



# KARYES

# Lakonias

News Bulletin

ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΑΝΤΑΧΟΥ ΚΑΡΥΑΤΩΝ

No. 7 Winter Edition 2015-2016

**Our Association's prime objective is the TIGHTENING OF RELATIONS with our compatriots**

## **THE CAMPAIGN OF THE KARYATES ASSOCIATION CONTINUES FOR THE CREATION OF THE KARYES INTERNET COMMUNITY**

**Already we have surpassed the number of 350 addresses from all over the world and we continue**

The years go by and the compatriots who emigrated from our homeland have children and grandchildren. The second and third generations of compatriots surely have a different perception of Karyes. The village is no longer the birthplace, but the place of origin, the roots of the family and in most cases a place of remembrance of beautiful childhood's holiday. The distance from the village, the rhythms of everyday life, but also the different language, are the obstacles that we face as an Association.



Our ally is the beautiful village of Karyes that impress every visitor, its vitality and our love for it. The most important tool in this effort is the Internet and with it the Karyates Association launched a project to gather the email addresses of all compatriots and friends of the village wherever they are located. We make therefore again an

**appeal**

**to all those who have not yet sent us their email addresses please to do so**

Already so far have surpassed the number of 350 addresses from all over the world and we continue ...

From our part we are committed to inform you about the news concerning our village and the Association. Karyes is not only houses, churches, monuments, trees and fields, but mainly people. Our aim is that every Karyates and friends of the village should feel that the village is present to their lives, regardless of how many years they are away from it or the existence of their family house in Karyes.

**You and your family will always be members of the Karyes Community great family.**

With patriotic greetings!

The Chairman and Board Members of the Karyates Association

**The Board members of the Association and  
the editorial team of the News Bulletin  
wishes all their compatriots a  
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016**





## SOCIAL NEWS

### ON 4TH OF MAY 2015 GEORGE TRAKAS DIED AT THE AGE OF 93



George Trakas, husband of Konstantina Merminga and father of Demetrios and Nikolaos, was born in Gastonia, NC USA, on February 14th, 1922, but his village was always Arachova (Karyes). He grew up in the village from the age of 3, as his family returned there. At the difficult years of the war and occupation, he saw the destruction of the village by the Germans troops. In 1946, he immigrated again in America and he had a single dream: to return to Greece, to return to his village. Indeed he fought hard, along with his beloved wife not to deprive their children anything and he managed to return to Greece.

You'll never find anyone to say a bad word about you, since no one and never was hurt by you. Your friends and those of the same age are to certify that. Only love and peace you knew to share generously.

We already miss you so much, we were lucky that we had you with us for so many years and now we realize how much we have lost! But your death is the only biological. Your spirit will always be among us, in our hearts, and brighten our steps.

Eternal your memory Giorgi, eternal your memory my father.

Your son, Nikos

## Obituaries

On Saturday, November 21th, 2015 passed away Panagiotis Chondropoulos, resident of Glyfada, Athens Greece, a native of Karyes at the age of 75.

## HONORS OF COMPATRIOTS

### PARTICIPATION OF MARIA ATH. MATALA IN PAINTING SCULPTURE-ENGRAVING EXHIBITION ORGANIZED BY E.E.D.Y.E



Ms. **Maria Matalas**, originating from Karyes, philologist, painter, member of the Greek Chamber of Fine Arts (EETE) and art critic, participated in the Painting-Sculpture Exhibition organized by the **Greek Committee for International Reconciliation and Peace (EEDYE)** for the 60th year anniversary since its inception. The exhibition took place from the **4th to 12th of December 2015**, at the Cultural Center "Melina" in Athens.

Maria Athanasiou Matalas, who lives and works in Glyfada, Athens Greece, is the daughter of Athanasios Paraskeva Matalas, gynecologist doctor, who was a nephew and godchild of the Karyes' great benefactor, Athanasios D. Matalas. She is a member of the Greek Chamber of Fine Arts, Writer, Researcher and Art Critic. She graduated from Pierce College in Athens; she studied English Literature at Deree College (1976-1977) and French Literature at the University of Athens (1980-1984). She holds a degree in Spanish Studies (1985) and DEA in the French and Comparative Literature in the 20th century by the University of Picardie, France (1987). She has also worked at the General Administration Embassy in Athens (1986-2009).

