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CANADA NEWS 

BANK OF CANADA CUTS KEY INTEREST RATE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE MARCH 2025, BUT ECONOMISTS HAVE LITTLE CONSENSUS ON WHAT COMES NEXT

The Bank had held its policy rate at 2.75% since the March 2025 interest rate decision

The Bank of Canada cut its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points on Wednesday to 2.5 per cent, the first move since March 2025 and one widely expected as the economy shows more signs of strain.

Policymakers pointed to a weakening labour market, fading inflation momentum and the removal of retaliatory tariffs in explaining the decision. But they offered little sense of what comes next, with Governor Tiff Macklem acknowledging the Bank is “being less forward-looking than usual.”

That caution stood out to economists, who noted the omission of July’s reference to “the potential for further easing.” Scotiabank’s Derek Holt calls the Bank’s language “careful, cagey, non-committal, and spoken in riddles.”

Nonetheless, most say more cuts seem likely, though not guaranteed, with the timing hinging on incoming data and the fall budget. For Canadians, Wednesday’s announcement means lower borrowing costs now, with the prospect of further relief if the economy continues to weaken.

“We think additional easing from the BoC is likely — the central bank today clearly laid out concerns about the economy, and in the past has rarely cut interest rates just once,” RBC economist Claire Fan said, reversing the bank’s earlier call that the easing cycle was over.

We are not expecting a recession. BoC governor Tiff Macklem, on the current economic context.

This was the BoC’s first rate cut since March and its third for the year after a pause through the spring and summer. The Bank notes that the Canadian economy weakened in the second quarter as tariffs and trade uncertainty weighed heavily on activity. It points to job losses in trade-sensitive sectors and slower



The Bank has held its policy rate at 2.75 per cent since the March interest rate decision.
BoC Governor Tiff Macklem

hiring elsewhere as evidence the labour market has softened. On inflation, policymakers say upward pressures that had built earlier this year have dissipated, with underlying measures now running around 2.5 per cent.

Macklem says that the central bank still expects growth to remain positive, even if slow. Under the current scenario, he says, “we are not expecting a recession,” adding that the BoC hopes to return to a single base-case projection in October if stability in U.S. tariffs holds — following two Monetary Policy Reports that offered multiple scenarios.

Inflation pressures, he says, “look a little more contained,” helped by the federal government’s removal of most retaliatory tariffs, which Macklem notes “takes some of the upside risk off future inflation.”

Economists’ views on depth, timing vary

Economists broadly agree the cut was no surprise, but their interpretations of the BoC’s cagier tone vary, with less consensus about another cut next month. BMO chief economist Douglas Porter argues that the Bank’s language suggests the BoC is “not keen to provide a follow-up cut,” projecting that

reductions are more likely in December and March 2026.

National Bank economist Taylor Schleich projects an October cut, noting that a single cut is extremely rare. “Conventional wisdom says that if you’re going to cut once, you’re probably going to go again,” he said.

Economists also point to the neutral range as context for the cut. Schleich says the policy rate, at 2.5 per cent, “is now in the lower half of the Bank’s estimated neutral range,” an observation also made by RBC’s Fan. Both suggest that this positioning gives the BoC room to ease further if the economy weakens, while also signalling that the range for additional cuts is not unlimited.

The Bank’s rate decision on October 29 alongside a full Monetary Policy Report, with the federal budget following just a week later on November 4. Between now and then, key data releases — including the September labour force survey, inflation figures, and the Q3 *Business Outlook Survey* — will shape the outlook. Macklem says the BoC will continue to “proceed carefully, with particular attention to the risks and uncertainties” and stresses the priority of ensuring Canadians “continue to have confidence in price stability.”

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PUBLISHER'S DESK

The Toronto Blue Jays, Toronto Sports Teams, and the Country They Carry on Their Backs

By Harrish Thirukumaran



Every fall, as the Toronto Blue Jays chase another improbable run, Canadians from coast to coast rediscover something that has quietly defined the national psyche: the power of shared hope. Baseball might be a game of inches and averages, but for Canada, it's also a mirror—reflecting who we are when we come together around something bigger than ourselves.

When the Jays take the field, they are more than Toronto's team. They are Canada's only Major League Baseball franchise, a rare banner under which fans from every province can gather. Whether you're watching from a bar in Halifax, a living room in Regina, or a Rogers Centre seat in downtown Toronto, the sense of collective belonging is unmistakable. In a country often described as regional, bilingual, and diverse to the point of fragmentation, the Blue Jays offer a glimpse of what national unity actually feels like.

This year's run was a reminder of that. The team's season was marked by frustration, resilience, and flashes of brilliance—mirroring the broader Canadian story. Our country doesn't always dominate, but it endures. It competes with quiet confidence. It wins not because of bravado, but because of belief in process, persistence, and one another.

There's also something quintessentially Canadian about the way the Jays have had to earn respect. They play in a league where most opponents come from larger markets with deeper pockets and louder narratives. Yet, the Jays persistently field a team capable of contending—through smart development, adaptable management, and a belief in the long game. In a sense, the Jays are what we imagine Canada to be: modest, but unafraid to punch above its weight.

When José Bautista's bat flip in 2015 ignited a stadium and a nation, it wasn't just a baseball moment—it was a cultural one. It shattered



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the stereotype of Canadian politeness, revealing that passion and pride can coexist with humility. Each subsequent playoff push rekindles that same spark, uniting generations that grew up on Joe Carter's 1993 walk-off with those who only know the post-season through the electric energy of Vlad Guerrero Jr.

But perhaps what's most profound is how baseball, slow and methodical as it is, reminds us of something we often forget in our politics and public life: progress takes patience. Building a contender requires the same discipline as building a country—steady investment, shared vision, and the courage to weather the slumps. This moment also flashes us back to 2019 where similar elements have supported the run of the Toronto Raptors basketball team to their first NBA championship.

The Blue Jays' journey feels symbolic of Canada's own: imperfect, unfinished, but full of potential. In every game, there's a quiet assertion of identity—not just as baseball fans, but as Canadians who believe in the value of showing up, standing together, and never counting ourselves out.

Despite a heartbreaking Game 7 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers on November 1st, the Blue Jays may not have brought home another World Series, but they've done something just as valuable. They've reminded us that in a nation as vast and varied as ours, unity doesn't need to be forced. Sometimes, it just needs nine players on a field, a sea of fans in blue, and the shared belief that this could be our year.

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

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SRI LANKA'S 2026 BUDGET: FISCAL BALANCE MEETS ECONOMIC PROGRESS

By: Visvalingam Muralithas

The government budget is the nation's key economic policy document — the primary instrument through which a state translates its political priorities into concrete economic action. Sri Lanka's 2026 Budget comes at a crucial juncture, following the severe macroeconomic crisis of 2022, the implementation of an IMF-supported stabilization program, and the ongoing debt restructuring process. As the country enters a phase of gradual recovery, the government faces the delicate task of balancing fiscal discipline, social protection, and growth-oriented investment.

A government budget functions both as a financial plan and a policy document. It outlines projected revenues and planned expenditures for a fiscal year, sets tax and spending priorities, and articulates the government's broader macroeconomic objectives — economic growth, price stability, social equity, and debt sustainability. Unlike a corporate budget focused purely on profits and losses, a national budget integrates non-financial policy objectives such as welfare, security, and the provision of public goods, while also reflecting political trade-offs and long-term commitments like pensions and public debt.

Why the budget matters:

- **Macroeconomic stability:** The budget shapes fiscal deficits, public debt paths, and influences inflation and interest rates. Sound fiscal management builds confidence among investors, international partners, and citizens alike.

- **Resource allocation:** Through its expenditure framework, the budget determines how resources are distributed among key sectors such as health, education, and infrastructure, directly affecting service delivery and development outcomes.

- **Redistribution:** Taxation and social transfer mechanisms embedded within the budget play a key role in determining income distribution and social equity.

- **Signalling and governance:** The budget serves as a policy signal to both markets and the public. A transparent and accountable budget process enhances trust, governance quality, and institutional credibility.

The Importance of the Government Budget

A national budget is more than a financial plan — it is the government's main tool for turning policy goals into economic action. Its impact extends across all sectors of society, shaping stability, confidence, and development.

• For the Economy:

A credible budget anchors macroeconomic expectations, manages fiscal deficits, and supports investment by ensuring stability and predictability.

• For Investors:

It signals policy direction on taxation, spending, and fiscal priorities. Transparent and consistent budgeting reduces risk and builds investor confidence.

• For Households:

Budgets fund essential services such as health, education, and social protection, helping safeguard vulnerable groups and promote inclusive growth.

• For Public Institutions:

They guide operational priorities of ministries while ensuring transparency and accountability through parliamentary and civic oversight.

• For Creditors and Partners:

Budgets demonstrate fiscal discipline and reform commitment, strengthening credibility with international lenders and development agencies.

Characteristics of a "Best Practice" Government Budget

1. **Macroeconomic Consistency:** Based on realistic, transparent assumptions for GDP, inflation, and interest rates, aligned with monetary policy.

2. **Fiscal Sustainability:** Maintains credible deficit and debt targets within a medium-term fiscal framework.

3. **Strategic Focus:** Links annual spending to medium-term policy goals and development priorities.

4. **Prioritization & Efficiency:** Directs funds to high-impact investments and social protection while reducing wasteful spending.

5. **Transparency:** Ensures public access to budget data, fostering accountability and investor trust.

6. **Realistic Revenue & Tax Design:** Uses conservative revenue estimates and broad, fair, growth-friendly taxation.

7. **Strong Public Financial Management:** Strengthens controls, procurement, and cash management to

reduce leakages.

8. **Countercyclical Flexibility:** Allows fiscal adjustment to respond effectively to economic shocks.

9. **Inclusivity:** Protects vulnerable groups through funding for welfare, education, and healthcare.

10. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Uses measurable indicators and reviews to enhance performance and accountability.

Special Features of Sri Lanka's 2026 Budget

Sri Lanka's 2026 Budget marks a shift from crisis recovery to sustainable growth while staying aligned with IMF-supported fiscal frameworks. It emphasizes fiscal discipline, revenue mobilization, and investment-led growth.

Key Highlights:

1. **IMF Alignment:** The budget follows IMF fiscal targets on deficit reduction, revenue growth, and achieving a primary surplus to restore debt sustainability.

2. **Revenue Mobilization:** Focus on expanding the tax base, improving administration, and digitalizing systems to raise revenue-to-GDP ratios sustainably.

3. **Debt Management:** Debt restructuring eased pressures but requires transparent reporting and credible medium-term plans to maintain stability.

4. **Capital Expenditure Push:** Increased capital spending to close infrastructure gaps and stimulate private investment and productivity.

5. **Subsidy and Expenditure Reform:** Rationalizing subsidies and recurrent costs while protecting key social sectors like health, education, and welfare.

6. **Transparency and PFM Reforms:** Ongoing improvements in treasury operations, cash-flow forecasting, and procurement to enhance accountability.

Fiscal and Monetary Policy Coordination

Fiscal policy (spending and taxation) and monetary policy (interest rates and liquidity) must work together for stability.

- **Debt & Interest Rates:** Large deficits can raise interest rates and crowd out private credit; external borrowing raises currency risks.

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Op-Ed

• **Inflation Control:** Expansionary budgets can fuel inflation, prompting tighter monetary policy and higher borrowing costs.

• **Policy Coordination:** Fiscal discipline supports central bank independence and price stability.

Sri Lanka's Central Bank has maintained a cautious stance ahead of the 2026 Budget — balancing growth support with inflation control.

Singapore – Fiscal Prudence & Institutional Strength

• Focuses on long-term stability, protected reserves, and efficient use of surpluses.

• Invests in competitiveness, human capital, and innovation.

• Strong institutions and transparent fiscal management ensure sustainable growth.

Lesson: Strengthen PFM systems, build fiscal buffers, and focus on high-return investments.

India – Scale & Infrastructure-Led Growth

• Uses large infrastructure spending and social programs to drive employment and consumption.

• Leverages PPPs and incentives to attract private investment.

• Balances higher deficits with strong growth potential.

Lesson: Invest in infrastructure, expand PPPs, and manage fiscal risks carefully.

Sri Lanka must balance Singapore's fiscal discipline with India's growth-driven investment — building a resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking fiscal framework aligned with its Vision 2048 goals.

Sri Lanka's Appropriation Bill 2026

Sri Lanka's **Appropriation Bill 2026**, which projects total government expenditure at **Rs. 4,434.36 billion** for the period from **January 1 to December 31, 2026**, marks a critical point in the nation's post-crisis recovery path.

After several years of fiscal strain, mounting external debt obligations, and persistent inflationary pressures, the 2026 budget seeks to strike a delicate balance among three key objectives: macroeconomic stabilization, social welfare protection, and structural economic transformation. However, achieving this balance remains a significant challenge.

Expenditure Overview:

• Total Government Expenditure: **Rs. 4,434.36 billion**

• Recurrent Expenditure: **Rs. 3,028.75 billion (68% of total)**

• Capital Expenditure: **Rs. 1,405.60 billion (32% of total)**

This composition reflects Sri Lanka's enduring fiscal structure, where recurrent

Ministry	Total Allocation (Rs. bn)	Share (%)
Finance, Planning & Economic Development	634.78	14.32
Health & Mass Media	555.00	12.52
Public Administration, Provincial Councils & Local Government	596.00	13.44
Provincial Councils (Heads 312–321)	618.00	13.94
Defence	455.00	10.26

spending—driven by public sector salaries, pensions, interest obligations, and subsidies—continues to dominate.

