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Royal Gala Dinner Dance

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Old Boys' Association Ontario**



**34th Annual New Year's Eve
Royal Gala Dinner Dance**

Scarborough Convention Centre
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416 335 6060

December 31, 2025



Happy Holidays

From the ROCOBA Team

**ROYAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION
(ONTARIO)**

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- ☎ 416.721.4240
- 🌐 rocoba.ca
- 📍 Royal College OBA (ROCOBA)

*34th Annual New Year's Eve
Royal Gala Dinner Dance*



School Song

School of Our Fathers

Thy spirit first to life awoke
In eighteen hundred and thirty-five;
Beneath the sway of Marsh and Boake,
Thenceforth did Lanka's learning thrive.

Refrain

School where our fathers, learnt the way before us
Learnt of books and learnt of men, through thee we'll do the same
True to our watchword "Disce Aut Discede"
We will learn of books and men, and learn to play the game

Within thy shade our fathers trod
The path that leads to man's estate;
They have repaid the debt they owed;
They kept thy fame inviolate.

Refrain

And we their loyal sons now bear
The torch, with hearts as sound as oak;
Our lusty throats now raise a cheer
For Hartley, Harward, Marsh and Boake.



Royal College Old Boys' Association – Ontario

Patrons

Principal, Royal College, Colombo

Thillairajah Kukendran Chubi Jayasinghe
Azad Hamid Dilkaran Rajendra

Past Presidents

1991	Kingsley Edwards (Late)	2003/04	Don Dharmashali Perera
1992	Middleton Mather & Chubi Jayasinghe	2005	Dayan De Silva
1993	Oscar Packeer	2006	Haritha Samarajeeva
1994	Kingsley Edwards (Late)	2007/08	Asoka Vidanage (Late)
1995	Azad Hamid	2009/10	Skandha Fernando
1996	Ravi Canagasaby	2011/12	Rajan Tharmarajah
1997	Thillairajah Kukendran	2013	Thillairajah Kukendran
1998	Kumar Sittambalam	2014/15	Yoga Atheray
1999	Inbakumar Rajendra	2016/23	Dilkaran Rajendra
2000	Yoga Atheray	2024/25	Ravi Rajan
2001	Kusela Wickramasinghe		
2002	Mahen Weerasekera		

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Fernando Viresh	Muthulingam Mohan	Weerasekera Mahen
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Ganesharaj Sivarajah	Paramalingam Thayalan	Wijayasinghe Sampath
Gunawardena Sujeeva	Perera Don Dharmashali	
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Intiaz Feroz	Rajan Ravi	
Jayasekera Rohan	Rajkumar Navaratnarajah	
Jayasinghe Chubi	Rajendra Dilkaran	
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DINNER DANCE COMMITTEE 2025

President	Assistant Chair
Ravi Rajan	Sam Samarajeeva
Dance Committee Chair	Media Manager
Janith De Silva Abayadeera	Thanuka Pathirage



About Us

The Royal College Old Boys' Association of Ontario (ROCOBA) is a dynamic and thriving community of alumni who proudly uphold the traditions and values of Royal College, Colombo. Established in 1991, our association has been the cornerstone for connecting Royalists across Ontario, creating a sense of unity, fellowship, and service.

Our mission is to foster camaraderie among old boys, support charitable initiatives, and contribute to the development of Royal College and its students. With over three decades of commitment, we have become a platform for networking, mentorship, and collective progress while upholding the Royal College ethos of "Disce Aut Discede" – Learn or Depart.

What We Do

Community Engagement:

We organize a variety of social, cultural, and educational events that bring together alumni and their families, keeping the Royalist spirit alive in Ontario.

Support for Royal College:

ROCOBA actively contributes to Royal College through scholarships, infrastructure development, and support for underprivileged students in Sri Lanka.

Networking Opportunities:

The association facilitates networking among professionals, entrepreneurs, and academics, fostering career growth and collaboration.

Annual Gala & Fundraisers:

Signature events like the New Year's Eve Gala bring together Royalists and supporters for a night of entertainment, fellowship, and fundraising.

Our Values

Loyalty: We are dedicated to preserving the legacy of Royal College and supporting its future endeavors.

Integrity: All our activities are conducted with the highest level of honesty and transparency.

Unity: We strive to create an inclusive environment for all old boys, irrespective of their backgrounds.

Join Us

Whether you're a recent graduate or a long-time alumnus, ROCOBA Ontario welcomes you to join our vibrant community. Together, let's continue to uphold the Royal College spirit and make a meaningful impact both here in Ontario and back home in Sri Lanka.

Floreat!



