

Calendar of events

- July 1st - ICCA performances during Canada Day
14th - Annual Picnic --fun and food in the park
- August 16th, 17th & 18th - Folkfest (India Pavilion) --
Saskatoon's premier showcase of Indian
entertainment, cuisine, and cultural display
- Sept TBA - Seminar : Cultural Perspectives on Dating
- October 2nd - Gandhi Jayanti (Gandhi's Birthday)
4th - Dance Recital by Sudha Thakkar
TBA - Public Speaking workshop
- Nov 3rd - India Night Banquet --an evening of fine
dining and entertainment
- January TBA - South Asia Trade Fair --a showcase of goods
and services relating to India, Pakistan, Afghanistan,
Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Diary of events

- Feb. 18 -Election of officers
- March 14 -Participation in culture days at Maidstone High
School (Displays, demonstrations, and dance
performances)
- March 15 -Participation in Brunskill School India Day
- April 12 -ICCA and Saskatoon Cricket Association
participation in Meewasin Valley Cleanup campaign
- May 15 -Special Members' Meeting to establish business
class of membership
- May 20 -Namaste London movie at Broadway Theatre
- June 10 -Folkfest India Pavilion Committee meeting
- June 17 -Ta Ra Rum Pum movie at Broadway Theatre
- June 21 -Co-sponsorship of Baba Amte presentation at
Lakshmi Narayan temple
- June 27 -Kiran Ahluwalia in Concert during Saskatoon Jazz Festival

Folkfest 2007

This year's Folkfest will be on 16th, 17th and 18th of August at the Brunskill School (same place as last year).
The various committees have started to meet to plan the Folkfest. We are still in need of volunteers to organize several aspects of the Folkfest. If you are interested, please contact our Folkfest Chair, Gerald Harrison by email at gerald.l.harrison@shaw.ca or by telephone at 664 2940.

Door prizes at Movies

Our congratulations to Sunita Lal who won two tickets to Kiran Ahluwalia's program, valued at \$54. She won this at our showing on June 17th.

ICCA supports Saskatoon Cricket Association

ICCA was approached by the Cricket club for funding their Youth Cricket program and we have agreed to provide \$250.

ICCA appreciates the voluntary services provided by the Cricket club during various events organized by ICCA and the Folkfest in particular.

Awards and Recognition

Dr. Khysar Pasha has recently received an "Outstanding Community Service Award" presented by Saskatoon Open Door Society in recognition of his Volunteer services to the New Immigrants and Refugees in Saskatoon.

If you have received any award or recognition for your work and would like to share this information with members, please forward details to ICCA's Vice-President, Henry Ravichander, at ravichander@shaw.ca to get it publicized on the radio, ICCA's website and in the news letter.



Identity

What is identity? What is my identity? These questions have haunted every single person at one point in his or her life. Now in my last semester of grade 12, as I enter a new phase in my life, it haunts me. Overwhelming questions have been shot at me from every direction in the last two months: "What are you going to do after high school?", "What university?", "What do you want to be when you're older?", "Are you considering going to India to study?", "Why do you want to be a doctor?". As I stand here, feeling like I'm on a cliff screaming as a giant clock pushes me into the dark chasm that the adults have conveniently named "The real world", I can't help but wonder "Who am I?"

Identity is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as "a condition of being a specified person or thing". Simply put - Oxford doesn't have a damn clue. Abandoning that source, I turned to the internet, the bible of the 20th century, to answer "who is Kamini Premkumar". On a site dealing with psychology I read "One's identity and self-esteem is made up of all the roles which a person occupies and enacts in the course of a given stage of life". This makes sense. I am a daughter, a sister, a friend, a soccer player, an Indian, a Canadian... these are some of the roles that I "occupy and enact".

As I poured over other texts and literature to answer my questions, I found an interesting parallel to my life in "The allegory of the cave" by Plato. If a prisoner was chained to a cave from his birth with only the shadows in front of him to watch, he would perceive these shadows as reality and make his own conclusions about the world and who he is. If he were to escape and see the world outside the cave and realize that everything he knew and learned from the shadows was just a mere reflection of a complex reality, he would be redefined as a person. He will learn new things, and behave differently just as everyone he sees in the new world. He will try to fit in and adapt to the society. He will then return to share his findings with the rest of the prisoners. When he tells them of the world outside, they will reject him as they can only accept their current perception. They suspect him and no longer include him because he has changed in his behavior, his actions, his thoughts and overall; his identity. He is no longer a prisoner.

