

INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY OCCASION FOR GOODWILL

Friday, Aug. 15 marked the occasion of the 39th anniversary of India's independence. India's representative in B.C., the Consul General of India and his family opened the grounds of their home to several hundred invited guests. The 9 a.m. ceremony featured the raising of the Flag of India on their front lawn where the text of the broadcast to the nation by President Zail Singh was read over the loudspeaker.

The president noted "that this special occasion is a time to remember with gratitude the great sacrifices made by our people during the freedom movement". He went on, "we have reason to be proud of our achievements in various fields since independence. We have reached a stage where further sustained efforts will ensure accelerated progress. Our aim should be to become a strong and prosperous nation in the near future."

Our younger generation has to defend and protect the independence and promote unity and goodwill among people. But their exploitation by opportunists, whether political or religious, is detrimental to the interests of the country. The elements who try to exploit the impressionable minds of our younger generation not only impair their future, but also do great disservice to the nation."

"Apart from the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes there are other backward classes accounting for approximately half the population. A major endeavor is needed to provide the opportunities to these people for growth and development."

"India stands for peace and friendly relations with all countries. We have been trying for the establishment of a new international economic order based on justice and equity. Under the stewardship of India the non-aligned movement has taken long strides towards cohesion and unity of purpose among the

Indo Canadian

Joan Mayo



third world countries the movement has been striving hard for disarmament."

"I would like to conclude by appealing to all my fellow citizens for bear in mind that the unity and integrity of the country are sacred and no sacrifice is too big to persevere our independence."

A message from Premier Vander Zalm was also read. It said in part: our beautiful province is indeed blessed with a rich cultural heritage, one that reflects the individual traditions and customs that our families have brought here from many lands. Today, that cultural mosaic is the birth right of all our children — and one in which we can take considerable pride.

At 6 p.m. just as the sun was setting over West Vancouver, 200-300 guests began arriving for the annual lawn party. Portable cooking apparatus was set up in several strategic areas, where the caterers cooked hundreds of Samosas, pieces of Tandoori chicken and sweet Jallebi.

Consul Gen. Jagdish Sharma welcomed the guests before introducing The Hon. Russ Fraser who brought further greetings from The Premier of B.C.

As the guests mingled with one another and sampled the tasty finger foods they were entertained first by an Indian dancer who is currently appearing at Expo followed by some delightful children dancing in their colorful costumes. As the evening progressed a duo of

Indian musicians entertained, one on the beautiful Indian sitar and the other on the Tolki drum.

These popular Independence Day functions are a time when all classes and castes of Canadian-of-origin-in-India come together proudly to celebrate the tremendous achievements of their homeland since independence and to express their hopes for a stronger unified future.

