

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

Our Vision

- “As a forward thinking and socially responsible group, our vision is to work together to preserve, promote, and enhance our culture, heritage and religion.
- We aspire to strengthen our community as a whole and to promote multi- culturalism and inclusiveness for all generations to come”

Our Mission

- Uphold and encourage our values, heritage and culture through celebration of our customs and traditions for generations to come.
- To support the spirit of Multiculturalism in Canada and invite other Canadians to participate in our community
- To bring all persons interested in Marathi language and/or others interested in the promotion of Marathi language.
- To support relief of poverty through community service and by arranging various charitable and educational activities.
- Mental well-being.
- Language and/or others interested in the promotion of Marathi language.

CMA Objectives

- Endorse events to strengthen the heritage, culture, festivities of the Marathi traditions.
- Support initiatives to promote and preserve the rich legacy of Marathi Language including support to Marathi schools in & around Calgary.
- Endorse culture specific entertainment opportunities to members through social gatherings.
- Promote artists from other ethnic groups & cultures to perform at events organised by CMA.

- Support the spirit of multiculturalism by promoting the events of other ethnic groups within the Marathi community.
- Educate and inform the younger generation of the diverse cultural heritage of India in general and of Maharashtra through various activities
- Engage the youth group through Paalavi program, in leadership opportunities to develop life skills, self- image and volunteerism.
- Engage the senior members of the community by supporting the initiatives of the Samadhan (a group for senior members).
- Support new Immigrants for an easy transition and engage them in the community activities.
- Promote participation in various charity initiatives while liaising with various community and charitable organisations.
- Conduct educational and skill development programs open to all members to strengthen the community as a whole.

Our Core Values

- **Respect:** We believe that every person deserves to be treated with respect, dignity, equality and compassion.
- **Open- Mindedness:** We are committed to engage families, community partners and service providers in the various initiatives, programs, events to strength the community network and social support system an inclusive environment.
- **Passion:** We are passionate about what we do - we value innovation, growth, educational opportunities with the underlying philosophy of togetherness, union of families and communities.
- **Enhance natural capacities and networks:** We are committed to provide a safe, secure, fun filled community network and social support system that promotes physical, social and me

Camping

Date: July 14th & 15th, 2017

Ganeshotsav

Date: September 2, 2017

Venue: Chestermere Recreation Center

201 W Chestermere DR, Chestermere, AB, T1X 1B2

Ganeshotsav 2017 can be considered a landmark event for CMA. In many ways, CMA ushered in a new era by incorporating many exciting changes and setting a foundation to build off for subsequent years.

The beautiful Ganesh idol set majestically in the back, mystically acquired center stage and took the breath away from all present. The display of Ganesh idols and paintings; the procession to the strains of Bappa Morya's carrying in its wake the sheer excitement of the participants all left a lasting impact. The participation of dignitaries like Jason Kenney, Prasad Panda and the personalized video greeting by Mayor Nenshi; added oomph to the occasion.

CMA members got the opportunity to socialise with the dignitaries and have dinner with them. The festival started with a procession to herald the arrival of Ganpati bappa.

The sound of lezim, Taal, and the enthusiastic Ganpati Bappa Morya's from the participants filled the Chestermere parking lot. The sight of ladies spontaneously breaking into fugdi with carefree energy added to the charm of the occasion. The Ganesh staphana and puja was followed by aarti and prasad. Traditional cultural dances like Aashavinayak and Manglagaur took the audience down memory lane.

The performance of our Guest dance group from Peru was much appreciated and enjoyed. The modern-classic fusion dance by CMA members was a show stopper. Their dance set to foot tapping rhythm and upbeat music made a perfect setting for the dinner and dance which followed. CMA members got the opportunity to mingle with the dignitaries and have dinner with them.



Garba / Dussehra

Date: September 23rd 2017

**Venue: St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox
Congregation 404 Meredith Rd NE Calgary T2E5A6**

Traditionally celebrated at the end of Navratri, Dasara is observed for different reasons and celebrated differently in various parts of India. Maharashtrians celebrate it as a reminder of Lord Ram's victory over the demon Ravana. It is also called Vijayadashami. This day is considered as auspicious to embark on any new projects, make agreements and purchases. Indians young and old also celebrate this day by worshipping their tools and books and exchanging leaves as a symbol of gold.

