

[Atwals honored at 50th]

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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 country to be born in this country it becomes an event to advertise.

Seventy-four-year-old Hardeep Singh Atwal and his wife Ruttan Kaur were married June 14, 1936. Hardeep 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 30 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 Paki Sikh Temple. The women who were busy in the church canteen preparing the food for their surprise party happily joined the family service following the unsuspecting couple that they were preparing food for another function. The males and withheld ensembles were finally released as the husband 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 Bice Road to hear the glowing remarks and praises of several speakers. Kesar Singh of Surrey traced Hardeep Singh's family background while Harbajan Singh of Duncan spoke of their lives in Canada. Mohinder

Dewan 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 Sauvé, Premier Bill Bennett, Lt. Gov. Rogers, John Turner, Ed Broadbent, Mayor Graham Bruce, MP Jim Munro and M.L.A. Barbara Wallace.

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

Although Hardeep 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. Hardeep 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.

Indo Canadian

Joan Mayo




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

IDENTIFIER

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ARTIST

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