



INDIA-CANADA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

BOX 7194, SASKATOON, SASK.
S7K 4J2

"Civilization is the encouragement of differences. Civilization thus becomes a synonym of democracy. Force, violence, pressure, or compulsion with a view to conformity is therefore both uncivilized and undemocratic."

M. K. Gandhi

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President's Message

Namasthe,

Happy New Year to all! May this New Year bring you and your families Good Health, Good Cheer, and success in every endeavour!

By the time this Newsletter reaches you we will be into February and the AGM will be upon us. That means it is time for this Board to step down and make way for the New Board. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the incoming Board and the New ICCA President the very best of luck. ICCA is a wonderful organisation to work for and I am sure they will receive unstinted support from you and the rest of the community.

It is also time for the outgoing Board to say our goodbyes, reflect on the past year and evaluate our work. The past Year has been like a roller coaster ride. We had our Highs and we had our Lows. We had our share of Bouquets as well as Brickbats. We came through it all-slightly battle scarred - with a healthy respect for all those who served before us these past three decades. Heading an organization like ICCA is a daunting job. To successfully complete the year is very satisfying.

The first six months of our year were spent preparing for Folkfest. The planning and preparation hardly leaves any time to do anything else. Folkfest was well planned and executed but was a moderate success. This led us to initiate a discussion on the subject: "Should Folkfest be a bi-annual Event for ICCA?"

We hosted four suppers through the year to interact with members and get their opinion on this topic. We did not get any conclusive opinion - but these suppers were a lot of fun. We enjoyed the fellowship, we talked, we listened and we learnt a lot about ICCA from the veterans. I offer my sincere thanks to the Board, who cooked without complaints through out the year, for suppers as well as for other ICCA events. They have worked tirelessly and without complaints. They are an asset to any organization.

Our events this past year were well attended. You will read about them elsewhere in the newsletter. We give our sincere thanks to each and every one of you who helped us directly or indirectly at all the events.

I offer my sincere thanks to Editor Kedar Shrikhande for bringing out these Newsletters on time and also for maintaining our website. He has done an amazing job and I hope he will continue to be our editor.

Finally - Sushama, Anu, Smita, Bhupendra, Nishi, Anshu, Harpreeth, Eshwari, Ravi, Anurag - My sincere and heartfelt thanks to you all. You stood by me and gave me your unstinting support. For that I will always be grateful.

Meena Amblee

icca.thesociety.net

Editor's Note

The holiday season has ended and a brand new year, full of new possibilities, has started. I have been editor for two years, and it proved to be a fulfilling experience – better than I expected. This is the final year of my bachelor's degree and will not be able to continue as editor. Although, this is my last newsletter, I'll still come out and support the ICCA.

Kedar Shrikhande

Social Secretary's Report

Dear Friends,

Due to personal and technical reasons, I was unable to write for the last newsletter. However, my heartfelt thanks to Nishi Prasad, who did an excellent job of filling in. Can you believe that it is already 2004?? Time does have an uncanny habit of flying by!

As the year draws to an end, and the nominating committee is busy recruiting people for boot-camp... oops, sorry, I mean recruiting people to become board members, I'll brief you on all the happenings since the last write.

Sooo...right after Folkfest, we were hurled into a flurry of activities:

- Sept. 4: Volunteer Appreciation Night - believe it or not, there were 200 people in attendance!
- Sept. 20: Sonal Mansingh's Odissi Dance Recital - even at this age, she is a delight to watch!
- Sept. 27: Nurgis Dutt Cancer Foundation Dinner - got to see Sunil Dutt + the community raised almost \$11,000 for the cause!
- Oct. 2: Gandhi Jayanti.
- Nov. 1: Kavi Sammellan/Mushaira - With the total dedication, love and organizing efforts of Mr. Lakhanpal, the following kavis treated all in attendance to some beautiful poetry: Mr. Lakhanpal, Ranvir Pahwa, Praveen Kumar, Daya Kaushik, Madan Pandila, Anu Kashyap, Pramod Kumar, Anju Manuja, Vikas Tandon, Sukhpal Singh, Kanchan Sharma, Sakhi Chand Sharma, Surjeet Dhillon, Avtar Singh, and Dr. Iqbal. I must mention here that despite the inclement weather, some of the above-mentioned drove from places like Prince Albert, North Battleford and Regina! Had we not been time bound by the school rental, we could have probably gone on for another couple of hours over and above the originally planned time of 3 hours!!
- Nov. 30: Glow Bowling - FUN!
- Dec. 4: Chutney Conversation II - Although the attendance left much to be desired, the discussion

that we had ("The Life of Pi" by Yann Martel) covered such a wide canvas, that by the time the evening was done, we had unveiled a masterpiece tapestry of the book.

- Dec. 31: New Year Party - Ravichander and orchestra were terrific! 2004 is a leap year.

Besides all of the above, the board has held 3 supper nights with paid-members. These tête-à-tête supper meetings have been very informative. We still have a couple more to go - Meena will be contacting you.

