



Celebrating Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee



Upali Augustus Obeyesekere received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, at the Ontario Provincial Legislature. The commemorative medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country. At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. The Chancellery of Honours, as part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General of Canada, administers the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal program.

"I'm privileged to have worked with Upali and was lucky to be able to come out and pay respect," a colleague from Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council offered. "Upali sat on the executive board for 21-years, and had to do constant battle to keep the council alive — he should receive a medal just for that," he joked.

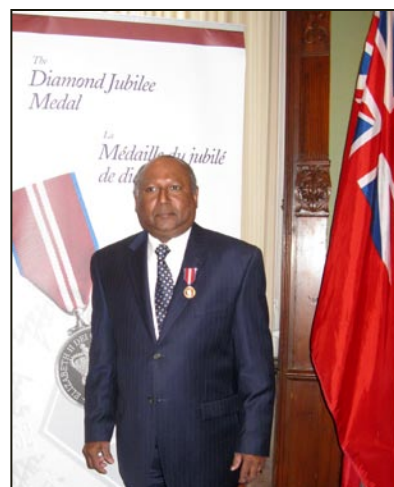
Obeyesekere was nominated and awarded the honour for his significant contribution to Canada's State Agencies/Boards which he has served with distinction. In addition, he has been a community activist for over 30-years providing service to the community at large. He has made a committed contribution at all three levels of government – Federal, Provincial

and City. He is currently President, Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council and a Public Member on the Executive with the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario (COTO); Regional Councilor with TV Ontario and served as a board member of Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) for 7-years. He has also served as a Member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Citizen's Academy since October 25, 2006. He was also honoured with a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of his contribution to the 2007 Referendum on Electoral Reform during the 39th Provincial General Election.

Family and Colleagues were present to offer comments and to congratulate Obeyesekere on receiving the award. "To be awarded with this honour means a lot to me and I want to give thanks for receiving it," Obeyesekere said on receiving the medal. "You love what you do — and who you do it for."

Upali Obeyesekere immigrated to Canada in 1974, from his native Sri Lanka. He arrived in Toronto on November 3rd and secured employment with IBM Canada Ltd., on December 3rd exactly 30-days upon arrival. During his 17-years with IBM, he was a two-time winner of the coveted 'Administration Achievement Award' (Triple 'A' Award). In 1983, while working for IBM Canada Ltd., Obeyesekere formed an Import/Export Company under the name and style of Ad-Bri Enterprises Inc. that pioneered the imports of food products from Sri Lanka to Canada. In 1990, he launched the popular monthly tabloid "The Times of Sri Lanka" that was well received in Canada and U.S.A. He is a Steering Committee Member of the South Asian Business Councils Alliance (SABCA). He has been a member of all Trade Delegations from Canada to Sri Lanka since 1990, and led the last two in 2009 and 2012. He was Canadian Representative for Board of Investment (Sri Lanka) for 3-years.

As an entrepreneur and community leader in Canada, Upali Obeyesekere has done much in the last thirty-eight years. He has served as an Office Bearer and Board Member of Canada-Sri Lanka Association (CSLA) and Sri Lanka Club – Peel Region. He led the drive to introduce the game of Cricket to the Sri Lankan expatriate community in Canada and in 1984 captained the first official Sri Lanka Cricket XI, under the auspices of Sri Lanka Club-Peel. He was also instrumental in forming the first Sri Lankan Schools' Alumni Association in Canada in 1984, when the Josephian-Peterite Alumni Association of Canada was founded. He is now the Chairman, Senate Committee of JPAA Canada. He has also served on the United Way Charity Cricket Organizing Committee that organized the first ever international Cricket Match in Canada at the Toronto Skydome in 1989. A good corporate citizen, he works closely with the diplomatic community and state institutions from both jurisdictions!



Born in Kurunegala, Sri Lanka, Upali Obeyesekere had his early education at St. Anne's College, Kurunegala and later at St. Peter's College, Colombo. He is the youngest son of the Late St. Elmo and Eugenie Obeyesekere.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II
DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL



MÉDAILLE DU JUBILÉ DE DIAMANT
DE LA REINE ELIZABETH II

Upali Obeyesekere

*By Command of Her Majesty The Queen,
the Diamond Jubilee Medal is presented to you
in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary
of Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne
and in recognition of your contributions to Canada.*

*Par ordre de Sa Majesté la Reine,
la Médaille du jubilé de diamant vous est présentée
en commémoration du soixantième anniversaire
de l'accession de Sa Majesté au Trône et en reconnaissance
de votre contribution au service du Canada.*


Governor General of Canada Gouverneur général du Canada

1952 - 2012

QUEEN ELIZABETH II
DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL



MÉDAILLE DU JUBILÉ DE DIAMANT
DE LA REINE ELIZABETH II

Dear recipient,

On behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I am pleased to award you the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, created to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne.

In granting you this honour, I thank you for your dedicated service to your peers, to your community and to Canada. The contributions you have made to our nation are most commendable and deserve our praise and admiration.

I wish to convey to you the heartfelt congratulations of your fellow Canadians, to which I add my own.

Cher récipiendaire,

Au nom de Sa Majesté la reine Elizabeth II, il me fait plaisir de vous attribuer la Médaille du jubilé de diamant de la reine Elizabeth II, créée à l'occasion du soixantième anniversaire de l'accession de Sa Majesté au trône.

En vous octroyant cette distinction, je vous remercie des services distingués que vous avez rendus à vos pairs, à votre communauté et au Canada. Votre apport à la nation mérite les plus grands éloges et toute notre admiration.

Je tiens à vous transmettre les plus sincères félicitations de vos compatriotes, auxquelles j'ajoute les miennes.

Governor General of Canada

Gouverneur général du Canada

1952 VIVAT REGINA 2012

1 SUSSEX DRIVE · 1, PROMENADE SUSSEX
OTTAWA · CANADA · K1A 0A1 · WWW.GG.CA



This collage captures the highlights of the ceremony at the Ontario Province Legislature in Toronto. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration for the Province of Ontario, The Honourable Charles Souza presented Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Medal and Plaque to Upali Obeyesekere in the presence of a distinguished gathering. Among those present at the ceremony was his wife Tamara (who is a Provincial Government employee for 36-years); brother Susantha and sister Suranganie.

