



# The Gurbaksh Dhaliwal Family

*Photos clockwise starting from the far left*

**Gurbaksh Singh Dhaliwal beams as he gets ready to leave his village with his entourage (Baraat) to get married on August 14, 1957.**

Covering his head with a scarf are his sisters from the village who are sending him off for his wedding day. In those days, girls and women did not travel with the wedding party to the bride's home since the journey took a long time. There were no four wheel vehicles. Most people used bullock carts or walked. Traditionally Sikhs did not marry along blood lines, so often they married into villages that were quite a distance from their own. The wedding party sometimes took a few days to reach their destination, stayed a few days at the bride's home and then returned a few days later. Women-folk stayed home and waited for the bride to arrive at her new home.

**The Dhaliwal family regularly visited the Hillcrest Temple in Paldi.**

Paul Dhaliwal is standing in the centre (hands in pockets). Hillcrest Lumber provided for their Sikh employees. A Sikh temple, a gurudwara, was built with land and lumber donated by the company in 1935. This temple was moved to Lake Cowichan in the early 1940s to be near the new mill site at Mesachie Lake. Today, the Sikh community of Lake Cowichan uses a temple which was built in 1969.

**Standing alongside her family's Plymouth automobile in 1960, Mrs. Pritmohinder Kaur Dhaliwal is dressed in western finery.**

In the background is one of the sawdust trucks owned by the Dhaliwals. For Mrs Dhaliwal, making her family home so far away from her own extended family must have been difficult, but she would have been embraced by her in-law family as the new bride in a new country. Since there were so few families in the vicinity, every person received a great deal of support from any relatives and friends nearby. The Indian community was closely knit and quickly associated themselves through kinship.

**Young Gurbaksh Singh is in one of the fuel hauling trucks that his family owned.** Boys usually drove on the farm long before they got their licence. The joy in his face shows how much he enjoys being in the driver's seat.

**Gurbaksh Singh Dhaliwal's grade 7 school photo was taken at Mission High School.** This was the first year that he attended high school in Canada. He is a head taller than the other boys, and he seems quite sure of himself with an open and warm demeanor. He worked in local sawmills for only 75 cents an hour because he was a student, but he felt that was okay because as a student he did not have to pay income tax.