



Filipino Seniors of Mississauga Bulletin – Winter, Spring, Summer Edition

A Message from our President



President's Message

Greetings to all!

My warm greetings to all members of the Filipino Seniors of Mississauga. I hope and pray that you are all well and safe under the care of our Lord. You must be wondering why you have not received the FSM Bulletin for quite a while and have missed all the latest news, photos and trivia. Mila, your publisher and PRO, and I, went to visit the Philippines during the winter months. Our trip was awesome, and we were so happy to relive the precious memories of our youth. I give thanks to Jo Mari Azarraga, VP FSM for taking over our activities, birthday celebrations, drop in and assembly meeting.

Spring came and FSM celebrated the season with a big bang. Saturday drop-ins went on and were well attended. Our Wednesday drop-in in for line dancing continued all along, but there wasn't too much interest, and our attendance was minimal to say. We went to the Niagara Falls Fallsview Casino in April. We had many winners and many losers, but overall, everybody enjoyed the friendship and the camaraderie amongst the members. On May 26, 2023, we held the annual FSM Fund Raising Spring Dance. It was a very successful event, and we were able to replenish a bit of our dwindling funds of our association.

Summer Season started with a heat wave of FSM activities. We joined the KFCO for the Independence Day Gala Dinner Dance. We went on a day trip to the Mennonite country of St. Jacob, Elmira, Elora. An eye opener and educational trip and a breath of fresh air in the countryside.

We were also invited to join the Philippines Festival at the Mississauga Celebration Square on July 15 and 16. We give thanks to Ms. Rodel Meier, for renting the tent for FSM. Many of our members came to join and visit our tent during the two-day event. Time well spent and we enjoyed the Filipino vibes and rhythm.

We look forward for the coming days. We plan for more activities and have fun. Let us increase our physical stamina, improve our mental acuity, and decrease the loneliness and isolation in our midst. So, join us, this is your association, this is your time and chance to improve yourself and well being.



We extend our thanks and gratitude to the City of Mississauga and the MVCC for providing and accommodating us in our spacious and beautiful room that we use for our Wednesday and Saturday drop in. The room was made possible by the late Mississauga City Mayor Hazel McCallion. She was the Mayor of Mississauga, who gave the pioneers of FSM, a room at the MVCC for their meeting place. Since that time, the City and MVCC had allowed FSM to use the room for free.

Our beloved Mayor Hazel McCallion died February 15, 2023, at the age of 101. To express our gratitude and thanks to our famous benefactor, the late City Mayor Hazel, FSM donated \$500.00 to her favourite charitable institution, the Trillium Health Centre Foundation. Thank you, Mayor Hazel, and may you Rest in Peace. 🙏🙏🙏

I extend my warmest regards to all. Remember to join us during our drop ins. We are always happy to see you.

Peter Santos
President, Filipino Seniors of Mississauga



FSM Spring Fund Raising Dinner & Dance at KCCC

May 26, 2023, the annual Spring Fund Raising Dinner Dance was held at the KCCC. Under the leadership of Lydia Bernardino and Mila Santos, the event was very successful. We were able to raise \$2, 750.00. We thank all the members, ticket sellers ,guests and volunteers, who made this event a success.







The Snowbirds of The Filipino Seniors of Mississauga

Every winter, many of our members pack their bags to go seek the warmth of the sun, the beauty of the sea, and the mountains in our native land, the Philippines. Some maintain homes or condos and some go as tourists to all the beautiful places our old country has to offer. This year, Peter and I went and spent some time in there. We had so much fun, that we are planning to go back. Tourism among the locals is very popular, so many beautiful resorts and tourist attractions that can rival the ones we have here. They have built highways and roads that take you faster to your destination. The malls in the city are so big and always full of shoppers and diners. It seems that nobody cooks their food in their homes anymore. Every person that you see has one or two cellphones, and almost everyone is on the internet. Traffic remains congested and slow. If you use public transportation, in the city, jeepneys and air-conditioned vans, and in the provinces, it is the tricycle and bus. Uber service is available, it is called Grab and it is dependable, fast and safe. Along the highways on our way to my hometown, Candon City, Ilocos Sur, you can see many big and modern homes. Lastly, you can grab a bite at McDonald's, Jollibee, Max chicken resto in every town. Philippines is not the same place you left behind decades ago. Everyone should include a visit to our beloved old country, Philippines, in their bucket list.



