



HINDU CULTURAL CENTRE OF LONDON ONTARIO
62 Charterhouse Crescent, London, Ontario, Canada, N5W 5V5

hcclondon62@gmail.com

519-451-6884

President - Dr. Mohan Merchea, Vice-President - Mr. Tara Prasaud, 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

NEWS LETTER – MAY 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We had a grand opening of your renovated and expanded mandir from February 7th to 9th 2020. This was an exceptional day in the history of HCC and a memorable day, which will not happen again in the next few decades.

We had a Donor Appreciation Day on February 2nd 2020, when HCC recognized a large number of very humble and generous donors. My personal thanks to all the donors who helped HCC to complete the expansion and renovation.

These are very unprecedented times ever experienced by humanity in the world. Our primary and most important wish and prayer are for everyone to keep healthy and safe.

We had planned our AGM in March 2020 but had to postpone it due to the State of Emergency declared in Ontario because of COVID-19. The Province of Ontario also issued a “Order in Council” so that the previous Boards to



continue till the State of Emergency is lifted and large gatherings are allowed for the AGM's to happen and new elections.

I want to assure the community that AGM and the elections will be held as soon as the Government allows. This will be notified to the community giving them 10 days' notice for the AGM and the elections.

I am hoping that the parking lot and the remaining expansion work to be completed by end of June, 2020 as the Government has allowed the non-essential construction work to begin from May 19th 2020.

As you had been informed before the mandir is still closed till the Government allows the places of worship to be opened. We will follow all the Government rules and regulations, and no one is allowed to go into the mandir. The penalties for disobeying are huge and the corporations can be fined up to \$ 500,000 and individual directors up to \$ 50,000.00. I will request you please do not insist on Panditji to allow you to go into the mandir.

When the mandir is opened we will have to observe all the precautions and observe the social distancing as mandated for our and our community members safety.

Because of the closure of the mandir, HCC has no income.

Measures Taken by HCC

- 1. HCC has applied and received a loan of \$ 40,000 from the Federal Government. This is interest free till December 31st 2022 and if HCC repays \$ 30,000.00 before December 31st 2022, \$ 10, 000.00 will be forgiven. I will strongly urge HCC Board in that year to make sure to**



repay \$ 30,000 by December 21st 2022 (10 before the deadline to be sure) and save \$ 10,000.00

- 2. I have used this loan of \$ 40,000 towards our interest-bearing construction loan from TD.**
- 3. We are minimizing other expenses of HCC by controlling the heating and cooling of the building.**
- 4. I have applied for the wage subsidy from Federal Government.**
- 5. The Board has reduced the salary of Pandit Tiwari by 25% per month from April 1st 2020 with his consent.**
- 6. I have established an e-transfer account so that it is easier for the community members to donate.**
- 7. Pandit Tiwari and Pandit Doobay have been performing live broadcast of pujas on the Face Book for you to witness. I agree that it is not the same experience as one gets by being present in the mandir.**
- 8. We have requested the community to donate as much as they wish on an ongoing basis for HCC to look after the expenses and the construction loan. (A little later about the construction loan). There has been an excellent response from the community to the request for donations.**

I am very grateful to the community for their generosity over the time I have had the privilege to be the President. The community has been so generous, and I would not have been able to honor my promise to the community to complete the expansion of the mandir in less than two years. Subsequently to my appeal in April of this year more than 50 devotees have donated online and we have received over \$ 25,000 in six weeks.



I will request the devotees to pledge anywhere from \$ 25.00 and up a month for us to paydown our mortgage on the mandir. I strongly believe in the London community that they will come forward.

I have recently received emails from an individual (not HCC community member) that HCC is in financial difficulties. I want to assure HCC community that HCC is not in financial difficulties and we have sufficient funds in the bank to look after one-year expenses. I am sorry but I have to be proactive and protect HCC from some fraudsters and collect money on behalf of HCC. If you suspect someone collecting money fraudulently please inform me ASAP.

