



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ravindranath Meda



Hari Om:

On behalf of the Executive team, I happy to inform you that this year Diwali show went very well that featured many dignitaries; the MPs from the Federal government, MLAs from the Provincial governments and the Chancellor of the University of Calgary were in attendance. Besides, the first time experiment on getting sponsorship for some of the individual programs was also successful. Further, we received many greetings from the Governments which include the one from Honorable Prime Minister Harper and from Honorable Premier Stelmach. An excellent show was made possible by the efforts of the VP Culture and his team and we thank them for their efforts and you for attending the function.

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Chairman's Message

Pratap Varshney

Hari-om and Namasteey to you all.

Recently, the University of Calgary opened a newly constructed building called the "International House" in which scholars visiting Professors etc. will come from all over the world to stay on assignment at the University of Calgary. This building has achieved international recognition for being one of the only residence buildings with a focus on diversity and multiculturalism. When time came to do the opening ceremony for the building, it was decided that since the building is of international

importance the ceremony should be of that nature. After careful consideration, the University administration wanted to perform the Hindu ritual of the Coconut breaking ceremony to inaugurate the International House. The University requested the Hindu Society to provide our Panditji to perform the ritual. Our Panditji Shri Shridharji did a great job of



performing the ceremony at the University, and especially the Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor were very much impressed with the way in which the ceremony was conducted. They asked us what is the significance of this ritual is.

The meaning of the Coconut breaking ceremony is as follows:

Hindus rituals have symbolic imports. By breaking the coconut's hard outer nut, we visualize the difficulties in our life being broken and overcome. It must be understood that all our difficulties come out of our ego. Ego is a hard nut to crack. It is more due to us clinging to our ego that all the hurdles present themselves before us, and that proves to be our undoing. Hence, the message is that if the ego is broken, all the hurdles in attaining our worldly and spiritual goals will be overcome.



Our Hindu traditional rituals are very clean and liked by others.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I encourage everybody to promote our traditional ceremonies among other Calgarians, I am sure they will be impressed with them.

Pratap Varshney, Chairman Board of Trustees

Many articles and advertisements were received for the Deepanjali-2009 and quite of those are new which suggests that we are able to reach out to the public at large besides the traditional ones. The efforts of many volunteers made this possible and we the Executive sincerely thank them.

Gita Jayanthi was celebrated on Saturday, November 28. Despite the inclement weather the previous day, it was exciting to note that a quite a few people were in attendance. All the 18 chapters were recited by many devotees along with our Panditji and Rev. Chandranji.

High efficiency furnaces were replaced in the last week of November before the cold season started. These five furnaces are the ones replacing the very old furnaces that were installed when the Temple was built in 1991. They have done their useful time and we were experiencing unreliability along with higher operational costs. The cost for these new furnaces was about \$35,000; and we are looking for sponsors to help pay for them. It would be highly appreciated if you could come forward to make a donation towards it.

With the holiday season upon us, please drive carefully and stay warm. Ahead of time, we wish you a very Happy and a prosperous New Year.

