

ICO Celebrates Joyous Festival Of Holi With Gusto

MARKHAM: The colourful festival of Holi was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the Indian Canadian Organization with a cross section of Canadian society at New Jasmine Banquet Hall in Markham.

It was attended by people from the political, social and professional arenas to revel in an atmosphere of joy and togetherness dominated by the spirit of *Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam* (The world is one family).

Dipika Damerla, Minister of Seniors Affairs, was the Chief Guest along with guests of honor Bob Saroya (MP), Dr. Asha Seth (Senator), Joe Dickson (MPP) and Frank Scarpitti, Mayor of Markham. Besides the heads of various social and religious organizations and academics, rep-



representatives from York Regional Police added luminous colors to the Holi festivities.

In his welcome address, ICO President Milan Patel explained the role of ICO as an umbrella organization for Indo-Canadians in the GTA and Hamilton Area. The highlights of the evening were

the ICO Award of the Year given to Prof. Sadhna Joshi of Toronto University by Dipika Damerla, for her contributions in the field of research on HIV. Prof. Devendra Mishra and Prof. Azad Kaushik (Chair and Co-Chair of ICO respectively) presented Joe Dickson (MPP) with a ceremonial

shawl and a Certificate for being the Chief Architect of the Hindu Heritage Month. Prof. Mishra hailed Joe Dickson as "The Hero of the Hindus in Ontario". Captivating cultural performances by the children and the youth of ICO won applause from the audience. The most thrilling act in

the true spirit of Holi Hungama (celebration) was the participation by Mayor Frank Scarpitti of the City of Markham. Emcees for the evening were Devi Ravindran and Seema Dubey. The festivities ended with a sumptuous dinner and a group dance.

-by Prof Devendra Mishra

More Services Being Added On GO Transit & UP Express From April 7

TORONTO: Ontario is making it easier and more convenient for commuters and families to take GO Transit by adding more late-night and weekend train trips along the Lakeshore GO corridor and more early-morning service on the UP Express.

Beginning Saturday, April 7, 2018, there will be new weekend morning trips and new daily late-night trips for customers on the Lakeshore West and East lines.

This will provide more consistent service every 30 minutes, seven days a week for commuters and families travelling between Oakville and Toronto on the Lakeshore West line, and between Oshawa and Toronto on the Lake-



shore East line. In total, there will be 52 new trips per week on the two lines.

The UP Express will also add two new early-morning trips between Union Station and Pearson International Airport starting April 7, 2018, for a total of 14 new trips per week. The two new trips--departing Union Station at 4:55 a.m. and 5:10 a.m.--make the

UP Express an even more convenient choice for travellers catching an early flight and will offer airport employees more flexibility in their morning commutes.

These service improvements are part of Ontario's commitment to help people get to where they are going faster by introducing more regional rapid transit across the

province. These changes also reduce greenhouse emissions.

• Ontario is investing \$21.3 billion to transform GO Transit from a commuter transit service to a regional rapid transit system.

• Schedules for the Lakeshore East and Lakeshore West corridors will be available on the new and improved GO Transit website. PRESTO

adult, senior, and student riders pay just \$1.50 for the TTC portion of their journey when transferring between GO or UP Express and the TTC.

• Ontario lowered fares on the UP Express in February 2016, making travel between Union Station and Pearson Airport more affordable. At the same time, fares for people travelling to and from the Bloor and Weston communities match GO fares.

• Since 2013, Ontario has built four new GO stations, renovated 10 GO stations, and added 7,000 new GO station parking spots. The province has also purchased 264 new GO buses, 150 new GO train coaches, and 10 new GO train locomotives.

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