

ZORDASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

3590 Bayview Avenue, North York, Ontario, Canada, M2M 356

March 2014

Vol. 40. No.10

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Mar 02	@ 12.30 pm @ 2.45 pm	Scouts Religion Class
Friday Mar 07	@ 11.00 am	Seniors - Games
Sunday Mar 09	@ 3.00 pm	Bazaar Norouzi & Children's Party
Thursday Mar 13	@ 5.00 pm	Students' March Break Sports / Activity
Saturday Mar 15	@ 10.30 am	Ayathram Gahambar (S)
Sunday Mar 16	@ 10.30 am	Hamaspatmaidhyam Gahambar (F)
Monday Mar 17 To	@ 3.00 pm)	Panjeh (Muktad) Days
Wednesday Mar 19	@ 3.00 pm)	Tanjen (Muktad) Days
Friday Mar 21	@ 7.00 pm	Norouz Jashan and Dinner
Saturday Mar 22	@7.00 pm	Norouz Dinner-Dance at Italian Banquet Hall
Sunday Mar 23	@ 10.00 am	Scouts Norouz Party
Wednesday Mar 26	@ 6.30 pm	Zadrooz-e-Ashu Zarthosht (F)
Friday Mar 28	@ 11.00 am	Seniors – Music DVD
Sunday Mar 30	@ 10.30 am	Religion – Ava Parabh
Friday Apr 04	@ 11.00 am @ 7.00 pm	Seniors Adult Avesta Class
Tuesday Apr 08	@ 7.00 pm	Fraverdegan (F)

NOTE: All events will be held at Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr, 3590 Bayview Avenue, unless otherwise specified. ZSO as publisher is not responsible for content and support of any flyers not issued by them.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ZSO:

Following the presentation made by the President of the ZSO, Mr. Sarosh J. Bharucha, at the World Zoroastrian Congress in Mumbai, India in December 2013, and the dissemination by him of an unapproved version of the January 2014 ZSO Newsletter that contained inflammatory comments, members of the Executive Committee passed six resolutions at an Executive Committee meeting held on January 22, 2014, to govern the behaviour of all Executive Committee members henceforth.

Three of these unanimous resolutions passed at the meeting on Jan 22, 2014 are stated below:

1. Adopted detailed a policy, practices, and procedures regarding the contents and publication of the ZSO Newsletter.

2. Reaffirmed the previous verbal caution about not publicly criticizing fellow Executive Committee members using any formal means of communication in the public domain.

3.Registered the strongest objection of the members of the Executive Committee, to the matter of the President sending out mass emails to undisclosed recipients about ZSO matters in his official capacity as President of the ZSO, without prior discussion and approval by the Executive Committee and demanded that he cease and desist from this practice forthwith.

Subsequent to this meeting, when the President was preparing to mail out an un-authorized version of the February 2014 ZSO Newsletter, he was thwarted by the Secretary. The President then retaliated by sending out a mass email to many ZSO members and even non-members, in which he resorted to maliciously publicizing totally irrelevant personal family matters of the Secretary, that resulted in an unprecedented demand from all segments of the community for the President to be removed from office.

At the next Executive Committee meeting held on Feb 11th, 2014 the Executive Committee forcefully declared a vote of No-Confidence in the President with all the attendant penalties and consequences thereto. The Executive Committee then gave the President the opportunity to resign voluntarily. The President's response was that he would consider it but would not give a date by which he would inform the Executive Committee of his decision.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee resolved to call an Extraordinary General Meeting in the month of March to consider and pass a Resolution for the removal of the President, Mr. Sarosh J. Bharucha from office, after giving the statutory notice to the membership as required by law and the Constitution of the ZSO. Just before the mailing of the notice to the membership, the Executive Committee issued a final ultimatum to Mr. Sarosh Bharucha with a time specific deadline to comply. Immediately thereafter he conveyed his decision to resign.

Therefore the proposed Extraordinary General Meeting, planned at some cost to the ZSO and hours of work by members of the Executive Committee, is now cancelled. The resulting vacancy in accordance with the ZSO Constitution and by-laws has been filled by an Executive Committee appointment. Ms Anahita Ogra, former Assistant Secretary of the ZSO, has accepted to fill the vacant position on the Executive Committee until the next Annual General Meeting.

