

Open House and Jashan at 1187 Burnamthorpe Road, Sunday, September 18, 2005

WOW ! It was just fantastic to see car loads of people coming to share in the inauguration of our new property. The day started with an outdoor Jashan ceremony performed by 16 mobeds who were welcomed to the 'tent/ stage' with resounding applause from over 600 people from ages 3 months to 94 years.

The weather was perfect. A soft breeze wafted the fragrance of sukhad-loban through the air along with the vibration of the prayers. During the prayers the neighbouring farmer's goats and sheep walked across the field in a row and it appeared as though the fareshtas were really around, blessing us on this new day.

The following mobeds honoured us with the jashan prayers: Ervads Xerxes Bamji, Farhad Bulsra, Firdosh Bulsara, Freyhan Daruwalla, Kerman Katrak, Darius Kanga, Boman Kotwal, Nozer Kotwal, Noshir Mirza, Tehemton Mirza, Farzad Mulla, Cyrus Panthakee, Jal Panthaky, Hoshang Udwadia, Rishaad Unwalla, Kobad Zarolia.

The jashan ended with an inspiring rendition of 'Oh Canada' sung by Tashan Hira, followed by an emotional 'Chaiye Hame Zarathushti' sung by the entire audience.

The President, Phil Sidhwa welcomed everyone and expressed an invitation to the entire community to use this facility. "This facility is for use by all Zoroastrians, young and old, Parsis and Iranians". He pointed out the large number of children and young adults that were present, as a reflection of the vision and make-up of the OZCF to ensure the success of future Zoroastrian generations in North America.

This is the largest piece of land owned by any Zoroastrian community in North America. Phil pointed out the boundaries of the property in all directions including the grounds where 220 cars were comfortably parked; and then "up", he said, "the heaven is the limit". He gave particular thanks to Harbans Lama, the real estate agent who first introduced us to this property and arranged for the purchase without charging any fees. Mention was also made of the 5 cyclists who at that moment were participating in a 100 Km Bikeathon to raise money for the Lung Association.

Since August 10th, when we took possession of this beautiful piece of land, an army of volunteers has transformed the house and garage building with new flooring, freshly painted walls, and the finishing touches of a dana ni toran.

The invitation for this open house had said refreshments would be served, and boy was there food! Many members contributed by donating sandwiches, beverages, sev, ravo, dahi, cake, sweets, etc. Everyone enjoyed the feast in true Zarthushti fashion as Hozi Patel kept us entertained with non-stop music on the electric organ. Many people just hung out long after the function was over, youth playing soccer and volleyball, kids plucking fruits from the many fruit trees, and running around the large property, simply enjoying a sense of belonging to this place.

To quote Phil Sidhwa again, "This land is a small sparkling jewel for Zoroastrians of Ontario, but one large ray of hope for Zoroastrians around the world"

This is only the beginning my friends!!



ONTARIO ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Volume 3 • Issue 4

Message from our President

Celebrating our Achievements - Unlocking the Future

Welcome to the future! With Ahura Mazda's blessings, on August 10, 2005, Mah Asfandarmad, Roj Ashtad, the OZCF officially set down its roots for the foundation of future generations of all Zoroastrians and their families in Ontario, Canada and North America. We completed the due diligence process and negotiations, and closed the deal successfully. In an inspirational and proud moment, we took possession of our new property and were given the keys to unlock our future.

Should King Cyrus have had the army of determined, enthusiastic and creative volunteers that continue to appear in droves at our new property, then Persia might have remained ours and Alexander would have retreated with his tail between his legs. Well, sort of-but such has been the spirit of our community these past few weeks. From five to 80 year olds, men and women alike, Iranian and Parsi Zarathushtis, and especially the energetic youngsters, OZCF members and their families continue to arrive from near and far in large numbers, to admire their property and pitch in to help wherever they can. From painting, to landscaping, to clearing the land, to replacing carpeting and plumbing, to collecting donated furniture, desks, chairs, a riding lawnmower and book shelves for our kids library, to building parking lots, to bringing samosas and chai, and on and on, the momentum and excitement for our new property is building fast and furiously - and the beat goes on!

