



जोडी मराठी मन

CALGARY MARATHI ASSOCIATION

२०२३ स्मरणिका
2023 Memorabilia



About Calgary Marathi Association (CMA)



जोडी मराठी मन

CMA is a registered non-profit organization to preserve and promote Marathi Culture by bringing together Marathi speaking persons in Calgary and surrounding area.

Over the last 40 years, the CMA has been running successfully as a non-profit organization with your support and thousands of volunteering hours.

CMA provides everyone with a wide variety of opportunities beyond a social and cultural platform. As a responsible community organization, we believe in giving back to the community and society at large.

Visit us at: <http://www.cmacalgary.ca>



CMA Vision And Mission



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Our Vision

- ❖ Our vision is to be socially responsible community that works together to preserve, promote, and enhance our culture, heritage, and religion, while fostering unity and inclusiveness.
- ❖ We aim to strengthen our community as a whole and encourage multiculturalism, ensuring these values are passed on to future generations.

Our Mission

- ❖ Our mission is to uphold and promote our values, heritage, and culture by celebrating our customs and traditions for future generations.
- ❖ We are dedicated to supporting the spirit of multiculturalism in Canada and welcoming all Canadians to engage in our community.
- ❖ We aim to bring together individuals interested in the Marathi language and those passionate about its promotion.
- ❖ Additionally, we strive to alleviate poverty through community service and by organizing various charitable and educational initiatives, all while fostering the overall well-being of our members.



स्मरणिका SMARANIKA

मराठी बोला, वाचा आणि लिहा
Speak, Read & Write Marathi



Calgary Marathi Shala/School is a non-profit organization operating under the umbrella of Calgary Marathi Association. Inspiring young minds to love Marathi through language, culture and creativity.
website : <https://www.cmacalgary.ca/pages/marathi-shala-school/>

Our Vision

To nurture interest for learning the Marathi language primarily in the younger generation extendable with online conversational Marathi classes for older students.

Our Mission

Connect young generation with the Marathi culture and heritage through listening, speaking, reading, writing, performing arts and elocution.

Shala Objectives

- Strengthen the heritage, culture, festivities of the Marathi traditions.
- Support initiatives to promote and preserve the rich legacy of Marathi Language.
- Educate and inform the younger generation of the diverse cultural heritage of India in general and of Maharashtra through various activities
- Support new Immigrant's kids speaking Marathi and ease the transition.
- Conduct multiple projects aligned with the festivals to encourage their art and skills.

Academic Structure

Shala follows the same academic structure as Calgary Board of Education. Scholl start in first week of September and ends on June 30th.

Curriculum

A five-level "Marathi Language Learning" curriculum, guidelines and supporting materials developed by Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal North America, in collaboration with Bharati Vidyapeeth Pune, State Maharashtra, India.

Foundation

- Volunteering efforts and commitments of teachers, coordinators and support from the Marathi community.
- Teach Marathi as a second or third language to the students in a North American environment.
- Support of Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal (BMM) of North America in providing a progressive language learning study program, material and tutorials to our CMA Marathi Shala students.

Admission

- Student registration starts in August and ends in September of each academic year.
- CMA family membership (January to December) in any given year is mandatory to register the kids in Marathi Shala.
- Shala provides the word document to all parents to collect the details
- Based on the information provided in the forms, Shala do the assessments and then admit them in a suitable grade.
- Age limit – Minimum 4 years, Maximum 13 years

Classes

Minimum one hour in a week. Classes are conducted in hybrid structure in-person and online. But in-person classes for some selective events and festive celebrations in 4 to 6 weeks are mandatory. Events like Diwali, Ganesh Festival, Gudi Padwa, Year end picnic and showcasing some talents.



Final Exam Deatail for 2023 – 2024 school year

- Total 15 students appeared for BMM final exams from level 1 to level 5.
- Conducted internal exams, total 30 + students appeared for -Junior and Senior Balwadi, and other levels.
- All students passed their exams with very good grades.

