

**SLCAO UP-
COMING
EVENTS**

- Xmas Party, December 07



The newsletter of Sri Lanka Canada Association of Ottawa (SLCAO)

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New Executive Committee—New beginnings?

The Annual General Meeting of the SLCAO was held on the 27th of October and a new Executive committee was selected.

An energetic new president Roshan Fernando took over the reigns surrounded by equally energetic committee with new ideas. It is hoped that this new

committee will bring forward more interesting and contemporary programs for the membership.

A special committee appointed by the previous Executive committee has looked at registering the SLCAO as a non-profit organization which may broaden

the sponsorship structure. This will lead to further development of the programs handled by the SLCAO.

The “Satahan” Editorial staff welcomes the new committee and look forward to an improved outlook in the programming.

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Halloween By Kasuni De Silva (Grade 9)

The event “Halloween” began 2000 years ago, which was originated by a group named Celtics in Ireland. They believed in a pagan god called Samhain who was the god that represented dead and darkness. During that era they considered Oct.31st as the end of the year, due to that they had big parties to celebrate it. Celtics believed that oct.31st was the day where all the evil sprits would come and visit the living. Therefore, Halloween is when all the dead come back to life. That’s why majority of the people get dressed in funky scary costumes during Oct. 31st.

At the beginning of the 20th century Halloween was not popularly celebrated among the western society. However, after the 1950s this event became one of the most popularly celebrated events in the western cultures. During the time of Halloween, children dresses up in costumes and go from door to door to collect candy. These can-

dies are handed out to the children by adults who are also dressed up in costumes. One of the interesting facts about October 31st is that back in the day, this was also a very significant day for people who were too poor to pay for foods. Therefore, during October 31st these people dressed up and went from door to door to beg for food.

It was said that Halloween was originated from Christian cultures. However, I feel that this event might have been arisen from Sri Lanka or other Asian countries. There are myths that dates back to over 3000 years explaining about how there used to be evil spirits that lived in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is famous for making devil masks, and doing dances to worship devils. Therefore, even if Sri Lanka does not celebrate Halloween they do many other activities that prays for evil spirits.

In Sri Lanka before the birth of

the Buddha there have been myths that evil spirits, such as yaksha, Naga used to live there. Back in the day, the native people in Sri Lanka believed that these evil spirits actually existed, which lead to many stories on them from many different points of views, that’s why not all the stories are the same.

Even though Sri Lankan do not celebrate Halloween, there are many things that they do which are similar to Halloween customs. Sri Lankans use wesmuhuna (devil masks) for peraharas and other traditional events. Among the evil spirits believed by ancient Sri Lankans are ririyaka, mahasona, kalukumarayaya, wana-mohini, avathara. Sometimes I imagine if all these ideas of scary costumes & evil sprits were brought from Sri Lanka because they are many similarities that indicate this.

Home Sweet Home

By Kumudini Nicholas

In 1997 while Jimmy attended Auburn Drive High School, Pussia spent more time outdoors with Lilly, who tended the garden. Pussia would pretend to be in the jungle by sitting in thick grass to keep an eye on all creatures: jumpy, creepy or crawly. From time to time, she would rub against Lilly to signal her presence. Gradually, Pussia sensed her independence and started to roam freely in the backyard. Unfortunately, while Pussia focused her attention on critters, the ‘neighbours’ had been focusing on her movements.



One peaceful autumn morning, while weeding the garden, a loud commotion made Lilly literally ‘jump’ out of her skin. With a ferocious dog at Pussia’s tail, her little orange body disappeared into the rose bushes. Lilly started chasing the dog, but in vain, Pussia had vanished from her sight.