History

The Royal College Old Boys' Association of Ontario (RCOBAO) was established to bring together alumni of Royal College Colombo who are now residing in Ontario, Canada. Since its inception, RCOBAO has been a vital platform for fostering camaraderie, preserving traditions, and promoting the values instilled during our years at Royal College. Over the decades, the association has grown into a thriving community that not only connects old boys but also supports charitable initiatives, organizes cultural and social events, and promotes the spirit of unity among Royalists worldwide.

Vision

To be the leading alumni association that nurtures the Royal College legacy, fostering lifelong connections and empowering members to contribute positively to society.

Mission

- To unite alumni of Royal College in Ontario and beyond through meaningful engagement and collaboration.
- To organize and support events that uphold the traditions, values, and culture of Royal College.
- To contribute to educational and charitable causes in both Canada and Sri Lanka.
- To inspire excellence, leadership, and service among members and the wider community.



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Message from the President

December 31, 2025

It is with heartfelt joy that I welcome you to our 34th Annual New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Dance. This evening is a celebration of friendship, tradition, and the enduring spirit of our ROCOBA family.

As we step into a new year, let us carry forward the values of our guiding motto, *Disce aut Discede* — “Learn or Depart.” These words remind us to embrace knowledge, growth, and resilience, and to live with purpose and integrity.

In that same spirit, I am proud that ROCOBA has also shared its joy through fundraising for flood relief in Sri Lanka — turning our fellowship into a gift of hope.

May the coming year bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to each of you and to our wider community.

And as we dance into the New Year tonight, let us remember that the joy we share here also shines as hope for those we have reached out to in Sri Lanka.

With warmest wishes for a bright and joyful New Year,

Sincerely,

Ravi Rajan
President
ROCOBA – Ontario.





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*34th Annual New Year's Eve
Royal Gala Dinner Dance*



From the Dance Committee Chair

December 31, 2025

Welcome, esteemed Royalists and distinguished guests,

As the newly appointed Dance Committee Chair, it is my absolute pleasure to welcome you all to the 34th Annual New Year's Eve Royal Dinner Dance.

For more than three decades, the Royal College Old Boys' Association (ROCOBA) has had the privilege of hosting this iconic event and ushering in the New Year together. On behalf of the Committee, we hope you enjoy an evening to remember in the company of your family and friends.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the Executive Committee members, ROCOBA members, and their significant others. We also extend our sincere appreciation to our proud sponsors, advertisers, and well-wishers for their continued support.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Sam Samarajeeva for his outstanding contributions over the past two decades as Chair of the Dance Committee.

His unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have been instrumental in ensuring the continued success of the Royal Dinner Dance year after year.

Thank you, Sam, for your exceptional commitment and all that you do.

We wish all our guests a very Happy New Year, filled with good health, prosperity, and happiness.

Let's make this a Right Royal New Year Party!

Janith De Silva Abayadeera
Chairman – Dance Committee 2025
Class of 1997





Wishing you a Very Happy New Year



Ravi Rajan BSc, PFP

Financial Planner

Phone: 416 564 5958

Email: ravi.rajan@rogers.com

*34th Annual New Year's Eve
Royal Gala Dinner Dance*



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

December 31, 2025

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 34th Annual New Year's Eve Gala of the Royal College Old Boys Association of Ontario.

This special occasion offers alumni of the Royal College in Colombo, Sri Lanka, an opportunity to renew old ties and share treasured memories. The education you received at this institution has contributed to your personal and professional development and will always be part of the proud history that unites you.



I would like to thank the members of the Royal College Old Boys Association of Ontario for their commitment to fostering fellowship in the community.

I wish you all a wonderful celebration and a Happy New Year.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., O.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Ottawa
2025



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Royal College Old Boys' East Coast Foundation

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2025/2026**

December 22, 2025

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Ravindu Ranasinghe
Hirun De Silva

Message from the President

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of Royalist pride that I extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the President, committee, and members of the Royal College Old Boys' Association of Ontario on the occasion of your Annual New Year's Eve Royal Gala Dinner Dance.

This signature event is a fine reflection of the enduring values instilled in us by our alma mater, Royal College Colombo—values of fellowship, service, leadership, and lifelong loyalty. The Royal Gala Dinner Dance not only celebrates the close bonds of our global Royalist family but also exemplifies the commitment of the Ontario Royalists to strengthening alumni connections while giving back meaningfully to our school and the wider community.

The dedication and enthusiasm with which the Royal College OBA of Ontario continues to uphold Royal traditions, foster unity among Old Boys, and support initiatives benefiting Royal College Colombo are truly commendable. Your efforts resonate far beyond borders and reinforce the collective strength of Royalists worldwide.