A few years ago, I stumbled upon this poem, which sums up my feelings about all those that have volunteered to make all the events happen:

WHAT ARE VOLUNTEERS?

Volunteers are like FORD...they have better ideas.

Volunteers are like COKE...they're the real thing.

Volunteers are like PEPSI...they've got a lot to give.

Volunteers are like DIAL...they care more, don't you wish everyone did.

Volunteers are like VO5 Hair Spray...they hold in all kinds of weather.

Volunteers are like HALLMARK...they care enough to give the very best.

Volunteers are like STANDARD OIL...you expect more and you get it.

But most of all, Volunteers are like FROSTED FLAKES...

THEY'RE GRRRRREAT!!!!

I take this opportunity to thank everybody for his or her support and help - be it in action or kind words. To you and yours - have a happy & healthy 2004!

Keep warm!

Smita Garg



At Gandhi Jayanti – October 2

*Upcoming events of 2004***Annual General Meeting**

Date: 21 February

Time: 3 PM

Venue: Sri Laxmi Narayan Temple

Please find the AGM Notice and Agenda attached to the newsletter.

25th Anniversary of Folkfest

Date: 19, 20 and 21 August

Venue: To Be Announced

Silappadikaram: A Story of Women of Substance*A Dance Theatre Production of Cleveland Cultural Alliance*

Date: 2nd October 2004

Venue: Broadway Theatre

A Group of 13 dancers from India will present this Dance Drama.

Birju Maharaj and Group

The group will perform in Saskatoon in November of 2004. More details will be given in upcoming newsletters

*Announcements***Nominating Committee for the Board of 2004-2005**

Chair: Mrs. Vijaya Nair, Phone: 374 6554

Members: Mr. Om Kochar, Phone: 933 1234

Mrs. Nagamani Datla, Phone: 955 6170

Mrs Meena Amblee, Phone: 955 9009

If you would like to serve or to nominate someone on the next ICCA Board, please contact any of the above members.

• News Reading Workshop

Date: 14 February 2004

Time: 2 PM

Venue: 254 Konihowsky Road (SILVERSPRINGS)

Workshop conducted by: Kaveri Bittira of CBC

If you are interested in reading news for ICCA on Saturdays, please make sure to attend this workshop, please contact News Coordinator Suhani Prasad at 244-7734 for more details.

Radio Committee Report

Hello readers, I became the radio committee chairperson in September, after Ms. Niru Kaavia's resignation. The radio program at CFR 90.5 FM is going on smoothly, we have one and a half hour of time on the air every Saturday from 11.00 am to 12.30

pm: one hour program is in Hindi followed by regional program. In the regional category we have programs in Tamil, Telgu, Kannada, Punjabi, Gujarati and Rajasthani, Marathi and other regional languages. All the hosts have done a wonderful job and we hope they will continue to support the programs in future as well.

During the Hindi program news is read by the youth. This year it was done by high school students and we have five of them to read the news. A workshop is being conducted for them in the month of February. The news coordinator is also a high school girl Suhani Prasad.

This year we collected around \$2200 in pledges which was the highest in all the communities. The pledges program was organised by Dr. Sulakhe and Mrs. Leela Sharma. It was a huge task and both of them did a real good work.

As radio committee chair I would like to thank the community for their support to the radio program and if anyone of you has some suggestions or want to host the programs then please email to me.

Anshu Sharma

*India-Canada Cultural Bursary**India-Canada Cultural Bursary 2003 Winners*

Congratulation to Sabina Syed of Saskatoon and Vivek Bodani of Regina for being selected as the recipients of this award! These well deserving individuals not only earn top marks at school but also involved in various extra-curricular activities. These students are the role-models for tomorrow.

*India-Canada Cultural Bursary 2004 Information***Value:** \$300**Number:** 2**Eligibility:** Students of Indo-Canadian or Indian ancestry (Must be a student entering first year of undergraduate studies at University of Saskatchewan)**Selection:**

- Academic achievement
- Participation in school and community activities

Donor: India-Canada Cultural Association**Other Requirements:**

- One letter of recommendation
- Description of school and community activities
- Proof of Indian descent

Application Form:<http://www.usask.ca/students/scholarships/entering/entapp.pdf>**Deadline:** February 15, 2004

*Members' Experiences***Treasurer's Thoughts**

"Namaskar"

I am Bhupendra Patel and Wishing you all a very Happy, Prosperous, Healthy and Wealthy New Year-2004. Yes it's a new year for all but it's a year end for ICCA Board and I would like to say few words.

I am glad to say that after the initial struggles & hurdles; we ended our year successfully with a great new year-eve party having attendance of couple of hundreds of people & in the word of Treasurer, looking to the overall picture of the year, I can say we ended up by gaining something instead of losing.

I learnt a lot by joining the ICCA Board; i.e. How to organize and manage the events and the finance. It was really a learning experience through out the year.

