



TORONTO HARE KRISHNA NEWS

ISKCON Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

ISKCON Toronto / 243 Avenue Rd. / M5R 2J6 / (416) 922-5415

June 2009

ROARING CELEBRATIONS FOR LORD NRSIMHADEVA!

Although it fell on a Thursday evening, Nrsimha Caturdasi celebrations at Toronto's Hare Krishna Temple brought over 100 people to a night dazzled with kirtan, class and ancient tradition.

Nrsimha Caturdasi celebrates the appearance of Lord Nrsimhadeva, Lord Krishna's half-man and half-lion incarnation. When King Hiranyakashipu tormented his youngest son Prahlada, a pure devotee of the Lord, Lord Krishna burst out of a palace column as Nrsimhadeva to protect His disciple.

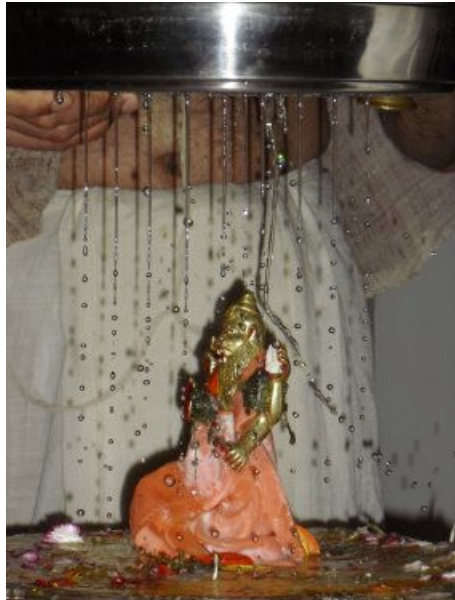
Celebrations at the temple began with a beautiful *kirtan* led by Yajna Gauranga Prabhu and, as people arrived, the atmosphere became surcharged with the powerful sounds of *kirtan*. Everyone then collectively recited the Nrsimha Kavaca Stotram (a sacred hymn).

After some brief announcements, the Hare Krishna Temple warmly welcomed Brhat Mrdanga Prabhu to give class on this very auspicious day. Everyone was completely immersed in Brhat Mrdanga Prabhu's incredible class in which he gave some amazing little-known insights into the story of the appearance of Lord Nrsimhadeva.

Afterwards, an abhiseka (bathing ceremony) of Lord Nrsimhadeva was held as *kirtan* reverberated through the temple. As the ancient traditional bathing ceremony took place, everyone got the opportunity to fan the Deity of Lord Nrsimhadeva.

The *kirtan* continued past 8:00 pm as the *arati* took place and a delicious vegetarian feast capped off the end of the evening.

With a spine-tingling class by Brhat



Mrdanga Prabhu setting the tone for the evening, it was yet another successful festival at Toronto's Hare Krishna Temple that had the glories of Lord Nrsimhadeva being called out to one and all!

DAILY SERVICES

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Mangala Arati | 4:30 am |
| Shringar Arati | 7:00 am |
| Rajbhoga Arati | 12:00 noon |
| Dhoop Arati | 4:00 pm |
| Sunder Arati | 6:00 pm |
| Shayan Arati | 8:00 pm |

For spiritual ceremonies to celebrate or commemorate any special family occasion (i.e. birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, etc.), please feel free to contact the Hare Krishna Temple at (416) 922-5415 for use of the facilities.

Full catering for each event is also available.

DOORS OPEN TORONTO!

Doors Open Toronto celebrated its 10th anniversary and, for the fifth straight year, Toronto's Hare Krishna Temple took part in the weekend-long festivities.

Once a year, Doors Open Toronto involves 175 buildings of architectural, historic, cultural and social significance, opening their doors to the public for a city-wide celebration.

The program allows visitors free access to properties that are either not usually open to the public, or would normally charge an entrance fee. Many locations have organized guided tours, displays and activities to enrich the visitor experience.

While Toronto's Hare Krishna Temple is open and free of charge to the public year-round, Doors Open presented an

opportunity for the public to learn about the architectural and historical background of our amazing building.

Over 500 guests visited the temple over two days and were offered guided tours of the building, a glimpse into the Hare Krishna tradition and also a chance to enjoy some vegetarian pakoras!

As visitors arrived to the temple, they were greeted by a volunteer and then taken on a tour that covered the history of the building that goes all the way back to 1896!

Some of the highlights of the history of the building include the fact that it was built in two parts, it was almost completely destroyed by a fire in 1944 and that the Hare Krishnas have called it home since 1976!