For example, over the weekend, it was wonderful to see over 50 members, mainly the youth including the cricket team, working tirelessly and exchanging ideas for future uses of this enormous 10 acre site, the largest property owned by any Zoroastrian association in North America - while also indulging in a barbecue. Most of all, everyone was having fun, working with pride and enthusiasm, for this land is ours, belonging to each and every one of us, to enjoy today, plan for tomorrow and relish forever. And we are receiving more and more commitments from Zoroastrian professionals who are volunteering their services towards our project.

So come on out everybody and enjoy your new property, admire the surroundings and lounge with friends in your clubhouse, gymkhana, baug or future KPI. It's time to celebrate. 'Don't count the days - make the days count'.

May Ahura Mazda always bless our community.

Phil Sidhwa
President



Up-Coming Events

Event : "A Passage to India"

Black Tie Gala

Date: November 4, 2005

Time: 6:00 pm

Venue: Mississauga Grand Banquet Centre. Please see enclosed flyer for more information

Event: New Year's Eve

Dinner and Dance

Date: December 31st, 2005

Details to follow in next newsletter

Event: Celebration of Ayathrem

Ghambar

Date: October 16th.

Time: 11am

Venue: OZCF's new property at 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road in Mississauga

Entertainment Committee

Gulrukh Patel 905-542-0237

Kermin Byramjee 905-845-3480

Perin Screwvalla 905-607-0574

Coomi Sorabji 905-607-2913

Charis Wania 905-274-9525

Newsletter Committee

Farida Bhesania (Chairperson),

Michelle Patel, Roshan Byramjee and

Daniel Patel

Board Liason: Niloufer Bhesania

For advertising contact Roshan

Byramjee at zbyramjee@cogeco.ca.

As We Grow: 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road

NAME THAT LAND!!

Overheard at a dinner party recently:

Jamshed: Ureh, Silloo, what are you doing tomorrow?

Silloo: I'm going to the property, how about you?

Jamshed: What property?

Silloo: Ureh, You know! The land that we just bought at 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road.

Gillabai (joining in): Do you mean The Plot?

Jamshed: What??? I'm confused! Did we buy a cemetery? Or are we writing a book?

Silloo: Nahi, nahi! We mean the land that the OZCF has bought!

If you as confused as Jamshed is, it's no wonder since we don't have an official name for the 10-acre parcel of land just purchased by the OZCF. Therefore, the board of directors has decided to have a naming contest! Write down your suggestions for a name and mail them to Niloufer Bhesania, 1202 Cloverbrae Crescent, Mississauga, Ontario L5H 2Z8. Or email them to Niloufer at nillieb@hotmail.com. Don't be shy - you can send in as many suggestions as you like!

HELP NEEDED / VOLUNTEER

We will be looking for volunteers on a regular basis to help look after the grounds and the house. If you have a hobby or a particular expertise and would like to volunteer your services please contact Farshogar at 905-829-1279 or fjasavala@logihedron.com.

Students, keep in mind that the time spent volunteering at OZCF counts towards the 40 hours needed to graduate High School so don't be shy! Help your community whilst helping yourself.



Work of Parsi Artist to be Featured in Toronto

When Farhad Nargolwalla left Unionville for Ireland in March 1995, he took two suitcases, a few photographs of his artwork, his ambition and \$2,500. He spent the first six months developing a business plan for a studio, and sold candelabras and small sculptures at craft shows and fairs.

But during 1997-1998, the bills started piling up. His sculptures had not sold. "I was going to lose my home and studio and everything I worked for. I never got to the point of giving up. I always held on a little bit longer." Enter his first big break. Europa hotel showcased an exhibit of his work with a candelabra at every table.

