

September 19, 2023

Dear Donor,

ATASHKADEH CONSTRUCTION STARTS WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



“Ahura Mazda’s Atash shall forever radiate its resplendent flame, and at last, the Fire Within shall have its home amid divine surroundings. After 3500 years, our time cometh - our Time is Now.”

Visit our website at www.ozcf.com to view daily construction progress live!

Project Announcement and Background - Green Light to Proceed:

- Town of Oakville issues Building Permit, September 8, 2023. Construction starts on Phase 1, September 12, 2023. This is indeed music to all of our ears! For years, the Place of Worship Advisory Committee (PWAC) of the Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF) has diligently worked with the Town of Oakville and the Regional Municipality of Halton in ensuring that all their requirements have been met.
- In 2002, OZCF was formed and in 2004 we purchased our 10-acre parcel of land for \$1.5 Million and subsequently built the hall for \$450,000. Today we are debt free! Our facility is now used for over 250 days a year hosting numerous community religious and social events.
- On August 13, 2023, at a special meeting, membership votes unanimously to move forward with construction. Members take on a bold obligation to provide a sound religious foundation for our future generations of Zoroastrians in North America.

Necessity and Importance of the Atashkadeh and Future Atash-e-Adaran:

- Now on the verge of accomplishing another of the larger goals of the masterplan, that being an Atashkadeh, a consecrated Place of Worship which shall eventually house an Atash-e-Adaran, with a consecrated fire on our property and a live-in priest to perform the higher liturgical ceremonies.
- GTA is a magnet in attracting Zoroastrians choosing to emigrate abroad. With over 6000 and growing, it has become one of the largest Zoroastrian communities in the diaspora outside of the Indian Subcontinent hosted by two organizations, OZCF and the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario, who work cooperatively to the benefit of all their members. The time has come whereby we now need a Place of Worship as well, an abode which permits one to share sacred communion with the Almighty, a place to venerate and communicate with Ahura Mazda.

Community and Priesthood:

- Many older and younger priests are now actively engaged in religious ceremonies.
- Places of worship are the cornerstone of all religions. It is commonplace to see such buildings of various faiths. They are large communities with many members to donate, you may say. All the more reason GTA Zoroastrians need their own due to our comparatively small numbers.
- Newly built consecrated Atashkadeh will have facilities equipped for our young Mobeds to become Navars (ordained priests) right here at home which will serve our community well in the future as our population grows.

Gala Celebration:

We will also be holding fundraising activities that you can attend and contribute towards. To celebrate this milestone, OZCF we will be hosting the Place of Worship Gala on Saturday November 11th at the Mississauga Convention Centre. This event promises to be a night filled with joy, camaraderie, entertainment, and a sense of renewed unity within our community. We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us on this special occasion as your presence will make this event even more memorable. Let us celebrate our achievements and look forward to the bright future ahead.

Closing Message:

As one visits the sanctity of Atash Behrams and Agiaries back in the old country, one cannot help but experience that special sentiment of being within the hallowed house of God. One cannot help but think that these places of worship would not be present without generous donors. In hundreds of years, history will favourably look back upon us and recognize the brave and enterprising group of Zoroastrians who contributed to building the first Atashkadeh and Atash-e-Adaran right here in Canada. Take pride and be part of history and contribute generously to this noble endeavour as we leave an enduring legacy for future generations.

For as Zarathustra Himself had said: *"Seek your happiness in the happiness of all."*

May Ahura Mazda always bless our community.



Phil Sidhwa
Chair,
PWAC



Marzi Byramjee
Fundraising Chair,
PWAC



Adil Bhesania
President,
OZCF

To Donate to the Place of Worship, visit www.ozcf.com go to "Make a Donation."

For more information, please contact Phil Sidhwa at 647-632-3334 or Marzi Byramjee at 905-845-3480.