



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

www.iccasaskatoon.ca

Newsletter #1, April 7, 2006

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President's Message:

Interdependence is and ought to be as much the ideal of man as self-sufficiency. Man is a social being—Mahatma Gandhi

It is my goal to see that the principles in Gandhi's quotation guide the new ICCA board of directors as it plans and executes various activities for 2006. Since the new board consists of both continuing members from last year and new recruits from the community, it provides a mix of experienced and fresh members necessary for organizational renewal. Last year was a learning challenge and we hope to avoid repeating any mistakes we might have made as we work to construct a positive and promising future for ICCA.

In promoting our goals and missions, our plan is to include every individual and organization with an interest in Indian culture and heritage. We have chalked out a list of the major events for the year and we have included details of most of these in this newsletter. If there are other events you would like to see, please let us know and we will try our best to accommodate them as time and resources permit. I am sure you will notice in our event planner below that our emphasis for this year has gone beyond FolkFest.

We invite your active participation and involvement in the community through ICCA's various activities. Please let us know in what capacity you might like to serve the community. In this newsletter you will find who is involved in which committee for various programs. We have also formed a new portfolio, Public Relations Chair, to serve you better. We understand the importance of two-way communication and believe that you share this view.

I am counting on your help and co-operation to ensure our success for now and time to come.

Regards, পলক

Palok Aich

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Announcements

India Pavilion Folkfest Ambassadors for 2006

India-Canada Cultural Association (ICCA) invites its paid members to apply for the positions of **Youth** and **Adult Ambassadors** for Folkfest 2006. We require a male and female Youth Ambassador as well as a male and female Adult Ambassador to represent India Pavilion 2006. Folkfest 2006 runs from Aug. 17-19 inclusive.

Youth Ambassador applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 21 and applications must be submitted by April 21, 2006. Please address any mail applications to: **India-Canada Cultural Association, Box 7194, Saskatoon, Sask., S7K 4J2**. Mail entries must be postmarked no later than April 21, 2006 unless otherwise indicated by ICCA news releases.

For further details please contact any board member or call **Palok Aich** at 652-1908.

ICCA Bursary

This bursary is available to a person who is descended paternally or maternally from a person of origins in India and is entering the first year of undergraduate studies in any field at the U of S. The award will be based on academic criteria (75%) and school or community activity (25%). The University Scholarships & Awards Committee will make the selection.

For more details contact Julian.Demkiw@usask.ca

Calendar of Events for 2006				
Date	Event	Time	Venue	Primary Contacts
Sun, Apr. 23	Multicomponent KidsFest	5-9 pm	Lakeview Free Methodist Church	Anuraag Shrivastav & Monika Kumar
Sun, May 14	Movie: "Taxi #9211"	2 pm	Broadway Theatre	Rajesh Jaiswal
May	Meewasin Valley Cleanup Campaign	TBA	TBA	Gerald Harrison
Sat, June 03	IndiaFest Bharatnatyam Performance	7-9 pm	Broadway Theatre	Anuraag Shrivastav & Veena Avinashi
Sun, July 9	Indian Movie	2 pm	Broadway Theatre	Rajesh Jaiswal
Sat, July 15	Picnic	TBA	Forestry Farm	Anshu Gupta
Sun, July 30	Saskatoon Centennial Drum Festival	TBA	Meewasin Valley	Anuraag Shrivastav & Gerald Harrison
Aug. 17-19 (Thurs-Sat)	Folkfest	See ICCA website	Brunskill School	Diego Monteiro
Sun, Sept. 10	Movie	2 pm	Broadway Theatre	Rajesh Jaiswal
Sun, Sept. 17	Semi-Annual General Body Meeting	3 pm	TBA	Board
Mon, Oct. 02	Gandhi Jayanti Celebration	12 pm	Gandhi statue	Board
Sat, Nov. 04	India Supper Night	6 pm	Saskatoon Inn	Anuraag Shrivastav
Sun, Nov. 12	Movie	2 pm	Broadway Theatre	Rajesh Jaiswal
Sat, Dec. 09	Wintersport/Potluck/Feedback	TBA	TBA	Monika Kumar & Anshu Gupta
Jan.	Indian Movie	2 pm	Broadway Theatre	Rajesh Jaiswal
Sat, Jan. 27	Kavi Sammelan / Book reading / Debate	TBA	TBA	Nivedita Sulakhe & Anuraag Shrivastav
Sun, Feb. 18	ICCA Annual General Meeting	3 pm	TBA	Board

2006 Committees	
Folkfest India Pavilion Committees	Chair and Co-Chair
Cleanup	All Board members & families
Display & Decor	Gerald Harrison & Shailly Varma
Entertainment	Anuraag Shrivastav & Monika Kumar
Finance	Subash Biswal & Vikas Kulshrestha
Food	Rajesh Jaiswal & Veena Avinashi
Folkfest Committee Chair	Diego Monteiro
Passport Sales	Nivedita Sulakhe & Ameeta Monteiro
Sari Sales & Handicrafts	TBA
Transport	Devendra Trivedi & Sandeep Sharma
Vendors	Diego Monteiro & Palok Aich
Volunteer Co-ordination	Anshu Gupta & Sanjukta Aich

Radio Committee	Devendra Trivedi & Prakash Sulakhe
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Centennial Committee	Anshu Gupta
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Social Secretary's Report—Anuraag Shrivastav

No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive—Mahatma Gandhi

ICCA's ambitious social calendar for 2006 promises to provide something for everyone. A new upcoming attraction this year is a special children's event designed to emphasize participation and fun.