Finally we wish to state that Mr. Sarosh Bharucha's recently circulated mass email announcing his resignation contained allegations of impropriety and injudicious comments against members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee categorically states that this email is rife with exaggeration, insinuations and out-of-context and misquoted statements; however the Executive Committee will not use the ZSO Newsletter to respond to Mr. Sarosh Bharucha. The ZSO Newsletter is not a tool for propaganda or personal views and attacks: its role is to notify and disseminate unbiased and factual information to the membership at large.

The Executive Committee will remain focused, dedicated and committed in carrying out its duties as entrusted to it by the General Body for the benefit of all members and will not waiver from these objectives and will not be distracted by e-mails and other propaganda tools used by those whose principal goal is to remain disruptive.

EXECUTIVE CORNER:

1) EC Reorganization:

As a result of Mr. Sarosh Bharucha's recent resignation from the post of President of the ZSO, the Executive Committee has been re-organized as follows:

- President Bina Behboodi
- Executive Vice President Dara Panthakee
- Vice president Khushru Chothia
- In addition, the Executive Committee welcomes Anahita Ogra who has agreed to fill the vacant position of Executive Officer.

All these positions will be held on an interim basis until the next AGM in the summer of 2014.

2) Associate Editors of the ZSO Newsletter: Diana Vania applied for the position of Co-Editor of the ZSO Newsletter that was advertised in the February issue of the same. The Executive Committee has confirmed her appointment and she will work with Natasha Bozorgi to produce future issues of the Newsletter and all news items should be forwarded to them.

Since a young age Diana has been involved in the Zoroastrian community by volunteering with the ZSO, representing FEZANA at the United Nations, presenting at Zoroastrian Congresses, and participating in the Return to Roots program. She has authored articles for the FEZANA Journal and her volunteer work has been featured in SynergyZ. Diana is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Global Health at McMaster University to support her career goal of working in an international organization, to affect policy in developing countries and enable access to health-care and education. ZSO is indeed fortunate to have such talented young ladies as Natasha and Diana volunteer their time as Associate Editors of our Newsletter.

Their email ids:nbozorgi@hotmail.comdianakvania@gmail.comRussi Surti will assist the Associate Editors whenever needed (rbsurti@aol.com).

- 3) **MGDM Hall Bookings:** Executive Officer Meherwan Wadia will be responsible for managing the Calendar for booking the MGDM Hall for ZSO functions and private rentals. To check on the availability of the hall and for bookings, please email him at <u>ExecOfficer2@zso.org</u> or leave a message for him at (416)-455-6514, and he will reply to you within 48 hours.
- 4) **Post-Funeral Prayers:** For renting the MGDM Hall and Dadgah for post-funeral prayers and rituals, there will be a charge of \$100.00 per day. Please note that this is in keeping with the rental that will be charged by OZCF, our sister organization in Oakville, Ontario.
- 5) Scholarship Program: Per the Resolution passed at the AGM in July 2013, a Scholarship Program is being established. Details will follow in future Newsletters.
- 6) Catholic High School Students visit the MGDM to learn about Zoroastrianism: As a part of their Grade 11 World Religions Course, 80 students from St. Robert catholic High School visited the MGDM on February 21st 2014. Asst. Secretary Percy Surti gave them a talk on the basic precepts of Zoroastrianism and they watched a video on Zoroastrian Religion and Culture. This was followed by a tasty lunch of Dhan-daar and Chicken Farchas prepared by Hormuz Chothia. The students certainly enjoyed the meal, with many of them going back for a second helping!

ENTERPRISE SUPPORT ALLIANCE: The Winter sessions were successful with several Zoroastrian entrepreneurs from across the GTA discussing about business in general, as well as about specific businesses. The main topic of interest, however, was developing business on social media and how this may be accomplished. We now look forward to the Spring and Summer sessions coming up, with more insights and key topics for discussion.

