



INFORMATION BULLETIN

2015 Order of Abbotsford Recipients Are Announced

ABBOTSFORD, BC, June 16, 2015 – Abbotsford City Council has announced the 2015 recipients of the Order of Abbotsford:

- Satwinder Kaur Bains
- Trudy Beyak
- George W. Peary

The Order of Abbotsford recognizes and honours individuals who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in fields of endeavor benefitting the residents of the City of Abbotsford.

The 2015 Order of Abbotsford ceremony will be held on July 1 at 6:30 pm at the Opening Ceremony of the Canada Day Celebration at Rotary Stadium. Following the Order of Abbotsford Ceremony, the Citizen of the Year will be awarded.

Biographies of recipients are attached.

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Satwinder Kaur Bains

Satwinder Kaur Bains is a scholar, a community advocate, an ambassador for the Sikh faith and culture, a business woman, a mother, a community leader, a neighbour, a tireless volunteer, and a quiet philanthropist.

Satwinder and her husband Parm have lived in Abbotsford for decades and have grown their farm on Bateman Road using the strategy to work cooperatively with other farms, pooling efforts and berries. They now find themselves as one of the largest exporters of blueberries from British Columbia.

A respected member of the Sikh community, Satwinder has always reached out to the non-Sikh community to find the areas of commonality between Sikhs and others in the Fraser Valley. She and her husband have donated quietly to local causes, and they foster goodwill and friendship at the Gurdwaras.

An Associate Professor of Social, Cultural, and Media Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley and a Ph. D. Candidate in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University, Satwinder was one of the instigators behind the successful fundraising of \$2.5 million for the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at UFV, and subsequently became the first director of the Centre. Largely responsible for the development of the Indo-Canadian Studies curriculum and certificate, she has encouraged cultural readings, programs, cross-cultural exchanges, discussions and opportunities for faculty, staff, students and the entire community.

Satwinder's influence at UFV cannot be overstated. She was a major supporter of UFV's extension campus in Chandigarh, India, which is now under Satwinder's managerial purview. The University has further evolved from having a Centre of Indo-Canadian Studies to also embrace Mennonite Studies and First Nations' Studies—all because of the catalyst and example of the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. She has also worked to develop courses in every discipline that reflect our community in a more balanced way.

Satwinder was instrumental in establishing the Sikh Historic Project at Canada's and the Western Hemisphere's oldest Gurdwara, the Gur Sikh Temple, and helping to secure its designation as a National Historic Site of Canada by working closely with the Khalsa Diwan Society. Satwinder also supported the Reach Gallery Museum in the development of a Sikh heritage component for The Reach's opening exhibition, helping to foster a lasting relationship between The Reach, the University of the Fraser Valley, the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, and the Sikh community.

Satwinder has also worked extensively in the areas of immigrant women, youth and families, and immigrant settlement integration.

She was appointed as a Commissioner on the Agricultural Land Reserve in 2014 and is an Appointed Bencher of the Law Society of British Columbia.

In recognition of her leadership as a diversity educator, a community developer, and an activist for women, youth and immigrants in our community, Satwinder is being honoured with the Order of Abbotsford.



Trudy Beyak

Trudy emerged from a humble, Dutch-immigrant farm labor family in Bradner.

At 28 years of age, Trudy first walked through the front door at the University of the Fraser Valley, where, as an accomplished student, she found herself on the honour roll pursuing an English degree. She then felt called to the Journalism program at Kwantlen University College in Richmond, where students elected her to the challenging role of Editor of the *Kwantlen Comment*, the university newspaper.

Through her years of writing poignant articles as a writer/editor of the *Abbotsford News* from 1989 to 2009, Trudy's dynamic journalism tackled, with international award-winning recognition, local issues related to social, economic and environmental matters. She wrote with such definition that critical change was often the result of her journalistic impact. She covered many hard-hitting news stories, including the Avian Flu outbreak and the Sumas Energy 2's quest to build a power plant just one quarter mile from the Canadian border near Abbotsford. During this time, Trudy's passion for Abbotsford and her unselfish and humble spirit of seeking the truth in an effort to better the community were unmistakable.

Trudy understands the "power of the pen" and writes with heart, often to help people struggling with disease, injustice or personal tragedy or to promote worthy non-profit groups, such as the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre, Abbotsford Hospital Auxiliary, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Abbotsford Food Bank, Peardonville House, Kinghaven, the Salvation Army, and BC Cancer Society to name a few.

