

City revives with resurgence of values

RENU MEHTA

Toronto

FOR Malvern, 2003 was a year filled with violence and sadness. It was an area synonymous with gun violence and gangs, and these unsettling trends showed little sign of abatement. 'Walk for Values' was initiated at the Sathya Sai School in Markham keeping in mind this trend and also the broader spirit of the community. A private school founded and governed by the Sri Sathya Sai Education Trust of Canada turned this idea into reality for Torontonians.

In 2004, participants gathered on May 29 to walk the three kilometers distance to the Scarborough Civic Centre. Pledges at the 'Walk for Values' were different and included virtues such as charity, volunteering, forgiveness, compassion, punctuality, appreciation, gratitude, affection, politeness and patience.

"Our walk has nothing whatsoever to do with money, and simply exists to foster a sense of community and bring about an overall change in the world. It was therefore fitting that the Walk for Values in 2003 started in Malvern and ended at the very



first site of the Sathya Sai School, at 5600 Finch Road in Markham," say the organizers of the walk.

In 2005 and 2006, the number of participants for the walk increased to 3,000 including members of the Toronto police force and city councilors.

Organized on June 10 this year also, over 5,000 Toronto residents put their best foot forward as they converged at Yonge-Dundas square and walked over two kilometers in the prime streets through the downtown core. Raising the level of commitment

towards universal human values, the participants focused on principles of truth, right conduct, peace, love and non-violence.

Thousands of onlookers, tourists, drivers and shoppers along the busy streets got the message of practicing human values in daily lives.

"While walking in downtown Toronto, I ran into the Walk for Values. I was impressed by how polite people were and the avowed purposes of the walk. I would like to learn more about who Sathya Sai Baba is and his teachings," wrote onlooker Rob

Barlow, a Toronto resident, in an email to the organizers.

"We live in anxious times. Violence and bullying in our schools, drugs on our streets, gang wars in our neighborhoods, and greed and corruption in our institutions are all too often the stark and sad reality of our lives," said the organizers. "By walking together as kindred spirits, we can achieve two things: we can raise awareness of positive human values such as love, truth, non-violence and peace; and more importantly, we can bring attention to the urgent need to practice them in our community and halt the social and environmental ills that impoverish our lives and our spirit."

"We have to manage ourselves," said Ken Denman, a senior Canadian scientist. "The values of tolerance, understanding, respect, and other virtues such as strength of character, and concern for others and our environment are gradually being eroded by negative forces. If we stand by idly, things can only get worse. Those of us who long for a more caring, kinder and healthier world can make a difference by collective will and the leadership to act."

Roundtable talks discuss new ways to improve trade

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Montreal

FOLLOWING the success of the first Canada-India CEO roundtable in New Delhi in March this year, the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE) hosted a second roundtable in Montreal on June 18. Supported by the Canada-India Business Council (C-IBC), the roundtable was well represented by Roy MacLaren, chairman and Gary Comerford, vice-chairman.

During the discussions, new approaches were put forward by C-IBC that would help fill the information gap existing in measurement of trade in both merchandise and services between the two countries.

According to MacLaren, there is an information gap as to which Canadian company is doing what in India in any particular field, as there is limited data available to measure trade, investment and services between the two countries. This in turn makes the task of governmental assistance more difficult, as one does not know where and how to apply for the best assistance. The chairman proposed that the C-IBC in conjunction with the CCCE undertake this important task of "mapping" as a project that can have an important bearing on Canada-India trade, the role of mentors and the collaboration of business associations.

New president for Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce

RENU MEHTA

North York

SUNIL Jagasia is the new president of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC). He took over the helm of the organization on June 28.

"I want to give something back to the Indo-Canadian community whose proud member I am," says the newly elected president adding that Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce is the premier Indo-Canadian organization of the country which has

been around for over 30 years.

The savvy businessman, who is the CEO of Mississauga based Total Logistics Group Inc. and runs a freight forwarding business, joined the ICCC four years ago. During his years in ICCC, Jagasia has served in various capacities including director for trade, vice president for membership and trade and vice president for operations and corporate secretary.

"Running ICCC can be a time-consuming and a challenging task, but it is worth the effort and time. This organization has made a huge

difference in advocating the interests of Indian Canadians at different levels and showcasing the best and the brightest of its community from across the country at the annual awards and gala," he says.

Other board of directors for ICCC for the 2007-08 term include Abhilash Bhachech from Richmond Hill, Neena Gupta from Kitchener, Vinay Khosla from Burlington, Atul Ahuja from Milton, Asha Luthra from Mississauga, Geetha Ramesh from Calgary, Supro Mukherjee from Montreal and Kuttimol Kurian from Don Mills, Toronto.

It's a diverse group, says Jagasia, that reflects the diversity of the Chamber. He is proud to have a good representation of women on the Board.

Jagasia believes that more work needs to be done in the areas of trade and business network delivery.



Meher Pavri (center), the newly elected Miss India Canada with actor Aftab Shivdasani and Sanjay Agnihotri, organizer of the pageant



Sunil Jagasia

