

## **MAC Organizes Annual Picnic**

### **Events**

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Rain, Rain go away! Come again another day! Was the fervent prayer of the brave souls participating in the Annual Picnic organised by the Mangalorean Association of Canada June 20, 2009 at the Meadowvale Conservation Park, Mississauga. Despite the prayer, neither the rain nor the gloomy weather forecast could dampen the spirits of the huge crowd ready to start the summer with an outdoor picnic.

With the blow of a whistle and the blaring megaphone announcements, lively music by Joyson D'Souza, the festivities began with a Hula Hoop game for kids under 12. As the kids passed the Hula Hoop merrily, a throng of people cheered them on. With happy smiles and eager hands, the children accepted the candy bars and gifts. The star attraction was the Bouncing Inflatable, a Blue Castle that kept the children enthralled as they bounced and hopped, giggled and laughed while playing in it. The 3-legged race tested the agility and balance of the teenagers who hopped, straggled or ran towards the finish line. Not to be outdone, the adults participated wholeheartedly and there were some grand and embarrassing moments as the participants tumbled, slipped and ran the race of their lives. Next there were the Lemon and Spoon Race and the Gunny Sack race for the children, teens and young adults. Alas! Not everyone was a winner but they scored huge in sportsmanship. While the participants bravely tried not to lose their balance and dignity in the Gunny Sack race, the cheering squad encouraged all to pick themselves up and finish the race. Our seniors were not to be left out and they showed their enthusiasm and mettle in the Balance the Book game. As the skies darkened and the skies opened, the fire inside the men, women and children could not be quenched. The Water Balloon Throw is one of the most popular organized games among all people. As the line up was formed, participants coached their partners on throwing and catching techniques. With much yelling and screaming and at the blow of the whistle, the balloons broke and drenched the unfortunate but the lucky winners were the ones who were able to successfully catch the water balloon without breaking it.

The main focus of the event is to bring the community together, make new friends and have fun in a family setting. In every game, there are winners and losers but at the MAC picnic, there were no losing teams. The volley ball and throw ball games created immense interest and brought out the competitive spirit among the men and women. People rolled up their sleeves and prepared to play a spirited and aggressive yet enjoyable game of throw ball and volleyball. The slithering grounds, slippery grounds only made the Tug O War contest even more enjoyable. That heavy rope which determines sheer brute strength, technique and team work! Men and women, children and teens did not hesitate to form teams and in a show of unity heave themselves to victory and the other team to defeat. The men flexed their muscles and demonstrated their killer instincts and winning edge while the women not to be outdone gritted their teeth, rolled up their sleeves and showed their mettle and tenacity. When the gauntlet was thrown, the challenge was accepted – men against women in a test of strength, strategy and numbers. The result: the women proved they rule as they literally pulled the

ground from under the feet of the men.

Lunch was a delicious medley of dishes as the participating families brought a dish to the potluck. With a prayer, lunch commenced satiating the hungry and thirsty crowds. Bingo provided respite from the hectic fun and a time to relax and sit. Monetary prizes were awarded to the delight of the crowd and the winners walked away with a tidy amount. Tea and cookies were served courtesy of MAC with some families providing cake in a special celebration for Father's Day.

MAC is indebted to the sponsors of the picnic who gave out of the generosity of their hearts. The sponsors were Reynold Sequeira, Salesperson for Re/Max Realty Specialists Inc., Brokerage, Ronald Mathias of Re/Max Realty Specialists Inc., Brokerage and Ronald Fernandes, Vice President of MAC. Our special thanks to Joyson D'Souza for his scintillating music and to Reynold Sequeira for conducting the games and bingo.

As the sun set and the evening came to an end, people folded their umbrellas, packed their belongings and left – tired but content, smiling and happy to mingle with old friends, share a gossip or two or just relax with fellow Mangaloreans. MAC was tremendously successful in its objective – to bring the Mangalorean community together, provide a venue to meet and mingle and offer opportunities for our youth to have a day of fun yet show initiative and leadership. MAC earnestly appreciates the work of MAC members who invested great efforts to ensure that the picnic was a superb success.

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