

INDO-CANADIAN HISTORY



JOHN VAN PUTTEN / The Abbotsford News

Udaari Pioneer Exhibition focusing on Indo-Canadian history in B.C. moves to The Reach Gallery Museum from Nov. 27 until Jan. 4 after its showing at the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the Abbotsford campus of the University of the Fraser Valley.

Pioneer exhibition moves to The Reach

THE UDAARI Pioneer Exhibition, a photographic story-telling of Indo-Indian pioneers in B.C., will be featured at the Reach Gallery Museum in Abbotsford from Nov. 27 until Jan. 4.

Opening night, Nov. 27, promises "engaging conversations and pioneer story-telling," as well as a sampling of South Asian treats, starting at 7 p.m.

"Life stories that are lost can never be recovered," said Satwinder Bains, director of the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley where the exhibit first appeared last month.

"That's why we're thrilled that The Reach will be exhibiting Udaari and sharing with all its audiences the stories we've collected," said Bains.

Udaari is an ongoing Indo-Canadian history project slated for completion in 2011 when researchers hope to produce both a popular history book and an academic study of the first century of Indo-Canadian presence in B.C.

Scott Marsden, curator at The Reach, said "it's our role as a civic gallery museum to present the art, history and heritage of all our communities. And when we have the opportunity to partner with a group such as the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, well, everyone wins."

"Everyone put so much research and work into this project. It's only right that we give as many people as possible the opportunity to see this important exhibition of one of our key communities," he said.

Bains said the exhibit uncovers a rich history of previously unrecorded stories.

"The Indian culture tends to be more oral than written. We're hoping that by documenting these stories in books and other media they will be more accessible for future generations and scholars."

The Reach Gallery Museum can be contacted by calling (604) 864-8087.