However, since his birth he has only known the cave. He will not entirely be a part of the outside world because he doesn't know their ways. He may not know the language, how to behave, how to dress and how to relate to the people around him. Each step he takes to adapt, he slightly redefines himself. As he learns a new language and changes his behavior, he slowly changes his identity.

The society around a person defines who they are. As the prisoner left one cave, he was just entering another "cave". In both worlds he perceives reality in different ways and society perceives him in different ways. But then, he never really fits into either world.

This idea applies to my life. I was born in India, and at the age of 7, I came to Canada, my new "cave". As I changed my language, dress, accent and behavior, I formed a new me. At that age I remember trying so hard to fit in. I wanted to be normal and be just like all the kids around me. It's amazing how drastically and quickly a person, especially a child, can change to adapt to a new environment. In just a few months I was speaking like the other kids, playing floor hockey, buying "cool" clothes, and eating burgers and pizza. The only thing that I thought was different between me and my friends were our parents and how I smelt! (Indian spices leave a strong, lasting odor.) My parents had different rules and I thought that they looked very different. It was not until grade 5, that I realized that I also looked very different. This was pleasantly revealed to me by a boy in grade 6 with two simple words: "black trash".

I have a certificate that says I am a citizen of Canada. But that does not make me Canadian. I have a birth certificate that says I was born in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India. But that doesn't make me an Indian. I can understand Tamil, my mother tongue, but cannot speak it. When I went back to India to visit, I was a stranger. My aunts, uncles,

grandparents and cousins avoided talking to me because it was just awkward. I realized then that I had lost a large part of my identity.

In Canada, I will never be completely at home because of the color of my skin. I am identified as a foreigner. The shadow cast upon my body will forever distinguish me as an outsider.

But if anything, all these findings and connections and texts and literature just caused more confusion in understanding who I am! So far the only things I understand are that 1) Your identity is made up of your roles; 2) Society defines who you are. In both these concepts, I realized there is no fixed definition of who I am. I am moving to Saskatoon in a month, will I have to acquire a new identity once again? My roles change almost every day; does my identity change too?

Finally, a concept that pulled everything together for me and gave me a good understanding of what identity is, is a literary tool used in analyzing texts: structuralism. This concept can be applied to my dilemma perfectly. A structuralist states that there is no 'A' without 'B', and the rest of the alphabet. There is no "hot" without "cold", no evil without good. "Meaning occurs through difference. Meaning is not identification of the sign with object in the real world or with some pre-existent concept or essential reality; rather it is generated by difference among signs in a signifying system"... "Relations among signs are of two sorts, contiguity and substitutability, the axes of combination and selection: hence the existence of all 'grammars', hence all substitutions, hence the ability to know something by something else."

I am no sister without a brother, I am no daughter without parents. Everything around a person is networked. Everything is interrelated: every memory, every role, every home, every job, every experience. It is a matrix, a vast network that is intricately connected that makes up your personality and your emotions; this network is your identity.

The matrix is different for every single person. Even if you are identical to another person with the only exception being that they are an only child and you're not, the entire matrix would be shifted. Every experience adds on to the network. If your parents get divorced, a hole in your reality is created. Your foundation and definition of "family" is changed forever.

The same way my network was completely different in India. Being from another culture is almost like having two matrices overlaid onto each other. A "westernized" definition of family varies greatly with a definition from my culture. The key is to connect these two matrices.

Forgetting my language and losing my extended family created a hole in my network. When I'm older, this hole will subconsciously change my reactions and emotions towards choosing whether to have a large family or not. Every choice and decision is based on my network, my personality, my identity.

My network is made up of pieces of my culture, my parents, my friends, the media, and my education. Adolescence is the stage in life to find the balance in this vast network.

The chasm between where I am now and the "real world" can simply be filled by adding on to the network and creating my own individuality, my path across to "the real world". Everything is woven together and interrelated into making a completely unique individual: Kamini. The world around me slowly builds my network, but I decide how it is put together.

So, What is identity? What is my identity? What is my identity now? Well... um...