Certifications

- Calgary Marathishala provided certificates to all students and teachers at the end of the year.
- These certificates are signed by BOT, Principal and Precident of Elected Committee for that year
- BMM also provide the certificate for all student according to their levels.
- Students received BMM certificates as well as Baalbharati certificates

Sr. No.	Teacher Name	Designation &/ teaching grade	Number of students
1	Deepali Shishodia	Teacher - Grade 5	7
2	Nikhil Sidhaye	Teacher - Grade 4	2
3	Rujuta Sidhaye	Teacher - Grade 3	4
4	Bhupali Ponshe	Teacher - Grade 2	3
5	Vinay Dhande	Teacher - Grade 1	7
6	Smita Ropalekar	Teacher - Sr. Balwadi	6
7	Meghali Gadhak	Teacher - Sr. Balwadi	7
8	Aparna Zade	Teacher - Jr. Balwadi	6
9	Chanda Kate	Teacher - Jr. Balwadi	5
10	Deepika Patwardhan	Teacher - Jr. Balwadi	5
11	Nupur Nanoti	Teacher - Jr. Balwadi	6
12	Nutan More	Coordinator/Teacher – Jr. Balwadi	7
13			Total 65



Annual Day Event



Distributed Certificates to all Teacher volunteers
From Left
Ravindra Injal – BOT
Nachiket Patankar – Teacher
Manali More – Teacher
Vinay Dhande – Teacher
Aparna Zade – Teacher
Meghali Gadhak – Teacher
Deepali Shishodia – Teacher & Principal
Jayashree Thatte Bhat – BOT Shala
Nutan More – Co-Ordinator & Teacher
Chanda Kate – Teacher
Nupur Nanoti – Teacher
Bhupali Ponshe – Teacher
Smita Ropalekar – Teacher
Deepali Patwardhan – teacher
Anil Avhad
Nutan More
Deepali Shishodia
Mrunal Joshi
Nachiket Patwardhan
Manali More
Vinay Dhande
Jayashree Thatte Bhat

In-person class in library



BOT, Teachers & principal with guest



Additional activities at festive events
Gudi Padwa Shala booth



In-person classes in library





Makar Sankranti

मकर संक्रांती

Date: January 21, 2023

Venue: Kingsland Community Hall

Total Attendees: 106

The CMA Ladies' Only Makar Sankranti Haldi Kunkum celebration was a resounding success, marking the first-ever large-scale event where 106 ladies came together to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

Haldi Kunkum, a traditional ritual symbolizing friendship and blessings, played a central role in the event, fostering a sense of unity and goodwill among the women.

Makar Sankranti, a festival of harvest and new beginnings, added to the significance of the day. ***This event was entirely organized, sponsored, and managed by the ladies themselves, providing a wonderful opportunity for them to collaborate, exchange ideas, and strengthen the bonds within the community.***

Makar Sankranti

मकर संक्रांती

Date: January 21, 2023

Venue: Kingsland Community Hall

Total Attendees: 106





Marathi Language Pride Day

मराठी भाषा गौरव दिन

Date: February 17, 2023

Venue: Calgary Central Library

Total Attendees: 52

CMA warmly welcomed attendees to celebrate Marathi Language Pride Day, honoring the legacy of *renowned Marathi poet and writer Kusumagraj (Vishnu Waman Shirwadkar) on his birth anniversary.*

The event was a vibrant celebration of Marathi language, with youth participants showcasing their talent through speeches, famous songs, shlokas, and other performances. This day is especially significant for those living far from Maharashtra, as it serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving and promoting our mother tongue.

The event was a humble effort by CMA to encourage everyone to stay connected with Marathi culture and language. We thank all those who supported and joined us in making this celebration meaningful.

Marathi Language Pride Day

मराठी भाषा गौरव दिन

Date: February 17, 2023

Venue: Calgary Central Library

Total Attendees: 52





Holi- Festival of Colors

रंग पंचमी

Date: March 5, 2023

Venue: Dalhousie Community Association

Total Attendees: 204

Calgary Marathi Association was thrilled to host its first-ever Holi event for members on March 5, 2023, with 204 attendees.

The event was a fun-filled afternoon featuring music, dance, refreshments, and vibrant colors. Holi, a festival that celebrates the triumph of good over evil, brought everyone together for a memorable celebration.

Attendees enjoyed delicious food and played with eco-friendly colors, all while embracing the Canadian weather.



