



CMA NEWS 2016

Bridging minds of Marathi Community

Calgary Marathi Association (CMA) is a registered non-profit organization to preserve the Marathi Culture by bringing together Marathi-speaking persons in Calgary and the surrounding area. website: <http://www.cmacalgary.ca>

CMA Vision

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

CMA Mission

- * To celebrate major Indian and Maharashtrian 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

“Family Get Together” an evening to remember.

Date: February 13, 2016

**Venue: St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation
Calgary, Alberta**

No of attendees: 140

Family Day is observed in the **Canadian** provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan on the third Monday of February. This holiday celebrates the **importance of families and family** life to people and their communities. The CMA embraced a Canadian culture alongside Marathi culture and created a fun night for the community to promote the spirit of the family. In keeping with family fun, the youth group (Paalavi) organized games that everyone actively participated in. Special entertainment was organized for children by bringing in a clown who also created balloon animals for the children. The Paalavi group made a presentation on their plan for the year. Along with a cultural programme we invited salsa dancers to do a dance workshop and the community members followed along the moves. This provided great entertainment as well as a spirit

of togetherness where adults, seniors and youth participated. It felt like the entire community was one big happy family.



The evening ended with a traditional Marathi meal.

Gudhi Padwa – Marathi New Year and AGM

Date: April 16th 2016

**Venue: St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation
404 Meredith Road N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 5A6**

No of Attendees: 207

This event is celebrated on the first day of the **Chaitra** month to mark the beginning of the New Year according to the **lunisolar Hindu calendar**. On **Gudhī Pāḍavā**, a **gudhi** is found sticking out of a window or otherwise prominently displayed in

traditional **Maharashtrian** households. The Gudhi symbolizes Lord **Rama**'s victory and happiness on returning to Ayodhya after slaying Ravana. Since a symbol of victory is always held high, so is the gudhi (flag). Gudhi is believed to ward off evil, invite prosperity and good luck into the house. The celebration of Good over Evil is a strong cultural heritage of the Marathi Community and a great event to impart the true spirit of goodness amongst the community at large. The CMA raised a Gudhi this evening to invite the spirit of goodness. During this event the Executives of the CMA presented the Budget, the year's initiatives and what they had achieved. A picture of a typical Gudhi is shown below:



The Board of Trustees (BOT) also revisited their vision and mission statements and their initiatives for the year. An AGM was conducted and resolution passed on the motion in favour of the CMA applying for the Casino application process which was the major mandate of BOT.

The evening was decorated with dazzling performances by little children and songs by groups followed by mixing and mingling along with group games and a traditional meal of Batata wada (Potato cakes) and Puran Poli (Stuffed sweet Indian style bread) – both considered delicacies in the culture. A large gathering enjoys Gudhi Padwa as depicted in the picture.



Traditional food is served to the community.



Children (next generation Canadians) showcase Marathi Culture through a colourful traditional dance performance.

Dil Ki Baat

Date: June 4th 2016

Calgary Public Library – John Dutton Theatre.

No of attendees: 126

Promoting Indian culture and heritage is one of the major mandates of the CMA. It envisions to bring more of the richness of Indian songs to the people of the community at large. Towards this end the CMA collaborated with 4 other major Marathi Association in Calgary to bring a famous artis from India who was already touring North America. This programme was very well received and became one of the highlights of the year. Calgary had the most participation and truly the people of Calgary lived what the city stands for: “Be part of the energy”.



Pushkar Shrotri performing to an enthralled audience!

Senior's club institution: Samadhan
Meet & Greet: June 12th 2016
Venue: Cedarbrae Community Association, Calgary
Time 3:30pm to 5:30pm

No of Attendees: 35

This was the first activity held for the newly formed Seniors Club (Age 60 years plus) named as Samadhan Club. The event was full of activities such as Ice breaker games, Antakshari and bingo followed by light dinner. The seniors participated actively by introducing themselves and playing games which required both mental and hand coordination. There was a high level of energy and enthusiasm demonstrated by the group. The pictures below display the group activities by the seniors.



