

Guyana Awards Recipients

Dr. Anne I. Dipchand

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr. Anne Dipchand was born in Canada to Guyanese parents shortly after they came to Canada for her father to do his graduate studies. She owes a lot to Guyana and to her parents, Professor Cecil Dipchand from Canal Number One, a distinguished author and Professor of Finance at Dalhousie University, and Mrs. Betty Dipchand from the Essequibo Coast, who cared for the children following Cecil's untimely death in 1994.



A Paediatric Cardiologist and Head of the Heart Transplant Program at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto, Dr. Dipchand also serves as Associate Director of the SickKids Transplant Centre. Her clinical practice focuses on heart failure and transplantation. She also maintains a busy general paediatric cardiology practice at SickKids.

Dr. Dipchand is involved in the paediatric cardiology and heart transplantation communities locally, provincially and nationally within Canada. She serves on the Steering Committee of the new University of Toronto Transplant Institute. Nationally, she is the Past Chair of the Canadian Society of Transplantation (CST) Education Committee, the Chair of the CST Paediatric Committee, and sits on the Canadian Cardiac Transplant Network Executive. Internationally, she is an executive member of the Paediatric Committees of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation and the American Society of Transplantation, and a Councillor on the Board of the International Paediatric Transplant Association.

Dr. Dipchand is actively involved in clinical research. She is the Vice-President and President-Elect of the Paediatric Heart Transplant Study (PHTS)—an international study group. She is the Principal Investigator on a funded grant pertaining to the outcomes of children with cardiomyopathy listed for heart transplantation, and is co-Principal Investigator of a new, multicentre NIH-funded grant to look at heart transplantation in highly sensitized patients. She has a number of abstracts and peer-reviewed publications in addition to invited book chapters.

Mayor John Rodrigues

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

John Rodrigues was born at Bartica, British Guiana on February 12, 1937. He received his elementary education partly in Bartica and partly in Georgetown where he attended Sacred Heart School and St. Stanislaus College. John remembers well certain of his elementary and high school teachers, who impressed him with their commitment to teaching and to bringing out the best in their students.



After working for Royal Bank for one year, Mr. Rodrigues emigrated to Canada in 1956. Following his graduation from Toronto Teachers' College, he accepted a teaching position in St. Catharines. In 1962 he moved to Sudbury and taught at St. Paul's in Coniston, where he was Principal from 1963 to 1972. A graduate of Laurentian University with a BA in English and Spanish Literature, he served as local President of the Catholic Teachers' Union in Sudbury until he was elected Provincial President in 1968.

Following his election in 1972 as NDP Member of Parliament for Nickel Belt, John Rodrigues was re-elected in 1974, 1979, 1984, and 1988. In 1994 he went back to teaching and was Vice-Principal of St. David's School until his retirement in 2005.

Mr. Rodrigues entered municipal politics when he was elected to Coniston Town Council in 1971. His second foray into local politics came in November 2006 when he was elected Mayor of Greater Sudbury.

During his Inaugural Address, Mayor Rodrigues committed to and has established four advisory panels in his first 100 days of office—Municipal Mining Revenues, Performing Arts Centre, Health Cluster and Multi-Sport Recreational Complex. He feels privileged to represent the citizens of Greater Sudbury as their Mayor and is proud of his community, envisioning an unprecedented period of growth and vitality.

Mayor Rodrigues and his wife, Bertilla, have five sons and five grandchildren. In his leisure time he enjoys reading, gardening and horses, and is a patron of the local arts.

Chris Mohan

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Chris Mohan is the President and Owner of Maple Leaf Wheelchair, Mississauga.

Born in 1955 to Mike and Betty Mohan at No 47 Village, Corentyne, Mr. Mohan received his education at Sheldon Lutheran High School and immigrated to Canada in



1974. He continued his education at York University where he obtained his B.Sc.

Subsequently, Mr. Mohan held several management positions in the plastics industry before starting Maple Leaf Wheelchair in 1993. He focuses on creating unique designs, and building mobility and seating devices for the elderly and disabled population. Some of these devices include manual and motorized wheelchairs, recliners, geriatric chairs, tilts, commodes and walkers. The business has grown and today there is a staff of more than 50.

He has served on the board of many associations dedicated to improving the quality of life of our seniors and the disabled community including the Canadian Assistive Devices Association. He is a consistent supporter of many charitable organizations including Three Rivers Kids Foundation and The Caribbean Children Foundation.

Chris Mohan is always very grateful to his mother, who has been both a mother and father to him, his two brothers and sister since their dad died in 1976. He lives in Mississauga with his wife Angela, son Jason and wife, daughter Alana, and two grandchildren.

Joy Simon

COMMUNITY SERVICE (INDIVIDUAL) AWARD

A York University psychology graduate, Joy Simon is President, Guyanese Canadian Community Centre; Vice-President, Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Organizations; Vice-President, Guyana Ex-Police Association of Canada; Chapter President, Scarborough North Spelling Bee of Canada; Vice-President and Entertainment Director,



Malvern Onyx Lions Club; and Life Member, Toronto Catholic Children's Aid Society Board. In addition, she is a member of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Safe Schools Work Group, dealing with topics such as confrontational and cyber bullying, cultural competence, alternatives to suspension, denial of access (procedure and clarification); and Parent Representative for Ward 21 TDSB Parent Involvement Advisory Committee.

