

30<sup>th</sup> Annual

# MAURITIUS

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

1968 **50** 2018

Years

Saturday, March 17, 2018

## 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

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## Mauritius - Timeline

(Continued from page 12)

**1835** - Indentured labour system introduced. In subsequent decades hundreds of thousands of workers arrive from India.

**1847** - Incorrectly-worded Penny Black postage stamps are issued in Mauritius; later they become among the most sought-after stamps in the world.

**1876** - Indian rupee becomes official currency.

**1910** - Indentured labour system abolished. Between 1834-1910, 451,776 Indians were brought to Mauritius to work on the sugar estates, of which 157,639 returned to India.

**1926** - First Indo-Mauritians elected to government council.

**1937** - Rioters demand better economic conditions and participation in government.

### Towards independence

**1942** - Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy becomes governor. Introduces consultative committee which for the first time includes representatives from all Mauritian communities.

**1948** - New constitution gives the vote to many Indians and Creoles in an enlarged legislature.

**1958** - New constitution - all adults over 21 can vote. Island divided into four single-member constituencies.

**1959** - First elections under universal adult suffrage won by MLP, led by Seewoosagar Ramgoolam.

**1960** - Cyclone Carol devastates island, leaving thousands homeless and prompting a housing revolution.

**1964** - Ethnic rioting; Hindus and Creoles clash.

**1965** - Constitutional conference held in London to discuss independence.

**1967** - A coalition composed of the Mauritian Labour Party (MLP), the Muslim Committee of Action (CAM) of Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed, and the Independent Forward Bloc (IFB) – a traditionalist Hindu party – won a majority in the 1967 Legislative Assembly election, despite opposition from Franco-Mauritian and Creole supporters of Sir Gaetan Duval QC's and Jules Koenig's Mauritian Social Democratic Party (PMSD).

### Independence

**1968** - 12 March - Independence.

**1971** - First Export Processing Zone created. Textiles sector develops. Between 1971-77, 64,000 jobs are created.

**1985** - Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, father of nation, dies.

### Republic

**1991 December** - Legislative Assembly approves the transition of the nation to a republic within the Commonwealth.

**1992 March** - Prime Minister Jugnauth declares Mauritius a republic. Legislative Assembly redesignated National Assembly and incumbent governor, General Ringadoo, becomes president.

**2018 - 12 March** - Celebrates 50th Anniversary.



## Special thanks to our volunteers and their families:

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**"A sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this event and whose names could not be included at the time of printing."**



# Programme

- Reception
- Line Dancing
- Silent Auction
- Welcome & Introduction
- Dinner
- Entertainment
- Dancing to DJ Luigi
- Sega Contest
- Lucky Draw

# Menu

## Gateau Piment (Chilli Cake)

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

## Samoosa

**Bryani poulet**  
*(Chicken Bryani)*

**Dholl Puri a la Mauricienne avec Rougeaille de pomme d'amour et achard legume**  
*(Dholl Puri, Mauritian style with Rougeaille 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 Glacée

*(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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Inter-City Tournament 2006



Inter-City Tournament 2010



Inter-City Tournament 2010

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## Club M (Regroupement Mauricien de Toronto Incorpore)

**1986** - A group of Mauritians arrived in Toronto, full of enthusiasm and motivation, wanting to make Toronto a 'Home Away From Home' kind of place. Toronto or Canada was not a strange place to most of them as a few have spent their university years here. It did not take them too long to find a job and to settle down in their own daily routines. But they were not content with this kind of lifestyle. They needed to keep in touch with each other and keep the 'Home Away From Home' feeling alive. Therefore, they started to get together on week-ends, at first just to meet, have dinner and catch up on things. Since they also liked to play sports (basketball and volley-ball), they wanted to find a place where they could play on Friday evenings after work. They thought it would be a great way to break the daily routine, meet up with old friends and make new ones and at the same time keep fit, all in the spirit of fun. Since it was not possible to have such a place on a permanent basis, they thought that renting a gym in one of the schools in Scarborough would be just as good. It so happened that most of them lived in the East end of Toronto at that time and so Scarborough became the natural centre for all their activities.

Inquiries were made to the Scarborough Board of Education and the Scarborough Parks and Recreation department and applications for a gym were sent out in Spring of 1987. In order to apply for a permit, they needed a name for the group and so the informal name of 'Association of Mauritians of Scarborough' was chosen. The main purpose of the group was to get together for sports and social activities. In addition to that, the group provided some support to the new immigrants in terms of networking and that 'Home Away From Home' kind of feeling. The activities of the group were coordinated by *Laval Li-Chay-Chung, Jocelyn Lee Nam Kwong, Francois Loo-Yong-Kee and Noel Siao.*

AMS was very successful in its first year and outgrew the expectations of those who started it. The participants were friends of those who were already involved. Soon, it became too big to be run solely by a group of volunteers without any directions and structure. It became apparent that the group should re-evaluate its objectives and organizational structure.

