Goan Voice Canada has been online since 2002 linking the Goan Community in Canada with their homeland, Goa.

The Goan Voice Canada website is the only online archive of events & news on the Community. All our bi-weekly issues dating from 2002 can be viewed at:
http://www.goanvoice.ca/archives.htm and can be accessed using GOOGLE. Just type Goan Voice Canada Archives in your browser followed by a name or subject.

Contact: John J. D’Souza - Email: jjds@goanvoice.ca
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OUR MISSION

The Goan Archives’ mission is to assemble, preserve, organize, and store publications and documents generated and authored by the Goan community and groups in Canada over the last 40 plus years. The intent is to facilitate the study and understanding of our unique community by scholars and researchers in the future.

Further details can be found at: http://sites.google.com/site/goanarchivescanada/home.

Designed by: Louis Gomes-Pereira Graphic/Industrial Design
Assisted by the Goan Archives Canada Inc. committee Sharon LaPointe Margaret Thomas
Printed by: Lazarus Pereira Celaz Print shop

ABOUT THE COVER: The cover design tries to capture the essence of the Goan landscape to create a nostalgic feeling of “back home”. The back cover graphically portrays the inherent international psyche of the Goan personality. The Goan community has truly migrated to every continent of the world while always maintaining roots in Goa.
Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Goan Archives Canada (GAC) committee members, I am proud to present our 2nd edition as a report for your perusal.

In view of the enthusiastic reception of the first edition of our brochure, we decided that the second edition should not be replicated, but should instead be revised and expanded to enhance the usefulness of this new publication as a reference tool. This Report will no doubt inspire its readers to venture beyond their personal experience and to gain an appreciation of the richness of our vibrant heritage.

I wish to thank and acknowledge all our supporters who assisted us through their contributions contained herein. They not only gave freely of their time but also shared their personal interest and friendship. It was this pervasive spirit of enthusiastic co-operation that enabled this 2nd edition Report to be published.

Of equal importance are the contributions of my committee members. I thank them for their forbearance and dedication, ever since inception. Without them, our vision would not be a reality. What started out as a cursory glance at saving our heritage for posterity, became an exploration that went on intensively for the better part of four and a half years. It presently continues sporadically, awaiting the involvement of our youth in GAC to keep this important endeavour going.

As we look forward, we are optimistic that we will reach our goals. Our target is to ensure that all our supporters are well informed that their contributions have been well documented and archived in acid free boxes, and will remain in a safe environment with our recipients, Peel Arts, Museum & Archives, (PAMA), in Brampton. We wish to convey our grateful thanks to our Archivists at (PAMA), namely, Mr. Brian Gilchrist, Ms. Diane Allengame, and Mr. Kyle Neill, for their kind and dedicated support in assisting us to house our valuable resources.

You may have noted our recent initiatives to add to our collection and to provide an internet website to facilitate this activity. Hence, we encourage you to visit our website https://sites.google.com/site/goanarchivescanada and to continue to feed this vital source with more content as we strive to continue to document and save our heritage for generations to come.

I also wish to acknowledge the Toronto East Goan Seniors Association (TEGSA) Executive committee members, who were our joint partners and collaborators in obtaining the New Horizons Grant for Seniors Program and the Ontario Trillium Grant which helped to make this GAC project possible.

Special thanks to Dr. Colin Saldanha for his loyal support, Ms. Zulema D’Souza, Mr. Armand Rodrigues, Mr. Carl Thorpe, Mr. Giles Noronha (deceased), and to all our donors and sponsors, without whom, all our achievements would not have been possible.

Finally, thanks to Mr. Louis Gomes-Pereira and Mr. Lazarus Pereira for their time and efforts in compiling this reference report. In closing, it is my pleasure to pass the baton on to an extremely capable team of our youth, who have the ability and dedication to ensure that the legacy we created will continue to grow in the years to come. We have not “locked the door” but merely “left the door ajar”, as we stand by our logo, “Tracing our Roots” for posterity.

