

# Women alerted to family programs

A visit to the local RCMP station to enquire about some of the problems faced by the police when dealing with East Indian people, produced some interesting results.

On the whole the East Indian community is seen no differently to any other group. However, the Constables did admit to a few minor problems. Apparently some East Indians pretend not to understand English when questioned but usually are very cooperative.

Generally the community is quite close and they tend to help one another rather than resort to welfare or any other forms of social assistance. This closeness though, does pose a problem in that they often fail to tell the whole truth in an effort to protect someone from their new community.

Of the approximately 400 families in the valley there are still a lot who are not yet fluent in English. The RCMP and the courts have several translators they call upon when needed and when I asked if there were any comical situations they would like to recount the two officers both agreed that the East Indian people are usually very serious.

They explained that all job opportunities are open to young East Indian men and women the same as any other nationality, provided they meet the criteria - 19 years of age, university graduate, Canadian Citizen and no criminal record. You must also be mentally and physically fit and possess a valid drivers licence.

Other related jobs include parole and probation officers, social workers, counsellors, sheriffs, court registry workers and customs officers. In the fields of science there are technicians jobs related to

## Indo Canadian

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ballistics, blood, hair, paints, metal, cloth, paper and wood chemistry. For those with a love of flying, the RCMP have their own pilots for both fixed landing gear planes and helicopters.

Constable Tracy Ramsay, the only woman in the Duncan Detachment, is a special crime prevention and community policing officer. She spoke of the need to make the local East Indian Women aware of the social services and other sources of help available to them.

Her pamphlets and services are available to everyone and Constable Ramsay is anxious to speak to groups, making everyone aware of the help available. As she explained, break-ins, purse snatching, domestic disputes, problems with children and drug and alcohol related problems can happen to anyone. But with the East Indian

women, because of the two different cultures, the police have problems dealing with them.

Among the pamphlets free for the asking are tips on identifying stolen property, taking aim at vandalism, nuisance problems, protection for senior citizens, women alone, parents in crisis, preventing child molesting, bomb threat, telephone procedures, neighborhood watch, shoplifting and one on child drug users.

She has some video cassettes to

show with her lectures and has access to more.

The local police work in conjunction with Cowichan-Family-Life and Women-Against-Violence-Against-Women. They will arrange for a battered wife and her children to be transported to a safe house and will direct you to drug counsellors should the need arise.

As a final conclusion it appears the East Indian community like any other has the same kinds of problems except that they are usually reluctant to ask for help.

A special program for East Indian women is planned for some time in January or February to be hosted jointly by the Women Against Violence Against Women and the Inter Cultural Society. East Indian women speakers representing several help-groups in Vancouver will be in Duncan to speak and answer questions and perhaps offers some suggestions.