

Report on the Celebration and Introduction of Nawroz 2026, Celebrating Cultural Heritage, Unity, and Community Connections

1. Introduction

Paywand Social and Cultural Network (PSCN) organized a full-day event titled **“Celebration and Introduction of Nawroz 2026”** on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Scarborough Community Hub, located at 2660 Eglinton Avenue East, Scarborough, Ontario. The event brought together 80 participants, including 25 women, to celebrate the arrival of spring, learn about the history and cultural significance of Nawroz, and strengthen community connections through cultural activities and shared experiences.

The event reflected PSCN's commitment to preserving cultural heritage, promoting intercultural understanding, encouraging community participation, and fostering unity among newcomers and members of the wider community.

2. Background and Historical Significance of Nawroz in Asia

Nawroz (Nowruz), meaning “New Day,” is an ancient celebration marking the beginning of spring and the renewal of nature. Rooted in the historical and cultural traditions of the Persian-speaking world, Nawroz has been celebrated for thousands of years and remains an important cultural occasion across several countries and communities in Asia and beyond.

Nawroz is particularly associated with Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and parts of Central Asia and the Middle East. Its observance varies among communities, reflecting their distinct customs, languages, and local traditions. The celebration generally symbolizes renewal, hope, peace, prosperity, friendship, and the beginning of a new cycle of life.

Traditionally, Nawroz is associated with family gatherings, festive meals, poetry, music, storytelling, visits to relatives and friends, and the preparation of seasonal foods. In Afghanistan and other communities, **Samanak**, a traditional sweet dish made from wheat germ, is prepared and shared as a symbol of patience, cooperation, prosperity, and the arrival of spring. Poetry and storytelling also play an important role in transmitting cultural knowledge and values from one generation to the next.

Beyond its historical origins, Nawroz serves as an opportunity for people to celebrate cultural identity, strengthen family and community relationships, and share their heritage with younger generations and the broader society. For newcomers living in Canada, such celebrations can help preserve cultural traditions while creating opportunities for social inclusion, mutual understanding, and intercultural exchange.

3. Event Planning and Organization

The event was planned and coordinated through a collaborative organizational process. A management team was appointed to oversee the preparations and implementation of the program. Team members distributed responsibilities among themselves to support the effective coordination of the event and ensure that the planned activities were carried out in an organized manner.

The invitation card was prepared and circulated through WhatsApp groups to inform community members and encourage participation. This approach supported community outreach and helped share information about the celebration with a broad network of participants.

The Scarborough Community Hub provided the venue for the event. The room was equipped with the necessary equipment, facilities, and tools to support the program and accommodate the participants. Snacks and lunch were provided, allowing attendees to spend the day together in a welcoming and community-oriented environment.



4. Event Proceedings and Main Activities

The program combined organizational updates, historical and cultural presentations, literary activities, traditional demonstrations, and community engagement. The principal activities included the following:

4.1. Brief Organizational Report

A brief report introduced the activities and role of Paywand Social and Cultural Network. This segment provided an opportunity to highlight financial activity update, the organization's community-oriented objectives and its commitment to cultural preservation, social connection, and the inclusion of newcomers.

Sr No	Program Title	Duration	Responsible Person	Method / Description	Required Tools & Materials
1	Registration and Guest Reception	20 min	Registration Team	Welcoming guests, registering participants, and guiding them to the hall	Registration desk, participant list, pens, name tags
2	Opening and Welcome Remarks	10 min	Master of Ceremony (MC)	Official opening of the event and welcoming the guests	Microphone, sound system
3	Brief Organizational Report	10 min	Organization Representative	Short presentation about the organization's mission and recent activities	Microphone, projector (optional)
4	Nawroz Poetry Recitation	10 min	Invited Poet / Guest	Recitation of a poem related to Nawroz and spring	Microphone
5	History and Background of Nawroz	15 min	Guest Speaker	Short talk on the history, cultural significance, and traditions of Nawroz	Microphone, presentation slides (optional)
6	Recitation of Rostam and Sohrab (Story by Akram Osman)	15 min	Designated Reader	Dramatic recitation of the well-known story by Akram Osman	Microphone
7	Cultural Demonstration: Preparing Samsak	20 min	Cultural Team	Symbolic demonstration of preparing Samsak accompanied by traditional music	Decorative pot, cultural props, sound system
8	Dinner and Cultural Interaction	60 min	Hospitality Team	Serving food to the participants, socialize and enjoy soft cultural music	Dining tables, food service equipment, sound system
9	Closing Remarks and Appreciation	10 min	Master of Ceremony (MC)	Summary of the event, appreciation of guests and participants, and closing the gathering	Microphone