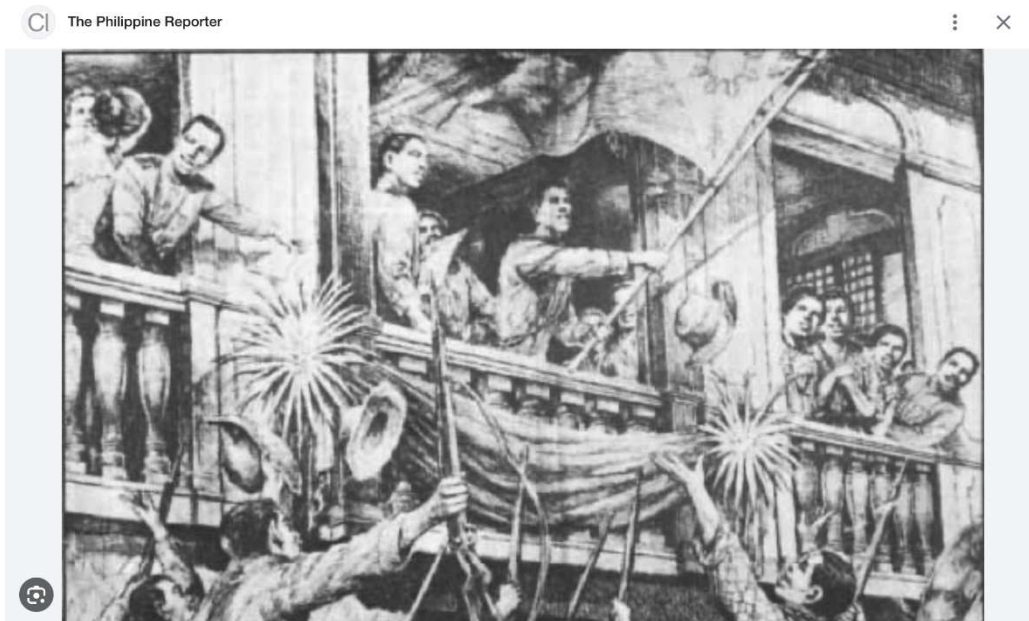






Philippines Independence Day

Araw ng Kalayaan also known as Independence Day is a national holiday in the Philippines and observe annually on June 12 of the year. It commemorates the Declaration of the Philippines Independence from Spain, at the home of the Revolutionary Leader Emilio Aguinaldo in Kawit, Cavite. With the leadership of the Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Association, an annual Philippines Independence Day Gala is usually held. This year, it was held June 16, 2023, at the Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall. Many of the members FSM attended the event. Socializing with fellow Filipinos and remembering the sacrifices of our leaders in the past are an important part of our lives and immortalizing the legacy of our country. Everyone had a good time and looking forward for next year. Mabuhay ang Filipinas.



The Philippine Reporter - June 12, 1898: Philippine Independence ...







FSM Day Trip and Fund Raising to the Niagara Casino

On Sunday, April 23, 2023, more than 50 eager, hopeful and fully loaded FSM members and friends went to the Niagara Fallsview Casino. Getting there was half the fun with lots of singing, jokes, laughter and a 50/50 draw. Everyone was having a good time.

In the casino, some played the slot machines, blackjack and roulette. Some won and some lost. A few went for a walk to see the Falls, and some stayed in the food court drinking Tim Hortons coffee and exchanging the latest news among themselves. It was a good day for all and for FSM. We raised hundreds of dollars for FSM. We extend our thanks to Becky Cruz and Carmen Leon for their diligent work and success of the event.







FSM Day Trip to Mennonite Country

April 13, 2023, was a big day for the 50 plus FSM day trippers. Some arrived early at the MVCC as we had an early start for the drive to the Mennonite Country, St. Jacob, Elora and Elmira. So off we went, Rene and Ginny graciously provided us with our snack. Thank you Rene and Ginny. Peter had his chocolate candies as a treat giveaway; he reserved a box for the trip home, but he forgot to give it out...Sorry. The day started cloudy with a forecast of showers that never materialized. Our tour operator named Peter, he was so knowledgeable and knows a lot of the facts about the place. It was a lot of fun and we were so well informed where we were going and what to expect.