On behalf of the RCOBEC Foundation and its committee, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your continued partnership and unwavering support of our shared alma mater. We are proud to stand alongside you in advancing the interests of Royal College and in nurturing the spirit of camaraderie that defines us as Royalists.

I wish you every success for a memorable and elegant evening of celebration, and I look forward to our continued collaboration in the years ahead.

With Royal regards,

Kanna Sriskanthan
President - RCOBEF

RCOBEC Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) approved public non-profit organization.

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Royal College Old Boys' Association,
Ontario,
Canada.

31st December 2025

Dear President,



Recognition and Deep Appreciation for RCOBA- Ontario's Exceptional Support towards LPMC

As Loyalty Pledge proudly celebrates 22 years of unwavering service to deserving Royalists, we take this moment to recognize and appreciate the partnership and generosity of the Royal College Old Boys Association- Ontario (RCOBA- Ontario).

Since our inception in 2003, the Loyalty Pledge has awarded an impressive 2,988 "Help a Needy Student" Scholarships, transforming the lives of countless students facing financial hardships. To date, 323 Tertiary Education Scholarships have been awarded by Loyalty Pledge, supporting aspiring Royalists to pursue higher education at State Universities. In recognition of sporting excellence, 67 Honorarium Scholarships have been awarded (up to 2025) to Royalists selected to represent Sri Lanka, bringing pride and prestige to both the College and the Nation.

RCOBA- Ontario's longstanding commitment to the Loyalty Pledge is truly commendable. Over the past two years, RCOBA- Ontario has donated scholarships as a group, continuously uplifting the lives of young Royalists.

We know that the Annual Royal College Gala Night is a key source of fundraising for these life-changing scholarships. As you prepare for the 2025 Gala Night, we hope you, your sponsors, and your guests feel immense pride in the legacy you are building.

On behalf of the Loyalty Pledge Management Committee, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication, generosity, and the profound impact you continue to make on generations of Royalists. We wish RCOBA- Ontario yet another successful gala event and to the guests a memorable and enjoyable night.

Thank You.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abhaya Amaradasa".

Abhaya Amaradasa

Chairman – Loyalty Pledge Management Committee



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ROCOBA – a brief history by Oscar Packeer

‘Twas a bright, sunny, warm morning in the spring of 1991 in Markham when it all came about. Four old boys’ of different vintages gathered over a scrumptious brunch hosted by Chubi Jayasinghe to form an association of Old Royalists in Ontario. Led by (late) Kingsley Edwards – father of the group, (late) Middleton Mather, Chubi Jayasinghe and yours truly. The foundation was laid and broad guidelines were established. Kingsley, the legal eagle, laid the groundwork for the Constitution, introduced & briefed us all on Roberts Rules of Order for conducting meetings and guided us through other relevant details. The membership fee was determined to be \$15 a year or \$150 for a lifetime membership. The election of a President, which we all agreed should be unanimous and the composition of the Board were also established that day.

Then came the next steps, and the real work – to draft the constitution, submit necessary paperwork to government authorities to register ROCOBA as a non-profit organization, opening a bank account and other formalities. Kingsley Edwards was unanimously elected the first president of ROCOBA and along with the other three gentlemen, named above, comprised the first Board. Of course, priority for us was to have all the formalities in place before we moved on to the actual task at hand – organizing the 1st ROCOBA dinner dance. This called for a robust discussion which ensued and some of the guidelines were

- a) the gala, annual dance must be held at a 4 or 5-star hotel***
- b) Music to be provided by a live band and***
- c) Food and drink to be top class, meaning a four or five course meal***

Royalists had been a part of combined dinner dances in previous years joining hands with Thomians and or Trinitians. But this was our first year going solo as ROCOBA, so it was important that we got off to a flying start. If memory serves me correct tickets were priced at \$50 each.

The inaugural event was held at the Prince Hotel which was very well attended and a huge success. Indeed, we did get off to a flying start!



Happy Holidays

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Royal Gala Dinner Dance



The years which followed saw many improvements and an infusion of fresh ideas from successive presidents and Boards.
The Blue and Gold flag fluttered strong.

Years later and to maintain a unique niche amongst the diaspora the annual dance was moved to New Year's eve or 31st night as commonly known. This date has now been cemented over the years amongst a discerning and loyal following of Old Boys and friends as the premier event to ring in the New Year.

I wish ROCOBA continued success and a big THANK YOU to the Board for all your hard work, all of you – our friends who support us and to all those behind the scene for their tireless efforts.

A VERY HAPPY 2026 to all!!