Holi- Festival of Colors

रंग पंचमी

Date: March 5, 2023

Venue: Dalhousie Community Association

Total Attendees: 204



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जोडी मराठी मन

Gudi Padwa- Hindu New Year Celebrations

गुढी पाडवा

Date: April 15, 2023

Venue: Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre

Total Attendees: 422

CMA celebrated Gudi Padwa, the Hindu New Year, with a grand event that highlighted the significance of this auspicious occasion.

Gudi Padwa marks the start of a new year in the Marathi calendar and symbolizes the victory of good over evil and the arrival of spring.

As part of the celebration, CMA hosted a *famous Marathi drama and invited local artists from British Columbia to perform under the cultural exchange program*. Following the skit, talented kids and youth took the stage, showcasing India's rich heritage and history through various performances.

The event concluded with a delicious spread of Maharashtrian delicacies. Many members of the local community from Calgary attended the event and appreciated the overall content and cultural richness of the celebration.



Paalvee Events (Youth Club)

<h2>Snow Tubing</h2> <p>Date: February 17, 2023</p> <p>Venue: Canada Olympic Park</p>	<h2>स्नो ट्युबींग</h2> <p>Total Attendees: 55</p>
<h2>Walkathon: Celebrating Marathi Official Language Day</h2> <p>Date: May 06, 2023</p> <p>Venue: Fish Creek Provincial Park</p>	<h2>वाँकेथॉन</h2> <p>Total Attendees: 120</p>
<h2>Paint with Me</h2> <p>Date: May 27, 2023</p> <p>Venue: Calgary Public Library- Seton</p>	<h2>पेंट विथ मी</h2> <p>Total Attendees: 27</p>
<h2>River Rafting</h2> <p>Date: August 13, 2023</p> <p>Venue: Bow River- Calgary</p>	<h2>रिव्हर राफ्टिंग</h2> <p>Total Attendees: 63</p>

Our *Paalvee Events (Youth Club)* provides an *opportunity for our youth to collaborate, volunteer, and lead various events* under the CMA umbrella. This dynamic group has successfully organized a wide range of events throughout 2023, aimed at challenging themselves and fostering growth.

The youth have engaged in both sports-based and learning-focused activities, such as *Snow Tubing, Walkathon, River Rafting, and Paint With Me*.

In addition to these events, the CMA youth group has continually *showcased their talents by volunteering, planning, and performing in various other CMA activities*. Their dedication and enthusiasm make them an invaluable part of the community.

- ❖ *Snow Tubing* event was held during the Family Day long weekend at Canada Olympic Park, where participants enjoyed the snow and tubing in the perfect family-themed setting.
- ❖ *Paint with Me* event brought out the artists within youth to showcase their skills under the guidance of a professional painter.
- ❖ *Walkathon* saw participants of all ages—from 5 to 70 years—walking distances from 2 km to 10 km, collectively covering an incredible 1000 km.
- ❖ *River Rafting* event, held during the summer, allowed youth to rent rafts and navigate the gentle waters of the Bow River from Bowness Park to downtown. For many, this was their first rafting experience, but with CMA’s focus on safety and the collective energy helped them overcome their fears.

Paalvee Events (Youth Club)

Walkathon



Paint with Me



Snow Tubing



River Rafting





Samadhaan Events (Seniors Club)

Seniors Night

Date: February 11, 2023

Venue: House Basement , Lake Chapparal Community

गप्पा टप्पा

Total Attendees: 14

Seniors Picnic

Date: August 13, 2023

Venue: Bowness Park

ज्येष्ठांची सहल

Total Attendees: 35

Like the Paalvee Youth Club, CMA also has the *Samadhan group, dedicated to seniors aged 60 and above.*

The primary goal of this group is to provide seniors with opportunities to socialize, engage in exclusive events, and participate in major community celebrations.

Our so-called seniors turned out to be young at heart and joined us for a wonderful time for an evening to chat, make friends have a hearty laugh and enjoy delicious meal.

Later in August, our Seniors had a great outing at the scenic Bowness Park.

