

Islamic Association of Nova Scotia

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**The Newsletter of the
Islamic Association of Nova Scotia**

Masjid Address: 42 Leaman Dr., Dartmouth, NS, B3A 2K9

www.islamnovascotia.ca

2008

Ramadan Issue

Assalamo alaikum

The Islamic Association is happy to present the Ramadan issue of the Newsletter. In this you will find salat timetable and other activities during the blessed month of Ramadan. Information on zakah, news from the Association and a membership form is also included. The details of the activities of the Islamic Association are also available on its newly developed web site www.islamnovascotia.ca

We wish you all a happy Ramadan and please do not forget to pray for all your Brothers and Sisters during this blessed month. May Allah subhanawat'ala forgive us all.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Saleem Ahmed (902) 443-1618
Vice-President Shahzad Minhas (902) 412-0477
Treasurer Nouman Ali (902) 835-7694
Secretary Iftikhar Beg (902) 442-3829

RAMADAN NEWS

- Announcement about the beginning of *Ramadan* and *Eid-al-fitr* will be made based on the sighting of *hila* (moon) as determined by the Hilal Committee of Toronto. The final word on moon sighting sometimes comes late in the evening. We encourage all Brothers and Sisters to be patient for the announcement. The information will be available on the Islamic Association's phone and website.
- During the month of *Ramadan* the *isha* and *traweeh* prayers will be held at the Dartmouth masjid (42 Leaman Drive) at **9:30 pm** daily. Beginning 13, September 2008 the *isha* and *traweeh* prayers will be held at **9:00 pm**.

Insha'Allah, recitation of the whole Qur'an will be completed during the month.

- A potluck *iftar* will be held at *maghrib* time every Saturday in the Dartmouth masjid. Please bring your family and friends and join the gathering. The students should contact the Association if they need a ride.
- During Ramadan the kitchen and the dining hall facilities at the Dartmouth masjid can be rented for Friday or Sunday for *iftar*. The kitchen facilities have been inspected and approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and two Brothers have passed the Food Handling and Safety test conducted by the Department. Br. Khurshid Khan and Sr. Tahira Ahmed are in charge of the kitchen facilities and can be contacted for further details.

The rules for renting the kitchen facilities and on-line booking can be found on the Islamic Association's web site.

Preparation for Ramadan

by

Maulana Hamzah Mangera

Imam, Darmouth masjid

Many of us have been counting the days remaining up to the holy month of Ramadan. Five days, four, three, two and the next thing you know here it is. For a believer the name of this month "Ramadan" gives the thought of joy, rewards and a feeling of Allah's mercy. Truly, this is a season that should be awaited for. Anticipations and emotions for this month are not sufficient. This holy month requires action and activity. It is about altering our timetables and schedules; it demands us to train ourselves to attain *taqwa* (fear of Allah or devotion to Him) which in turn, is the element to carry us successfully through the ongoing journey towards the hereafter (*akhirah*).

But let us ask ourselves have we really prepared for this month? Are we ready to dedicate more time for our spiritual revival? During the month of Ramadan the holy Prophet (peace be upon him) would stay awake in the nights worshipping Allah, awaken his household and increase in worship. (Bukhari, Muslim). Even though we may have experienced many a Ramadans but every Ramadan must be treated as a once in a lifetime opportunity since we have no idea whether we will live till the next Ramadan. Let us look at a few *ahadith* concerning this holy period.

Increased Rewards & Forgiveness

What are the rewards of good deeds in the month of Ramadan? The reward of every *fardh* (compulsory) act is multiplied seventy times while every *nafl* (optional) act earns the reward of one *fardh* out of Ramadan. (Ibn Khuzaymah). It is important to understand the latter aspect in its proper perspective. *Tahajjud* (*nafl salah* in the last third of the night) is an extremely great *ibadah* (worship). Great virtues have been narrated for this *salah*. However, a lifetime of *tahajjud* cannot equal one *fardh* of *fajr salah*! Yet in the month of Ramadan Almighty Allah grants us the reward of a *fardh* action for every *nafl* performed.

The fish in the sea seek forgiveness for those fasting until they break their fast. Allah decorates His *Jannah* (Paradise) every day and then says, "The time is near when My pious servants shall cast aside the great trials and come to me." (Musnad Ahmed)

When Ramadan arrives, the gates of Paradise are flung open, the doors of the Hell are closed and the *Shayateen* are imprisoned. (Bukhari)

Fasting

All good deeds are for the one who renders them, but fasting. Fasting is exclusively for me (Allah). (Bukhari)

The odour of the mouth of a fasting person is sweeter to Allah than the fragrance of musk. (Bukhari)

Fasting is a shield, as long as the fasting person does not tear it up (by disobedience) (Nasae).