When the exhibit was over, the hotel bought everything and paid about \$10,000. These days, he gets that amount for one painting. He also launched a book called The Inferno in Belfast in October 2004, a book of paintings based on Dante's Inferno.

Next year, he is creating two public sculptures in Cyprus, as well as public art pieces in Tunisia and possibly in Israel. Nargolwalla has a bronze sculpture on display and for sale at the Fred Varley Gallery called Farhad and Shereen, inspired by a Persian love story. In November, his solo exhibit comes to the Canadian Sculpture Centre in Toronto. For more information on Mr. Nargolwalla, email farhadart@sympatico.ca or go to www.farhadsculpture.com

Gujrati Natak

Kutra ni Puchhdi Waanki a.k.a. Bicharo Burjore. What a funny title for this Parsi Gujrati Comedy. Actually, the play itself was even funnier; in fact it was hilarious.

After a roaring success in England, OZCF brought 'Bollywood Talent and Entertainment' to Toronto for a fun filled evening of laughter. Directed by Yazdi Karanjia and Mehernosh Karanjia, this natak was well received by an applauding audience of over 560 people. The cast was mainly from Surat and Navsari, in India. Professionally, most of them were teachers and accountants. Thanks to Yazdi and his troupe, they did not charge us a penny. This event helped OZCF raise over \$21,300.

Fali Chotia Charitable Trust Scholarships

The Trust is now accepting applications for their 17th annual scholarship awards. Scholarships are open to all Zoroastrian students in North America enrolled in 4-year or graduate-level programs regardless of their country of origin. Awards are based on financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular activity and community service. They are given as outright gifts or as no to low interest loans. Forms are available in PDF format at www.zamwi.org/about/FCCT_text.html

The Annual OZCF Picnic Shines Bright

One of our most popular events is the annual lamb roast picnic held at Bronte Provincial Park every summer. It was attended by 220 people and raised \$4,300.

All the food was donated, the weather was perfect, and the company lively. As always there was a bake sale table, as well as bingo, games, and live music by Hozzi Patel. Bravo to the entertainment committee and its volunteers.



Papeti Navroze was a Huge Hit Once Again

The Annual OZCF Papeti Navroze Function was a huge hit as always! The function was held on August 20, 2005 at the Galaxy 707 in Oakville and we enjoyed a large turnout of over 250! It is always a privilege and a treat to feast on "Patra nu Bhonu," a traditional Parsi dining delight! The menu included wafers and achar, bharuchi akoori, fried kingfish, rotli, papeta ma marghi and mutton curry and rice. Dessert included mango kulfi, the chasni from the jashan, sev, dahi, ravo and fresh fruit.

It takes the work of a great team to pull off the "Patra nu Bhonu" and we would like to thank our Head Chef, Dolly Jain, who slaved over the meal for many hours with her team of volunteer cooks. As usual, our Entertainment Committee worked very hard to not only organize the evening, but prepare the food. The meal service was handled entirely by our youth at their insistence and they did a fabulous job!! The event was a great way to officially end summer!



Upcoming Congress

The 11th North American Youth Congress from December 28 to 30, 2005: Calling all youth between the ages of 15 to 35. It is that time again to meet and enjoy each other's company at this fun congress. This year we are meeting in beautiful and exciting Miami, FL.

Check out www.zeestan2005.com for further details. Time is running out and hotel rooms are getting filled fast. So what are you waiting for? There is still time to register and ZYNA would really hate for you to be left out in the cold this December! For more information, please e-mail ZYNAangels@aol.com

Articles and news are welcome from everyone and will be put in the newsletter at the discretion of the committee. Please send your articles to Michelle Patel at ron.michelle@cogeco.ca

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by **Nov. 15, 2005**. Information received after that date will be considered for the following newsletter.

