

Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

Issue 24

January 2009

CHILDREN'S RUN ACROSS CANADA



To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the GGSCF plans are well underway with this year's "Children's Run Across Canada" that will take place from July 1st start at St. John's in Newfoundland and finishing on August 30th in Vancouver, BC.

In September the route to the east was checked out by volunteers. During this time contact was also made with the Gurdwaras in St. John's and Maritime Sikh Society in Halifax.

In October volunteers also drove west to Vancouver and along the way met representatives from Gurdwaras in Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary and also Vancouver. All of the Sikh met were very supportive and very kind to the volunteers. Input to the run was received from local representatives. From the findings of the journey along the route more detailed information was presented to the police and permitting authorities in November. A detailed itinerary of the event is given in this newsletter for those interested in knowing where the runners will be at various times during the summer.

Fund raising efforts also started with a mural in Scarborough Gurdwara. On this mural a \$20 donation towards the run means one piece of the mural will be placed. We hope to have murals in other Gurdwaras also.

The response for corporate/business sponsorship has been slow since the sponsorship package was released at the end of August. This is really because of the economy and recession. The GGSCF has set a target of the end of January 2009 for sponsorships so that there is adequate time to plan and print material for the sponsors that able to commit support.

Practice runs were also held during the fall and quite a few youth have volunteered to run but there are still spots available. The best way to get involved is come out to the GGSCF monthly meeting. More practice runs will be held in the spring once the weather improves.

GURU NANAK FOOD DRIVE



This year the 7th Annual Guru Nanak Food Drive was held from November 9th to 20th. More Gurdwaras than ever before took part, total 16 as listed below:

BRAMPTON

Gurdwara Damesh Darbar (Ebenezer), Gurdwara Jot Parkash Sahib (SunPac), Sri Guru Nanak Centre (Glidden), Sikh Heritage Centre (Mayfield)

MISSISSAUGA

Ontario Khalsa Darbar (Dixie), Sri Guru Singh Sabha (Malton), Shromani Sikh Sangat (Dunwin)

TORONTO

Gursikh Sabha Canada (Scarborough), Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple (Etobicoke), North York Sikh Temple, Ramgarhia Sikh Society (Rivalda), Rexdale Singh Sabha (Baywood), Shromani Sikh Sangat (Pape), Sri Guru Singh Sabha (Weston)

HALTON

Guru Ravidas Sahib (Burlington), Halton Sikh Cultural Ass. (Oakville)

We would like to thank the sangat who supports this event each year and all the Gurdwaras above who allow us to organize this event. In total 6800 lbs of food was collected and donated to the Toronto Daily Bread Food Bank.



ROUTE AND ITINERARY



Route identified above. Itinerary identified below:

Date	Province	Daily start from	Major Cities
July 1 st -Wed	Newfoundland	St. John's	
July 2 nd - Thu	Ferry	Argentia	
July 3 rd - Fri	Nova Scotia	North Sydney	
July 4 th - Sat		Port Hawkesbury	
July 5 th - Sun		-	Halifax
July 6 th - Mon	PEI	Pictou	Charlottetown
July 7 th - Tue	New Brunswick	Borden Carleton	Moncton
July 8 th - Wed		New Canaan	Oromocto
July 9 th - Thu		Fredericton	
July 10 th - Fri		Upper Kent	Edmunston
July 11 th - Sat	Québec	St. Hilaire	
July 12 th - Sun		St. André	Montmagny
July 13 th - Mon		Saint-Michel	Québec
July 14 th - Tue		Batiscan	Trois-Rivières
July 15 th - Wed		Saint-Sulpice	Montréal
July 16 th - Thu		-	Montréal
July 17 th - Fri		Carillon	
July 18 th - Sat	Ontario	Ottawa	
July 19 th - Sun		Brockville	Kingston
July 20 th - Mon		Shannonville	Belleville
July 21 st - Tue		Bowmanville	Toronto
July 22 nd - Wed		-	Toronto
July 23 rd - Thu		Newmarket	Barrie
July 24 th - Fri		South Bay	Parry Sound
July 25 th - Sat		Magnetewan 1	Sudbury
July 26 th - Sun		Naughton	
July 27 th - Mon		Algoma Mills	
July 28 th - Tue		Sault Ste. Marie	
July 29 th - Wed		Montréal River	
July 30 th - Thu		N. of Wawa	
July 31 st - Fri		Pringle	
August 1 st - Sat		Selim	
August 2 nd - Sun		Bowker	Thunder Bay
August 3 rd - Mon		Shebaqua Corners	

August 4 th - Tue		Martin	
August 5 th - Wed		Dinorwic	
August 6 th - Thu	Manitoba	E. of Kenora	Kenora
August 7 th - Fri		McMunn	
August 8 th - Sat		East of Winnipeg	Winnipeg
August 9 th - Sun		Portage-la-Prairie	
August 10 th - Mon		N. of Brandon	
August 11 th - Tue	Saskatchewan	Fleming	
August 12 th - Wed		Grenfell	
August 13 th - Thu		Regina	Moose Jaw
August 14 th - Fri		Parkbeg	
August 15 th - Sat		Swift Current	
August 16 th - Sun	Alberta	N. of Maple Creek	Medicine Hat
August 17 th - Mon		Suffield	
August 18 th - Tue		Bassano	Calgary
August 19 th - Wed		-	Calgary
August 20 th - Thu		Calgary	
August 21 st - Fri	B.C.	Canmore	Banff
August 22 nd - Sat		Field	Golden
August 23 rd - Sun		E. of Rogers	
August 24 th - Mon		Revelstoke	
August 25 th - Tue		Salmon Arm	
August 26 th - Wed		Dallas	Kamloops
August 27 th - Thu		Merrit	
August 28 th - Fri		Othello	Hope
August 29 th - Sat		Abbotsford	Langley
August 30 th - Sun		Surrey	Vancouver

For those of you who want even more detail you can find all this information and more on the new GGSCF web site for the run. The site has this itinerary but is also linked to Google maps so that you can view the daily route and also zoom in and see the route street by street. All this is subject to change but will give most an idea of where the run will be taking part and on which days. Some days are identified as "no run" days in major cities. This is to allow time to meet the local sangat and or to be used to make up for weather delays.

