



**HINDU CULTURAL CENTRE OF LONDON ONTARIO**  
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President - Dr. Mohan Merchea, Vice-President - Mr. Tara Persaud, Treasurer – Mrs. Anitha Prakash

Secretary - Mrs. Shanta Doobay, Asst. Secretary Treasurer, Mr. Vikas Sharma,

Members: Mrs. Shashi Bawa, Mr. Sanjay Singh, Dr. Dev Sainani, Mr. Nimish Shukla, Mrs. Prema Patil, Mrs. Suman Singh

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**NEWS LETTER – November 2019**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

**REGULAR PRAYER SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AND OTHER FESTIVALS WILL CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION WITH MINIMAL DISRUPTION.**

**We had excellent celebrations during the festival in the month of September and October.**

**Ganesh Festival was once again this year was celebrated and we did Ganesh Visarjan at the HCC grounds. In future years we will perform this ceremony on our grounds, rather than going to Fanshawe Conservation area. We decided for own grounds as Fanshawe was going to charge us \$ 14.00 per car. Panditji and Mr. Mohan Khandekar made a pond with holy water and Ganesh Visarjan was performed in the same.**



**Navratri and Garba festival was well attended. As there was a strike in the school board, we had to go to Komoka Community Hall, but still over 400 devotees came. We raised \$2100.00 during these festivities.**

**Durga Puja was very well attended. We did Ankoot/ Goverdhan Puja on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019. We raised \$ 3027.83**

**My personal thanks to all the organizers of all the festivities. They put in lot of efforts and they deserve all the thanks.**

### **DIWALI FUNDRAISING DINNER – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 2019**

**Please remember that Diwali Fundraising Dinner is on Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 at Clarke Road High School. The doors open at 2:00 pm. Mrs. Prema Patil and her fundraising committee has been working very diligently and I can assure you that they will put up an exceptional program.**

**HCC will issue a donation receipt for the tickets you buy for the Diwali Fundraising Dinner in the amount allowed under the CRA rules.**

**This will be the time for you all to donate generously to the good cause of expansion of the Mandir. We need funds very acutely. You can donate whatever amount you wish. One can become a Life member by donating \$ 6000.00 or a Patron member by donating \$ 10,000.00 over a continuous period of three years. You can donate every month over three-year period. This will help HCC in getting very minimal mortgage or no mortgage at all.**



**The community members who have securities in their investment portfolio, should consider donating securities in kind to HCC brokerage account. This will give them extra tax credit and tax savings. If you are wondering how large your tax credit would be? The Federal Government has an online charitable donation tax credit calculator at [bit.ly/2kukRey](http://bit.ly/2kukRey).**

**The expansion construction is proceeding at a good speed, though there has been some delay in the completion of about six weeks, as we lost construction days due to inclement weather and objections from the City Hall. All the objections from the City hall have now been resolved.**

**I do hope that the construction should be completed by end of November 2019.**

**I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL BE PROUD OF THE EXPANSION AND ALMOST 600 PEOPLE WILL BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE NEW FACILITY.**

**YOUR BOARD IS NOW PLANNING TO DO GRAND OPENING FROM DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup> 2019, if the expansion is completed and we get an occupancy permit from the City Hall.**

**We will keep you updated as the time nears for the grand opening.**

**Please do not take any photograph in the Mandir during puja. You must obtain permission from the Board before any photography. Also ask permission from the ladies and children before you take any photograph. As everyone knows these can be misused with computer software and with social media it can cause very serious legal problems.**



Recently there was a break-in in Mandir and our Hundi was stolen along with Microphones and LCD projector. The thief broke two plywood sheets from the construction site to gain entry into the prayer hall. But luckily no damage was done at the altar. As the construction is completed we will be installing high-end security cameras, both inside and outside the Mandir. The iron grills will also be re-installed on the glass windows.

TD Canada Trust has approved a loan of \$ 800, 000. This required a personal security for \$ 400, 000 during the construction, which will be released at the end of construction. Three members of the community (Dr. Mohan Merchea, Mrs. Anitha Prakash and Pandit. Durgesh Tiwari) have come forward and provided the required security to the TD Canada Trust. We will have to pay an interest of Prime plus 2% on this loan during the construction.

We came to know that there was a 30-year-old lien on the HCC property. Mr. Vikas Sharma has been working on the file and hopefully this will be sorted out and TD will approve the mortgage. Once the construction is completed TD Canada Trust will give a mortgage to HCC for the outstanding amount.

I recently came across a newspaper article in East London Reporter of December 13<sup>th</sup> 1990, on the official opening of our Mandir.

The HCC Mandir was officially opened on Sunday November 18<sup>th</sup> 1990. So it has been 29 years for the Mandir.



