

Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

Issue 9

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA !



Everyone celebrates Canada Day in his or her own way, and this year, the GGSCF celebrated Canada Day with the City of Scarborough! Thanks to city councillor Mr. Bas Balkissoon, the GGSCF was informed about and invited to participate in the annual Canada Day Parade on July 1, 2003 from Scarborough City Centre to Thompson Park. Some 33 children, youth, and adults from the Foundation, celebrated Canada's Birthday, and our diversity by walking amongst hundreds of other proud Canadians of all cultures and backgrounds. It was a great learning experience for the GGSCF, and it felt even more wonderful being recognized by the public along the way especially to the beating of the drum played by Saranpal Singh who as you can imagine was exhausted by the end of the parade. The former Mayor of Chandigarh, Harjinder Kaur who was visiting Canada also briefly met the children before the parade.

A "ROYAL" TRIP!

Amritvir Kaur Bhangoo



The young and not-so-young were all treated to a Royal trip during the infamous week of March Break, on Wednesday March 12, 2003. Almost 80 children and youth went on an educational trip to the Royal Ontario Museum to learn about, well, just about anything from insects to Dinosaurs and cultures all around the world! Buses were loaded up with young scholars from Sikh Heritage Centre, Ontario

Khalsa Darbar, and Gursikh Sabha Canada at 9:30am sharp, thanks to everyone being right on time, and even early! Talk about being eager to learn! Not only was everyone eager, but very well behaved, as everyone went around the Museum, learning and exploring on their own in small groups. We had such a wonderful group, that during lunch, some even gave up their tables for the pre-schoolers to sit down and eat. Even our bus driver was grateful when everyone thanked him, and he enjoyed having the kids on the bus. All in all, everyone really enjoyed the trip, and were looking forward to the next event! A special thanks to Gary Singh whose donation helped to cover the cost of the tickets, and to the organizers, Nimratvir Kaur and Onkar Singh, for helping to put it all together.

PROJECTS! PROJECTS!!

Amee Kaur Walia

March break for the kids of GGSCF was all about learning indeed! On March 16th, 2003, a managing projects information seminar was held at the GGSCF portable. The session was conducted by Sidd Nijhawan and was aimed at educating the youth on how to better prepare and carry out projects of different sizes. The session began with an activity designed to familiarize the youth with each other. Next, each individual began to brainstorm about a possible project that they might want to lead in the future. Strategies were taught on how to carry out each project in order to make it a success.



During the break, the youth were treated to delicious pizza provided by the organizers and a brain-teasing problem given by Sidd. By the end of the session, every individual had a greater understanding of the work required in order to successfully carry out a project. Furthermore, each individual had his or her own project planned out. I believe this session has provided the youth with valuable knowledge that will aid them in the future. Thank you to everyone who made it possible!

THREE STRIKES & A TURKEY?

Ranvir Kaur

Not baseball and Thanksgiving, I'm talking about BOWLING!!! On Saturday, March 29th a group of youth from the GGSCF had a whole lot of fun when we went bowling at the Kennedy Bowlerama. Of course, you could tell right away that most of us didn't know how to bowl, but we had fun just letting the ball go, and not even hit one of the pins. During the two hours or so that we were there, some of us did pick up some pointers, and actually got a few strikes. The youngest bowlers we had were 5 years old, and they were getting more strikes by pushing the ball down the aisle, than some of the older bowlers we had. And then there was Sidd, who bowled 3 strikes in a row and got a Turkey on the screen! Personally, I thought I wasn't going to get a strike, but on my second shot, I did get a strike, which was so awesome!!! I thought that this trip was fun because I got to learn how to play and throw the bowling ball. If

there was another trip like this, then I would definitely go to it! From everyone who went to the trip, a big thank you to Jaspreet Kaur Flora (13), who organized the entire trip and also managed to collect funds for the GGSCF. Time to plan the next one Jaspreet!



BAISAKHI FOOD DRIVE

Gurjit Kaur Flora

The annual Baisakhi Food Drive was launched again this year on April 14, 2003 from the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation. The food drive started on the April 14th at Gursikh Sabha Canada, and continued on until the Nagar Kirtan on April 27th. On April 14th, to launch the food drive, a booth was set up by the youth at Gursikh Sabha Canada. There were display boards and 8 to 10 youth volunteers, collecting donations, and informing the sangat about the food drive, and the general efforts of the foundation.