We went to so many places, we drove around the countryside and saw horse carriages, the stables and the farm houses of the Mennonite. FYI...the farm buildings with the green roofs are owned by the Mennonite farmers. We ate our lunch at St. Jacobs market...fresh Mennonite sausages, roast beef, corned beef, and the best apple fritters around. Some of us bought little trinkets, plants, and clothes. All in all, it was a day of fun. Everyone is asking where and when is the next day trip 🙌👍🙌











The Mississauga Philippines Festival, Celebration Square, July 15 and 16, 2023

Day 1

The FSM participated and had a tent during the Philippine Festival on July 15 and July 16, 2023. This was made possible by the generous donation of Mrs. Rodel Meier, who paid for the rental and set up for the tent. We give our sincerest thanks to you and May our Lord give you more blessing 🙏🙏🙏

Saturday, the first day of the festival, we set the tent up, complete with table cover and a floral centerpiece with the FSM banner in the back. We had two trays of pancit donated by Chit and Peter and was shared to all who dropped by early. Chit Romano, Lerma Valdez and I, wore our Filipiniana outfit as the face of FSM. Many members of FSM dropped by to say hello. Rechie Valdez MP, Streetsville, the guest speaker came by too. People were asking information on how to be a member of our association. We give our thanks to all who came, especially to Lerma and Chris, who graciously stayed with us for long hours, greeting and tending our FSM tent.





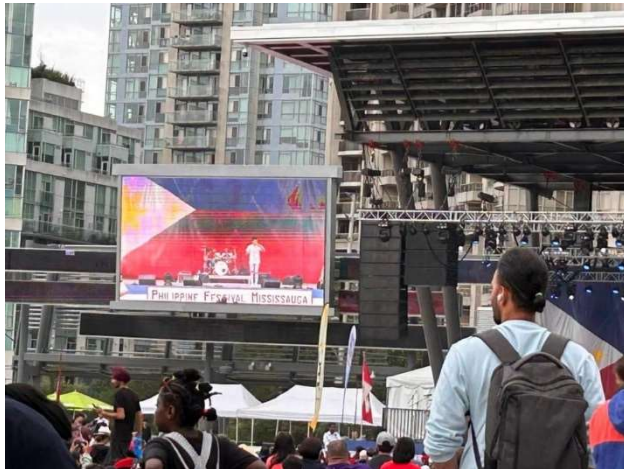




The Mississauga Philippines Festival, Celebration Square, July 15 and 16, 2023

Day 2

More festivities, more show and the sun is up and the temperature is rising. There are long lines at the food stands...lechón, pancit, pakbet, bbq, toron and the famous halo halo. All the other vendors are also doing very brisk business. The place feels electrifying with all the Filipino music, songs and dances being performed at the main stage. As the hours tick by, the crowd increases in number and the place is getting more festive. At 5:00 pm, the Filipina guest singer Lani Misalucha started to sing. So much hype and anticipation and she didn't disappoint. The show continued and it was time to end the festival. It is poignant to end such festivities and go home. Thank you KFCO for putting up a beautiful show. Congratulations and Mabuhay!









Congratulations to MP, Honourable Rechie Valdez

The Filipino Seniors Of Mississauga extend our heartfelt congratulations to Member of the Parliament, Honourable Rechie Valdez, on her appointment by Prime Minister Trudeau, as a member of his Cabinet “Minister of Small Business” at the Parliament of Canada. She is the First Filipino/ Canadian woman elected to the Parliament of Canada and represents the Streetsville riding in the City of Mississauga. She is also the daughter in law of our members, Chris and Lerma Valdez. As Filipinos, we are very proud of you and your accomplishments. We wish you well in your chosen career.





In Memoriam

It is so sad and with utmost grief that we have lost a few of our members and friends. We pray for the repose of their souls and may they Rest in Peace in the arms of our Lord. We extend our deepest sympathy to their bereaved families and may they find comfort and peace in their faith and God. 🙏🙏🙏

Flordeliza Victolero
Angel Atienza
Charity Lopez
Zenaida Guzman



Do you have articles or photos that you would like to submit for the next FSM newsletter?

Please reach out to your Public Relations Officers:

Mila Santos
Rudy Alcasid



Filipino Seniors of Mississauga