



Mandir Patrika



Vedanta Ashram Society
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July 2009

VAS President's message

As my term as Chairperson of Vedanta Ashram Society (2007-09) is drawing to a close, I reflect on the past two years and look forward to the future for our Hindu Temple, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Accomplishments of the VAS Board of Directors during the past two years and the success stories in our community make me take great pride and excitement for the future.

As most of you know, VAS has acquired 6420 Young St. Property to expand the physical building of the existing temple by about 50' x 28' x 3 floors for a total of 4200 sq. ft. The idea was presented to the congregation for consideration and a possible approval. Having reviewed the proposal and considering that the expanded building would probably serve the needs of the congregation, the executive committee has approved the conceptual plan and opted to present it to a Special General Body meeting to be recalled sometime towards the end of August 2009 for formal approval.

It is understood that the conceptual plan is subject to further review and fine tuning prior to proceeding to next stage i.e. General Body approval and then obtaining adequate finances towards mortgage.

It is very realistic to ponder that neither the present Executive Committee nor the next one can alone raise substantial donations to the tune of over \$ 450,000 and implement it in a structured manner. It will be necessary that a **Building Trust** be formed and charged with the responsibility to raise the entire finances. It may take about three or more years to raise adequate funds but we should start planning now. We are in the process of forming Fund Raising & Building Committee thus needing the cooperation and suggestions of one and all in this exciting project we all have been dreaming.

It is recommended that a chairman and four member trustees be selected to undertake this major project. The advantage of "The Trust" would be that it would be independent, transparent, continuous and answerable to the General Body. The trustees would be free to formulate their strategy and seek the need of several volunteers to help them raise funds from the community members and other sources also.

The below given members have indicated their willingness to be part of these committees and VAS executive appreciate their involvement and helping out in this worthy cause.

Fund Raising			Building Committee		
Mrs.	Ahuja	Neel	Mr.	Prabir	Basu
Mr.	Chowdhury	Dhiman	Mr.	Subba Rao V.	Durvasula
Mrs.	Dutta	Jaya	Mr.	Kautilya	Gandhi
Mrs.	Gulati	Kamal	Mrs.	Lakshmi	Raju
Mr.	Khanna	K. L.	Mr.	Sunderlal	Sharma
Mr.	Mehra	Arun	Mr.	Suraj	Sikka
Mr.	Mishra	Harsh			
Mr.	Narang	Manohar			
Mrs.	Parkash	Asha			
Mrs.	Verma	Raj			

(Please note that we'll be asking the help of more members wherever the need be.)

The expansion project of our Temple building requires a dedicated Project Manager, as it involves obtaining City's Approvals, formal Architectural Drawings, Working Drawings and Construction etc. Further it involves inviting Bids, Reviews, and Final Approval at appropriate times. Thus it takes about 1.5 to 2 years and we should select a Project Manager to deliver these tasks.

The Project Manager would be a dedicated, qualified and experienced individual familiar with the complexities. **Continuity of the management is essential.** An experienced Project Manager from within the community could fill the role of a volunteer. In view of the above, it is suggested that the Executive committee should ask the General Body to approve the appointment of a Project Manager.

While we are making these arrangements the mortgage payments on the acquired building 6420 Young St. should not be a burden on our finances. To alleviate this, we have been able to rent-out this property on one year lease.

Board of Directors 2008 & 2009

Chairperson	Mr. Ashok Khanna	445-1409
Vice Chairperson-Administration	Mrs. Kamal Gulati	443-0570
Vice Chairperson-Religion	Mrs. Laxmi Raju	429-4359
Vice Chairperson-Prasad	Mrs. Jaya Dutta	455-8431
General Secretary	Ms. Poonam Unia	431-3465
Financial Secretary	Mrs. Bala Durvasula	463-7804
Youth Co-ordinator	Mrs. Tej Sharma	423-1988

Annual V.A.S. Membership

Please become a member if you are not one yet; encourage your friends and relatives to support the temple. Cheques as well as cash payments are welcome. Please note September 30th is the last day to become a regular member to participate in the Annual General Body Meeting

Singles over 19 years	\$31.00
Couples	\$51.00
Life Membership	\$1001.00 (Payable in instalments within a calendar year)

Welcome to the following devotees who became Life Members in 2008-2009
Hope many more would join to support our dream project.

