



Lighthouse Newsletter for September 2019

Hello everyone. Since we communicated last, a lot has transpired to enhance and support our Lighthouse Program. In this update I will highlight:

1. Mayor's Faith forum April 27, 2019
2. The Lighthouse Launch May 6-11, 2019
3. Gurdwara Baba Nanak Opens its "Lighthouse" for Heat Wave July 5 & 6, 2019
4. Peel Regional Police PREP program and other collaborative initiatives for Faith-based Organizations
5. **ACTION Item: RSVP Upcoming Place of Worship Safety Workshop – Saturday, 19 OCT 2019 12noon-3pm @ 129 Glidden Road, Brampton, ON.**

Mayor's Faith Forum



On April 27th a group of faith leaders who serve the Brampton area assembled with our City of Brampton staff, ward councillors and the Mayor to build bridges (figuratively and literally). What was fed back to me through various channels was that faith leaders finally felt included and listened to regarding emerging needs and we have started to lay the groundwork and collaborative activities for more inclusive initiatives to forge a brighter future for those who work, live, play and pray in the city.

I was given the opportunity to introduce the Lighthouse program to faith leaders and to inform everyone of the expansion plans for the project. A great deal of interest was expressed about the Place of Worship Safety Series we are planning for faith-based organizations, particularly after the rash of religious hate incidents such as the Quebec & New Zealand Masjid Shootings, the Jewish synagogue incident, the Montreal Priest knifing and Sri Lankan bombings at Christian churches.

Many of you spoke of your desire to become a Lighthouse or to offer an open house but that you and your congregation needed to feel safer and more prepared for active attack before you could welcome members of the public into your faith facility. We have brought in some active attack experts with the SALAM project to help us offer the Place of Worship Safety

series, coming to the Lighthouse Program Fall 2019. Please see my contact information at the bottom of the newsletter to find out more about our expanded Lighthouse program and to RSVP for the workshop series.

The Lighthouse Program Launch



During Emergency Preparedness Week, this May, we promoted Lighthouse with bus ads, newspaper features, visits to malls and schools and other community gatherings culminating in our radio show interview at Sauga 960AM. Then we engaged the public at one of our Lighthouse locations about to open its doors for summer heat alerts. Located in an area with no community centre nearby, this Gurdwara's staff and participating volunteers had trained and planned with us pre-season to be ready for heat waves and would be offering a temporary respite to anyone needing a place to cool off and get a drink of water during a declared heat alerts. Myself – a Christian, and Lighthouse Muslim champion, Younus, and Sikh Lighthouse champion, Ameek, and special visitor Chief Ravjot from Brampton Fire – spent time throughout the week chatting with everyone at the Gurdwara Baba Nanak Sikh Organization about emergency preparedness. To date we have outreached 27 faith-based organizations and conducted multiple Lighthouse presentations/site visits. If you have not booked yours or want to re-engage to find out about the array of arrangements and agreements that we now have to offer, contact me as soon as possible.

Gurdwara Baba Nanak Lighthouse opens for its first Heat Wave July 5th & 6th, 2019



Quite a mix of people utilized the Gurdwara Baba Nanak during the heat wave this July. For my Friday morning and evening check-in, the volunteers told me that a few families came in. By the time the Gurdwara closed after 2 days of operation, over 300 people came in and out, needing shelter from the heat and drinking water. Preventing heat-related emergencies for over 300 people is an amazing accomplishment. Thank you to the Gurdwara Baba Nanak Sikh Organization and their volunteers for all of your hard work.

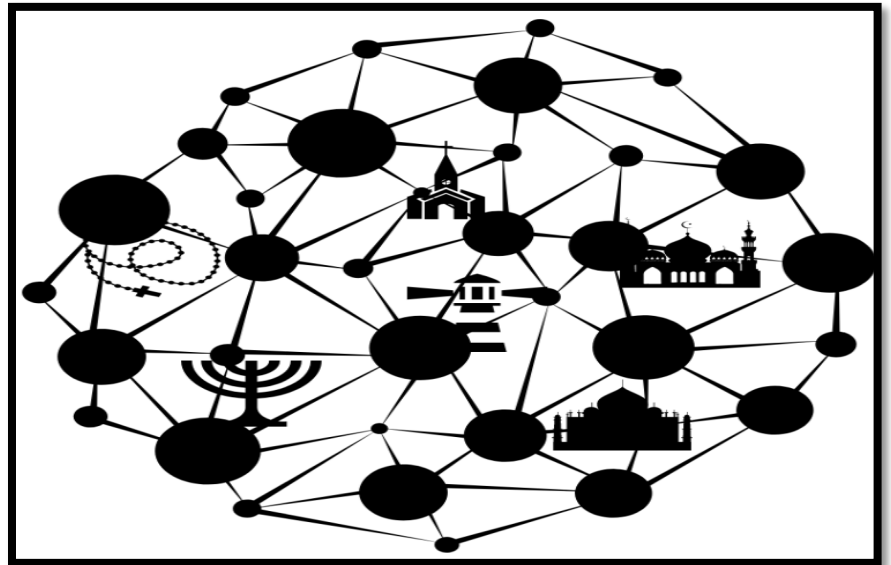
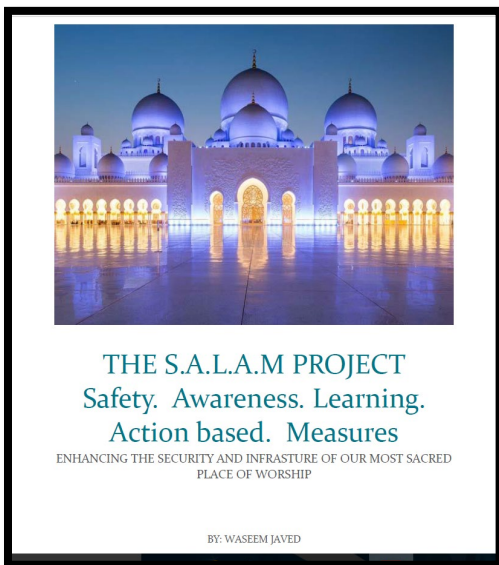
New Collaborations: Peel Regional Police, Credit Valley Conservation and Toronto Region Conservaton Authority Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) Events and the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Brampton 2040 team