Navratri is celebrated for 9 nights and observed in honour of Devi Durga who battled the buffalo demon to restore dharma. CMA holds an event every year to celebrate both this occasions jointly. Its an evening spent dancing and connecting with friends. Garba is a form of dance which originated from the state of Gujrat. Garba is performed around a centrally lit lamp or statue of Goddess Shakti. Garba is unique for its circular/ spiral dance motions and colourful attire.

This year upwards of 175 people from different communities came together to enjoy the CMA event celebrated at the Ukrainian Cultural center. It was 5 hours of pure adrenaline rush, dancing to the tune of DJ foot tapping beats followed by a sumptuous dinner of pav bhaji, bhel, idli-wada and kulfi. The dinner, in particular, was a big hit as it rekindled sweet memories of the street food in Maharashtra.

Diwali

Date: October 28th 2017

**197 1st Street SW, Calgary, AB T2P 4M4
Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre**

Diwali – also known as the Festival of Lights was easily the biggest and most anticipated event of the year. Approximately 400 people attended this mega event held at the Chinese Cultural center in Calgary. Diwali one of the most popular festivals in India spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and hope over despair.

It is a festival of joy, splendor and happiness. Indians celebrate Diwali all over the world with great enthusiasm. Its celebration includes millions of lights shining on houses, diyas outside doors and windows and around temples. Diwali is extremely anticipated by children who revel in the firework and lighting displays all around Maharashtra and the opportunity to burst crackers.

During Diwali, people dress up in traditional clothes, light up diyas and participate in family pujas. Traditionally families come together to celebrate this festival with feasts and exchange sweets and gifts with loved one's and friends.

Diwali is celebrated over a period of 5 days each significant in its own way, dedicated to a special thought or ideal. Diwali festivities start with

- Dhanteras – On this day Lord Dhanwantari came out of the ocean with Ayurveda for mankind.
- Narak Chaturdashi – The day Lord Krishna destroyed the demon Narakasur and made the world free from fear
- Laxmi puja- A day when Goddess Laxmi is worshipped to celebrate the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness
- Padwa – celebrates the relationship between husband and wife
- Bhaubij – celebrates the relationship between brothers and sisters. Legend has it that Yama, the Lord of death had visited his sister on this day and granted her a boon. That whoever visits her on this day will be liberated of all sins. From then on, brothers visit their sisters on this day.

Diwali 2017 earned its place as the flagship event of CMA. It celebrated multiculturalism in Calgary by showcasing performances, both traditional and by other cultures. Dancing troupes from the Chinese, Columbian and Peruvian communities showcased their traditional dances along with performances by the Maharashtrian, Gujrati and Assamese communities.

The avenue was bristling with energy. There were kiosks where small businesses showcased their wares, kids were jousting amongst themselves to get into positions to be the first to get their faces painted and Ladies were overjoyed to get pampered at the mehndi stalls and sport the unique designs of mehndi on their hands.

The sumptuous dinner and falooda followed by an open dance floor provided a perfect end to the evening.



Pallavi – Youth Group

Rawson Lake hike

Date: July 30th, 2017

As our Youth (Paalavi) Committee work to broaden our reach, we support local youth with this unique and proven program.

Recently an energetic team of youths from 14 to 24 years had an opportunity to go for a hiking trip to Rawson Lake located near Kananaskis with our CMA Youth Committee. Our main mission was to inspire youths to discover their limitless abilities through nature-based programs.



Youths had an amazing time hiking at Rawson Lake. The hike started at 10:30 am on Sunday, July 30th 2017 with a total count of 22 youths and 4 parent volunteers. The weather was really good and the group was able to hike high up to the Upper Lake. We were amazed to see our youth's problem-solving skills throughout the day!

Paalavi provided them an opportunity to learn how to work as part of a team, support their colleagues, sustain and work around challenges.

After reaching the Upper Lake, our group had their lunch and socialized with the rest of the team. This was again a great opportunity to know each other. We started climbing down the mountains and reached our parking lot by 4:15 pm. Kuddos to our team for successfully completing the 10 km hike to and fro!!

