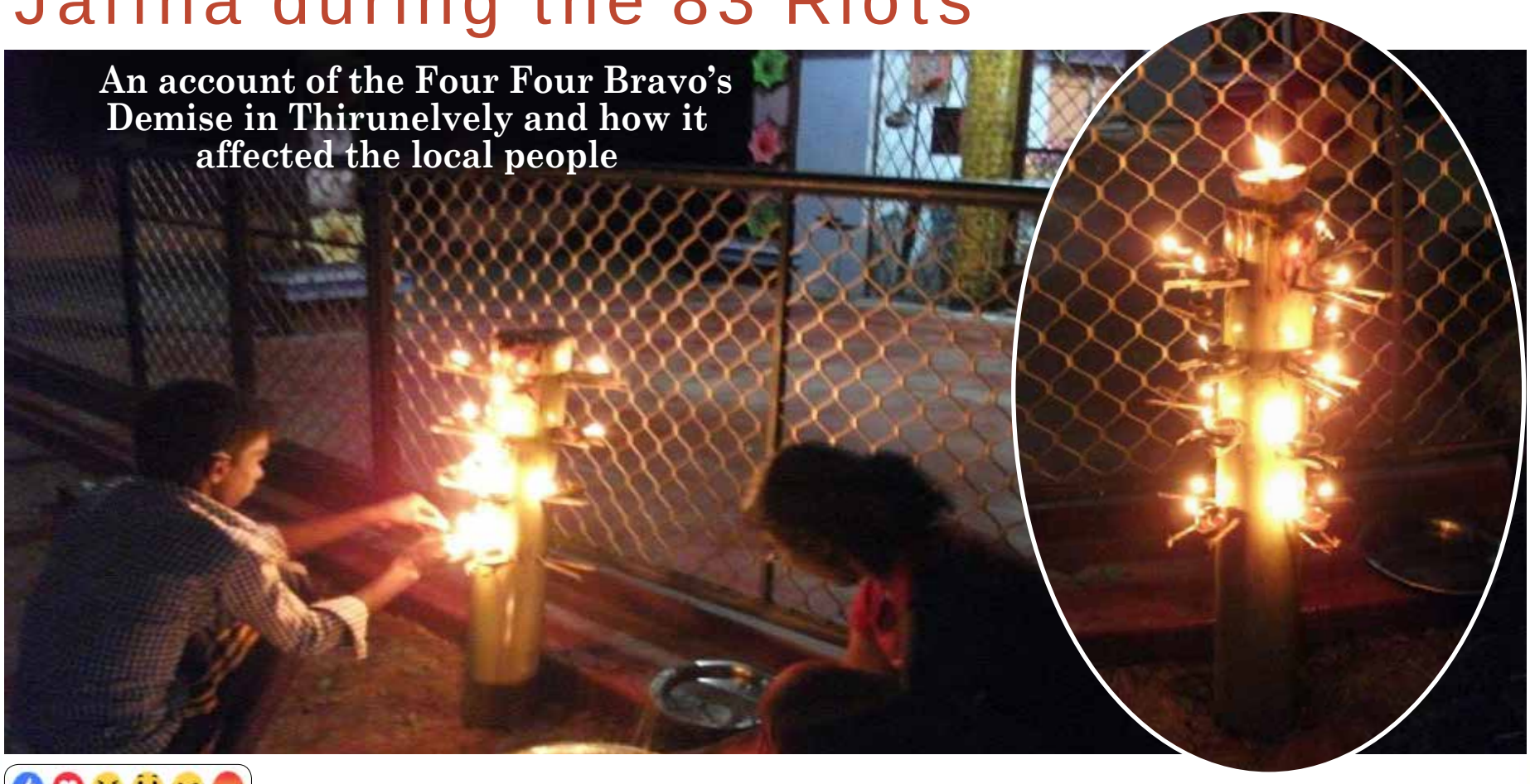


BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM

The face Book Community page "Humans of Northern Sri Lanka" is a pictorial page by Thulasi Muttulingam. Thulasi Muttulingam is a journalist based in the North of Sri Lanka. Having grown up away from her hometown of Jaffna, it is currently her mission to research and document as much of her culture and heritage as she can. If you are similarly interested, check out more of her work at the facebook page ~ Humans of Northern Sri Lanka: To follow the updates, "Like" the page at: *www.facebook.com/pages/Humans-of-Northern-Sri-Lanka*

Jaffna during the'83 Riots

An account of the Four Four Bravo's Demise in Thirunelvely and how it affected the local people



Celebrating Karthikai Vilakeedu in our Thirunelvely neighbourhood in 2014

Many Tamils with horror stories to tell about the 1983 riots usually lived in Colombo at the time. This was where the worst atrocities were committed.

