

# Pritpal Narwal Celebrates His First Quarter-Century as a BC Notary

**T**his year we celebrate Pritpal S. Narwal's first quarter-century as a Notary.

Pritpal hails from a small village in the Hoshiarpur district of Punjab where he spent most of his childhood and adolescent years tilling fields, wrestling, and playing a traditional Punjabi game called *kaabadi*. The eldest of five children and the son of a military man, when it came time for Pritpal to choose a vocation, he did what he felt was the right thing to do—he ran off to Bollywood to become an actor.

Unfortunately, the film-makers at the time failed to recognize his subtle talents so, as the story goes, young Pritpal returned to his ancestral village wiser and 50 rupees poorer.

Pritpal put his dream of becoming an actor on the back burner, deciding instead to concentrate on his first passion—*kaabadi*. It paid off. He received a scholarship to Punjab University where he obtained his BA degree. His *kaabadi* career was brought to an end prematurely through injury, so Pritpal, drawn to the intellectual competition and human drama, went on to law school at Kurukshetra University.

The day after he was admitted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court

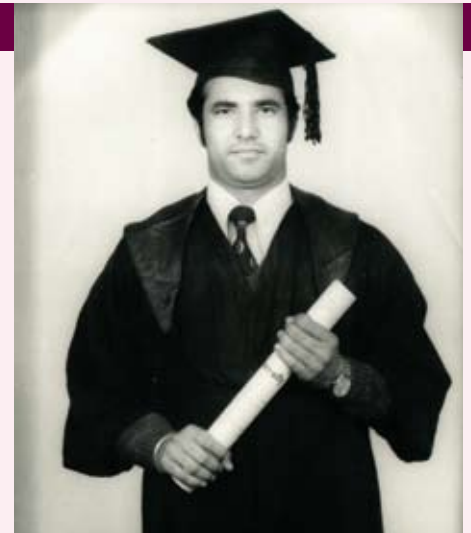
Bar Council in 1973, Pritpal set up shop as a sole practitioner, which meant a single chair and table outside the Hoshiarpur courthouse.

**...young Pritpal returned to his ancestral village wiser and 50 rupees poorer.**

After gaining a modicum of notoriety for defending a alleged serial bicycle thief, Pritpal was appointed Oath Commissioner by the Honourable Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana.

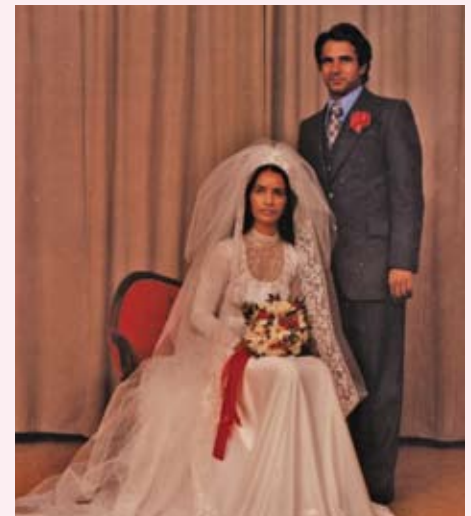


*Jasbier's UBC Graduation photo 1973*



*Law School Graduation 1973*

It was only natural that after having experienced the rigours of a busy law practice and developing a penchant for signing documents as Oath Commissioner, Pritpal aspired to be a Notary when he came to Canada in 1976. He hung his shingle in the Punjabi Market on Main Street in Vancouver in 1983. He practised there for 15 years before moving his office to 50th and Fraser.



*Wedding Photo 1976*

The year 1976 marked another milestone in his life: He married his wife Jasbier, a UBC graduate with a degree in English Literature. The newlyweds promised not only to love and live but also to work together.

The two practised out of the same office—Pritpal as a Notary and Jasbier as an insurance agent. The birth of their only son Joven prompted



*The Family: Pritpal, Jasbier, and son Joven, visiting India*

a redesign of the busy office to make room for a nursery so they could keep Joven close.

During his time in Canada and in addition to his role as a Notary, Pritpal has been an active businessman, having owned and operated a travel agency, a grocery store, a clothing store, three insurance agencies, a trucking company, and two Indian restaurants. He also has practised as a real estate agent and a mortgage broker, and served as president of Vancouver Taxi Ltd.



*Joven and Pritpal on the farm*

Of all the businesses he has run, Pritpal's pride and joy is 10-acre blueberry farm in Richmond where he has lived with his family—and pretended his thumbs are green—for the last 21 years.

Pritpal has remained active in the Indo-Canadian community, serving as General Secretary for the Khalsa Diwan Society at the Ross Street Gurdwara and Director of the Punjabi Market Association.



*Pritpal and Jasbier on Joven's 5th Birthday*

### **Pritpal's donations spearheaded a movement to take the school to them...**

He also maintains a strong connection to his Mother India where he observed that young women in the area of his ancestral village were not going on to higher education because their families would not send their daughters away to school. Pritpal's donations spearheaded a movement to take the school to them and eventually he established the Khalsa College for Women in Khandala Jattan. He continues to contribute to the school and remains the largest donor.

In the Fall of 2004, Jasbier, Pritpal's wife of 28 years, who worked alongside him all his professional career, died after a long and heroic battle against cancer. Ironically, she died during an especially happy time for the family—it was their only son Joven's first year of law school at UBC. Father and son fought back the tears and did the very best they could. Pritpal maintained



*Outstanding students with the Dean of Kurkshetra Law School, 1972*



*Opening of Narwal Foods, 1986*

his practice, his businesses, and his community involvement.

In addition to receiving academic accolades such as the Law Foundation of BC Scholarship, Joven won trial competitions at the provincial, regional, and national levels for which he has received several awards. They include the award for best-examination-in-chief at the Sopinka Cup National Trial Competition in Ottawa, the J.S.D. Tory Prize in Advocacy, and the Attorney General's Prize for Best Overall Advocate at the Peter Burns Trial Competition.

Currently completing his articling year at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP in Vancouver, Joven is pursuing his long-cherished dream to be a trial lawyer. He will be a Crown prosecutor in the Fall of 2008.

Serial entrepreneur, community leader, benefactor, farmer, husband, and father, Pritpal accomplished all this over the span of his 25-year career as a BC Notary. We congratulate Pritpal on a life well spent so far, and look forward to his accomplishments over the next 25 years. ▲

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*Pritpal giving a speech at Baisakhi Parade in the Punjabi Market*