

Abbotsford Sikh Temple now a national historic site

From page 1

the minister, will also be present along with dozens of guests from all levels of government, elected officials, community leaders, activists, etc. "We are expecting thousands upon thousands of people and have made arrangements to accommodate everyone," Gurdarshan Singh Sandhu, present of the Khalsa Diwan Society, Abbotsford, told The Asian Star. He said the "Nagar Kirtan" will start at 10am on Sunday when the holy Guru Granth Sahibji will be moved from old to the new temple. There will be kirtans and other religious events as well as a large food court.

At 1pm, Premier Campbell and other guests will participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Premier Campbell said that he was proud to be participating in such a historic event.

There will also be an exhibition on Punjabi culture by artist Jarnail Singh in the basement of the rededicated temple. As well, relics of the sixth Guru, Guru

Hargobind Singhji will be on display. Local businessman Paul Gill personally traveled to village Bhai Kidroli, near Moga in Punjab, to bring the revered relics to be displayed at the Abbotsford temple. "The relics are of great religious significance to us Sikhs," Gill said.

The statues of two horses with Sikh soldiers, symbolizing the first Sikhs who came to BC and saw this beautiful land, will also be installed outside the temple near the Nishan Sahib. These statues of Sikh soldiers on horses was initially at the Ross Street Gurdwara but was removed from there.

The renovated Abbotsford Sikh temple has beautifully renovated and landscaped, creating an atmosphere of awe and wonder. It is so picturesque that a lot of people getting married now want their marriage ceremonies to take place at this historic temple.

It was built in 1911 by Sikh pioneers who were working in a nearby sawmill

The Abbotsford Sikh Temple to become a national historic site of Canada on Sunday



By Umendra Singh

The Abbotsford Sikh Temple (pictured above) will be rededicated as a National Historic Site of Canada tomorrow (Sunday) in a grand ceremony. Premier Gordon Campbell of BC will be the chief guest at the ribbon cutting ceremony at 1pm. Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Jim Abbott, will represent the federal government and bring a message from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Minister for Canadian Heritage, Bev Ota. Former Liberal Minister for Heritage, Sheila Copps, who initiated the project when she was

Continued on page 11