

**29<sup>th</sup> Annual**

# MAURITIUS

## Republic Day Celebration

### National Anthem of Canada

O Canada, terre de nos aïeux,  
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux.  
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,  
Il sait porter la croix.  
Ton histoire est une épopée  
Des plus brillants exploits.  
Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,  
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.

O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all thy sons command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The True North strong and free!  
From far and wide, O Canada,  
We stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

### National Anthem of Mauritius

Glory to thee  
Motherland, O motherland of mine,  
Sweet is thy beauty,  
Sweet is thy fragrance  
Around thee we gather,  
As one people  
As one nation  
In peace, justice and liberty  
Beloved Country  
May God bless thee  
For ever and ever



**Thornhill Community Centre**  
**Markham, Ontario**

**Saturday, March 18, 2017**

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Oliver **LAU MOON LIN**  
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## Performances

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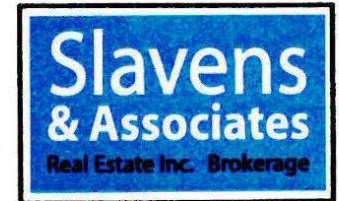
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# Menu

Gateau Piment (Chilli Cake)

*(Popular deep fried snack in Mauritius. Deep fried balls of ground split peas flavoured with chillies, shallots and cumin)*

Wonton Frit au poulet

*(Fried Chicken Wonton)*

Di Pain Frit avec chatini cotomili ou rougaille pomme d'amour

*(Bread slices fritters with coriander chutney or tomato rougaille)*

Samoosa

Bryani poulet

*(Chicken Bryani)*

Dholl Puri avec Carri pomme de terre et grois pois et achard legume)

*(Dholl Puri with Potato and lima beans Curry and vegetable achard)*



Napolitaines

*(A classic Mauritian biscuit (similar to shortbread) which consists of two cookies with a thin layer of red jam in the middle and then sandwiched together and finally coated with a light pink icing)*

Alouda Glaceée

*(A typical Mauritian drink that made with milk, sugar, vanilla essence, soaked basil seeds and chopped agar agar and crushed ice)*

Di thé chinois

*(Chinese Tea)*

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# Going to the Maiden

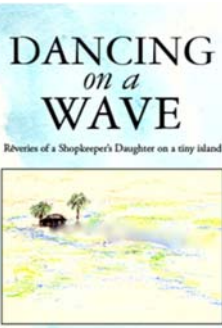
(Continued from page 6)

*chatini, gato arouille, gato patate, and calamindas* (candy floss also known as “father’s beard”), slices of maize pudding, *gato moutaille* filled with syrup. We also relished in such delicacies as bags of roasted or boiled monkey nuts or peanuts. We would spend the whole day feasting on the above, as well as other *gonages* (snacks, including junk foods) on offer: hot and sour pickled mangoes which we would dip in a mixture of sea salt and fresh chilies, succulent slices of fresh pineapple, sticks of barley sugar (*sucre-d’orge*), dark Chinese jelly that we savoured slowly.

At our age, the races meant only things that would excite children and youngsters. The occasional glimpse of the horses took second place. Balloons of all colours and shapes floated amongst the *Patang* or *Reine-des-air*s kites that flew above our heads. The whole sunny atmosphere of Port Louis was filled with multi-coloured confetti. We were so excited that we were almost dancing, skipping from one merry-go-round to another surrounded by the wonderful and special aroma of all the exotic foods around us. The noise of firecrackers would occasionally interrupt the joyful shouts of excited children riding horses on the colourful merry-go-rounds.

Even today something as insignificant as a whiff of the delicious aroma of a *gato-piment* or *samosa* never fails to take me back to my childhood and adolescence, to the special moments at the Maiden Cup, where it had been possible for my siblings and me to feel almost like grown-ups, such was the sense of great freedom and adventure we experienced each year at this event.

This article is an excerpt from **Joyce Ng Cheong Tin-Leung’s** upcoming book (in both English and French) entitled: *Dancing on a Wave: Reveries of a Shopkeeper’s Daughter on a Tiny Island* (French Title: *Réveries d’une jeune boutiquière sur une petite île* – translated by Marie Lyne). **Joyce** was born and raised in Mauritius. She has lived in Canada for the past 40 years.



**DANCING  
on a  
WAVE**

Reveries of a Shopkeeper's Daughter on a tiny island

Written and illustrated by  
JOYCE NG CHEONG TIN-LEUNG

***Dancing on a Wave: Reveries of a Shopkeeper's Daughter on a Tiny Island***

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For more information, contact Joyce at [jmcleung@yahoo.com](mailto:jmcleung@yahoo.com)



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## Going to the Maiden in the 1950s

by Joyce NG CHEONG TIN-LEUNG

We as youngsters liked to take trips to Port-Louis, our capital city. Going down there by bus, we would be struck by the panoramic sight of the old port appearing against a backdrop of azure sea. The liquefied silhouette of the port seemed to mingle with the honeyed haze of the sky and the rutilant mist of the ocean. We liked the old city with its colonial buildings and its twisted roads, some of which were still with their old paved looks reminiscent of the centuries of colonial occupation of the island.

One of the highlights of our time in Port-Louis was to attend the races at the Champ de Mars. Each year, towards the end of the winter months, we looked forward to the Maiden Cup race, which was the biggest race of all.

The course at Champ de Mars was the first racecourse of the Southern Hemisphere, and the second oldest in the world. This historical course (1,298 metres in circumference) had been a French Military Training Ground until the Mauritius Turf Club was founded. This Club which carries a long history organized the races. It was founded in 1812 by Sir Robert Townsend Farquhar. Governor Farquhar, whose wife (Maria Lautour) was of French culture, wanted to increase harmony between the old French colonists and the new British Administrators. He felt that introducing the convivial nature of horseracing in this former French army training spot would help him achieve this goal.

For the Maiden, both my sister and I felt like princesses when we wore our Sunday's best (our New Year's dress, and patent-leather shoes). The day before, we had polished these shoes to a perfect shine (using Brylcreem)!! After the excitement of the preparation, at long last the day would arrive. It was



a major event in our monotonous country life! We went to our aunt's house early in the morning. She would take us to the Champ de Mars along Labourdonnais street, then right onto Pope Hennessy Street that led to the racecourse. Or she might decide to take a short cut along the narrow back streets at the foot of the mountain. These streets were dusty and lined with thorny cacti. The poor and dilapidated dwellings we passed were made of rusty corrugated iron sheets. They were fronted by small yards covered in weeds and edged by scraggy bushes. We saw children in rags playing in front of those hovels, but we were so excited to be going to the races in our Sunday's best that we did not have time to feel guilty at the sight of such poverty!

The first things we looked for when we reached our destination were the local cakes, such as *gato piments*, *samosas*, *dhall pourri*, *roti manillal* et

(Continued on page 12)



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- Welcome & Introduction
- Dinner
- Entertainment
- Dancing to DJ Luigi
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