4.2. Nawroz Poetry Recitation

Poetry recitation formed an important part of the cultural program. It provided an opportunity to appreciate the literary traditions associated with Nawroz and the Persian-speaking cultural heritage, while creating a shared experience for participants of different ages.

4.3. Presentation on the History and Background of Nawroz

A dedicated session introduced the history, origins, and cultural significance of Nawroz in Asia. The presentation highlighted the celebration's association with spring, renewal, hope, and unity, as well as its continued importance among different cultural communities.

4.4. Recitation of the Story "Mullah Mohammad Jan"

The story of *Mullah Mohammad Jan* recited by Dr Akram Osman that is very famous in Afghanistan was played, adding a storytelling element to the program. This activity helped bring cultural literature and storytelling traditions into the gathering and encouraged appreciation of the community's shared heritage.

4.5. Cultural Demonstration: Preparation of Samanak

A demonstration of Samanak preparation introduced participants to a traditional springtime custom. The activity highlighted the cultural meaning of Samanak and its association with patience, cooperation, sharing, and the celebration of Nawroz. It also provided an opportunity to pass traditional knowledge to younger generations and participants less familiar with the practice.

4.6. Lucky Draw and Prize-Winner Session

A lucky draw was held as part of the event's recreational activities. The session added excitement to the program, encouraged participant engagement, and provided an enjoyable element to the day's celebration. Gifts were presented to 7 lucky participants.

5. Participation and Hospitality

The event attracted **80 participants, including 25 women**, reflecting the participation of community members in a shared cultural celebration. The full-day format allowed time for presentations, storytelling, poetry, cultural demonstrations, and informal interaction.

Snacks and lunch were provided to participants. The availability of the required room facilities and equipment supported the delivery of the program and helped create a suitable setting for the planned activities.



6. Key Outcomes and Community Significance

The celebration contributed to several important community objectives:

- **Cultural preservation:** Promoted awareness of Nawroz and traditional cultural practices, including poetry, storytelling, and Samanak preparation.

- **Cultural education:** Increased opportunities for participants to learn about the historical background and significance of Nawroz in Asia.
- **Community engagement:** Brought community members together for a shared cultural experience.
- **Intergenerational learning:** Created opportunities to share cultural knowledge, literature, and traditions across generations.
- **Social inclusion:** Provided a welcoming environment for newcomers and other community members to connect and participate.
- **Organizational development:** Demonstrated PSCN's capacity to plan and coordinate a community event through teamwork, delegated responsibilities, outreach, and program management.
- **Community enjoyment:** Offered opportunities for social interaction and enjoyment through the lucky draw and other program activities.

7. Conclusion

The Celebration and Introduction of Nawroz 2026 was an important cultural and community-building initiative organized by Paywand Social and Cultural Network. Through historical education, poetry, storytelling, traditional food preparation, and recreational activities, the event provided participants with an opportunity to celebrate their heritage and strengthen their connections with one another.

The participation of 80 people, including 25 women, demonstrated meaningful community involvement in the celebration. The collaborative planning process, use of WhatsApp for outreach, allocation of responsibilities among the management team, provision of appropriate facilities, and arrangement of refreshments and lunch supported the implementation of the full-day program.

Overall, the event reflected PSCN's ongoing commitment to **preserving cultural heritage, promoting unity and social inclusion, and building stronger connections among newcomers and the wider community in the Greater Toronto Area**. Such initiatives can continue to play a valuable role in maintaining cultural traditions while encouraging mutual respect, participation, and a sense of belonging in Canadian society.

