

THE TCASD TIMES

The Tamil Cultural & Academic Society of Durham – Since 2008

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Spend the summer with the TCASD family!



Congratulations TCASD!

The Arts and Culture Community Award was awarded to the Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham by the Town of Ajax on April 12th 2010. It is a great honour for TCASD within a very short period of 3 years in Durham to receive the award. It reflects TCASD testament of the achievements and contributions of community volunteering. It is a very proud moment for the entire Tamil community.

The success of TCASD stems from its focus on its mission statement **“Develop a peaceful culturally oriented and educational community; a community who thinks globally, acts responsibly and contributes to the society in which it lives.”**

Upcoming Events

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| -Pongal Celebration | -Math Contest -Essay Contest | -Winter fest Literacy Day |
| -University and Scholarship Fair -Seniors Activity Day -Science Fair | -Art Contest -Award Ceremony -Light of Hope Charity Gala -20 Minute Ajax Makeover | -Health and healing Seminar -Navarathiri Pooja - Adopting a park |

Celebrating Our Women

International Women's Day Celebrations

The youth and the Women's Wing of the Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham (TCASD) were pleased to be invited by the Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre of Durham to partake in the Women's Day celebration, which was held at the Ajax Community Centre on the 8th of March, 2011. TCASD actively participated in the celebration held to praise the importance of women in our society. At our booth, we had pamphlets and newsletters describing our initiatives and services the organization provide for its youth and women as well as other activities in the community. Some of the youth members even decorated the hands of visitors with *Mehndi*. With that said, entertaining games with prizes were also organized for the visitors by TCASD.

By participating in this celebration, TCASD was also given the opportunity to visit other booths set up by organizations that work towards the development of women's well being in the society. These types of activities stand as evidence of the community's support towards the women and youth of our society. Participation by TCASD in this celebration also showed the group's team work, unity and quality of caring for each other. Over all, the Women's Day celebration held at the Ajax Community Centre was a huge success! TCASD extends a sincere thanks to the Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre of Durham for the opportunity to be part of this enriching event.

Women's Wing Opening

On Feb 12th TCASD officially launched their Women's wing. It was a great beginning for Tamil Women in Durham. TCASD invited community supporters to provide information on career oriented courses, applying for jobs, tips on successful interviews and community supports for better living. Their goal is to assist women in their personal development, decision making, using their talents to the fullest and participating in community leadership. TCASD's women's club philosophy incorporates their culture and language. All women were encouraged and motivated to live with confidence and self-worth to accomplish dreams and projects. It was a very positive, encouraging, motivating and opportunistic evening for many of the women that attended the event.



FESTIVE PREPARATIONS

The Tamil Cultural Academic Society of Durham Festive Preparations workshop was held at the Ajax Public Library on December 03rd, 2011. This was a partnership event with Ajax Public Library. This program was designed to engage women in many activities, empowering women within the community. The event coordinators were Jeya Karalasingam and Sutha Thirukumar.

We would like to thank our Demonstrators:

Lanka Loganathan for Pongal and various sandwich snacks.

Melody Asby for Christmas decorations such as garland, bows and door bells

Dharani SriRaj for creativeness with fruits and vegetables

Vatsala Nathan for flower garlands.

Thanks to Ajax Public Library for their partnership.

TCASD Women's Wing has engaged women in several educational workshops such as this one. The women were excited and participated very actively in the program. The feedback was excellent and the participants are looking forward to the next event.





Celebrating Our Heritage

February is Heritage month. The Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham (TCASD), once again, was a proud participant at the City of Pickering's 2011 Heritage Day Celebration held on February 26 at the Pickering Town Center. This year's celebration was extra special because it was the bicentennial year; 200 years of growth in diversity, population, and great service to the community for bettering Pickering.

To mark this special day TCASD had a booth set up displaying various TCASD Brochures, a non-stop video presentation and a huge beautiful display board of photographs on TCASD events.

In addition TCASD presented a remarkable 30 minute dance performance dedicated to the City of Pickering's Bicentennial. It was a unique presentation as the history of Pickering was narrated through Pushpajali, the Pot dance, the Peacock dance, the stick, scarf, karagam dance and the Fusion dance.

A special thanks to the city of Pickering for giving us the opportunity to be part of this memorable celebration and to all the performers and volunteers from TCASD for making this day a very special and successful one.



Congratulation to TCASD for winning Cultural and Diversity Award in Pickering and Ajax for 2011

Giving Back to Our Elders

Seniors Club



The newly initiated Seniors Club is available to all seniors in the region, and is coordinated by the Mrs. Gomathi Sivarajah. The objective of the club is to allow seniors to gather for events and meet new friends, along with having a fun night. At the first meeting, the President and Vice President of the club were elected; the president is Mr. Thuraisingam and Vice President is Mr. Sellakandu. The first event of the club was a Potluck and Bingo Night. The seniors had a chance to introduce themselves with an exciting game of pass the parcel. Proceeding, they all enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner. Later, with the help of our youth volunteers Sigogini and Thiviyaah, they learned how to do word searches and play bingo. The youth ran the activities with so much energy that the seniors just did not want the night to end. They have requested bingo night to be a frequent event. The next event that the seniors gathered together for was Grandparents and Grandchildren Technology Night, along with the celebration of Earth Hour. Our two youth volunteers once again took the initiative to teach the group about simple programs on the computer, such as: Microsoft Word and Paint. Lavinia and Gobeshia emceed for an evening full of performances including dancing, singing and storytelling, performed by all of the grandchildren. Finally, to celebrate Earth Hour, the group gathered close together for a horseracing game, which was played in candlelight. The Seniors Club has had a good kick start into the game of chess and continues to welcome other seniors to partake.

