

# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

as practised by founders

of  
Sikhism  
Humanism  
Aboriginals  
Judaism  
Islam  
Hinduism  
Buddhism  
Christianity



Views of religious scholars  
Presentations • Poems • Hymns • Exhibition  
Brunch • Lunch • Refreshments

Sunday, October 6, 2013  
River Run Centre  
Guelph, Ontario, Canada

33<sup>rd</sup>  
*Anniversary*

1-877-INFO-WRC

[www.WorldReligionsConference.org](http://www.WorldReligionsConference.org)



# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS PRACTISED BY FOUNDERS

The theme was inspired by the launch of the new Office of Religious Freedom in Canada. The conference will explore how founders of different religions and philosophical traditions taught and practised religious freedom. Distinguished religious scholars will deliberate at the conference. Faith groups will present spiritual poems, hymns and set up displays.

You are cordially invited to the largest multi-faith event of Canada, on Sunday, October 6, 2013 at 10:00 am at the River Run Centre, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Complimentary Brunch, Lunch and Refreshments will be served. Admission is Free.

Register Online at  
[www.WorldReligionsConference.org](http://www.WorldReligionsConference.org)

Local Phone: (519) 623-2786  
Toll-Free: 1-877-INFO-WRC (1-877-463-6972)  
Email: [info@WorldReligionsConference.org](mailto:info@WorldReligionsConference.org)

## *Largest Multi-Faith Event in Canada*



# WORLD RELIGIONS CONFERENCE

## Comments from Dignitaries

“... Endeavors such as the World Religions Conference are vital for they demonstrate to the world that despite the richness of our differences, we have so much in common and can live together in a spirit of understanding and compassion ...”



*The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin  
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada*

“... Canadians have the good fortune of living in an inclusive society, where religious diversity is appreciated and recognized as a great strength. This conference, which brings together people from diverse faiths and backgrounds in a spirit of goodwill and collaboration, serves to address important societal issues and to strengthen our mutual respect. ...”



*His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston  
Governor General of Canada*

“... This unique event - the largest multi-faith conference of its kind in Canada - brings together individuals from a wide range of religious beliefs ... The fact that you have been assembling in a spirit of dialogue and congeniality for almost three decades speaks to your commitment to foster mutual understanding, respect and acceptance and thus to make the world a better place ...”



*The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada*

“... We believe that mutual respect and a genuine desire for understanding are key to a peaceful world ... The World Religions Conference embodies these very values as it brings together people of beliefs in a spirit of cross-cultural and inter-faith appreciation and acceptance ...”



*The Honourable Dalton McGuinty  
Premier of Ontario*

# Program

October 6, 2013

Presided and Moderated by  
**Matthew Kang**  
TV and Radio Journalist



Vastly admired as a fair and credible journalist. Matthew is one of the reporters with the CBC's new bureau in Kitchener-Waterloo, where he covers news and current affairs for Waterloo Region and the Guelph area. Formerly, he was a video journalist with CTV Kitchener and a radio/online journalist with the English service of Deutsche Welle, Germany's international broadcaster. In 2012, he was awarded by RTDNA Canada with the Adrienne Clarkson Diversity Award.

## Opening Session

10:00a ~ 12:00p

- 10:00a      Doors Open  
              – Welcome and Registration  
              – Complimentary Brunch and Social  
              – Visit to World Religions Displays
- 10:50a      Opening World Religions Multi Media Presentation
- 10:55a      Welcome by the Presiding Chair  
              – Matthew Kang, TV and Radio Journalist
- 10:59a      Opening Readings from the Holy Scriptures - All Faiths
- 11:13a      Opening Ceremony  
              – Introduction of Speakers and Dignitaries  
              – Unveiling of the World Religions Conference Plaque  
              – Singing of O'Canada - National Anthem of Canada
- 11:20a      Introductory Remarks  
              – Lal Khan Malik, National President,  
                  Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama` at Canada
- 11:24a      Speaker's Introductory Remarks \*  
11:25a      – Sikhism: Balpreet Kaur – Ohio, USA  
11:28a      – Humanism: Doug Thomas – Elmira  
11:31a      – Aborigines: Rev. Gorman-Lovelady – Tiny, ON  
11:34a      – Judaism: Rabbi Dow Marmur – Toronto  
11:37a      – Islam: Mubarak A. Nazir – Toronto  
11:40a      – Hinduism: Swami H. Parivrajika – Kitchener  
11:43a      – Buddhism: Ven. Jue Qian – Mississauga  
11:46a      – Christianity: Dr. Don Posterski – Toronto
- 11:49a      Messages and Greetings from Guest Dignitaries  
              – Local and Regional Leaders  
              – Provincial and National leaders
- 12:00p      Break Time  
              – Complimentary Lunch Service

