

5TH Annual South Asian Canada Day was a loud success..

Justin Trudeau, John Stewart, Jaswinder (Ginni) Sethi, MP Jagmeet Singh were honoured with South Asian Canada Award 2013 for their exceptional services to Canadians.

Mississauga and GTA residents gathered in harmony and demonstrated their love to Canada. Canada Day Committee of The South Asians in cooperation with SAMA Model agency, City of Mississauga, Peel Region of Police, St. John Ambulance, Talent Search International, Eastern News, Canadian Film Producers, United Front of the Pakistani Canadians, Canadian Helping Arms and Meet me Halal Corp. brought the much anticipated celebration today at the Mississauga's Celebration Square on June 23.

The celebration and festivities included live stage performances by local South Asian Music band of Asad Khan), magical show by magician Raj, Chinese dance performances by Mississauga Chinese Arts Organization, Comedy by Marc-Anthony, solo dance performance by Mukur De, mouth organ artist Bhaskar Varma, Fashion show by SAMA models and 100 years of Bollywood segment by Paul Sethi while activities for children that included free face painting, free CNE tickets, clown and visit by Alex the Beaver . There were of course South Asian flavours as well when it came to food; available were all kinds of South Asian foods and Pizza as well. When it came to live music, taste of Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Pashtun and Tamil fusion were provided. The performers were wonderful and kept the audience engaged.

Masood Khan, Chair of the South Asian Canada Day Committee then took the stage and kicked off the event formally with Canada's national anthem and cake cutting ceremony. This followed the awards and recognition program .Five individuals were recognized as National and Local heroes. Federal Liberal Leader Mr. Justin Trudeau, Editor of the Mississauga News Mrs John Stewart, MPP Mr. Jagmeet Singh, President of Sethi Foundation and Black Diamond Entertainment Mrs Jaswinder Sethi and former Toronto lawyer Mr. Roop Sharma. These individuals were recognized for their outstanding contribution to the community in their respective fields. MP Brad Butt broad a message on this occasion from the Prime Minister, MPP Dipiti Damerla presented brought greetings from the Premier and distributed Certificates on behalf of the Minister of Citizenship and our very own Mayor McCallion gave away Plaques on behalf of the South Asian Canada Day Committee. Dr. Krista Duncan handed over a very personal message of Mr. Justin Trudeau to Masood Khan and later she read it for public.

All honoured guests had nothing but praises for the committee Chair and Directors. Mayor McCallion told the crowd that Masood Khan is the best example of a volunteer, she knows him for many years and his list of volunteer work is very long (**Khan Crescent in the City of Mississauga was named in his honour**), MP Brad Butt, MPP Dipika Damerla, MPP Jagmeet Singh and City Councillor Ron Star expressed similar praises and wishes.

Beautiful model presented a dashing fashion show, latest Sarees and other designer clothes were provided by Fashion Galore and Mala Singh who owns SAMA Model agency conducted the show, she later introduced and recognized each individual model

who took part in this well watched fashion show. This segment was followed by 100 years of Bollywood which was also organized by Mala Singh with a supporting hand given by Paul Sethi.

The celebrations then moved forward with a Mini Singing Competition organized by Talent Search Internationals who used to do sold out Singing Competitions few years ago, this was a super hit segment and dozens of singers came forward from the audience to participate, Farzana ended up winning the Competition, she was presented with a cheque from the Management and a Certificate, this competition was Judged by a former winner of the Singing Competition Shariq Naqvi whose sister was the Master of Ceremony for today and she was superb at her position.

Canadian trivia and quiz for children with questions ranging from Canada's history geography and leadership was conducted by Zeshan in which children actively participated. This segment was a super hit, winners were given CNE tickets for correct answers.

It was a very well organized program, each attendees was given Canada's National Anthem, a paper flag and a copy of the program which is not normally done in South Asian programs.

In the end, it was a day filled with fun and above all, South Asians demonstrated their love and passion for Canada with a fusion of rich culture that they bring from their native lands. South Asians have chosen Canada as their homeland and are integrating into this diverse society by holding events like these.