

Songs & Dances At Diwali@PKY-Festival of Lights

TORONTO: WEConnect Community Services Annual Diwali@PKY-Festival of Lights, 2018 was celebrated with fanfare

WEConnect Board and staff along with the whole community were delighted to welcome and congratulate Councillor Elect from ward 17, Shelley Carroll and Mr. Sandy Carroll. The couple thoroughly enjoyed being with the area residents at this festive occasion in which the community celebrated not only Diwali but Karwa Chauth as well which happened to fall on October 27th as well.

The program began with a warm welcome by Sejal and Shiv as WEConnect board members received the chief guest Councillor Shelley Carroll. The audience, joined in to express their congratulations and joy on her return as area councillor.

This was followed by classical dance performances by kids. The wonderfully talented community members of different age groups presented classical and Bollywood dances and a fashion show presenting traditional attire from different states of India. Councillor Carroll also presented Certificates of Appreciation to Volunteers at WEConnect

"We witnessed at this event grandparents performing (Kala Chashma Jachda Hai) with their grandchildren, mother-in-laws performed with their daughter-in-laws and men of their families clicked pictures to treasure these memorable moments. Full families were involved in this one event organised by WEConnect" said Jayashree who coordinates programs at this location.

The dances were awesome. People from different cultures/countries enjoyed the festivities in unison. Women were overjoyed to take part in the grand finale festive dance called Garba and danced with their councillor Shelley to the tunes of "Mai to Bhool Chali Babul Ka Des, Piya Ka Ghar Pyara Lage". Women



in their glittering attire, most of them observing Karwa Chauth fast yet excited over this community celebration made Rangoli, a traditional art form of India, decorated the hall and served dinner to the guests.

They agreed that this celebration of Karwa Chauth & Diwali has brought a renewed energy and stronger bond not only within the family but also with the senior and younger population in the community. "It indeed depicted a glowing season of hap-

piness at Parkway this Diwali. Kudos to WEConnect volunteers and management for presenting a successful Social platform to bring people together to allow the process of integration seep in," spokesperson Jayashree said.

Encouraging people to embrace and respect the diversity of cultures and especially become a part of the cultural festivities is what WEConnect strives for. "Our projects display an exemplary way to showcase multi-culturalism in the City," she said.



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