On the morning of the Nagar Kirtan, a group of youth and volunteers collected more food at the CNE grounds. At CNE, Kimpreet, Gurnick, Taranpreet, Jaspreet, Amrit, Ramesh, Raju, Parmjit, Itasha, and I helped out with the set-up of the booth (that people were taking pictures off), and manned the booth for the duration of the program at CNE. This year, due to organizers' request, a booth was also set up at City Hall where Parmjit and Gurnick helped out as well. At the end of the program, all the food collected was packed into a van and the youth were able to participate in the walk from CNE to City Hall. A total of 1947 pounds of food was donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank on behalf of the Sikh Community. We would like to thank all of those who contributed to the Food Drive, whether it be the volunteers or the donators, because without you, this would not have been possible!

ANOTHER 1767 STEPS!



On April 26, 2003 once again 123 children, youth and parents huffed and puffed their way up the stairs of the CN Tower. In total \$3133 was received by the World Wildlife Fund from the group. Councillor Balkissoon also attended the event and received an award in recognition for his help in plans to expand Scarborough Gurdwara where the GGSCF Branch 0303 is located.

DRIBBLING FOR GGSCF!



GGSCF Branch 0302 at the Sikh Heritage Centre organized a basketball tournament on March 30, 2003. The event was lead by Taranpreet Kaur Billing and Panveer Singh Lachhar and was held at Brampton High School Gym. There were a couple of hundred participants as teams had mini tournaments for girls and boys from the ages of 12 years to university students. Registration from the event raised about \$200 for the children the GGSCF sponsors proving you can have fun and help others.

SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

The charity presently supports 72 children in developing countries around the world through the following charities.

- Foster Parents Plan (35 children)
- Joti Saroop Kanaya Aasra Trust (14 children)
- Vocational Rehabilitation Training Centre (14 children)
- SOS Children's Villages (5 children)
- World Vision (4 children)

During the March break children wrote to the children sponsored by the GGSCF. The children sponsored often write letters and send pictures. This year Manpreet Kaur has been sending birthday cards to some of the children. The children below sent personal letters and some drawing pictures to the younger sponsored children.



Also starting in October 2003 the GGSCF will have in place a program for the automatic monthly electronic transfer of donations from contributors. This will permit anyone to donate or to support a child or children on a monthly base. Manpreet Kaur Jaswal who has set up the system with Scotiabank is pleased with the testing and training that the GGSCF has had to undergo. She points out some donors have been willing to partake in the program for a long time but getting permission from the bank and learning the software has taken time and she thanks everyone for their patience.

For those who want to contribute on a monthly basis starting from even as little as \$10/month and even less for children/youth please contact any of the volunteers, or leave us your phone number on the GGSCF phone line so that we may contact you or you may print the forms from the ggscf web site and mail them in with a void cheque. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations in January for the proceeding year's donation.

SENIORS TRIP TO NIAGARA FALLS



Children from the GGSCF took 120 seniors from ages of 60 to 92 years of age to Niagara Falls on Saturday July 19, 2003. Three buses went with 20 volunteers and the seniors from Brampton, Mississauga, Rexdale, Scarborough and Toronto. The seniors visited the Floral Clock, the Falls and Brock Heights Park. They were treated to langar and tea. The men played cards and the women enjoyed some gidha. It was a really good day and much enjoyed by all.



Although the trip was partly paid by the seniors themselves, most of the money was collected by two car washes that the children held on May and June. Jasjit and Amanjit who helped plan the trip and the car washes were happy with the outcome but wanted to have the seniors play bingo for some prizes but this was cancelled as there was not sufficient time. Nimratvir and Amritvir made the arrangements from the Sikh Heritage Center Gurdawara and Hardeep made the arrangements for those from Rexdale Gurdawara.



CHILDREN'S FUN DAY

After last year's fun day for children this year was even bigger and better. Some 600+ people attended the event on August 3rd and even though the weather left a lot to be desired, it did not dampen the spirits of all those who came out and had "Fun" at Bhagat Puran Singh Park. There were so many things going on that it may be hard to recall them all. The event focused on children from the ages of 4 years to 14 years but even older children and parents were having fun. There were sack races, tug-of-war, obstacle course, balloon tossing, tim-bits speed eating contest, horse and pony rides, soccer shooting, basketball shooting, jumping castle, mehndi painting, gladiator pit, a golf driving range for the young and adults. Most popular of all as usual was the dunking machine.