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Young Zarathushti Entrepreneur Wins Prestigious Award

Xerxes Wania was presented with the prestigious award for the "Young Zarathushti Entrepreneur/Professional of the year, 2004" by the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce. The award was presented at the Eighth World Zoroastrian Congress in London England, on June 29th, 2005. The award recognizes young Zarathushti Entrepreneurs who have achieved excellence in their careers and have made an impact to the Zarathushti Community. Xerxes spoke on the topic of "Zarathushtis and Entrepreneurs" at the Congress, which was well received by the audience. Recently he was also featured on Report on Business Television (RobTV) with Michael Vaughan during his Tech. Tuesday show. Prior to Sidense, Xerxes was the Director of Mixed-Signal marketing at Synopsys (Nasdaq: SNPS). He was involved in marketing and business development activities for mixed-signal products where he grew the business to \$10M in sales for 2003.

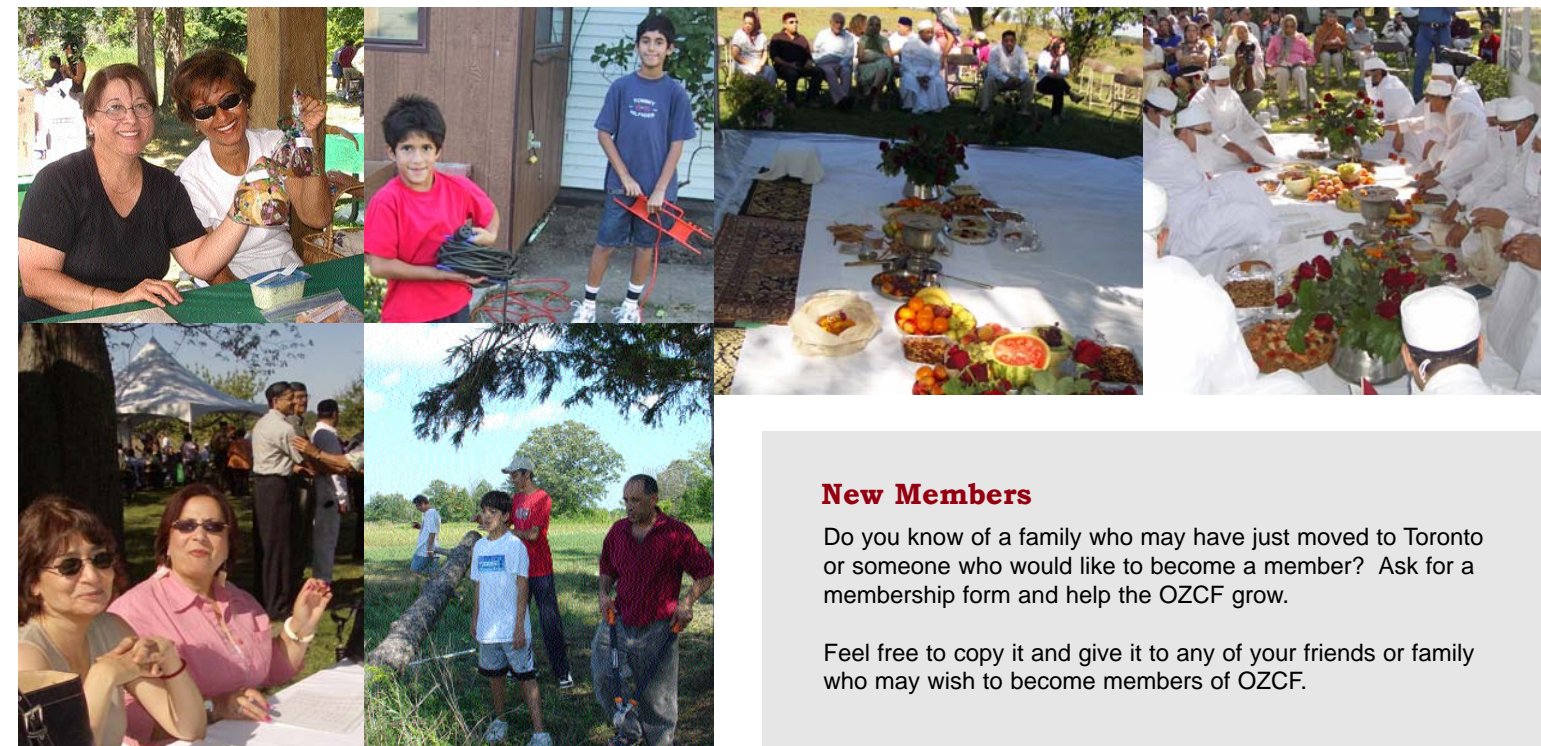
From 2000 to 2002, Xerxes was the President of inSilicon Canada and Vice President of Mixed-Signal Business for inSilicon (Nasdaq: INSN) worldwide. In his role as President of inSilicon Canada, he managed the Canadian office. Prior to that, he was the founder and the CEO of Xentec Inc., which was featured in the top 50 profitable Canadian start-ups for 1997-2000.

