



HINDU CULTURAL CENTRE OF LONDON ONTARIO

62 Charterhouse Crescent, N5W 5V5, London, Ontario

(<http://www.hcclondon.ca>)

Board of HCC

President: Dr. Anand V. Singh 471 2968
V-President: Mr. Tara Persaud 686 4905
Secretary: Mr. Agrim Jajal (unlisted)
Treasurer: Dr. R. Harricharan 473 5715
Asst. Sec./Treasurer: Dr. Harish Ruparelia 685 3345
Past President: Mrs. Prema Patil 680 1623

Members:

Mrs. Raj Gupta 472 1593
Mr. Narinder Kundra 633 1901
Dr. Arun Prakash 474 2050
Dr. Dev R. Sainani 473 1642
Mr. Chetram Singh 905 790 6122
Dr. S. P. Singh 672 7540

The HCC Board may also be contacted via E-Mail at: HCCBoard@HCCLondon.ca

NEWSLETTER

May – June 2004

MANDIR HOURS

Monday to Friday

10:00 am – 11:00 am and 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Arti at 8:00 pm

Saturday

Subh Prabhatam and Vishnu Sahasranama.
(First Saturday of the month)
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Sunday

10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Arti at noon.

Havan is performed on the first Sunday of the month. Sri Satya Narayan Katha is performed every month on the day of Puranmashi (Full Moon).

The hours may change in the future depending upon the availability of a resident priest. This will be posted on our new & updated website <http://www.hcclondon.ca>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The Annual General Meeting and election of Directors and Officers for the 2004 – 2005 year was held on March 28, 2004. The quorum of members required for this meeting by the HCC Constitution, was present.

Three new Directors were elected, each for a three years term. These are Dr. H. Ruparelia, Dr. D. Sainani & Mr. Agrim Jajal.

The following officers were elected for the 2004-2005 year. A. V. Singh (President), Tara Persaud (Vice President), Agrim Jajal (Secretary), R. Harricharan (Treasurer) and R. Ruparelia (Assistant Secretary/Treasurer)

FIRST MEETING OF THE BOARD. The Inaugural meeting of the new Board was held on April 12, 2004, at which, like the previous year, it was decided to decentralize the Board's activities through a number of subcommittees. These committees, & their respective chairpersons, are listed below for your information.

Finance – Chair, Dr. R. Harricharan
Temple Committee – Chair, Mrs. Prema Patil
Festivals Committee – Chair, Mrs. Bhama Rajgopal
P/R Advisory Committee – Chair, Dr. H. Ruparelia.
Publications & Website – Chair, Dr. Dev R. Sainani
Education – Chair, Dr. S. P. Singh
Youth – Chair, Dr. Arun Prakash

It was decided that Mr. Chetram Singh will continue to chair the Committee for the Constitution and By Laws until the revised constitution has been presented to the membership for review and approval. The chairpersons of each of the above committees have been instructed by the Board to develop terms of reference for their respective committees, to select members of the organization to serve on their committees and to present this information to the Board for its review and approval. Members of HCC who are interested in serving on any of these committees are asked to contact their respective chairpersons by May 31, 2004.

TREASURER'S REPORT. A copy of the audited Financial Statement for the fiscal year that ended on December 31, 2003 along with the Auditor's Report from Mr. Robert Wilson Chartered Accountant dated March 31, 2004 is attached for your perusal.

As can be seen from the Balance Sheet, on December 31, 2003 HCC had Assets totalling \$805,843. Of this amount, \$20,950 represented cash on hand and the balance of \$784,893 comprised \$612,888 for the Temple Building, Land and Parking lot, and \$172,005 for the Pandit's residence & Tunnel. (see the notes on the Financial Statements). HCC's Liabilities as of December 31, 2003 consisted of \$10,152 that is due on the Mortgage for the Pandit's residence & Tunnel for 2004 plus the remaining mortgage of \$28,421, making the total mortgage owed as of December 31, 2003, \$38,573. This amount is \$10,152 less than it was in the previous year

The operating statement shows that the Revenues collected in 2003 were \$78,000 compared with \$79,352 for 2002. While donations and membership dues have both increased significantly in 2003, fundraising activities that include funds received from lotteries have fallen significantly. As members will recall, City Hall had revoked HCC's Lottery Licence because HCC had not submitted the required reports to the City on time. After considerable efforts by the President & Treasurer, this License was renewed late in 2003 & it was not possible at that time to get a good agent to sell raffle tickets.

Operating expenses in 2003 was \$9,245 less than in 2002 and the excess of revenue over expenses in 2003 was \$11,656 compared with \$2,865 in 2002. HCC's Long-term debt is currently \$38,573 which is in fact the mortgage on the Pandit's house and Tunnel. HCC pays \$10,152 every year on the Mortgage and, at this rate, the mortgage should be fully paid in 2007.