From an economic perspective, this **68:32 ratio** highlights the country's limited fiscal flexibility. For a more sustainable and growth-oriented fiscal path, economists often advocate for a **60:40 ratio**, ensuring that a greater share of government expenditure supports **capital formation, infrastructure development, and innovation-driven growth.**

Govt. of Sri Lanka		Billion LKR			
Ministry Allocation in the Appropriation Bill 2026		Recurrent Bn	Capital Bn	Total Bn	Total %
1	Special Spending Units	23.02	10.66	33.67	0.76%
2	Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs	9.50	5.00	14.50	0.33%
3	Finance, Planning and Economic Development	343.83	290.95	634.78	14.32%
4	Defence	395.00	60.00	455.00	10.26%
5	Justice and National Integration	43.00	15.50	58.50	1.32%
6	Health and Mass Media	450.00	105.00	555.00	12.52%
7	Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism	21.00	2.00	23.00	0.52%
8	Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Co-operative Development	2.20	0.50	2.70	0.06%
9	Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation	56.00	390.00	446.00	10.06%
10	Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation	90.00	131.30	221.30	4.99%
11	Energy	1.10	22.00	23.10	0.52%
12	Urban Development, Construction and Housing	3.50	100.00	103.50	2.33%
13	Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment	27.40	11.20	38.60	0.87%
14	Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education	231.00	70.00	301.00	6.79%
15	Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government	557.00	39.00	596.00	13.44%
16	Head 312–319 and 321 Provincial Councils	533.00	85.00	618.00	13.94%
17	Plantation and Community Infrastructure	6.00	12.00	18.00	0.41%
18	Industry and Entrepreneurship Development	5.50	6.00	11.50	0.26%
19	Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources	4.10	6.50	10.60	0.24%
20	Environment	14.20	4.10	18.30	0.41%
21	Women and Child Affairs	15.80	0.60	16.40	0.37%
22	Digital Economy	5.90	10.10	16.00	0.36%
23	Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs	175.00	18.00	193.00	4.35%
24	Labour	5.20	1.20	6.40	0.14%
25	Youth Affairs and Sports	7.50	6.00	13.50	0.30%
26	Science and Technology	3.00	3.00	6.00	0.14%
Total Billion LKR		3028.75	1405.60	4434.36	100.00%

© Prepared by : muralithas_v@parliament.lk
Source: APPROPRIATION BILL FOR THE YEAR 2026, (Issued on 17.09.2025)

Fiscal Interpretation

• The recurrent-heavy composition signals fiscal rigidity — the inability of the government to reallocate spending efficiently due to structural commitments.

• Capital expenditure, though improved in nominal terms, still constrains the government's ability to finance long-term infrastructure, technology, and competitiveness improvements.

• The dominance of consumption-oriented expenditure over investment spending implies that fiscal policy is still more focused on stability and social continuity than on transformation and growth.

High-Expenditure Ministries

These five ministries alone account

for nearly 65% of the total national expenditure, reflecting the government's concentration on administration, debt service, and essential social services.

Capital-Intensive Ministries

Some ministries stand out for their high proportion of capital investment, signaling their developmental role:

These allocations emphasize infrastructure development, urban expansion, and irrigation improvement — key pillars of physical and economic connectivity. However, the digital and

renewable sectors, though strategically vital, still receive relatively modest allocations compared to traditional infrastructure.

Low-Allocation and Emerging Sectors

Ministry	Capital Expenditure (Rs. bn)	Capital Share (%)
Transport, Highways, Ports & Civil Aviation	390.00	87
Urban Development, Construction & Housing	100.00	97
Agriculture, Livestock, Land & Irrigation	131.30	59
Energy	22.00	95
Digital Economy	10.10	63

Several ministries receive less than 1% of total spending — including Environment (0.41%), Digital Economy (0.36%), Youth and Sports (0.30%), and Science and Technology (0.14%).

From an economist's perspective, this signals a policy gap between stated national goals (e.g., digital transformation, climate resilience, innovation) and actual fiscal commitment. For a modern economy aspiring to transition toward a knowledge- and technology-driven model, such underfunding represents a missed opportunity.

Key Economic Insights and Structural Issues

The Weight of Recurrent Commitments

Op-Ed

Public sector salaries, pensions, and debt servicing consume the majority of recurrent expenditure. This pattern leaves limited fiscal space for productivity-enhancing spending. In 2026, the Ministry of Finance alone accounts for Rs. 634.78 billion, largely reflecting interest and debt repayments, which absorb a significant share of GDP.

Economists caution that such fiscal patterns can lead to a “crowding out effect”, where public debt obligations limit the government’s capacity to invest in education, research, and entrepreneurship — areas critical for long-term economic competitiveness.

Defence and Administrative Overheads

Despite the absence of internal conflict, defence expenditure (Rs. 455 billion) remains over 10% of total expenditure, surpassing allocations for education, agriculture, or digital development. While national security is indispensable, reallocating even a small portion of defence spending toward research, innovation, and human capital could yield higher socio-economic returns.

Social Sector Balance

- Health (Rs. 555 billion) maintains a robust 12.5% share — a positive sign of post-pandemic resilience and continued investment in public healthcare.
- Education (Rs. 301 billion) receives only 6.8%, lower than the global average of 4–6% of GDP recommended by UNESCO for developing nations.
- The Women and Child Affairs (Rs. 16.4 billion) and Social Empowerment (Rs. 38.6 billion) ministries, though small in absolute terms, play crucial roles in human capital and inclusion, yet remain underfunded.

Capital Development and Growth Drivers

Infrastructure-related ministries — particularly Transport, Urban Development, and Agriculture — exhibit a more development-oriented focus. The Rs. 390 billion capital investment in transport aligns with the government’s ambition to modernize logistics, reduce bottlenecks, and attract investment in ports and civil aviation.

However, without parallel reforms in energy, industry, and entrepreneurship, the long-term multiplier effects of these capital projects may remain limited.

Comparative Economic Context

- India and Singapore as Contrasts
 - India’s Union Budget 2025–26 allocates around 37% for capital expenditure, emphasizing infrastructure, manufacturing, and renewable energy.
 - Singapore, though smaller, channels over 45% of its annual spending into development projects, digital economy infrastructure, and R&D.
- In comparison, Sri Lanka’s 32% capital ratio indicates a more conservative fiscal structure, constrained by debt obligations and revenue limitations.
- Regional Benchmarking
 - Countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam have prioritized industrial policy and

export competitiveness, leading to GDP growth rates exceeding 6%. Sri Lanka’s fiscal design, heavily skewed toward recurrent expenditure, risks prolonging stagnant productivity unless structural adjustments are made.

Fiscal Policy Implications

- Fiscal Discipline vs. Growth Ambition
 - The 2026 Appropriation Bill shows clear signs of fiscal consolidation under IMF guidance — maintaining expenditure discipline while avoiding excessive borrowing. However, fiscal consolidation must be paired with growth-oriented fiscal policy, ensuring that expenditure quality improves, not just expenditure control.
 - Revenue and Deficit Management
 - Tax administration efficiency and digital compliance systems.
 - Widening of the tax base, especially through formalizing the informal economy.
 - Reduction of tax exemptions that erode fiscal capacity.
- Without improved revenue mobilization, dependence on domestic and external borrowing could perpetuate debt vulnerability and currency instability.

Monetary and Macro Linkages

Sri Lanka’s fiscal stance directly influences monetary stability. With recurrent expenditure at 68%, the government must rely on short-term borrowing and domestic credit expansion, which can pressure interest rates and exchange rates.

A prudent coordination between the Central Bank’s monetary tightening and the Treasury’s fiscal strategy is essential to prevent inflationary resurgence and maintain external credibility.

Investment Climate and Private Sector Response

- From an investor’s perspective, the 2026 budget sends mixed signals.
- On one hand, infrastructure allocations (transport, urban development, irrigation) enhance long-term investment attractiveness and logistics efficiency.
 - On the other, persistent fiscal rigidity, high administrative expenditure, and low innovation investment limit the country’s competitiveness in attracting FDI and technology ventures.
- To strengthen investor confidence, future budgets must:
1. Provide predictable fiscal policy.
 2. Enhance public-private partnership (PPP) frameworks.
 3. Support digital transformation, start-up ecosystems, and green industries.

Social and Human Development Dimensions

Economic recovery must be inclusive. With poverty and inequality still elevated post-crisis, social spending quality becomes crucial. The allocations to education, health, women, and youth are essential, yet insufficient to drive structural transformation.

A more effective approach would involve targeted social protection, skills

WORLD NEWS



development, and employment-linked welfare programs, particularly for rural and marginalized communities.

Recommendations

1. Rebalancing Recurrent vs. Capital Spending
 - Shift gradually from 68:32 to 60:40, prioritizing productive investment in technology, transport, and renewable energy.
2. Performance-Based Budgeting
 - Introduce outcome-oriented metrics for ministries — measuring not only spending but impact (e.g., literacy, employment, exports).
3. Fiscal Decentralization
 - Strengthen provincial councils’ fiscal autonomy while ensuring transparent reporting and auditing.
4. Innovation and R&D Investment
 - Allocate at least 1% of GDP for science, research, and innovation — critical for productivity growth.
5. Public Sector Reform
 - Rationalize administrative structures and adopt digital systems to reduce recurrent overhead.
6. Green and Digital Transformation
 - Scale up investment in renewable energy, climate adaptation, and digital infrastructure, positioning Sri Lanka within the global sustainability agenda.

Conclusion

The Sri Lankan Appropriation Bill 2026 represents a budget of stabilization and continuity, rather than bold transformation. While it ensures essential services, administrative continuity, and gradual infrastructure recovery, it still reflects the weight of historical fiscal constraints.

The economic direction is cautiously positive — signaling discipline under IMF guidance and a slow shift toward investment-led growth. However, to truly unlock its economic potential, Sri Lanka must redefine its spending priorities — from consumption to creation, from protection to production.

A resilient and prosperous Sri Lankan economy will require not only balanced books but balanced vision — one that aligns fiscal responsibility with innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable growth.

Writer

Visvalingam Muralithas is a researcher in the legislative sector, specializing in policy analysis and economic research. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Economics at the University of Colombo, with a research focus on governance, development, and sustainable growth. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Honours) from the University of Jaffna and a Master’s degree in Economics from the University of Colombo. His academic background is further strengthened by postgraduate diplomas in Education from the Open University of Sri Lanka and in Monitoring and Evaluation from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. In addition to his research work, Muralithas has contributed to academia by teaching economics at the University of Colombo and the Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka (IBSL), and has also gained industry experience as an investment advisor at a stock brokerage firm affiliated with the Colombo Stock Exchange. He can be reached at muralithas.v@gmail.com



Breathing Life into Scarborough: Lavan Arulnayagam's Commitment to Community Care



Respiratory therapist Lavan Arulnayagam works across Scarborough Health Network's ICUs, emergency departments, and clinics. He returned home during COVID-19 to support his community and is now part of the Love, Scarborough campaign.

“I help people breathe—literally,” says Lavan Arulnayagam, a Respiratory Therapist (RT) at Scarborough Health Network (SHN). **“As an RT, I’m there when patients need life support in critical moments or just the oxygen that keeps them alive. It’s challenging, rewarding, and deeply personal work.”**

A Scarborough native for over 30 years, Lavan grew up just down the street from the hospital where he now works. “Growing up here, I never imagined I’d come back as a healthcare professional. It’s really special to serve the people I grew up alongside,” he says.

Lavan trained across Toronto, worked at Toronto General, and even spent a year in Africa before returning home during the COVID-19 pandemic. **“Scarborough was one of the hardest-hit areas, and RTs were scarce. I felt a responsibility to come back and help my community. The pandemic was our war, and we were on the front lines every day,”** he recalls.

Respiratory therapists like Lavan are often the unsung heroes of healthcare. “We’re like Batman,” he explains. “Whenever there’s a problem, they call us with the bat signal. We show up with our gadgets, we save the day, and we’re gone before anyone notices. We work across the hospital—ICUs, emergency departments, operating rooms, deliveries, clinics—you name it. Breathing is universal, and so is our work.”

The most rewarding part of his job is seeing a patient survive something catastrophic, like a cardiac arrest, and walk out of the ICU. The hardest part is when interventions aren’t enough. “Even then, you feel like you’ve done everything you could,” he says.

Scarborough’s hospitals have long faced an uphill battle, serving one of the most diverse and fast-growing communities in Canada with aging infrastructure and limited resources. Staff like Lavan continue to provide exceptional care despite these challenges, solving problems in ways others cannot. The *Love, Scarborough* campaign helps support this work, ensuring the community can continue to climb toward the healthcare it deserves.

Lavan is one of the new faces of the campaign, raising critical funds to strengthen Scarborough hospitals and support the patients who rely on them. **On the heels of Respiratory Therapy Week (Oct. 19 to 25), his story is a reminder of the vital work RTs do every day.**

Learn more and join the climb at LoveScarborough.ca.



LoveScarborough.ca

Dear Toronto,

LAVAN ARULNAYAGAM
Respiratory Therapist

For decades, we have been asked to do more with less. Despite being underdogs, despite being underestimated, Scarborough Health Network and our healthcare teams always overdeliver. We keep pushing higher, because sitting tight never sat well with us.

And thanks to generous support, we're starting to see what's possible. Donors have helped us take big steps forward – expanding and upgrading our hospitals so we can better serve the 25% of Toronto's population who call Scarborough home.

But our mountain remains. The uphill climb is still steep, a stark reminder of being left behind for so long with so little. And our community still deserves so much more. Imagine what we could achieve if all of Toronto joined us in our ascent; our Scarborough hospitals could finally rise to meet the strength and spirit of the people we serve.

Help us keep climbing.

Love, Scarborough



Love,
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Lights & Luck Gala Raises \$417,000 for Scarborough Health Network



Scarborough came alive with glamour and generosity at the inaugural Scarborough Health Network (SHN) Lights & Luck Gala, where more than 600 guests celebrated Bollywood glam and community spirit, raising an incredible \$417,000 (and counting) for Scarborough hospitals.

Inspired by the Festival of Lights, the evening shone with unity, generosity, and pride in Scarborough's South Asian community. The Scarborough Convention Centre was transformed into a luxurious experience of gold accents, shimmering saris, and the soulful notes of a live flutist. Guests floated between a chai lounge, whisky-tasting bar, and live henna artistry, immersed in colour and culture.

The casino floor buzzed with laughter and friendly competition at blackjack, roulette, and poker tables. On stage, **Pooja and Gurdeep from 98.1 CHFI** kept the night sparkling with humour and heart, introducing dazzling performances and a moving Diya candle-lighting ceremony.

Beyond the glitz, the evening carried deep purpose. Guests supported **SHN's Buy-a-Brick wall**, helping to build the new Birchmount Hospital. More than 275 bricks were purchased that night, and supporters can still buy theirs at [SHNlightsandLuck.ca](https://shnlightsandluck.ca) to help shape the future of healthcare in Scarborough.

"Lights & Luck was about celebrating who we are: vibrant, proud, and committed to giving back. Seeing our community come together with such joy and

generosity reminded us of what's possible when we shine together," shared event co-chairs Shalini Sheth and Sushrth Mehan.

Funds from the gala will support priorities like SHN's **cardiac care program**, which treats over 40,000 patients annually. The **Cardiac Care Unit** urgently needs modernization to meet growing demand, especially for Scarborough's South Asian community, which makes up nearly a quarter of the population and faces heart disease at four times the average rate.

