

# Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown's Love For India

At a private dinner meeting with members of the Canada India Foundation (CIF) at the Pearson Convention Centre recently, Brown recounted the story of his amazing political comeback.



Mayor Patrick Brown with Members of the Canada India Foundation Board.

BRAMPTON: As 2018 draws to a close, and we look at some of the most eventful occurrences that shaped the year that's quickly passing into history, we cannot but sit back and admire Patrick Brown, the newly-elected Mayor of Brampton.

His has been a remarkable political comeback. He began the year riding a wave of popularity, appearing as a clear winner in the race to become the new premier of Ontario. Brown had built the Progressive Conservative into a cohesive battle-ready machine.

And when everything seemed to be going according to a plan, Brown's world came crashing down as he was swallowed up by the #MeToo movement. The Progressive Conservatives won effortlessly because of the great campaign that Brown had engineered. But he was left out in the cold, consigned to the dustbin of history. From a rising star of Canadian public life, he became a has-been in double-quick time.

Not willing to accept such a fate, Brown decided that he'd return to public life and decided to contest the mayoral elections in Brampton due in October. Ever

since Brown decided to run for the mayoral elections, he's had the near-total support of the Indo-Canadian community.

That support is not surprising because for the Indo-Canadian community of Brampton, Brown is one of the most-loved – if not the most loved – politicians. Brampton is home to a large number of Indo-Canadians. For Brown, 2018 was supposed to be a glorious year, but it was all going horribly wrong.

On one of his trips to India, he'd been to Varanasi, one of the holiest and the holiest cities on our planet, to seek blessings.

"It was at Varanasi that I felt a deep connection with the holy city, the holy river Ganga and as I immersed myself into the holy ambience that envelopes

everyone who goes to Varanasi, I was made to realize that 2018 would be a significant year for me," Brown said, at a townhall meeting organized by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, a few days after he was sworn-in as the Mayor of Brampton.

But then disaster and doom followed, and Brown wondered whether he'd been wrong. "But Varanasi, the Ganga, can never be wrong. My victory was delayed, instead of June it came in October," he said. The audience couldn't contain its excitement and broke into a thunderous applause.

"When I decided to return to public life, I met my friends at Canada India Foundation. And instead of recommending me to

calm down and let the storm pass before returning to the public arena, all of them said, 'Yes, go right ahead. We're with you.'"

Their confidence in him redoubled his own confidence in himself and the path he'd chosen.

He added, "It's fitting that my first campaign meeting to be the mayor was with CIF and my last campaign meeting is also with CIF." "Many know that I've been to India 18 times and will try to go there every year. India is always in my heart.

"Anyone who's been to a place 18 times doesn't go there wide-eyed and full of wonder and amazement at what he finds and discovers. I do that each and every time I go to India," Brown said. In his new bestselling book Takedown, The Attempted Po-

litical Assassination of Patrick Brown he tells some great stories about his trips to India and meeting with the Prime Minister, Modi as well as the Tamil cause in Sri Lanka.

He revealed that it was CIF's leaders who organized his first trip to India to participate in Vibrant Gujarat. "They said, 'You've got to be there.'" Brown became the first leader from the western world to acknowledge the rapid economic strides the state was taking under the then chief minister Narendra Modi. They struck a friendship that thrives to this day.

His wife Genevieve accompanied him at the CIF dinner. To emphasize his connection with India, he then narrated a deeply personal story about his life. "You know why I have an almost mythical connection to India? Genevieve decided that I was the one she wanted to be with for the rest of her life, when we were together on a houseboat in the backwaters of Kerala."

Brown's association with India goes all the way back when he was a kid. His parents had an arrangement where once a week, his dad, who was a lawyer in Brampton, was to cook supper.

"But invariably, he'd be busy or tired and would pick up an Indian dinner from the local outlet called Sweets India," he said. And since those days, he's been hooked on Indian cuisine.

## Man Held For Stealing From Brampton Civic Hospital

REGION OF PEEL – Investigators from the 21 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau have laid charges in relation to a Theft Over \$5000 and Possession of Stolen Property in the City of Brampton.

On November 14th the accused attended Brampton Civic Hospital and stole a heart rate monitor valued at more than \$7000.

On Friday, December 21, 2018,

investigators charged Kristos Bidwell a 38 year old man from Brampton. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on a future date.

Investigators believe there may be additional thefts that were committed by Kristos Bidwell and are asking anyone with further information to call investigators at the 21 Division Criminal Investi-

gation Bureau at (905) 453-2121, ext. 2133. Citizens are reminded to be vigilant in these types of circumstances. As a reminder, Peel Regional Police have established Buy and Sell Exchange Zones at 22 Division in the City of Brampton along with 11 and 12 Division in the City of Mississauga.

When using online buy and sell websites: Do not give out potential personal information;

Do not complete these types of transaction at your residence;

Do not accept foreign currency as a form of payment;

Meet in a public well lit place.

Be vigilant that you could be purchasing something that may have been stolen.

Meanwhile, in another case, police arrested and laid charges in relation to Theft Over \$5000 and Possession of Stolen Proper-

ty. On December 13, 2018 a man from Barrie left his car running in a parking lot at Ebenezer Road and Highway 50, while he went into a business to purchase a coffee. A man entered the running vehicle and drove it away.

The car was involved in a collision after which the man fled. Andrew Nguyen, a 23 year-old man from Brampton, was arrested and charged by officers.



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