Mr. Vivek & Mrs. Anita	Swamy
Mr. Vishal & Mrs. Shelly	Bhardwaj
Mr. Kautilya & Mrs. Uma	Gandhi
Mr. Ashok & Mrs. Vijay	Khanna
Mr. Chand	Malik
Mr. Ravi	Malik
Ms. Rita	Malik

Devotees are welcome to book the temple for private or V.A.S. sponsored public functions through the Board of Directors.

Please note that the amount of donations for both Prasad Sponsoring on Sundays and sponsored private functions on other days is slightly increased to reflect ever increasing cost of groceries and paper products. Also we have taken up a big project and therefore we can't afford to spend from previous savings.

Events	Minimum Donations
Sunday Prasad Sponsoring	Minimum \$251.00 Additional donations welcome.
Weddings and Sponsored Private functions- responsible for their own food	\$351.00 cleaning included
Mandap loan outside temple use	\$51.00
Private functions without food	\$201.00
Kitchen use (one time)	50

Recent Activities of our Mandir

Sri Rama Navami

Sri Rama Navami was celebrated on 3rd April with religious and cultural activities. Several devotees participated in Ramayan recitation during the Vasanta Navaratri and completed on Sri Rama Navami. Devotees appreciated the small script of Ramayana presented by the youth group

Mother's Day May 10, 09

Mother's Day was celebrated with chanting of Lalita Saharsanam of the Universal Mother, Goddess Lalita. Mothers of our community were honoured with presentation of roses.

Father's Day June 21, 09

Mandir celebrated Father's Day with the recitation of Vishnu Saharsanam, the tradition we have been following. Several devotees participated in chanting of thousand names of Lord Vishnu.

Swamini's visit

We had a unique opportunity to have Swaminis, Pravrajika Amalaprana, General Secretary and Pravrajika Atandraprana, Assistant Secretary of Sri Sarada Math and Mission, India. Their week long

visit, from 27 June to July 6, organized by Dr. Prabir Basu, was a treat for the community particularly for women.

Highlights of their program:

Saturday June 27: garlanded the statue of Swami Vivekananda after performing a brief arati.

Sunday June 28: Both Swaminis visited the VAS temple during their Sunday service. Their speech and power point presentation explaining how humanitarian work in very difficult remote places is being done by Swaminis all by themselves was well appreciated by the congregation.

Saturday July 4: Amalaprana Mataji conducted an all day spiritual retreat for women devotees. It started at 8:30 and ended at 4 pm. About 20 women participated in the retreat at the VAS temple. Mataji discussed the role of women in the society. She started the retreat with a guided meditation. Then she discussed the role of women citing the example of Holy Mother Sarada who is not only the ideal of womanhood, but also symbolizes the motherhood in mankind.

Upcoming Festivals:

Mathaki Chouki on 7th of August from 6:30 onwards

Srikrishna Jayanti on 13th of August from 9:00 pm to midnight.

Community News

Congratulations to young scholars and their proud parents:

- Amul Verma, son of Mr. Krishan & Dr. Bharti Verma, distinguished himself with the most coveted Rhode Scholarship to Oxford, England and completed medical degree with several awards
- Rupal Unia, daughter of Mr. Mukund & Mrs. Sumitra Unia completed medical degree successfully.
- Kabir Bhanot son of Dr. Raj & Mrs. Neeraj Bhanot has been accepted as medical student at Dalhousie university.
- Sarena Bhanot daughter of Dr. Raj & Mrs. Neeraj Bhanot graduated High school with highest academic standing.

Youth Activities

Hindi classes are continuing as usual; 10:30 to 11:30 am on each Sunday. The program consists of three categories:

- ❖ Spoken Hindi
- ❖ Learning to read and write
- ❖ Cultural Programs which include reciting prayers and mantras participation in special event temple activities.

WE WELCOME MORE CHILDREN AGE 4 TO 12

