

Assamese diaspora celebrates Rongali Bihu in Canada



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Rongali Bihu is fervently awaited Jatiya Ushav for all [Assamese over](#) the globe. Here non-resident [Assamese](#) also wait eagerly with excitement to celebrate Rangali Bihu every year in Calgary. Finally the excitement was [over](#) after celebration of Rongali Bihu on April 15, 2017 in Scandinavian Community centre by Assam Association of Alberta (AAA) with pomp and show. Around 150 + people attended the event. Unlike usual Rongali Bihu this year's event was lavish, elaborate and dignified. They also had delegates and guests from Indian High Commission, Ottawa; Member of [Parliament](#), Ottawa, [city](#) of Calgary Mayor, members from Rotary Club Calgary and executive committee members from Calgary Marathi Association. Participants were not only within [Assamese](#) culture but also from various other cultures like Peruvian, Chinese, Columbian, Scottish etc. This Global way Celebration of Bihu probably happened first time in North America.

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The dignified and magnificent show begin with our beautiful national anthems ‘O Canada’ and ‘Jana Gana Mana’ followed by welcoming speech of Mr. [Arup](#) Goswami, Vice president of Assam Association of North America(AANA); a speech by our guest speaker Mr. Darshan Kang, Member of [Parliament](#) and another speech by Mr.Bidhu Skekhar, counsellor of Indian High Commission [India](#), Ottawa. Each one of them was welcomed by the executive committee members from Assam Association of Alberta with a traditional Japi and a gamusa. All of them were pleased to wear the traditional Japi and Gamusa.

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The cultural program started with a Jhumur [dance](#) by the children of Assam Association of Alberta. Traditionally Jhumur is a [dance](#) form of tribal groups of eastern [India](#) like Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bangal and Assam. The participants were Ananya Sarma, Maya Dutta Boruah, Riana Dutta, Rosewell Max [Das](#), Rivan Dutta, Shivan Dutta, Dhruv Dadlani, Ivydene Deka, Hiya Dutta Boruah and Quartz [Das](#). Everyone was mesmerized to see the excellent performance of each one from 5years old to 20 years old in the [group](#). Next performance was a Highland [dance](#) by two little [girls](#) accompanied by an adult. It is a style of competitive solo dancing developed in Scottish Highland. Their [dance](#) postures were noticeable. While they danced they moved like a butterfly and make the number [8](#). The awesome performance of the two little [girls](#) definitely stole everyone's [heart](#). Next to Highland [dance](#) was a Huaylarsh [dance](#) by Peru [dance group](#) was a very eye catching because of the rhythm and colourful costumes. They also performed an Anaconda [dance](#) which is a fascinating traditional folk [dance](#) of Amazon region of Peru, dedicated to a water serpent that thrives in the Amazon River. The costumes were made out of dry grass or hay. While they danced a lady in the middle wore an artificial anaconda too on her neck like Mahadev, our Hindu God. It is a great [success](#) of AAA to bring both cultures of Amazon and [Brahmaputra](#) River together in Rongali Bihu 2017.

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The Peru [dance](#) was followed by a beautiful line [dance](#) by a [group](#) of Chinese [girls](#). The music of the [dance](#) was very soothing and the [girls](#) wore white dresses to match with the music while moving like a wind with the rhythm. After that the performance of a Latin [dance](#) by a Colombian [group](#) was splendid too. The colourful skirts of the [girls](#) were flared like an umbrella to move beautifully with the rhythm. This traditional [dance](#) is most popular and well-known style in Columbia originated during the Spanish colonial period. African drums and Indian flutes dominated the sound. Next the Lion [dance](#) by White Brow Hap-Ging-Do Martial [Arts](#) and Lion Association was an eye catching one too. The children in the hall were very excited to see the two huge lions danced on the floor. A lion [dance](#) is a traditional Chinese [dance](#) performs on big occasions, such [as](#) the Spring [Festival](#) or Chinese New [Year](#) for good luck. It is believed that the lion is auspicious [animal](#). The last but not the least was the Bihu Hussori performed by a [group](#) of men and women from Assam Association of Alberta. The crowd looked very excited when Hussori started. The vibrant colour of men's costumes and Muga silk sador mekhela of women were able to catch everyone's eye. The foot tapping rhythmic beat of dhool ,pepa ,gogona couldn't hold people onto their seats for long and finally all stood up to clap hands to catch the rhythm. The whole ambience filled with Bihu mood just like Assam.

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The main attraction of the night was a documentary on Assam called 'Mahabahu [Brahmaputra](#)'. The documentary covered most of the topics like Srimanta Shankardev, Jyotiprashad Agarwala, Dr. Bhupen Hazarila, Pratima Barua Pandey, Ratneshwar Pathak, Bishnu Rabha, dehbisarok geet, Jhumur geet, tea garden, oil refinery, Kamakhya [temple](#), Manash and [Kaziranga](#) national park, muga silk, Assam silk, Majuli and Satras, Rong-ghar, Kareng ghar, religions, bhawna, uja-pali and many more to describe. The documentary was produced by Manashi Goswami, made by Abhishruti Dutta Boruah and narrated by Sumana Barua. In between there were songs performed by Saumya Barua, Prashanta Barthakur, Papori Barthakur, Aghore Bathacharya, Asif Saikia, Malika Rahman and Geetasree Gogoi Apte. The MC Sumana Barua did an excellent [job](#) in the entire evening. Rimlee Dutta collected the artifacts from the [community](#) to display at the venue.

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The host committee was supposed to wind up then with everyone's surprise City of Calgary Mayor Mr. Naheed Nenshi appeared in the hall and made the crowd more excited. Mr. Nenshi was the recipient of the World Mayor prize in 2014 by the World Mayor project and also the most popular mayor in the country. Mr. Nenshi started his speech with an [Assamese](#) line 'Rongali Bihu aru Notun Bosor r Hubhaicha Jonalu', which means Happy Rangali Bihu and Happy New year to you all. After his speech excited crowd got up to take pictures with him. He mixed with the crowd and left the venue after his wonderful speech.

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Food is always the [heart](#) of [Assamese](#) people. It says that [Assamese](#) ladies can weave hatote lukuwa aru muthite hukuwa (hidden in a palm and dry in a fist) cloth within a night. They always take pride to make traditional snacks during Bihu festival wherever in the world. Calgary [Assamese](#) ladies too made scrumptious snacks like ghila pitha, narikol r laru, boga pitha, pati septa pitha, bora sawul etc for the guests. Guests from different cultures enjoyed the Bihu snacks. The event was ended with a very delicious dinner together with Mr.Bidhu Skekhar, Mr. Darshan Kang , guests from Rotary Club and members from Executive committee of Calgary Marathi Association.

Text by: by Geetasree Gogoi Apte



Abhishruti

BY ABHISHRUTI

Canada Rongali Bihu celebration

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