



## **Gerrard Simonpillai President, AA Ontario.**

**December 5<sup>th</sup> 2014**

### **Good Evening Fellow Patricians, Friends and Children**

Welcome and thank you for attending our annual Christmas Get together. I would also like to give a special thank you to all the children who will be participating in the carols and other programs today. I hope everyone enjoys today's events as much as they have enjoyed our past celebrations.

As the new president, I would like to talk about our association. I have been with this association for over 25 years. 10 years back we had over 200 members with our association. But now we only have around 30 paid members. The reason for that is we are unable to go out and collect membership every year. We have at least 500 Patricians living in Ontario. If we could enroll most of them as members we could help our College in a greater way.

The college need lots of help. The college depends on the Alumni associations to fulfill some of their projects. Every year we get requests from the college to help their projects. In addition to that we have also established a trust Fund two years ago to pay scholarship for two students from Vanni Region to study at the college. Our Association has remitted over \$50,000 to the college within last 15 years. This was possible with the help of the patricians living in Ontario and the hard work of the Past Committees.

To continue the good job done by our past committees and to bring back all the patricians as members of this association we appointed our past president Mr. Raymond Santiago as "coordinator of Membership and fund raising Activities". He is doing a wonderful job and with his help we were able to bring more than 50 patricians as members within the last two months.

Today I request the Patricians who have not joined or renewed their membership to join the association and help us in furthering our cause and objectives. Give back if you can, with your time, or your talent or your treasure or all three if possible. It doesn't have to involve all of your time or your resources. Even a little bit helps.

Please visit our website at [www.spcalumni.org](http://www.spcalumni.org) to find out where we are headed. It's updated regularly by our secretary Anton Jeyanathan. Thanks to him for volunteering his time to keep updating the website. I also wish to thank the spouses and children of committee members. Like my own wife and children, you have been supportive to our members for all these years when they volunteer their time for this association.

Please continue enjoying the event and get back home safely.