"Our teams already provide world-class cardiac care," said Dr. Amir JanMohamed, SHN's Chief of Cardiology. **"Events like these help us match that expertise with the modern equipment and spaces our patients deserve."**

Thanks to the generosity of co-presenting sponsors **Surati Sweet Mart** and **Adrak by MJAJ Hospitality Inc.**, and the dedication of volunteers, vendors, community leaders, and sponsors, Scarborough's first South Asian gala in over 20 years was a shimmering success.

Learn more or buy a brick at [SHNlightsandLuck.ca](https://shnlightsandluck.ca).



[SHNFoundation.ca](https://shnfoundation.ca)

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SHN
200 MILLION REASONS
TO SAY THANK YOU
Love Scarborough

Dear Toronto,

Today, Scarborough is standing taller than ever before. Standing proud on the shoulders of those who lifted us up when no one else would.

Today, we celebrate a **milestone** – \$200 million raised for Scarborough hospitals.

We could say **thank you 200 million times over**, and still, it would not be enough.

A while back, we asked Toronto to back up Scarborough – a community that makes up 25% of our city. To help those who have been left behind and in desperate need of modern, innovative hospitals. To join the *Love, Scarborough* campaign and ensure everyone receives exceptional healthcare, with equitable access.

A long list of donors, advocates, and volunteers answered the call. They turned belief into action and inspired others to follow suit. Together, we began to change the narrative – our obstacles would no longer define or deter us but drive us; to think outside the box and find innovation where others found roadblocks.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of supporters, Scarborough Health Network opened the **Community Mental Health Centre**, removing barriers to critical services in the heart of Scarborough. We celebrated the new **Northpine Diagnostic Imaging Department** at SHN's General Hospital, now in a larger, modern space with the most advanced technology. We introduced a **new model of care** across our emergency departments to reduce wait times and **expanded life-sustaining dialysis care** – with more on the horizon. Soon, we will break ground on the **new home for medical research and education**, and reimagine our **Birchmount Hospital campus**.

This is just the beginning of our story.

Scarborough is transforming. We are building up our hospitals to a level equal to the incredible people who live and work here, supported by those with the same love for Scarborough and the passion to back us up.

Thank you for 200 million moments that will make countless more possible.

200 மில்லியன் தருணங்களுக்கு நன்றி
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Love, Scarborough

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HEALTH NETWORK
FOUNDATION

**BIRCHMOUNT
CENTENARY
GENERAL**

LoveScarborough.ca

Scarborough Health Network Foundation is tremendously grateful to the following donors for their inspirational support of the *Love, Scarborough* campaign. Thanks to their generosity, we are transforming healthcare for the entire community and building a brighter future for our patients.

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SHN earns Age-Friendly Health System designation

BY: MELODY KESHISHIAN, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, SHN

Scarborough Health Network (SHN) has achieved the prestigious recognition as an Age-Friendly Health System — Committed to Care Excellence by the globally renowned Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), making SHN the third organization in Canada to earn this designation. This achievement speaks to the excellent quality of age-friendly care we provide.

This achievement is a reflection of demonstrated practice in the direct care of older adults across our Birchmount, Centenary, and General hospitals. The focus is on a set of evidence-based elements of high-quality care, known as the 4Ms: What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility. Achieving this recognition highlights the high quality care we deliver across these 4 domains of care.

“The work done by SHN’s Seniors Health program showcases our commitment to caring for the aging population,” said Dr. Seda Rafilovich, Chief Geriatrician at SHN. “Thanks to the skill and compassion of our Seniors Health teams, we create specialized inpatient and community services dedicated to giving senior patients the best possible outcome across emergency departments, intensive care units, medical-surgical units, general wards, and primary and specialty care settings.”

More than 5,200 hospitals, practices, convenient care clinics, nursing homes, and home healthcare organizations have been



(L-R) SHN’s Victoria Antoniu, Quality Improvement Facilitator; Dr. Seda Rafilovich, Chief Geriatrician; Daniel Maullon, Seniors Health Manager; Doreen Black, PFA; Meredith Depaulson, Seniors Health Manager; Nancy Veloso, AVP Clinical; Elizabeth Ross and Katie Lai, CPLs, celebrate Age-Friendly Health System — Committed to Care Excellence award.

recognized as Age-Friendly Health Systems — Committed to Care Excellence. SHN is proud to join the growing ranks of these organizations in putting the 4Ms into practice. Globally, more than 5,470,000 older adults have been reached with 4Ms care.

As part of a global movement led by the IHI in partnership with The John A. Hartford Foundation, the American Hospital Association, and the Catholic Health Association of the United States, SHN joins a rapidly growing network of organizations striving to transform how care is delivered to older adults. Collectively, this effort has already improved care for more than two million seniors worldwide.

“SHN has always been committed to care excellence and is proud and humbled to have achieved this external recognition” said Nancy Veloso, AVP Clinical Programs.

“The Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative continues to be an important part of our overarching vision to provide every older adult with the best care possible. Above all, we aim every day to earn recognition of excellence from the older adults and caregivers whom we serve. This partnership with our community is our guiding star.”

SHN proudly shares this designation as a reflection of the compassionate, person-centred approach being taken every day across our General, Centenary, and Birchmount Hospitals. Older adults and their families can feel confident knowing that care is not only aligned with international best-practices but also aligned with what matters most to them.

SHN remains committed to shaping an age-inclusive future for Scarborough and beyond.



SHN receives organ and tissue donation awards from Trillium Gift of Life Network

BY: MELODY KESHISHIAN, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, SHN

Scarborough Health Network (SHN) was proudly recognized by Ontario Health's Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) with the Hospital Achievement Award – Provincial Eligible Approach Rate and the Award of Excellence – Provincial Eligible Approach Rate for the year of 2024 – 2025.

SHN earned the Hospital Achievement Award for meeting the rigorous 90% eligible approach rate target set by TGLN. This award is given to organizations for ensuring that donation discussions are initiated sensitively and consistently with eligible patients and their families at end of life.

Further, we are proud to have met this exceptional standard for five consecutive years now, which earned us the Award of Excellence for meeting provincial eligible approach rate for four or more years in a row.

Compassionate care at life's most difficult moments

The decision to withdraw life support is one of the most challenging families face. At SHN, a dedicated multidisciplinary team of Critical Care Physicians, Registered



SHN's Critical Care team with Trillium Gift of Life awards for excellence in organ and tissue donation

Nurses, Respiratory Therapists, and other specialists support patients and their loved ones with compassion and respect. Integral to these conversations is organ and tissue donation: a profound gift that offers hope and new beginnings to countless Ontarians waiting for their second chance at life.

SHN is honoured to champion organ donation as an essential component of quality end-of-life care and remains committed to advancing best practices in this important area.

SHN extends thanks to our Hospital Donation Physician Lead and all members of our

Critical Care teams. Their tireless dedication and expertise enable SHN to provide outstanding care and support, making a lasting difference in the lives of patients, families, and the wider Ontario community.

Together, we are shaping the future of compassionate care and saving lives one donation conversation at a time.





SPECIAL FEATURE

AIR CANADA TO LAUNCH U.S. FLIGHTS FROM TORONTO ISLAND IN A MAJOR EXPANSION AT BILLY BISHOP TORONTO CITY AIRPORT



- ✈ ***New, daily services to New York, Boston, Washington and Chicago***
- ✈ ***Increased daily frequencies to Montréal and Ottawa***
- ✈ ***Ongoing service enhancements include becoming the only carrier to offer Fast, Free Wi-Fi on flights to and from Billy Bishop***
- ✈ ***Expansion complements Air Canada's presence at Toronto Pearson with more than 600 flights a day to more than 120 destinations next summer***

Air Canada unveiled a major expansion at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport with new transborder routes to four major U.S. cities and increased daily flights to Montréal and Ottawa. The new services, with frequencies favourable to business travel, further heighten the customer experience at Billy Bishop airport, including the introduction this month of fast, free onboard Wi-Fi, complimentary onboard premium snacks, beer and wine, and exclusive access to the Aspire Air Canada Café for eligible domestic customers.

Beginning in Spring 2026, Air Canada will launch new, non-stop return service four-times-daily to New York's LaGuardia Airport, three-times-daily to Boston Logan International Airport, twice-daily to Chicago O'Hare International Airport, and daily to Washington Dulles International Airport. The start of transborder services from Billy Bishop will follow the opening of U.S. Customs Pre-Clearance at the island airport, a convenience for customers flying to U.S. airports from Canada that allows them to clear U.S. customs before departure. In addition, beginning in January 2026, Air Canada will expand its daily services

in Canada's busiest domestic travel corridors by increasing the frequency of return flights to Montréal to nine from eight, and to six from four to Ottawa.

"This is our most significant expansion at Toronto Island since Air Canada first served the airport 35 years ago. The new transborder routes will especially benefit our loyal customers and business travellers by creating frequent and easy connections between the heart of Canada's financial capital and the major markets of New York, Boston, Washington and Chicago. Moreover, we are increasing at the island the daily frequency of return flights from Toronto to Montréal and Ottawa, which are Canada's most heavily travelled corridors for business traffic," said Mark Galardo, Air Canada Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, and President, Cargo.

"These exciting new services reflect Air Canada's commitment to further elevate the customer experience at Billy Bishop Airport. Our flights are the only ones from Toronto Island to offer travellers the productivity tool of fast, free in-flight Wi-Fi and the comforts of the Aspire Air Canada Café, a quiet space for eligible

domestic customers to work or recharge prior to their flight. All customers can also enjoy complimentary premium snacks, beer and wine that we offer on board. Our expanded services at the island complement our already extensive services from Toronto Pearson where we will operate more than 600 return flights a day to 124 destinations next summer. This expansion ensures the Greater Toronto Area and beyond are highly connected for business and leisure travel, making Air Canada the preferred choice for travel to and from the GTA."

"We are delighted to welcome Air Canada's expanded routes at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport – a milestone that underscores our shared commitment to enhancing connectivity, convenience, and choice for travellers. This expansion of routes not only continues to strengthen Toronto as a place for business and leisure, but also reflects confidence in Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport's role as a gateway to the future of passenger-centric urban air travel. We look forward to working with Air Canada to help shape the next chapter of growth and innovation for the airport and the city and region we proudly serve," said

SPECIAL FEATURE

RJ Steenstra, President & CEO Ports Toronto, owner and operator of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

“This announcement represents a new era of business and leisure travel convenience, comfort and accessibility at Billy Bishop Airport,” says Jennifer Quinn, CEO, Nieuport Aviation.

“Made possible next year by our new U.S. Customs and Border Protection Preclearance facility, we will offer more destinations within reach, further strengthening our role in connecting communities and driving economic growth across Ontario and Canada.”

“This announcement is excellent news for Canadian travellers. With Air Canada’s new flights from Billy Bishop Airport to the U.S., along with increased flight frequency from Toronto to Ottawa and Montréal, we’re strengthening regional and cross-border connectivity. These additions will make travel more convenient, help connect families across distances, support business growth, and enhance service quality for Canadian travellers,” said the Honourable Steve MacKinnon, federal Minister of Transport.

“This announcement is great news for travelers across the province. This expansion not only strengthens connectivity but supports economic growth, tourism and business opportunities across Canada and the United States - our closest trading partner. Toronto is a key hub for travel and this critical expansion at Billy Bishop Airport will provide more options for Ontarians and improve the customer experience,” said the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Ontario Minister of Transportation.

“We congratulate our members, Air Canada, Nieuport Aviation and PortsToronto, on this exciting expansion. This is exactly the kind of growth-enabling infrastructure Ontario’s economy needs. By boosting connectivity, cutting travel time and opening access to key Canadian and U.S. markets, it delivers real value for businesses across the province,” said Daniel Tisch, President and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

New Transborder Flights

Air Canada’s new services from Toronto Island airport to New York’s LaGuardia Airport, Boston Logan International Airport, Chicago O’Hare International Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport will begin in Spring 2026. With return service up to four times daily, the new routes will make it convenient to travel between the core of Canada’s financial capital and these major American markets for a quick business trip or more extended visit. All flights are operated as Air Canada Express, by Air Canada’s regional partner Jazz Aviation LP, using a 78-seat, De Havilland Dash 8-400 aircraft.



Flights from Toronto Island (YTZ) to:

New York LaGuardia (LGA) begins March 29, 2026

Boston Logan (BOS) begins July 1, 2026

Chicago O’Hare (ORD) begins June 1, 2026

Washington Dulles (IAD) begins June 1, 2026

Increased service to Montréal, Ottawa

In January 2026, Air Canada will add new daily flights from Toronto Island in the popular and heavily travelled Eastern Triangle of Canada. This includes an additional flight to Montréal, bringing the service to nine return flights daily. Between the island and Ottawa, the carrier is adding two frequencies to bring to six the number of total daily return trips to the nation’s capital from Billy Bishop.

Elevating the Billy Bishop Travel Experience

Beginning in October 2025, Air Canada was the first airline to offer fast, free Wi-Fi in-flight to Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport travellers. The industry-leading service provides high-quality Internet to give customers gate-to-gate connectivity and non-stop access to productivity tools while travelling on Air Canada Express flights to and from the city airport on some of the most popular business travel routes in Canada and next year to the U.S. It is the first time Wi-Fi has been made available on a De Havilland Dash 8-400 aircraft type anywhere in the world. The introduction of fast, free Wi-Fi complements the other amenities Air Canada customers flying from Billy Bishop now enjoy, including frequent departures, complimentary in-flight premium snacks, beer and wine, and exclusive access for eligible domestic customers to the Aspire Air Canada Café.¹

Regional Flying Reimagined

A full cabin redesign will soon be commenced on 25 De Havilland Dash 8-400 aircraft operated for Air Canada Express by Jazz. The program includes:

New Seating

Twenty-five Dash 8-400 operated for Air Canada Express by Jazz will be

equipped with next generation, well-padded, ergonomic reclining seats from Expliseat. The seats will feature new branding and design language expressed through the seat’s dress cover. All seats will include a seatback multi-use device holder for tablets and phones, as well as a table tray. The installation of the new seating has an expected completion date for the program in mid-2026. Each aircraft will have 78 seats, and pitch will be unchanged.

Cabin Interior Redesign

The cabins of these same 25 Dash 8-400s will be upgraded to a new standard reflective of Air Canada’s mainline aircraft interiors. The design incorporates colors, textures and tones of those found in Canadian nature, reinforcing Air Canada’s pride in being the nation’s flag carrier.