I would strongly request the HCC community or anyone wishing to donate to HCC to follow the following guidelines in order to avoid any fraud:

- 1. Donate only by cheque or by e-transfer. The email address for online transfer is "HCClondonet@gmail.com" The money will go directly to the HCC bank. An email notification comes to HCC and I respond to the individuals personally thanking them.**
- 2. Please give cheques only to any HCC Board Member only.**
- 3. If you have to give cash, please give it to Mrs. Anitha Prakash (Treasurer), Mrs. Shanta Doobay (Secretary), Mr. Tara Prasaud (VP) or Dr. Merchea (President)**
- 4. Mrs. Anitha Prakash has been very diligent in issuing the donation receipt very promptly. If you do not receive a donation receipt with in one week of your donation, please email me at dr.merchea@gmail.com and I will make sure the receipt is received by you.**



5. A suggestion was given to me by a Board member that I should ask for a deferral from TD for the Loan. If HCC were to for a deferral of six months, it will add on another \$ 75,000 to the loan at the end of the amortization. In my sane mind I will never ever do anything which will be detrimental to HCC. This member works for a mortgage company and should have known it better not to suggest this.

The following has been planned for the mandir live broadcast:

1. Tuesday May 19th – Hanuman Chalisa – 7:00 PM
2. Sunday May 24th – Shri Yantra Puja and 108 Laxhmi names archana – 11:00 AM
3. Monday May 25th – Shiv Puja and abhishek – 7:00 PM
4. Tuesday May 26th – Hanuman Chalisa – 7:00 PM
5. Sunday May 31st – Satya Narayna Katha – 10:30 AM
6. Monday June 1st – Shiv Puja and abhishek – 7:00 PM
7. Tuesday June 2nd - Hanuman Chalisa – 7:00 PM
8. Sunday June 7th – Havan – 11:00 AM
9. Monday June 8th – Shiv Puja and abhishek – 7:00 PM
10. Tuesday June 9th – Hanuman Chalisa – 7:00 PM
11. Sunday June 14th – Radha Krishan Puja – 11:00 AM
12. Monday June 15th - Shiv Puja and abhishek – 7:00 PM
13. Tuesday June 16th - Hanuman Chalisa – 7:00 PM

If you wish any other puja to be performed, please let me know and it will be arranged.



A thought has come to my mind to give ownership of HCC and also educate our children and grandchildren for value of donating and fiscal management. I ask you the community to request your children and grandchildren to start donating anywhere from 0.25 cents to 0.50 cents and up a day in their piggybank for their mandir. At the Diwali dinner they bring their donations to HCC and we will thank them and honor them on the stage for their donation. We will recognize them with a token gift and a certificate. With their consent HCC will inform their school for their donation. I feel this will go long way in making them responsible citizens and become involved with the mandir and be future leaders.

HCC Finances:

My recommendation has been that HCC should keep one-year expenses in the Bank all the time and based on that pretext:

1. We have as of today in excess of \$ 100,000 in the bank.
2. We have been able to reduce the construction loan of \$ 691,597 to \$ 500,000 as of today. **(My utmost thanks and gratitude to you all). At present HCC is paying 4.45% interest on the construction loan.**
3. We still need approx. \$ 100,000 more to complete our contractual agreements with Norlon and Spriet Associates.
4. HCC will have two options for the TD loan after the construction is completed in June 2020.
 - a. HCC takes a fixed rate and fixed term mortgage with an amortization period of 20 years. The interest rate on such a mortgage will be about 4.5% to 5%. Banks will not give a variable rate mortgage to a religious organization.



- b. HCC continues to hold a “Demand Loan” at Prime plus 1.5%. This will be 3.95% with the present prime rate. This will be effective only when the construction loan is converted into a Demand Loan.
5. My personal recommendation will be to hold a “Demand Loan”, as this will be cheaper. I do not foresee with the present financial conditions in Canada that the interest rates to go up in the foreseeable future. Of course, no one can guarantee that the interest rates will not go up, but if they start go up HCC can then lock up a fixed rate mortgage. HCC will also be able to paydown on a demand loan as and when the funds in the bank go above \$ 75,000 with no restrictions.
6. I will go along whatever the direction is given to me by you “**The HCC community**”. I will discuss this at the AGM and get a vote of approval before we sign on any firm commitment with the bank.

