



# Mandir Patrika



Vedanta Ashram Society  
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<http://www.hindutemple-halifax.org>

August, 2008

## Message from your V.A.S. Board

Fellow Devotees, Namaskar

At the outset I wish to thank all our members and volunteers for their continued support in organizing the major festivals, and attending the Sunday services. I have received good advice and encouragement from many of the community members and I'd like to thank everyone who has supported us so far. I assure you that your VAS executive will carry out community interests to the best of their abilities and your aspirations.

Almost every Sunday the devotees have been sponsoring prasad and the Sunday services are well attended. The festivals we celebrated were:

Maha Shivaratri on March 6, 2008, with a special puja to Lord Shiva followed by bhajans.  
Vasanta Navaratra on April 14<sup>th</sup> with the recitation of Ramayana for nine days followed by Sri Rama Navami festivities.

Mothers' Day on 14 May, with recitation of Lalitha Sahasranam

Fathers' Day on June 15 with recitation of Vishnu Sahasranam.

All festivals were a success and celebrated with great devotion!

My special thanks to all the volunteers for keeping the Mandir clean and tidy. To make the pantry and store room downstairs better organized we had new shelves installed. We are in the process of re-organizing the storage room with wall to wall shelving.

Hope Cottage has been a successful project. If you would like to sponsor, please contact us.

## Who is Thy Neighbour?

Traditionally a neighbour is a person living next door or in the area surrounding your home. The current board has extended the definition to include all those people who are temporarily affected by the circumstances; they automatically become our neighbours. A few months ago the board decided to collect food with a longer shelf life for the Metro Foodbank/Feed Nova Scotia. The response has been tremendous. For the last three months 6 large boxes of food items have been picked up in the first week of every month.

With your help and cooperation we wish to continue this project.

The truth is that we are all connected; our fates are intertwined. It takes the entire community to feed just a few people. "Real happiness comes from thinking about other people and suffering from getting preoccupied with ourselves." Every good action starts with a good thought. If you wish to help please contact one of the board members. Cash donations are most welcome.

### Youth Activities

Poonam, our youth co-ordinator, will be teaching children singing and dancing for various functions starting at 11:30am on Sundays in the basement of our Mandir. We strongly encourage parents to bring their children to participate.

Hindi classes are being taught by Mrs. Tej Sharma. Children 4-6 will only be taught oral where as children 7 and up will learn reading and writing. Classes start at 10:30 am for more information contact Mrs. Tej Sharma - 423-1988, or Poonam Unia - 431-3465 Also every 3rd Sunday of the month is youth day so we encourage youth to come early to help out in the kitchen as well as offering songs.

### **Board of Directors 2008 & 2009**

Chairperson	Mr. Ashok Khanna	445 - 1409
Vice Chairperson Admin.	Mrs. Kamal Gulati	443 - 0570
Vice Chairperson Religion	Mrs. Laxmi Raju	429 - 4359
Vice Chairperson Prasad	Mrs. Jaya Dutta	455 - 8431
Financial Secretary	Mrs. Bala Durvasula	463 - 7804
Youth Co-ordinator	Ms. Poonam Unia	431 - 3465

### **Revenue Canada**

Revenue Canada accepted the change of fiscal period from December 31 to October 31 as stated in the revised constitution. As a result this year our financial year will be for 10 months only from January 1 to October 31, 2008. Next year it will be normal from November 1st 2008 to October 31 2009.

Please note: The cut off date to become a member is September 30.

### **V.A.S. Membership**

Please become a member if you are not one yet; encourage your friends and relatives to support the Mandir. If you are paying by cheque or cash please specify that it is for membership.

# Physical improvements to VAS Mandir Building

At the 2007 General Body Meeting, some preliminary details were presented to our VAS Community about making some physical improvements to the Mandir building. There was no discussion. Details of the presentation include:

1. Providing an elevator.
2. Construction of two additional bathrooms.

We have three options:

1. To continue in the present facility as is.
2. Invest more than \$160,000.00 to provide the elevator and additional bathrooms.
3. Current facilities at our Mandir can only accommodate about 150 people comfortably. Quite often the congregation exceeds 200 and it is a fire hazard. Parking is a problem particularly in the winter months. Our Mandir kitchen is inadequate for our needs. We need a proper dining hall with seating facility. Considering all these issues we should explore alternate options.

We urge the members to consider these options and provide written constructive comments on this important issue so we may organize a special general body meeting, primarily to address this topic.

## Community News

Due to personal reasons, Mrs Simmi Mehra has resigned as secretary. Her active contribution will be missed.

Please Note: All issues of Mandir Patrika are posted on our Mandir website. Hard copies are available for members at our Mandir.

## Weddings:

Congratulations to the following who have embarked on their matrimonial journeys.

Mona Gopal- (Daughter of Asha and Sarav Gopal)

Dr. Karna Kale (Son of Lata and Chanderrao Kale)

Dr.Ramandeep Jaggi ( Son of Madhu and Suraj Jaggi)

Nira Dutta (Daughter of Gulshan and Kanti Dutta)

Amit Batra (Son of Gita and Balwant Batra)

## Births:

Congratulations to proud parents and grandparents:

Veena and Prem Kumar - Granddaughter

Meena and Om Khanna - Grandson

Neera and Suraj Sikka - Grandson

Priti and Rahul Deshmukh - Daughter

Our condolences go out to the Vakaria family. Mr. R.D. Vakaria passed away in July. Condolences also go out to Mrs. Lila Joshi and family. Her mother passed away recently in India.

**Dates to Remember:**

Krishna Janashtami:	Sunday August 24th 9:00PM – 12:00 AM
Ganesh Chaturthi:	Monday September 3rd
Navratre Begins	Tuesday September 30 <sup>th</sup>
Vijaya Dasami	Thursday October 9th
Karva Chauth	Saturday October 18 <sup>th</sup>

**God-realization is not easy!**

Dr. S. Swaminathan

Once upon a time a devotee met a saint and went on denouncing worldly people and their ways of life. The saint heard it all and said, “Have you seen a crab? The mother crab gives birth to hundreds of small crabs and lives in a hole with her children, but she has to go out in search of food. She comes out of the hole for this purpose and returns to the little ones as quickly as possible. Having given birth to so many she has no energy or thought left. Worldly people, similarly having been engaged in various activities, exhaust their minds. How can they pay attention to realization of God? If any of them makes an attempt, he/she is immediately overwhelmed by the demands of worldly concerns and possessions. That is why it is difficult for worldly people to attain realization of God.”