



HINDU CULTURAL CENTRE OF LONDON ONTARIO
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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 – September 2019

Presidents Message:

Dear Brothers and Sisters

It is pleasure to appraise you about our HCC and Mandir. I have tried my utmost to keep my promise to the HCC community that the HCC will function in a very open, honest and transparent way. The expansion of the Mandir is ongoing as planned and I am sure that you will be pleased with the new facility. It is a very time consuming and I have been trying my best to save and keep the cost down as much as possible. Mr. Tara Prasaud, Vice President has been my right hand mans and has been of utmost value. Mrs. Anitha Prakash, as your treasurer has been very diligently keeping the accounts and paying the bills of construction.

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



We just concluded Ganesh Utsav and the Ganesh Visarjan ceremony this year was performed at the HCC grounds rather than at Fanshawe Lake. It was a great evening and more of the community members were able to participate in the same.

BHUMI PUJA AND GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY:

The Bhumi puja and ground breaking ceremony was held as planned on Saturday May 18th 2019. This was a very monumental and historic day in the history of HCC after almost 30 years when we had the initial ground breaking ceremony for our present temple in June 1989. Mr. Peter Fragikotos, MP, Mrs. Kate Young, MP and Mr. Gary Anandasangaree, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Heritage and Multi-culturalism attended the function. We had more than 300 members of HCC community attended the function. Every member of the community had the opportunity of putting the shovel in the ground. Pandit Tiwari, Pandit Balram Prashad and Shastriji performed the religious puja.

Temple Expansion: The temple expansion started in earnest in the second week of June 2019, after all the building permit and clearance was obtained from the City Hall. Mayor Ed Holder for expediting the process and we wish to convey our thanks to him. The City Hall and our architect made a comment that it was the quickest site plan approval and building permit they have ever issued.

The final contract after all the bids have been reviewed is now \$ 1.7 million dollars but I am quite hopeful that we would be able to reduce it to \$ 1.6 million dollars. The cost of construction is about \$ 313.00 per sq. foot. This is very reasonable as commercial construction is much more expensive



than residential construction. The budget has gone over the initial figure because of the following reasons:

1. The entire HCC Mandir including the attic has to be provided with a sprinkler system.
2. An extra 6-inch water line has to be brought in to service the sprinkler system. This will need cutting the road in front of our Mandir and re-patching to the City standards.
3. We had to undergo extra expenses to full fill new building codes of the City Hall.
4. There will be three new roof top units for climate control of the Mandir. This will ensure that the auditorium will be very comfortable.
5. The capacity of the Mandir will be increased to 600 people.
6. HCC has to pay development charges to City Hall.

Dr. Mohan Merchea is still trying his best to lower the cost of construction and we will keep you apprised of his efforts.

There has been some delay in the construction, because of weather and other unforeseen circumstances. But I am still quite confident that we will be able to complete the expansion of the main floor by third week of October 2019 and celebrate Diwali in our expanded Mandir.

The final building plans of the Mandir will be posted on the website for you to access the same, if you desire.

Patron Members and Life Members:

HCC is updating the list of Patron and Life Members. We DO NOT have an accurate documentation of the members who have donated \$ 10, 000 and



\$ 6, 000 over a continuous period of three years. We do not want to miss any members name from this list. We request you to kindly let the Treasurer know if you have donated the above amounts over a period of three years and we can update our list. HCC will be awarding Patron and Life memberships at the Diwali Fundraising Dinner on November 16th 2019. So please let any Board member know about your donations.

Fund Raising:

Your Fund Raising Committee under the leadership of Mr. Mohan Khandekar and Mrs. Geetha Swaminath are working hard to raise funds for the expansion. The expansion has a budget of 1.7 million dollars. I appeal to you all to be generous in your donations to HCC for the expansion project.

You can consider donating \$ 10, 000.00 over a period of three years and become a Patron member or \$ 6000.00 over a period of three years and become a Life member of HCC. You can also pledge to donate \$ 50, \$ 100 or any other amount a month. You can provide us post-dated cheques for the same. In fact one-community members has already given us installment cheques to achieve life membership in one year.