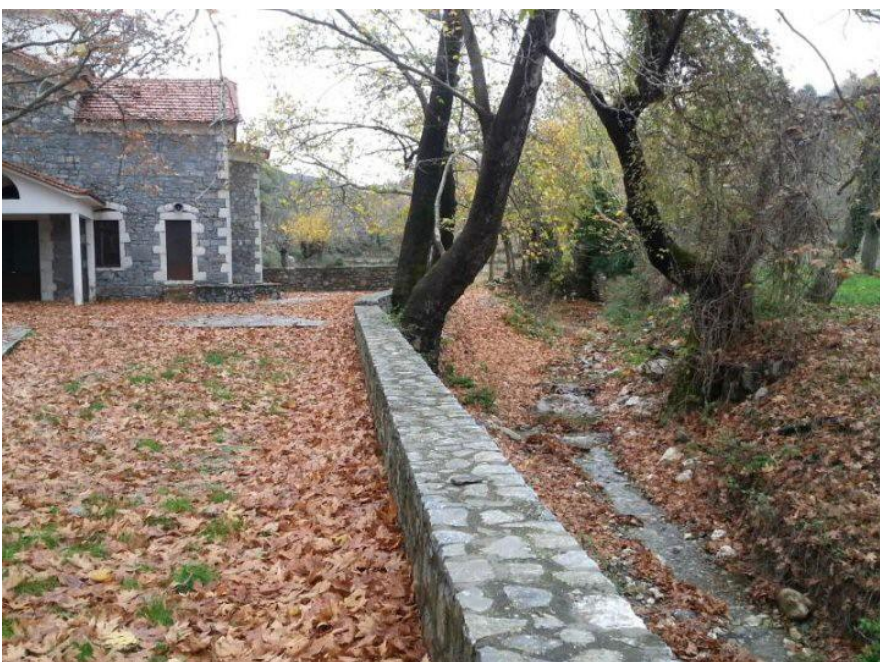
Alongside with her studies in literature, she had good reviews by Nikolaos Hadjikyriakos-Ghikas, who sent her to the painting workshop of Thanassis Stefopoulos (1994-2004).

Later she studied in the ateliers of many famous painters and hagiographers and she was attender in the Second Workshop of the School of Fine Arts with George Lazongas (2011-2012). She is President of Lions Club in Athens and a member of many associations and clubs in Greece and in France. Her works of art are in the Corinth Gallery, in ACG ATHENS FOUNDATION and within the collections many Greek and French art collectors. She has received the First Prize in the Visual Arts of the 18th Parnassus National Exhibition and the Association of Greek Writers Award.

More information about the work of Ms. Maria Matala can be found at [mariamatala.blogspot.gr](http://mariamatala.blogspot.gr)



## THE AUTUMN CAME, THE LEAVES FELL DOWN



The Church of Conception (Panagia) and the river Deiros



The nightingale's stream (Aidonorema)



# KARYES EVENTS

## THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL RECEPTION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF KARYES' PATRON SAINT ANDREAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO GET TOGETHER IN KARYES AT THE BEGINNING OF WINTER

As every year, the Karyates Association honored the patron saint of the village, Apostolos Andreas, on Sunday 29th of November 2015. In the morning and on the eve of the feast, the annual reception of the Association took place on the ground floor of the Community Building in Karyes.

Shortly after the Divine Liturgy, the Association's board members awaited the inhabitants and visitors of Karyes, offering homemade pastries and coffee. The reception hall was adorned with Christmas decoration the previous week by the ladies of the village, giving a festive mood at the event.



The event was honored by the presence of the Deputy Head of Laconia **Ms. Adamantia (Dia) Janeteas**, our fellow alderman of the Municipality of Sparta and head of the Municipal Party-"Democratic Coalition" **Mr. Demos Leventakis**, the president of the Community **Mr. George Devekos**, and the member of the Board of the Karyes' Cultural Club **Mr. Dimitrios Arvanitis**.

The Chairman of our Board, **Mr. Repoulis**, welcomed the attendees, mentioned a report of the Association's previous year activities and particularly on issues related to cultural events and activities in the Association's premises. Then the greetings of other representatives followed and the discussion continued on issues concerning the village.

In the same event took place the draw of the lottery of the Karyes' Church Council. The profits of this lottery will be used for the upkeep and cleaning of Karyes' Churches.