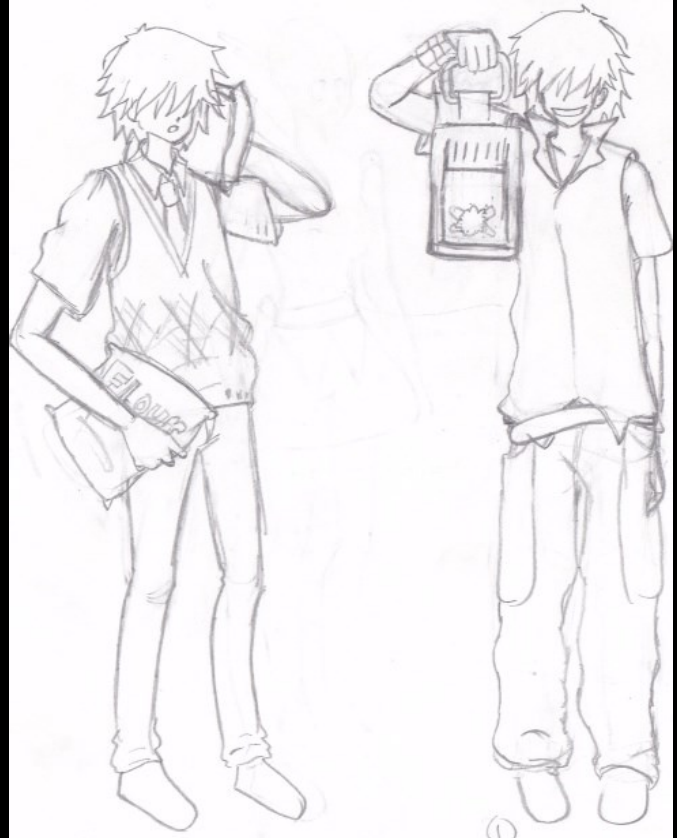
The news was devastating to Sam and Jimmy. They combed the neighbourhood. No one had seen Pussia, and the dog had already returned to his home. A sense of emptiness blanketed the home.

“Will Pussia ever return”? Jimmy groaned. That night, he decided to forego dinner. Throughout the night, Sam kept scanning the garden with high hopes for any movement. With teary eyes, Lilly prayed for Pussia’s return. Pussia’s absence was unbearable. The family feared for their pet.

The next morning, Lilly opened the front door to pickup the newspaper. Suddenly, to her joy and surprise, Pussia whisked pass her and flopped on the carpet. Jimmy hugged her with all his might, and all flocked around to check on her. Pussia’s eyes exhibited fear. Her rosy paw-pads were bloody and pebbles were stuck in them. One ear had a tear, a few long whiskers were lost and mud caked her fur. The recovery from this undesirable outdoor experience was long and difficult for Pussia and the family.

However, to the relief of the family, that day Pussia had decided to become an indoor cat; **home sweet home!**

Erick and His Devilish Brother



A pencil sketch by Shannon Silva.