- ❖ *Seniors Night* members gathered for a friendly dinner hosted by CMA, followed by an evening of singing, board games, and lively conversation. It was a wonderful chance for the seniors to reminisce and share fond memories. Many seniors expressed their appreciation for the group, feeling grateful to be part of it. .
- ❖ *Seniors Picnic* the group enjoys outdoor gatherings in the park, where volunteers assist with activities, food, and plenty of fun, making it an enjoyable day for all.event brought out the artists within youth to showcase their skills under the guidance of a professional painter.



Calgary Stampede Parade

कॅलगरी स्टॅपेड आणि मिरवणूक

Date: July 7, 2023

Venue: Calgary Downtown

Total CMA Participants: 105

For the second year, CMA proudly participated in the world-famous Calgary Stampede Parade marking the start of one of the biggest outdoor events in the world.

CMA was represented by a troupe of 105 performers and volunteers who walked a 5 km distance, showcasing traditional instruments and folk-dance steps. The event was witnessed by over 305,000 visitors who lined up the downtown streets to witness the magical performance of our artists and tap to tunes of our famous Dhol-Taasha band

Committed to giving back to the society, CMA shoes theme for this 2023 participation as ***Donate Blood - Save Lives***, aimed at promoting the Calgary Blood Bank and creating awareness amongst the masses towards the noble cause. The vibrant and energetic performance was a great way to spread this important message while celebrating our cultural heritage.

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Calgary Stampede Parade

कॅलगरी स्टॅपेड आणि मिरवणूक

Date: July 7, 2023

Venue: Calgary Downtown

Total CMA Participants: 105





Family Camping

फॅमिली कॅम्पिंग

Date: July 21, 2023

Venue: OI McDonald Campground
north of, Erskine, AB

Total Participants: 110

CMA organized a two-night camping trip, carefully chosen to ensure fun for all age groups. Participants enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities, including campfires, beach games, swimming, and boating, all in a group setting.

The campsite also offered additional entertainment, making it a memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone. It was a wonderful opportunity for families and friends to connect with nature and create lasting memories.

Some of the event take aways were....

- ❖ Quality Time Together for the families and uninterrupted time away from screens and daily distractions
- ❖ Nature Connection – Being in the woods helped reconnect with nature, reducing stress and improving mental well-being.
- ❖ Adventure & Fun – typical camping activities and the real fireside chats created lifelong memories.
- ❖ Physical and mental well being – The cool evening, crisp mornings, fresh air, physical activity, and a break from urban pollution contributed to better physical and mental health.
- ❖ Cost-Effective Getaway – Compared to expensive vacations, our camping event became a cost-effective way to enjoy a refreshing break with friends and family.

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Family Camping

फॅमिली कॅम्पिंग

Date: July 21, 2023

Venue: OI McDonald Campground
north of, Erskine, AB

Total Participants: 110





Sports Events

Cricket Tournament

Date: August 12, 2023

Venue: Calgary Rotary Challenger Park

क्रिकेट स्पर्धा

Total Participants: 120

Badminton Tournament

Date: December 30, 2023

Venue: November 19, 2023

बॅडमिंटन स्पर्धा

Total Attendees: 35

CMA alongside its focus on nurturing tradition, Marathi language based schooling, Youth and women empowerment also emphasizes on physical well being.

Some of the key aspects CMA promotes are:

- ❖ Encourages a Healthy Lifestyles
- ❖ Build and strengthen Community Spirit
- ❖ Develop Skills & Discipline
- ❖ Provide Social Engagement
- ❖ Support Local Economy
- ❖ Encourage Inclusivity across people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
- ❖ Reduce Stress & Improves Mental Health
- ❖ Inspire Future Generations

Cricket Tournament: 2023 saw CMA host the summer Cricketing tournament for the 10 local teams who ferociously competed for the 2023 title.

Not only did CMA had the honor of leading the event, we Won the championship title as well! Kudos to our team practicing throughout the summer to prepare for this thrilling competition.

Badminton Tournament: In addition to cricket, we also organized a badminton tournament every November, inviting players aged 10 and above to compete. The youth tournament continues to be a fun and engaging event for children of all ages, promoting teamwork and healthy competition.

