



CALGARY MARATHI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER: YEAR 2013

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- ASHISH DAMLE: PRESIDENT
- VINIT YADNIK: VICE PRESIDENT
- SUNIL MAHASHABDE: TRESURER
- YOGESHWAR NAVAGRAH: SECRETARY

Calgary Marathi Association is registered non-profit organization in Alberta. CMA was formed to bring Marathi community in Calgary and surrounding area. CMA celebrates major Indian and Maharashtrian festivals and cultural events. CMA also aims to introduce and cultivate 'Marathi' culture in the Marathi kids born or brought up in Canada.

It intends to add value to all Albertans.

CMA Vision:

- To preserve and promote Marathi culture in Calgary and surrounding area for generations to come

CMA Mission:

- * To bring together all persons speaking Marathi language and/or others interested in the promotion of the Marathi language.
- * To encourage and promote Maharashtrian culture, traditions and festivities.
- * To provide a platform for Marathi speaking artists from across the globe to give performances through social gatherings, musical evenings, dramas and other forms of cultural activities.
- * To acquaint the young generation of the cultural heritage of India in general and of Maharashtra in particular, through various activities.
- * To support the spirit of Multiculturalism in Canada and invite other Canadians to participate in CMA functions to familiarize with the Marathi culture.



Makar Sankranti and AGM:

Date: January 27th 2013

Makar Sankranti is celebrated in January every year and being the first festival of the year (calendar year). This is the time when sweets are exchanged particularly (Til Gud- sesame and jiggery) amongst each other to spread happiness. The underlying thought in this exchange is to forget past ill feelings and start a new chapter of sweetness. The CMA greeted its members with an evening of cultural programme and by explaining the significance of this programme to the new generations of Indo Canadians. Also new immigrants were ushered in.

Annual General Meeting: At AGM we received many suggestions from the members of CMA which were taken into consideration as a part of discussion. There was no point discussed which required poll by members



Gudhi Padva

Date: 14th April, 2013 . 5.00pm
Venue: Glenmore Christian Academy
SW. Calgary, AB.

This festival marks the start of the “Marathi New Year”.

The event started with chanting of “Ramraksha” as this festival marks return of Lord Ram from 14 years of banishment.

To celebrate this evening the members followed the wonderful tradition of wearing traditional attire (colourful sarees). Children were introduced to the cultural significance through the members articulating the significance. The evening was adorned with cultural dances such as karthak performed by professional dancers as well as be the children learning the traditions. Traditional Marathi dinner was served.

Sonali Joglekar performing Traditional Karthak at the Gudi Padva event



Teenagers embracing traditional Indian culture



Kridangan (Games) and Picnic

Date : May 18th -25th 2013
Venue: Several locations across Calgary

This Sports Day initiative is to encourage members to embrace wellness and the spirit of good health by staying active. This involved arranging tournaments in badminton and table tennis as well as chess and other indoor games too. Youth were also involved in this activity and this event brought a lot of members together.

Picnic
July 20th 2013

CMA organized Picnic with members – as per tradition the picnic began with a cricket match between NW and SW

Calgary teams. There were other games dumb charades organized as a fun filled day for all members. CMA also welcomes a number of senior, visiting parents of members. The afternoon lunch was set up traditionally as a pot luck for an opportunity to have various food types and to encourage member participation. CMA provided the evening tea and traditional Wada Pav.

Ganeshotsav:

Date: 14th September, 2013

Venue: Glenmore Christian Academy

Ganeshotsav is one of the most popular and bigger festivals of India. It signifies the birth of Lord Ganesha. As an extremely important festival, a number of members would perform the prayers in their own homes. CMAs effort was to bring all members together to celebrate the most popular festival in a true spirit of togetherness and community spirit. We celebrated this festival with worship of Lord Ganesha followed by cultural event. In this event our members performed their arts like singing, dance, small skits.



New executive committee for year 2014 was formed during this event.

Children performing a dance drama on Lord Ganesha.



Diwali

Date: 9th Nov 2013

Venue: Glenmore Christian Academy

This festival of lights was celebrated by CMA in an auspicious manner. CMA organized a get-together with the members forming a cultural event. It was encouraging to see the younger generation and children participating in a number of dances.

CMA also invited Swapnil Bhalerao from Toronto to sing fusion Bollywood numbers. A guest artist is often invited to finish the year with some pomp and grandeur. Swapnil enthralled the audience and encouraged crowd participation to make this a memorable night for all.

Finally as per the tradition of CMA this being last event of the year an overview of the events as well as the financials for 2013 were shared. The existing committee welcomed the new committee on stage and invited them to introduce themselves to the group.

Children performing at Diwali event



Bollywood Fusion- Swapnil Bhalerao