A facilitator in the Alliance Saturday Mentoring Program, Mrs. Simon is very passionate about guiding and nurturing young people to reach their full potential and advises them to harness their energies and engage in meaningful activities at an early age.

The combination of a religious family upbringing and a teaching background has enabled Joy Simon to promote educational, spiritual and cultural growth to the youth in her community and beyond. A grassroots community leader, she enjoys working with youth of all ages and ethnicities, and volunteers her time and expertise mentoring young parents and counselling abused young men and women in such areas as crisis intervention and single families in crisis.

Since 1987, she has been involved in a fundraising event in the U.S.A. to assist youth at her alma mater, Christ Church School, to pursue undergraduate studies at the University of Guyana, and recently established an organization to continue this work in Canada. For over 30 years she has contributed to the support of several children through World Vision of Canada and encourages everyone to be an advocate for at least one child.

Founder and owner of Bourda Green Nutrition, Joy Simon takes pride in being a role model for her three children, who are also involved with community work while pursuing their careers.

Fareed Amin

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Fareed Amin is a seasoned public sector leader in Canada, with over 20 years of experience. He is currently Ontario's Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, responsible for local governments, land use planning, affordable housing and building regulation in Ontario. The Ministry has an operating and capital budget of \$1 billion and a workforce of over 800 employees.



Mr. Amin held a number of other deputy ministerial portfolios in Ontario, including Deputy Minister of the Ministry of International Trade and Investment, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Deputy Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Fareed Amin also worked in the municipal sector. Between 2004 and 2006, he served as Deputy City Manager, City of Toronto where he was responsible for a capital budget of \$1 billion; an operating budget of \$2 billion; approximately 10,000 staff; and the management, governance and corporate oversight of Water and Wastewater, City Planning, Solid Waster Management, Transportation, Building, Fire, Environment, and the Waterfront Secretariat.

Prior to being appointed as a Deputy Minister by the Premier of Ontario, Mr. Amin held progressively responsible positions in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Finance, the Premier's Office, and Cabinet Office.

Mr. Amin has an undergraduate degree in Geography and Planning from the University of Guyana, a Certificate in Public Administration from the University of Toronto, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Queen's University. He is also a graduate of an intensive leadership program at Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA.

Dr. John Farley

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. John Farley received his B.Sc. in Biology (Hons) from the University of Waterloo; did specialty training in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the University of Alberta; then trained as an Epidemiologist.



He has had a distinguished career in medicine and communicable diseases control with many publications in peer-reviewed journals, and is a clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of British Columbia. In 1987, as Provincial Epidemiologist at the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, he spearheaded a campaign to have all Grade 6 students in the province vaccinated for Hepatitis B, which led to the Universal Hepatitis B Vaccine Program in the province.

In 1990, Dr. Farley worked with WHO/PAHO in the Caribbean as Head of a special project on HIV/AIDS where he assisted local authorities in controlling the spread of HIV throughout the Caribbean and Guyana. He subsequently held the post of Chief of Surveillance for HIV/AIDS at the Bureau of HIV/AIDS, Ottawa, where he was responsible for setting up a Canada-wide electronic based surveillance system for HIV/AIDS, and was one of the doctors involved in controlling the SARS outbreak in Canada.

As a special consultant on a CIDA-funded HIV control project in Guyana, Dr. Farley assisted in enhancing the Diseases Surveillance System at the Guyana Ministry of Health. He returns to Guyana regularly to work in local clinics managing patients with communicable diseases.

Dr. Farley has his own Medical Clinics and Infectious Diseases consultation services in Vancouver and Abbotsford where he treats mainly infectious diseases such as Hepatitis B and C, community acquired pneumonias, and HIV/AIDS. For the past eight years he has been Infectious Diseases Consultant for Correctional Services Canada in the Pacific Region, treating and raising awareness regarding prevention of Hepatitis B and C and co-infection with HIV/AIDS, and the importance of facilitating health care for inmates and reintegration into the community.

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Harry Ramkhelawan, Indo-Caribbean World

MEDIA AND CULTURE AWARD

Harry Ramkhelawan— Founder, Publisher and Editor of *Indo-Caribbean World* (ICW)—is a pioneer of the Guyanese and Caribbean print media in Toronto. For the last 25 years *Indo-Caribbean World* has made a significant and indelible contribution to the history and development of ethnic journalism and multiculturalism in Canada by providing an important voice for immigrants from Guyana and the Caribbean. ICW has also kept the diaspora informed of developments in Guyana and the Caribbean through articles and thoughtful



analyses on politics, religion, culture, economics, music, entertainment and sports. The paper serves as a vital link for the Indo Caribbean diaspora in the Greater Toronto area, connecting them with their community organizations and business enterprises.

A long-standing member of the Hindu community in Toronto, Mr. Ramkhelawan has been involved in the promotion of Indian culture from his early years in Guyana. He continued with this preoccupation after immigrating to Canada in 1977 and in 1996, founded the Friday Night Group, a body of young people who are schooled in some of the vital elements of the Hindu culture.

Mr. Ramkhelawan has, through his work in the community, inspired and supported many charitable organizations. He has promoted, among others, Guyanese causes and Guyanese businesses as well as professionals and lay persons.

He is a graduate of the University of Guyana with a B.A. in English.