

Sikh ceremony for Georgetown's Anita

# An extraordinary marriage in Stewarttown

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

If the walls of the Esqueving community hall in Stewarttown could talk, they would have had a conference Saturday night.

Just hours earlier, a traditional Sikh wedding had taken place there. The ceiling, which has echoed some pretty lively township council meetings in the past, was decorated with festive streamers; dozens of tiny rugs covered the floor where, normally, square dancers swirl and wolf cub "pack."

While East Indian cooking waited in from the building's ante rooms, Anita Kalsi, a Pennington Crescent (Georgetown) resident, married Amarjit Singh Dhanjal of Mississauga, ending a four-month courtship still quite

unique in western culture. Even for many of the Indian youngsters among the 50 or so wedding guests, it was the first time they had seen the brief, casual ceremony. This was certainly the case for Rattan Singh and Jean Kalsi's other five children.

Although lunch was served following the ceremony, Sikhs customarily hold the reception before the wedding starts. Guests, their shoes removed and their heads covered, circled around a table laden with traditional East Indian diet-breakers, sweets separated into the green and white "ladoo" and "barfi". Noodles and lentils and the Indian "Matthi" (cookie) complemented this pre-wedding brunch. As guests padded into the hall, four priests supplied a traditional musical accompan-

ment — undulating notes and a slow musical rhythm. The head priest, the "granthi", chanted pensively in the middle of the floor near the stage. Already, money had begun to accumulate between the priest and the spot where the wedding couple would sit.

The ceremony itself is soothing and uncomplicated, lasting not much more than 45 minutes. There are several prayers said by the priest and guests; the issue of the marriage is uncluttered by religious dogma and, even in the solemnity of ancient tradition, the atmosphere was relaxed enough to allow family photographers to move around freely.

The bride and groom rose four times to circle the Holy Book, which contains the teachings of the religion's last ten great gurus, killed about 500

years ago while India was under a Moslem tyranny. Their are no more gurus for the sikhs, and for orthodox members, the Book is their Bible, providing not only spiritual inspiration but guidelines for conducting one's daily life.

On the fourth circuit, Amarjit and Anita were greeted with a loud cheer from friends and family. They were showered in marigold petals and confetti, returning to their places before the priest a newly-married couple.

But the ceremony wasn't necessarily finished with the fourth stroll around the Holy Book. After they sat down, Amarjit and Anita were draped with garlands — traditionally real flowers were used, but modern times have turned these into paper — and relatives and friends dropped money and sweets into cloth baskets in their laps.

At the same time, two of the granthis moved into the crowd, conducting a kind of "Holy Communion", serving each guest a ball of warm, buttery-sweet "parshad".

Even after lunch, the marriage still had a couple of steps to go before the couple was finally on its own. This was the "doli" period and involves liberal gift exchanges between the families of the bride and groom. It also separates the wedding couple for a short time — usually about a day — before they head off for their honeymoon.

And where will the new Dhanjals spend their nuptial vacation? Well, they spent one day in Niagara Falls over the weekend, but, as of presstime, they will be probably with friends in Montreal.



Following a fourth march around the priest's or "granthi's" Holy Book, the wedding couple are officially married. And as Amarjit and his new wife, Anita, pass by well-wishers, they are by showered by marigold petals and confetti. When they re-seat themselves before the priest, the couple receives "parshad"—a wheat pudding—along with other guests in the hall in a ritual somewhat similar to a Christian Holy Communion.

(Herald photo)

## An Indian touch to Royal Wedding week

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1981

## DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN

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FREE PARKING



## BEATING THE HEAT

Tossing water balloons to each other is only one of the many ways kids have adults beat at keeping cool during the hot summer days. These children are participating in the sports camp sponsored by the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department. With a little help from their leaders, the children found

various ways to beat the summer heat including tossing water-filled balloons and going for a dip in the pool. More about how Halton Hills children have been keeping busy during the holidays inside:

(Herald photo)

## Opposition leader quizzes Varian staff, newsmen

# Joe Clark comes here looking for answers

By PAUL DORSEY  
Herald Special

It was a Joe Clark in search of answers who visited MP John McDermid's Conservative riding of Brampton-Georgetown Tuesday.

Free to the tour of Varian Canada Incorporated on River Drive which highlighted his visit here, the federal Opposition leader sat down for lunch with editors and publishers of several Halton and Peel newspapers, as well as cable television officials.

The Varian tour was one in a series of visits Mr. Clark is making this summer to high technology industries across Canada. Varian, his only stop in this riding, was expected to provide some suggestions for the development of such industries and the on-the-job training of skilled workers.

The pre-tour luncheon in Brampton was set up as a mutual get-acquainted session, according to Mr. McDermid, and Mr. Clark soon set aside his guests' questions to ask one himself.

"We're trying to get a handle on the impact of high interest rates at every level," he explained, asking the media representatives for their input and wondering aloud how the government might alleviate growing social problems seen as indirect results of international economic problems, from family break-ups to child beating.

Liberal Cabinet minister Allan MacGuigan told the House of Commons recently his government can do nothing about socioeconomic problems, Mr. Clark said, but the Conservative Opposition disagrees.

The media reps offered little in the way of hard facts, instead quizzing Mr. Clark about other national concerns, among them the postal strike, the recent pay raise which

MPs voted themselves, Monday's announcement about VIA Rail closures and the difficulties of home ownership.

"How can I tell my staff we can only afford to pay them so much when the MPs are getting a 31 per cent salary hike?" one publisher asked.

