

SMCS Newsletter



SANATAN MANDIR CULTURAL SOCIETY OF FORT MCMURRAY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Message From President	1
Land Update Fund Raising	1
Upcoming Programs	2
Past Programs	2
Interim Mandir Location & Service Timing	3
Story Board (How we can improve Mandir?)	3
Community Connection	4
Quotes from our members	5
Inside Story - Spiritual Words	6

Dhanyatmans !

Blessings from the Fort McMurray Lakshmi Devi to all of you ! My prayers to all Gods and Goddesses that this Winter (*Shishir*) be good to you and your family

We are pleased to bring out this first Newsletter of *Sanatan Mandir*. As like any other venture, we humbly request your patience and understanding, incase, if this is not as per your expectations. The Mandir team has been relentlessly working for the last two- three years to bring out a permanent place of worship, for all of us in Fort McMurray. However, in spite of our best efforts, some of the tasks are not moving as we expected. May be, our Gods have another plan for us ?

While reading thru this Newsletter, you will get brief update on latest development (i.e. Land update, Interim Mandir, Fund Raising).

With sincere love and lot of prayers,
In Service of the Lord and the Community,
Vish Warriar, President

LAND UPDATE

In the last several months, our efforts were mainly on the Land. As previously informed, our application is still with the Municipality for the Sub division and By-law amendment for the Draper Road land, for which we have a purchase agreement in place. The endless Assessment, Re-

views and Consultation etc. are a characteristic of the Govt. machinery. Feedbacks and approvals are required from various departments such as Alberta Environment, Long Range Planning, Fisheries and Wildlife and many others. As of last week, RMWB requested us to carry out Geotechnical

Study and Environmental Impact Assessment on the proposed development ; It is our hope that by the end of January 2012, we might be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel !

- Devesh Amin, Vice President

FUND RAISING

As of now the Life Members are around 245. There are many prominent community members, yet to contribute. We should get encouragement from the small Indian community in Grand Prairie, which is 450 km north of Edmonton – a

sleepy town of 6000 people; There is no Oil income as like ours.....Still, the 30 member Indian community is building their North Pole Mandir !!

[Click](#) here to read Grand Prairie article



Shishir Parva (Winter Festival) — 11th December 2011

Namaskar All,

Dec 11th SMCS will be celebrating Shishir Parva (Winter Festival) which is an Annual Event showcasing Indian Cultural and Arts Heritage. This will be a two hour event. We would encourage people to come forward to perform in this event.

For further details, please visit www.fortmcmurraymandir.com

Please contact Chitra Udayshanker at chitudaya@yahoo.com 780-743-6356 or Sandeep Arvikar at sarvikar@yahoo.com 780-747-3901 for entry details.

Dear Society Members,
Request you to Sign the online Petition to expedite the Land approval process.
[Click Here](#)

PAST EVENTS

[Srimant Samskar Vidhi - 13th November , 10-12AM](#)

[Tulsi Vivah - 6th November , 2-4 PM](#)

[Navratri Puja & Garba - 27th September to 6th October](#)

[Diwali Puja - 23rd October to 28th October 2011](#)

[Navratri Puja & Garba - 27th September to 6th October](#)

[Janmashtami Celebrations - 21st August , 1.30-5 PM](#)

[Mandir Inauguration and Invocation - 21st August , 1-1.30PM](#)

All Event's Photo Album : [Click here](#)



Interim Mandir Location & Service Timing

Address : 460 Killdeer Way, Fort McMurray

The Mandir is open daily for Darshan:

Regular Timings :

All days of the week including Saturday & Sunday :6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, Aarti at 7:15 PM.

Sunday Morning: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Aarti 12:30 PM.



We are glad to inform you that more people are attending Mandir functions on special occasions. We had Navratri Puja and Garba on all 9 days for the first time in Fort McMurray. On an average, 30-40 people attended the Puja on those days. We also had special Puja during Diwali days. It was a welcome relief for the 200 strong crowd to visit the Mandir on the New Year's day, following Diwali – We also received \$1,040/- as *hundi* collection, which shows the spirit and support from the general public.



STORY BOARD

How we can improve Mandir?