I hope you enjoy this second edition as much as you did the first.

With best wishes,

Cecil D’Cruz
President and Chair
Goan Archives Canada Inc.
March 8, 2013

Ms. Cecil D'Cruz
President and Chair
Goan Archives of Canada

Dear Ms. Cecil,

Congratulations to Goan Archives Canada on your continuing efforts to document and collect the history of Goan community groups in Canada. The records that you have acquired have contributed towards understanding and appreciating the contributions made by Goans that shape our region, our province, and Canada today.

The Goan Archives records now located in PAMA represent a fascinating range of content. The collection includes family histories, annual Goan events, programs and newsletters from various organizations, photographs, press clippings, and books. They are a wonderful resource, and we encourage people to visit the Archives and explore the collection.

I would like to thank all the Goan Archives Canada members who volunteered at PAMA on Family Day, 2013 when the Archives officially opened. Volunteering at the Archives is another way to learn more about the Goa Canadian story. It’s also a great opportunity to learn how to preserve your own family history. Information about volunteering at PAMA is available at www.pama.peelregion.on.ca.

We look forward to our continuing partnership with Goan Archives of Canada through the coming year.

Sincerely,

Claire Lachapelle
Manager
Goan Archives Canada Inc. Documentation

Collection from the Canadian Goan Community

Donated to

The Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA)

September 2012

Goan Archives Canada Inc. Documentation

About the Canadian Goan Community

Seminal Goan events held in Canada

Goan organizations in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)

The Goan Overseas Association of Ontario

Goan Sporting Activities

The International Goan Organization

The Goan Action Watch Campaign 1996

Goan Thiatr (Goan Theatre)

Goa village feasts and religious events

Unclassified: Family History & Memorial Cards

Musical Items, Press clippings, Photos

Donated Goan books for safekeeping at PAMA

Donor archiving items handed over to Goan Archives Canada Inc. were sorted, listed and assigned to one of the twelve acid free boxes above in a controlled environment for storage.

Detailed list of contents in each box can be viewed or downloaded from our web page:

https://sites.google.com/site/goanarchivescanada/home/peel-heritage-archives-

Books by Goan authors (safe keeping) box # 12 will be put on display at PAMA Reference Library for public viewing when premises are ready. These books may be borrowed by a Loan Agreement with GAC (Goan Archives Canada Inc.) approval prior to release on a temporary basis from the facility.

All other items will be scanned, digitalized and placed on the PAMA site for viewing by general public for a nominal charge. This project will be undertaken shortly on their new premises.
ML: Let’s move on and look at what you have collected. More than 450 items from 40 or so Goan organizations to date. – That’s quite a lot from a small community of less than 10,000 would you say.

CD: As you can see, no one item dominates. Books seem to be on the low side, but we have more than 40 on hand. The chart speaks for itself.

ML: What will happen to the collection eventually.

CD: They will have to be placed in some National Archive. We still have some work to do. We had made some initial enquiries to the Archive of Peel. They were quite receptive, but at present they are undergoing massive $11 million expansion to be completed in 2011. I think this would be a suitable place for a repository.

ML: Will the Goan public have access to these items?

CD: These items are in the public domain. They will be stored in bankers’ boxes and accessed by making an information request and subject to the same conditions as the general public.

ML: But, before they get buried, - where and how will the Goan public be able to view these collections.

CD: Muriel, most of the items in the Archives are printed material, which most Goan households received in the mail, or were handed out at events. It should come as no surprise as to what is in the Archives. We have to thank a few people with foresight and a sense of community for retaining these items. If by some miracle the long-awaited dream of a Goan Centre materializes, we will be the first in line donating books to their Library expenses. These are not that high – but Goan Archives Canada is not in the business of fundraising.

ML: What about the next Phase?

CD: The Archives will still be open for receiving new items. We think we have gleaned more than 90% of items from Goan organizations and may be more selective henceforth. It is in the personal memoirs and family history section, where we could always do with new material. This will help building a genealogy base for the future. The problem of placing archived material on-line is a matter of funding, from Goan organizations or family endowments. Until this is in place, Phase II will be on the back burner.

