

# Atwals honored at 50th

When immigrants from a far off country celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in their adopted land it is an event to celebrate and when one of the celebrants is the first of his countrymen to be born in this country it becomes an event to advertise.

Seventy-four-year-old Hardial Singh Atwal and his wife Ruttan Kaur were married June 14, 1936. Hardial Singh was born in Vancouver in 1912. His father was the priest in the first Sikh Temple in Vancouver. He travelled to India with his parents as a youngster where he attended the village school, reaching the level of middle school and returned to Canada at the age of 16.

After working several years in local sawmills he again travelled to India where he met and married his wife of 50 years. He immediately brought her to Canada where they raised three boys and three girls.

Their special day began with an early morning family worship service in the Paldi Sikh Temple. The women who were busy in the church cookhouse preparing the food for their surprise party happily joined the family service tel-

## Indo Canadian

Joan Mayo



ling the unsuspecting couple that they were preparing food for another function. The smiles and withheld excitement were finally released as the honored couple arrived at what they thought was a hockey party for their grandson.

Family and friends gathered in the early afternoon of June 14 in a surprise party to honor the successful milestone in their happy marriage. A large crowd of family and friends crowded into the upper hall of the Knights of Pythias Hall on Brae Road to hear the glowing remarks and praises of several speakers. Kesar Singh of Surrey traced Hardial Singh's family background while Harbhan Singh of Duncan spoke of their lives in Canada Mohinder

Doman of Victoria told of the faithful hard work of both as parents, grandparents and church workers.

Charan Singh of Campbell River read congratulatory telegrams from P.M. Brian Mulroney, Gov. Gen. Jean Sauve, Premier Bill Bennett, Lt. Gov. Rogers, John Turner, Ed Broadbent, Mayor Graham Bruce, MP Jim Manly and MLA Barbara Wallace.

Following the speakers and loads of good wishes everyone descended to the downstairs hall where the tables were laden with food and sweets donated by their many friends.

Although Hardial Singh is now retired, he is still an active member of the community. He and his wife Ruttan Kaur faithfully turn out to help at every function. In her quiet smiling way Ruttan Kaur helps with the cooking and dish washing never complaining and patiently teaching her grandchildren the teachings and ways of the Sikh faith. Hardial Singh will always be found sitting in his favorite spot with his back resting against the wall listening and meditating.

They both enjoy gardening and are quick to share their produce with others. May they continue to enjoy good health for many years to come.



**MARRIAGE REMEMBERED . . .** Hardial Singh and Ruttan Kaur recently marked 50 years of constant companionship.