# Theme Session

1:00p ~ 3:46p

## Religious Freedom as Practised by Founders

of Sikhism, Humanism, Aboriginals, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity

- 1:00p Introduction to the Theme Session – Moderator
- 1:02p Sikh Perspective – Balpreet Kaur – Ohio, USA
- 1:15p Sikh Spiritual Poem or Hymn – Sikh Student's Association, UW
- 1:20p Humanist Perspective – Doug Thomas - Elmira
- 1:33p Secular Poem or Song – Society of Ontario FreeThinkers
- 1:38p Aboriginal Perspective – Rev. Kathryn Gorman-Lovelady – Tiny
- 1:51p Aboriginal Spiritual Poem or Hymn – Aboriginal Community
- 1:56p Jewish Perspective – Rabbi Dow Marmur – Toronto
- 2:09p Judaic Spiritual Poem or Hymn – Local Jewish Community
- 2:14p Islamic Perspective – Mubarak A. Nazir - Toronto
- 2:27p Islamic Spiritual Poem or Hymn – Ahmadiyya Muslim Children
- 2:32p Coffee Break – Complimentary Refreshments and Social
- 2:52p Announcing rules of the Q/A Session – Moderator
- 2:53p Hindu Perspective – Swami Haripriya Parivrajika – Kitchener
- 3:06p Hindu Spiritual Poem or Hymn – Local Hindu Community
- 3:11p Buddhist Perspective – Venerable Jue Qian – Mississauga
- 3:24p Buddhist Spiritual Poem or Hymn – Local Buddhist Community
- 3:29p Christian Perspective – Dr. Don Posterski – Toronto
- 3:42p Christian Spiritual Poem or Hymn – Local Christian Community

*(\* The order of speeches was determined via random draw on Oct. 13, 2012)*

## Concluding & Interactive Session

3:47p ~ 4:24p

- 3:47p Vote of Thanks - Recognition of Speakers and Volunteers  
– Mohammad Amir Sheikh, Vice President,  
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at Canada
- 3:51p Open Question & Answer Session with all Speakers
- 4:21p Closing Remarks – Moderator & Chair
- 4:23p Silent Multi-Faith Prayer – All Faiths
- 4:24p Social and Adjournment

*(Program agenda subject to change)*

# Speaker Profiles

Distinguished Scholars of the World's Religions and Philosophies



## Representing Sikhism

**Balpreet Kaur – Ohio, USA**

Inspired Sikh activist and leader. Balpreet is studying International Development and Neuroscience at Ohio State University. Inspired by the universal tenets of love and service in Sikhism, engages in critical interfaith dialogue with college students through Interfaith Youth Core as well as on campus as President of the campus inter-faith movement, Better Together. Actively involved in leadership programs, youth camps, and conferences across the Midwest and on TEDx.



## Representing Humanism

**Doug Thomas – Elmira**

A life-long Agnostic, Doug has been an active Humanist since 2002. As President of The Society of Ontario Freethinkers, and Secular Connexion Séculaire, he advocates consistently for Humanist rights and separation of church and state. This year, Doug was nominated for the J.S. Woodsworth Award for Human Rights and Equity. He is a published historical fiction novelist, edits Canadian Freethinker E-zine, and contributes regularly to Huffington Post.



## Representing Aboriginals

**Rev. Kathryn Gorman-Lovelady – Tiny, ON**

A well-known Aboriginal Spiritual Teacher and Speaker. Kathryn is a psychology alumna of the University of Guelph. Post-graduate work includes theology, and traditional healing. Licensed minister, Elder, shaman and Moderator of Wolfe Island Métis Interfaith Church. Kathryn is of First Nations heritage and presently the chair of the north-central region committee of the Ontario Multifaith Council. As a textile artist, runs a studio in Tiny, Ontario.