In addition to our busy life, Mandir should become a part and parcel of our life. We have to imagine as if we are in some part of India where one of our daily routines will be Mandir. It is our Mandir. Our first step to realisation of our own place for worship

Some of the tips to improve Mandir services:

- Try to allot at-least 2 one hour slots in a month for the Mandir
- Volunteer for the Mandir in any form like cleaning of the altar, performing rituals, sponsoring some good occasions to be celebrated in the Mandir
- Arrange to gather on a regular basis
- Different groups can sponsor each day for the Mandir
- Arranging regular short Puja or Recitals of Slokas
- Children can be taught Slokas or Yoga or any language or a video of mythological stories can be shown
- Study group can convene- topics could be Geetha discussion, Ramayan etc.
- Special speakers can be arranged to impart exchange their knowledge on regular basis by group discussions, workshops etc.
- Mandir objective has to be dynamic on all occasions and that continuity and sustainability should not be diluted at any cost.

Chitra Udayshankar, Director Religion & Culture

NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

We need your voluntary time and effort for building our Mandir. The next phase (Land development and building construction) is expected to be more intense and a small team of committee members may not be able to take up the challenge. We need to build an Army of Mandir Soldiers...
(Mandir Sena) !

Please offer yourself to the great and noble cause – send your willingness to work for the Committee, in any position for the next term (fmmandir@yahoo.ca); Self nominations will be kept confidential within the committee until the AGM. A formal notice in this respect will be issued later.

- Message from SMCS Executive Committee



QUOTE FROM OUR MEMBERS



Our society has skills and resources that are vital in helping to build a more robust community.

Let's join hands to build a better tomorrow!!

- Vipul Patel

The movement called the Sanatan Mandir, has given me an opportunity to cement my religious beliefs in an absolute native land. It has given me an opportunity to cultivate the religious thoughts with my kids as well. In the past self and family have volunteered for the aartis in the evenings. The biggest take away for me is when my kids very eagerly wait for their turn to hold that aarti plate and offer their service to the almighty.

Vasantbhai indeed has been extremely generous in letting the society use his personal premises for this activity. Loads and loads of good wishes to Vasantbhai as well.

- Himanshu Varshney

Comments from Petition Page

⇒ We need a temple to keep our culture alive

⇒ Please approve our community dream

⇒ Please expedite the process of Land allotment for Religious Congregation.

⇒ I support this petition in favour of obtaining land for building Sanatan Mandir.

⇒ It will be a great effort towards community development and tools for young kids and youth...

“Namaskar

I went for the Srimant Samskar Vidhi puja that was held for expectant mothers on November 13th, 2011. It was a very beautifully arranged function. I met other expectant couples as well and we all prayed together for the good health, long life, pleasing personalities of our unborn children. Bhagavathiben conducted the puja in a very traditional manner and at every step kept explaining to us the significance of the mantra/puja we are saying. This made it possible for us to really understand and be involved in everything that we did.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be able to sit for the puja which, if not for Sanatan Mandir, I would not have attended. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

God Bless!”

- Vidya Warriar

“The puja was really good and I really appreciate your efforts in making that happen. It made me feel as if I am in India.”

- Shruti Sharma

“I am very thankful to Sanatan Mandir - Fort McMurray for organizing Srimant Sanskar Vidhi. It was great experience and specially I am so thankful that this type of activities happened in Fort McMurray which I never expected. Puja was good and also puja performed by Janakben Patel was too good.

All puja vidhi, gayatrimantra ni ahuti, mantras was as per puja performed. Puja last almost 2 hrs and myself and my husband was fully satisfied with the puja vidhi.

Again I am thanking Sanatan Mandir -Fort McMurray for organizing such a great Srimant Sanskar Vidhi. Even staying thousand's of miles away from our motherland "INDIA" I feeled like I am in INDIA having have been involved in Srimant Sanskar Vidhi.”

- Tina Dave



COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Sincere Appeal to Society Members

Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Fort McMurray always encourages all devotees to participate voluntarily in these community activities. If you have any other community activity that matches to goals of this society, and would like to lead/participate, you may contact us at fmmandir@yahoo.ca

“Community service is helping people, but also gaining an understanding about each other and a sense of human compassion.”