NOROUZ DINNER-DANCE GALA:

As announced earlier, a Persian style Gala will be held on Saturday March 22^{nd} at 7.00 p.m. at the Panemonte Italian banquet hall, 22 Humberline Drive Toronto (Finch and Hwy 27). The event is almost ninety per cent sold out. For any remaining available tickets, please contact:

- Atoosa Javanmardian Tel: 416-419-9228
- Khushru Chothia Tel: 416-677-7555

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<u>OBITUARY</u>: Ardeshir Rustom Dastur (known to everyone as Adi) was 78 years old and was born in Mumbai, India on 2nd November, 1935, where he obtained a BSc degree in 1955. Then he moved to Toronto and earned his BASc and MASc in 1958 and 1960 respectively from the University of Toronto.

Adi joined Atomic Energy of Canada (AECL) to begin his long and outstanding career in Nuclear Engineering until he retired in 1995, and thereafter continued as an Engineer Emeritus. He analyzed the 'Chernobyl Nuclear Accident' and published the shocking conclusion that the Chernobyl Nuclear Power-plant design actually worsened the accident – instead of arresting or mitigating it. He earned many awards from the nuclear industry and various international engineering organizations and societies in recognition of his many outstanding contributions, which are documented in over 100 journal publications and scientific reports. Adi was honoured with the prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award, which was presented to him by the Canadian

Nuclear Society in 1994. Professionally he travelled widely: Japan, Korea, Russia, Ukraine and all European Universities and Institutions.

He had many interests besides Physics. Together with Renate he loved theatre, opera, museums and travel. He also was an excellent cook! Adi was very approachable and he always carried an inviting pleasant smile. He was a gentle, lovable, positive happy man. His funeral service overflowed with members of the Zoroastrian community and friends from AECL and various scientific organizations.

When I arrived in Toronto in 1964 as a new immigrant, Adi, who was at that time working at G.E. in Peterborough, Ontario, would drive into Toronto every Friday evening and spend the weekend with me & another Zoroastrian émigré – taking us around in his car, showing us his beloved Toronto. He will be sorely and dearly missed by all those who knew him, particularly by many of his close friends. He leaves behind his loving wife Renate, his sister Nergez Mehta (Mumbai), niece Dilnavaz & family in the USA. (Condensed by Edul Kanga of Oakville, Ontario, from a published Obituary).

100 TORONTO SCOUT GROUP held its annual Valentine Dinner-Dance on Saturday 8th February at our Darbe Mehr. This year the theme was "**Dhaba Night**", and the 140 parents and well wishers who participated enjoyed the ambience, the music and the food – all done to replicate a pit-stop on the highways of India for weary drivers and passengers. There was fun for all, and door and raffle prizes going out to the lucky winners. But the high point of the evening was the delicious buffet dinner replete with **dhaba style** chicken and fish and **maaki-daal** prepared by our super-chef Leaders Kersi Khambatta and Dina Amroliwalla, and parent volunteers Shernaz Writer and Minoo Bharda. This event is the Group's annual fund-raiser and on behalf of the Scout Group Committee, Co-Chair Rusi Unvala thanked our Group Sponsor, the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario, and the many volunteers, advertisers and participants who contributed to the success of a most enjoyable **Dhaba Night**.

Then on 22^{nd} February, the Scouts and parents celebrated *BP-Day* - the birthday of the Founder of the Scout Movement, Lord Baden Powell. Our Cubs and Beavers enjoyed participating in the Cub Kar Rally, and all thoroughly enjoyed the dinner that followed. Our eager Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers then entertained the audience with songs and dances, and with melodies on the keyboard.

PAINTING OF OUR PROPHET: The new portrait painting of Asho Zarathushtra (blue) that hangs in the Atash Dadgah at the MGDM was recently donated to the ZSO by Mr. Aspi Mahwa. The ZSO wishes to express its gratitude to Mr. Mahwa for this beautiful gift. If anybody would like to purchase specially commissioned paintings of Asho Zarathushtra, please contact Aspi at 416-482-5530 for further details.

ZSO MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Please note that ZSO's fiscal year runs from April to March, and that Membership Fees for 2014-2015 are due on 1st April, 2014. Members are requested to pay their fees by that date, and also to request family and friends to join the ZSO.

