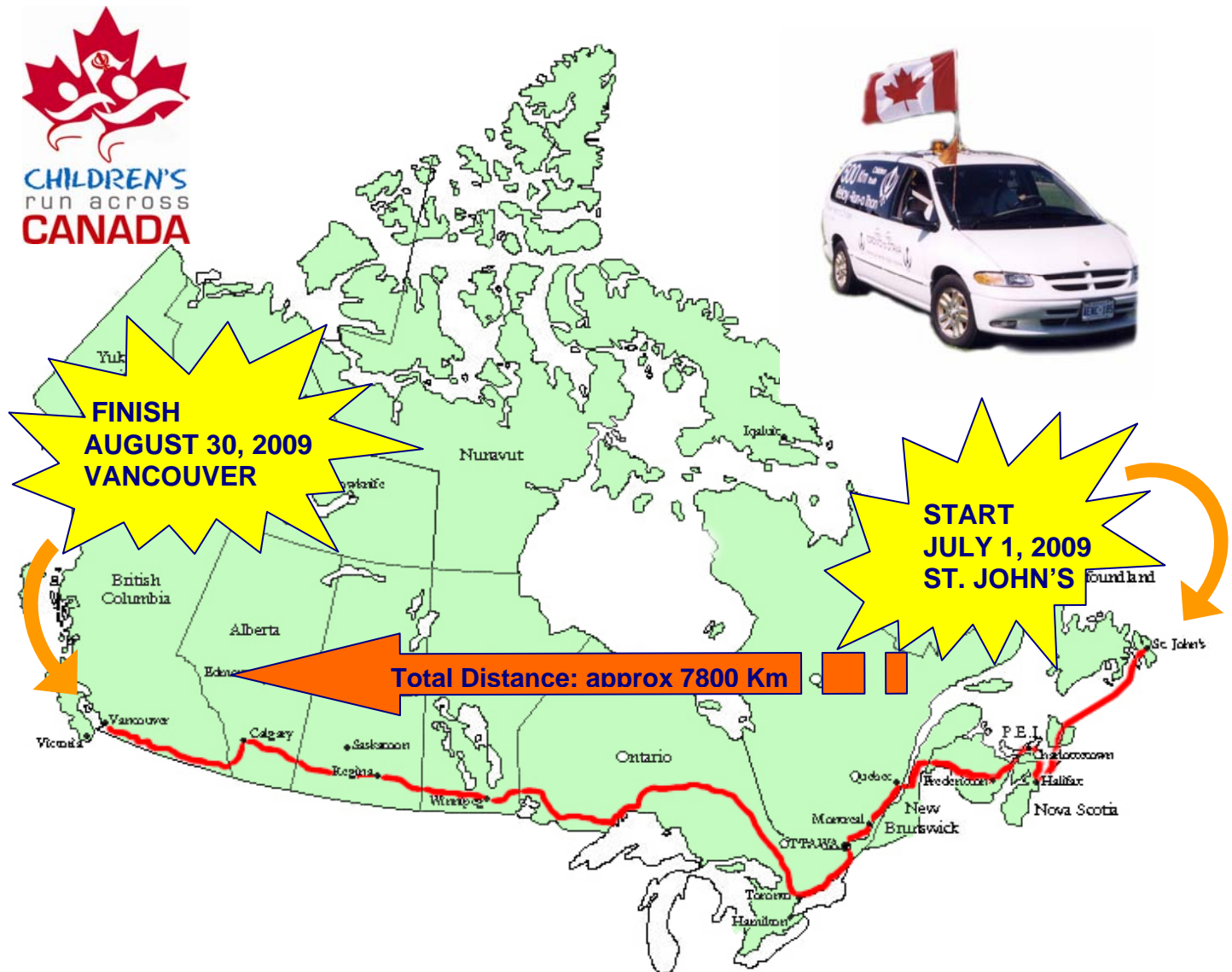


Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

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CHILDREN'S RUN ACROSS CANADA

With less than a year to go the GGSCF volunteers are actively planning the Children's run across Canada. The name of run was picked by the Board and a logo, developed by Kanwal, has been established for the run. The route has been chalked out from St. John's to Vancouver through Google maps by Amanjit. Initial contact for permits has been established by Inderpal. Gagandeep has established initial contact with hospitals and while she goes to New York for her university course the work is now being done by Bineesh. A sponsorship package has been prepared to seek financial support from corporations, businesses, organizations and institutions.