In Jaffna however, where Tamils are the majority, not much violence is related. I being a native of Thirunelvely, Jaffna where it all started, come from one of the very few families that do relate it.

It was in Thirunelvely, just about a half kilometer from my home, that the LTTE killed an Army Patrol setting off the subsequent violence. When the soldiers' bodies were brought to Colombo, it set off the riots.

I was just two years old at that time and have no memory of those events. But my mother, who was heavily pregnant with my younger sister then, often recalls it with horror. As such, it is an event that is part of my psyche; something I often heard while growing up in the country my parents had relocated to, post the riots. They had grown up in a Sri Lanka they dearly loved but 1983 convinced them that the country, even the mainland of Jaffna was not a safe place for Tamils.

Here in her own words is my mother's recollection of events, that fateful night and subsequently in Thirunelvely, Jaffna:

"I was eight months pregnant in July 1983. It was my third child and a difficult pregnancy; doctors had warned me not to do anything strenuous or worry unnecessarily. The worry part of it came because my husband had recently gone abroad to work. As a local school teacher, his salary simply hadn't been enough to support our growing family.

So, five months earlier when I was just three months pregnant, he had gone to the Maldives as the pay was slightly better there. I lived with my old parents and unmarried sister, along with my two young children.

My worries then were simply that of any ordinary housewife; taking care of two very young rambunctious children; raising them more or less alone because my husband was away; worries about money…

The Jaffna I had grown up in was quite peaceful and idyllic. Tensions had officially started with the growth of militancy in 1977 but as at 1983, we were still having normal everyday problems like people in the rest of the country.

I was deeply asleep that fateful night of 23 July when I was woken up by my sister at midnight. Then I heard it. Explosive sounds like firecrackers going on and on! It carried on for quite some time. We didn't know what was happening but we were very frightened as we knew of the escalating tension between the militants and the army.

Subsequently, all these sounds – Shells, bombs, gunfire, became very familiar to our ears but this was in the beginning when such noises weren't the norm and it was terrifying.

There were not many telephones in the area – we didn't have one. Each house stood on quite a few perches of land, so the neighbours were not within calling distance. We didn't have the comfort of coming out of our houses and grouping together to know what to do.

The militants had a habit of doing something to the army such as lobbing grenades at them and then running away, usually through the back winding lanes and over house walls. Residents of those houses would have had nothing to do with it, but the army in hot pursuit were known to fire indiscriminately. In previous incidents, quite a few home owners had been fired at, when the army pursued the 'boys' by jumping over private property walls.

As such, people thought it was dangerous to be in the house when firing was heard and generally ran out, usually into some back lanes, which our Jaffna villages are full of. It was thought the Army was familiar only with the main roads and so people – and the militants – used the minor dirt lanes to escape trouble. On that night, my family too decided to follow the same policy. But I was terrified. It was pitch black. The electricity had suddenly gone out and it was months before it came back again. We didn't have torches or candles (we learnt to equip ourselves with these essentials only later).

You were only two years old and whimpering. Your brother, an inquisitive four year old, was as usual demanding in his characteristic squeaky breathless voice to know what was happening. "What is that noise? Why is it not stopping? Why has the electricity gone? Why are the dogs howling?"

As if the racket from the grenades and gunfire was not enough, all the neighbourhood dogs were howling fearfully. To this day, I don't like to spend nights in Jaffna, because if some dog takes it into its head to start howling, I wake up with the same panic I felt that day.