The following devotees have donated by e-transfer, cash and cheque in the last six weeks, and some have given commitments for a year and this will look after some of the money required to pay down the TD loan. Some of the devotees have donated more than once.

1. Ms. Harp Bedi
2. Mr. Ram Kaushal
3. Pandit Durgesh Tiwari
4. Dr. Abhay Singh
5. Mr. Milan Raval
6. Dr. S. Ziradkar
7. Mr. Bhavesh Gandhi
8. Ms. Madhavi Nagulapalli



9. Dr. Arun Prakash
10. Ms. Urmila Lad
11. Dr. Subhash Jain
12. Ms. Jayshri Sabrinarnan
13. Mr. Mohan Khandekaar
14. Dr. Ajay Ray
15. Mrs. Shashi Sharma
16. Dr. AK Jethwa
17. Ms. Vatsal Triphathi
18. Ms. Megha
19. Mr. Sanjay Deshpande
20. Mr. Ujval Prajapati
21. Mr. Ramu Seshan
22. Dr. Lalu Mansinha
23. Mr. Nehal Sehlat
24. Mr. Manish Dwivedi
25. Anonymous
26. Anonymous
27. Dr. Kapil Kohli
28. Ms. Maurika Payne
29. Mrs. Suman Singh
30. Mrs. Sudha Gopala Perumal
31. Mrs. Raj Jain
32. Pandit Dwejendra Doobay
33. Dr. C. Rajgopal
34. Mr. Aashish Shah
35. Mr. Kailash Dhir



36. Mr. Bal Bawa
37. Mr. Ashok Goela
38. Mr. Subal Dasgupta
39. Mrs. Sarita Gupta
40. Dr. PK Lala
41. Mr. PL Gupta
42. Mr. Krishan Arora
43. Pandit Rajni Shashtri
44. Mr. Amit Modi
45. Mr. Dhruv
46. Mr. Vishal Gupta
47. Dr. GR Ganapathy
48. Mr. Sanjay Singh
49. Mr. Abhisek Gaur
50. Mr. Rishabrai Bhalla
51. Mr. Amrit Badani
52. Mr. Vivekanand Kurdikeri

In addition to these donations already received there are a number of devotees who have pledged various amounts for one year on ongoing basis.

I would request to follow in the footsteps of these generous families and make a commitment of anywhere from \$ 25 and up a month for at least a year.

This is a good the time for you all to donate generously to the good cause of expansion of the Mandir. 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.

Some of our community members have donated the securities in kind for a better income tax credit from the CRA. I am attaching an article on the same subject which highlights the tax advantage of donating securities in kind. There has been some concern in the mind of some members about donating securities. But if you want to donate and you have some securities with capital gains, please reconsider as this will save additional tax dollars and this is from personal experience of myself donating securities last year.

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

The membership fees for this year (2020) are \$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 2020 to be eligible to vote and stand for the elections in March 2021.

As clarified earlier the membership fees are tax deductible.

House Rental: HCC Board has decided to explore the feasibility of renting the house on the HCC property to a Hindu family. This will generate ongoing revenue for HCC and also provide some additional security. Keeping this in mind the house has been listed on MLS.

Covid-19 Pandemic – Donation

HCC has established a Covid-19 Pandemic donation fund for our London Hospitals. I would request you to donate to this worthy cause to fight the Coronavirus and help the hospitals and honor the front-line health workers.



Those wishing to donate can donate by e-transfer at HCClondonet@gmail.com and mention the donation for Covid-19. The funds will be consolidated separately and then handed over to London hospitals.

Dr. Mohan Merchea
President