HCC community members can also give interest free loans, which will be repaid over a set period of one or two years. At the end of the month HCC will be able assist the members to get tax relief for the interest they pay to a financial institution, so that their out of pocket comes down.

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.

Once the construction is completed TD Canada Trust will give a mortgage to HCC for the outstanding amount.

Your festivals committee under the leadership of Mrs. Prema Patil hosted a Summer Fund Raising Dinner on July 13th 2019. Almost all the expenses for the dinner were donated. We raised \$ 47, 000.00 on that day.

I would thank the following community members and businesses for the sponsorship donations for the Summer Fund Raising Dinner. We wish them GOD's blessings for such a noble cause.

Dr. Mukesh Rajani (from London, UK) – sponsoring all the food

Diamond Sponsor - Ms. Vikas Sharma, Lawyer

Gold Sponsor - Mr. Durgeshwar Tiwari, Realtor

Silver Sponsor - Mr. Salem Khot, Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public

Silver Sponsor – Mr. Ken and Mrs. Sonia Patpatia, Realtor

Silver Sponsor - Mrs. Tina Kothari, Realtor

Silver Sponsor – Mr. Derek Henderson, TD Wealth Management

Bronze Sponsor - Mr. Anil Gupta, Indo-Asian Groceries & Spices

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 31st 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 were able to get sponsorship from various businesses for the Summer Fundraising Dinner. We are again in the process of seeking sponsorship for our Diwali Fundraising Dinner. I will request the community members to come forward and advertise your business by sponsoring the Diwali Fund raising Dinner on November 16th 2019. Please approach Mrs. Prema Patil for the same.

Diwali Fund Raising Dinner

Mrs. Prema Patil a co-chair of festivals committee along with her festivals committee has planned a Diwali Fund Raising dinner on Saturday November 16th, 2019 at Clarke Secondary School, London, ON. Please mark you calendar for this fun filled evening. The doors open at 2:00 pm.

The tickets for the dinner are now available please ask any Board Member or Mrs. Prema Patil.

HCC will issue a donation receipt for the amount allowed under the CRA rules.

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.

Expansion Update:

Dr. Mohan Merchea gave an update of expansion and fund raising efforts on August 25th and September 1st 2019 to the HCC community in the Mandir. His power point presentation is posted on the website. It would be appreciated if you could review this. The Power Point presentation is a very large file and please visit HCC website to view 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 been requested to frame 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
- b) Kitchen - \$ 150, 000.00
- 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 80 bricks were 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 photograph of the leaf/brick selected is of stainless steel and is enclosed with the newsletter.

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 seniors 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS HCC 2019

1. September 2nd (Monday) (Ganesh Chaturthi) Ganesh Sthapana
2. September 8th (Sunday) Preeti Bhoj – Ganesh Group
3. September 12th (Thursday) Ganesh Visarjan
4. Sept 14th to Sept 28th - Sharads
5. September 29th to October 7th Ras Garba in the temple
6. Sept 29th to Oct 7th Navratri
7. October 4th (Friday) Mata ki Chawki



- 8. October 5th (Saturday) Garba in a Hall outside**
- 9. October 5th (Saturday) Durga Puja**
- 10. October 6th (Sunday) Maha Naumi and Durga Puja**
- 11. October 7th (Monday) Dusshera and Dashami Puja**
- 12. October 17th (Thursday) Karva Chauth**
- 13. October 21st (Monday) Ahoi Ashtami**
- 14. October 26th (Saturday) Choti Diwali**
- 15. October 27th (Sunday) Diwali**
- 16. October 29th (Tuesday) Bhai Dooj**
- 17. November 3rd (Sunday) Chappan Bhog**
- 18. November 16th (Saturday) Diwali Fund raising Dinner**
- 19. November 23rd and 24th (Saturday – Sunday) Tulsi Vivah**
- 20. January 1st 2020 ((Wednesday) Lord Krishanji sthapana day and New Year's Day puja.**