On that night, my 73 year old father and I were so frightened that we couldn't run out to the back lanes immediately. Much to the anxious dismay of my mother and sister, we kept going to the bathroom again and again, sometimes knocking at the door, yelling at the other to come out soon. The fear had loosened our bowels. We were unable to run, much less walk anywhere.

The thoughts going on in all our heads were, "we might be gunned down at any minute now" and it didn't help that my father and I were holding all the others up as well. Our house was just off the main road and thus situated in a very dangerous spot. Eventually however, we did sneak out the back door into a lane and walked nearly a mile into the interior to get to a relative's house.

We stayed there the next few days, because it was over those days that the violence occurred. We had run off with only the clothes on our backs and when we ventured out the next day to get some clothes and other essentials, we heard shooting and ran back in. As it turned out, we were one of the lucky ones to escape unscathed. Quite a few people we knew were killed.

In revenge, the army came firing into homes in Thirunelvely. Both families at home as well as people escaping in the lanes were shot. It gave rise to so many tragedies in the lives of families we personally knew. I still remember the wealthy old gentleman, going around begging people for money, dressed in spotless white veshti and shirt. He became a regular feature in the neighbourhood after that incident. His only child's death had mentally unbalanced him. I came to hear of so many other tales of personal loss and trauma but above them all, this was something that never failed to hurt me – the sight of that wealthy and venerable looking man going begging from house to house.

25 cents; that was all he ever asked for.

"Give me 25 cents. I am an orphan now. My only son is dead."

Apparently, the parents had told the son, a good-looking and intelligent young man of whom they were very proud to run, choosing to stay back themselves as they were too old. The boy was shot down, round the corner from his house, while the parents back home stayed safe.

In the Maldives meanwhile, my husband just 42 years old had to be hospitalized when he heard of the riots. He had wanted to take the next plane out to Colombo but his friends had hidden all his money and passport to prevent it. "Of what use is your going into that mayhem? If anything has happened / is happening to your family, you are not going to prevent it by going there, so stay safe here."

Unable to reach us as we didn't have telephone, and unable to come to us, he developed high blood pressure, fainted and had to be hospitalized. He has had to take medication for blood pressure ever since.

It was nearly two weeks before we managed to contact him to tell him we were all right. He came that December and arranged for us to go with him the next year. The Sri Lanka we had grown up in had changed beyond recognition. It was time to go."

Community Watch

JAFFNA GIVES WARM WELCOME TO A TAMIL CANADIAN

Our Technology and Science Feature Writer Lecturer Uthayan Thurairajah received a warm welcome in the City of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. He was invited as a special guest to Manipay Hindu College annual Founder's Day celebration and prize giving ceremony on July 4th, 2017. He is an old student of Manipay Hindu College. He received an outstanding support and hospitality by the principal, teachers, staff, and students. The hugely successful event organized by the current administration.

He was also invited to conduct an elaborate comminatory on Thiruvasagam and released a DVD on Thiruvasagam at the Main Hall of Manipay Hindu College on July 7, 2017. Both of the events attended by over thousands of students including other religious students, guest, staff, and teachers. Last year, he was invited as a chief guest for the silver jubilee celebration of the Manipay Hindu College and Manipay Ladies College Old Students Association of Canada.

Faculty of Engineering at the University of Jaffna invited Dr. Uthayan as a visiting lecturer to conduct a Seminar on "The biological impact of Natural and Electrical Light on Human Health" on July 6, 2017. All the Engineering Students, Faculty and staff attended the seminar including Dr. Atputharajah, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Dr. Thiruvaran, Head, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Uthayan received outstanding hospitality and appreciation for his contribution to the Electrical Engineering, health and Lighting field.

Right after the seminar, Dr. Thiruvaran indicated in his appreciation that "Our students and we received an impressive presentation in an area that we never exposed to that depth." Several media personals conducted interviews and arranged the program with Uthayan including Thinakural News Paper, DAN TV, and Lankasri TV. DAN TV did one hour TV live interview in the City of Jaffna.

Recently, Dr. Uthayan Thurairajah was invited to join as an Honorary Advisor of the World Academy which is registered under the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (U.N. D.E.S.A.). The World Academy is an International Institution for Higher Education and Promotion, Research, and Publication.