ML: Cecil, you have given the Goan public much to think about. Let’s hope Phase II will soon be burning bright for all concerned.

Thank You Cecil.

This interview can also be accessed on this link:
Family Day at PAMA

February 18th 2013, Goan Archives Canada Inc. were offered by PAMA, to stage a cultural component to compliment the Archives contribution on the opening day, February 18th 2013, with a traditional Goan cultural dance, dress fashion show and lancers dance performances. Due to time limit constraints and logistics, it was not feasible to showcase C.L.R. G.O.A. and T.E.G.S.A. Unfortunately, it had to be called off for a future date, should another occasion arise, where we can video and record our cultural heritage for posterity to be placed with our material at PAMA. Letters of apology were sent out to our three sister participating organizations expressing our disappointment.

Tracing our Goan Roots in Canada

(Goan Archives Videos by Uvy Lopes)

The Goan Archives videos can be seen on the YouTube Website:

Tracing our Goan Roots in Canada
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uo62aj8u7Gk

Goan Archives Steering Committee’s 2009/2010 Part 1
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eY0-uE6zQJ1

Goan Archives Steering Committee’s 2009/2010 Part 2
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2qahEcUNZg

Goan Community Canada - 2010
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8abFKli01U

Goan Archives Canada Passage Project Feb 2011 Uvy
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P79fVTCc9Q

Journey into Hope - Maurice J. Pinto June 18th, 2012
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vn5APkgqO8&feature=plcp

Goan Archives Canada - Lancers @ Roy Thompson’s - Uvy
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ajQvdkA8w

Goan Archives Canada - Lancers(5Acts) @ TEGSA’s Xmas Dance, Dec 2005 - Uvy.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVX2s32f2oE

Goan Archives Canada Lancers(5Acts) @ TEGSA 2005 Uvy
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuxoC5FujSw

Photo by Mrs. Rachel Pinto

Photo by Mr. Darryl De Guerra

Family Day (Public Holiday) in Ontario was the opening of the “ARCHIVES” component of PEEL ART GALLERY, MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, complex in Brampton, Ontario. Goan Archives Canada were invited to participate in the display of their donated material housed with PAMA. Mr. Cecil D’Cruz, President and Mr. Maurice Pinto, members of Goan Archives Canada Inc., volunteered to man the section at the Reading Room location, which was opened to the public. February 18th, being a Family Day, parents with children were able to view the artefacts on display and realize the contribution of new immigrants to the Canadian Mosaic.
Goan Seniors do the heavy lifting- sorting & classifying collection
Goan Archives Workshop Feb 26, 2011

Background
Since its inception in 2009 Goan Archives Canada (GACC) amassed more than 500 items from appeals to the Goan public and two open houses, one on Nov 11, 2009 in the East End, and one at Square One Mississauga in Jan 2010.

GAC was faced with the task of sorting and classifying the collection for the archives. The problem was getting a weekend workspace. This seemed impossible until Vivien Fernandes came to the rescue and used her connections with the Square One Older Adult Centre to let GAC use their small boardroom on a Saturday morning.

The Workshop
Vivien then went on to recruit volunteers from the Goan Cultural Group who meet at the Square One Older Adult Centre. The team included her sisters, Tina Walker & Joan Rebello, Joyce and Pliny Noronha, Blance Monteiro, Stafford Laurente, and Dominic De Souza. Taskmaster was John J. D’Souza of GAC.

The group was organized into three teams:

- The Sorting team - Ex-school teachers Joyce & Stafford assisted by Joan. Their task was involved going to each item, assigning a category, and the box in which it was to be archived.

- The Data Entry team - Pliny, Blanche, & Vivien. Their task was to take the items from the sorting team and manually record them for entry in a database.

- The Packing team - Tina & Dominic.

Their first task was to assemble and place items in one of 12 banker boxes. (These were temporary, later to be replaced “acid free boxes”)

- The Photo team of Uvy Lopes and Maurice Pinto who dropped in at the start to take a few photos and offer encouragement.