October 27, 2013: A day to remember

By Martin Nicholas

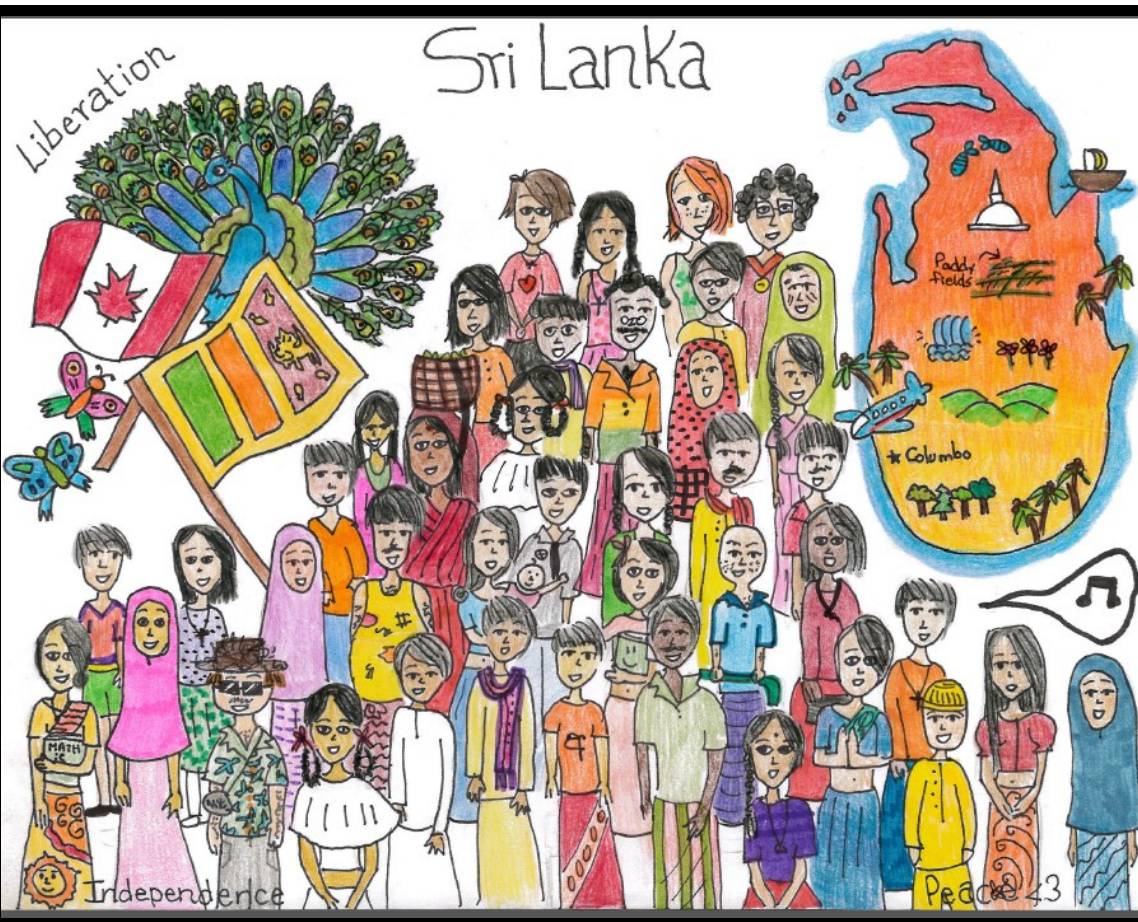
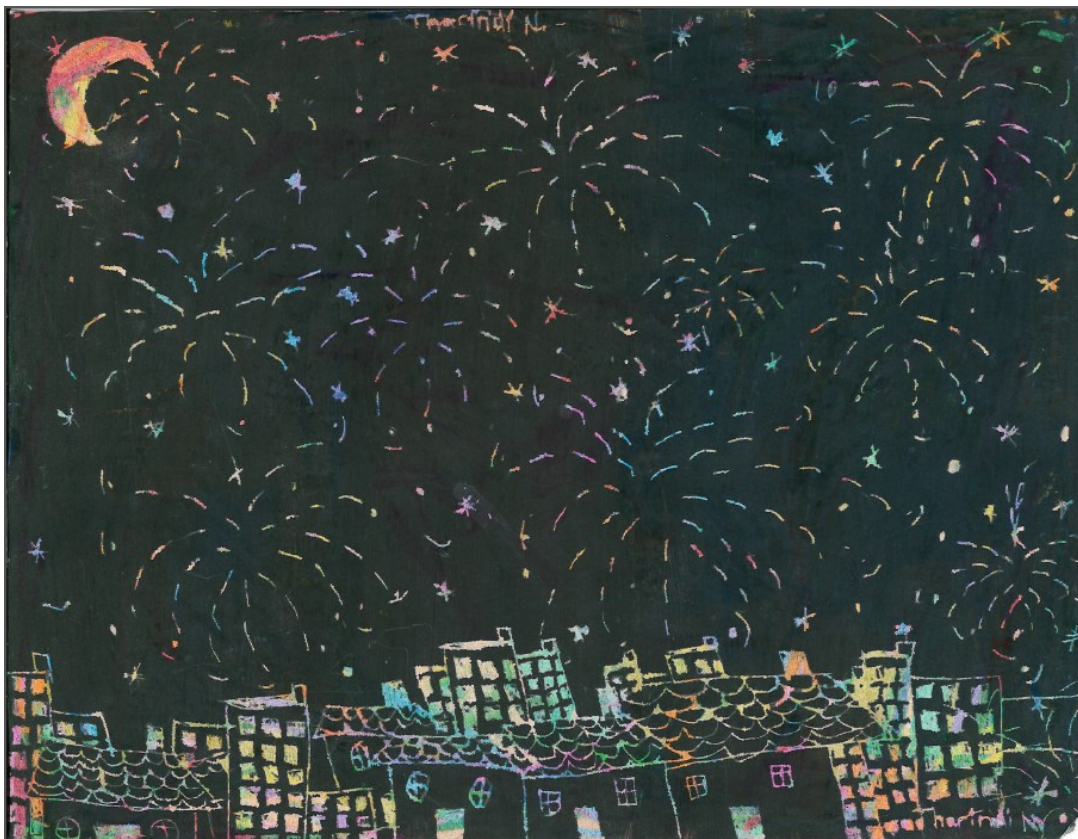
You may be pleased to learn that the long awaited Colombo–Katunayake Expressway (CKE), with a user-fee levy, was opened on 27 October 2013. Sadly, that was the same day the Sri Lankan Ottawa Community had to say goodbye to a great friend and spiritual guide. Fr. Freely left Ottawa to accept an administrative post in Sri Lanka. Perhaps, he was one of the first travellers from Ottawa to use the expressway.