About Air Canada

Air Canada is Canada’s largest airline, the country’s flag carrier and a founding member of Star Alliance, the world’s most comprehensive air transportation network. Air Canada provides scheduled service directly to more than 180 airports in Canada, the United States and Internationally on six continents. It holds a Four-Star ranking from Skytrax. Air Canada’s Aeroplan program is Canada’s premier travel loyalty program, where members can earn or redeem points on the world’s largest airline partner network of 45 airlines, plus through an extensive range of merchandise, hotel and car rental partners. Through Air Canada Vacations, it offers more travel choices than any other Canadian tour operator to hundreds of destinations worldwide, with a wide selection of hotels, flights, cruises, day tours, and car rentals. Its freight division, Air Canada Cargo, provides air freight lift and connectivity to hundreds of destinations across six continents using Air Canada’s passenger and freighter aircraft. Air Canada’s climate-related ambition includes a long-term aspirational goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. For additional information, please see Air Canada’s TCFD disclosure. Air Canada shares are publicly traded on the TSX in Canada and the OTCQX in the US.



SPECIAL FEATURE

Words of Peace

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK "BREATH"

Excerpts from the book 'Breath'

So many writers of the past have described how important breath is, how fundamental it is to the life of a human being. They have characterized breath as a gift. But are their words understood today?

Breath is a gift that we share with every human being on the face of this earth. We may have different opinions, different ideas. We may wear different clothes, do different things, have different cultures.

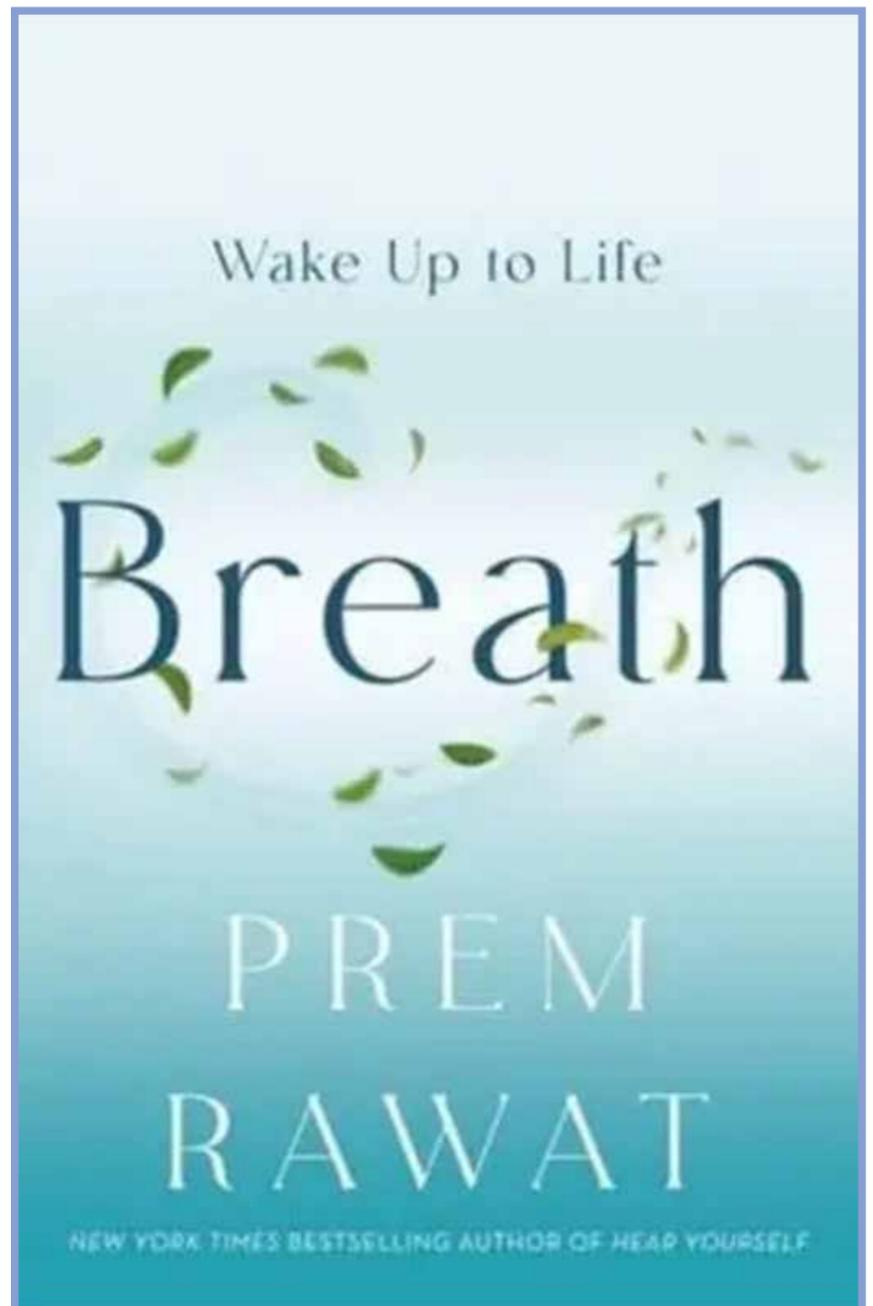
But we all take a breath. Breath is the beginning of life, the sustaining of life, and when it ceases, it is also the end of life.

Breath is a silent message to each of us. "Wake up, Wake up to life". So far you have only woken up to your world, your responsibilities, to your dreams.

But you haven't woken up to life. That is a whole other step.

And when you wake up to Life, You understand who you are. You understand who others are, and that they are not any different from you.

Then you understand what peace is, and the value of peace in your life.





Naladiyar - on the need to do good

By: J A Rajah

*'Manappuram ayvidai mkkadkenrengi,
Enathu Ali valarthiya nenje-Enaithum,
Chiruvareyayinum chey tha nanrallal,
Urupayano illai uyirkkum.'*

Oh, and you like to live long for the love of your family and the sentimental attachment you have for your children!. How long can you live like that? You can live in this world only for some time. Within such time, it is better to do good deeds: that indeed is the purpose of livelihood. **(N-130)**

The purpose of life is to elevate consciousness, to inspire understanding of why we truly exist and life is masterfully designed to prepare our souls for the eternal realms beyond the physical universe.



We should help people to connect with their own soul, to honour and cherish their fleeting moments with each other. We should help others to prepare for the next life. Work should be clearly prepared for the next life. It should impact beyond this earthly life.



BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM



oish.

ON TIKTOK, PEOPLE ARE BEING TAUGHT LIES ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

6,000,000



17% of Holocaust-related content on TikTok either denies or distorts it. That's one out of every six videos, out in the open where millions scroll daily.

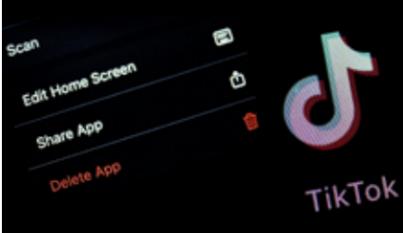
Source: UNESCO

Researchers uncovered a network of Nazi accounts that have drawn "tens of millions of views," spreading Holocaust denial, glorification of Hitler, and "Nazism as a solution to contemporary issues."



Source: Institute for Strategic Dialogue

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These accounts spread Holocaust denial, praise Hitler as a misunderstood hero, and glorify synagogue shooters. This is not random antisemitism.

It is organized propaganda.

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These networks use AI to translate Hitler's speeches into English and pair them with trending sounds.

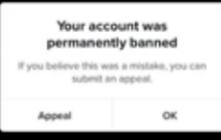
They include slurs in coded language: "Jews" become 🇺🇸 emojis or "juice", triple parentheses, or the number 109 (a reference to the antisemitic lie that Jews have been expelled from 109 countries).

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Nazi groups coordinate to share videos, hijack trends, and plan engagement drives to game TikTok's algorithm.

They call it "waking people up," but what they mean is radicalizing people.

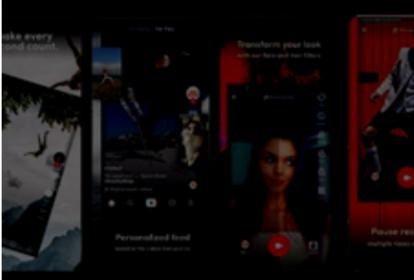
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One account calling for Jewish annihilation stayed online for more than a week after being reported. It gained **3,800 followers** while sharing bomb-making guides and instructions for 3D-printed guns.

Another account promoting Nazi ideology drew **87,000 views** before removal.

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TikTok's algorithm does not just allow it. **It accelerates it.** Test accounts showed that after watching 10 Nazi videos, the platform recommended more within three swipes.

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Bare Bones.

Hope is not always soft and lovely.
 She is not always cascading rivers
 and sunlit skies, dancing.
 Hope knows there is work to be done.
 There are roads to be traveled and
 turns to be made.
 She is bare bones and deep waters.
 She is weary and weak.
 She is barely a glimmer.
 She shakes when she speaks.
 This is where hope lives.
 Smothered in sweat, full of war and
 on the verge of crumbling into the sea.

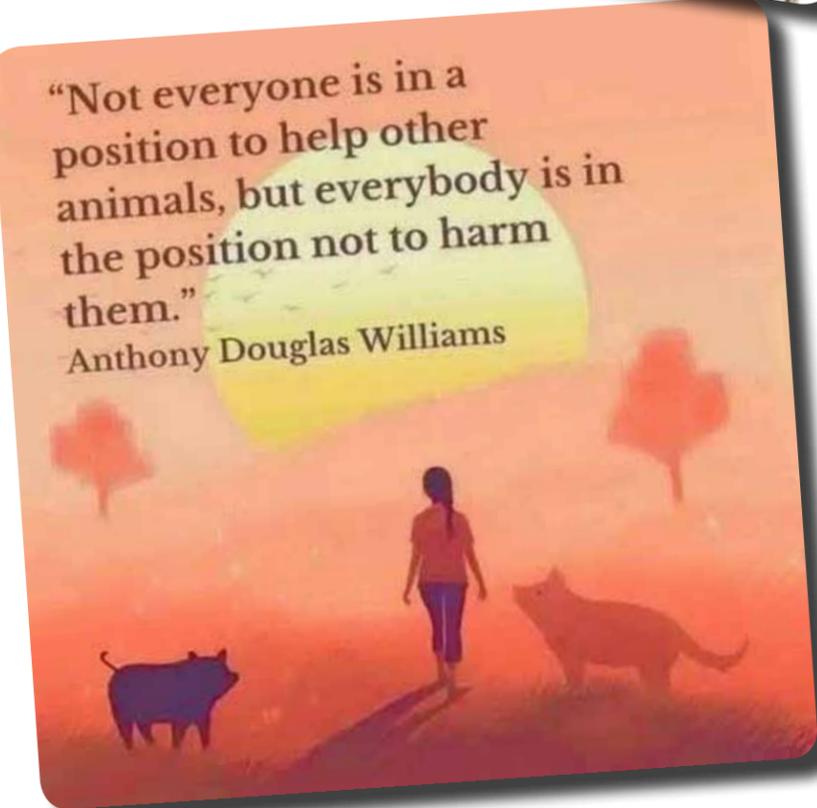
Yet there she is -
 quietly breathing.

ullie-kaye




"Not everyone is in a position to help other animals, but everybody is in the position not to harm them."

Anthony Douglas Williams



PROBATION OFFICER ARRESTED FOR RAPE

Dehiattakandiya Magistrate yesterday.

WASANTHA CHANDRAPALA

A probation officer was arrested yesterday by Ampara Division Women and Children's Bureau CI Dayar Gamage, OIC Crime Investigation Branch IP Saumya Balasuriya, OIC Dehiattakandiya Women and Children's Bureau SI Chandrika on the instructions of ASP Sumit Priyantha Bandara.

The Matron of the Children's Home, who received information on the incident through a fellow inmate of one of the victims, had informed the police.

Police said the suspect had fled from the area when the police initiated investigations and that he was arrested at his hideout in Mahiyangana.

He was to be produced before





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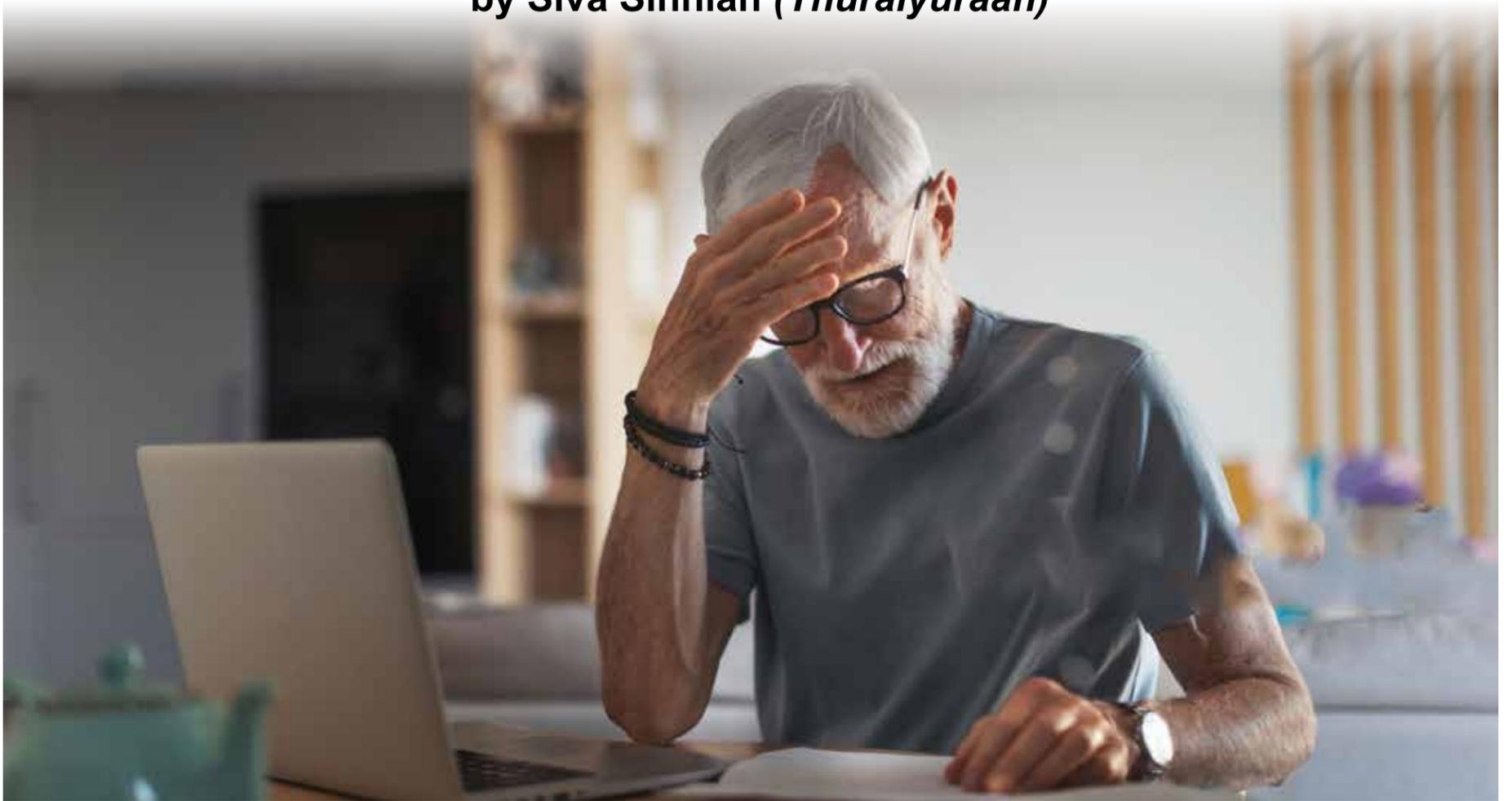
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THE QUORANTOR'S DILEMMA

by Siva Sinniah (*Thuraiyuraan*)



Shankar was an English teacher in Sri Lanka. He is a hard-working individual, who came to Canada 25 years back and was working in various jobs, until he got his credentials approved by the Ministry of Education. He's a kind-hearted man who is always ready to help people and this quality landed him in trouble, which changed his life.