As a result, an Executive Committee for AMS was formed in September 1988 consisting of *Alex Ah-Koon, Jocelyn Lee Nam Kwong, Laval Li-Chay-Chung, Ah-Kee Lo-Choy, Francois Loo-Yong-Kee, Mimi Ng, Noel Siao and Robert Yip-Tong.*



On 27 November 1988, the new Executive Committee of AMS, formally chose a new name for AMS. After several meetings and going over a dozen suggestions for a new name, it was finally decided and approved that the new name of AMS will be 'Club M'. By November 1990, a new set of constitutions and by-laws along with a set of objectives was drafted and Club M was officially incorporated in the Province of Ontario under the name 'Regroupement Mauricien de Toronto, Ontario Inc.'. The main objectives of Club M, which it is more commonly known as, are:

- To promote and maintain the interest of Mauritian community in the Canadian society.
- To carry out social, recreational and other activities which are beneficial to the community as a whole.

Since then, Club M has been organizing various sports, social and cultural activities thorough out the year, mainly between October and May, for the benefit of its members and the Mauritian community at large.

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March 2015



March 2016



March 2017



**May 1990** - Sunday before Victoria Day, Club M organised a friendly sports tournament and invited a group from Montreal which was later going to be know as the "Cercle Sportif M". The idea of the tournament came out of a casual conversation between Club M and the "Cercle Sportif M" on the need to bring together the Mauritian community of Toronto and Montreal. Each group actually participated in 3 different sports tournaments, that is, badminton, basketball and volleyball. The winner of each tournament was awarded one point and the group having the most number of points was declared the Overall Champion.

Since that first year, the "Inter-City Sports Tournament" was held every year alternating between Toronto and Montreal. The last tournament was held in May 2013.



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**March 12, 1991** - Club M hosted a small Reception to celebrate the 23rd Anniversary of Independence of Mauritius and invited members of the Francophone community and high profile members of various levels of Government. One of the guest of honor was Mr. Bill McCormack, who the Commissioner of Police at that time and how is a Mauritian by birth.



**March 1995** - Club M, in cooperation with the Mauritian Cultural Association organised a dinner and dance party to commemorate the 3rd Anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius. The highlight of the evening was a cultural show produced and performed entirely by members of the two organisations.



**March 1996** - Club M organised a dinner and dance party to commemorate the 4th Anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius. The highlight of the evening was a cultural show produced and performed entirely by members and friends of Club M.



**March 2000** - Club M invited a Mauritian band from Ottawa to perform at its Annual dinner and dance party to commemorate the 32nd Anniversary of Independence of Mauritius.



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# Mauritius - Timeline

## A chronology of key events:

**10th century** - Phoenicians, Malays, Swahili and Arab seamen visit island but do not settle. Island named Dina Robin by Arab mariners.

**1498** - Portuguese explorers stumble upon Mauritius in the wake of Vasco da Gama's voyage around the Cape of Good Hope.

**1510** - Portuguese navigator Pedro Mascarenhas visits the island and names it Cirné. It is used as a port of call, but the Portuguese do not establish a permanent settlement.

### Early settlement

**1598** - Dutch claim the uninhabited island and rename it after their head of state, Maurice, Prince of Orange and Count of Nassau.

**1638-58** - Dutch settlement begins, but colony soon fails.

**1664-1710** - Second Dutch attempt at colonisation fails. The Dutch withdraw permanently. By this time the dodo - a unique bird found only on Mauritius - has become extinct. Pirates inhabit the island.



**1715** - French East India Company claims Mauritius for France, renames it Ile de France.

**1721-67** - Settlement begins; Port Louis founded as a base for attacking the British in India.

**1767** - French East Indies Company sells Mauritius; control of island transferred to French government.

**1796** - Settlers break away from French control when the government in Paris attempts to abolish slavery.

**1810** - British forces land in Mauritius after defeating the French in battle at Cap Malheureux.

### British rule

**1812** - Colonel Draper founds the Mauritius Turf Club, which opens the first racecourse in the southern hemisphere and the second oldest in the world.

**1814** - Mauritius, Seychelles and Rodrigues ceded to Britain under Treaty of Paris.

**1834** - British abolish slavery. It is phased out on the island under a transition period known as "apprenticeship".

(Continued on page 18)

## March 2014



**March 2002** - Leading the crowd to Y.M.C.A at Club M's Annual dinner and dance party to commemorate the Anniversary of Independence of Mauritius.



## March 2003



## March 2004



## March 2005



## March 2006





March 2007



March 2008



March 2009



March 2010



March 2011



March 2012



March 2013— Club M 25th Anniversary