Oscar Packeer
Past President, ROCOBA
Class of 1966





Best Wishes to
ROCOBA Ontario

Julie, Justin, and Caitlin Mendes
extend their warmest wishes to the
Royal College Old Boys' Association of Ontario
for a successful and memorable
31st Night Dinner Dance.

May this evening be filled with
friendship, celebration, and the enduring spirit of Royal.

Once Royal, Always Royal





Royal College Old Boys' Association Ontario 2025 Sports Highlights

2025 has been a remarkable year for the Royal College Old Boys' sporting community in Ontario. Our teams demonstrated skill, resilience, and the true Royal spirit across multiple disciplines, competing in friendly yet fiercely contested tournaments alongside alumni from other Sri Lankan schools. Here's a look at our proud achievements.

Rugby

Royal College continued its dominance at the Archibald Perera Touch Rugby Tournament, emerging as champions for the third consecutive year since the tournament's inception. This unbeaten streak underscores the team's commitment, fitness, and tactical brilliance. From the round-robin stages to the finals, Royal showcased exceptional teamwork and determination, cementing its reputation as the team to beat.



Royal Rugby Team celebrating their third consecutive championship win.



Best Wishes
For
2026

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Royal College Old Boys' Association Ontario 2025 Sports Highlights

Cricket

Cricket was a standout success story this year, with Royal clinching victories in both the Mustangs T40 and Stallions T20 encounters.

Mustangs Game (T40): Royal ended STC's four-year winning streak with a commanding performance. Devind Pathmanathan delivered an all-round masterclass, earning Best Batsman, Best Bowler, Best Fielder, Man of the Match, and Edgar Hubert Challenge Shield for Best Performance.

Stallions Game (T20): Royal showcased explosive batting and disciplined bowling to secure another win. Best Batsman: Shakir Ahmed; Best Bowler: Balagajan Sathananda; Best Fielder: Joshua Jeevanesan; Man of the Match: Balagajan Sathananda.

Incidentally, Devind and Balagajan two of the tournament's standout performers are classmates from College, a testament to the enduring bonds of Royal camaraderie.



Royal Cricket Team with trophies and award winners.



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Royal College Old Boys' Association Ontario 2025 Sports Highlights

Soccer

Royal made an impressive debut at the Inaugural School 7's Futsal Tournament, finishing as runners-up. The team displayed grit and flair throughout the competition, earning medals and a trophy in a memorable campaign that sets the stage for future success.



Royal Soccer Team celebrating their second-place finish.



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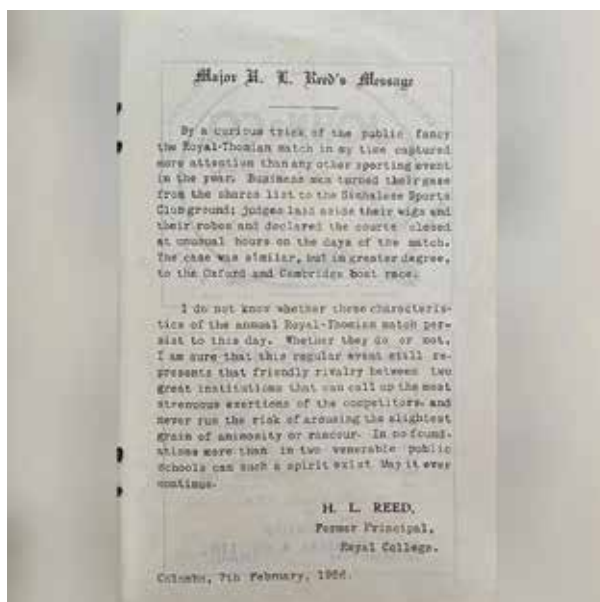
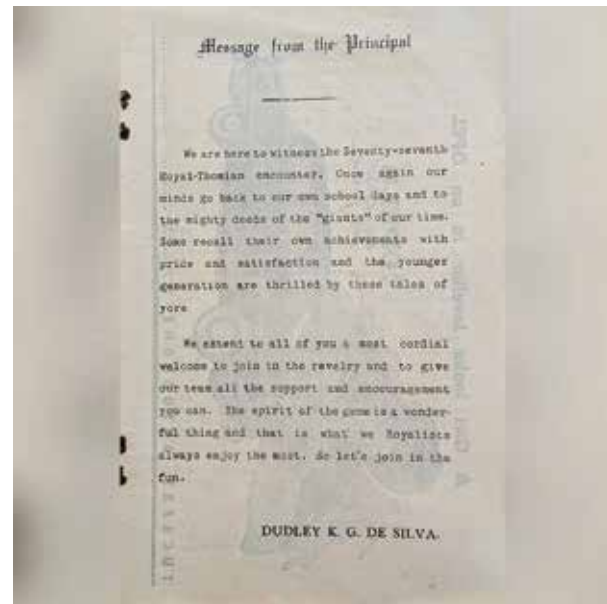
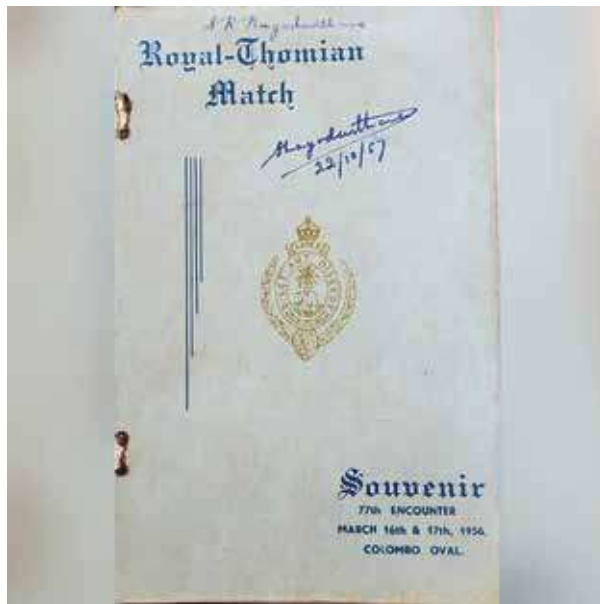
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Royal Gala Dinner Dance*