Special thanks to
Dominic De Souza for bringing the van and for bringing and carting away items.

Vivien Fernandes for getting the OAC Board Room.

The three sisters Vivien, Tina, & Joan who spent time Friday evening with the shopping for snacks and lunch and came early to make preparations.

Goan Cultural Group
Square One Older Adult Centre
100 Centre Centre Drive,
P.O. Box 2214,
Mississauga, Ontario L5B 2C9
http://www.sq1oac.com/index_files/Page350.htm
Located in Square One Shopping Centre
A Centre, operated by and for Mississauga’s Older Adult Residents who are 50+ years of age, which provides social, health, educational and recreational opportunities to enhance their quality of life.

The Goan Cultural Group (GCG) founded in 2008, is an opportunity for the many Goan Seniors in the West GTA to meet on a regular basis and join in activities such as Truque, Line Dancing, Konkani Conversation, and socializing.

The GCG meets Wednesdays 6:30pm - 9:00pm
For more information contact:
Saby Carvalho (905) 281 1213 or Thelma D’Souza (905) 828 9243
Funds Donated By Contributors And Committee Members Years 2010/2011

Placido & Olga Madeira
Andrew & Philomena Telles
Anonymous
Bernard & Flavia Dos Remedios
Peter & Violet Azavedo
Anonymous
Blanche De Souza
Charles & Zita D’Cruz
Claude & Amy Gomes
Darryl De Guerra
Dominic & Mila Mendes
Dominic & Louella Misquitta
Edwin & Yvette Da Costa
Elias & Barbara Diniz
Elisie & Hilary Fernandes
Francis & Lucy Fernandes
Francis & Cybele Noronha
Ian & Margaret Lobo
Inter-Connections Canada Inc
John J. D’Souza
Kennedy Auto Collision
Marcus & Arthur Rodrigues
Lazarus & Celine Pereira
Mabel Menezes
Muriel & Patrick Lucas
Phil & Elaine Dias
Priya & Richard Dias
Regina (Gina) Fonseca
Rita Lobo
Roque Barreto
Sal Rocha
Sharon & Paul LaPointe
Stafford & Bella Laurente
Theresa De Souza
Terence & Yukiko Pinto
Tina Walker
Tolentina & Tony Fernandes.
Tony & Marfie Fernandes
Uvy & Mira Lopes
Vivien & Tony Fernandes
John Sui
Doris, David & Carl DaSilva
Rita & Nelson McCrossan
Mozina & Gary Noronha

Maurice & Rachel Pinto
Cecil & Gracie D’Cruz
Giles & Lynette Noronha
Zulema De Souza

Dr. Colin Saldanha
Achievements

Goan Archives Canada Inc., 2009-2013

August 7th, 2009: The Goan Archives Canada, Inc. was founded by Mr. Cecil D’Cruz, Mr. John D’Souza, Mr. Claude Gomes, Mr. Uvy Lopes and Mr. Lazarus Pereira. A year later, on August 23, 2010, it was registered in Ontario as a non-profit organization, referred to hereafter as GAC. The purpose of GAC is to collect material from Goan organizations and individuals (which document the history of important landmarks in the Goan Community in Canada), and to archive them, thus preserving them for posterity.

The main GAC project, “Tracing our Roots” is now a reality with the archiving of Goan heritage records at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives, (PAMA) in 2012.

September 14th, 2009: Ms. Muriel Lucas and Mr. Maurice Pinto joined the founding group as committee members, bringing with them their experience, talent and new ideas.

November 11th, 2009: The first official Open House was launched at the Holy Rosary Church Hall in Scarborough, Ontario. Mr Ben Antao, a Goan author, donated his books and articles to be added to the collection. Thanks to Ms. Bridget D’Souza, Ms. Dora Noronha and Andrew Telles for assisting at this Open House (see Goan Voice Canada newsletter dated 21 Nov. 2009, issue # 24).