- Kamini Premkumar, 2005

ICCA Board - 2007



Executive

- President: Gerald L. Harrison
- Vice President: Henry Ravichander
- General Secretary: Vacant
- Treasurer: James Premkumar
- Social Secretary: Vacant

Members-at-large

- Abhay Bodhmag
- Ayesha Baig
- Khysar Pasha

Pari Padmanabh

Past President

- Palok Aich

India has the most post offices in the world!

Did you know? - India Trivia

The largest employer in the world is the Indian railway system, employing over a million people!

Chess was invented in India.

Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus are studies which originated in India.

The 'place value system' and the 'decimal system' were developed in 100 BC in India.

The value of "pi" was first calculated by the Indian mathematician Budhayana, and he explained the concept of what is known as the Pythagorean Theorem. He discovered this in the 6th century, which was long before the European mathematicians.

The Baily Bridge is the highest bridge in the world. It is located in the Ladakh valley between the Dras and Suru rivers in the Himalayan mountains. It was built by the Indian Army in August 1982.

The world's highest cricket ground is in Chail, Himachal Pradesh. Built in 1893 after levelling a hilltop, this cricket pitch is 2444 meters above sea level.

ICCA's Membership: If you have not renewed your membership, please go to www.iccasaskatoon.ca, download, fill and mail your application today., along with your cheque towards the membership fee.. The annual membership expires on December 31st each year.

Coming soon!

Mark your calendar, for on Oct. 4, 2007, Shivani Thakkar and Thiruchelwam will explore the male-female dynamic through a two-hour Bharatanatyam recital with live music accompaniment entitled Dvaya: The Confluence of Male Female Spirits in the Odeon Events Centre in Saskatoon. Time and ticket prices to be announced.

We would like to hear from you

What would you like to see in the next edition of the Newsletter?

Do you have any ideas for building our community?

How can we serve newcomers to Saskatoon?

If you have articles, jokes or photos that you would like to share with the members, please email to Dr. Kalyani Premkumar at kalyani.premkumar@usask.ca

Editor's note

It is said that new brooms sweep well.

It is definitely true of the board of 2007. But, unlike typical new brooms, I am sure that this board will continue to make us proud throughout its term and beyond. Take a look at the plans described within. As the editor of this newsletter, I am honored to be part of this team and I look forward to working with them as we all strive to enhance the image of ICCA, elevate its identity and become true ambassadors of India.

As the author of the key article states, identity is shaped by the role and by society. The identity of ICCA is therefore determined by the role each of the members play and by how Saskatoon society views us.

Despite the growing Indian population in Saskatoon, our membership has not increased much. Why? Is it because we as members have not introduced and encouraged our friends to become part of this community? As a tiny, fragmented community that we are now, the rest of Saskatoon does not view us in the same light as they view the Indian subcontinent. This year, let us join hands, forget our differences, and make our brothers and sisters living in India proud to call us their own. To achieve this, we need to support the new board, enthusiastically participate in activities and volunteer our time.

I am sure you will agree that we can do much more as a community, if we pool together the wealth of expertise available within our membership.

- Kalyani Premkumar

Our goals and focus



Since taking over office, the board has endeavoured to set specific goals that will serve as a guide in developing programs for the year 2007. The goals that the board has come to a consensus are as follows:

1. To double the 2006 membership list;
2. To promote Business Class membership;
3. To promote member-driven programming of events; and
4. To promote member involvement in every program in every calendar year.

As for programming for the rest of the year, I invite you to access our website www.iccasaskatoon.ca to keep yourself updated on what is to come.

All of this cannot be successful without your participation and support. I encourage each and every one of you to actively participate in all of our events and take ownership of projects that fall within the area of your expertise proactively. Even if you are not an expert in a given area, we



President says.....

“India is everywhere,” writes author Mira Kamdar in her latest book, Planet India, as she describes the profound effect India is beginning to have on the financial, cultural, and political life of the entire world.

In that light, organizations like India-Canada Cultural Association need to be prepared to interpret India for an increasingly curious general public.

Several years ago, I advised ICCA that it needed to take better care of its inventory and the organization has since been restoring, rebuilding, and expanding its display assets each year—assets used to support a variety of educational and cultural endeavours carried out by its volunteers throughout the year.