Other events already scheduled or being planned include an **IndiaFest Bharatnatyam** performance at Broadway Theatre on June 03, ICCA's **Annual Picnic** on July 15, and **Kavi Sammelan** highlighting India's literary heritage on Jan. 27, 2007. **India Supper Night** is being revived and we hope to make this a "Jewel in the Crown" event of fine dining and colourful entertainment. And don't forget **Folkfest** in August where the Indo-Canadian community puts its best foot forward to make Indian culture shine!

In accord with Gandhi's insight quoted above, while working to preserve and share all aspects of India's diverse cultural heritage, ICCA has not forgotten the wider community. On March 24, the Saskatoon **Indian and Metis Friendship Centre** invited ICCA to participate in commemorating the *United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*. ICCA arranged three dance items for this event. To the delight of all, one group dance celebrated the positive values of the Indian way of life while a second dance highlighted the poetic grace of the Odissi classical dance tradition from eastern India. The Saskatoon Bhangra Junction group rounded out ICCA's entertainment contribution by performing a rousing and colourful Bhangra folk dance from northern India. This varied entertainment was well-received by the audience.

In the coming year, ICCA looks forward to the membership's continuing participation in planned events and invites the community's critical appraisal to help us improve.



Folkfest and India Pavilion

—by **Gerald L. Harrison** (India Pavilion Display Co-ordinator)

A Little History

From its inception in 1980, Folkfest was designed as a showcase to enable Saskatoon's ethno-cultural groups to share their cultures with the wider Saskatoon community. Each cultural group currently operates a venue highlighting its culture through an offering of entertainment, food sales, and cultural displays. By purchasing a passport (ticket) depicting each pavilion, the public gains admission to any pavilion without further charge and enjoys unlimited access to special Folkfest buses provided by the City of Saskatoon. Each pavilion earns a dividend from passport sales to encourage and sustain its future participation in Folkfest.

Community Excellence

From the beginning and for several subsequent years, India Pavilion set the standard for Folkfest educational displays which did not go unnoticed by a 1980 StarPhoenix review when it reported that *by far the most lavish displays could be viewed at the India Pavilion*. The day after that article was published, India Pavilion was swamped with Folkfest patrons and the Indo-Canadian community beamed with pride at its collective achievement.

Growing and Helping Others

At Folkfest's request in 1981 and 1987, ICCA provided display workshops for all the other pavilions. And over the years, India Pavilion's reputation for providing superb cuisine at reasonable prices spread far and wide. Entertainment improved steadily over the years to the point where it is now second to none.

Sharing Our Culture

Aware that Indian culture was largely unfamiliar to the general community, India-Canada Cultural Association concluded that the three days of Folkfest offered the Saskatoon Indo-Canadian community a unique opportunity to accurately portray the complexity and diversity of India's culture. For three days, at least, the community was in control of its own image and used them wisely for the benefit of all Indo-Canadians, especially their children.

India Pavilion's Operating Philosophy

Consequently, India Pavilion established itself as an educational venue with an operating philosophy of "**Friends educating each other**". Each region of India was given the same prominence as any other and members of the Indo-Canadian community quickly realized that they would be educating the general public about some aspect of India just by performing their volunteer pavilion task. But they soon learned that this worked both ways, for when an India Pavilion volunteer couldn't answer a patron's question about India which they should have known, the public, in effect, educated that volunteer that they had taken some aspect of Indian culture for granted.

Volunteers Vital

A vital resource for India Pavilion is its volunteer base. In addition to its core of committee organizers, **India Pavilion needs committed volunteers to carry out its functions**. More important to remember is that when you volunteer, **you are doing yourself a favour by sharing your expertise and knowledge** with both the Indo-Canadian community and the wider community at large. By sharing Indian culture in this public way, you also serve as a positive role model for your own children.

Renewal



Folkfest pavilions have come and gone over the years, but India Pavilion is one of only a handful that has participated every year. It has had its share of declines, but for the past several years, the ICCA executive has focussed on re-establishing a quality approach to everything associated with India Pavilion.

If you are a paid member and wish to participate in Folkfest entertainment or any of ICCA's many other entertainment offerings, please contact Social Secretaries **Anuraag Shrivastav** or **Monika Kumar** as soon as possible.

Membership Renewal

Membership in India-Canada Cultural Association (ICCA) runs for the calendar year starting in January. If you are new to the community or have simply forgotten to renew your membership, please fill out the form below and **mail it with your payment** to the address indicated.

India-Canada Cultural Association Box -7194, Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 4J2

2006 Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Membership Categories: (check one and submit payment with this form)

Individual: \$15 ___ **Family:** \$25 ___ **Student:** \$10 ___ **Life (tax deductible):** \$1000 ___



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