He worked as an ESL teacher, teaching English to immigrants, who had a fair knowledge of English. There were so many people from many countries of the world, who have been holding High positions or better jobs back home, but less knowledge in English. He had refugees from Sri Lanka who sought asylum in Canada because of the continuing Civil war back home. He grouped his students according to their knowledge of English and taught them appropriately.

One day in order to develop the skill of speaking, he invited everyone to come to the stage and speak about their experiences back home. So, one by one they came and spoke in fragmented English and the teacher corrected them then and there.

A woman named Nandini from Sri

Lanka came to the stage and started to speak in English and after some time she started crying. Since she was a victim of the Civil War back home, she was reminded of the tragic incidents and was unable to control her feelings. Everyone was moved and the teacher stopped her from continuing and asked her to go to her seat.

After the class was over, the teacher called her and asked her about the experiences she underwent in Sri Lanka in Tamil. She said that her father was a policeman and he could speak Sinhalese very well and hence the army personnel took him to translate Tamil to Sinhalese, since they were not fluent in Tamil, the language spoken by the people in the North of Sri Lanka. Her father was helping like this for some weeks.

One day he never returned home and the family was worried and started looking for him around the neighborhood. They found his body after 3 days in the outskirts of the city, in a burial ground. We are five children in the family and my mother found it difficult to manage all of us. My father's brother, who is an attorney at law, helped us a lot and since we had a

vegetable garden, we were able to grow vegetables and chilies to manage our daily expenses.

I got married and came to Canada with my 2-year-old child a few months back. Presently I am staying with one of my uncles in an apartment. Shankar was very sad to hear her story and gave his phone number and told her to contact him if she needed any help.

After two days Nandini came to the teacher and told him that she has decided to go for work, since she has to sponsor her husband in Sri Lanka and needed help to get the daycare for her son. Shankar told her that he will try to help her, since he has a friend of his working in that department.

He was able to get a daycare near her home with the help of his friend after a week and Nandini thanked him profusely and left the class. She left son in the daycare and went to a chocolate company to work. Since she started working, she found it difficult to attend the English class and told the teacher her inability and stopped attending the class.

Time passed by quickly and after a year or so Shankar received a call one day when he was at home.

Short Story

SPECIAL FEATURE



“Sir, I am Nandini“

“Sorry which Nandini, I don’t remember you”

“I was a student of yours last year, have you forgotten me? Sir, you helped me to get daycare for my son.”

“Okay, I remember you now. How are you and how is life?“

“Sir, I am keeping fine and my husband also arrived last week”

“I am glad to hear that. What can I do for you?“

“Sir, I need your help to get an apartment, which is available in our building. I would like you to help me to arrange it for rent since my English knowledge is not sufficient enough to speak to the superintendent.”

“Okay, tell them that I will come to help you on Saturday. Give me the details of the apartment so that I will meet you there.”

“Thank you, Sir, very much and hope to see you on Saturday.”

Shankar went to the apartment as promised on Saturday and met Nandini and her husband Anandan, who greeted him. He took them to the office and spoke to the superintendent and found out that a one room apartment will be available by the end of the month and that they have to pay the first and last rent of \$1,200. dollars. Nandini at the time had only \$500 with her and told him that she will pay the balance money after a week. But the superintendent told them that the advance had to be paid in full and if not, he may be forced to give it to anyone coming with the full amount. Shankar realized the situation and volunteered to pay the balance money from his credit card. Nandini and her husband never expected this from the teacher. They were very pleased and thanked him profusely. She promised to pay back the balance in a week.

Nandini invited Shankar’s family when they moved to the new apartment at the beginning of the month. He was warmly welcomed by Nandini’s family and she introduced her uncle to Shankar. They were involved in a very lively discussion about various events back home. Delicious lunch was served to all who were there. Shankar presented \$100 as a gift to Nandini, who returned his \$700 soon after. Shankar returned \$500 out of that and told her to buy furniture for the new apartment. At that time Nandini’s uncle told them that he had already ordered furniture for them and to take back the money. But he insisted on giving the money back so that they may need it for any emergency. Nandini and her husband thanked the teacher again and bid them goodbye.

Ananthan was able to get a job in a Furniture Factory after a week. Hence the family was able to manage their monthly expenses smoothly. Shankar arranged one of his friends to teach driving to Ananthan, so that he may be able to go to his workplace easily. Since he was driving back home, he was able to get the driving license without much problem. After obtaining the license, he was looking for a used car to buy. Shankar was willing to sell his car to them if they were interested in buying it. Since it was a one owner car and Ananthan was willing to buy it from him at a reasonable rate. Thus, both families were more friendly and helpful to each other. Shankar remained as an advisor for the family, which he cherished.

After some years Nandini was able to get a good job in a Courier service company and was able to get a decent amount as salary. Now that both of them started working they decided to go for a two-bedroom apartment in a nearby building for \$150,000. They had saved \$5,000 as the down payment since their combined income was little low so the bank requested to get a guarantor for their mortgage. As usual they approached Shankar to sign as a guarantor to which he readily agreed and signed the documents. So, they moved to their new apartment with the help of their uncle and Shankar.

After three years the management company of the apartment they bought, decided to replace the roof of the entire building at a cost of \$40,000. Hence, they increased the monthly maintenance cost, which was more than their mortgage installment. Nandini found it difficult to pay the mortgage installment and the maintenance fee and decided to sell their apartment. There were no buyers since everyone came to know that the maintenance cost is too much to pay, so they finally decided to hand it over to the bank. They never informed their movement to Shankar and left the place and moved to a rented apartment.

After a few weeks, Ananthan called Shankar and casually mentioned that they had handed over the apartment to the bank and moved to a rented apartment. Shankar was shocked to hear that. Ananthan told him that since they had CMHC insurance the bank would be able to get any shortfall arising out of the sale of their apartment.

“Are you sure that CMHC will pay the shortfall, if there is any” asked Shankar.

“I verified from my friends and made sure that CMHC will take care of all

the transactions “.

“Did you not check with the bank about the details of this insurance and the shortfall” asked Shankar.

“No, we did not because my friends told me that this is the procedure”.

“Did you find out about the sale of your apartment by the bank?“

“No, we did not.

“You should have told me about this before handing it over to the bank since I am the guarantor to your mortgage.”

“Sorry sir, we forgot about that since we were busy moving to the new apartment.”

Shankar was not happy about this and told him that.

“You had done a blunder without consulting me” and kept the receiver.

After ten years Shankar retired from his teaching job and was receiving pension and leading a very peaceful life. One day he received a registered letter from CMHC Insurance Company informing him that the sale of Nandini’s apartment had a shortfall of \$40,000 and that he is responsible for the payment of monthly installments of \$500 from his pension since he signed as a guarantor for the mortgage. The mortgage document had Nandini only and not her husband and that is why the bank insisted on a guarantor. This news was not divulged to Shankar when he signed the mortgage document 10 years back. This was a big blow to him since he never expected this but Nandini assured him that they will pay the monthly installments to CMHC. At that time Nandini was on Ontario Disability Pension and hence the full amount was deducted from Shankar’s pension. Anandan refused to pay this amount from his salary, even though he was in a good position getting \$5,000 a month. Shankar contacted him several times and asked him to take the responsibility of paying the money to CMHC, which he agreed to do so verbally but took no action to pay it. Shankar never expected this from Ananthan or Nandini. They have taken advantage of his generosity and landed him in deep trouble. He never wanted this to tell anyone since he felt that he made a big mistake in helping a stranger to get the mortgage. He was worried about the inhuman behavior of Nandini’s family. It was a big blow to him and he realized his mistake in going out of the way to help her family which was ungrateful. He was forced to pay the heavy price of paying the money until his demise. The present the world is full of cheats, vagabonds and criminals, who are devoid of kindness, compassion and humaneness.

“BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY”



SPECIAL FEATURE

CCC, HFI SUPPLY LIFE-SAVING MARINE LOCATION MARKERS TO U.S. NAVY



CCC is pleased to announce that it was awarded a \$9-million contract by the United States Department of Defense (U.S. DoD) for Mk 25 Mod 5 Marine Location Markers manufactured by HFI Pyrotechnics Inc (HFI). The water-activated devices are used to create a visible smoke and flame signal for locating objects or people in the water during search and rescue, or anti-submarine warfare missions.

The Mk 25 Mod 5 Marine Location Marker is widely used by the U.S. and allied navies. It can be deployed from aircraft or ships and activates upon contact with seawater, emitting a bright yellow flame and white smoke for up to 20 minutes. This visual signal helps crews identify precise locations in open water under various conditions.

HFI, based in Prescott, Ontario, is a global leader in specialty pyrotechnics for defense and security applications. With roots

dating back to 1873, HFI designs and manufactures a range of defence pyrotechnics for smoke, sound and light applications – including the Mk 25 Mod 5 Marine Location Marker. Their ISO-certified facilities ensure reliable, safe, and high-performance solutions for mission-critical operations.

Through CCC's contract, HFI will supply its advanced markers to the U.S. Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division (NSWC Crane). Located in Indiana, NSWC Crane specializes in electronic warfare, strategic missions, and expeditionary warfare. It operates on one of the largest naval installations globally and supports over 3,000 personnel. NSWC Crane manages an annual budget exceeding \$1.6 billion USD to advance defense technologies and support naval forces.

As Canada's foreign military sales agency, CCC is funded by

the Government of Canada to enable companies like HFI to deliver made-in-Canada solutions to the U.S. Navy and other entities of U.S. DoD.

Through CCC's free U.S. DoD Prime Contractor service, Canadian businesses can access the expertise and support they need to succeed in the complex U.S. DoD procurement market. To learn more, contact the CCC team.

About CCC

CCC is Canada's government to government contracting agency. We help build successful commercial relationships between Canadian businesses and governments around the world through our government-to-government contracting approach. We are also the U.S. Department of Defense designated contracting authority for procurements from Canada. To learn more about how we have facilitated billions in trade between Canadian businesses and governments around the world, visit ccc.ca.



Sneeze and feigned quarrel

Kumar Punithavel

I have observed to this day when someone sneezes people tend to bless the person who sneezes. This is a habit followed by people around the world. I wondered when and where this tradition of blessing some one when sneezes began. Even long before the covid we have a recorded incidence of blessing in the ancient Tamil book Thirukkural which was authored about two thousand years ago in Tamil. Let me share the episode where the poet had mentioned it. Thirukkural is a great book of universal ethics, but it also discusses the ethics of gender relationships which is the foundation of any society.

When two lovers dearly love each other, it gives them great happiness. However, too much of anything makes it sour. When eating very sweet snacks it is the custom to add something hot and spicy while eating, which makes the sweet even better. Likewise, the young lovers too, feign to quarrel. This makes the love more appealing. For instance, with no reason why did you take my pen or pencil, not that the person did not like the lover making use of it but such feigned quarrel makes the relationship even better and sweeter. Interestingly the bard mentions in couplet 1327 mentions in lovers quarrel it is the loser is the winner, and it would be observed when the couple unite together. Here is the couplet 1327;

The yielder wins in lovers' quarrel,

Reunited joy brings it out.

ஊடலின் தோற்றவர் வென்றார்
அதுமன்னும்

கூடலிற் காணப் படும்

The one who desires intimacy would accept defeat and get on, and thus will enjoy intimacy better, says the poet.

Now let us come to the episode of blessing when someone sneezes. As far back as Thiruvalluvar's time, that is a little longer than 2000 years ago, the Tamilian people had the custom of blessing when someone sneezes, and also believes that when you are in the thoughts



I sneezed; she blessed; then changed and wept, "You sneezed now at which lady's thought?" she asked.

வழுத்தினாள் தும்மினேன்
ஆக அழித்தமுதாள்
யாருள்ளித் தும்மினீர்
என்று

The scene goes on. Initially he pretended to be sneezing, hoping she would bless him. She did bless him and then grumbled asking him as she was in front, who else had thought of him. Now another situation has happened. The hero really felt like sneezing at that moment. To avoid the situation, argument and quarrel, he repressed the sneeze. The lover started weeping and wailing accusing him that he is hiding the sneeze from her, because he knows who he is hiding from her. Here is that

couplet # 1318;

I repressed the sneeze; she wept crying, "Your thoughts from me you are hiding".

தும்முச் செறுப்ப அமுதாள் நுமருள்ளல்
எம்மை மறைத்திரோ என்று

As the last couplet on the book of universal ethics comprising thousand three hundred and thirty couplets, the poet places an interesting advice to the lovers, suggesting to do away aversions, feigned or otherwise, but to join and enjoy life.

A 'feigned aversion' coy to pleasure gives a zest; The pleasure's crowned when breast is clasped to breast

ஊடுதல் காமத்திற் கின்பம் அதற்கின்பம்
கூடி முயங்கப் பெறின்

Maybe we can conclude the credit to start the tradition of blessing someone sneezing to the book of ethics Thirukkural and the Tamilian race.

of someone else, you would tend to sneeze too. The poet mentions an incident where the lovers were in a feigned quarrel, the lad thought if he sneezes his lover would say 'bless you', and he did sneeze expecting her to say live long, says Thiruvalluvar in his couplet 1312. Here is that couplet;

He sneezed while we went on sulking,

Expecting me to say "live long".