The 25.8-kilometre-long (16.0 miles) highway will link the Colombo with the Airport. Construction began in October 2009. It is planned to have three lanes each way from Colombo to Peliyagoda and two lanes each way, from Peliyagoda to Katunayake. Speed limit will be 80 kilometres per hour and 100 km/h (62 mph) for the rest of the road. *(continues on page 4...)*

A creative art by **Tharindi Nadugala (Grade 4)**. I believe she was inspired by sky lighted by the fireworks on the New Year's eve. I talked to her parents and came to know that this art-work took a fair amount of effort.

Tharindi has adopted Cray-on Scratch Art technique to develop this art work.

Great effort Tharindi! Like to see more of your creativity.



Not to be out done by her younger sister, **Sadunya Nadugala (Grade 8)** created another masterpiece.

Sadunya expertly draws human figures in greater details which many of us find difficult to do. She also has a knack in blending the colors together.

In this artwork, she has used a combination of crayons, pencil outlines and water colors to get the desired effects.

Thanks for you contribution Sadunya and we like to see more of your creations in the future!



The pain

For countless nights, they have cried,
thinking about their loved ones that died.
Their pain will never fade away,
haunted by that, every day.

She walks slowly towards the grave,
tears swallow her like a rolling wave.
Falling on her knees on where her brother's body lay
haunted by that, every day.

The little girl wakes up from her nightmare,
her eyes filled with tears that were never too rare.
She knows her loneliness will not go away today,
haunted by that, every day.

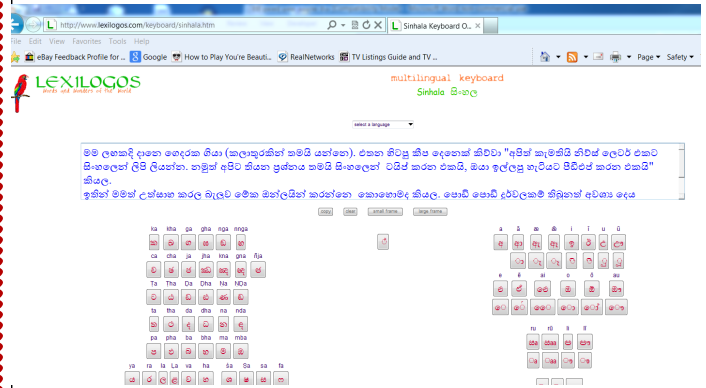
The veteran closes his eyes,
his mind filled with his comrade's cries.
His thoughts will never be at bay,
haunted by that, every day.

**A Poem by Ruwani De Alwis
(Grade 8 LDHSS)**

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(Continues from Page 2..)

The distance between Katunayake and the New Kelani Bridge is about half of the distance between Orleans and Barrhaven (or Kanata). Still, you may recall that it took more than twice as long to for the trip from the Katunayake airport to Colombo compared to visiting a friend who lived 40-50kms from your home in Ottawa. All that has changed now! Today, you could leave the Katunayake Airport and be in Colombo in just 20 minutes. Whew! What a relief. But, it comes at a hefty price of a total estimated cost of the project to be at US \$292 million.



Those having family in Kandy and other parts of the Country will be pleased to know that in the not so distant future Exit 3 will be opened at Kerawalapitiya, which would connect the CKE with the *E02 Colombo Outer Circular Expressway*.