Fee Schedule:	
• \$100.00	F = Family (married or single, includes children under 18)
• \$ 60.00	I = Individual (non-student over age 18)
• \$ 30.00	YS = Youth Student (full time student, age 18 to 25 yrs.,) D
• \$ 30.00	ISR = Individual Senior (age 65 and over)
• \$ 50.00	FSR= Family Senior (both spouses age 65 and over

ZSO NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page: \$125.00; Half Page: \$75.00; Quarter Page/Business Card: \$55.00
 Miscellaneous Two liners: \$15.00; Inserts: \$200.00
 10% Discount for 12 months of consecutive advertising

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Telephone: (416) 225-7771

ZSO Newsletter Information:

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Associate Editors: Natasha Bozorgi (nbozorgi@hotmail.com) and Diana Vania (dianakvania@gmail.com)



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نوروز پارتی و سرگرمی همراه با حاجی فیروز

بدینوسیله از کودکان و جوانان عزیز دعوت می شود تا با گردهمایی خود در روز مارچ 9 (March 9th) از ساعت 6-3 بعد از ظهر در سالن ارباب مهربان گیو، آمدن نوروز را با دیگر دوستان خود جشن بگیرند. با رنگ آمیزی تخم مرغ و انجام کاردستی و آشنایی با فرهنگ و آداب نوروزی خود را آماده آمدن سال نو و نوروز کنید. ورودیه برای هر کودک 5\$ میباشد.

مسابقه و سرگرمی در تعطیلات

بدینوسیله از کودکان و جوانان عزیز دعوت می شود تا با گردهمایی خود در روز مارچ 13 (March 13th) از ساعت 9-5 بعد از ظهر در سالن ارباب مهربان گیو، ساعات شاد و سرگرم کننده ای را با دوستان خود داشته باشید. با بازی، مسابقه و سرگرمی های شاد، روز خاطره انگیزی را برای خود و دوستان خود بوجود آورید.

چهارشنبه سوری

امسال نیز همانند هر سال مراسم چهارشنبه سوری در محوطه درب مهر برگزار می گردد. این مراسم در روز سه شنبه 18 مارچ (March 18th) از ساعت 7:00 بعد از ظهر با گردهمایی در سالن ارباب مهربان گیو شروع و با روشن کردن آتش همراه خواهد بود.

گهنبار چهره همس پت میدیم گاه

گهنبار چهره همس پت میدیم گاه در روز یکشنبه 16 مارچ (March16th) به همت گروهی از زرتشتیان در سالن ارباب مهربان گیو برگزار می گردد. با حضور خود فرهنگ گهنبار را که همانا گردهمایی و هم بهره گی زرتشتیان می باشد را به فرزندان خود آموزش دهید. شروع اوستای گهنبار ساعت 11.00 میباشد.

گهنبار روزهای پنچه

پنج روز آخر سال در گاهشماری زرتشتی پنج روز گاهانی یا پنج روز پنچه گفته میشود. در این گاهشماری سال از ۱۲ ماه ۳۰ روزه تشکیل شده است. برای رسیدن به 365 روز سال، این پنج روز را به آخر ماه دوازدهم (اسفند) میافزایند. هر یک از این پنج روز به نام یکی از سرودهای گاتها (اهنود، اشتود، سپنتمد، وهوخشتر، وهیشتواش) نامیده شده است. در تقویم کنونی زرتشتی اگر سال کبیسه باشد این پنج روز به شش روز افزایش مییابد. در این صورت آن سال را اندرگاهی (کبیسه) و روز اضافی را "اورداد" مینامند. ایرانیان در این روزها به جشن و آتشافروزی میپرداختند زیرا پس از آن سال نو آغاز میگشت.

شورای کانون زرتشتیان نیز امسال با همکاری گروهی از زرتشتیان گهنبار روزهای پنچه را در روزهای دوشنبه 17، سـه شـنبه 18 و چـهارشـنبه 19 مارچ (March 17th, 18th, 19th) در سـالن ارباب مهربان گیو برگزار می کند.