ON-LINE DONATIONS

To make fund raising easier and to allow everyone to get involved the run web site allows for on-line donations to be made through Pay-Pal which provides a professional and secure way on making donations using major credit cards. Now you can send a email to friends and relatives with a link to the web site so that if they want to support the event they can donate on-line right from home. Tax receipts will be issued by the GGSCF for these on-line donations.

VOLUNTEER PROFILES

Many people ask who is organizing the run, yes the GGSCF but who is volunteering and running. The new web site allows the volunteers to submit information and a photo of themselves so that you can see that the people taking part in this event are ordinary people like you and me. You can see what school they go to where they work, what they like and what motivates them. During the run we will be keeping profiles of all the runners along the way so that any child can be a part of the run provided it is safe for them to run.

SIKHS ACROSS CANADA HELPING



Above our volunteers who checked the route to the east. Below is them meeting the Maritime Sikh Society Committee in Halifax.



On the journey out west below is the meeting with representatives of the Regina Gurdwara Committee.



Also met representatives from Calgary youth who suggested many improvements for the event. In Vancouver volunteers have formed a local group to promote and organize the final leg of the event and its finish in Stanley Park.



WORLD HARMONY RUN



On September 21st many children/youth ran with the volunteers of the World Harmony Run along Middlefield Road in Scarborough. This run is carried out in 100 countries each year as a way to bring harmony and peace. The GGSCF participants got to run with the torch and were met by the Mayor of Markham when they arrived at Scarborough Gurdwara. The Mayor said very positive words on the need for these types of events to bring the world together and complemented the international team of runners as they make their way across Canada.



GURDWARA VISITORS

November 8th saw visitors to the Gurdwara from a Bible college. They met with GGSCF volunteers and were shown around the Gurdwara. The question and answer session was interesting as they tried to understand Sikhism and our beliefs. They also took part in taking langar which they enjoyed immensely.

FRED VICTOR CENTRE

This year trips to provide free hot meals to those who are homeless or on low income started again on October 26th. The meals are served at the Fred Victor Centre at Queen/Jarvis in downtown Toronto. The program means once a month youth prepare food and take it downtown to serve. The program will run for six months until the end of March 2009. A good experience for all those taking part and a helping hand to those in need which sometimes includes students.

GURU NANAK WALK



On Saturday October 19th many children/youth enjoyed the fall colours and the scenic walk along Etobicoke Creek. The trip was arranged by Jagdeep Singh who checked out the route before hand and advertised the event. Also we should mention Pavan Kaur who is a new attendee at the meetings in Scarborough as she brought out a bus full of kids and parents from Ramgarhia Gurdwara.

GURU NANAK FUND

The GGSCF had an offer from a special individual who wants to donate a large sum of money to be used as loans to Sikh students in colleges and universities during the hard times that are upon us with the economic recession that we find our selves in. He asked volunteers from the GGSCF to set up administration of such a fund and named after our founding Guru as it was on Gurburab November 13th that this call came to him while listening to kirtan. As we work out the details we will update you on this in the upcoming issues.

MUMBAI VIGIL



The Canada India Foundation held a candle light vigil for the 185 people who lost their lives to the terrorist attacked in Mumbai. The vigil was held at the International Centre on December 7th with about 70 organizations from across all faiths who took part. Paneet Kaur Gill our young volunteer from Mississauga spoke at the event on behalf of Sikh children at the impact these atrocities have on all of us asked the leaders/adults to work together to make this a better and safer world for children, as she mentioned she can think of no cause or reason that justifies take the lives of innocent victims in particular children.

SENECA SAS RAISE FUNDS



On Guru Nanak Dev ji's gurburab, the South Asian Society (SAS) at Seneca College held a fundraiser to help support the GGSCF. A booth was set up in the student centre which focused on the Children's Run Across Canada and what the GGSCF was about. The SAS sold samosa's for \$1 each and collected over \$200 which was donated towards the run. On Diwali they also held a similar event with all proceeds going towards the GGSCF.

DISNEY ON ICE

This years skating trip to Nathan Philips Square on December 27th was to be made more special with the visit to the Disney on Ice show at the Rogers Centre. However due to record warm temperatures 10°C the skating trip had to be cancelled but the show was still great. We would also like acknowledge Roma Kaur who managed to get tickets at a special price for the GGSCF.

COUNCIL UPDATE



Founding Board member Inderpal Kaur Wig was requested to serve on the Council of the GGSCF by the present Board. Inderpal has always been active sometimes right at the front like this year she was the MC at the Navjivini Dinner this past August, but most of the time in the background like working with the Run Across Canada this year.

We are glad she has accepted and we know she will contribute immensely to the GGSCF being a life time commitment

EDITOR - Paramjit Singh

It was on the steps of Parliament Hill on July 17, 1999 at the completion of the Toronto to Ottawa relay run that the children and youth spoke about running across Canada. It is a dream for many Canadian who are inspired by Canadian heroes like Terry Fox who undertook the challenge in 1980. He showed us what the human spirit is capable of if there is focus on a cause and purpose.

Well this year children and youth plan to live up to the dream by taking part in a relay run across Canada from the waters of the Atlantic to the Pacific some 7000+ km. The journey is not easy but then that is the challenge that will test spirit and resolve of the participants, the organizers and even the whole community.

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