## A MOVING RESPONSE BY COMPATRIOTS AT THE LOTTERY FOR COMPLETION OF KARYES FOLKLORE CENTER



The moment of the winning ticket draw

Board members Association thank all compatriots who participated in the lottery. In a difficult time for our country, hundreds were compatriots in Greece and abroad who responded to our call.

Given the fact that there was no winner, as the number that won the National Greek Lottery of November 24th wasn't sold, the lottery's lucky ticket draw was held in this Association's event for the feast of Apostolos Andreas in Karyes.

## THE WINNER IS IN CANADA

The lucky lottery ticket is the number 28893 and winner-owner of the ticket is Georgia Diamandouros, wife of Demetrius Diamandouros, residing in Toronto, Canada. The lucky winner said that she offers the Association the amount of 200\$ CAN to strengthen its purposes. Board members wish to thank her publicly about this donation.

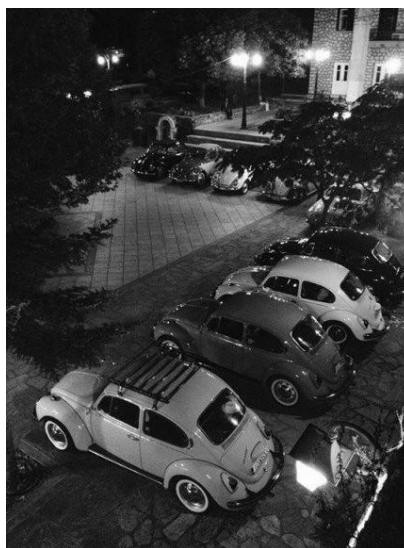
## A BEAUTIFUL EVENT IN "ARACHOVITIKA KALIVIA"



Archaeologist **Ms. Liana Souvaltzi** guided us to the sacred trees of history and analyzed their symbolism.

A beautiful event was organized by the hotel "Arachovitika Kalyvia", with guest archaeologist **Ms. Liana Souvaltzi**, on Saturday 10.24.2015. The program of the event started on Saturday morning at 11:30 a.m. with hiking from hotel "Arachovitika Kalyvia" to Karyes

(by the stream path) and continued with a **tour of the village** with reference to its **points of interest** (Menelaus plane trees, Caryatids Monument, Municipal Clock, Sakali Spring, architectural determination). The return was in the afternoon by the circular path, accompanied by food tasting with **chestnut flavors** and experimentations, accompanied by **raki** and **walnuts**. At the evening, **Ms. Liana Souvaltzi, archaeologist**, presented the **sacred trees**, their **symbolism** and the conversation continued around the fireplace, where many archaeological and not queries were answered.



## VW BEETLE CARS MEETING IN KARYES

At the weekend 12th and 13th of September 2015, the annual meeting of the friends of classic air-cooled VOLKSWAGEN vehicles, type Beetle", was hosted in Karyes. The main square flooded by the classic cars, which were parked in a line presenting a nice spectacle (photo by Michalis Chikaras).



# THE MYSTERY OF THE MUSES STATUES IS SOLVED

After an inquiry made by Mr. **George Diamandouros**, former President of Karyes Local Community, Director of the Karyes Primary School and Teacher, the forms depicted in the muses statues, that adorn the main street of Karyes, have been identified. As mentioned in previous issues of our News Bulletin, these statues used to adorn the prewar Athens Omonia square and after its renovation, they were transferred to different areas of Greece (Karditsa, Amorgos, Karyes) or have been destroyed. Eventually the two muses of Karyes, which were placed in the village on the initiative of compatriot Epaminondas Kastanas, are **Thaleia** and **Urania**!

## URANIA



In Greek mythology, **Urania** is one of the nine sacred Muses of Helicon, **daughter of Zeus** and **Mnemosyne**. She was considered an ideal anthropomorphic goddess, inventor and patron of Astronomy and Astrology. She is usually depicted wearing a **star crown** and **blue gown**, holding in her left hand **the global sphere** and in the right a **diabete**, which constitute her "sacred" symbols, like those in the statue at Karyes.

She is alleged to be the mother of Hymeneus conceived with Dionysus and the mother of Linus with Apollo.

The ancient Greeks attributed also to Urania **prophetic powers**. Her residence was the **sky dome**, hence her name [Ουρανός (*uranós*) = sky].

## THALEIA



In Greek mythology, one of the nine Muses was also **Thaleia**, daughter of **Zeus** and **Mnemosyne** and considered closer to Terpsichore.