ஊடி இருந்தேமாத் தும்மினார்
யாம்தம்மை நீடுவாழ் கென்பாக் கறிந்து

The poet goes on with another situation, where the lover says when he once sneezed, she did bless him and the man was happy. But suddenly she changed her mind and wept. According to the poet's stand, the dame thought the cause of the sneeze was that some other lass other than herself had thought of him, which had caused that sneeze. She was not prepared to share her prized possession, her lover, with anyone else. Here is that couplet # 1317;



SPECIAL FEATURE

NURTURING CHILDREN TO RESPONSIBLE ADULTHOOD

By: J A Rajah

As our children grow, each age brings different joys and challenges and gives great joy as they learn to smile and can melt into their parent's arms, when they are rocked to sleep. On the other hand, infants cannot share their reasons as they are crying or upset, and they are in need of constant care. Teenagers can articulate their problems. (when they choose) and can usually feed themselves. But they are harder to rock to sleep. The joys and sorrows of parenting change from year to year and season to season. But generally, as children grow from childhood young adulthood, the trials and joys of one age fade while others rise up to take its place.

A. New Paths in Child-care Development:

One stage that can be particularly difficult, despite the joy it brings is often the 'terrible twos.' Toddlers will start to test the boundaries of their surroundings as well as their parent's rules. But with the consistent discipline, loving correction, and increasing maturity, children will grow out of this phase-and usually, by about four or five, no longer test their parents to the same degree. That is the traditional pattern.

B. Engaging a Child in Formative Activities:

Now a path is being paved by parents who do not want to face the challenge of disciplining their 'terrible' two-year-olds. The first misstep is to skate through the toddler stage by using screens and technology to pacify their children. Two- and three-year-olds are now becoming accustomed to using smartphones, gaming systems and other devices, even though on a host of studies indicate that it is better children to have very little-if any screen time. Nevertheless, an electric game, television show, or movie is seen as a convenient way to keep the children quiet and occupied.

But this approach does not help a child grow-and the tantrums often become worse when screens are turned away. Instead of relying on consistent discipline and clear boundaries to help their three-year-olds mature to the next phase of life, screen-reliant parents are stunting their children's growth and teaching them that life is about entertainment and immediate gratification-and throwing fits when their gratification is taken away.



C. Oppositional Defiant Disorder:

This has led to an increase in children entering kindergarten with a medical diagnosis known as-ODD-Oppositional Defiant Disorder. A child with ODD shows "a pattern of uncooperative, defiant, and hostile behaviour towards peers, parents, teachers, and other authority figures". Researchers note that many toddlers who display symptoms of ODD will often grow out of it with good parenting. Elementary-age children and teen-agers diagnosed with ODD are often those who have not matured beyond a toddler's way of dealing with the world. Hopkins even recommends that one treatment of a child's ODD is for parent's to be taught "how to discipline their child".

D. Parental Strategies:

Too often, an ODD diagnosis serves to remove the responsibility for a child's bad choices and for parents' poor parenting. Psychology Today notes that 'ODD lends itself to overdiagnosis' since some parents want to use this diagnosis to deal with any misbehaviour. And thankfully, parents could get suitable guidance from religious books. They remind parents to correct their children at the proper age. There is a Tamil proverb which states that a child who cannot be corrected at the age of five cannot be corrected when he or she is fifty. Parents must discipline their children, and they must do so while mindful of the future their children will have. They have to learn that throwing fits did not get them what they wanted and that screens are a rare privilege-usually one involving the entire family, like a movie night.

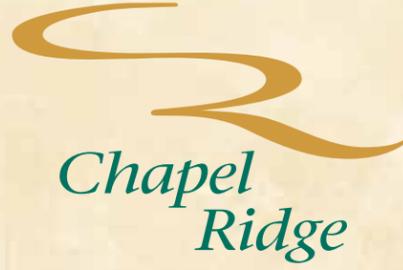
E. The Duties of the Society:

Regardless of their motivations, parents who fail to discipline their children consistently setting their hearts on indirectly destroying those

children. Some children sadly will reject their parent's love, instruction, and discipline, but parents can still protect their children from many pitfalls by not making excuses for poor behaviour. Parents should always be conscious of their responsibilities and help children understand common household dangers such as hot surfaces, sharp knives, or heights. When children discover these hazards for the first time, parents can often attempt to explain them and give verbal instruction to keep their children safe. For some toddlers, these will indeed work. However, if such verbal instructions did not solve everything at this age, parents must be prepared to use some negative reinforcement as their toddlers break rules or repeat offenses. While most parents do not use rods anymore, some form of appropriate physical discipline can correct a toddler who is too young for reasoned discussion. It is always correct to focus on the goal of using negative consequences to improve our toddler's behaviours and help them to grow well-nurtured. The most enjoyable aspects of parenting are when we compliment, hug and play with our children.

F. Good Parenting:

Our society should help undisciplined children to grow- not just looking to distract, diagnose, and medicate, worsening behaviours that good parenting can frequently solve. Although some children are prone to be defiant, parenting such children can help them to understand the very real consequences of such defiance-so that when they are grown, they will be able to navigate the world themselves. Most children will respond positively if parents do their part. To become a man, one should 'put away childish things.' Parents should help their children to put away childish tantrums when they are toddlers so that they can mature into respectful children, teenagers and adults.



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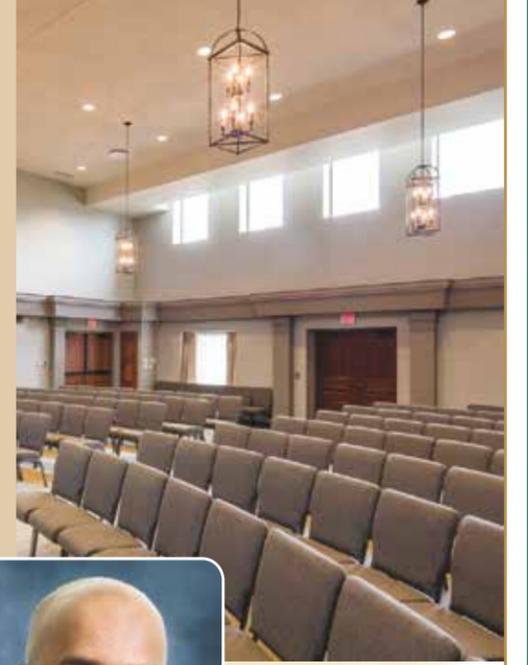
உங்கள் உறவொன்றை பிரிந்து தடுமாறும் வேளையில் இறுதி நிகழ்வுகள் பற்றிய கவலை உங்களுக்கு வேண்டாம். அனுபவத்துடன் கூடிய அன்பான சேவையை வழங்குகின்றோம்.

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EDUCATION & CAREER

VICK AND RICK BROTHERS' AMAZING ADVENTURE TO SAVE THE KIDNAPPED PRINCESS!

By: **Sanujan Keithiswaran**
Grade 7 Student

Once upon a time, there lived two brothers named Vick and Rick in a kingdom called The Emerald Empire. Vick is the older brother; he was also the very brave one. On the other side, Rick was such a scaredy cat. He gets scared even of the littlest things. They both lost their parents in a huge war that happened seven years ago. From then on, Vick, the older brother, had to take care of Rick. Unfortunately, from the day that they lost their parents, they became absolutely broke. That was until they came up to this old and abandoned cabin in the kingdom that nobody wanted to live in. That's when they also decided that they needed to find a job to make a living. Later, when they got older, they got a job at a farm called John's Farm. All the animals there loved Rick and Vick, especially the horse. The horse's name is Willy, and he is extremely playful. However, they were paid so little money that it was very difficult to make a living.



Sanujan
Keithiswaran

One day, the princess of the Emerald Empire was kidnapped by an evil witch. This witch kidnapped all the single princesses from all the kingdoms. The witch's magical ring gave her the power to transform into a dragon. She took advantage of her powers to trap all the princesses in a dungeon. When the king found out that his beloved daughter had been kidnapped, he fainted in despair. The king knew that the only way to save the princess was to send someone really brave and strong to save her. The king ordered his men to search for the princess. His men were quick and put missing posters all over the kingdom; whoever found the princess was to be rewarded. The next day, Rick and Vick were going out on a walk when they noticed the poster of the missing princess. On the poster, there was a reward of \$500,000 and to be married to the princess. So the brothers made a deal with each other. They agreed that if they find the princess, Vick will get to marry her and Rick will get the \$500,000.

Vick and Rick set off in the direction that the dragon went, but they were not aware of all the danger that they had just gotten themselves into. After they entered the dark forest, Rick complained that his legs were hurting because of walking for so long. That's when they saw the three-headed giant snake sleeping on their pathway. Rick suggested going around the snake, but Vick knew that would take way too long. So Vick grabbed a giant stick and started hitting it so it would wake up, but it didn't work. That's

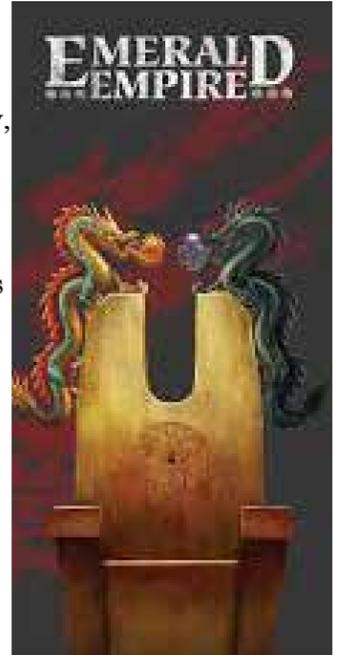
when he saw a beehive on one of the tall branches of the tree right next to them. Rick carried Vick and gave him a boost to reach the beehive. Vick quickly grabbed the beehive and threw it at the three-headed snake in mid-air, which woke the snake up. Vick and Rick immediately pulled out their weapons and started to fight. Rick's arrows were no match for the snake's super-hard scales, and Vick's sword was also not a match because every time he cut one head off, it kept growing back. At that moment, they had nowhere to run or hide and could also not fight, so Vick quickly got a bamboo stick beside him and started carving. Rick was trying to get a hold of the snake while Vick was carving. It turned out that what Rick was carving was a snake charmer. He quickly started using it, and he made the snake fall off the cliff.

As they continued on their mission of saving the princess, Rick was still complaining about his legs hurting. Out of nowhere, Vick whistled loudly and made Willy, the horse, come. Vick and Rick hopped on the horse and continued going through the forest. After a little while, they got so hungry that they stopped and ate some berries from the bush beside them. A little while later, Vick got green dots on his face, and Rick was shrinking. Unfortunately, they did not realize the sign that said poisonous berries. They were so scared when this happened, so they had no other choice but to yell for help. Their calls for help attracted three talking grizzly bears to them. Vick and Rick thought they were here to fight, but that's when the grizzly bears said that they were actually here to help them get out of this mess. Vick and Rick hopped onto the grizzly bears, and they took them to the nearest Wizard. When they got there, the wizard quickly gave them the right medication. He also said that if they had not come soon enough, they would have gotten extremely severe injuries. So they thanked the grizzly bears.

As they got onto their horse and prepared to continue their expedition, the grizzly bears stopped them and asked a question. They asked the brothers why they had even come to this magical forest. That's when they

told the bears about everything that happened. Knowing the story, the bears were shocked, and they wanted to help them because it was too dangerous to take the wizard on by themselves.

They quickly grabbed everything they needed and set off to the lair of the witch. When they got there, Vick demanded that she let all of the princesses go, or it would have to be the hard way for her. She refused, so Vick had no choice but to charge at the Witch, but she was too strong in her dragon form. They had to try to get the magical ring. Vick explained his plan to everyone, and they did as he said. The bears rushed towards the dragon, and they each tightly held down the head of the dragon. Then Rick grabbed the tail so Vick could go and grab the ring. When Vick pulled it off, she had no more power left. So they freed all the princesses and went to the kingdom. Rick got the money, Vick got married, and they all lived happily ever after.



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CTCC PRESIDENT ARI A. ARIARAN RE-ELECTED AS CANADIAN TAMILS' CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLDS SUCCESSFUL 2025 AGM



The Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) held its 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, Oct 25th at the CTCC Business Centre, marking another successful year for the organization and the re-election of its President, Mr. Ari A. Ariaran, for another term.

In his address to members, Mr. Ariaran provided a comprehensive overview of the Chamber's accomplishments and initiatives over the past year. He highlighted the remarkable success of CTCC's events and programs, crediting the strong engagement of members and the invaluable support of sponsors and partners.

Mr. Ariaran expressed his gratitude to all those who contributed to the Chamber's growth and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing CTCC's mission of empowering Tamil-Canadian businesses and strengthening community connections.

A key feature of the AGM was the transition to the new Board of Directors for the 2025–2026 term. Elections were held for two positions, ensuring a smooth and transparent process.

The CTCC also announced the full slate of its Board of Directors for 2025–2026, ushering in a new chapter of leadership and collaboration within the Tamil-Canadian business community.

1. Mr. Ari A. Ariaran – *President*
2. Mr. Darshan Sritharan – *Executive Vice-President*
3. Mr. Vithu Ramachandran – *Vice-President, Internal Affairs*
4. Mr. Suresh Tharmalingam – *Vice-President, Finance*
5. Ms. Christeen Seevaratnam – *Vice-President, Membership*
6. Mr. Kayan Kanesalingam – *Vice-President, External Relations (Policy and Partnership)*
7. Mr. Mahen Singarajah – *Vice-President, Marketing, Communications, and Data Management*
8. Mr. Chan Ramakrishna – *Director*
9. Mr. Thiru Gobiraj – *Director*
10. Mr. Karan Kanagasabai – *Director*
11. Mr. Manojh Rajasri – *Director*
12. Mr. Murali Sivaguru – *Past President*

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



Board of Directors, missing in picture, Ms. Christeen Seevaratnam



Mr. Ari A. Ariaran – President



Mr. Vithu Ramachandran
Vice-President, Internal Affairs



Mr. Suresh Tharmalingam
Vice-President, Finance



Venu Puvirasan - Chair, Nomination Committee &
Mr. Raj Rajasri



Nomination Committee Members

RICHMOND HILL OPENS NEW CULTURAL CENTRE IN THE HEART OF THE CITY



The City of Richmond Hill is excited to announce the official opening of the Richmond Hill Cultural Centre, a vibrant new creative hub that celebrates the city’s growing arts and culture community while honouring its architectural heritage.