ای جویندگان دانش، اکنون آموزش ها و پیامی را که تا به حال شنیده نشده است را برای شما اشکار خواهم ساخت. این پیام برای کسانی که از روی آموزش های نادرست (و وسوسه های شیطانی) جهان را تباه سازند ناگوار می باشد، اما برای دلدلدگان مزدا خوشایند و شادی بخش است. (یسنا هات 31 یند 1)

حشن زایش شًت اشوزرتشت

شورای کانون زرتشتیان، زایش شًت اشوزرتشت اسپنتمان، پیغمبر بزرگ ایران را پیشاپیش به یکایک همکیشان ارجمند تبریک می گوید. بدینوسیله از همکیشان عزیز دعوت میگردد تا با گردهمایی و حضور خود، یاد آن وخشور را در جشنی که بدین منظور در روز چهارشنبه روز خورداد و فروردینماه (ششم فروردین) 26 مارچ (March 26th) در سالن ارباب مهربان گیو برگزار می گردد گرامی دارید

NOROUZ 2014 EVENTS FOR ALL TO ENJOY!

Children's Norouz Party with Haji Firooz

Introduction of Norouz's culture, painting eggs, playing, gaming and more fun activities will make a fantastic and memorable day. (Entrance fee: \$5.00 for each child). It will be on Sunday March 9th 3pm-6pm.

Students' March Break Sport / Activity Day Kanoon is inviting children and youth to gather in Arbab Mehraban Give Darb-e-Meher to have few hours of fun and sport activities during the March Break on March 13th from 5:00PM – 9:00PM.

Charshanbe Soori

Charshanbe Soori which is one of Norouz's features is celebrated on the last Tuesday of the year. Please attend and gather in Arbab Mehraban Give Darb-e-Meher on Tuesday March 18th at 7:00 PM and celebrate this event by setting up a Fire in the backyard.

Gahanbar Hamas-Pat-Maidiem

A group of Zoroastrian families will be helping out with the preparation and celebration of Gahanbar Hamas-Pat-Maidiem on Sunday March 16th in Arbab Mehraban Give Darb-e-Meher. Please attend with your family and gain insight on the reason and culture of Gahanbar. Gahanbar is a friendly Symposium and Awareness of other family, and thanks giving of Blisses. Avesta will be starting at 11:00AM.

Gahanbar Panjeh days

The last five days in Zoroastrian's calendar are known as "five days of Panje" or "five days of Gahani". In this calendar, each month has 30 days ($12 \times 30 = 360$), and for achieving a whole year (365 days), these five days have been added to the last month of the Zoroastrian's calendar (Esfand). Each one of these five days is known as the name of Gathaha's Yasns' name (Ahnavad, Oshtavad, Sepantamad, Vahu Khashatra, and Vahishtuish). If a year exceeds one day (Leap year), then these five days will be six days and the extra day will be known as "Avardad". Iranians used to celebrate the five days of Panje by setting up a fire and preparing for the arrival of New Year.

Kanoon is going to celebrate Gahanbar Panjehs by getting help from Zoroastrian families in Arbab Mehraban Give Darb-e-Meher on March 17th, 18th, and 19th. Please attend and refresh this interesting feature, and celebrate in coming New Year similar your ancestors.

Yasna 31 verse: 1

O, Ye who art in search of knowledge, I shall now proclaim the teachings and the message which have not so far been heard by anyone. This message is not pleasing to those who destroy the world of truth through their lures of devils and incorrect teachings, but it creates joy for those who have dedicated their hearts to Mazda.

Shat Ashou Zartosht Birthday

Kanoon is congratulating the Shat Ashou Zartosht Birthday to every Zoroastrian in advance. Please attend on Wednesday March 26th, at 6:30pm (= Khordad and Farvardin) in Arbab Mehraban Give Darb-e-Meher to celebrate and remember Zartosht's thoughts and words.

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Day 2 / May 15: Beijing

Welcome to Beijing, the political and cultural centre of the world's most populous nation. Your friendly national tour guide will meet you at the airport followed by a transfer to 5-Star Marriott City Wall Hotel. (D)

Day 3 / May 16: Beijing

Visit Tian An Men Square and the Forbidden City, home of many priceless treasures. Savour a Dim Sum Lunch and explore the Temple of Heaven. A sumptuous Peking Duck dinner will be served in the evening. Optional: Legend of Kungfu Show. Overnight at 5-Star Marriott City Wall Hotel (B/L/D)