A Glimpse into Royal College History

The third edition of Royal-Thomian Cricket encounter souvenir (1956)





A Glimpse into Royal College History

*Royal College celebrates its centenary year at Reid Avenue
At 5 pm on October 10, 1923, the Main Building was declared open
by the then Governor His Excellency Sir William Manning.*

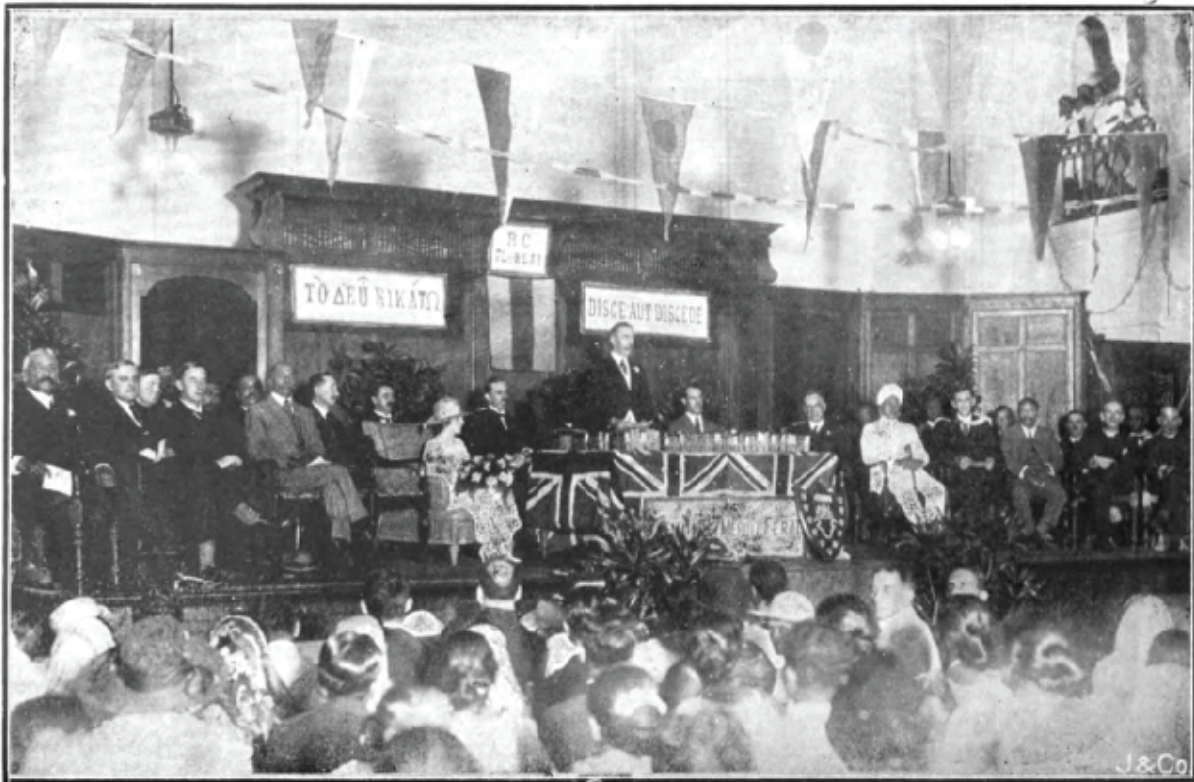
*The school consisted of two main blocks, the Main School and the Science Block.
It housed a very large hall, with over 20 large class rooms, two libraries, and other rooms and utilities.
To this day, the brick and mortar structure stands tall, a testament to the long standing
legacy of our Alma Mater.*

