

Temple re-opening a great day for Sikh community



Last Sunday was a day of celebration for the Sikh community of Abbotsford, and for Sikhs across the country.

Upwards of 2,000 people came out to enjoy the festivities surrounding the dedication of the Gur Sikh Temple as a national historic site.

Premier Gordon Campbell (festooned with garlands, photo top left) led several dozen politicians in extending good wishes to the community.

Among the crowd was former federal Heritage Minister Sheila Copps (photo middle left), who was instrumental in getting the heritage ball rolling.

Members of the Sikh Motorcycle Club (photo bottom left) led the procession from the new temple to the old temple, while an honour guard carried drawn swords to protect the

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Sikhs celebrate history

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Sikh holy book as it was taken to the temple (top photo, front page). The last leg of the procession saw the faithful walk between two statues of Sikh soldiers on horseback prior to entering the temple. The statues are made of concrete and were lifted into place Saturday with the help of a heavy duty crane.

Plenty of speeches, food and goodwill were the order of the day as visitors had a chance to check out the temple, the first historical building in the country dedicated to Canada's Sikh community and its efforts to carve itself a niche in the New World.