



Newsletter

July 2024 Issue

"Sarvasva Locanam Sasthram"
Knowledge is the Eye unto All



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Message from the Board of Management (BOM)

Hope you celebrated a Happy Canada Day, and everyone is having a great summer!

We are excited to share with you some noteworthy activities conducted by us in the recent months. We want to thank all those who participated in and contributed to the Alumni events so far in 2024.

We kicked off this year with the West-End Townhall Gathering and Family Get-together on Saturday, March 2nd in Burlington. Over 80 Alumni and families got together, shared ideas and enjoyed a great company in an entertaining evening. There were many new faces in the gathering that joined our GTA community in the past few years. Further, we received some useful ideas and suggestions from participants to improve Alumni activities. Thank you for your active engagement, and we will evaluate and apply those ideas and suggestions towards the growth of our Association.

On Saturday, April 6th in Mississauga, we staged the event "Bells & Whistles of Hanthana - 2024" - another novel concept. That was an entertaining and illuminating program based on creations originally done by renowned Peradeniya Alumni artists, creatively adapted by us, packaged into a variety of performances by our own local Alumni and presented to Alumni families and friends. Being the first of its kind in Canada as well, this unique Peradeniya style event received a lot of encouraging feedback from participants.

On Saturday, June 8th we organized an enjoyable outdoor event - a walk on the Bruce Trail – Kelso Conservation. Participants enjoyed a 5km and 8km walks, and then got together for a picnic after the hike.

The Inter University Alumni Cricket Tournament and Family Get-together will be held on Saturday, July 6th, 2024, in Brampton. We are looking forward to seeing you there to support the Team Peradeniya, while enjoying the day as a community. In addition, we will be organizing a day outing to Kincardine-ON for our Alumni families on Saturday, August 24th. We'll share more details in the coming weeks, stay tuned!

Let's all continue to work together and show *Peradeniya Spirit*!



Upcoming Events >>

- ❖ 'Inter Alumni Cricket Tournament': **Saturday July 6th**
- ❖ Day Trip to Kincardine Beach: **Saturday August 24th**

We welcome and encourage contributions from alumni and their families, including children, for publishing in the Newsletter. Please see guidelines on the last page.

Noticeboard

Upcoming Event >> Inter Alumni Cricket Tournament – Saturday July 6th

The annual Inter University Alumni Cricket Tournament and Family Get-together will be held on **Saturday July 6th, 2024**, at **Earnscliffe Recreation Centre, 44 Eastbourne Dr, Brampton**. Event will start at 8.30 a.m.

See you at '*Peradeniya Tent*' on Saturday July 6th in this fun-filled day full of cricket, food, music, and friendship, and to cheer TEAM PERADENIYA – The Co-Champions in 2023!!

This year the event will be hosted by the Kelaniya University Alumni Association.

Upcoming Event >> Day trip to Kincardine Beach – Saturday August 24th



One day picnic to enjoy the journey and beach activities at Kincardine.

Keep Saturday Aug 24th free to have Peradeniya style fun – our first one-day picnic..!

Stay tuned, more information to follow in the coming few weeks..!

Membership News

- ❖ Alumni members can e-transfer 2024 membership fees to the association via: peraalumnigta@gmail.com (Full \$20, Associate \$10, Life \$200)
- ❖ Your active participation and engagement are essential to sustain and grow our Association.

Your support needed: Connect us with Peradeniya Alumni newcomers!

We count on your continued support to connect us with any Peradeniya Alumni newcomers not yet connected with the Association.

- ❖ Please spread the word among Alumni newcomers in GTA and suburbs to join the Association. **Joining is simple through the online form on our website:** <https://www.peraadeniyaalumnigta.com/index.php/join-us/>
Or simply scan the QR code to fill in the form on your mobile:



- ❖ For any membership related question, please contact: peraalumnigta@gmail.com

Your active role towards growth of our Alumni membership is very much appreciated!

Bells & Whistles of Hanthana - 2024



On Saturday, April 6th we staged “Bells & Whistles of Hanthana - 2024” – the first-of-its-kind unique variety entertainment and engagement event. The event was held at Glenforest Secondary School, Mississauga from 6pm to 11pm, and was open to Alumni families & friends, including children.



- ❖ Celebrating songs, stage drama, cinema, teledrama, poetry and novels created by renowned Peradeniya alumni over many generations.
- ❖ Creatively developed and presented by Peradeniya alumni in GTA & suburbs!