Image Courtesy: The History of Royal College (formerly called the Colombo Academy)

Written by the Boys in the School, 1931

© Royal College Archives.

**OPENING CEREMONY, NEW BUILDING — 10th Oct., 1923
H. E. Sir William Manning presiding**





A Glimpse into Royal College History

The Boake Gates at Royal College Colombo

The gates were built in memory of Rev. Dr. Barcroft Boake, who served as headmaster of the Colombo Academy, the forerunner to the Royal College Colombo from 1842 to 1870. His son Rev W. H. Boake bequeath £250 in his will to the Lord Bishop of Colombo to be used at Royal College in the memory of his father. The gates were made under the supervision of Kenneth de Kretser, CMG; the Director of Public Works and they were designed by Wynne Jones. The opening ceremony was held on January 13, 1938 by Miss Carpenter-Garnier the sister of the Bishop of Colombo





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MENU

Cocktails

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Mocktails.

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Hors d'oeuvres

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Buffet

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Royal Gala Dinner Dance*



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PROGRAM

December 31, 2025

34th Annual New Year's Eve Royal Gala Dinner Dance

- 6.30 pm - Cocktails
- 7.15 pm - Raising the standard - Azad Hamid
- 7.25 pm - College Song
- 7.30 pm - Welcome speeches | Door & Early Bird Draws
- 8.00 pm - Skylines Everybody on the floor
- 9.00 pm - It's time to hold your partner tight
- 10.00 pm - Time to Shake with DJ Kushmin
- 11.00 pm - Let's Boogie
- 11.45 pm - Countdown begins !
- 12.00 am - Midnight Toast

Let's raise a glass of Sparkling Wine to welcome - 2026 Cheers!

- 12.15 am - It's Baila time
- 12.45 am - Raffle Draw
- 1.00 am - Hold your partner tight
- 2.00 am - Designated drivers takeover, please drive safely

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*34th Annual New Year's Eve
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A Walk Down Memory Lane

Royal Dinner Dance – 33rd Edition



*34th Annual New Year's Eve
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A Walk Down Memory Lane