Day 4 / May 17: Beijing

Stroll along the mighty **Great Wall** then have locally flavored lunch. On the way back take a photo stop at the **Olympic sites**, where you will see the **Bird Nest Stadium** and **Water Cube Aquatic Centre**. Visit the **Cloisonné Factory** to experience the art of Chinese pottery-making and go on a **Hutong tour** by Pedi-cab, driving through the ancient streets and residential areas to see the daily life of local people. Overnight at **5-Star Marriott City Wall Hotel (B/L/D)**

Day 5 / May 18: Beijing-Yichang

After breakfast, transfer to airport for your flight to Yichang. (Lunch in flight). Arrive in the afternoon & enjoy a tour of Yichang. After dinner you board the 5 star MS Yangtze 2 for your river cruise. (B/L/D)

Day 6 / May 19: Yangtze River Cruise

Participate in guided Tai Chi session on the sun deck early morning. Enjoy the stunning scenery as you sail through Xiling Gorge. Embark on a shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam Site, the largest water conservancy project undertaken by man. Later, enjoy the spectacular sights while passing through the Three Gorges Dam 5-stage ship locks. In the evening, there will be a Captain's Dinner and a Folkloric Performance. (B/L/D)

Day 7 / May 20: Three Gorges

Participate in a guided Tai Chi session on the sun deck early morning. Depending on the river conditions, there may be a shore excursion to **Shennong Stream**, which is a natural habitat of the mandarin ducks and golden-hair monkeys. After lunch, admire breathtaking sights of the narrow cliff walls and dramatic vistas in the **Wu Gorge** and **Qutang Gorge**. (B/L/D)

Day 8 / May 21: Yangtze River Cruise

Participate in guided Tai Chi session on the sun deck early morning. Later in the morning, take a shore excursion to **Fengdu** "the Ghost City" or **Shibaozhai**, home to a 12 storey red wooden pavilion built against a protruding 220 meter rectangular rock with sheer cliffs on the north bank. (**B/L/D**)

Day 9 / May 22: Chongqing – Xian by flight

As the cruise ends. you will disembark in Chongqing Pier. Upon arrival you will visit the Erling Park and the Flying Tiger Museum. After lunch you will be transferred to the airport and fly to Xian. Tour the **Wild Goose Pagoda** and the ancient **City Wall**. Overnight at the **5-Star Golden Flower by Shangri-La Hotel. (B/L/D)**

Day 10 / May 23: Xian

Explore the famous **Terra Cotta Museum** where you will see the mighty terra cotta warriors. Lunch features local cuisine. En-route visit the amazing **Lacquer** ware Furniture Store. In the evening, watch an amazing **Tang Dynasty Dinner Show**. Dinner includes four varieties of specialty dumplings. (B/L/D).

Day 11 / May 24: Xian - Shanghai by flight

Take a morning flight to Shanghai. Visit the Orient **TV Tower, Yu Garden** and the **Bund**. Western dinner will be arranged at the hotel. Optional: Acrobatic Show available. Stay at **5-Star Renaissance Yangtze Hotel** for three nights. (**B/L/D**)

Day 12 / May 25: Shanghai-Suzhou

Coach to Suzhou, the 'Venice of the East'. Visit the **Master of Nets Garden** and take a boat ride on the **Grand Canal**. Visit **Silk Factory and Workshop**. Back to Shanghai and join in the farewell dinner. **Stay at 5-Star Renaissance Yangtze Hotel. (B/L/D)**

Day 13 / May 26: Shanghai

Free day to explore Shanghai or enjoy a shopping spree and sight-seeing at your leisure. Optional tours will be offered. **(B)**

Day 14 / May 27: Shanghai - Toronto

After breakfast, transfer to the airport on the high speed Maglev train. Say good-bye to China as you board your transpacific flight home. **(B)**

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner "HAVE A GREAT TRIP"

Prices quoted are in Canadian dollars

If there are less than 15 guests, the price of the tour will increase

First deposit of \$1000 is required upon booking. Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure

*Single Supplement: single room in all hotels and shared cabin on cruise. ** Full Single Supplement: single room in all hotels and single cabin guaranteed on cruise.

"We reserve the right to amend the itinerary and properties as needed for logistical reasons without prior notice"