## Representing Judaism

**Rabbi Dow Marmur – Toronto**

A Jewish scholar and an advocate of interfaith relations, Rabbi Marmur is the President of Jewish Synagogue, Toronto. Born in Poland, and graduated from Leo Baeck College, London. Served 2 congregations in Britain, Senior Rabbi of Holy Blossom, Toronto. Executive Director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, Jerusalem. Recipient of Poland's Order of Merit, and Ohev Yisrael Award. Authored 6 books and a regular columnist in the Toronto Star.

# Speaker Profiles

Distinguished Scholars of the World's Religions and Philosophies



## Representing Islam

**Mubarak A. Nazir - Toronto**

Prolific speaker. Mubarak is the Senior Vice President and Missionary Incharge of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at Canada. Regularly appears on broadcast media, and has lectured at numerous forums explaining contemporary Islamic issues. A graduate with a scientific background. After dedicating his life, served as Missionary both in Africa and Canada. Principal of various Ahmadiyya Islamic Schools in Africa and most recently of the Ahmadiyya Institute in Canada.



## Representing Hinduism

**Swami Haripriya Parivrajika – KW**

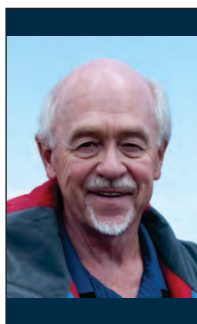
Disciple of H.H. Brahmishi Shri Vishvatma Bawra Ji Maharaj, Haripriya completed M.A. in psychology from Rijks University of Leiden, Holland. In India did spiritual practices, studied Sanskrit, Yoga, Upanishad and other scriptures and since 2001 a preacher at Brahmishi Mission of Canada. Teaches Yoga, Sanskrit and delivers discourses at various places including Universities in Canada, India and Europe. Organizes and conducts Yoga Camps and courses for children and adults.



## Representing Buddhism

**Venerable Jue Qian – Mississauga**

Chinese Buddhist Nun and Dharma teacher, Jue was ordained as a nun in Taiwan, Fo Guang Shan Temple. Holds a Master's Degree in Business from Australia, and a Master's Degree in Chinese Buddhism from Tsung Lin University. As the member of Fo Guang Shan Temple of Toronto and the person in-charge of the Waterloo Buddha's Light Centre, teaches Buddhism Dharma and meditation workshops in temples, high schools, colleges and universities.



## Representing Christianity

**Dr. Don Posterski – Toronto**

Renown presenter. Don Posterski completed his tenure with World Vision International as the Director of "Faith and Development." Former professor in Christianity and Culture at McMaster University, Don has written several books interpreting gospel and culture. Most recent publication is "Jesus on Justice: Living with compassion and conviction." A frequent conference speaker, his global experience required him to interface with the complex dynamics of other world religions.

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 <p>Aboriginal Student Services (UW&amp; WLU)</p>	 <p>Sri Sathya Sai Baba Spiritual Group (UW)</p>
	 <p>Waterloo Riverview Dharma Centre</p>
 <p>Across Boundaries Multifaith Institute (Toronto)</p>	 <p>Society of Ontario Freethinkers</p>
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*Disclaimer: Views expressed at this conference are those of the speakers and may NOT necessarily reflect the views of any organization.*



# ORGANIZERS



Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at  
5 Elliot Street, Cambridge,  
Ontario N1R 2J3



Ahmadiyya Muslim  
Students' Association

University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier & University of Guelph

## Message from our Premier Sponsor

### Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at

*T*his conference was envisioned by the founder of worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at, who claimed to be the divinely appointed Promised Messiah and al-Imam al-Mahdi<sup>as</sup> in 1889.

*T*he Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at organizes it in many countries on a regular basis. Scholars of various religions express the beauties of their respective faith, in a peaceful and brotherly atmosphere.

*T*he Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at is an embodiment of the benevolent message of all world religions — peace, universal brotherhood, and submission to the Will of God.

*I*n Canada, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at has been organizing this conference for 33 years.