We'll be hosting the Police department for part of our Fall 2019 Place of Worship Safety series. **The Peel Regional Police PREP program** securely stores facility/grounds layouts of participating faith-based organizations with the Police department. The rationale: Research has shown that when police know the layout of the building or area experiencing active attacks, they respond more effectively to the incident. The police hope to give a short presentation and invite faith-based organizations to participate in their program.

Credit Valley Conservation Authority SNAP at Fletchers Creek, County Court SNAP with TRCA and Springbrook **Nurturing Neighbourhood events** are underway, with several more planned and organized by the **Brampton 2040** team and their partners. Brampton Emergency Management Office staff including myself have been attending these neighbourhood walks & talks and encourage the congregants and faith leaders from the area's faith-based organization to join us. It was lovely to meet and engage with the congregants from Brampton Christian Family Church, Brampton Islamic Centre, St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, the Ray Lawson Gurdwara, Brampton Christian Family, Calvary Baptist Church and Masumeen Islamic Centre and the Vietnamese Buddhist Temple. You are sharing great ideas so keep coming out to the events!

The Place of Worship Safety Workshop Series – Afternoon Workshop October 19th, 2019



This workshop series is optional. All faith-based organizations in the City of Brampton are invited to participate in one, any or all of the events. The first of the series is a half-day workshop provided by consultants with the S.A.L.A.M. Project and is taking place on October 19th. Their proposed agenda includes:

- 1) Identifying hate and its subsequent impact
- 2) Hate Crime research and statistics
- 3) Designing a Security program for places of worship

- 4) Interfaith cooperation and success stories
- 5) Preparing for an emergency: Are you prepared?
- 6) Run, Hide, Defend Application
- 7) Utilizing Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), application and implications
- 8) Enhancing safety and security through technology: current trends and future implications

The venue is 129 Glidden Avenue, Brampton **for the afternoon of 19 OCT, 2019**. (noon – 3pm). Please RSVP as soon as possible @ michelle.sullivan@brampton.ca.

The next workshops in the series will incorporate site-specific drills and exercises, role-playing, and safety audits, applying what was learned in the introductory workshop but tailoring the activities to match the needs of your place of worship at a time and date mutually agreed upon by the presenters and host organization(s). The location/date and time for the next workshops will depend on the leaders of the churches, gurdwaras, masjids and temples stepping forward following the introductory workshop to host a site-specific workshop. Your organization may also want to arrange for a safety audit.

Two of our Lighthouse champions for Muslim faith-based organizations lead these workshops and have fine-tuned their talks and congregation participation activities, having presented at over 50 faith-based organizations throughout the Greater Toronto Area over the past few months. Their biographies are attached. We hope you'll come out to meet Waseem & Younus and their team on October 19th. With their help we hope to develop and increase the culture of safety in your places of worship, recruit more Lighthouse participants and create a more resilient Brampton.

Waseem Javed is a current active law enforcement professional with over 10 years of experience. He was previously employed in the private security industry. During that time, he served as a security manager for several large shopping centres, responsible for drafting security policies and emergency procedures, hiring and training over 100 security team members and conducting security audits for billion dollar retail outlets. Within his policing spectrum, he has over 200 certified training courses, including training received from the Department of Homeland Security, in the United States in identifying hate crime symbols, awareness and response and domestic/ international terrorism prevention. He is currently engaged in furthering his expertise in the field by working on a dual master's degree in emergency management and national security. He is the founder and project lead for the SALAM project and responsible for administering security and awareness training for over 70 public and private institutions worldwide.

Younus Imam is an Emergency Management Professional working for the Scotiabank Security Operations Center and conducted research through York University on developing security for mosques. As a consultant for the SALAM Project, he specializes in Active Shooter Drills, Security Training and Intelligence Reporting. Younus' research, which aims to change the culture of safety in places of worship, has already made an impact. Hours after the New Zealand Mosque Shootings, Younus' research was passed along by the Brampton Emergency Management Office's Lighthouse Program to an Emergency Management expert in the region. This expert forwarded Younus' research to 24 New Zealand emergency management professionals to provide them with lessons learned from the Quebec Mosque Shooting, inspiring a way forward after that tragic event. We look forward to his contribution to our place of worship safety series.

To RSVP contact Lighthouse Coordinator Michelle Sullivan at 437-213-5333 or email michelle.sullivan@brampton.ca.