January 20th, 2010: The second Open House was held at the Older Adult Centre, (OAC), at Square One, in Mississauga, Ontario. The event was organized by Mr. John D’Souza, with the aid of GAC committee members and with Ms. Tina Walker and Ms. Vivien Fernandes assisting at the front desk (see Goan Voice Canada newsletter dated 30 Jan. 2010, issue # 03).

August 27th, 2010: Through Ms. Zulema D’Souza, GAC members were introduced to the “Ties That Bind” launch which explored the history of Chinese-Canadians and which was funded by the federal government. The GAC objective became to emulate this achievement, with a focus on capturing the oral history of Goan seniors, recording their experiences in Canada and placing them in the University of Toronto Library. In this regard, GAC made initial contacts, but sadly, lacked funding to continue further.

September 9th, 2010: Maurice Pinto arranged for the GAC committee members to meet with Dr. Colin Saldanha, at his health centre in Mississauga, Ontario. This meeting culminated with Dr. Saldanha becoming the main GAC sponsor.

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Dr. Saldanha, Mrs. Zulema D’Souza & Mr. Cecil D’Cruz
October 15th, 2010: GAC applied for the Multi-cultural grant, with supporting letters from the Historical Society of Ontario, 55 Plus Goan Seniors Association (55PGA), Toronto East Goan Seniors Association (TEGSA), Celaz Printing and Shooting Stars & Images. Unfortunately, the application was not successful due to a lack of an ethno-cultural mix and interaction with other groups, these being the main criteria for the grant.

November 18th, 2010: Mr. Maurice Pinto introduced GAC committee members, Mr. Cecil D’Cruz, Mr. Uvy Lopes and Ms. Muriel Lucas to Mr. Dominic Misquitta who was his protégé and a staunch supporter of GAC. Mr. Misquitta, the business owner of “Smart Tech Auto Service” in Mississauga, Ontario gave the GAC members a tour of his facility and the members commended him on his entrepreneurial spirit in this land of opportunity.

December 13th, 2010: First successful meeting with archivists, Ms. Diane Allengame and Mr. Brian Gilchrist, from the former Peel Heritage Complex, now known as PEEL ART GALLERY, MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES (PAMA), in their multi-million dollar complex in Brampton. The storage of the Goan heritage collection at this facility is a major accomplishment, achieved initially without any community financial support and zero financing from government.

In the eyes of the management of PAMA, this is a feat unequalled by any other ethnic organization in Ontario. They extended their full-fledged support towards the GAC endeavour since they regarded the approximately 450 items that were collected from more than 40 Goan organizations, as a priceless treasure. One of the primary GAC requirements was to sign a “Deed of Gift” legal document, which transfers ownership of the records to the Regional Municipality of Peel. This led to a final meeting with the full complement of GAC staff members present. At this time, GAC met with the new Archivist Mr. Kyle Neill and with Ms. Diane Allengame.

February 26th, 2011: Through the diligent efforts of Mr. John D’Souza, his team of volunteers and workshop projects at the OAC at Square One, Mississauga, the collected items were sorted, boxed and made for transfer to PAMA.

June 18th, 2011: Mr. John J. D’Souza of GAC did the set up for an information booth at the Thiatr (Goan Concert) organized by Lourdino Rodrigues.

June 26th, 2011: GAC attended TEGSA’S “Taste of Goa” event, held at Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School, in Midland, Ontario. Holy Mass began at 11:00 a.m. followed by a welcome speech and a “Meet and Greet” of those present. It was supported by Vendors’ stalls selling delicious Goan delites, followed by a variety show and a medley of Konkani, Indian and Portuguese songs.

Following this, Mr. Cecil D’Cruz, Mr. Uvy Lopes, Mr. Maurice Pinto and Ms. Muriel Lucas, met again with both Archivists, Ms. Diane Allengame and Mr. Kyle Neill, to finally sign our legal contract to house our collection in acid free boxes, which are quite costly.