She was an ideal anthropomorphic goddess and patron of the decent and respectful exhilaration.

She was represented only by her symbols: invisible at the feasts as inspirer of merry songs, which mainly emphasized their spiritual element, aided by the pleasure of the diners.

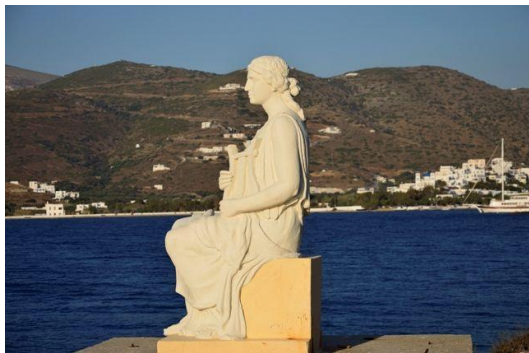
So as a **goddess of the "good mood" and the launching of "kefi" (good spirit)**, she was leaving just before the beginning of the noisy "komos" (fun). The Muse Thaleia was also the protector of the comedy and the

bucolic poetry, which is the respective of today's Greek folk songs. She was usually appeared with an **ivy wreath in hair**, holding in her left hand a **theater mask** and in her left hand a **cane**, with **light clothing** and sometimes with a **woolen tunic**.

Her name is derived from the verb *θαλλέω - θαλλώ* meaning sprout abundant, rich blossom, flourish. The verb was used only in the present and continuous tense. The noun *θαλλός* meant every new branch or sprout in vegetation.

## THE LOCATIONS OF THE OTHER STATUES

After the survey we made on the internet, we located the other six statues, since the ninth was destroyed, according to historical data. Specifically, four of them are in Karditsa, from which the two have incorrect names, as we have stated that the true Thaleia statue is Karyes and a statue is named Aglaia, but Aglaia is not a Muse. Finally, the fifth statue is by the sea in Amorgos and the last one is in Thebes.



