



ANNUAL REPORT

November 2010 - October 2011

SRI LANKA - CANADA ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA

**PO Box 78037, Meriline Post Office
Ottawa, ON K2E 1B1**

The Executive Committee (EC) of the Sri Lanka Canada Association of Ottawa (SLCAO) is pleased to present the following Annual Report for the period of November 1st, 2010 to October 31st, 2011.

The following members served as the EC of the SLCAO for the fiscal year from November 1st, 2010 to October 31st, 2011.

President: Priyanka Alwis

Vice president: Rohana Marakawatte

Treasurer: Anoma Tissera

Secretary: Keerthi Weerasooriya

Past Executive: Tilak Waidyaratne

Directors:

Community Outreach: Mallika Edirisinghe

Cultural Affairs: Dhammika Herath

Information: Anura Ferdinand; Assistant Information: Sampath Hennayake

Membership: Chandima Amarakoon

Sports: Newton Silva

Youth: Ishara Amarasekara

Regional Chairs:

East: Narada Kodithuwakku

Central: Ravon Gabriel

West: Ruwan Warnapura

South: Chaminda Weerakoon

Auditor

Padmini Hapuarachchi

Executive Committee Meetings

A total of 8 EC meetings were held in 2010/2011.

Membership

The Association is proud to announce a membership of 117 single and family dues paying members. There was an addition of 30 new memberships to the association compared to last year which increased the membership revenue by \$670.00. Most of the memberships were received during the AGM and Christmas celebration.

Finances

SLCAO ended its financial year with a healthy balance of \$5916.46. An audited financial report will be made available separately.

www.SLCAOTTAWA.com

The SLCAO website was updated and maintained by Anura Ferdinand for the fiscal year 2010/2011. The web site continued to keep the community informed of activities of the association.

Events organized by SLCAO during the year

Christmas 2010

The SLCAO Annual Christmas celebration was held on December 11th 2010 at St Monica's Church Hall in Ottawa. The event was a great success with attendance of approximately 260 people. The tickets for the event were sold out within the first 10 days and demand far exceeded what the venue could accommodate. Although attempts were made to book a hall with higher capacity to accommodate the demand, adequate venue could not be found due to the short notice and the seasonal demand. A higher capacity hall was booked a year in advance for 2011 Christmas celebration to prevent facing the same situation.

One of the main highlights of the event was Children's Christmas Carols. Carol singing performances were conducted in Sinhala, Tamil and English by groups of performers as well as individuals.

The arrival of Santa was well received by the audience. All age groups enjoyed the event while Santa kept the crowd well engaged in the holiday spirit. Santa distributed the gifts amongst all children who attended the event. All Santa Gifts were sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Rohana Marakawatte.

Over 25 valuable door prizes were available through generous sponsorships of members and non-members from our community. These door prizes were handed out via a draw which was held throughout the evening.

The two local bands, Lankan Breeze and Calypso provided contemporary music after the festive activities. This was followed by DJ music provided by Anura Ferdinand which took the celebrations to the wee hours of the morning.

New Year Celebrations:

The SLCAO Annual Sri Lankan New Year Celebrations were held on April 16th 2011 at the Hellenic Meeting and Reception Center in Ottawa.

The Guests of Honour at the event were the High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Canada, Her Excellency Chithrangane Wagiswara, and other Canadian Government representatives. Messages of felicitations were sent by Rt. Honourable Steven Harper, Prime Minister of Canada and by His Worship Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa. These messages were published in the commemorative Souvenir.

Highlights of the event were the cultural show, the fashion show and the 35th anniversary of SLCAO. For the fourth consecutive year, children's art competition was organized surrounding the theme of Peace. Winners were awarded with certificates and plaques. One of the main highlights of the night was the celebration of 35th anniversary of SLCAO. We were fortunate to have the presence of the 1st President of SLCAO, Piya Gamage at this event. He travelled all the way from Windsor to attend the event. Many of the past presidents were present at the event and plaques were awarded to them as a token of appreciation for their contribution. 35th anniversary pins were handed out to all past EC members that were present at the event as a token of appreciation.

The New Year Souvenir was an outstanding success this year. It generated \$7000.00 in advertisement revenue. The souvenir was designed and produced by Shean Goonatilake with the support of the souvenir committee members.

Lakshman Dias provided the DJ music.

This event was an overall success and had a net positive financial gain for the association.

Sports Meet

The annual sports meet was held on July 9th at the Vincent Massey Park, Ottawa.

The meet received very good participation from members and non members. The winners of individual and team events were awarded with certificates and trophies at the awards ceremony.

Eranthika De Lambert, a residential Mortgage advisor from TD bank sponsored the event for the 2nd consecutive year and provided much needed financial support. This sponsorship was secured by Mahinda Piyasiri.

Free BBQ lunch was provided to all participants sponsored by Rohana Marakawatte.

Tri City Tournament and the dinner dance

The tri-city tournament and dinner dance was held during the August long weekend. All three cities (Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto) were encouraged to participate not only in cricket but also in soccer and netball. Two local teams participated in the netball tournament under the guidance of the coach, Shirani Ferdinand. As usual, tri-city cricket event was a glaring success this year with the Ottawa team securing the Tri-City Championship trophy for 2011 under the brilliant captaincy of Chaminda Weerakoon. An exhibition cricket game was introduced and played at lunch time during the two days for those cricket lovers who did not play at the Tri-City. Two teams from Montreal and two teams from Ottawa competed in the exhibition games.

Acknowledgements

The Executive Committee of the SLCAO wishes to express their gratitude to:

The Past Presidents of the SLCAO for their guidance and support,

The High Commission of Sri Lanka for their continued support to the SLCAO activities,

The Auditor, Mrs. Padmini Hapuarachchi,

The artists in the Ottawa Sri Lankan community who have contributed to the SLCAO events with elegant performances,
Lankan breeze and Calipso musical groups, and Anura Ferdinand, Sanjeewa Muthumudali, and Lakshman Dias for their continued DJ support at various SLCAO events,
Sponsors, advertisers and well wishers,
The City of Ottawa,
All members and non members of the community who have helped in numerous ways to the success of the SLCAO in 2011.

Conclusion

Year 2011 has been a very successful year for SLCAO. There was growth in membership, outstanding participation in all events organized by the SLCAO, great spirit of volunteerism amongst members and non-members of the Sri Lankan community in the National Capital Region. The EC wishes to whole-heartedly thank all members for their unfailing support and dedication at all times in helping the association grow and look forward to continued support in the future as well.