



GOAN ARCHIVES CANADA INC. CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE-2014

On behalf of the Goan Archives Canada Inc, (GAC), I wish all our sponsors and supporters a Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2015.

My sincere gratitude to everyone involved in assisting us to reach our goals, The last 5 years have been productive and we are proud of our achievements in attaining our goals as set out in our first and second edition Brochures.

We wish to take this opportunity to convey our special thanks to our partners at Peel Archives, Museum and Arts, (PAMA), for their ongoing support.

In early June of this year, we were saddened by the passing of **Mr. Brian Gilchrist**, Archivist at PAMA, after a long illness. Brian was instrumental in accepting our collection and willingly passed on his knowledge to us any time we needed his assistance. His knowledge was invaluable and a great loss was felt by many who knew him. GAC members attended the Memorial service held in his honour and were pleased to meet his mother.



We have achieved a great deal, but our work isn't done yet, as we are focused on getting the youth of our Community involved in coming on-board to take over the ongoing work of GAC.

Looking back into the past to pave the way for our future generations is one of the principles our ancestors valued. How can one move forward without our roots? It is vitally important to pass on our ancestor's history and customs because it will help the children build confidence in navigating their lives in the right direction. This is why our elders tried so hard to save our language and culture for the future of our people. We all have a fundamental role in



educating our youth and in enabling them to muster a deep sense of pride in our heritage.

Toward this end, we have recently (on October 4, 2014), inducted a bright young gentleman named Aaron Joshua Pinto, to GAC. He is passionate and keen about learning more of the Archives and our community.

Aaron is presently in the process of creating **a new interactive web page** (<http://goanarchivescanada.weebly.com/>) for youth participation and dialogue. Until the new website, currently under construction, is running smoothly, the present GAC website (<https://sites.google.com/site/goanarchivescanada/>) will continue to run simultaneously.



On Saturday the 4th of October, 2014, we made a special effort to introduce Aaron to PAMA in Brampton. We were met by Archivist, Kyle Neill, who was very knowledgeable about the history of Brampton and he gave us a Grand Tour of this multi-million dollar complex. We were amazed at the transformation since our last visit. We also visited the Museum and Art Gallery section. Both were very intriguing with their respective displays on view. We found the old jailhouse architecturally fascinating. PAMA is a great place for our youth to learn about the past. Mr. Neill provided a fascinating overview of each display and we were amazed to see our collection of items archived in acid free boxes in a safe environment under lock and key!



Aaron was very impressed and enthusiastic and wants to learn more about the Archives and their works of art. We in turn are pleased that one of our youth is taking such a keen interest in preserving our history and culture through our archived records.

On this HAPPY note I want to encourage our youth to participate in keeping alive our Goan Heritage.

With very best wishes,

Cecil D'cruz,
President and Chair,
Goan Archives Canada Inc.