September 29th, 2010: Mrs. Zulema D’Souza, attended and organized GAC members to meet with Mr. Carl Thorpe and Ms. Julia Lum of the Historical Society of Canada, Ontario. The committee gained valuable experience and insight which helped us obtain future financial grants.

November 2nd, 2011: Through kind courtesy of John and Marian Lopes, some of the GAC-PAMA meetings were held at their premise’s meeting room and were attended by PAMA archivist, Mr. Brian Gilchrist. The final meeting with Mr. Gilchrist detailed how to handle the many aspects to ensure a smooth transition of the GAC collection. There were many specific requirements to be completed before the collection could be finally housed at PAMA, including the requirement to store the collection in acid free boxes, which are quite costly.
collection at PAMA October 3rd 2012. We are happy to report that these items have now been successfully archived in Acid Free Boxes at PAMA in Brampton.

February 21st, 2012: One of the highlights of the GAC member’s term was a Meet and Greet “PASSAGES PROJECT” held at the Bayleaf Restaurant, Mississauga.

More than 50 members of the Goan community attended and participated in relating their stories via interviews conducted by Ms. Denyse Churchill, from PAMA. The interviews centred on a 250 word description of an item of special interest to the participant, along with a supporting photograph taken by Ms. Churchill which can be viewed on the PAMA website. Members of the Goan community still have the opportunity to contribute an article of their choice “online” to be preserved for posterity under the “Passages” Project.

This event was also attended by our guest and primary benefactor, Dr. Colin Saldanha and his wife Sheila. Dr. Colin addressed the gathering and articulated a strong and clear message to a resounding applause (read speech on pg.26 for details).

July 2012: In collaboration with TEGSA as co-partners, GAC received two grants, an Ontario Trillium Grant of $1100 and the other for $4600 from the New Horizon Seniors program, which helped carry out our mission statement as posted on our website.

October 3rd, 2012: Mr. Cecil D’Cruz, Mr. Uvy Lopes, Mr. Maurice Pinto and Ms. Muriel Lucas met with the archivists, Ms. Diane Allengame and Mr. Kyle Neill, to sign the legal contract to house the collection at PAMA. The GAC committee is happy to report that the collected items have now been successfully archived in acid free boxes at PAMA, in Brampton.

October 20th, 2012: Mr. Nick DeMello and Mr. Thomas Francis, held a luncheon event at Konkan Delite, Mississauga, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the expulsion of “Uganda Asians” by dictator General Idi Amin of the East African country of Uganda. Members of GAC (namely Maurice Pinto, Muriel Lucas and Uvy Lopes) supported the luncheon and displayed the GAC banner at this historical event.

Also invited to the event was Mr. Mike Molloy, President of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society, Ottawa. Mr. Molloy was one of the Immigration Officers sent to Uganda in 1972 to expedite, under a 90-day deadline, the processing of the expellees wishing to migrate to Canada. A sizable number of the expellees were Goans. Details of this event are documented by Mr. Roger St. Vincent in his diary “The Seven Crested Cranes”. Mr. Maurice Pinto who was on the first flight of expellees arriving in Canada has donated a copy of this book to the GAC. This book is of significant historical importance both personally to Mr. Pinto and culturally to all Goans. The book is now archived in the Goan Archives Canada collection with PAMA in Brampton for posterity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ms. Melanie D’Lima in assisting us in getting registered as a non-profit organization.

Mr. Anthony Saldanha C.G.A for checking our accounting records and doing the GAC Financial Statements gratis covering the years from 2009 to the present 2013.

Mr. Louis Gomes Pereira for designing this 2nd edition of GAC Reference Report.

Mr. Eddie Fernandes [editor] Goan Voice UK for his support and displaying the newsletter annual messages and other articles and pictures on the site.
March 24th, 2013

Mr. Cecil D’Cruz
Chairman,
Goan Archives Canada Inc.

