

## **Human Rights Commemorative Project**

Please join us at two events to commemorate the  
**100th anniversary of the anti-Sikh and anti-East Indian riots**  
that took place in Bellingham Sept. 4, 1907

### **Tuesday, Sept. 4 — Noon**

Whatcom County Courthouse Rotunda

*Speakers and a proclamation by  
Bellingham Mayor Tim Douglas and Whatcom County Executive Pete Kremen*

### **Thursday., Sept. 13 — 6 to 8 p.m.**

Guru Nanak Gursikh Temple (Gurudwara)

176 East Pole Road, Lynden

*Hosting a commemorative event in memoriam of the earliest Sikh and East Indian settlers in Bellingham*

Our community is approaching an important anniversary of an event that must not be overlooked.

September 4, 2007, is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of anti-Sikh and anti-East Indian riots. In 1907, approximately 200 Sikh East Indian residents of Bellingham were rousted from sleep, roughed up, and thrown out of town. Most of those who were attacked had been working in local lumber mills. Shortly thereafter, riots occurred in Vancouver, B.C., and Everett, Wash., in which East Indians were forcibly expelled.

The Human Rights Commemoration Project, a diverse group of concerned citizens, is working to assure this anniversary is not overlooked. The members of the project invite the greater Whatcom County community to help mark this anniversary by attending any of the events hosted by the project.

Whatcom County Executive Pete Kremen and Bellingham Mayor Tim Douglas have jointly proclaimed Sept. 4, 2007, a “Day of Healing and Reconciliation” and will read that proclamation aloud at the Sept. 4 event.

The Sept. 13 event at Whatcom County’s Sikh temple is an opportunity to show respect for and experience the hospitality of the local Sikh community. It is an open invitation to all community members to attend and celebrate diversity. Many people of diverse religions and nationalities are invited to speak on this occasion.

Displays detailing the 1907 event will be on display at Bellingham Public Library and Wilson Library at Western Washington University. In addition, in next few months a film produced by Andrew Hedden and Ian Morgan will be shown at several times and venues throughout the county. Community organizations have shown interest in showing the film and continuing the dialogue regarding history and diversity.

Whatcom County should not be known for prejudice, but for its respect for all people. Attend one or more of these events to learn more and show your respect.

#### **For more information:**

**Paul Englesberg**, Director of the Asian American Curriculum and Research Project, Western Washington University  
(360) 650-3210 Paul.Englesberg@wwu.edu

**Satpal Sidhu**, Spokesperson, Guru Nanak Gursikh Temple (Gurudwara)  
(360) 305-4948 spsidhu@aol.com

**Barbara Rofkar**, Chair, Whatcom Human Rights Task Force  
(360) 733-2233 rofkarb@openaccess.org

**John McGarrity**, Bellingham community activist  
(360) 201-2726 hrp100@gmail.com