Senior's Club (Samadhan) Canada Day Celebration
Date: July 1st 2016
Venue: Bar U Ranch, AB

Attendees: 45

Seniors enjoyed the outdoor Canada Day activities at Bar U Ranch. We all met at the Bar U Ranch at 10:00am in the morning. Volunteers had arranged for pick up and drop off of the seniors and transportation. There was a Potluck breakfast followed by tour of the Ranch and all the activities on the Ranch. The seniors actively participated in the event and truly upheld the spirit of Canada Day. This event also brought the families of the seniors together and they had a gala time enjoying with their grandkids as well. After the activities in the ranch the seniors enjoyed a potluck lunch as well. To appreciate their participation and their contribution to the society through the years, volunteers handed Canada day giveaways to the seniors. This brought smiles to their faces.



Seniors share the pride of Canada Day

CMA Cricket:

Date: 16th July, 2016

Venue: Rotary Challenger Park, NE, Calgary

No of Attendees: 18

Rain washed out the picnic but not the spirit of cricket. North and South Calgary played against each other once again demonstrating the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship and maintaining physical fitness.



Cricket Enthusiasts collect at Rotary Park.

Seniors (Samadhan) Social Get-together -14th Aug, 2016

Venue: 75, Canterbury Dr., S.W., Calgary

This event was set up as social meet where Seniors could showcase their individual talent. We found a high level of participation through one act mono plays, poetry, book reading as well as songs. For this event all the seniors were very excited to perform. We had special performances from Mr. Shirdhar Parulekar who performed classical songs and Ruchir Tullu (member of our youth Paalavi group) accompanied him on table. Ms. Swati Fernandes performed stand-up act from old drama called “Vhrad Nighale Londonla”. Mr. Khanolkar who read one chapter from a book and Mr. Taunk presented everyone with poetry book written by his father and published by him. After all the exciting performances we had delicious dinner made by all the volunteers. It was encouraging to see volunteers come out and participate in this event as well as youth connect with seniors.

See below pictures of senior members actively participating by showcasing their talent.



CMA Camping

Date: August 19th, 20th, 21st 2016

Venue: Little Bow Provincial Park

No of Attendants: 24

Camping enthusiasts enjoyed a weekend of bonding together while playing games, lighting camp fires and organizing hikes and treks. Families enjoyed the Canadian outdoors to the fullest with potluck lunches and dinners and ofcourse marshmallows.



Group of campers congregate for a photo



Women were greeted with traditional trinkets.

Ganeshotsav

Date: Sept 10th 2016

Venue: St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation
404 Meredith Road N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 5A6

No of Attendees: 273

Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated with great joy and devotion in India. **Ganesh Chaturthi** is celebrated as Lord **Ganesh**'s birthday by the Hindus throughout the world.

This is the most important cultural and religious celebration for the Marathi community. People dress up in new clothes and celebrate as a community. Marathi delicacies are prepared and exchanged.

Male community members were welcomed with a pheta - *traditional turban worn in Maharashtra, India. In ceremonies –*



The evening was marked by the performance of Lezim (a traditional Marathi dance) by a large group of community members in the parking lot. Also, a Maha Aarati (group chanting prayers) followed where the entire community got together. The evening dazzled with a cultural entertainment program by young children, followed by a mouth-watering array of Indian delicacies.





Current EC for 2016 and Future EC for 2017



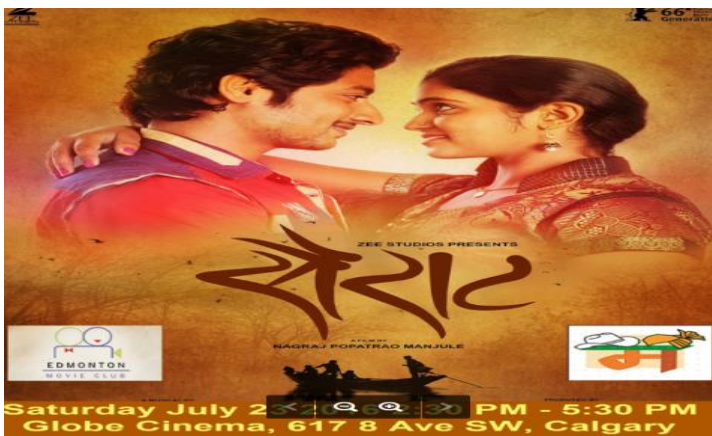
Marathi Language School Children performance