Theme of the event was to celebrate songs, stage drama, cinema, teledrama, poetry and novels created by renowned Peradeniya alumni. The items were creatively developed and presented by Peradeniya alumni in GTA & suburbs.



It was a first-of-its-kind, where the program was based on creations originally done by renowned Peradeniya Alumni artists over generations, creatively adapted by us, packaged into a variety of performances by our own local Alumni in an entertaining and illuminating format, and presented to Alumni families and friends. This unique Peradeniya style event received a lot of encouraging feedback from participants.

The community newspaper ‘YATHRA’ had dedicated the editorial of its April edition to commend our effort in “Bells & Whistles of Hanthana - 2024”: <https://epaper.yathranews.com/public/2024/04/01/3>

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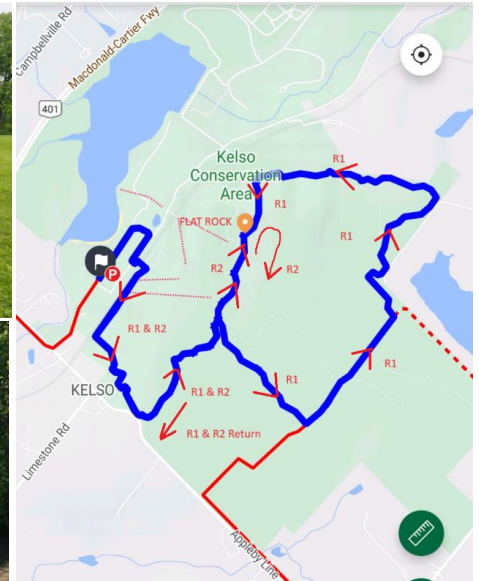
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Bruce Trail Kelso Conservation Hike – Our moment with nature....



Following our first hike of this kind in 2023, we organized an outdoor event on June 8th, 2024, to Bruce Trail-Kelso Conservation for a hike. To cater everyone, we arranged two hike options - 8km & 5km, and then got together for a picnic after the hike. Our alumni enjoyed this unique experience for the family in a tranquil summer environment. We will continue to organize enjoyable outdoor summer events like this.



Flat Rock

43.505391, -79.939657

West-End Townhall Gathering and Family Get-together



Continuing the tradition of regionally reaching out to our Alumni, we held the West-End Townhall Gathering and Family Get-together on Saturday, March 2nd at St. John's Anglican Church, Burlington. There were over 80 Alumni and families getting together, with many new faces as well that joined our GTA community in the past few years.

Listening to our Alumni's interests and expectations through the Association is a key segment of our Townhalls. The participants shared some new ideas and useful suggestions to improve Alumni activities. We will evaluate and apply those ideas and suggestions towards the growth of our Association. Everyone enjoyed a great company in an entertaining evening filled with food, music and group singing.





❖ Bogus advertisements on Facebook and other social media platforms

Beware of an ongoing impersonation scam orchestrated by a group misusing the official emblem of the University of Peradeniya, falsely claiming to offer free online courses. Bogus advertisements are being disseminated primarily on Facebook and other social media platforms. It is imperative to recognize that this is a fraudulent scheme. The University has taken immediate action by lodging complaints. Please refrain from engaging with these deceptive offers.

❖ Successful Partnership Discussion with British Council

Ms. Viji Thiagarajan, Director of Libraries South Asia at the British Council, and Ms. Shiroma Benaragama, Manager of Library & Information Services, British Council Sri Lanka visited the University on January 16th and had a discussion with Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Prof. Dileep de Silva, the Director of the Career Guidance Unit (CGU). The purpose of this meeting was to explore potential partnership opportunities, with a particular focus on internships, learning initiatives, and resource sharing.

❖ The Closing Ceremony of the JICA CHAIR Programme 2023

The Closing Ceremony of the Japan's Modernization Studies – JICA CHAIR Programme of the year 2023 was held on the 12th of February 2024 at the Oak Ray Regency, Kandy. The JICA CHAIR is an approximately six-month Certificate Course hosted by the Sri Lanka-Japan Study Center of the University of Peradeniya, and offered and sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Over 1000 candidates from all over Sri Lanka and across various study disciplines registered for the programme which commenced in October 2023. The programme was open to any interested person living in Sri Lanka, and was not restricted to undergraduate or postgraduate students from the University of Peradeniya.