RELAY FOR LIFE—CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY—10TH JUNE 2011

SMCS participated in this year's Relay For Life event with "SMCS Cancer Fighters" name and raised more then \$1500 donation towards Canadian Cancer Society. At least a dozen of volunteers stayed through event night and participated large number of people between 7PM to 11PM.



CANADAY DAY CELEBRATION—1ST JULY 2011

SMCS participated in Canada Day Parade with society float. This celebration was having full day event including dance, music, games & foods. Kids participated in various dance performance during given schedule. Big crowd including seniors joined in this special event.

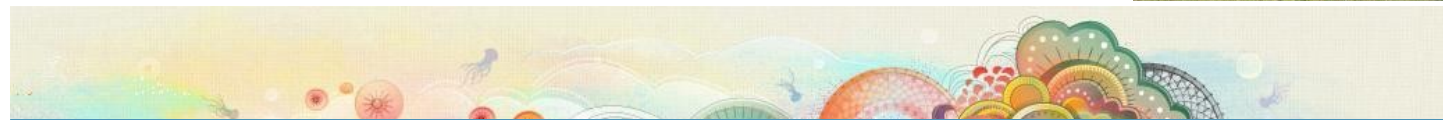


HERITAGE DAY PARTICIPATION—1ST AUGUST 2011

Heritage Day is one of Heritage Park's primary fundraisers. SMCS is actively participating in this event since last two years. This year we participated in dance performance. More then 25 kids participated in stage performance. Apart from our traditional dance we served Indian food thru our food store.

FALL COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP—25TH SEPTEMBER 2011

SMCS participated in Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Fall Community Clean-up program. More then 40 volunteers including kids & seniors joined in this clean-up event. RMWB published THANK YOU note in Connect newspaper Connect Newspaper.



C o n g r a t u l a t i o n s all Syncrude employees for voting in favour of "Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Fort McMurray-SMCS" to become one of the six finalist out of 89 local community organizations.



Be proud of our community...be proud to support our good causes..

Syncrude

December 7, 2011

Mr. Vish Warriar
President
Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Ft. McMurray
P.O. Box 5122
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 5N3

Dear Mr. Warriar:

RE: 2011 Get Effect Campaign - finalist

It is my pleasure to inform you the Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Ft. McMurray has been chosen to receive \$5,000 from Syncrude's the *Get Effect Campaign*. This campaign aimed to recognized employees who volunteer in the community and also raise awareness of the many community charities that could benefit from additional help.

Employees were first asked to choose from among 89 eligible community organizations to arrive at a short-list of six finalists. Employees voted again from the six to choose their favourite, with the top choice receiving a \$25,000 grant and the others \$5,000.

A cheque in the amount of \$5,000 will be forwarded under separate cover and should be in your possession within six weeks. If you do not receive your payment after this time period, please contact our office at 780-790-6356.


Syncrude's policy requires that a receipt be issued in accordance with Canada Customs & Revenue Agency regulations from organizations for donations of \$5,000 and more. Please forward your receipt directly to Teena McDonald at the address noted below.

On behalf of Syncrude Canada Ltd., I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the benefits your organization provides in our community.


Sincerely,

Maggie Grant
Community Investment Advisor
Syncrude Canada Ltd.





Heritage Park
Fort McMurray Historical Society
#1 Tolen Drive
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 1G7
Phone: 780-791-7575 Fax: 780-791-5180
E-mail: heritage@fortmcmurrayhistory.com



Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society
P.O. Box 5122
Fort McMurray, Alberta
T9H 5N3

August 4, 2011

Dear Laxmikant,

The Fort McMurray Historical Society would like to extend a sincere thank you for your contribution that helped make this year's *Heritage Day* event a success. Your support has enabled us to reach our goal of bringing the community together in support of multiculturalism and has aided in enriching life within our community.


Heritage Day is one of **Heritage Park's** primary fundraisers. Proceeds from the event aid in covering the general expenses involved with operating **Heritage Park** and facilitate the further development of the museum.

As part of this successful event, you have done more than assist in providing the residents of the **Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo** with an enjoyable community event. You have also helped to develop community pride and aided in preserving and sharing the history of the **Fort McMurray** area for future generations. We appreciate your efforts and look forward to your continued support!

Thank you very much!