RECRUITMENT OF A PUNDIT. As was reported at the Annual General Meeting, Dr. Mohan Lal Mishra, who previously served HCC, responded to an advertisement in the London Free Press for the vacant position of full time Pundit of HCC. The Board interviewed him and offered him the position in January 2004. He requested to be allowed to start on May 1, 2004 because he wanted to visit his family in India before starting with HCC. May 1 went by and the Board received no word from him although he had returned to Toronto. He has since advised a member of the Board that he prefers to remain in Toronto where he is very happy, where he has developed a large and reliable list of clientele and where he feels independent to do as he wishes. Since Pundit Mishra is no longer interested in moving to London, at its meeting held on May 17, 2004, the Board unanimously decided to withdraw the Job Offer made to him and to offer the position instead to Pundit Maheshwari Parashad from Patiala, India.

In the interim Pundit Dwejendra Doobay, the other regular HCC Pundit, has been conducting religious services since the departure of Pundit Panchi without charging HCC. The Board expresses its deep appreciation and sincere thanks to Pundit Doobay and hopes that he will continue to make his services available to HCC, particularly to the youths who are benefiting enormously from his advice and guidance.

THE ISSUE WITH MR. MOHLA. The Board had reported to the membership that it had received a letter from

Mr. Andrew Camman, a lawyer retained by Mr. Mohla, claiming the sum of \$21,300 (and more) for dismissal by HCC without adequate notice. The Board consulted Mr. Norman Pizzale, a lawyer, who advised the Board that a lengthy court case could be costly and suggested that HCC offer Mr. Mohla the sum of \$8,300 on the clear understanding that HCC's decision to terminate Mohla's services was justified. The Board discussed the matter and accepted its lawyer's advice. Mr. Mohla rejected the offer and, through his lawyer, is asking for \$15,300 plus moving expenses. The Board has instructed its lawyer not to enhance our original offer and let the matter proceed to court, if necessary. Mr. Mohla's lawyer was so instructed and a reply from him is awaited. This Board promised you transparency in its management and since all funds belonging to HCC are yours, it is important that you are made fully aware of the financial implications of this or any other matter.

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP. The Board has approved of a proposal from Dr. Arun Prakash, Chairman of the Youths Committee to offer two scholarships for Hindu Youths of London. The first scholarship is an Excellence Award to be granted to the individual who scores the highest marks in the best six courses in Grade 12 completed. The other is a General Achievement Award to be granted to a graduating youth for his/her combined academic and extracurricular achievements. The amounts of these scholarship awards will depend on the donations received from the membership towards this project. Members are asked to donate generously to this very important project before August 2004. It is hoped that these awards will be announced at the organization's Diwali Dinner & Cultural show in 2004. It is our hope that this project will provide an incentive to our youths to study hard and participate in the activities of HCC. For further particulars, please contact Dr. Arun Prakash. An application form may be found on and downloaded from our website by following the Youth Groups link on the main page.

JAGRITI The Publications Committee, headed by Dr. Dev Sainani, is in the process of finalizing HCC's journal JAGRITI. There is still space for a few articles and the committee would appreciate receiving these articles by May 31, 2004 at the latest. Articles from youths will be particularly welcome. Please send your articles to the Editorial Committee at the following address: jagriti@HCCLondon.ca

HERITAGE CLASSES. Indian heritage is very rich and covers topics such as arts (creative and performing), architecture, handicrafts, religion, philosophy, history, and traditions. The Heritage classes of HCC are conducted on alternate Sundays between 11am to 12 noon. At these classes, an attempt is made to give children an introduction to Indian heritage covering bhajans, prayers, artefacts, religion and short stories regarding festivals and other cultural and religious aspects. Children are encouraged to perform at such HCC functions as Diwali, Holi / Ugadi, Dashami / Durga Pooja, Shankranti, Independence day, Mothers day and others. Volunteer speakers explain the important aspects of our religion and culture. Mrs. Anita Prakash recently gave an inspiring presentation on Sankranti explaining the way it is celebrated in South Indian and the children enjoyed it very much. There are over 30 children in the class. Parents are

invited to bring their children to these classes so that they could be informed about the various aspects of our religion and culture.

CONSTITUTION. The Board has advised you that its Constitution and Bylaws Committee, with the help of a constitutional lawyer, has been working on a revision of the organization's Constitution's & Bylaws. The revisions have become necessary because many sections of the present constitution, which were not drafted with legal help, are open to different interpretations. The revised draft will be ready within the next month or so and will be circulated to every member of HCC who is in good standing. You will be asked to review it, to make notes of any changes that you would like to see made to the draft, attend a general meeting to discuss them, and finally to approve the revised constitution. Please take the time to study it carefully when you receive it and make notes for discussion at the general meeting.