- Sigogini Sivarajah



Fundraising by TCASD

A Night of Hope

Hospitals are an essential resource to the community for they are a place that allows the ill to recover. They act as a second home and provide a feeling of comfort to many. The Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham recognize the great contribution of hospitals. To show their appreciation, TCASD held their second annual charity gala, *Lights of Hope: An Evening at the Taj*, on Saturday June 4th, 2011. This event raised well over six thousand dollars. The money raised was given to the Oshawa Hospital Foundation to benefit the R.S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre and the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation. This fundraising dinner was held at the Ajax Convention Centre, and was an astounding success. From the start to the end, there was not a dull moment. The entertainment was lively. There was a variety of dances that ranged from Bharathanatyam to Bhangra coordinated by the youth of TCASD. The melodic sounds of Bharthi Arts pleased the ears of the guests throughout the beautiful night. The food was scrumptious and topped off the evening. The fashion show, coordinated by the infamous

London designer PK Del Mar, was a perfect way to end off the memorable night. TCASD would like to thank those who helped coordinate the very successful evening. It would not have been possible without them. Also TCASD is grateful for the special guests who attended the event. TCASD would like to thank Dr. Rajes Logan the President of CMDDA, Honourable Rathika Sitsabaiesan the MP of Scarborough Rogue River, Honourable Cornerliu Chisu the MP of Scarborough- Pickering, Joe Dickson the MPP of Ajax- Pickering, Shaun Collier the Regional Councillor Ward One and the Deputy Mayor for the Town of Ajax, Lorene Coe the City Councillor Ward Three for the City of Pickering, Mrs. Andrea Russell the Interim CEO of the Oshawa Hospital Foundation and Mrs. Tracy Paterson the VP of Development Rouge Valley Health System Foundation and Image is Everything Campaign Director. The *Lights of Hope Charity Gala* is another TCASD tradition that will be continuing for many years to support local hospitals.



Showcasing Our Youth

Believe in You 2011.

As many of you are aware, “Believe in You”, is TCASD’s major event, which has been celebrated over the last few years. It is also a cultural & educational talent show done by the youth of TCASD. This event was held at J. Clarke Richardson on Sunday, October 2, 2011. This amazing event consisted of many performances such as dramas, music performances and dances that were choreographed by the youth and guided by the adults. These outstanding performances were witnessed by over 500 people. The “Believe in You”, event brought an exciting evening for the youth, parents and the audience. This year over 150 participants took their talents to the stage; this included teenagers, children and, even toddlers. Some highlights of the show included a semi classical Bharathanatyam performance, a Hip-Hop dance, a Chinese Dragon performance, and an outstanding play to conclude the evening. All in all, it was a spectacular event that showcased Durham region’s cultural diversity.



The experience was not complete without a true taste of Tamil food. There were many dignitaries that came to our annual Believe in You event. Specifically Hon. MP Chris Alexander, MPP Joe Dickson, Councilor Joann Dies, Councilor Renwick Ashby, Mayor Dave Ryan, Councilor David Pickles, Jonny Conte president of Italian Club, Roland Rutland, Jenny Ding Chinese Canadian Culture Centre, Shashi Bhatia and Councilor Peter Rodriguez. This occasion has made TCASD one of the leading organizations promoting cultural and educational activities in Durham region. All of the parents, youth and the community leaders were amazed with the outcome and look forward to “Believe in You” 2012.

Tanesha Thirukumar and Lavanya Pathmanathan



Celebrations with Families and Friends

Navarathri Pooja

TCASD celebrated its third Navarathri Pooja on October 8, 2011 at the Ajax Village Community Centre. It was a tremendous event where all attendants participated in the religious songs, and even in the prayers near the end. This event was a great success and will continue to be in the future.



Christmas

This holiday is internationally known as a time to spend with family and give back to others. TCASD gives back to its members' families by hosting this annual celebration. In the year 2011 the Christmas celebration occurred on December 10th and was a tremendous event. We provide the opportunity for families to get together, children to receive gifts from Santa, dance, play games, and have an all around good time. Is a chance for our TCASD families to spend time with each other, but most importantly giving back to themselves by relaxing and enjoying themselves.



What to look forward to this summer with the TCASD family.

Contact Information:

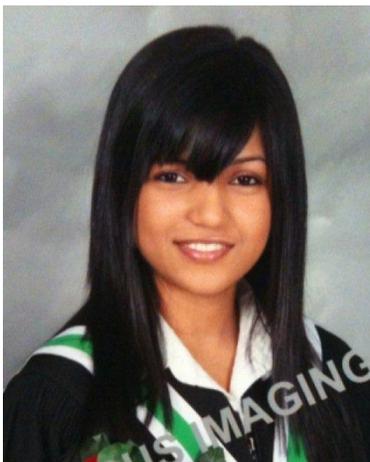
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Do you like to know what TCASD is all about? Want to be part of our family? Contact us, new members are always welcome.

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