

# Durham Tamil Association Celebrates Heritage Month

"No Culture can Live if it attempts to be exclusive" - Mahatma Gandhi

**By Siva Sivapragasam**

Multiculturalism is the hallmark of the success of Canada and the popularity of the national mosaic that is woven into its fabric.

This was evident recently when the Durham Tamil Association participated in the Heritage month celebrations with other communities and organized by the City of Pickering at the Pickering Town Centre. Hundreds of visitors who turned for the

event were able to watch and enjoy the colorful Bharatha Natya dance recitals performed and the show-casing of cultural talents by the Durham region Tamil youth. The dance items were performed by pupils of the Bharathalaya Dance Academy.

The Durham Tamil Association is a non-profit organization formed with the fundamental goal of providing an opportunity for Durham Tamil Youth and adults to unite and participate in activities

that enhance Tamil culture. The vision of the Association is to enable the youth of the region to be pioneers in any profession they choose and be a role model in caring for elders and assist the needy in the community and homeland. One of the fund-raising events organized by the Association was the collection of about \$ 23,000 for a much-needed Anesthetic machine for the Jaffna Hospital. The machine was sent last year and is now func-

tioning at the Jaffna Hospital. The Association is also hoping to give awards to some of the successful youth and elders for their contribution to the community and to their outstanding achievements.

The DTA enters its tenth year of founding this year and is stepping up its activities this year to co-incide its tenth year celebrations. Among the highlights of the activities of the Associations are: Youth Festival during the summer season where the youth are pro-

vided an opportunity to showcase their talents, Annual Dinner-Dance, Children's Christmas party, Sports events and providing free Tamil classes for children. The free Tamil classes are conducted on a weekly basis and those interested in its participation can contact Mr. Kandiah at 416 994 1416. The Association is also planning to provide programmes for the Tamil Seniors of the Durham region which comprises Pickering, Ajax, Whitby and Oshawa.



Young kids of DTA in traditional PATTU PAAVADAI



Harmony Movement Director Mr. Roland Rutland with DTA Youth □□



City Of Pickering Councillor Mr. David Pickles with DTA Youth



Mayor Of Pickering Mr. Dave Ryan with DTA Youth □□



A glimpse of the HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION at THE PICKERING TOWN CENTRE



Selvi LAXANA MOHANACHANDRAN of BHARATHALAYA DANCE ACADEMY performed a classical dance on behalf of DTA