Sophia has developed pledge sheets that are now being used to collect pledges and donations. Sarita has been charged with forming a web team for the run to manage the existing web site and develop a new site for the run. The running part of the event and these are being lead by:

East Team – Mandeep and Inderpal
 Centre Team – Gagandeep and Sidd
 West Team – Amritvir and Harjot

Some teams are still be set up to handle other portions of the run so if any one still wants to help please come along to the monthly meetings.

While plans for the run are underway, we would like to summarize some of the key points of the run in this newsletter so that all the readers understand the background.

1. The run will happen in 2009 and will start at St. Johns and finish in Vancouver at the dates mentioned on the map.
2. The run will be in a relay format and will be one continuous journey from east to west.
3. The runners and volunteers will be picked before the event based on ability, participation and discipline. This is to address safety issues and for participants to be aware of the risks associated with this type of project.
4. Attempts will be made to allow maximum participation while maintaining safety and security as much as possible.

Sponsorship Opportunities

The following levels of sponsorship are outlined in a sponsorship package that can be viewed or even printed from the web site:

Diamond	\$50,000
Platinum	\$25,000
Gold	\$10,000
Silver	\$5,000
Bronze	\$2,500
Individual Patrons	\$1,000

If you would like to sponsor this event or have a contact or know of organization that would be willing to support this event, please contact Harjot 416-806-4275. Opportunities at the top levels is limited and is on a first come basis.

Cause

The target to collect \$110,000 in pledges/donations before the runs starts. The cause is to donate these funds to children's hospitals across Canada, infact \$10,000 to a hospital in each Province. The remaining will be used to help children with a school or related project in a developing country through Plan Canada. Communications with target hospitals is presently underway.

Pledges/Donations

Presently we have started collecting pledges and if people want to donate this year we will collect these funds as well. Pledges are preferred as we are not presently able to identify to the donor the specific hospitals that would receive the funds. Sophia 647-299-4214 is keeping track of the pledges so if you have any please let her know.

Website

A new website specific to the run is being developed by Sarita, Kanwal, Paneet and Jasjit. Previous run clips have also be loaded onto UTube with shabads by Jasjit so check them out.

LAUNCH OF THE RUN



On the evening of August 30th, a kirtan darbar was held to launch the "Children's run across Canada". About hundred people turned out to find out more about the event, some for the first time and some who have been with the GGSCF for years. Kirtan and an ardas was performed by children asking Guruji's blessing to fulfill this event. The *Hukamnama* taken during the ceremony was the same as that received at the start of the 1999 run from Toronto to Ottawa.



Although no one from the media was able to come, representatives from Gursikh Sabha Canada (Ajmer Singh Brar), Ontario Khalsa Darbar (Kuldip Singh Lachhar) and the Sikh Heritage Centre (Sher Daljit Singh Gill) were present to support the children/youth. Although no politicians were invited Navdeep Singh Bains, MP also attended and offered his support.



Although this is a unique event and we would like everyone to participate, the GGSCF would like to point out that there is risk associated with a road run and participants would have to sign a waver. For this reason those wanting to run have to come out to practice sessions at times/dates shown on website. This is because all those participating have to be fit and able to run 1km in about 5 minutes. Like any major event there is a lot of preparation involved and those wanting to take part have to be committed and disciplined.

CANADA DAY



The turnout for this year's Canada Day parade was excellent as more participants from the GGSCF took part than ever before. It was a great day handing out candy and balloons to younger children along the route. Some of the older participants performed bhangara and the more skilled performed gathka. With the nice day the streets were packed with spectators all the way along Brimley Road from Ellesmere to Lawrence.

SENIOR'S TRIP

On Saturday July 19th, 164 seniors from across Toronto went on the annual seniors trip. This year the place chosen was Niagara Falls which was last visited in 2005. In 2006 the trip was to Peterborough and in 2007 to Crawford Lake but by popular demand this year was a return trip to the world famous Niagara Falls. Two school buses went from Scarborough Gurdwara and two from the Sikh Heritage Centre in Brampton with a pickup also at Dixie Gurdwara. Food was made by the 22 volunteers starting at 6am in the morning before packaging it all for a lunch at the Floral Clock.



After lunch there was a tour around the Falls before having tea at Brock Memorial Park at Queenston Heights. The day was cut short by an hour or so because of rain as it has been a wet summer. The GGSCF thanked all the seniors who took part and in particular honoured the memory of Pritam Singh who passed away last fall by presenting a picture to his son Gurdial Singh Channa. The seniors expressed their wishes that children learn and speak Punjabi. The GGSCF youth asked for the help of the seniors in their upcoming event next year to run across Canada.