Located at 10184 Yonge Street, the Cultural Centre is housed in one of Richmond Hill’s most historic buildings – originally built in 1936 as the town’s first purpose-built post office. The transformation of this historic site reflects the City’s ongoing commitment to revitalizing its downtown and nurturing local arts and culture.

The opening event, held October 28, welcomed Mayor David West, Members of Council and community leaders for guided tours. Guests explored newly renovated studios, digital production rooms and flexible creative spaces designed to host artists, cultural groups and community programs.



The Cultural Centre reimagines its historic site as a space for creative connection, offering studios and flexible areas for artistic work and longer-term use by local cultural groups. Programming may include workshops and cultural events, helping the Centre grow into a vibrant hub where stories are shared, ideas sparked, and creativity celebrated.



About the Building

The building’s architecture blends Art Deco and Georgian Revival styles, reflecting its 1930s origins. Designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, it has been carefully restored to preserve its historic character while adapting the space for modern creative uses.

Quote

“Opening the Richmond Hill Cultural Centre marks an exciting moment for our city. Located in the heart of our downtown, this beautifully

restored building will connect our community through arts, culture and creativity. It’s a welcoming hub where artists and cultural groups can share stories, spark ideas and celebrate everything that makes Richmond Hill such a vibrant and inclusive community. I look forward to seeing the creative work that emerges from it.”

– Mayor David West



MARKHAM FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES LAUNCHES NORTH AMERICA'S FIRST CUTTING-EDGE AUXILIARY "DRAGO" UNITS TO ENHANCE EMERGENCY RESPONSE



(From left to right) Councillor Ward 1 Keith Irish, Councillor Ward 2 Ritch Lau, Councillor Ward 7 Nimisha Patel, Councillor Ward 3 Reid McAlpine, Deputy Mayor Michael Chan, Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Regional Councillor Jim Jones, Regional Councillor Alan Ho, Fire Chief Chris Nearing, Councillor Ward 6 Amanda Yeung Collucci, Deputy Fire Chief Robert Garland, Councillor Ward 8 Isa Lee, Councillor Ward 4 Karen Rea, and Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Best at the Markham Civic Centre on Oct. 21, 2025.

The City of Markham is proud to announce the Markham Fire & Emergency Services' successful deployment of two state-of-the-art auxiliary firefighting units, known as "DRAGO" units, as part of its commitment to modernize fire service delivery.

At 7.3 metres in length, each auxiliary unit is a nimble, high-performance support vehicle packed with advanced firefighting tools and capabilities not typically found on traditional fire apparatus. The units can also be positioned where standard fire trucks cannot go such as tight spaces and uneven terrain. These units bring cutting-edge technology and specialized equipment directly to emergency scenes, which will meet the growing demands of an ever-changing firefighting landscape.

Modern home and building construction methods demand advanced firefighting tools and equipment, grounded in science and research. Traditional best practices that served for decades are no longer sufficient, as fires now often reach peak danger levels much faster, typically just as firefighters arrive, whereas in the past, crews could begin suppression efforts before the fire escalated.

"Safety First is the guiding principle

we live by. The DRAGO unit gives our firefighters the capability to extinguish fires from the moment they arrive on the scene. This cutting-edge solution provides greater safety for firefighters and our community," said Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti. "I issued a call to action to modernize our fire service and these auxiliary units are a powerful example of how innovation is driving our progress while achieving value for taxpayers' dollars."

"We are thankful for the support of Mayor and Council to consider alternative ways to meet the challenges of modern firefighting in a growing modern city," said Markham Fire Chief, Chris Nearing. "Providing our firefighters with the best education, training and firefighting equipment, not only protects our community, but also those who protect Markham."

The DRAGO units have several key features including ultra-high pressure hose lines for fast and efficient fire attacks, a high-powered ventilation fan to clear smoke and toxins from large areas, and is also equipped with firefighter foam and its own 45,000 watt generator to power emergency lighting and equipment.

Markham fire crews underwent comprehensive training before the

vehicles were put into operation. Since entering full-time service, the DRAGO units have successfully been deployed in three structure fires and one hazardous materials incident proving its value in enhancing safety and efficiency during real-world operations.

By prioritizing proactive measures, such as a focus on hands-on training, comprehensive post-event analysis, targeted public education strategies and fire prevention inspections, Markham has continually achieved one of the lowest fire occurrence rates in the GTHA.

About Markham:

Markham, an award-winning municipality with over 370,000 residents and the largest of nine communities in York Region, is home to over 650 corporate head offices and more than 1,500 high tech and life science companies. Markham is a leader in attracting foreign direct investment with more than 234 foreign companies located in the City. Founded in the 1790s, today Markham is Canada's most diverse community and enjoys a rich heritage, outstanding community planning and services, and a vibrant local economy.



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COMMUNITY WATCH

Durham Tamils Association Celebrating 25 Years Of Serving Our Tamil Community



The Durham Tamil Association has proudly served the community for 25 years and remains dedicated to supporting our members, youth, and seniors. We continue to offer a variety of activities almost every day, providing something for everyone, from children to seniors. This milestone would not have been possible without our amazing volunteers, who selflessly give their time and energy to serve the community. DTA is truly grateful for your ongoing support. Additionally, the DTA Tamil School continues its mission by offering Tamil language classes to our students, fostering a connection to our cultural heritage for the next generation.

HOPE FOR HOMELAND GALA NIGHT

The Durham Tamil Association (DTA) hosted its annual Gala Night to raise funds for Hope for Homeland, an initiative dedicated to supporting community projects and empowering families in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern provinces through entrepreneurship. The event was a tremendous success, receiving overwhelming support from the community for this meaningful cause.

HALLOWEEN AND DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

DTA hosted its annual Halloween and Diwali celebrations, bringing the community together for two vibrant, fun-filled events. Guests enjoyed festive activities, cultural performances, and plenty of treats for all ages. The success of these celebrations was made possible by the dedication of our volunteers and the leadership of the Executive Committee. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed their time, creativity, and effort to make these events memorable for the community.



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DTA is proud to announce that we have completed over 120 homeland projects as of Oct 31, 2025. Watch out more for this year as we wish to continue this momentum and provide more opportunities back home.

**Thank you to
Mr. Subramaniam
Kathirithamby & Mr
Maylvahanam
(Sri Lanka) for
coordinating this
project.**

DTA YOUTH FEST

The Durham Tamil Association (DTA) is proud to announce its 24th Annual Youth Festival a celebration of talent, creativity, and leadership that has showcased the incredible potential of Durham's Tamil youth for more than two decades.

Date: Saturday,
November 15th
Time: 5 PM

Venue: J. Clarke
Richardson Collegiate
(Auditorium), 1355 Harwood
Ave N, Ajax, ON L1T 4G8

Durham Tamil Association TAMIL CLASS

Durham Tamil Association offers Tamil classes for children and adults who are interested in learning the language in an innovative and effective way.

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Saturday, November 15, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

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CONTACT US
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COMMUNITY WATCH



DTA'S SENIORS

DTA is keeping our seniors fully occupied with multiple activities and programs. DTA is here to support you in any way. If you want to participate in our programs, please check our monthly calendars. Please register for virtual Seniors programs at durhamtamils.org. Thank you to our fantastic volunteers who do not expect anything and are serving the community voluntarily. DTA is truly grateful for your continued support.

THANK YOU TO DTA'S ANNUAL SPONSORS

DTA thanks our annual sponsors Computek College of Business, Healthcare & Technology, Nava Wilson LLP, Chapel Ridge Funeral Home & Cremation, and all our sponsors for your continued support throughout the year. If you are interested in being annual sponsor please reach out to the below contacts.

For more information on all DTA's Community Support Programs and Sponsor contacts

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DTA SENIOR'S NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

DTA Senior's monthly meeting will be held on Sunday Nov 30, 2025 at 5:00 pm at DTA Centre. 66B Harwood Ave S, Ajax L1S 2H6. Event Time: 5-9 pm Please, all Senior (ages 55+) members attend the meeting. Register online - durhamtamils.org Members who were born in this month, please mention in the comments section to organize your cake-cutting at the meeting.

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City of Brampton secures investment for 136 new buses to strengthen Brampton Transit



Dignitaries gather to announce the purchase of 136 new buses as part of the City of Brampton's commitment to building a modern, sustainable transit system. *Credit: City of Brampton*

The City of Brampton is advancing its vision for a connected, sustainable and inclusive community with the purchase of up to 136 new buses for Brampton Transit. In partnership with the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario, Brampton is delivering more than \$183 million in investments expanding transit capacity, improving rider experience and supporting the city's continued growth.

The announcement was made in Brampton, where Mayor Patrick Brown was joined by The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Ontario's Minister of Transportation and Member of Provincial Parliament for Brampton South, The Honourable Shafqat Ali, Member of Parliament for Brampton—Chinguacousy Park, The Honourable Sonia Sidhu, Member of Parliament for Brampton South, The Honourable Amandeep Sodhi, Member of Parliament for Brampton Centre, The Honourable Charmaine Williams, Member of Provincial Parliament for Brampton Centre, The Honourable Graham McGregor, Member of Provincial Parliament for Brampton North and Amarjot Sandhu, Member of Provincial Parliament for Brampton West.

As one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada and an economic hub in the Greater Toronto Area, Brampton has experienced record ridership growth. Expanding Brampton Transit's fleet with modern vehicles is essential to keeping the city moving, reducing congestion and connecting residents and businesses to opportunity.

The new buses include a mix of 60-foot diesel articulated buses, 40-foot diesel-hybrid buses, 40-foot conventional diesel buses, 40-foot zero-emission battery electric buses and 40-foot zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell electric buses. This investment not only increases service reliability and fleet capacity but also accelerates Brampton's transition to clean technologies, supporting the City's Environmental Master Plan.

The City of Brampton is contributing \$48.8 million toward the purchase of the new buses, with the Government of Canada investing \$73.2 million and the Government of Ontario investing \$61 million through the Public Transit Infrastructure Stream

of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

These investments align with Brampton's vision of building safe, sustainable and transit-oriented communities. Expanding transit infrastructure creates jobs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and provides residents with cost-effective and reliable options to travel to work, school, health care and community services.

Quotes

"Brampton is one of the fastest-growing and most diverse big cities in Canada, home to 800,000 residents and more than 110,000 businesses driving our economy. As an economic hub in the GTA, we are committed to building a modern, sustainable transit system that supports growth, reduces congestion and connects people to opportunity. These 136 new buses will allow us to meet rising demand, advance our climate goals and continue strengthening Brampton's reputation as a forward-looking city of choice." - Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton

"Public transit is the backbone of a thriving city. Brampton Transit has experienced record ridership growth and this investment in new buses will directly benefit our residents, businesses and workers. Expanding our fleet means more reliable service, more capacity and more sustainable options to keep Brampton moving as our community grows." - Paul Vicente, Regional Councillor, Wards 1 & 5, Chair, Public Works Section

"Our residents depend on Brampton Transit to access jobs, schools, health care and community services every day. These new vehicles will strengthen our system, improve the rider experience and allow us to deliver safe, reliable and sustainable service to more people across the city. As Brampton continues to grow, we are committed to investing in innovative, clean technologies that shape the future of public transit." - Heidi Dempster, General Manager, Brampton Transit

"Transit is a lifeline for thousands of people to get to work, school, appointments, and to move around Brampton and the

GTA. More buses mean faster, more reliable service for Bramptonians. This investment will make it easier to get around and will help build a cleaner future." - The Honourable Shafqat Ali, President of the Treasury Board and Member of Parliament for Brampton—Chinguacousy Park, on behalf of the Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada

"Today's investment is a huge step forward for Brampton Transit, and a milestone I'm excited to share with my community. Under Premier Ford's leadership, and as part of our plan to protect Ontario, our government is investing to keep Brampton moving. These new buses will deliver faster commutes, safer travel and a transit system that keeps pace with our growing city." - The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Ontario Minister of Transportation and Member of Provincial Parliament for Brampton South

About Brampton Transit

Brampton Transit is one of Canada's fastest-growing transit systems, providing safe, reliable and accessible service across Brampton and the Greater Toronto Area. With a strong focus on sustainability, innovation and customer service, Brampton Transit connects people to where they live, work, learn and play. In 2024, Brampton Transit proudly served over 43 million riders, marking a significant milestone in our journey of growth and service excellence. Learn more at bramptontransit.com. Follow Brampton Transit on X, Facebook and Instagram.

As one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada, Brampton is home to 800,000 people and more than 110,000 businesses. People are at the heart of everything we do. We are energized by our diverse communities, we attract investment and we are embarking on a journey to lead technological and environmental innovation. We partner for progress to build a healthy city that is safe, sustainable and successful. Connect with us on X, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. Learn more at www.brampton.ca



Level up on safety:

carbon monoxide alarms now belong on every level at home

Carbon monoxide is a harmful gas people can't see, taste or smell. Learn how to stay safe.

November 1 to 7 is Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week and Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services (MFES) is raising awareness about carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and the importance of having a working CO alarm at home. Currently, residents are required to have a CO alarm in their home outside the sleeping areas. To help make homes safer, starting January 1, 2026, the Ontario Fire Code will require CO alarms on every floor of all homes with fuel-burning appliances, fireplaces, or attached garages.

On average, homes have between four to six fuel-burning appliances spread across all floors. So, it's important to install CO alarms on every level, for protection from sources of the deadly gas.

Known as the "silent killer," CO is a harmful gas people can't see, taste or smell. In addition to harming humans, pets are also at risk of CO poisoning, which can be fatal. Carbon monoxide is created from the incomplete burning of fossil fuels such as natural gas, propane and wood. The main source of CO in your home is a fuel-burning appliance/heater, a fireplace or an attached garage.

In 2024, MFES responded to more than 450 CO-related incidents in Mississauga, and in Ontario, there have been an average of 12 deaths a year and hundreds of hospitalizations caused by the harmful gas. It is still the leading cause of accidental poisoning death in North America. Carbon monoxide poisoning is preventable with simple steps that you can follow at your home.