Screening of Marathi movie “Sairat “

Date : July 23rd 2016 Time: 2.30 pm

Venue: Globe Cinema 6178th Ave SW

No of Attendees: 53



Dandiya

Date: 9th October Sunday Time: 7:00 pm till 10:30 pm

**Venue: St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation
404 Meredith Road N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 5A6**

No of Attendees: 177

Dandiya is a community event where members get together for a group dance and celebration of Nav Ratri - The word **Navaratri** means 'nine nights' in Sanskrit. Navaratri is celebrated with the famous **Garba** and **Dandiya Raas** dance. People dress in traditional attire – Chaniya Choli and dance with sticks called Dandiya. The colourful images show the traditional dance forms of Garba and Dandiya Raas.



Garba performers



Couple enjoying Dandiya Raas

Diwali 2016 – the Festival of lights

Future Event planned for Nov 19th 2016

Please visit CMA website for further details



Bowling Night

Date: Mar 19, 2016

Number of participants: 20

A classic bonding activity, 5-pin bowling was a sure-shot way of involving a majority of Paalavi members in its annual bowling event. Prizes were awarded to highest scorers in various categories. Pizza and drinks were sponsored by CMA.



Movie Night

Date: Feb 19, 2016

Number of participants: 18

Paalavi members were treated with pizza and drink as they socialized with one another and watched a movie at the University of Calgary conference and events room.



Youth Development Group(Paalavi): Overview of 2016

CMA supports the youth group Paalavi.

What is Paalavi?

Paalavi is the next generation of Marathi youth in Calgary. It's an opportunity to meet other youth with diverse interests, while creating long-lasting friendships, Good citizenship, Leadership development and promoting community involvement.... Adding a new dimension to youth.

Paalavi has organised a number of fun events that include skating, bowling, trekking at Barrier Lake and Movie/Pizza nights.

Barrier Lake Hike

Date: May 29, 2016

Number of participants: 10

With an elevation of 640m over a distance of 5km, Barrier Lake Hike was a spectacular way for Paalavi members to celebrate summer and burn off some winter fat. Everyone loved the workout and views from the lookout at the top of the trail.



Skating Night

Date: Feb 6, 2016

Number of participants: 15

Participants enjoyed ice skating at the Olympic Oval as the first Paalavi event for 2016 was kicked off. For some people this was a brand new opportunity to try out a new sport which they had not tried before.



2016 Executive Committee (EC)

- **Shibani Rane – President**
- **Ajay Pawar – Vice President**
- **Vipin Sawai – Treasurer**
- **Rajesh Jintikar – Secretary**

Board of Trustees (BoT)

- **Ajay Khanolkar-Chairperson (2016-2018)**
- **Sucheta Kolhatkar – Director (2015-2017)**
- **Salma Garde- Director (2016)**

Paalavi Committee (2016)

- **Kanvua Kelkar – President**
- **Chinmoy Ayachit – Vice President**
- **Chinmayee Shendye – Director of Finance**
- **Ananya Ayachit – Director of Marketing**
- **Parth Thakurdesai – Director of Events**

Seniors Club: Samadhan (2016)

- **Sujata Pasalkar**
- **Naresh Pasalkar**

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New Immigrant Advisory Committee:

- **Ravindra Injal**
- **Rajesh Jintikar**

Web Administrators:

- **Manish Kaduskar**
- **Pallavi Kaduskar**

Co-ordinators:

- **BMM Coordinator: Ajay Pawar**
- **Palavi Coordinator: Shibani Rane, Vipin Savai**
- **Sponsorship Coordinator: Ravindra Injal**

CMA supports new immigrants. Please check out the CMA website for information. Some useful link:

<http://www.cmacalgary.ca/pages/new-to-calgary/>

CMA also supports the Marathi School (Shala) and initiatives by individual members to form clubs. One of such club is Marathi Book Club/ library. See the link for details; <http://www.cmacalgary.ca/pages/bot/>

We thank all for active participation in all CMA events.