

# CANADIAN VELLORE LUDHIANA COMMITTEE

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## COMMITTEE NEWS

Over the past year, while the Committee has experienced a number of setbacks, we have also been able to move forward with God's help. Marion Saunders, our long-time Chair, has stepped down but thankfully, she will continue as Liaison with the Canadian Armed Forces. Helen Flanagan assumed the position of Acting Chair until the Annual General Meeting to be held on June 7, 2007.

Membership has dropped to a handful of volunteers so we are actively recruiting new members to share in the workload and to engage in outreach. A number have indicated interest in becoming Members at Large on the Committee; more are very welcome.

Financial support has shrunk considerably, limiting our ability to send funds abroad. In September of 2006, The Canadian Council of Churches advised that as of November 30<sup>th</sup> they wished to terminate their association with the Committee. Our challenge was to (1) find a charitable institution willing to take us into their fold, **or** (2) to disburse all remaining funds and close down the Committee entirely.

The South Asian Welcome Centre, (SAWC) in Brampton has expanded their articles to include the Committee under their ministry. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, SAWC has become our sponsoring board and will issue charitable receipts for donors to the

Committee. In the interim, the Committee will operate out of the Acting Chair's home office. Please note down the new address and contact information above. To cut operating costs, volunteers will undertake administrative duties.

Dr. Chandy, Director of CMC Vellore planned to meet with the Committee on October 3, 2006. A meeting was arranged, but unfortunately, because of an unexpected situation in Vellore, he had to cancel on very short notice. We hope that he will be able to reschedule a visit in the future.

Dr. John Pramod, CMC Ludhiana Director, will visit Brampton from June 6 to 10, 2007. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on June 7 to coincide with Dr. Pramod's visit. You are very welcome to join us for this meeting and if you wish to stand as a Committee Member, please contact Helen Flanagan at 416-494-7314.

We plan to communicate with at least two newsletters a year. A web site will be constructed to further raise the profile. Please do not hesitate to express your views and concerns. Your input is important to us. Do continue to pray for the Committee, and these two Christian Teaching Centres and Hospitals. Both institutions carry on work in the outlying villages and slums. Both provide excellent medical care for the poor and the marginalized. Both deserve your financial support.

## VELLORE NEWS

<http://cmch-vellore.edu/index.asp>

### Awards

On Friday January 29<sup>th</sup>, the Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs, RUHSA, celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, highlighting its pivotal role in helping over 1.2 million people scattered in 39 outlying villages. The work has been acknowledged by the WHO for education in Primary Health Care and outstanding achievement in rural development.

At a packed meeting attended by hordes of villagers, CMC workers, dignitaries and friends, awards were presented to the best Self-Help Groups, Self-Help Enterprises, and best out-going students of RUHSA's Community College. Cheques were given to four Widows' Rehabilitation Groups from the tsunami-affected area, which had been adopted by the CMC for long-term medical care and rehabilitation. .

CMC Vellore was also selected as one of the five best educational institutions of the nation. It was presented with the GurukulJyoti Award for Excellence in Education – 2006 and the best in the medical institutions category.

The Madras Medical Mission also awarded CMC the MMM Award for Excellence in Healthcare. The jury identified all the not-for profit organizations in Asia and the Pacific, short-listing 103 institutions. After an in-depth study including core values, service, care for the poor, relevance to society, and innovative projects. The Jury unanimously chose CMC Vellore for the award.

## New College of Nursing

On February 3, 2007 the foundation stone for the new College of Nursing building was laid. Our Committee sent \$30,000 in Matilda Findlay's memory towards the new building. A commemorative plaque will be placed in her honour.

### Pastoral Care:

The Committee also sent \$12,000 towards pastoral training for the Hospital Chaplaincy in Matilda Findlay's memory.

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## LUDHIANA NEWS:

<http://cmcludhiana.in/index.php>

### The Betty Cowan Centre of Excellence for Research in Medical and Allied Health Sciences.

The Committee sent \$66,000 to the Betty Cowan Centre in 2006. The funds were derived from two bequests, one in memory of Mrs. Mildred H.M.Hamilton and one in memory of Mr. Edward V. Wilson. These funds allowed for the construction of the Centre, which is under completion now.

This Centre of Excellence will aim to achieve the following:

- a) To encourage, promote, initiate and monitor research work in all academic departments of the institution.

- b) It will encourage all the various academic units particularly those having postgraduate programs in the Medical, Dental & Nursing disciplines.
- c) It will assist the research scholars with
  - i) project writing
  - ii) biostatistical support
- d) It will regularly conduct workshops and courses in research methodology.
- e) The institute will be independent of any of the existing departments but will closely coordinate activities with the Community Health Department.

**Anaesthesia Machines**

A donation of three used anaesthesia machines from Bluewater Health in Sarnia was arranged in co-operation with Dr. Anthony Lena and his wife Prabha. The machines were donated free of charge, but the cost of shipping and insurance from Sarnia to Ludhiana was paid by the committee. This gift provides newer anaesthesia equipment for the Operating Rooms.

For other news, please review the most recent newsletter from CMCH Ludhiana enclosed with this mailing.

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**We need your contact information updated especially telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. If you have e-mail, you may submit the information electronically.**

Please complete this form, tear off and mail to:  
 The Vellore-Ludhiana Committee, 23 Farmview Cres. TORONTO ON M2J 1G5

Please add me to your mailing list.  
 Please correct my contact information: see below.  
 Please add my friend(s) to your mailing list.

Please accept my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used:  
 As needed    CMC Vellore    CMC Ludhiana    Divided equally  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_