Day at Mustard Seed Shelter Kitchen

Date: August 27, 2017

The Mustard Seed Shelter, 7025 44 St. SE Calgary T2C4E8

Paalavi Committee organized a volunteering program for youths at 'The Mustard Seed Shelter - Kitchen' on Sunday, Aug 27th from 4 to 8:30 pm. We had to restrict to 10 youth volunteers (per the Mustard Seed policy) to support the Kitchen duty.

The activities were divided into 2 subsets:

Set 1 (4 to 6:30 pm): Dinner Prep and Cleaning
Volunteers worked alongside of the Mustard Seed kitchen team to help prepare evening meal for their guests. This included making salad, shredding grilled chicken, grilling pork patty, buttering buns, chopping vegetables, making potato and sweet potato wedges, filling rice pudding cups, jams etc. The group also helped tidy the kitchen before the dinner service began.



Set 2 (6:30 to 8:30): Dinner Service

The Mustard Seed meals were served in a cafeteria style. Volunteers helped to plate the meals to allow guests to come up and take them, as well as checking meal tickets and bussing tables as needed.

Kuddos to our youth volunteers who managed the task of serving around 250 homeless guests, modestly and were willing to volunteer for another such program!

Blood Bank Drive
Canadian Blood Services, 200 Barclay Parade SW, Calgary
Date: November 11th, 2017



We had a turnout of about 8 people, but because of eligibility issues, only 4 were able to donate blood. The support and enthusiasm for this event from the Paalavi members was commendable.

Volunteers complete eligibility quizzes. Everyone eligible then donated blood over the next hour, while the non-eligible youth members were boosting their morale by getting them drinks and food from the cafeteria. Once the volunteers were done donating blood and replenishing their sugar levels, CMA decided to end a very successful Paalavi year with a team lunch.

Kudos to our youth volunteers who volunteered and contributed to the community throughout 2017 via versatile events.

Samadhan – Seniors Club

Senior's day out at Bar U Ranch
Date: July 1, 2017B2

Senior's Picnic
Date: August 19, 2017
Venue: Edworthy Park, 5050 Spruce Dr SW, Calgary,
AB T3C 3B2



Charity

Donation Drive in support of WINS

CMA has a vision and mission to incorporate the spirit of community amongst its members. We have chosen to incorporate charity aspect during every event that we conduct, in order to become a strong socially responsible community partner.

In keeping with this objective we invited members to donate gently used clothing for women, men and children and household items for our Diwali function held at the Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre on 28th October 2017.

CMA is thankful to its members for the active participation and looks forward to stronger collaboration in future drives.



Year-End party
Date: November 2017
Salma Garde's residence



WINS

WOMEN IN NEED SOCIETY

DONATION DRIVE IN SUPPORT OF WINS

Accepting donations of gently used clothing for women, men and children, household items and furniture.

DATE & TIME: 28th October 2017
4:30 PM - 10:00 PM

DROP OFF LOCATION: Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre
197 First Street SW
Calgary, AB, T2P4M4

CONTACT INFO: **Calgary Marathi Association**
Email: info@cmacalgary.ca
Website: www.cmacalgary.ca
[f](#) @cmacalgary

THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO WINS

You are making a difference in the lives of Calgary women and their families.



Marathi Shala

Executive Committee

- Akhil Deshpande – President
- Arun Jadhav - Vice President
- Kaustubh Apte – Treasurer
- Nikhil Achrekar – Secretary



Board of Trustees (BoT)

- Ajay Khanolkar - Chairperson
- Sucheta Kolhatkar - Vice Chairperson
- Vikrant Karambelkar - Director
- Neeraj Arvikar - Director



Program / Event Committee

- Sonali Deshpande – Paalavi Facilitator
- Kavita Jadhav – Cultural Coordinator
- Minal Achrekar – Annapurna

Youth Committee (Paalavi)

- Parul Wadodkar
- Chinmoy Ayachit

Seniors Club (Samadhan)

- Sapna Savai
- Vipin Savai

New Immigrant Advisory Committee:

- Rajesh Jintikar

Web Administrator:

- Manish Kaduskar
- Pallavi Kaduskar