Sincerely

Roseann Davidson
Executive Director



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

October 17, 2011

Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Fort McMurray
Attn: Vipu Patel
165 Bluejay Road
Fort McMurray, AB T9K 0L7

Dear Vipu,

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo would like to THANK YOU for your participation in the annual Fall Community Clean Up campaign. This year, over 18,000 individuals participated in various clean up programs and events throughout the community.


Your involvement has made a difference by increasing community awareness, enhancing beautification, and building community pride. Numerous comments have been received from residents and visitors on the tremendous support and effort of the volunteers. This program has greatly increased the tidiness of our region. Thank You!

On August 3-7, 2011, the Communities in Bloom national judges visited the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and evaluated the community on six criteria. Community involvement and tidiness played a significant role on our region's score. The 2011 national Communities in Bloom results will be revealed in Québec City, Québec, on October 29, 2011. Please visit www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca to view the results.


A small token of our appreciation has been included for your involvement with the Community Clean Up campaign and for showcasing your civic pride. Thank you again for taking the time to help maintain our beautiful region.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact a beautification coordinator. We look forward to your continued support and anticipate a growing group of volunteers next season.



Sincerely,



Karen Puga, Beautification Coordinator
Parks Division
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
780.799.8648
karen.puga@woodbuffalo.ab.ca



Seville Kwan, Beautification Coordinator
Parks Division
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
780.788.1489
seville.kwan@woodbuffalo.ab.ca



RELAY FOR LIFE
POUR LA VIE

Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Fort McMurray
PO Box 5122
Fort McMurray, Alberta
T9H 3G2

July 12, 2011

Re: Verification of Service

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that the Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Fort McMurray volunteered with the *Canadian Cancer Society Relay For Life* on June 10-11, 2011 assisting with a variety of event day positions.

Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Fort McMurray also participated in *Relay For Life* with their team SMCS Cancer Fighters. This team was able to raise over \$1500 and spent the night and fighting back against cancer along with 107 other teams and 1001 other participants.

If you have questions or require more information, please contact me directly at 780-437-8415.

Thank-you for your part in making *Relay For Life* 2011 so successful!

Sincerely,

Deanna Carruthers
Relay For Life Coordinator
Canadian Cancer Society
780-437-8415

Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Fort McMurray

PO Box 5122
Fort McMurray, Alberta - T9H 3G2
Email: fmmandir@yahoo.ca
Visit: www.fortmcmurraymandir.com
CRA Registration # 850716606RR0001



हीका: समस्ता: सुखिनी भवन्तु!

We're on the Web!
Www.fortmcmurraymandir.com

If you want to share your story or good article, please send it to fmmandir@yahoo.ca.

Words of Wisdom from Guruji (Shri Shri Ravi Shankar Maharaj)

Dream the Impossible

Unless you have a dream, you cannot realise it. Every invention has come out of a dream. Dream the impossible. Obviously, dreaming employs something which is beyond your perceived capacity. Consider the faculty which is the preceptor of the dream. Some dreams have impacted your daily living and others have not. Some dreams you remember, and others you have forgotten. We are all born in this world to do something wonderful and unique; don't let this opportunity pass by. Give yourself the freedom to dream and think big. Have the courage and determination to achieve those dreams that are dear to you. Many a time people who dreamt big were ridiculed, but they remained strong to achieve their goals. Do something

How to Go Green in the Winter



Going green can be a year-round practice, including during the winter months. While you can't grow your own organic foods outside, you can still be eco-friendly in your house, activities and lifestyle. Winter can sometimes make it hard to think of global warming, but the earth will thank you for your green choices. Read on to learn how to go green in the winter.

1. Save energy by making sure that your doors and windows have good seals on them. Leaky windows and doors can be like having an open window in your home, letting cold air in and warm air escape. By getting better seals, you'll also save on your winter heating bills.
2. Wear more layers inside to keep the heat down. Turning the heat down just a few degrees can make a big difference in your energy consumption. Make use of sweaters, slippers and throw blankets to stay warm.
3. Use non-toxic de-icers on your driveway and other areas. "Rock salt" contains cyanide. Chemical de-icers can also be harmful to pets and wild animals. Instead, throw plain sand down on your driveway for the traction that you need.
4. Try green activities for the family like snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and sledding. You'll get a great workout and you won't have to use electricity or fuel to have fun.