Apart from the events there was great food including "gol-guppas", snow drinks and no children event would be complete without pizza. In total just over \$2100 was raised for the GGSCF from the event and this was made possible when Gursikh Sabha Canada agreed to sponsor the event with a \$2000 donation that helped cover most of the cost of renting equipment.

The CanSikh organization from the Sikh Heritage Center also came to the event and donated a plaque to the GGSCF for its work towards the children in the community. The GGSCF would like to acknowledge the support of everyone who came out to support the event and both Scarborough Gurdwara and the Sikh Heritage Center Gurdawara.

SPECIAL AWARDS TO GGSCF KIDS

Although the children and youth with the GGSCF help out with community work it is a special treat when they are recognized for their community work by other organizations. Two children won these awards and GGSCF extend its congratulations to this well deserved recognition for both individuals.

Amanjit Singh Dhillon, a Grade 5 student received the Town of Markham, Mayor's Youth Task Force Award on May 4th at Markville Shopping Centre. He was recommended by his school based on his volunteering work both at the school and in the community most of this being with the GGSCF. He also received a cheque for \$150 that he donated to the GGSCF.

Chiranjeev Singh, a Grade 8 student received the Max Denis Junior School \$100 bursary for the contribution of 126 hours of voluntary work towards the Royal St. George College Community Services Program. He also donated the bursary to the GGSCF.



In addition to individuals the Gursikh Sabha Soccer Club representatives Sidd Nijhawan and Brinder Atwal presented a plaque to the GGSCF for the help and support to the club throughout the year. The award was accepted by Gurjit Kaur Flora for the GGSCF.

RUN-WALK CHALLENGE



Over 200 children, youth and parents participated in the Run-Walk challenge held at York University on August 17, 2003. The two day event was changed to a one day event due to the power outage that occurred in Ontario and parts of the US. The event had individuals and teams just walk, run and compete to keep going around the excellent athletic track.

Once again the event was sponsored by Scotiabank and the Manager of Westwood Mall Branch Nahed Daudi came out to support the children and youth. About \$10,700 was raised from the event from donations and pledges collected by the participants.



Awards were presented to all the participants and special recognition was given to those who were the youngest, those who spent the most time on the track walking/running and those who collected the most pledges.

2002 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For those interested in the finances of the GGSCF these can be viewed on the web site. The 2002 financial statement have been prepared by an accountant this year and is also posted on the web site. Questions on the finances are always welcome.

FAUJA SINGH'S MARATHON RUN

There is probably not a person who did not hear about Fauja Singh's achievement on September 28, 2003 when he ran in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. At the age of 93 years he broke the 6 hour time mark for his age category by completing the marathon in 5 hours 40 minutes and 1.6 seconds.



He caught the hearts and minds of not only Sikhs but also all the people who were there on that day as they cheered him to the finish. Fauja Singh who lives in England and stayed here with his relatives the Dhindsa family in Woodbridge, ran for the GGSCF after Scotiabank who sponsored his trip to Canada request that he would like to run for a children's charity. The GGSCF also entered some participants in the 5 km run event.



On October 4, 2003 monthly meeting the children and youth with the GGSCF met Fauja Singh and the Dhindsa family as well as the Race Director Alan Brookes. The GGSCF thanked all these individuals and presented them with awards to remember the occasion.

EDITOR - Inderpal Kaur Wig

Things have been busy this year and although it was the goal to bring out three issues this year, we may have to wait for this. The year has been successful with a new branch established in Brampton that needs support because the children running it are young, but their hearts are in the right place and they will be successful in time. The GGSCF also went out to York University with its main event for the year and although the numbers were lower than last year there was participation from the other members not just the Sikh community. The participation by Fauja Singh was great as he inspired all the children and youth to live life and challenge one self. The GGSCF has managed to grow little by little and with WaheGuru's blessing maybe in times to come it will shine Guru-ji name across the world.

Just a reminder all the newsletters are on the web site. So if you have lost a copy or want to see yourself in a past event photo you can view this anytime. Submissions from children and youth organizers or participants are always welcome.

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