



HINDU CULTURAL CENTRE OF LONDON ONTARIO
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President – Mrs. Prema Patil, Vice-President - Mr. Tara Persaud, Secretary - Mrs. Shanta Doobay, Asst. Secretary Treasurer-Mrs. Chanderkali Chunilal

Board Members: Mrs. Hansa Parekh, Mr. Prem Patel, Mr. Roy Mahipaul, Mrs. Shanta Chanderdat

Past President: Dr. Mohan Merchea

NEWS LETTER – June 2021

Dear Respected devotees,

These are very challenging times with Covid-19 and now we are even in the third wave of the Pandemic. Our primary wishes and prayers are for everyone to keep healthy and safe.

Despite Covid, HCC Board and Festival Committee and other individuals continued to assist in running HCC and the community can see how successful it is. Credit goes to all of you who supported. Many positive activities and tasks done by HCC individual board members continue to keep HCC open and functioning.

HCC SEVA GROUP: I am very thankful to HCC Seva Group who helped to clean temple, temple's home, gardening, etc. Sincere thanks to these volunteers. God bless to all!

High School Community Hours: Million of Thanks to students who are helping the temple and at the same time gain experience and do seva.



Baal Vikas: In our heritage class we have close to 20 children and every second Sunday they meet. We have both a junior and senior class where we teach shlokas, bhajans, skits and perform at various festivals. We are very pleased to see their activities and eagerness to learn. There are three teachers (Aunty Mani Bhashyam, Aunty Suman Singh, Usha Rao) who lead the classes and we are thankful for their contribution to carry on our dharm.

Financing

Life and Patron Members: please contact me, Mrs. Prema Patil if you think you have made donation close to \$6,000 or \$10,000, within past 3 years so that we can update your membership.

I am very pleased to announce that Festival Committee raised during

Mahashivaratri \$3,100

Mata-Ki-Chowki \$3,304

Spring Fundraising Events \$27,000

Millions of Thanks to all the doners, sponsors, singers and all participants of the fundraising including Bash Nandalallji from Toronto, who performed free of charge.

Thanks to all Baal Vikas Children and teachers.

IMMEDIATE HCC INITIATIVE led by Dr. Bhooma Bhayana:

HCC Board has permitted organizing a Covid Vaccination Clinic at HCC Mandir on Saturday, June 19th and Sunday, June 20th 2021.



This has been possible under the leadership of Dr. Bhooma Bhayana

Dr. Merchea, Pandit Doobayji, and Physician leaders in the HCC community, London Middlesex Health Unit and London Primary Care.

Any one above the age of 12 years (Must have turned 12 by June 19th 2021) can get Covid-19 vaccine at our own Mandir.

THIS CLINIC IS ONLY FOR THE FIRST DOSE.

THE CLINIC WILL BE OPEN TO ANYONE IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN LONDON, ONTARIO.

**PLEASE EMAIL TO REGISTER AT AN EXCLUSIVE EMAIL
HCCCOVIDCLINIC@GMAIL.COM**

Timings of the clinic will be circulated as soon as it is finalized.

Mandir Programs and daily services

The Board successfully brought to you:

Monday - Shiv Abhishek

Tuesday - Hanumanji pooja

Wednesday - Shri Krishna pooja and Bhajan satsangh,

Thursday - Shri Vishnu Pooja and Meditation with Narendra Chunilall to whom we are very thankful.



On Friday Devi pooja and Gita discourse by Dr. Rajgopal.

We must thank Dr. Rajgopal for the time and effort he put into making this a success. I also thank Mr. Naresh Raval for his assistance with Bhajan Satsang on Wednesdays.

I think you will agree that all programs were very successful, and I receive many great comments on the positive things that the HCC is doing even in the most trying time. Many of you called to praise Geeta presentation and look forward for next book.

Pandit Durgeswer Tiwariji will continue to do daily poojas at the mandir in the morning and evening and we thank him for his service through covid period.

We also were able to celebrate all the festivals including:

Shivraatri, Hanuman Jayanti, Mahavir Jayanti and Ram Naumi. We thank all devotees who assisted in making these functions resounding successes.

Many of you called me and give positive thanks for all these functions that we are doing and especially for Akandh Ramayan which is difficult to do online. We have added monthly Ganesh chaturthi festival and so far, we had 2 months of this program. Also, we have done Satya Narayan Katha every month. If you have a festival, program or would like to sponsor upcoming events that you want to see celebrated, please contact Prema or any other board member.

So, your Board has done many activities and has kept HCC functional when many churches and temples are closed, and we are happy to see many devotees attend programs daily. I think we should thank zoom.



In carrying out these programs we have tried to keep time consistent and respect your time and effort in joining the programs, because in the end it is only a success if you come and attend. I think you all know that managing in pandemic is very stressful, but I stay with principles and rule and procedure, and always go with majority, which you all appreciate.

We would like to thank the following members for the time they give to HCC before resigning from HCC Board some of for personal, Health issues, business, or other reasons.

Mr. Nimish Shukla – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer, Mrs. Shashi Bawa, resigned a few months ago and the positions was filled based on the HCC constitution. Lately, a number of other Board members have resigned, though a few have indicated that they are reconsidering their positions.

Ms. Suman Singh, Dr. Ajay Ray, Dr. Gulshan Taneja, Ms. Chanda Mistry, Anitha Prakash and Vikas Sharma have resigned for business, personal, health and other reasons.

UPCOMING HCC EVENTS:

Please mark these important Dates on Your Calendar.