❖ The Kick-off event of the CAPAGE project co-funded by ERASMUS+ 2024

The Kick-Off event of the CAPAGE, 'Promoting academic and professional excellence in healthcare to meet the challenges of aging in Sri Lanka' project co-funded by the ERASMUS+ was held from 19th to 23rd February 2024 in the Oak Regency Hotel, Gatambe. It was hosted by the University of Peradeniya.

❖ The Inaugural meeting with the distinguished Alumni of the University of Peradeniya

The University of Peradeniya's distinguished alumni came together for a memorable inaugural meeting at the Conference Hall of the Sri Lanka Institute of Developmental Administration (SLIDA) on February 27th, 2024. Our incredible alumni, holding key positions in various Ministries, CEOs, GMs, Directors, Diplomats, and more, joined forces for a fruitful discussion on three crucial topics: the university's centenary development plan, multi-disciplinary AI research, and university-industry collaborations.

❖ Promising Pathway to Develop the Nation through ICSD-2024

The first International Conference on University–industry Collaborations for Sustainable Development (ICSD) 2024 was successfully held on March 15-17 in Colombo. The conference brought together a diverse group of experts, visionaries, and leaders to explore sustainable solutions, innovative technologies, and entrepreneurial strategies in agro-industries.

[Source: <https://www.pdn.ac.lk/all-news/>]

Guidelines for topics and content of materiel/creations to be published under the banner, Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – GTA and Suburbs

1. *These guidelines have been developed to provide opportunity for alumni members and the families to contribute with their creativity and knowledge to the publications of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – GTA & Suburbs whilst ensuring credibility of the association.*
2. *Types of publications may include, but not be restricted to, the Newsletter, event magazines, magazines on special topics or general topics, arts, collections, scientific journals, photos and video publications, contest results, informative documents, interviews etc.*
3. *The decision to publish or not will be determined by the Association's editorial board (President, Secretary, Past President & 02 Communication Leads of BOM) and their decision will be final. If needed, the Association may appoint a specialized editorial board depending on the theme/subject matter.*
4. *The material can be in the form of write-up, poem, quiz, cartoons, photographs, pictorials, or any other similar material, but should not be excessive in length, size etc. It is desirable to have themes associated with the University of Peradeniya or higher education, but this condition does not restrict materials of any other relevant topics. Time to time the Association may invite contributions to suggested themes/topics.*
5. *The articles can be written in English, Sinhalese, or Tamil.*
6. *The material should not promote/support any political or religious views/activities OR any social activity that can directly or indirectly lead to engagement, promotion, or participation of any political or religious activity or incite friction or violence.*
7. *As far as possible the material should be original and it is the responsibility of the author to retain evidence pertaining to any reference, quotations etc. made in the material. The author also undertakes to produce such material if requested by the editorial board.*
8. *The material should not be self-promoting or directly/indirectly, discrediting/disrespecting any individual/s living or dead or promoting hate behaviour, violence etc.*
9. *Once received, the Association retains the right to use the material for promotion of the Association or its activities.*
10. *Whilst the Association will make every effort to publish all the material conforming to the above terms, due to exceptional reasons, including decisions of the editorial board etc., some material may not be published in the alumni publications. Any such material will be returned to the author as soon as practical.*
11. *Any other governance rules issued time to time by the Association will supersede content of this document.*

These guidelines are not intended to restrict creativity, but have been developed in the spirit of transparent working principles of the Association. We therefore request your cooperation in adhering to them in the right 'Peradeniya Spirit'.

The Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – GTA & Suburbs

Version 1: 10 July 2020

Summary of Objectives of the Association
(Pursuant to ARTICLE THREE of the Constitution)

- MOBILIZE & DRIVE ALUMNI
- SUPPORT & PROMOTE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
- PROVIDE SERVICES AND BENEFITS
- SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS
- SUPPORT PERADENIYA ALUMNI NEWCOMERS TO CANADA
- RECOGNIZE ACHIEVEMENTS
- COMMUNICATE & INTERACT
- CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA
- The Association shall not engage or promote or participate in any political or religious activities OR any social activity that can directly or indirectly lead to engagement, promotion, or participation of any political or religious activity and/or in conflict with the above objectives. Any exception will be evaluated by the Board of Management based on merits. However, this principle does not aim at restricting any individual choices.