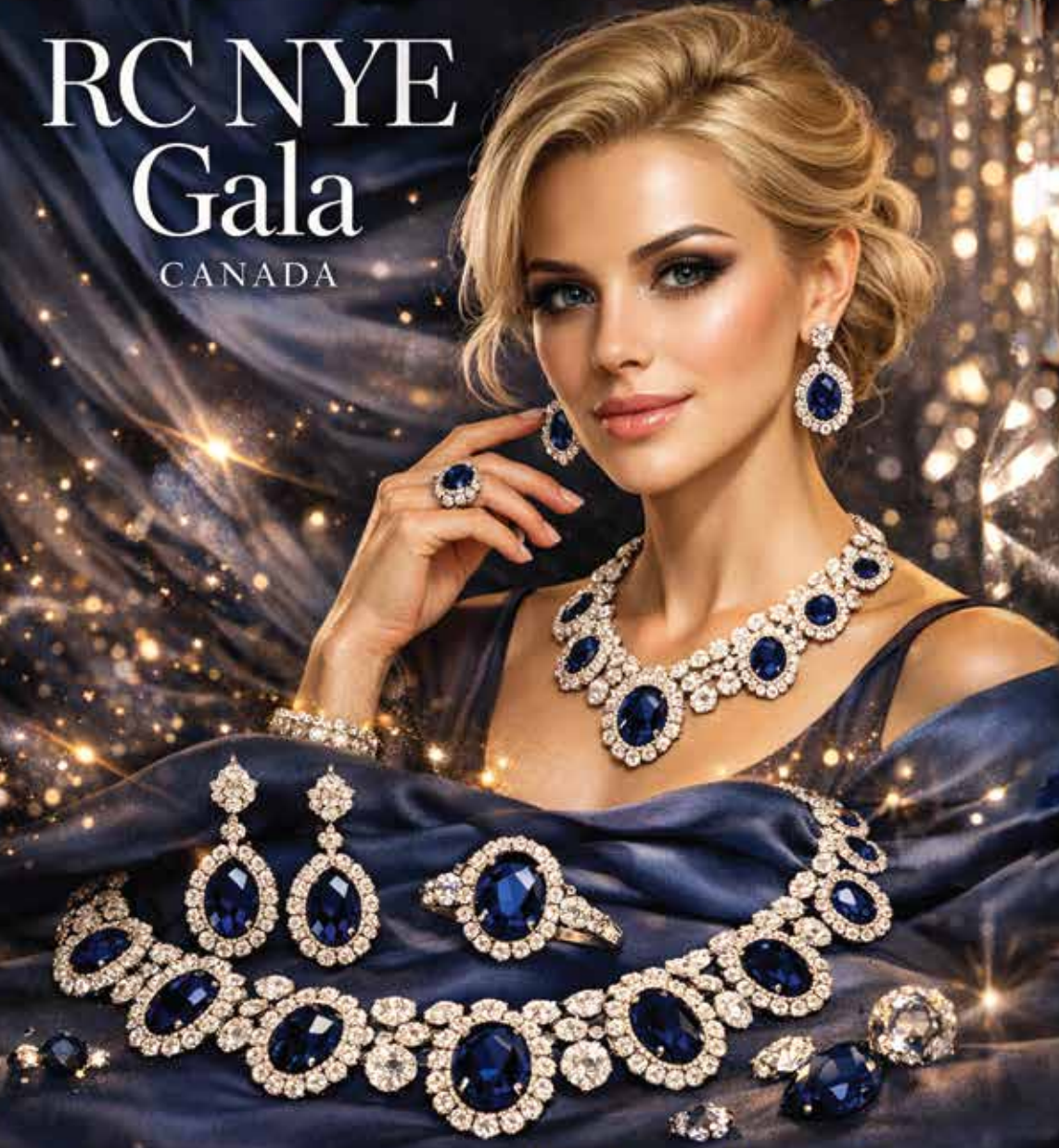
Royal Dinner Dance – 33rd Edition



*34th Annual New Year's Eve
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A Walk Down Memory Lane

Royal Dinner Dance – 33rd Edition



Moments from the Annual Dansala



*34th Annual New Year's Eve
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A Walk Down Memory Lane

Moments from Royal Rumble



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A Walk Down Memory Lane

The Royal–Thomian Cricket Encounter, Toronto



SPC Football 7s Tournament Performance

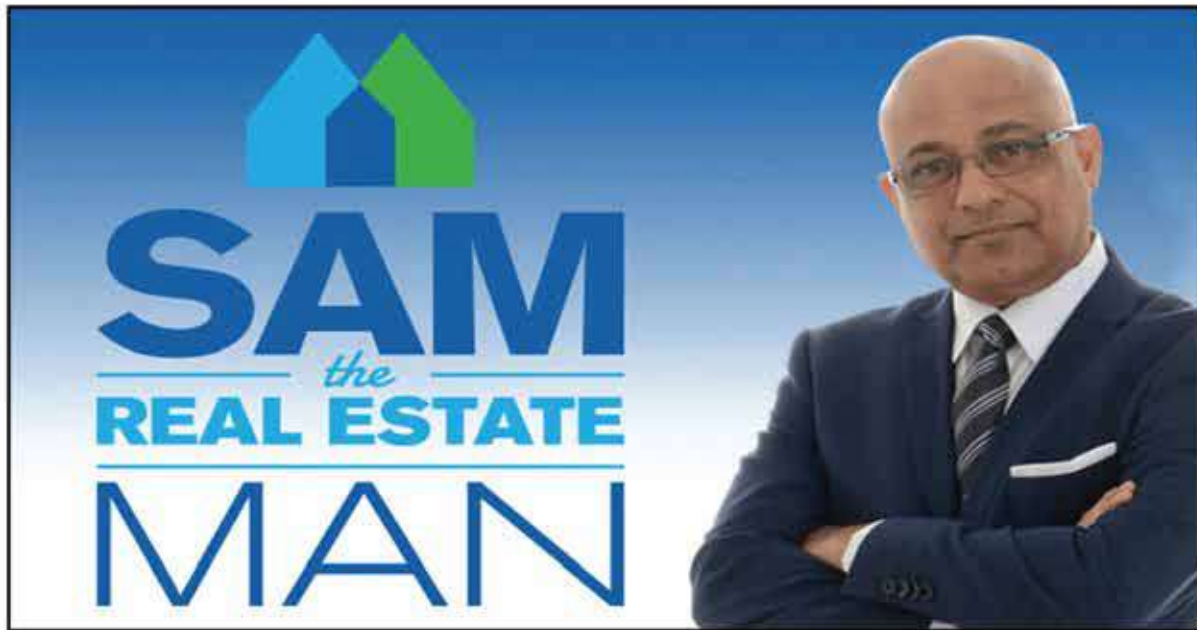


ROCOBA Rugby Continues Its Winning Streak





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The Doctor and the Lawyer

A doctor and a lawyer were talking at a party. Their conversation was constantly interrupted by people describing their ailments and asking the doctor for free medical advice.