Toronto Indian Youth Cultural Association (TIYCA) presents Bollywood singer **Abhijeet Bhattacharya** in sold out show at Flato Markham Theatre on July 15 2017

Bollywood singer Mr. Abhijeet Bhattacharya

TIYCA presents Bollywood singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya in sold out show at Flato Markham Theatre on July 15 2017

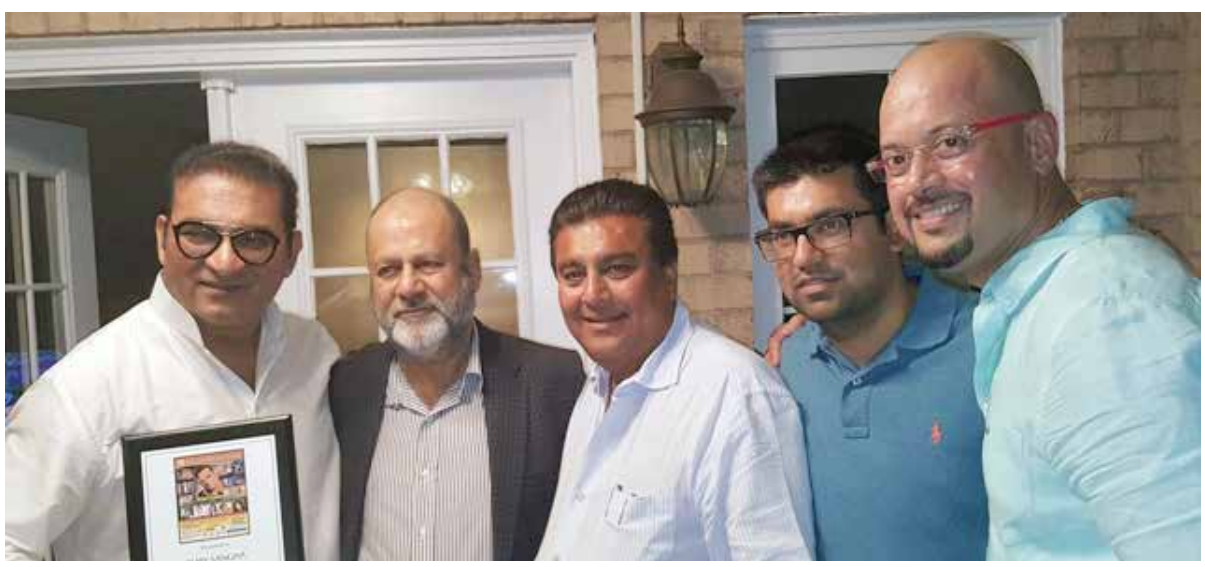
Toronto Indian Youth Cultural Association (TIYCA) presented a spectacular community event on Saturday July 15, 2017 with famed Bollywood Singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya in a live sold out musical show at the prestigious Flato Markham Theatre.

Abhijeet Bhattacharya is one of India's most talented and versatile singers. He received the Honour of Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman, Yash Bharati Samman (2013), Sangeet Maha Samman (2015), Filmfare Award for best male playback singer; Screen Award for Best Male Playback, and MTV Award for Best Singer Asia. He sings in over 18 languages and has released over 75 popular Indian film songs, and continues to work with Bollywood's greatest music directors. He mesmerized the audience with a special tribute to the late Kishore Kumar on his Canadian tour to Ottawa, Montreal, and Markham, and brought with him the Indian film industry's top leading band members.

TIYCA provides a platform to empower youth to flourish in the arts, unite local and international artists, and cultivate the Indian cultural heritage as it relates to global cultural traditions. This year's show featured local musicians Bijoy Chakraborty, Shrisha, and Chirodeep Chakraborty. Emcees were CINA radio's Parul Kundra and local youth Srijeet Chaudhuri. Classical dances were choreographed by Reshmi Chetram from Tarana Dance. Our own TIYCA youth shared the stage with these great artists.

Special thank you to Irfan Sadar, Micheal Rizkalla, Ali Memon, Ruby Sangha, and Amar Erry for their continued support of TIYCA youth and organizers for the past several years. Toronto Indian Youth Cultural Association executives John Neogi, Neera Chakravorty, and Kajal Chowdhury sincerely thank the sponsors, performers, volunteers, and community for their generous support.