MAINTENANCE OF THE TEMPLE. The temple is badly in need of repairs. The roof leaks, the sides of the building leak, the floor of the basement requires upgrading, the kitchen required renovations, the tables need to be replaced and the entire internal building requires maintenance and repainting. In addition, a dishwasher has to be installed and a heavy-duty lawn mower is needed for the maintenance of the grounds. The Board has requested the Maintenance Committee, chaired by Mr. Tara Persaud, to prepare an estimate of the cost of the entire project and then it will be soliciting donations from the membership to complete these projects.

HOUSE BUILT FOR THE PUNDIT. The house that was built by a former Board and the underground tunnel that links the house to the Mandir are really "white elephants". They have not been put to constructive use for the past year although the organization is paying mortgage on the property. The Board invites suggestions from you, the members, regarding the possible usages to which the building could be put. Please forward your suggestions to Mr. Agrim Jajal our secretary or Dr. A.V. Singh the president, or via e-mail at HCCBoard@HCCLondon.ca. Because of its link to the Mandir, suggestions made should exclude any use of meat or alcohol in the building.

RECENT EVENTS

(For New Listings, please contact us at: Events@HCCLondon.ca)

April 04, 2004 – Priti Bhoj by the families of Dr. Shah and Mr. Nahata.

April 11, 2004 – Priti Bhoj by the family of Dr. Merchea.

Pravachan by Sant Kalyan Mayee Jee Maharaj from Chandigarh. on the teachings of Srimad Bhagawad Gita was organized during a Sunday prayer service in April.

May 02, 2004 – Annual Pooja by Balaji Devotees was conducted at the temple very elegantly and with great success & it attracted devotees from many places in Canada and USA.

May 09, 2005 – This Sunday was a busy day for this community. The following three events took place in London.

Mother's Day Celebration and Priti Bhoj given by the families of Mr. C. Singh & Mr. K. Patil. The event was very well attended by members of the community.

Clinic for diabetes screening and prevention from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at the house attached to the temple. It was very well attended and highly successful. The Board of HCC congratulates the organizers Dr. Bhooma Bhayana, Ms. Vranda Kamath, Mrs. Sarita Gupta, Dr. Meera Manchanda, Mrs. Anitha Prakash, Mrs. Bo Venkatesan and many others. Youth members of the community must be congratulated for the important role that they played in this very beneficial community event.

The Queen of Spades – Kala Manjari of London Ontario presented this grand event at the Thames Valley District School Board Auditorium. This dance drama is based on a short story entitled Pattano Pradesh written by Tagore. The performance by the Menaka Thakkar Dance Company was outstanding.

May 25, 2004 – **A Lecture by Dr. Ravi Prakash Arya** on the Vedic Dharma and Science. Dr. Arya presented brilliantly the teachings of the Sages and Rishis. He explained the universal nature of their teachings and how these relate to our present life style. Discourses by individuals of this calibre can help enormously to improve our knowledge and understanding of this great Dharma of ours.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 27, 2004 – **Golf Tournament** at 2:30 (tentatively). For information, please contact Mr. Agrim Jajal at ajajal@uwlondon.on.ca

July 11, 2004 **A Discourse by Swami Kripamayananda**, Head – Vedanta Society of Toronto. The topic is: "Place of Vedanta for the Modern Age". For further information, please contact Professor R. K. Lala at 472 4501.

August 15, 2004 – **Celebration of India's Independence**

Ganesh Festival: September 18 – 27, 2004.

Saturday	Sept.18	4 to 6 P.M.	Murti Sthapana
Sunday	Sept.19	12.30 P.M.	Priti Bhoj
Every Evening	7 to 8 P.M.		Pooja, Aarti and Prashad
Monday	Sept.27		Murti Visarjan

Priti Bhoj's that have already been sponsored are as follows.

June 13, 2004 and June 20, 2004 are booked.

July 04, 2004 – Dr. Asha Bhardwaj

July 11, 2004 – Professor R. K. Lala

August 08, 2008 – Mrs. Kusuma Rao

August 15, 2004 – Festivals Committee (details to follow)

September 26, 2004 – Mrs. Shashi and Shekhar Sharma

Members are advised to contact Mrs. Prema Patil (680 1623), if they wish to sponsor a Priti Bhoj on the Sunday Prayer Service. They can also contact Mr. Agrim Jajal or Dr. Anand V. Singh (471 2968), or they may send an e-mail to: Events@HCCLondon.ca