Erato overlooking the sea in island of Amorgos

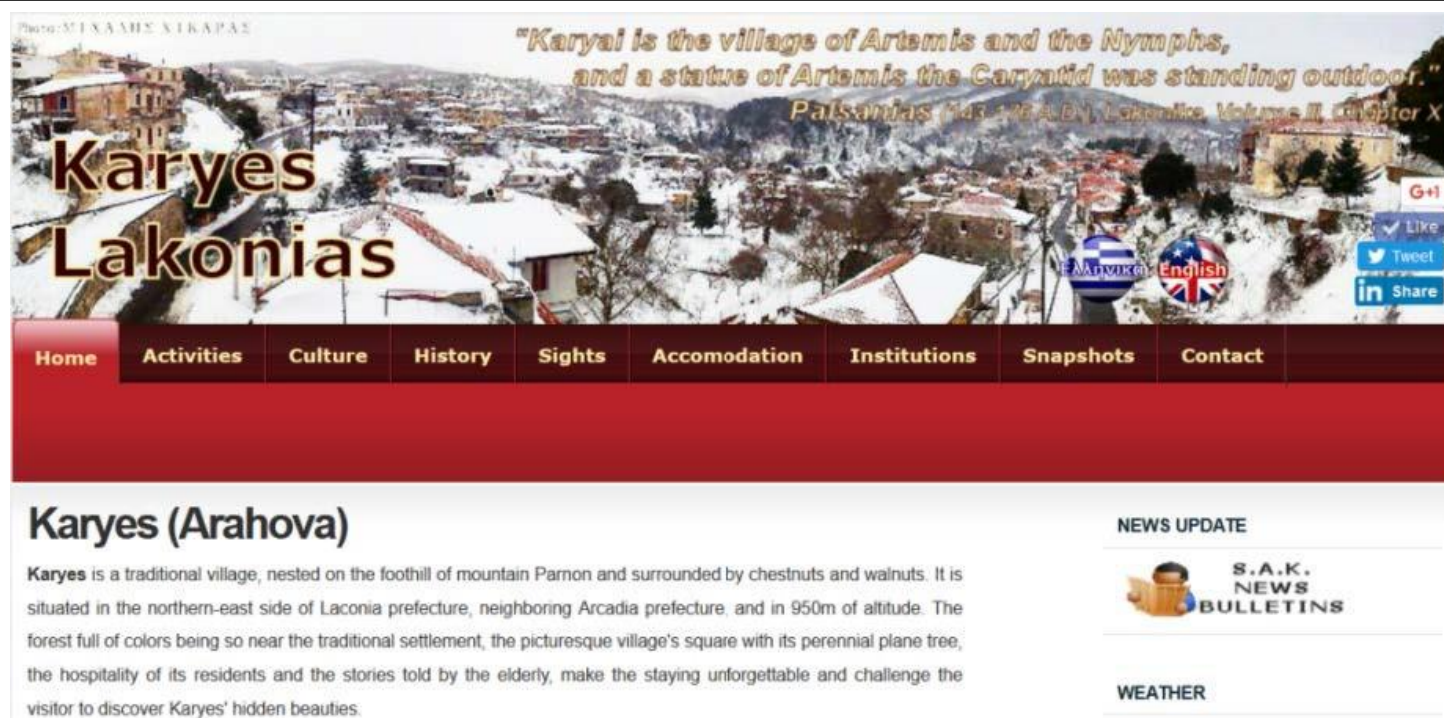


The eighth is in Thebes

The four muses in Karditsa, northern Greece







## REVIEW ON THE WEBSITE OF KARYES' LOCAL COMMUNITY

### A SHORT STORY

Three and a half years have been since the renewed website of Karyes appeared on [www.karyes.gr](http://www.karyes.gr), under the management of the Karyates Association. In the summer of 2012 and after several months of preliminary work, the website was officially launched in a new form as a network informational gateway. The website, which belongs to the **Karyes municipal district of Sparta**, launched its operation originally in 2007 through voluntary work of compatriots and still works under this scheme after its redesign until today. The renewal of both appearance and functionality intended to its enrichment with information about the history and culture of Karyes (Arachova) and the constant updating of its visitors and residents with the news of Karyes and the activities of the local associations.

At this point, it should be mentioned that the participation of the Karyates Association in the management of the website had primarily aim its functional upgrade. The monthly expenses for hosting the site by the provider are covered by the Municipality of Sparta, in which now belongs the former Community of Karyes. While in June 2014, the Association covered the expenses for the reservation of the website domain name [karyes.gr](http://karyes.gr) until 2025.

### FORM AND VISITORS

Making a brief presentation the web portal of Karyes, it comprises of sections dealing with **culture, history, folklore, tourism, mountain activities and local associations' events and activities**. It also maintains **Business Pages** of producers and professionals operating in Karyes, and it is a constantly renewed source of **digital photo material, videos, web links/news** of associations and institutions, domestic and foreign, related to Karyes and Lakonia. Furthermore, it contains the **digital archive of the newspaper "Karyes Laconias, Arachova and the villages Oinounta Municipal"** (1986-2010).

According to the statistics data from the search engine Google, the web portal [karyes.gr](http://karyes.gr) gets an average of **400** hits daily and its contents are being displayed in about **20** cases, also daily. This indicates that the content is very rich in information for a Greek local community's website. All these without including those who access it, directly or through other links, to display its contents.

### PLEASANT SURPRISES

However a pleasant surprise is that the website became a contact point of many compatriots, from Greece and abroad, who have sought various information by sending messages to the available email addresses. After all, its content display in **both Greek and the English languages** pursued its appeal to compatriots of second or third generation who do not speak the Greek language, but they would likely be **seeking information on the place of origin of their parents or grandparents**.

The below referred cases are indicative that the objective of the site to become an essential communication gateway, continues to fulfill its role. In these mentioned cases, the full names of those involved do not appear for obvious privacy reasons:

In July 2014, Mr. P. S. from **Atalanti Lokridas, Greece**, contacted us via the email address of the website in search of information about the fallen soldier of the WWII in Korca, Albania, Dimitrios Th. Papageorgiou. As a descendant of a comrade and co-passenger of Papageorgiou in this military airplane that crashed near Korca, he tried to collect information about him or come in contact with the descendant's relatives. We looked for information, made a research and we informed him in detail about his request.

**From the U.S.A.**, Mrs. S. H. contacted us looking for material and publications related to the village to give them to her 80 years old mother A. T.-S., which immigrated from the village to the U.S.A. at the age of 12 in 1946. When her mother began to explore the world of the Internet, she discovered with emotion the website of Karyes and this was reason for the beginning of communication of Mrs. S. H. with us. **From U.S.A.** also, Mr. R. M. sought information on the implementation of his aunt's wish to make a donation to the the church of Karyes. In this case also, the website served as an intermediary to satisfy this request.