Iftar

Not a single prayer made by a fasting person at the time of breaking the fast is rejected. (Ibn Majah)

The Nights of Ramadan

Whoever stands in prayer and worship in (the nights of) Ramadan, with *iman* and with sincere hope of gaining reward, all his previous sins are forgiven. (Bukhari, Muslim)

Laylatul Qadr (The Night of Power)

Whoever stands in prayer and worship in the night of power with *Iman* and with sincere hope of gaining reward, all his previous sins are forgiven. (Muslim)

Look for the night of power among the odd numbered nights of the last ten days of Ramadan. (Mishkat)

I'tikaf

The Prophet (peace be upon him) observed *I'tikaf* for ten days every year in the month of Ramadan. In the year he passed away he observed it for twenty days. (Bukhari)

The Last Night of Ramadan

On the last night of Ramadan the fasting Muslims are forgiven. (Musnad Ahmed)

Conclusion

It can be well comprehended from the above that during this month of Ramadan, Almighty Allah makes it easy for us to acquire His blessings, mercy and forgiveness. There can be no better time to attain this than this blessed month. All that is required on our part is to create in our hearts the desire, ambition, devotion, zeal, eagerness and that we exert increased efforts to acquire the pleasure of Almighty Allah.

While one should engage to the maximum in good deeds, the purpose of Ramadan must be kept foremost in mind, which is to acquire *taqwa*. Thus together with the maximum amount of righteous actions one must totally refrain from all sins. We should ensure that no act of disobedience is committed. This abstinence in itself is worship. One month of strictly conducting oneself in this manner will Insha-Allah have the effect of enabling one to live the next eleven months in a similar manner in the complete obedience of Allah. Thus, can we afford to waste this time? Can we still have time for "loafing"? Is it possible for a person who values Ramadan to spend hours eating? or loitering around after *taraweeh* feasts and gatherings?, or have time for any other idle pursuits? Can we afford to spend valuable time glued to the airwaves listening to the opinions and views of one and all, whereas that time could have been used to at least recite the Holy Quran or send *durood* upon our beloved Prophet (peace be upon him)? And entertainment? How can it be possible? The last thing that any Muslim who values Ramadan should be bothered about is who somewhere in the world is whacking a little red ball all over a field or who is kicking a ball between two posts! Let alone comedy or other shows!

Let us really make this Ramadan a profitable one that brings change in our life. We leave you with a quotation of an honourable scholar:

All the "T's" of Ramadan must be kept in mind so that when Ramadan comes, "everything is to the T!". These "T's" are: **Tilawah**, **Tahajjud**, **Taraweeh**, **Tasbeehat**, **Tadharru'** (fervent *dua*), **Tatawwu'** (*nafl ibadah*), **Tasahhur** (eating *sehri/suhoor*), **Taubah** (repentance), **Tawadhu** (humility) and **Tafakkur** (contemplation). May Almighty Allah make this Ramadan a turning point in the life of the long-suffering *ummah*. **Aameen**.

ZAKAH CALCULATION 2008

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Cash on hand or in the bank | \$ _____ (1) |
| 2. Shares or any other financial investment (market value) | \$ _____ (2) |
| 3. Real estate (net equity). The principal residence is exempt | \$ _____ (3) |
| 4. Gold, silver or other precious metals (raw or manufactured) | \$ _____ (4) |
| 5. Net business inventory (excluding assets needed to run the business) | \$ _____ (5) |
| 6. Cars, campers or other recreational vehicles. Car(s) for basic need are exempt | \$ _____ (6) |
| 7. TOTAL (sum of item 1 through 6) | \$ _____ (7) |

ZAKAH DUE: \$ _____ X 0.025 = \$ _____
Amount from item 7

If the amount on line 7 is less than *nisab* (value of 87.48 gm of gold or 612.36 gm of silver) one is exempt from *zakah*. The current value of gold and silver should be checked when calculating *nisab*.

ZAKAH OF GOLD

Zakah becomes compulsory on gold within one's possession when it amounts to 87.84 gm or more. Once a lunar year has elapsed from the day of possession, the owner will be obliged to give 2.5% of that gold or its equivalent in cash from the total amount of gold, in Zakah. It should be borne in mind that all gold objects will be accounted for while calculating the total amount of gold within ones possession e.g. raw gold, gold nuggets, gold jewellery, gold utensils etc.