Trudy's leadership as a journalist is clearly evident. She has received 30 international, national, and provincial "First Place" journalism awards and excellent achievement awards for Best Investigative Stories and Features. This includes the Surrey International Writers' Association prestigious "Special Achievement" award for making a significant contribution to the public good as a writer who sets the highest standards of excellence, integrity and public service.

Trudy is also a sought after inspirational speaker around North America; she has made guest appearances on television shows such as 100 Huntley Street or, more locally, Vancouver's own Bill Good Show on CKNW.

A dedicated mother and grandmother, Trudy has volunteered as a counsellor with the Bakerview Pathfinder Club; was among the founding members of the Abbotsford Poets Potpourri; played classical guitar for the Musettes and rhythm guitar for CrossView; volunteered at speaking engagements for the 4-H Ambassador program; and has been involved with her children's drama and music and a variety of church programs.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements in journalism in our community, Trudy is being honoured with the Order of Abbotsford.



George W. Peary

George Peary was born in Brandon, Manitoba in 1940 and was an exceptional athlete in his youth. When he was sixteen years of age, he was named Athlete of the Year in Brandon and would go on to become Captain of the Brandon Wheat Kings junior hockey team in the 1960/61 season. At the University of Saskatchewan, he participated in four varsity sports including football, hockey, wrestling, and judo. George also obtained a second degree black belt in judo, and he won a Silver Medal at the 1967 Canadian Judo Championships. Later that year, he fought on Team Canada at the World Judo Championships.

George was educated at Brandon College (now Brandon University), the University of Saskatchewan and Simon Fraser University, where he completed a Masters of Business Administration Degree. In the early 1960's, George served as an Engineering Officer in the Primary Reserve of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

George's legacy as an innovative educator reaches deep within our community, our province and across international boundaries.

George arrived in the Fraser Valley in 1973 in pursuit of his educational career, taking on the position of Vice Principal at Abbotsford Senior Secondary. He subsequently served as Principal of Maple Ridge Secondary, W.J. Mouat Secondary, Abbotsford Junior Secondary and Yale Secondary. In total, George spent 28 years as a school administrator in School District #34 (Abbotsford).

While a school administrator in School District #34, George developed a new model for education at the Career Technical Centre. His concept of seamless transition from high school to post-secondary education has since been adopted throughout the province, enabling students to begin post-secondary programs leading to employment credentials while still in high school.

During the past three years, George and his wife Sylvia have spent intervals in India, where George has served as a university instructor through the University of the Fraser Valley's campus in Chandigarh. He has also served as a business instructor at UFV and as a teacher with Newcastle College (the federal prison education provider). Today, not being one to shy away from community, education and helping young people, George is the current principal of Dasmesh Punjabi School.

Since his arrival in Abbotsford, George's impact on the community at-large has truly been substantial. George served on Municipal Council for 18 years—first for the District of Matsqui and later for the new City of Abbotsford—followed by a three-year term as School Trustee for Abbotsford School District #34, before becoming Mayor of Abbotsford from 2008 to 2011. Prior to entering local politics, George also served a six-year term on the Matsqui Police Board.

Beyond public office, George has taken on many leadership roles in the community, including:

- A 21-year involvement in making the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre a reality;
- Campaign Chair for Healthcare Excellence, a fundraising initiative that generated \$7.5 million for updated equipment for the new Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre;
- Chair of the Fraser Valley Health Region;
- Director of the Abbotsford Sports Hall of Fame; 1995 Western Canada Summer Games Board; Habitat for Humanity; MSA Museum Society; Agrifair; Central Fraser Valley Fairs Association; Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce;
- Charter President and member of the Rotary Club of Abbotsford;

- Advisor to Abbotsford Hospice fundraising programs;
- Honorary Member of the Indo-Canadian Business Association.

George has also been awarded recognition for his many accomplishments, including receiving the Rotary International Paul Harris Award on two occasions and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Brandon University; he was presented as an Honorary Military Engineer by 192 Airfield Engineering Flight Abbotsford in 2002; and he was a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for outstanding community service in 2012.

George is known throughout Abbotsford and across the Lower Mainland as a motivator, a tireless advocate of Abbotsford, and an active participant in many local charitable causes.

In recognition of his devotion to education which is surpassed only by his dedication to our community, George is being honoured with the Order of Abbotsford.