



# Kuldip Herar

(1944 - )

"I love to meet people, help, be friendly, and have fun teaching." A gracious, caring and exceptional woman, Kuldip's life journey began in Lyallpur, Pakistan on February 8, 1944. She developed a lifelong interest in sewing at an early age inspired by her father who was a tailor.

Following Kuldip's graduation from high school and with the support of her parents who encouraged her to pursue her dreams, she attended a community school in Methpur, Punjab and completed diploma courses in sewing and embroidery between 1962 and 1964. After teaching sewing for two years, she married Santokh Herar and in 1967 immigrated to Canada to live in Mission where for the next 14 years she devoted her time to family life, raising her three sons.

The move to Canada was a big cultural shock for the young Kuldip. She recalls "The first years were very hard." However, through her personal fortitude and the welcoming support of the Mission Rotary Club, she gradually adjusted to the Canadian way of life, learning the language and adopting new customs.

With the full support of her husband, Kuldip resumed her teaching career in 1981 and taught night school courses on how to design and sew East Indian fashions through the Continuing Education Program of Fraser Valley College and the University College of the Fraser Valley. A gifted designer, skilled sewer, and natural teacher, her classes were always filled to capacity during the 18 years she taught. A former colleague recalls how Kuldip was "a wonderful instructor." Her designs, including "a blend of western and eastern clothing" have been featured in Fashions Shows that received rave reviews.

Kuldip's greatest interest, however, to this day remains helping people in her community. An active member of the Sikh Temple, she volunteers countless hours helping out in anyway she can, including: preparing food, decorating, and sewing. Yet her work at the Temple is more than just performing tasks, it's about being available to help others. She emphasizes "If anyone needs me...I go help them. I love to help people."

Traveling also intrigues Kuldip. She has in fact traveled the world with her husband, visiting such diverse places as England, China, India and the United States and hopes to travel more in the future. Yet Mission which has helped shape her identity holds a special place in her heart along with her husband, children and grandchildren. "Wonderful time – my life in Mission," she warmly recalls, "I have good memories of Mission."

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