## **Donor appreciation Day**

**We are planning a donor appreciation day some time in February 2020 when all Patron and Life members will be recognized. I do not want to miss any member who has achieved Life and/or Patron member status, so please let any Board member know about your donations.**

**Membership Fees: A reminder for the community members to pay the membership dues for the year 2019.**

**The membership fees for this year (2019) are \$ 100.00.**

**We request all the HCC devotees to remit the membership dues of \$ 100.00 for the year 2019 This helps your Mandir for the day-to-day expenses of HCC.**

**As a reminder you have to pay the membership fee by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 to be eligible to vote and stand for the elections in March 2020.**

**As clarified earlier the membership fees are tax deductible.**

## **Sponsorship for Fundraising Events of HCC:**

**We have been able to get sponsorship from various businesses for the Diwali Fundraising Dinner, but we still need more.**

**I will request the community members to come forward and advertise your business by sponsoring the Diwali Fund raising Dinner on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2019. Please approach Mrs. Prema Patil for the same.**

**Tulsi Vivah November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2019. Please contact Mrs. Myauri Gangdev for the same.**



**Youth Group classes are now held every 2 weeks. Dr. Dev Sainani has been organizing these classes. I convey many many thanks for the same.**

### **Preeti-Bhoj Sponsorship**

**We are always looking forward to the members sponsoring a Preeti- bhoj on a Sunday. Your Board has established a committee headed by Mrs. Shipra Lala and assisted by Mrs. Shashi Bawa and Mr. Nimish Shukla for Preeti-Bhoj. Any devotee wanting to sponsor a Preeti-Bhoj, kindly contacts any member of the committee.**

### **Heritage Classes:**

**As the schools open the heritage classes have started under guidance of Mrs. Mani Bhasham, Mrs. Suman Singh, Mrs. Shanta Doobay and Mrs. Uma Rao. Kindly enroll your children in the same.**

### **FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:**

**We need about \$ 1 million dollars more for our expansion. Your Board approved the following:**

- 1. We will NEVER name the Mandir, Dome and the Prayer Hall after anyone under any circumstances EVER.**
- 2. The following areas will be considered for Name Recognition for a donation. The name recognition will be in perpetuity and will be registered on the title of HCC. Mr. Vikas Sharma, lawyer and a Board Member has framed a legal document for the name recognition. I must thank him for his efforts. The following is suggested:**
  - a) Auditorium (Preeti-Bhoj area) - \$ 200, 000.00 – Has been committed and an agreement has been signed with the member family and the Board of HCC.**



**b) Kitchen - \$ 150, 000.00 - Has been committed and an agreement has been signed with the member family and the Board of HCC.**

**c) Coat Rooms - \$ 50, 000.00 each**

**d) Elevator - \$ 100, 000.00**

**e) Benches (5 maximum) \$ 5, 000.00**

**f) Trees (5 maximum) \$ 10, 000.00**

**3. Bricks/Leaf: Mr. Sanjay Singh floated the idea that the community members can donate a brick/leaf for \$ 500.00 each brick/leaf. The brick/leaf will have the name of the donor and up to 45 letters including punctuations. This will be displayed on a wall on the Mandir grounds. There was a spontaneous approval of the fund raising ideas. In fact, about 190 bricks/leafs have been subscribed.**

**The Donor Recognition Tree in the hallway of the temple will be refurbished and all eligible names will be displayed. I would request all the community members to let us know about their donations, so that proper name plates can be made.**

**The Donor Brick wall and the Donor Recognition Tree will be protected, so that no one can damage and vandalize them.**

### **Website of HCC:**

**Please visit the website of HCC for latest information and we will make sure it is kept updated with the latest information. We appreciate efforts of Mrs. Suchita (Ranu) Jain for maintaining the website.**

### **Priest House:**



**As you know Pandit Tiwari has moved to own home and the priest house on the HCC premises is now lying vacant. We have considered the following proposals:**

- 1. Rent the house. We will have to make sure that the occupant must obey the tenets of Hinduism.**
- 2. Seniors group – should use this space rather than going to various churches for senior’s programs.**
- 3. Youth group.**
- 4. Heritage classes.**
- 5. Art, Music, Yoga classes.**

**I invite suggestions from the HCC community as to how we can utilize the space and have some constant ongoing income for HCC. I will request you to take time to give us your valuable opinion. We have applied to the City Hall to waive the property taxes for the house.**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS HCC 2019**

- 18. November 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) Diwali Fund raising Dinner**
- 19. November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday – Sunday) Tulsi Vivah**
- 20. January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 ((Wednesday) Lord Krishna sthapana day and New Year’s Day puja.**

**Upcoming events for the year 2020 will be posted on the website and also communicated to the community by mid December 2019.**