Both sports initiatives focus on enhancing the well-being of our community members by encouraging physical activity. By participating in these events, we aim to foster good mental health and create a sense of



Calgary Ganesh Mahotsav

कॅलगरी गणेश महोत्सव

Date: September 24, 2023

Venue: Genesis Centre- Feature Gym Hall

Total CMA Participants: 800+

CMA's Ganesh Mahotsav (festival) is its ***flagship event and also the most authentic Marathi event*** to celebrate the legacy of India's pre-Independence national leader Lokmanya Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak who started the festival during British rule to ***bring people together*** across Maharashtra which later united people across the nation.

The most significant event celebrated by the CMA, brings together our entire community in a vibrant display of devotion, culture, and camaraderie. This event invites all community members to participate in the ritual prayers, followed by Prasad (lunch), cultural performances, and the energetic Dhol-Tasha (Indian percussion) performance, which adds a festive atmosphere to the occasion.

Ganesh Chaturthi, a highly auspicious festival, is celebrated in India and across the globe, marking the birth of Lord Ganesha. It is a time of ***spiritual reflection and joy***, with the Ganesh Pooja being considered a sacred ritual that marks the beginning of any new and positive venture. Celebrating ***this festival as a community holds significant religious, cultural and sentimental significance for Maharstrians***. It not only strengthens our cultural roots but also provides an opportunity for all of us to come together in shared celebration, reinforcing the bonds of unity and belonging within our community. It is a time to embrace our heritage and build lasting memories while honoring traditions that have been passed down through generations.

Calgary Ganesh Mahotsav

कॅलगरी गणेश महोत्सव

Date: September 24, 2023

Venue: Genesis Centre- Feature Gym Hall

Total CMA Participants: 800+





Raas Garba- Navratri Celebrations

रास गरबा दांडिया

Date: October 21, 2023

Venue: Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre

Total CMA Participants: 380

CMA hosted Navratri celebrations with a spectacular Raas Garba night, bringing our community together in a joyous celebration of Gujarati tradition and culture. Navratri, a nine-night festival dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga, symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, celebration of divine feminine energy, seasonal transition marking revival of monsoon rains, etc. The event is marked by vibrant rituals and dances.

Garba, a traditional dance form from Gujarat, is an integral part of Navratri festivities. It is performed in circles, symbolizing the cycle of life, and is a way of honoring the divine feminine energy. The dance is a form of collective expression, fostering unity and joy among participants.

In 2023, for the first time, CMA arranged professional choreographers to teach Garba steps to participants of all skill levels, ensuring everyone could join in the fun. The celebrations began with traditional rituals such as Bhondala songs and Kumarika Poojan, followed by an energetic and lively Garba dance session. Participants, dressed in colorful traditional attire, filled the atmosphere with energy and enthusiasm, creating an unforgettable experience for all.

The event was a beautiful reflection of our community's spirit—honoring our rich traditions while fostering a sense of togetherness, joy, and cultural pride. It was a night to remember, filled with vibrant dances, laughter, and lasting memories.



Diwali Gala Night

दिवाळी (दीपोत्सव)

Date: November 25, 2023

Venue: Empire Banquet Hall

Total CMA Participants: 400

Diwali, the grand finale of our annual celebrations, is the most anticipated event for the Calgary Marathi Association (CMA) each year.

Known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is celebrated over five days, with each day holding its own unique significance. This festival marks the victory of light over darkness and good over evil, and is celebrated with immense joy and fervor across India and around the world. It symbolizes the triumph of wisdom, prosperity, and the unity of family and community.

In 2023, CMA celebrated Diwali in a beautifully decorated banquet hall, mimicking the radiant festival atmosphere. The hall was illuminated with stunning lights, creating a vibrant and festive environment. The community gathered for a joyful night, filled with cultural performances, laughter, and beautiful traditional attire, making it a truly memorable occasion.

Diwali is not only the final major event of the Indian calendar, but also serves as a perfect way for our community to come together and close the year in celebration.