Xerxes is the Vice President of the World Zoroastrian Chamber of Commerce, Secretary for the Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation and holds an advisory position in several hi-tech startups.



OZCF Cycling Team Riding High

On September 18th, 2005 the newly formed OZCF Cycling Team consisting of Marook Sidhwa, Teosar Bhesania, Mehrnosh Bhesania, Porus Dinshaw and Xerxes Wania rode for 100 Kms through Oakville, Milton, Georgetown and Mississauga in support of the Lung Association Bike Ride. The ride took 5 hrs including a few stops along the way for food and water. The OZCF cycling team would like to thank all our donors and supporters who helped them raise over \$2800 for the Oakville Lung Association (www.lung.on.ca). For information regarding future fund raising rides please email xwania@rogers.com



New Members

Do you know of a family who may have just moved to Toronto or someone who would like to become a member? Ask for a membership form and help the OZCF grow.

Feel free to copy it and give it to any of your friends or family who may wish to become members of OZCF.

Get well Wish

We would like to send our prayers and best wishes to Sam Vesuna and wish him a speedy recovery from his recent operation. May Ahura Mazda watch over your recovery.

Message of Thanks

Chisty, Firdosh, Zaheer and Farhad Bulsara sincerely thank everyone who called, sent food, or came to the prayers for Chisty's late sister, Freny. Your support and love was greatly appreciated in their time of sorrow.

Marzi & Kermin Byramjee would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and prayers during Marzi's recent illness. Marzi has made a full recovery and is back at work.

We Appreciate Your Support

Thank you to all our members and friends of OZCF for making the dream of building a community center a reality. Your generosity has made it possible to purchase land and now we will need your continued support to build on that land.

Your donations are tax deductible and always welcomed.

For Sale

1. An original Godrej cupboard, colour brown, with double mirrors, adjustable/removable shelves, large locker compartment & secret bottom space.
2. Wooden cupboard with shelves, drawers & hanger space.
3. New wooden dining table without chairs.

Any resonable offer will be accepted. Please call 905-813-3920 for further details.

Congratulations

Hearty congratulations go out to **Homai & Rumi Sapurji** on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Best wishes to **Xarius Jasavala and Lila & Danny Sidhwa** on their recent Navjotes.

Achievements

Dr. Scherezade Pocha successfully completed a 60-km walk through Toronto over two days (Sept 10 & 11) with an overnight stay in a tent, raising almost \$10,000.00 for "The Weekend To End Breast Cancer". The money benefits Princess Margaret Hospital to fund research, new equipment and a survivorship clinic.

Jehangir Pocha (Scherezade's brother), a chartered accountant working for Deloitte & Touche LLP was recently promoted to Manager, Audit. Our heartiest congratulations to Scherezade & Jehangir as well as to their proud parents Dr. Nusly & Sherna Pocha.