TIYCA committee with Bollywood Singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya



Sponsor Ruby Sanga & Team with Bollywood ABhijeet Bhattacharya

TIYCA President John Neogi- President, Neera Chakravorty-Vice President, Kajal CHowdhury with Bollywood singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya

Children's workshop at Sathya Sai Mandir

THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF CANADA
Richmond Hill Ganesha Temple

PAVITROTSAVAM

July 06 - July 08, 2017

BY: ***KIDAMBI RAJ,***
MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The fifth Annual Pavitrotsavam or *"The Festival of Purity"* was celebrated from Thursday, July 6th to Saturday, July 8th. This is a festival celebrated in all Sri Vaishnava Temples in South India and is considered as the most important one. The festival consists of chanting from the Vedas, Naalaayira Divyaprabhandham with fire offerings or Homams. The deities in the temple are adorned with the Pavitra malaise (sanctified silk threaded garlands). On the final day, following the thirumanjanam of Perumal, the utsava idols of Perumal and His Consorts adored with Pavitra malai are taken around the temple by the devotees on Garuda Vaahana.

SIVAN UTSAVAM

July 14 - July 22, 2017

The Annual Sivan Festival was celebrated from Friday, July 14 to Saturday, July 22 on the evenings of the nine days. Each day there was Abhishekham and different types of alankarams. The one event that was greatly looked forward was the "*Thanga Thaere* (Golden Chariot)". The idol gorgeously decorated and adorned with beautiful jewellary and nice malas was placed on the Golden Chariot and taken around the Altars inside the temple followed by hundreds of dedicated devotees. Every day in addition to doing Alankarams to Sivan, Parvathi was also exquisitely decorated after Abhishekham.

What are some interesting facts about **Shiva**?

During the churning of the Milky Ocean by the Devas and Asuras, the serpent Vasuki began to emit large amounts of the dreded Kalakuta (poison), which was suffocating both. Listening to their mercy please, Lord Shiva drank the entire poison, due to which his throat had turned blue from which he got one of his names Neelakantha (One with a Blue Throat). In a sense, Shiva's drinking of poison to save the Devas and Asuras is seen as God, bearing the sins of his devotees while protecting them from harm.

Shiva's Trishul or Trident symbolizes the unity of 3 worlds of a human being-his inside world, the immediate world around him and the broader world, a harmony between the 3. The crescent moon on his forehead that gives him the name of Chandrashekar, dates back from the Vedic age when Rudra and Soma, the Moon God, were worshipped together. The Trishul in his hand also represents the 3 Gunas-Sattva, Rajas and Tama, while the Damaru or the drum represents the sacred sound OM from which all languages are formed.

Bhagiratha prayed to Lord Shiva for getting the Ganga to earth, which would flow over his ancestor's ashes and grant them salvation. However when Ganga was descending to Earth, she was still in a playful mood. She felt she would just rush down and sweep Shiva off his feet. Sensing her intentions, Shiva, imprisoned the falling Ganga in his locks. It was again on Bhagiratha's plea, that Shiva let Ganga flow from his hair. The name Gangadhara comes from Shiva carrying Ganga on his head.

Shiva is represented as Nataraja, the Lord of Dance, and there are two forms, Tandava, the fierce aspect representing destruction of universe, and Lasya, the gentler one. The demon being supressed under Shiva's feet is Apasmara symbolizing ignorance.

Shiva along with his consort Parvati is represented in the Ardhanarisvara form, which is a half male, half female icon. The concept is of the masculine energy (Purusha) and feminine energy (Prakrithi) of the universe in a synthesis. At another level, this is also used to symbolize that in a marital relationship, the wife is one half of the husband, and has an equal status. That is the reason why Shiva-Parvati are often held as examples of a perfect marriage.

THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF CANADA

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ATHI RUDRAM

Toronto 2017

Thursday, July 27 to Monday, August 7, 2017

Aum Sri Maha Ganapathaye Namaha
Sri Sankarachariyaya Namaha
Sri Gurubhyo Namaha

Aum Namah Shivaya

Under the guidance of Sri Balakrishnan Sastrigal, Brampton Vedha Group is blessed to perform Athi Rudram for the second time in Toronto. Athi Rudram is an occasion for *Prayaschittam* or repentence. The main event of Athi Rudram is the chanting of Sri Rudram. Over a span of 10 days, ritviks will invoke the blessings of Lord Shiva by chanting the Sri Rudram a total of 14,641 times. Prayers during these holy days will also include Rudra Japams, Abhishekams, Rudra Homams and Kramaarchanais. There will be recitals of Lalitha Sahasranamam, Deepa Poojai, Bhajans, classical music etc. All devotees are welcome to participate in these prayers and worship to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva.

According to Hindu philosophy, all *Jeevatmas* require the five main elements of life; sky, earth, air, water and fire. The use and abuse of these elements, or *Devataas*, will lead to *Paapam*. To rid ourselves of these sins, we are required to perform *Prayaschittams*.

Vrukshasya moolaséykéna saka:
pushyanti vyyatha |
shivé rudra japa preethé
preethaanyasya devathaa: ||

In this sloka, Lord Shiva is compared to the roots of a *Vriksham*. When we water a tree, we do not individually water the branches, leaves, flowers or fruits. We always water the roots of the tree and this water reaches all parts. Likewise, when we pray to Lord Shiva, it is equivalent to individually praying to all these *Devataas*. *Arpanam* or total surrender to Lord Shiva pleases these five *Devataas*.

Sanatana Dharma refers to the eternal duties that all Hindus must follow. The four main goals in the human life are *Dharma, Artha, Kama*, and *Moksha*. Dharma, Artha, and Kama are *Anithyam*, or temporary. Moksha is *Nithyam*, which is a permanent goal. Participation in these 10 days of Vedha parayanam is a means of attaining Moksha.

ATHI RUDRAM

Program Schedule

Thursday, July 27, 2017

5:00am	Ganapathy Poojai Set the alter for Athi Rudram

Friday, July 28, 2017

5:00 am	Athi Rudra Maha Sankalpam
7:30 am	Mahaanyasam
9:30 am	Shri Rudra Japam with Abishekam and Rudra Homam
2:30 pm	Bhojanam Lalitha Sahasranamam / Cultural Program
6:30 pm	Shri Rudra Kramaarchanai

Saturday, July 29 to Sunday, August 6, 2017

6:00 am	Shri Rudra Japam with Abishekam and Homam Shri Lalitha Sahasranamam Shri Rudra Japam continues
2:30 pm	Bhojanam
3:30 pm	Bhajan / Classical Music / Dance
4:00 pm	Veda Parayanam - Upanishad
6:00 pm	Shri Rudra Kramaarchanai

Sunday, July 30, 2017 - In addition to daily Japams

5:00 am	Suryanamaskaram

Friday, August 4, 2017 - In addition to daily Japams

4:00 pm	Pradosha Abhishekam Pradosha Nandi Oorvalam followed by Veda Parayanam
5:00 pm	Deepa Poojai
6:30 pm	Shri Rudra Kramaarchanai

Sunday, August 6, 2017 - In addition to daily Japams

6:00 am	Rudra Homam Vasordharai Poornaahuthi Kalasa Abhishekam

Monday, August 7, 2017

6:00 am	Upakarmam Samaaradhanai Kalasam Distribution

THE CITY OF Waterloo

Community Watch

Oh Canada! Waterloo Region celebrates the sesquicentennial

WATERLOO REGION - Oh Canada - can you ever throw a party!

From Waterloo to Cambridge, New Hamburg to Ayr, thousands of people took in parades, festivals and backyard barbecues across Waterloo Region as Canada celebrated its 150th birthday Saturday. Mother Nature chipped in with some midday fireworks of her own, sending revelers scrambling as a line of thunderstorms swept through around 2 p.m.

The largest crowds descended on the University of Waterloo, where about 60,000 people were expected to take in multicultural performances, family-friendly activities and a concert starring Canadian rocker Tom Cochrane with Red Rider. The crowds spilling across soggy Columbia Lake fields were like a microcosm of Canada itself, with international students and visitors to the region mingling with residents who've always called this country home. Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region sponsored Dr. Murugathas group, Natheswaram Thavil music. It was the first time we introduced Tamil instrumental music and it was a success says Siva kumar, member of the organisation.