Initially I was Inspired to join the board and I joined just as a "member at large", and then I committed to take a charge as treasurer. It was a challenging task; but it could not have happened without the Co-operation of my Associates. So here I can say ICCA means:

India Canada Cultural Association
as well as

Inspired Challenging (Committed) Co-operative Association

At the end I am very thankful, to all Board members and members of ICCA and to those who, directly or indirectly helped me and gave me guidance in my work through out the year.

Bhupendra Patel

Nishi's Memories

Dear friends,

Wishing all of you a Very Happy 2004!

The old saying "Time and Tide waits for no man" is so true. It was just the other day when I came on the board of ICCA for the year 2003 -2004 and now its already time to pass on the reins to much better hands.

As the year rolled by it was fun working with the other board members be it for Folkfest, Kavi Sammellan, Bingo, New Year's Eve or organising Board potluck suppers. With fun and enjoyment were also moments of tensions, arguments, exchange of ideas to run the show smoothly.

At the personal front I feel proud to admit that ICCA has been a platform of learning to me. To a newcomer it introduced me to the working system, knowing the community, interactions with other associations, exposure to my daughters and so on and so forth.

Before I end I would like to thank all of you for your co-operation as well as would like to convey my good wishes to the upcoming board.

Best wishes

Nishi Prasad

(Assistant Social Secretary)

Eswari's Recollections

I had the opportunity to join the board just two months ago. Hence my experience with ICCA is more as a member rather than being on the Board.

I have always been in support of ICCA and the activities carried out by the Organization. I have attended most of the cultural programs conducted by them for the past several years and it has been an enriching experience for me. Definitely a lot of thought and planning goes in to bringing good Artists to perform. I enjoyed all the programs especially the Dancing Tree and Sonal Mansingh's dance performances. This year Folkfest was a very grand success. My observation with the present Board is that they are a group of very hard working people. With very less help they brought the best that they could. I observed them during Folkfest, Kavi Sammellan and the New Year's Eve celebration as I was working closely with them.

It has always been a few people working hard and this is for the benefit of the community. We do hear negative comments but let us not forget that this is a voluntary work carried out by them at the expense of their family time. If we want to bring about any changes or improvements it should be done in a positive way and at the same time acknowledging the work of the people involved.

ICCA is the only liaison between the community and cultural activities. We definitely need this organization to enjoy different activities! My experience with the present Board has been very positive and pleasant to work with them. Together we can make this organization a Grand success.

Eswari Selvaraj

Press Release from Indian Consulate

24 December, 2003

The Indian Parliament has passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2003 to grant dual citizenship to persons of Indian origin, belonging to 16 countries,... including Canada, US, UK and Australia...

The Consulate General of India, Vancouver, would notify the public about the procedures as well as the implementation process, as soon as completed by authorities concerned in India.

Nargis Dutt Cancer Foundation Fundraiser

On September 27th, 2003, the ICCA was actively associated with the Saskatoon Chapter of the Nargis Dutt Cancer Foundation to raise funds for the local Cancer society and for cancer patients in India who cannot afford treatment. The legendary actor - Mr. Sunil Dutt presided at the function and it proved to be very successful in terms of channeling some resources for this worthy cause. Membership will be happy to know that slightly over \$11,000.00 dollars was raised - out of which \$2000.00 was given to the local Sask Cancer Foundation and \$9000.00 will be sent to the Nargis Dutt Cancer Foundation for an upcoming project. Sincere thanks to each and everyone who contributed to the success of this function. ICCA will keep you informed about forthcoming events associated with the Foundation fundraisers.

"NOHAIRAFFAIR"

Special fundraising program featuring entertainment from India, China, Africa and Latin America. Plus head shaving, draw prizes and much more...

Place: STM Theatre - sponsored by USSU

Date: Saturday, February 28th 2004

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10

Contact: Darishma at 955-7823 or 341-3347

PROCEEDS TO SASKATCHEWAN CANCER AGENCY AND BC CANCER FOUNDATION

Community News

The ICCA would like to extend our congratulations to Saskatoon Artist, Manjari Sharma, whose art design has been selected to adorn the 2002 *Volunteer Award for Sports, Culture and Recreation* plaques. Her bronze sculpture captures Saskatchewan's spirit of volunteerism. It's great when a distinguished Saskatchewan artist of Indian descent is bestowed with such an honour.

HINDU SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN FUNDRAISER - ANNUAL VEGETARIAN BANQUET

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH
6:00 P.M.
SASKATOON INN**

**CHIEF GUEST:
HER HONOUR
DR. LINDA HAVERSTOCK,
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF
SASKATCHEWAN**

TICKETS:

ADULT - \$40.00;

CHILDREN (12 AND UNDER) - \$20.00;

STUDENT - \$30.00;

CORPORATE (TABLE OF 8) - \$600.00

DOOR PRIZES! SILENT AUCTION!

**FOR TICKETS CONTACT:
SUNIL CHOUBAL @ 242-0637
DR. CHANGELA @ 955-7035
LEELA SHARMA @ 242-6979**

2004 India Canada Cultural Association (ICCA) Membership Form

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

E-mail (optional): _____

Please select membership: Individual: [] Family: [] (Prices To Be Decided)