Congrats to **Maleena Dell** on not only celebrating her Navjote on August 6, but for winning recognition for her portrait of her Granny Perin at the National Level in this year's PTA sponsored Reflections Art/music/writing blitz. Only 3 kids were chosen nation-wide for outstanding interpretation awards. Her painting is also featured at www.pta.org. Under "News & Events" see "Reflections Program," "Visual Arts" and "Primary Division."

We are pleased to report that **Zubin Surkari** and the national Canadian Cricket team just returned from a successful ICC World Cup qualifying tournament in Ireland, U.K., which now gives Canada ODI (One Day International) status. This qualifies Canada to participate in the 2007 ICC World Cup in Group C which includes teams from England, Kenya and New Zealand. Groups A, B, D and E consist of teams from other countries.

A Real Work of Excellence

Viraf Kapadia was featured in the Toronto Star recently in an article detailing his company, Star Navigation Systems. The following are excerpts from the article, detailing the "black box" - Kapadia's brain child.

"From low-tech beginnings, this small Toronto company, Star Navigation Systems, is now stepping out on the leading edge of in-flight data recording and transmission. Kapadia's vision of a satellite-enabled, real-time "black box" would be soon realized. It would be a device that not only stored data but allowed aircraft operators to track a plane's performance while airborne, and detect early warning signs of major in-flight problems.

There are other uses for the in-flight data systems, with AMS saying it collects data for Environment Canada and Star claiming it is working with an air ambulance outfit to create a system that can transmit vital health information from the patient down to the destination hospital in real time. Kapadia, an accountant from India who later worked in Saudi Arabia, got the idea while serving as financial controller of a Saudi group that owned aircrafts."

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Dhun Mai was preparing for a Papeti feast at their house. She was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family so she asked a stock boy "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy looked surprised and replied, "No ma'am, they're dead."

Laughing is the Natural Reaction

Edulji and Adilji were working for the city public works department. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest. Edulji digging a hole, then Adilji filling it in again. An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing.

So he asked the hole-digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting into your work, but I don't get it. Why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole-digger wiped his brow and sighed. "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the fellow who plants the trees called in sick."



Fees and Donations

Membership fees
Family: \$35
Single and Senior: \$10

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Mississauga, ON L5L 2J2

Donations are always welcomed.

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Rates for Ceremonial Observances

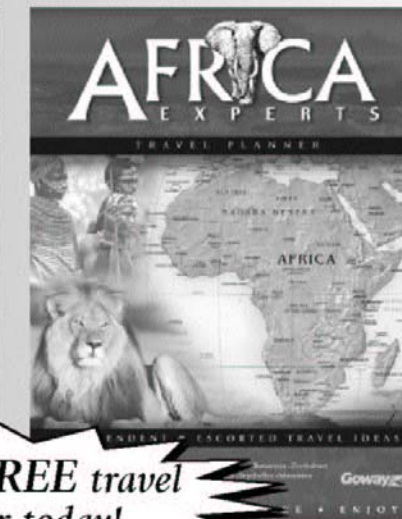
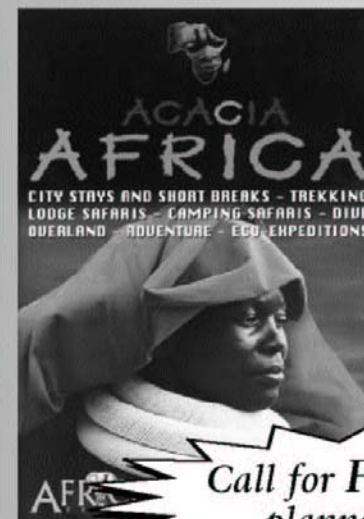
A lot of Zarthushti families have inquired about the rates for religious ceremonies.

For the awareness of the community the North American Mobed Council (NAMC), Toronto Chapter, recommends a rate of \$100 for each religious ceremony per mobed.

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