Dear Cecil,

I would like to express, on behalf of my family, our great appreciation of the dedicated work which you, Mr. Uvy Lopes, Mr. Maurice Pinto and the rest of your committee members, have put in to create and preserve a History of the Goan Community in Canada. I am quite certain that at some time in the future, a young member of our Community will be working on a project which requires research and will find that the records that you and your team have so painstakingly assembled, of great value.

I had the opportunity of speaking with Mr. Michael Molloy, who was closely involved with the 1972 Uganda Exodus, in October 2012, and he told me how impressed he was of the fine work done in the creation of the Goan Archives Canada project.

With Best Wishes,

Eric De Souza.
May 1st 2013.

The Chairman,
Mr Cecil D'Cruz
Goan Archives Canada Inc.

Congratulations to you and your steering committee for taking the initiative in 2009, to archive our community’s contribution to Canada instead of ignoring it.

Our early pioneers from the Goan community started migrating to this great country from all over the World in the late sixties when the immigration policies were becoming more liberal.

We cannot know who we are without knowing where we came from and the difficulties we had to endure. Each one of us, have our own personal story to tell. By recording the events, that brought us to these shores in the first place is of importance because of transcending our comfort zone into the unknown and surmounting our challenges.

This recording can be achieved either orally or by the written word which makes part of “HIS - STORY “, to be preserved for posterity, in a secure and environmentally friendly facility. You have done a yeoman’s job by partnering with a credible organisation like “The Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives”-PAMA in Brampton.

The Region of Peel is rapidly changing it’s demographics because of various immigrant groups and especially of the South Asians in Canada, this will have an impact on scholars, historians and social planners for accessible research material.

Goan Archives Canada has been acclaimed to be the first South Asian Group to have archived their religious, historical and cultural contribution to Canada and to be considered “Trailblazers “ for other groups to emulate with their digitized material.

My grand children and great grand children will someday want to know my migratory travel and what made me leave my ancestral home in Goa, India and seek domiciled Canadian citizenship and for them acquiring it here by birthright without knowing where their ancestors have come from.

Almost forty years ago, Canada accepted 6000 Ugandan Asians expelled by the Ugandan Dictator Gen. Idi Amin of whom I was one, because of ethnic cleansing.

I documented my arrival in Canada from Day 1, knowing fully well that I would one day write “My Memoirs “ for my grand children.

In 2009, Having miraculously recovered from a near death experience, due to a medical mishap and a two and a half year hospital stay, I felt compelled to conclude my memoirs “MY JOURNEY INTO HOPE”. Fortunately I found a niche for it in the donated material to the Goan Archives Canada, which was formed specifically for the purpose and was recently exhibited at the PAMA opening on February 18th, 2013 to the general public.

The path to the future is an extension of the road we have travelled and I have travelled that path.

Thanks to you and your far-sighted committee for making it happen.

“I HAVE TOLD MY STORY” and you have archived it.

Maurice J. Pinto
"I would like to compliment the leaders gathered here for their initiative in organizing and promoting the Goan Archives of Canada.

I am delighted to see that you have been able to raise a reasonable amount of funds for this worthy project. It is true, however, that you always need more for ambitious projects such as this. I am confident that the Goan community will support you in this worthwhile endeavour. I am particularly pleased to see that there is collaboration between the Goan Archives Canada and Peel Heritage. Collaboration of this kind will go a long way in enhancing the quality of our history. I understand that you are the first South Asian group to be heading in this direction, attempting to preserve one’s heritage. It is important that we embark on this project, because if we were to work as individuals, not much can be achieved.

Our Goan History is rich, we should be proud of it and we must have the resolve to ensure that we pass this on to our younger generation and to the Canadian community at large.

I think it is commendable to do things within our own community, however, we have come of age as Canadians that we need to go out and champion other Canadian social justice issues, in doing so always providing a Goan value oriented perspective to all our undertakings and initiatives.

I want to challenge each one of you, as community leaders, to be engaged in Canadian society and speak to the preservation of our history and the strengthening of our religious, social and cultural values.

As Goans, we must be engaged and productive citizens of Canada and the World.

I wish you well and God bless.”
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