"It couldn't have come at a worse time."

While Mr. McDermid pointed out that the 31 per cent raise applies to the six-year period since MPs' salaries were last reviewed, Mr. Clark challenged the newsmen to suggest a better time for the move in the last two or three years. The Opposition leader said his party would prefer to see a commission set up similar to one operating successfully in Australia. Such an independent, "disinterested" body, he said, would align and review salaries of elected representatives and set dates for any increases.

Admitting that his explanation will "appeal to the reason" of the average taxpayer, though "not his emotion", Mr. Clark defended government salary hikes as a way of ensuring that "the right staff" can be hired and retained, and a way by which MPs can both maintain their quality of living and their interest in parliamentary duties without generally reverting to their more lucrative private professions.

For Mr. Clark, the ability to buy and maintain a home is a means by which Canadians can develop pride in themselves and then in Canada.

Any government action to increase that ability, he said, invites the taxpayer to participate in his country's economy and benefit from its growth.

Depleting the taxpayer's ability to buy a home, however, is the Liberal government's failure to give the

economy higher priority than the Constitution, energy and the so-called "north-south dialogue". Mr. Clark contended.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has nationwide rioting to worry about and U.S. President Ronald

Reagan is concerned over worldwide communism, he pointed out, but both are primarily concentrating on their respective economic problems.

Of the national strike by the Canadian Union of Postal

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Operations manager for Varian's electron device division Connell Smith shows federal Opposition leader Joe Clark some of the many telecommunications products the firm manufactures during Mr. Clark's brief visit to the Georgetown plant Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Clark is examining some samples of travelling wave tubes which are used in transmitting signals in communications systems. Mr. Clark toured the plant, chatting with various employees, and spoke with Mr. Smith. The Herald will carry additional news about Mr. Clark's visit in its Weekend Extra Friday.

## Social economy cheques available—letter carriers delivering today

Letter carriers and other non-striking postal workers in Acton and Georgetown are making special deliveries today (Wednesday) of all social economy cheques.

Family allowance, Canada Pension, Old Age Pension and superannuation cheques are being delivered throughout Halton Hills wherever possible. All urban delivery routes and rural routes are expected to be covered.

Georgetown letter carriers will be working out of the Norval postal station while striking inside workers picket the main post office at Maple Avenue and Guelph Street.

Residents using post office boxes in Georgetown can pick up their cheques at the Norval station from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 3:45 p.m. You are obliged to show proper identification. There is no phone at the Norval station, but more information can be obtained from the main post office at 877-2911.

In Acton, post office box users can pick up their cheques at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall off Mill Street today, Thursday and Friday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. After Friday, all cheques not collected will be forwarded to the federal Department of Supply and Service. Make inquiries at the Acton post office, 853-0410.

The nationwide strike by members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers is in its 30th day with no end in sight.

## Police Beat

### Store hit again

The Baskin Robbins ice cream store in Georgetown was broken into for the second time in two weeks early Monday morning. Thieves gained access by smashing the recently replaced glass door causing an estimated \$250 damage. Nothing was stolen though since no money had been left on the premises.

### Assault charge laid

A 40-year old London, Ontario, man was charged with common assault after an Acton man received a gash to his forehead last Wednesday evening. Halton regional police reported that the attack occurred when the man appeared uninvited at the victim's residence and a minor scuffle ensued. Regional police charged Eugene Bright.

### Beer theft recovered

A Georgetown teenager was charged with possession of stolen property by Halton regional police Saturday afternoon after two cases of beer were discovered stolen from a Brewer's Retail truck. The truck was being unloaded in front of a Georgetown restaurant Friday afternoon when it was discovered that two cases of beer valued at approximately \$24 were missing. After an investigation, regional police charged an 18-year old Georgetown youth with possession of stolen property the next day.



## HALFPINT HOUDINI

"And nothing up my sleeve," magician Lee Davison told his audience as he dazzled friends and parents alike with his magical feats at the Day Camp last Tuesday. Lee was one of the many magicians who entertained the crowd at the Y's Parents Day held at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area.

## Trial date hearing delayed until Aug. 31

Croatian priests Mladen Chuvaleo and Bertio Dragicevic appeared briefly in Milton Provincial Court Monday morning and agreed to appear in court again Aug. 31 to set a date for their trial.

The two priests were charged with extortion, possession of a weapon dangerous to the public peace and the use of a firearm during the commission of an offence June 22 by Halton regional police after a complaint was received from several employees of Fairmount Amusements.

The amusement firm had been operating carnival rides on the Croatian premises near Norval June 13 during Feast of St. Anthony celebrations. The employees had returned to the Centre on Winston Churchill Boulevard June 15 to pick up some equipment left behind when they were met at the gates by two men carrying a rifle between them.

The workers were allegedly refused admission to the grounds to pick up their equipment and reported the occurrence to the police. After conducting an investigation, Halton regional police seized two rifles and a shotgun from the premises and charged the two priests.

**REGAL INVITATION**

Here it is: your invitation to the Royal Wedding. (Okay, so it's a bit late, but there's a small strike on.) Inside today's issue, you'll find a special, double-page spread on today's wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. The reproduction of a souvenir tea towel above comes to you courtesy of Elizabeth Carney of Georgetown, whose sister-in-law from England recently visited her, bringing several Royal Wedding souvenirs like this one. The heir to the British throne marries the daughter of the eighth Earl of Spencer today in London's St. Paul's Cathedral.