Father's Day - Sunday, June 20th,

Satya Narayan Katha - June 24th Thursday

Ganesh Chaturthi Vrat - June 27th Sunday

Summer Fundraising and Musical Evening - Saturday, July 24th

For more information, please contact any member of Festival Committee.



Naag Panchmi - July 12th Thursday,

India's Independence Day - August 15th Sunday

August 14th Saturday Radhaji's 22nd Anniversary of Staphana

Anyone who likes to participate please contact any member of Festival Committee.

Sunday Raksha Bandhan August 22nd,

Sunday Sri Krishna Janam Ashtami - August 29th. (9-12PM)

I encourage all of you to save above dates and support your MANDIR.

HCC will follow the restrictions imposed by the Government authorities. I will request you all to please follow the guidelines for Covid-19. HCC is allowed as a place of worship 15% of its capacity by end of June. This comes to about 75 people at one time, but I am of the opinion that we should allow maximum of 50 people at one time.

The following guidelines must be observed:

1. Wear mask at all times when in the mandir.
2. Enter your name, phone number, email, date and the time you arrive in the mandir. This is mandated for contact tracing.
3. Sanitize your hands.
4. Keep social distance of 6 feet.
5. No socializing is allowed.
6. No singing is allowed.
7. No cooked food is allowed.
8. Only Bananas, Apples peelable fruit is allowed.



9. No offering of milk or water on Shivalingam.

After the puja, please help in vacuuming and cleaning and sanitizing the mandir.

We still need more donations for the upkeep of the mandir, utilities and other routine expenses. HCC has e-transfer facility for donations. The donations can be made at hcclondonet@gmail.com. The money is automatically deposited to HCC bank account.

DONATIONS:

Drs. Bogeswari and Varagur Mohan Venkatesan-\$5000

Dr. Arvind and Mrs. Sudha Jethwa, Bipin Kumar and Viral Patel, Mr. Bhupendra and Mrs. Charu Jajal, and Anonymous -\$2000 each
Shanti-Verdhan Nagulapalli, Dr. Asha Bhardwaj, and Aunty Mani Bhashym - \$1000 each

Suchita Jain -\$500

Mrs. Hema Singh -\$500

Drs. Sugantha and G. R. Ganapathy -\$500

This year sponsors for the spring fundraising event are:

Diamond Sponsor - Century 21 – Ken and Sonia Patpatia

Bronze Sponsor - California Convenience 519-615-0965

Bronze Sponsor - BrightVU Auto Glass Inc. 226-268-4509

Construction Deficiencies: Dr. Merchea has noted many deficiencies and shortfalls in the expansion of the mandir. He has been pursuing very vigorously with the Norlon Builders to fix the many problems. Dr. Merchea has worked tirelessly to have NORLON complete their obligations and his



continuous involvement to bring this issue to a close is well appreciated. Our continued thanks for that he has done over the many years.

Tara Persaud continues to do a lot of work at HCC, and we must thank him for all the time he is investing in this process to maintain HCC.

Leaf Wall: This project is still pending. I will request you to please contact any Board Member to confirm that your name is on the list and that your donation has been accounted for the leaf wall. Mr. Sanjay Singh will be looking after this project. Please contact him at 519-453-4398.

Future Planning:

We are looking ahead of pandemic and will professionally sanitize whole of HCC so that as you come to mandir you can feel safe. After Pandemic we will propose to keep mandir open throughout the day and offer expanded programs that are social and cultural so that members can come to their mandir at any time.

As you are aware that we had the last AGM and Elections in November of 2020 and at that time it was agreed constitutionally by motion that current board will last for one year at least or at the time the Pandemic allows. The following is a letter from Dr. Sam Swaminath to clarify this issue.

Dear Members of the HCC London,

In early March 2020 at the request of Dr. Mohan Merchea, President of HCC (Hindu Cultural Centre) I agreed to act as the Returning Officer, for the elections to the vacancies in the HCC Board, at the Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) to be held on Sunday March 22, 2020. This meeting could not be held on that date as the Government of Ontario on March 21, 2020 declared a state of emergency because of COVID 19 pandemic. An attempt was made to conduct the AGM in June, but this was not possible, and this had to be postponed due to the restrictions imposed by the government on public gatherings during the Pandemic. On November 8th, the AGM was held virtually by zoom with a quorum and elections to fill four vacancies to the HCC board of directors were also held. All the four



candidates were elected unopposed. As the elections were held late in the year and given the uncertainties from the pandemic, a motion was put before the membership “that in view of the prevailing extra ordinary situation from the pandemic the newly elected Board will carry on with its mandate for at least a year and/or till the next AGM is convened”. This motion was carried unanimously. Therefore, it is my view that due process was followed within the framework of HCC constitution at the last AGM and the elections to the Board is valid. It is up to the current Board to decide when to call for an election and hold the AGM. We are still in the midst of the pandemic and the uncertainty remains as to when normalcy would return.

Sam Swaminath

Returning Officer

So, there are so many positive things that are happening at HCC and will continue to happen with your continued support and participation.

I am very thankful to Pandit Rajni Shastriji and other devotees who assist when Pandit Tiwariji is unable to attend.

I cannot complete this News-letter without thanking Pandit Doobayji for all that he has done for HCC and this community throughout COVID. Pandit Doobayji took on responsibility for all programming and is primarily responsible for all functions and festivals we have had over the past year. He has selflessly stepped in for daily poojas in the temple including Satya Narayan katha and Chaturthi pooja all without any payments. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for all he has been doing for so many years in this community.

The Financial Statements as filed with CRA will be posted on HCC Website and CRA Website.

With thanks to all, HCC look forward to your continued support.

Mrs. Prema Patil



President

In **Seva** betterments of future generation