CAN SIKH TOURNAMENT



The CanSikh tournament at Malton again supported the GGSCF in collecting change. In total, \$7000 was raised over two days (July 12th/13th). Volunteers served food at the tournament while the crowds enjoyed sports and in particular the kabaddi tournament. We also like to thank Juiher Singh who talked with us about the work the foundation does and agreed to support two children on a monthly basis. Jagdish Singh was also there with his son Hardeep who sometimes single handily carry out this collection. Thanks to all those who donated and collect change over the course of the year with a view to donating it at this tournament.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



On July 20th, the GGSCF and G.S.United Soccer Club volunteers had a joint boat cruise around the Toronto waterfront in appreciation of all the volunteers who help out with both organizations.

G.S.United's coaches, referees, field support personal and the club executive have had a successful year and it was good to be able to acknowledge this as well as welcome all of the volunteers to get involved in the Children's run across Canada in 2009. The volunteers enjoyed music, games, the Toronto skyline while enjoying a Indian buffet. The weather was wet but this did not dampen the spirits of all those who came out to have a good time.

The volunteers were also acknowledged at the soccer club awards held on August 21st. Enough cannot be said about these young volunteers as the club would not exist without them. Next year will also be a challenge for the soccer club as most of the core leadership group is also involved with the Children's run across Canada and so the season may have to



be postponed if enough new people do not come forward. Those not involved in the run are asked to help out and sign up for 2009 by October 31st and attend a meeting on November 1st to make a decision for next year. More information is available on the soccer club website. In any event, the club will be back in 2010.

GGSCF would also like to congratulate Birinder Singh Atwal (BA) who has two news members in his family, twins Manveer and Maneet born on June 18th. Also congratulations to two long term volunteers with the GGSCF Balraj Singh Dhillon and Sandeep Kaur Shako who tied the knot on August 2nd at Scarborough Gurdwara.

NAVJIVINI APPEAL



Inderpal hosted the "New Life Evening" program at Chandni Banquet Hall on August 20th. The evening was to provide information about the Navjivini School of Special Education and the important work it does for children/youth with mental disability. The GGSCF supports 40 children at this school located in Patiala, Punjab. Dr. Sodhi who has given 25 years of voluntary service to this institution flew in from India at his own expense to highlight the needs of the school. The evening was promoted by Baltej Singh Pannu who also arranged for two radio-thons with Kuldip Deepak's Punjab Di Goonj and Ravinder Pannu's SurSagar radio/TV program.

The request by Baltej was not to give money but come to see the school when you next visit India. Baltej said that you will be impressed by the work being done and then you can make up your own mind if you wish to support the cause. The address of the organization for those wishing to visit is:

Navjivini School, Sular, Patiala, Punjab 147001, India

Kirpa who has visited the school said what she liked most is that the school gives opportunity to children who otherwise would have none. It teaches them life skills, helping around the house, looking after oneself, making candles, learning music and dance skills which many of us who are able take for granted. Dr. Sodhi explained how parents who are distraught when a mentally handicap child is born and need help as they have no place to turn too. The school provides training to these parents and to the children so that they can cope in life. The school is expanding trying to meet the growing needs and that is why both had come to Canada to solicit support.

The GGSCF presented small tokens of appreciation to both Dr. Sodhi and Baltej for their commitment to making the lives of children in need better.



The GGSCF would also like to thank East Metal Products owners Ajmer and Baldev Singh Sidhu who kindly opened their offices and phone lines to make the radio-thons possible. The three events (banquet hall program and radio-thons) resulted in total pledges of \$22,059 and requests to support 74 children from the school. The pledges and sponsorships are being collected by the GGSCF volunteers.



EDITOR - Paramjit Singh

Things are finally moving along with the run that will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the GGSCF and also with the grace of WaheGuru be a milestone in terms of achievement for all those associated with the GGSCF. It is a huge undertaking, almost half the newsletter is sharing this news with all of you. For the event to be successful will mean all of us rallying behind our children/youth as it is a fete many would think twice about trying. Many ask the question why this run, what does it achieve? I think the answer is different for each one of us, for some the run is exciting, it is unique, for others it is a personal challenge, or the living of a dream all Canadians have after seeing Terry Fox show us what we are capable of when we put our mind to something, for others it is carrying the Nishan Sahib, or spreading awareness of Sikhi across Canada, releasing the energy of children/youth, or a way of developing ourselves and also the leaders of tomorrow, for others it is instilling the sense to team work which is sometimes lacked in our often fragmented community, or for us to be proud of our heritage, to give to those in need, to experience the vastness of our country, the environment that we need to save or being just so proud to be Canadian. Whatever the reason, it's good for all of us to share in making this dream a reality.

Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

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