ZAKAH OF SILVER

Zakah becomes compulsory on silver within one's possession when it amounts to 612.36 gm or more. Once a lunar year has been completed from the day this silver came within the owner's possession, the owner will be required to pay 2.5 % of that silver or its equal value in cash from the total amount, in zakah. Likewise, similar to the zakah of gold, all silver objects will be accounted for while calculating the total amount of silver within one's possession.

The Recipients of Zakah

There are **eight** categories of the beneficiaries of zakah specified in the holy Qur'an:

"The alms are only for the poor and the needy, for those who collect them, for those whose hearts are to be reconciled, for the freedom of those who are captives and in debt, for the cause of Allah, and for the wayfarers; [it is] a duty imposed by Allah. Allah is the Knower, the Wise" (Sura at-Taubah, 60).

All of the above must be Muslim and cannot be from the descendants or ascendants whether paternal or maternal of the person paying zakah.

You may send your zakah to the Islamic Association of Nova Scotia. Please indicate if you need a receipt for tax purposes.

Membership

We encourage Brothers and Sisters to become members of the Islamic Association of Nova Scotia and enjoy its many benefits and services.

The membership is only \$100 per annum for family, \$25 for single and \$15 for student. The membership dues help pay for the maintenance of the Dartmouth masjid and the Truro cemetery and masjid.

The membership form is available on the Islamic Association's web site.

Islamic Association of Nova Scotia



Prayer schedule for Halifax/Dartmouth Area



Ramadan 1429 (2008)

“O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may be righteous” (Quran 2:183)

DATE			Fajr	Sunrise	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
Ramadan	Sep 2008	Day						
<u>1</u>	<u>Sep 01</u>	<u>Mon</u>	5:13	6:36	1:15	5:54	7:52	9:17
<u>2</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>Tue</u>	5:14	6:37	1:15	5:53	7:50	9:15
<u>3</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>Wed</u>	5:16	6:38	1:14	5:51	7:49	9:13
<u>4</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>Thu</u>	5:17	6:39	1:14	5:50	7:47	9:11
<u>5</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>Fri</u>	5:17	6:39	1:14	5:50	7:47	9:11
<u>6</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>Sat</u>	5:20	6:42	1:13	5:47	7:43	9:07
<u>7</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>Sun</u>	5:21	6:43	1:13	5:45	7:41	9:04
<u>8</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>Mon</u>	5:23	6:44	1:13	5:44	7:39	9:02
<u>9</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>Tue</u>	5:24	6:45	1:12	5:42	7:37	9:00
<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Wed</u>	5:26	6:46	1:12	5:41	7:36	8:58
<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Thu</u>	5:27	6:48	1:12	5:39	7:34	8:56
<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Fri</u>	5:28	6:49	1:11	5:38	7:32	8:54
<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>Sat</u>	5:30	6:50	1:11	5:36	7:30	8:52
<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>Sun</u>	5:31	6:51	1:10	5:35	7:28	8:50
<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Mon</u>	5:33	6:52	1:10	5:33	7:26	8:48
<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Tue</u>	5:34	6:53	1:10	5:32	7:24	8:46
<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>Wed</u>	5:35	6:55	1:09	5:30	7:22	8:44
<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Thu</u>	5:37	6:56	1:09	5:28	7:21	8:42
<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>Fri</u>	5:38	6:57	1:09	5:27	7:19	8:40
<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Sat</u>	5:39	6:58	1:08	5:25	7:17	8:38
<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>Sun</u>	5:40	6:59	1:08	5:24	7:15	8:36
<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>Mon</u>	5:42	7:01	1:08	5:22	7:13	8:33
<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>Tue</u>	5:43	7:02	1:07	5:20	7:11	8:31
<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Wed</u>	5:44	7:03	1:07	5:19	7:09	8:29
<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Thu</u>	5:46	7:04	1:07	5:17	7:07	8:28
<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Fri</u>	5:47	7:05	1:06	5:16	7:05	8:26
<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>Sat</u>	5:47	7:05	1:06	5:16	7:05	8:26
<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>Sun</u>	5:49	7:08	1:06	5:12	7:02	8:22
<u>29</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>Mon</u>	5:51	7:09	1:05	5:11	7:00	8:20
<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Tue</u>	5:52	7:10	1:05	5:09	6:58	8:18

The beginning of the month of Ramadan will be determined by the sighting of the moon.

Ramadan will likely begin on September 01, 2008. The above schedule has been made keeping this possibility in mind.
If Ramadan begins on another day please adjust the dates accordingly.