Up on the hill near Columbia Street, Maggie Liu and Winnie Miao had staked out prime spots for a fireworks display that wouldn't begin for several more hours.

No matter. The friends, from China — Liu is a UW graduate and Miao is a master's student there — said it's become a Canada Day tradition. "It's kind of cool to experience a whole different culture," Miao said, adding celebrations like this provide an opportunity to learn more about Canada. A few metres away, Raymond and Liz Ramshaw were sitting under a red umbrella — fortunately just unfurled to shade against the afternoon sun.

At the University of Waterloo, McManus said she was touched when she asked visitors to indicate where they were from. There were people born in Canada, from coast to coast, and just as many, it seemed, that were born in other countries. "There's so much diversity and multiculturalism," she said. "It's a chance to come together as a community, and to celebrate what it means to be Canadian."

Waterloo Region Tamil Community Picnic

Hamilton — It was a day for the kids at the Tamil community Picnic at Christie Lake Conservation Park on Saturday, July 22nd. It's an annual event hosted by the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region.

Tables for decorating costumes, Cricket, Volleyball, games and Water balloon passing drew the attention of the children who visited picnic.

The families were among dozens who came out to the event. Many Torontonians seemed to be passing through the park, but they were stopping and starting to form a sizeable crowd.

Multiculturalism forum with Waterloo Community

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism) Hon. Arif Virani along with Waterloo MP and Minister of Small Business and Tourism Hon. Bardish Chagger, Cambridge MP Mr. Bryan May and Kitchener MP Raj Saini met local community leaders in Cambridge. They discussed the strategy and goals of Canadian Multiculturalism. Local Tamil community was represented by Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region. President Mr. Ragu Sivaramakrishnan and Executive board member Mr. Siva kumar participated in the discussion.

Community Watch

Tamil German businessman and politician "Container King" Ian Kiru Karan and wife visits Toronto

Members of Methodist Girls' High School and Hartley College PPA Canada had the honour to meet, greet and have a fellowship dinner on Friday, July 28 at JC Banquet Hall with Mr. Ian Kiru Karan, Former Hamburg Senator and Mrs. Barbara Karan in Toronto during their short visit to Canada.

Mr. Karan, a proud son from Kaddaively, Karaveddy, received his primary education at MGHS and secondary education at Hartley College.

In addition to becoming a very successful businessman, he is a former State Minister of Economic Affairs and Labour of Hamburg, Germany.

He has always been an extremely philanthropic individual who has contributed significantly in Germany and Sri Lanka.

His commitment for the wellbeing of the Tamil community and participation in the rebuilding of both MGHS and Hartley College is remarkable.

Some of the photos from the event can be seen here.

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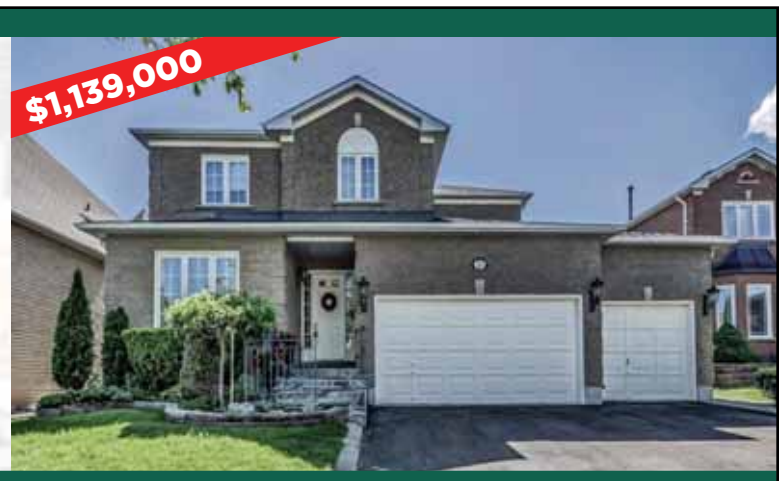

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