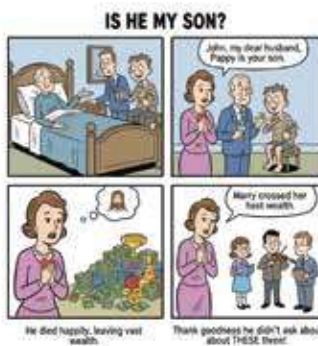
After an hour of this, the exasperated doctor asked the lawyer, "What do you do to stop people from asking you for legal advice when you're out of the office?"

"I give it to them," replied the lawyer, "and then I send them a bill."
The doctor was shocked, but agreed to give it a try.

The next day, still feeling slightly guilty, the doctor prepared the bills. When he went to place them in his mailbox, he found a bill from the lawyer.



Is he My Son?



Old John married a younger woman Mary and had four children. Three were normal and doing usual. But the fourth Pappy was out of way, ugly, naughty and causing anxiety to John that Pappy was really not his son. John was on death bed and he decided to clarify that with Mary.

He asked, "Mary, with your hand on your heart, please tell me Pappy is my son."

Mary with her hand on heart announced, "John, my dear husband, Pappy is your son."

John died happily leaving vast wealth to Mary. Mary crossed her heart and prayed, "Thanks Jesus that he did not ask the same for three other children, and you know I would not have lied."



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love with a sailor

A girl fell in love with a sailor and had his picture tattooed on her right breast. The romance waned. In due time, she fell in love with a soldier and had his picture tattooed on her left breast. This romance also waned.

Sometime later, she fell in love with a marine and married him. That night when they were undressing for bed he began to laugh. She asked, "What in the world is so funny?" He said, "Oh, I'm just thinking what long faces those two guys are going to have in about ten years from now."



Good Job

The subway car was packed. It was rush hour, and many people were forced to stand.

One particularly cramped woman turned to the man behind her and said, "Sir, if you don't stop poking me with your thing, I'm going to the cops!"

"I don't know what you're talking about miss - that's just my pay check in my pocket."

"Oh really" she spat. "then you must be doing quiet good in your job, because that's the fifth raise you've had in the last half hour."



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100 Years at Reid Avenue

The highest dignitaries of our nation, including The President, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, and Members of Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, gathered at Royal College on the 27th of October 2023, to commemorate the historic milestone of Royal College's 100 years at Reid Avenue. Their presence at this momentous event was a testament to the significance of this historic milestone and a true tribute to the enduring legacy of education at Royal College.

In his speech, the President remarked

"But what we have here is not merely a building. This building carries on a history from the earlier buildings and that is what Royal College is, not a question of brick and mortar only, it's a question of traditions and what we have brought and the contributions we have made"





Flood Relief Initiative - ROCOBA

As part of its ongoing commitment to service and community responsibility, the Royal College Old Boys' Association of Ontario contributed a portion of the proceeds from the 34th Annual New Year's Eve Royal Gala Dinner Dance towards flood relief efforts in Sri Lanka.

The initiative reflected the collective spirit of Royalists in Ontario, who came together not only to celebrate the arrival of the New Year, but also to support communities affected by severe flooding back home. The contribution was made with the intention of assisting relief and recovery efforts for families facing displacement and hardship.

This gesture stands as a reminder that, regardless of distance, the Royal College fraternity continues to uphold its values of compassion, unity, and service to the nation.





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Thanuka Pathirage, an Old Royalist, for designing this year's program

All the ladies of the committee members and friends
who helped to put the event together
Contributions by Christine, Darshika, Geethani, Rozanne, Sasha,
Sharmila, Shyamala, Suhandini, Premini & Vino towards the midnight table

Kamaj, Melissa Lee, Skylines & DJ Kushmin for the music tonight

Master of Ceremonies - Shameem Deen

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The management and staff at Scarborough Convention Centre

Our tech and Media Partners – Rohan Jainudeen, Anchorman

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Last but not least, all the Executive Committee Members
and their spouses for all the hard work
Very Big Thank you

ROCOBA Dance Committee

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