This year, ICCA has introduced some procedural upgrades to address a variety of organizational shortcomings that have developed over the years. Some of these changes include:

New Membership Category: ICCA has amended its by-laws to include a new business membership category to increase revenue and to provide a greater array of services to all members.

Website Revision : Once revisions are complete, ICCA's website will provide more useful information about Indian culture in general, and about the ICCA in particular.

Operational Clarity: Explicit application forms and standards for a variety of activities have been drafted to minimize arbitrary decision-making and to clarify expectations. These are then posted on ICCA's website.

Timely Planning: A table of critical deadlines has been drafted to smooth the annual transition from one board to its successor.

Long-term Planning: Our published calendar of coming events helps our members to plan their social lives in advance and will help minimize scheduling conflicts with other community organizations.

Membership Development: A brochure promoting the organization and describing membership benefits has been drafted and approved for distribution to build membership.

New Logo: In anticipation of a higher community profile, ICCA has adopted a new logo to better promote the organization to the wider public in accord with its by-laws.

Improved Communication: ICCA now has a voice message service on which members can leave messages or ask questions. ICCA has also drafted an expanded promotions contact list to promote Indian cultural events to the fullest.

Newsletter: Our newsletter has a new name, a new look, and with your help—new content.

With these changes, ICCA hopes to better serve its members, to enhance its voice in the community, to strengthen its volunteer base, and to promote the best of Indian culture in the widest possible manner.

- Gerald L. Harrison

value every ounce of your contribution and thank you sincerely in anticipation of your involvement.

Finally, I request each of you to renew your membership for the current year and set a goal of bringing in one new member also. Application forms are available on our website that can be completed and mailed out to us along with a cheque for the appropriate amount.

- H. (Ravi) Ravichander

View from the chair

- Sangeetmaala



I find it a great pleasure to work with the community through this medium. As you may know, radio shows are planned and run by the Radio Committee. Members of the Radio committee and the Radio hosts are listed on our website.

“Sangeetmaala” radio shows air on CFCR FM 90.5 every Saturday. The program in Hindi airs from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Other Indian languages such as Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Gujarati, Oriya and Rajasthani are aired from 12

noon to 12:30 p.m. This year, we have introduced more prizes for the quiz songs. There is also a prize for the 2nd segment of the Sangeetmaala, which is in other Indian languages. So far, we have awarded prizes amounting to over \$ 1000. On behalf of the Radio Committee, I would like to thank Taste of India and Ahmad's Groceries for their continuous support in sponsoring prizes every week for our radio shows.

Anyone can call the host at CFCR studio (242-5002) to participate in the quiz song during the show. The third correct caller will be awarded the prize. These shows can also be heard live by logging onto www.cfcr.ca.

We are making every effort to improve the quality of the program. Most of the radio shows are now theme-based or story-based. We have had many positive comments from the community regarding the quality of the shows and prizes. I would like to encourage ICCA members to participate in Sangeetmaala. We are in need of radio hosts who can speak in languages other than Hindi. If you would like to host a radio show, please call me at 343 6005 or send me an e-mail at DrKhysarPasha@hotmail.com

We welcome sponsors for prizes. - Dr. Khysar Pasha

Keeping up with the changing times



Today, ICCA wears a new look – new logo, new website and a newsletter that has been just christened as 'Insight'. I hope you like what you see. When facing a change, the first thought in our mind will be 'why' and 'at what cost'.

The reason is obvious. ICCA needed an identity, brand recognition and in general a 'face lift'. We have endeavoured to provide just that, at a minimal cost. The entire designing and creative work has been free of cost and that is a substantial saving.

While making changes for the present, your board is planning for the future too. Recently, a resolution has been passed to set up a 'Building & infrastructure fund'. This is just a beginning to fulfill the dreams of many, to have and operate a facility of our own. It has been decided to put aside 20% of the membership fee received and 20% of the gains from various events organized by ICCA, into this fund.

Beginning this year, it has been decided to honour anyone becoming a life member of ICCA, at our annual dinner and present them with an attractive plaque.

These are just a few of the developments. As Ravichander has said, we have set very clear goals for ourselves and all our efforts are focused in promoting ICCA, increasing membership strength and utilizing member's strength to organize programs that the members want.

