



HINDU CULTURAL CENTRE OF LONDON ONTARIO

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President - Mrs. Prema Patil, Vice-President - Mr. Tara Persaud, Treasurer - Dr. Ajay Ray
Secretary - Mrs. Shanta Doobay, Asst. Secretary Treasurer - Mr. Nimish Shukla
Members: Mr. Vikas Sharma, Mrs. Shashi Bawa, Mrs. Suman Singh, Mrs. Anitha Prakash,
Mrs. Chanda Mistry, and Mrs. Chandrakali Chunilal.
Past President: Dr. Mohan Merchea

NEWS LETTER – December 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

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

We were able to hold AGM on Sunday, November 8th 2020 via zoom and the elections were held. Dr. Sam Swaminath and Pandit. Dev Doobay acted as the returning officers. There were three vacancies on the Board for three year term and one for two year term. The following were elected by acclamation.

1. Mrs. Prema Patil for two-year term.
2. Mrs. Chanda Mistry, Dr. Ajay Ray and Mrs. Chandrakali Chunilal for three-year term.

After the election the following office bearers were elected:



Mrs. Prema Patil – President

Mr. Tara Persaud – Vice-President

Dr. Ajay Ray – Treasurer

Mrs. Shanta Doobay – Secretary

Mr. Nimish Shukla – Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

I am attaching Dr. Mohan Merchea's Presidents Report at the AGM for your information.

As eluded by Dr. Merchea, there are a number of deficiencies and shortfalls in the expansion of the mandir. He has been perusing very vigorously with the Norlon Builders. He was asked at the AGM by the members to circulate the list of deficiencies for the new Board members and also for the HCC community. He has prepared the list and this is also attached with this newsletter. Please feel free to ask the President, Vice-President or Dr. Mohan Merchea for any of the deficiencies.

London recently went into red zone because of the pandemic and 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 30% of its capacity. This comes to about 156 people at one time, but I am of the opinion that we should allow maximum of 100 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 pre-packaged dry fruit, Bananas, Apples peelable fruit is allowed.
9. Please wash the fruits preferably at home for the mandir.
10. No offering of milk or water on Shivaling.
11. After the puja please help in vacuuming and cleaning the Mandir.

Provincewide shutdown in areas of Ontario at 12:01 a.m on Saturday, December 26 to January 9, 2021 which will affect the Mandir.

At this time only 10 people indoors will be allowed.

During this period HCC is planning to conducting Virtual services.

Due to Covid19 and the reduced capacity/closure of the Mandir, HCC income have decreased drastically. The Hindu community of London have been supporting the Mandir tremendously. HCC still need your support/donations for the maintenance and operation of the Mandir, utilities and other routine expenses. HCC has e-transfer facility for donations. The donations can be made at hccclondonet@gmail.com. The money is automatically deposited to HCC bank account.

Other Measures Taken by HCC :



- 1. HCC had received a loan from the Federal Govt. of \$40,000 at no interest and \$10,000 was forgivable if paid back by December 31st 2022. Now the Federal Govt. has enhanced by another \$20,000 loan for a total of \$60,000 at no interest. Further \$20,000 is forgivable, if paid back by December 31st 2022. This is quite a significant amount of money. Mr. Nimish Shukla has been asked to pursue this loan and help Dr. Ray in the process.**
- 2. HCC is also allowed Wage Subsidy and Mr. Shukla will help Dr. Ray in this process.**
- 3. Federal Govt. has now allowed Charities to access Rent Subsidy. Though HCC does not pay any rent. But this is applicable to the borrowing interest costs, mortgage payments and property insurance. HCC can get 65% of these costs. This will be significant amount of help from the Federal Govt.**
- 4. HCC is trying to find a suitable tenant for the house. If anyone in the community knows any interested family, please let me know.**

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:

During Diwali Laxmi Puja festival committee raised total revenue of \$8,428.53. HCC is thankful to those generous devotees. Thanks to those members who helped HCC during this period.

A list of the functions for 2021 will be posted on the website and is also attached.

HCC Finances:

- 1. We have as of today close to \$ 100,000 in the bank.**



2. HCC took out a mortgage of \$500,000 at 3.25% with a term of 5 years and 15 year amortization. We have paid down \$50,000 on this and the outstanding mortgage amount is \$450,000. HCC is planning to pay down another \$50,000 in January 2021.
3. This will reduce the amount of mortgage to \$400,000.

Membership Fees: A reminder for the community members to pay the membership dues for the year at the beginning of the year.

The membership fee for the year 2021 is \$100.00. This helps your Mandir for the day-to-day expenses of HCC.

As a reminder you have to pay the membership fee by December 31st 2021 to be eligible to vote and stand for the elections in March 2022.

As clarified earlier the membership fees are tax deductible.

Your Board has decided that the rental for only the prayer hall will be \$500.00 and \$1000 for both the prayer hall and the auditorium. There will be a refundable deposit of \$250 for cleaning. This will be refunded if the mandir is cleaned to HCC standards.

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.

Mrs. Prema Patil
President