We could mention several similar cases, but also the offer of many who have provided us with information to be published on the website. Especially the last mentioned, we have thanked them personally for their contribution. If a reference was made in all cases, we would be needed several pages to cover them. But the ascertainment of this is that of the **preservation of a lively communication**.

Finally, it is worth highlighting an ongoing project that is in progress. In particular through the website's email, we were able to gather **email communication addresses of compatriots from all over Greece and abroad and have hopefully surpassed the number of 350**.

### WISH AND REQUEST

However, we close this text with a wish and request for all. The website is and will continue to be a portal of information, communication and **a matter of all Karyates worldwide**. Its enrichment is a constant effort and our desire is to have helpers in this all compatriots by sending us their news or to ask us for any information. By now, we hope that we have responded to the role we have undertaken and that we will continue to respond to it consistently in the near future.

Margie Konstantopoulou

[www.karyes.gr/archives](http://www.karyes.gr/archives)



DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF THE "KARYES" NEWSPAPER (1986-2010)

### REQUEST

THOSE WHO WISH TO RECEIVE THE NEWS BULLETIN VIA E-MAIL PLEASE SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO

E-mail: [info@karyes.gr](mailto:info@karyes.gr)



# THE RESULTS OF SEPTEMBER'S 2015 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN KARYES

For once more during 2015, the Greek voters were called to exercise their right to vote in the parliamentary elections. So in the prefectural section of Lakonia, the PMs that are elected are **Stavros Arachovitis (SYRIZA)**, **Thanasis Davakis (NEW DEMOCRACY)** and **Leonidas Grigorakos (PASOK-DIMAR)**. Finally, according to the announcements of the Ministry of Interior Affairs, the **results of voting in the Municipal District of Karyes** for the current and the previous parliamentary elections are as follows:

- **Registered:** 1,414
- **Voted:** 417
- **Valid:** 410 - **Not Valid:** 4
- **Blanks:** 3

Source: [Greek Ministry of Internal Affairs](#)

Party	Percentage % (Sept. 2015)	Votes (Sept. 2015)	Percentage % (Jan. 2015)	Votes (Jan. 2015)
SYRIZA	28.29	116	37.00	148
NEW DEMOCRACY	25.85	106	23.25	93
KKE - GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY	17.56	72	19.50	78
UNIFORM PEOPLES FRONT (EPAM)	7.07	29		
DEMOCRATIC ALLINGNMENT (PASOK-DIMAR)	5.61	23		
Peoples Link - Golden Dawn	5.12	21	5.00	20
POTAMI - The river	3.66	15	3.50	14
PEOPLES UNITY	3.66	15		
ANT.AR.SY.A. - E.E.K.	1.22	5		
Independent Greeks-National Patriotic Alliance	0.49	2	2.00	8
Creation, Again! Thanos	0.49	2		
KKE (m-l) - M-L KKE	0.49	2	0.75	3
Union of Centre	0.24	1		
DEMOCRATICS, Society of values, Greek Pirates Party	0.24	1		

## NEWS OF THE OTHER ASSOCIATIONS AND BROTHERHOODS

### THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE CHIGACO BROTHERHOOD

#### Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 6

Labor Day Weekend • Noon to Sundown



KAREAI PARK  
SALEM, WISCONSIN

On **Sunday September 6th**, at the "Karyes Park" in Salem, Wisconsin, took place the annual picnic of all Karyates. It was an opportunity to get together for all compatriots in the Great Lakes and be informed about the news from the village from those who were lucky enough to visit it in the summer.



The gathering began at noon, lasted until the evening and was accompanied by music, food and drink.

Till next year!

### THE NEWS OF THE TORONTO CANADA BROTHERHOOD RESTORATION IN THE PARK



#### THE ANNUAL 2-DAYS FESTIVAL

On weekend June 25th and June 26th took place in the "Karyes Park" in Toronto, Canada, the annual two-day festival celebrating Aghia Paraskevi and Aghios Panteleimonas. The festival in the Park included an evening with traditional greek music on Saturday night and the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning at the Church Aghia Paraskevi and Aghios Panteleimonas. Furthermore whoever wished could camp within the park on both days.



ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΑΝΤΑΧΟΥ ΚΑΡΥΑΤΩΝ

#### THE KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

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