In order to make it easy for members to renew their membership, to enable advance booking of movie tickets and other ICCA ticketed events, the board has considered making arrangements to accept credit card payment. After exploring different ways of doing this we have found out that the cheapest option would cost ICCA \$15 approximately, per month, to put this facility in place. We invite your opinion on whether you are for or against this idea. Please email your thoughts to james.premkumar@gmail.com.

We would also like to invite your input on the decision taken to screen a movie on the third Sunday of every month. We have done so in the past two months and we have not had the turn out required to meet all the expenses involved in screening the movie. We are currently considering stopping the showing for the summer and recommence in the fall. If we are unable to break-even at the next showing in September, we may have to consider abandoning the idea of showing Indian movies. It is imperative that we have your participation at these showings and your commitment to promote the same to your friends, if you want us to continue.

- James Premkumar

Your access to ICCA Board

Call 881 9955, leave message and get a response within 24 hrs.
email: namaste@iccasaskatoon.ca

Donations

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of Ravichanders in donating a new banner to ICCA for promotional use.

A 'Thank you' to the Lalli family for providing various material that can be used in our events to promote our culture.

We also thank all the sponsors of prizes for our Radio show.

If you are interested in extending your generosity to ICCA, you may contact Gerald Harrison to discuss how you can contribute. There are several needs.

BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH A FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Investing isn't easy. It can take time, research, patience and knowledge of financial markets. Fortunately, you can simplify the process and increase your chances of success by working with an investment professional.

Although some people enjoy investing on their own, the reality is that most of us can benefit from the services of a financial advisor. With professional help you can take much of the work out of investing and increase your potential for reaching financial goals.

The job of establishing, monitoring and maintaining your investment portfolio is easier and more effective when you have help. You'll benefit from the skills and knowledge of a seasoned professional who is well-acquainted with your personal situation and objectives. And when you stick with one advisor who sees the "big picture" of your financial life, you get well-rounded help and advice from somebody who has a full grasp of your finances.

A good relationship with a financial advisor will help you:

Understand your financial needs: Your advisor will review and analyze the current state of your finances and investments.

Set goals: Establishing realistic financial goals is easier with professional help. No matter what your objectives—perhaps retirement, saving for a child's education, buying a house or reducing income taxes—it's important that they be achievable.

Develop a financial plan: Once goals are in place, you and your advisor can develop a savings and investment plan to meet your long-term objectives. This includes a strategy for funnelling more of your income into savings and investments.

Assess risk tolerance: An advisor can assist you in determining the level of risk you're comfortable with, and show you how to balance that risk with potential investment returns.

Establish a portfolio: With professional help you can choose investments for a balanced, diversified investment portfolio that reflects your goals and risk tolerance.

Save on taxes: Your advisor can show you how to structure a portfolio that takes advantage of tax breaks available for many types of investments. This includes both your Registered Retirement Savings Plan and non-registered investments.

Review finances and investments: It's important to regularly monitor the progress of your plan. An investment professional has the tools to measure the performance of your portfolio against your expectations and market conditions. When adjustments are necessary, your advisor can suggest appropriate investments.

In addition to helping with savings and investments, an advisor can offer assistance in other areas of your financial life, including insurance, estate planning and business planning.

How will you know if you're a candidate for professional help? Unless you have extensive knowledge of finance and investments and are willing to put a lot of work into managing your financial life, establishing a working relationship with an investment professional is always a good choice.

There's nothing wrong with going it alone by using services such as discount investment brokers, but that route is best suited to those who enjoy managing their own affairs and have the time and expertise to take on the job.

As an independent investor, you'll have to dedicate time to researching the multitude of investments available through financial markets, put together your own portfolio, monitor your finances and investments, and perform a host of other tasks. Many of these require specialized knowledge.

Even if you're a knowledgeable investor, it doesn't necessarily mean you have the time or energy to spend on managing your investments. Professional help puts much of the work on somebody else's shoulders, while still letting you play an active role in managing investments.

- Member CIPF.

Words of wisdom

PRaise does wonders for sense of hearing.

If you learn from losing then you have not lost.

After all is said and done, more is usually said than done!

As we grow older, we acquire the faces we deserve.

Would people rather see you coming or going?

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

You never get a second chance to make a first impression.

If your children had been given a choice of parents, would they have chosen you?

Recipe for having beautiful children: be a beautiful parent!

A clear conscience is often the sign of a good memory.

Some are born fools, but the majority of us become so through practice.