Drop-in information sessions

Interested in learning more? Visit one of our public information

Be Aware

Make Sure Your Household is Safe From Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

sessions at a retail store near you to learn about CO prevention. Drop by and talk to a MFES Public Education Officer between 4 to 6 p.m. on the following dates and Mississauga locations:

- Tuesday, November 4 – Canadian Tire – 1156 Dundas St E
- Wednesday, November 5 – Rona – 2933-A Eglinton Ave W
- Thursday, November 6 – Home Depot – 5975 Terry Fox Way

Can't attend the session? Watch the CO safety video to learn more about the importance of CO alarms. Stay safe, it's the law

Carbon monoxide alarms are required by law in all homes that have fuel-burning appliances such as a stove or furnace, heaters, a fireplace or an attached garage. It's not enough to just have CO alarms outside all sleeping areas – having one on every floor is essential, for many homes this could mean installing an alarm on the first floor, basement or in an attic they use. Failure to comply with the new legislation could result in penalties starting at \$235 and could go up

to \$50,000 for serious incidents. This applies to all homes including condos, apartments, semi-detached and detached homes, cottages, rental properties, residential suites, care occupancies, and retirement homes to help prevent deadly CO exposure.

Don't forget to support the maintenance of your CO alarms by:

- Testing them monthly
- Replacing them every 10 years
- Ensure all fuel-burning appliances and vents in your home are inspected annually

Symptoms of CO poisoning
CO poisoning symptoms are described as "flu-like" symptoms, such as:

- chest pain
- confusion
- dizziness
- headache
- upset stomach/vomiting
- weakness

What to do if you suspect you have been exposed to CO poisoning or if your CO alarm is triggered?

- Find fresh air immediately
- Call 911





SPECIAL FEATURE

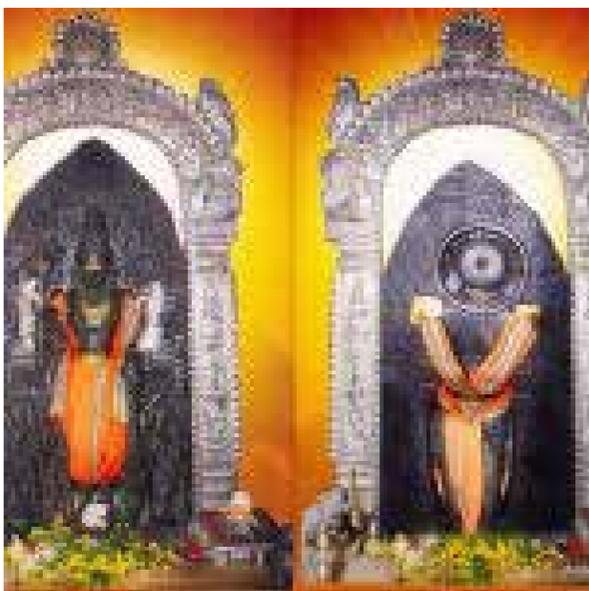


SRI JAGANMOHINI KESAVA AND GOPALASWAMY TEMPLE, RYALI, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

Compiled by Kidambi Raj

INTRODUCTION

Sri Jaganmohini Kesava and Gopalswamy Temple in Ryali, Andhra Pradesh, India, is the only temple dedicated to *Mohini Avatara* of Lord Vishnu in the world. Ryali is situated in East Godavari district (Atreyapuram Mandal), located 40 km from Rajahmundry and 34 km from Amalapuram and it is situated between the rivers *Vasishtha* and *Gautami*, tributaries of river *Gadavari*. Many tourists visiting Rajahmundry generally come to see the **rare temple** at Ryali, where we find the unique sculpture of **Lord Kesavaswamy** on the front and the graceful beauty of *Jaganmohini* on the rear side of the



five-foot high black Saligrama stone, a kind of presenting two figures combined at one place. This type of sculpture, one finds nowhere in any other temple. The concept of **Arthanaa-reeswara** is found in some paintings. But this type of **Purusha and Prakriti** combined on the same stone is a very rare work of art.

Siva was following Mohini Devi and a flower from the braid of Mohini's hair fell at this place. Lord Siva picked that flower and smelt it and became enchanted by Mohoni.

The sculptor exhibited his skill of revealing the majestic face of Lord Kesava with four hands holding a conch, a discus in upper pair of hands and a mace and Mandhara mountain in the lower pair of hands. At the feet of the Lord, Goddess Ganges is seen sitting in lotus posture and water is seen flowing from the feet of the Lord. Around the sculpture, the figures of Sridevi, Bhudevi, Narada, Adi Sessa, Garuda, Kinnera and divine damsels like, Rambha and Urvashi are carved. The Holy water from the feet of the



Lord is sprinkled over the heads of the devotees during worship. The devotees are allowed to enter the temple. On the rear side of the sculpture the hair of Jaganmohini folded into a bun is clearly seen decked with ornaments. The slender waist, round hips, bracelets on hands and feet adorned with anklets show the features of a divine damsel seen from the back.

HISTORY OF THIS UNIQUE TEMPLE

During the 11th century, this village was a part of wild forest and these parts were under the rule of Chola Rajas. Sri Raja Vikrama Deva, who was ruling these parts during that time, came to this place for hunting wild animals. Being tired after hunting wild animals, he took rest under the shade of a big **Ponna tree** and fell asleep and had a dream, where Lord Vishnu appeared and informed him that His shrine was located in the under ground of that area and directed him to get the wooden made chariot and pull that in that area. Where the nail of the chariot fell, the shrine can be found under ground in that place, said Lord Vishnu.. Raja did as he was told and excavated the area where the nail fell and found the idol, making his dream come true. He constructed a small temple during the 11th century and arranged for worship during his regime. Gradually prakaras were added in 1936 (**Data nama Samvatsara**), it was renovated. The shrine of Sri Jaganmohini Kesava Swamy idol is a **Saligrama Ekasila**, 5 ft. in height and 3 ft in width. The most wonderful architectural beauty of the shrine and the flow of Ganga from the feet of the Swamy are really unique feature and the shrine became very sacred. The architectural beauty of the idol, cannot be described

in words. Further, it gives the impression that it is new, though its origin dates back to the 11th century. This shrine, a **SWAYAMBU** and the people visit the temple from various parts of the country, all believe that the shrine is not man-made and certainly a creation of the Devas and darshan of the Swamy gives the feeling of the presence of real God.

ABOUT THE MOHINI AVATARAM OF LORD VISHNU

According to Puranas, during the **Samudra Manthana**, Lord Vishnu assumed the form of Jaganmohini (Mohini Avataram), when the gods and the demons were quarreling over claiming Amritha, that emerged from the churning of the Milky Ocean. This Avatara of Lord Vishnu as a feminine form enchanted the entire world; the beauty not seen or heard by anyone before. It is no surprise that She caught the attention of the demons. Jaganmohini cleverly distributed Amritha to gods, beguiling the demons with Her



charm. Even, Lord Siva enthralled by Her beauty pursued her. Suddenly, a flower fell from Her hair. When Siva smelled that flower, He realized that the damsel was none other than Vishnu



SPECIAL FEATURE



Himself and felt ashamed of His conduct. The name of the place **Ryali** which in Telugu means **to fall**. As per the request of the gods and the holy sages, Lord Vishnu stayed here as, **Kesava Jaganmohini** and Lord Siva also dwells there as **Kamandaleswara** with His Consort **Uma**.

Lord Brahma consecrated the Siva Lingam with

In the nearby forest, Lord Siva saw the most beautiful woman, who was playing with a ball. Suddenly, there was a breeze which took away the clothes of Mohini Murti, whose bodily beauty became exquisitely visible. Lord Siva became bewildered looking at the beauty of Lord Vishnu. Her eyes were large and restless. Two brilliant ear rings shiningly reflecting over Her cheeks and the scattered hair made Her face still more beautiful. She wore a shining saree and a belt over Her hips. Her feet were very soft and moved here and there.

While playing with the ball, she began glazing at Lord Siva and slightly smiled with bashfulness. As Lord Siva looked at Mohini, He forgot Himself, His wife Uma and all His associates. Thinking that She was attracted to Him, Lord Siva became attracted to Her and desired to touch Her. Due to the lusty desires, Lord Siva

the Ashramas of great sages. Finally He realized that He was victimized by the maya of Lord Vishnu and restrained Himself further. Lord Vishnu was very pleased that Siva was unagitated and blessed Him to the maya of worldly affairs.

OTHER PLACE WHERE THERE IS A TEMPLE FOR JAGANMOHINI

- **Mahalasa Narayani, Ponda, Goa:** Here the Statue of Jaganmohini is believed to be in combined manifestations of **Kali, Uma** and **Lakshmi**.

OTHER PLACES

NEARBY TO VISIT

Better plan to have food and stay at Ravulapalem, as Rayli is a small village. Visitors,



His Kamandalam and hence, Lord Siva at Ryali is worshipped as **Sri Uma Kamandaleswara Swamy**. This is a very rare feature at Ryali where, Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva Temples face each other in East, West directions.



LORD SIVA BEWILDERED BY MOHINI AVATARA

Hearing about this beautiful form of Lord Kesava, which enchanted all the living beings in the Universe. Lord Siva became eager to see it. Along with Bhavani, Lord Siva approached Lord Madhusudhana and prayed to the Lord to exhibit His female form. The all-merciful Lord Vishnu agreed to the request of Lord Siva and showed the Mohini Avatar.

approached Her, even in the presence of Bhavani, as He could not restrain Himself. When Mohini saw Lord Siva coming, She started smiling and hiding herself behind the trees and bushes in the forest. With His senses agitated, Lord Siva began to follow Her like an elephant follows the female elephant.



After following Her for some distance, Lord Siva finally caught Her by the braid of the hair and dragged Her to Him. But somehow Mohini released Herself from the clutches of Lord Siva and again ran away. Lord Siva began to follow Her and She took Lord Siva to many places like, shores of the rivers, mountains, forests and

can include other places like. Vadapalli (Lord Venkateswara Temple), Pancharama temple (4 in this area, Samalkot, Draksharama, Palakollu and Bheemavaram) in the trip plan as these are nearby.

HOW TO REACH RYALI

The nearest Railway Station is Rajahmundry and the nearest Airport is Vishakapatnam.





A CENTURY OF QUANTUM

How Waterloo became a global hub for quantum science and technology

By Alex Kinsella, *Institute for Quantum Computing*



Bridging theoretical insight and academia with experimental expertise and industry application has been key to advancing quantum information science — and a defining strength of the Waterloo quantum ecosystem. Over the past two decades, close collaboration between the Institute for Quantum Computing (IQC) and Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics has helped position Waterloo as a global leader in quantum science and technology, especially significant in 2025, which marks 100 years since the initial development of quantum mechanics.

To celebrate the field's advancements and strengthen community ties, IQC and the Perimeter Institute joined forces to host researchers from around the world at The Year of Quantum Across Canada: From Fundamental Science to Applications, highlighting how foundational research is driving new technologies and applications.

“Collaboration is one of the pillars of IQC’s success, and working with the Perimeter Institute to welcome leading quantum information researchers reflects the strength of the Waterloo quantum ecosystem,” says Dr. Norbert Lütkenhaus, IQC’s executive director and professor

in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. “Celebrating a century of groundbreaking advancements in quantum science and technology alongside our local, national, and international colleagues is a powerful signal of how collaboration will advance research and discoveries for

the next century and beyond.”

Researchers, professors and students at the University of Waterloo have played a central role in Canada’s quantum story, including the creation of the IQC in 2002. In 2012, the Mike & Ophelia Lazaridis Quantum-Nano Centre opened its doors on the



Researchers at the Year of Quantum event inside the Mike & Ophelia Lazaridis Quantum-Nano Centre building.



From left to right: Dr. Roger Melko in the front, with Dr. Norbert Lütkenhaus and Dr. Christine Muschik (in the background).

University's main campus and has been the home of IQC since. Over the past two decades, IQC's members have included Fellows of the American Physical Society, the Royal Society and the Canadian Association of Physicists, reflecting the University's leadership and collaboration at the heart of Waterloo's growing quantum ecosystem.

"What's exciting now is that we're not doing this in isolation," says Dr. Roger Melko, IQC member, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and research associate faculty at Perimeter Institute. "There's a real sense of community forming with theorists, experimentalists and computer scientists all working toward the same problems from different angles."

Melko led a public panel discussion with Dr. Christine Muschik, Dr. Martin Savage, professor at the University of Washington, Dr. Antonio Mezzacapo from IBM Research, and Dr. Brian Swingle, professor at MIT, all of whom underscored how collaboration drives discovery.

Muschik, IQC faculty, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and research associate faculty at Perimeter Institute, came to Waterloo from Germany to join the IQC. She says the region's collaborative ecosystem between IQC and Perimeter Institute creates rare opportunities for both theoretical and experimental breakthroughs.

"I'm a theorist, but I work closely

with experimental groups," Muschik says. "That's something I really enjoy. Connecting ideas with what can be tested and implemented in the lab."

Her work bridges the gap between theory and experiment, illustrating how Waterloo's collaborative environment continues to attract researchers from around the world.

Dr. Marcela Carena, Perimeter Institute's executive director, says the conference is a powerful reminder of why Waterloo is a global destination for quantum information. Building on the theme of strengthening connections across Canada, she adds that this is only the first in a series of gatherings to bring Canadian and international partners together.

"IQC and Perimeter's partnership embodies the strength of interdisciplinary research, fueling fundamental discoveries and practical applications that are defining today's technological advancements," Carena says. "Hearing from the many researchers over these past few days was not just a celebration of this community and the incredible progress made in the field, but a clear signal of Canada's pivotal role in shaping our quantum future."

Theoretical physicist Dr. John Preskill, one of the pioneers of quantum information theory, notes that Canada, and particularly Waterloo, has become a focal point for advances in quantum information science because of the close connections between theory and experiment, academia and industry. He highlights that these collaborations are essential for translating abstract quantum principles into real-world technologies that can benefit society.

"I'm excited and honoured to be here celebrating 100 years of quantum mechanics, 25 years of the Perimeter Institute, and all the far-reaching contributions to quantum science that come from Canadian institutions," says Preskill, Richard P. Feynman professor of Theoretical Physics at Caltech.

He reflected on how the ideas developed for quantum information are influencing other areas of physics, from cosmology to materials science. As the field moves beyond proof-of-concept experiments toward scalable systems, Preskill emphasizes that continued cooperation among institutions like IQC and Perimeter will be key to turning potential into progress.

"We should be grateful to the quantum pioneers of 100 years ago," Preskill says. "But most importantly, we should wish good fortune to the quantum explorers of the future."



Dr. John Preskill, a theoretical physicist at the California Institute of Technology, presenting on the prospects of quantum for the next 100 years.

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