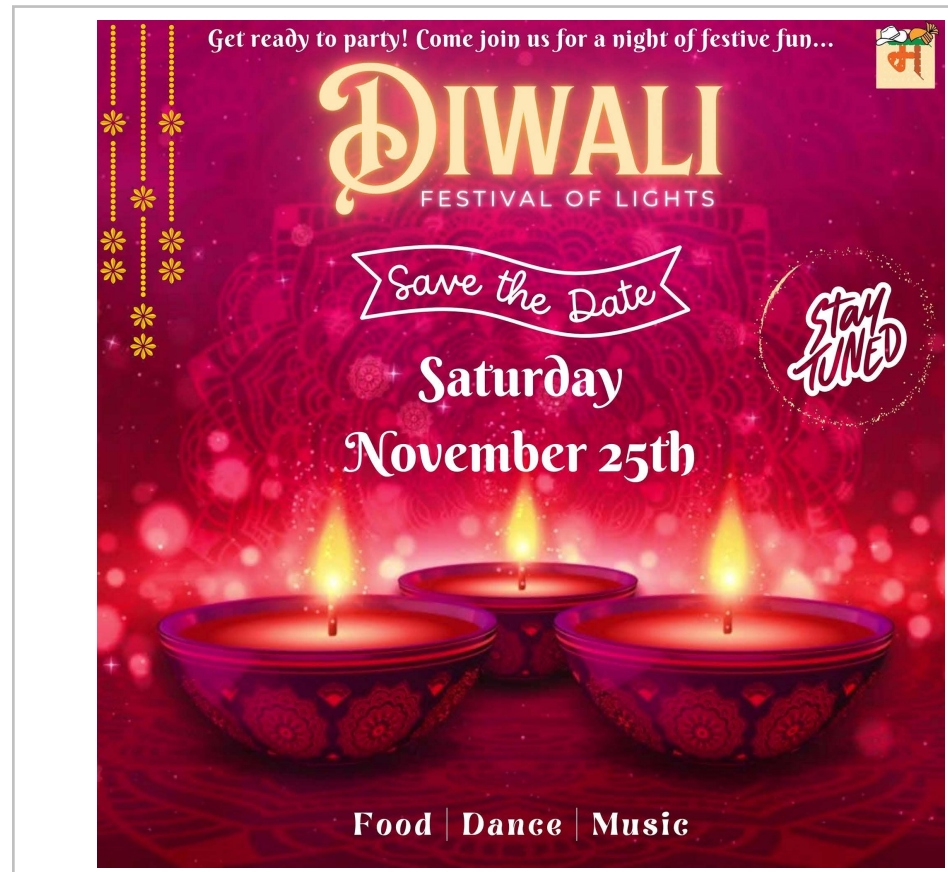
Diwali Gala Night

दिवाळी (दीपोत्सव)

Date: November 25, 2023

Venue: Empire Banquet Hall

Total CMA Participants: 400



CMA – Team 2023



जोडी मराठी मन

Board of Trustees

Ravi Injal
Director

Sanjay Kelkar
Chairman

Jayashree Bhat
Director

Executive Committee

Amit Tilak
Vice-President

Anil Avhad President

Gunjan Halkare Secretary

Vaibhav Gujrathi
Treasurer

EC – Sub Committee

Vidula Ranshinge
Cultural

Abhay Joglekar New
Immigrant

Sandip Pawar CMA
Youth

Nikhil Kulkarni
Sports

Rohan Sankhe
Cyber Media

Sachin Joshi
Samadhan Club

Harshal Kale
Dhol Tasha Pathak

Santosh Gunjal
Annapurna

Youth Committee

Shriya Sidhaye
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Ojas Ranshinge
Vice President

Veer Kadam
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Kanak Mane
Secretary

Akanksha Deo
Inter-Club Service

Mrunmayee M
Prof. Development

Taniskha Gokhale
Media &
Communications

Dipashree Pawar
Cultural &
Community Services

BOT– Sub Committee

Rohan Sankhe
Special Event Director

Vaishali Mahavir
BMM Coordinator

Prachi Arvikar
Internal Auditor

Nutan More
Shala Principal

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Closing Remarks

Throughout the year, the Calgary Marathi Association has hosted a variety of cultural, sporting, youth, and senior events that have brought our community closer together.

Emphasizing the importance of "unity in diversity," we have worked to accommodate local artists, including First Nations, and celebrate both our own cultural traditions and those of our surrounding communities.

Our focus has been on honoring the rich traditions of our heritage while also embracing the local culture and fostering a sense of belonging for everyone.

By doing so, we continue to build stronger connections and celebrate the diversity that makes our community unique.