*National Head Office:*  
Bai'tul Islam Mosque  
Maple, Ontario, Canada

[www.ahmadiyya.ca](http://www.ahmadiyya.ca)  
[www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org)

# Past World Religions Conferences

- 1981 – Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders  
*Brier Park School, Brantford*
- 1981 – Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1982 – Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders  
*Brier Park School, Brantford*
- 1983 – Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1984 – Concept of Salvation  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1985 – Human Rights in Religion  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1986 – The Rights of Men and Women in Religion  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1987 – Existence of God in Religion  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1988 – Life After Death  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1989 – World Peace  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1990 – Drug Abuse  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1991 – Solution of Modern Social Problems  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1992 – Racial, Religious and Cultural Tolerance  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1993 – War or Peace - What Awaits Humanity?  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1995 – Family Values in Religion  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1996 – Role of Religion in the Future  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1997 – Are There Any Absolute Universal Values?  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1998 – Mankind in the Next Millennium  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 1999 – Morality in the Next Millennium  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 2000 – Changing Faces of the Family - Religious Perspectives  
*North Park Collegiate, Brantford*
- 2001 – Reconciling the Existence of God & Human Suffering  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*
- 2002 – World Peace - What Religions Can Achieve  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*
- 2003 – In Search of the Existence of God  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*
- 2004 – Why Religion?  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*
- 2005 – The Basis and Concept of Salvation  
*Centre in the Square, Kitchener*
- 2006 – My Faith and Freedom of Conscience  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*
- 2007 – How Religion Can Protect the Environment  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*
- 2008 – Founders of Religion - Model for Humanity  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*
- 2009 – Is God Relevant in Today's World?  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*
- 2010 – Keeping Faith Alive In Contemporary Society  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*
- 2011 – Who is God? Nature and Characteristics  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*
- 2012 – Idea of an Ideal Government  
*University of Waterloo, Waterloo*

# Glimpses From Recent World Religions Conferences



October 13, 2012: Idea of an Ideal Government



October 1, 2011: Who is God? Nature and Characteristics



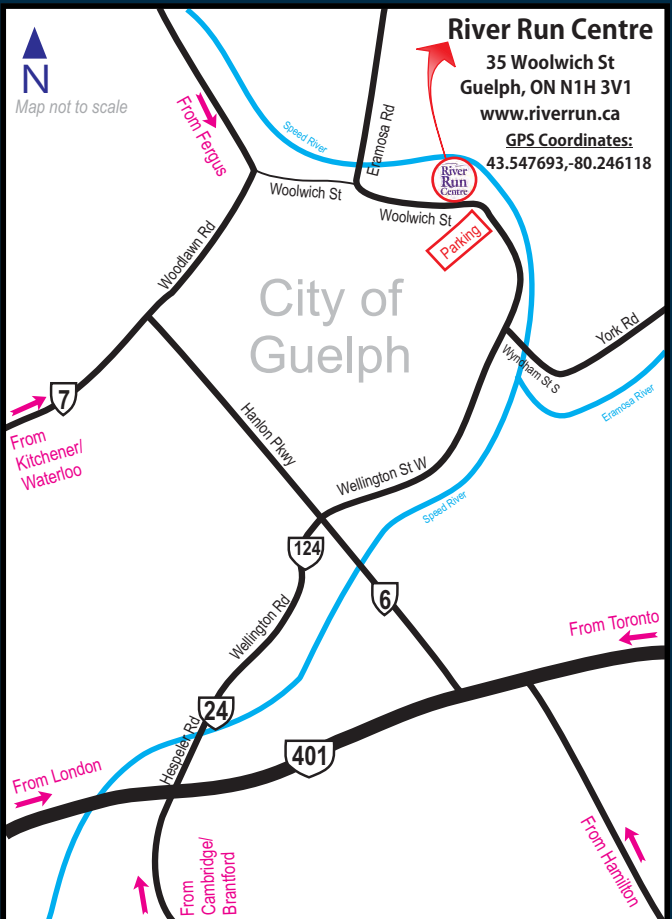
October 16, 2010: Keeping Faith Alive In Contemporary Society



October 24, 2009: Is God Relevant in Today's World



October 26, 2008: Founders of Religion, Model for Humanity



**River Run Centre**

35 Woolwich St  
Guelph, ON N1H 3V1  
www.riverrun.ca

GPS Coordinates:  
43.547693,-80.246118

City of Guelph



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