MARCH 2009 INCOME STATEMENT

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Income | \$ |
| Donation | 24,299.66 |
| Earned revenues | 10,629.50 |
| Special events | 4,362.00 |
| Total Income | <u>39,291.16</u> |
| Expenses | |
| Total Insurance | 1,140.47 |
| Cost of Purchase | 14,847.15 |
| Temple Maintenance | 7,880.37 |
| Devotee Maintenance | 5,507.71 |
| Utilities | 7,697.81 |
| Auto Expenses | 1,521.40 |
| Financial Expenses | 437.96 |
| Administrative Expenses | 38.88 |
| Travel Expenses | 145.48 |
| Contract Labour | 1,561.07 |
| Other Expenses | 20.00 |
| Festival & Special Projects | 253.82 |
| Total Expenses | <u>41,052.12</u> |
| Net Ordinary Income | (1,760.96) |
| Total Other Income | <u>64.26</u> |
| Net Income | <u><u>(1,696.70)</u></u> |

For a fully detailed statement, please see the message board outside the temple room.

GLOSSARY

Arati

Offerings presented to the deities meant to welcome Them.

Kirtan

Devotional music often accompanied by dancing.

Prasadam

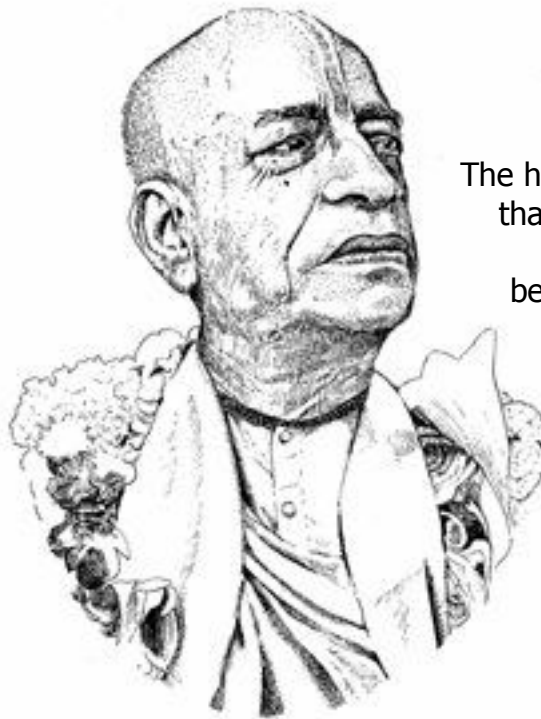
Food that has first been offered to Krishna before eating.

Visit our site at toronto.iskcon.ca

To watch live webcasts each Sunday, visit our blog at www.torontokrishna.com

Want to join the temple mailing list?

Send an email to toronto@pamho.net



A "BOOKED" WEEKEND WITH VAISESIKA DAS!

Sankirtan, known as "book distribution", is one of the original cornerstones of the modern Hare Krishna tradition. Many people associate the early days of the Hare Krishna movement with the presence of bright-eyed monks on the streets of major urban centres in the 1960's and 70's as they shared the ancient wisdom of our tradition with anyone and everyone through our spiritual books! The streets of Toronto were no different back then but, oh, how times change.

With a huge community, grand festivals and external programs in mainstream venues, one could have argued that Toronto's Hare Krishnas had perhaps forgotten the art of sharing our books right on the streets with anyone willing to listen!

Then along came Vaisesika das, a personified "spiritual sonic boom", who won the hearts of the locals with his enthralling words, ecstatic *kirtans* and uncanny ability to instill confidence in the most timid of people.

Presenting a "Sankirtan Orientation Seminar", Vaisesika das opened up the weekend by giving a theoretical presentation on the art of sankirtan.

The holy name is so powerful that even by chanting with offense, gradually he becomes pure. Therefore we should not give up chanting. Any circumstances, we should go on chanting Hare Krishna.

Denver, Colorado
1975

Almost 50 people turned up on a Friday night and hung off his every word.

A good night's sleep on Friday night prepared a charged-up group of attendees for a full Saturday! Vaisesika Prabhu opened the day with an inspiring class on Srimad Bhagavatam and then, after a delightful breakfast, took theory and turned it to practice as he guided over 30 devotees in practice sessions about how to share books with the people of Toronto. A few hours later, almost 130 books had been sold to people walking about the streets of the bustling downtown core.

Of course, it wouldn't be a "booked" weekend if there wasn't a grand Sunday Feast! Giving a class on the Bhagavad Gita, Vaisesika Prabhu had a packed temple room riveted by his every word. Less than an hour later, he had the same temple room going absolutely crazy in a wild *kirtan* that continued well into the night!

The books that Srila Prabhupada gave us are the bedrock on which our Hare Krishna movement sits. In a packed and exciting weekend, Vaisesika das reminded us of the importance of enthusiastically sharing this knowledge with the world and thus helping to introduce Krishna Consciousness to so many people.

Want to contribute or need more information about the newsletter? Contact Gopal at info@psena.ca