

Gulshan Mitha Receives Satisfaction *from Giving Back to Her Community*

Born in Tanganyika on July 14, 1941, Gulshan graduated from high school in 1959.

She studied for her law degree in London, England, spending her first year at the London university, then joining Lincoln's Inn, London. She qualified as a Barrister in November 1965.

In North Wales, she met Sadru Mitha, an engineer who had earned his degree in London, England. They married in December 1965 and moved to Nairobi, Kenya, where Gulshan practised law. She worked at the Land Titles office in Nairobi for the first 2 years of her practice, then joined the legal department of the City of Nairobi, where her work included conveyancing and drawing and registering legal contracts

In 1971, the couple and their 3-year-old daughter Salma emigrated

to Vancouver. For Gulshan to practise as a lawyer in BC, she was required to become a citizen of Canada, which required 5 years' residency in Canada and a common law examination.

From 1971 to 1976, she worked in the legal department of BC Tel. With her Commissioner for Oaths licence, she could sign BC Tel contracts. Representing BC Tel, Gulshan attended a lawyers' convention at Harrison Hot Springs and happened to meet Notary Joyce Grandison and her then-lawyer husband Reg Grandison. [For Joyce Grandison's profile, please see the *Scrivener* issue: Winter 2005, Volume 14, Number 4.]

Joyce encouraged Gulshan to apply for a BC Notary Seal. "Joyce sponsored and mentored me through my Notary studies and while setting up my practice. Since 1977, I have sponsored several Notaries to practice in North Vancouver."

She opened her practice in 1977 in North Vancouver, sharing offices



Called to the Bar at Law in 1965 in London, England

with Sussex Realty, where Sadru worked as a Realtor.

"Sadru and I are Ismailis, followers of the Aga Khan. At the time I began my practice, I was the first Ismaili Notary Public in BC. The location of my office—and the advantage of my speaking English, Kiswahili, Gujarati, and other East Indian dialects—have helped build a successful Notary practice."

For 29 years, she has very much enjoyed both her association with fellow Notaries and the challenges of building an active and successful practice. "I can honestly say I have not missed practising law as a lawyer."

She and Sadru are both very community- and sports-oriented. "Because we both play tennis, we joined the North Shore Winter Club



On Mexican Riviera cruise with the whole family. From left: Moe Somani, Jasmine Somani, Gulshan Mitha, Sadru Mitha, Salma Mitha, and Jordan Somani



With her grandchildren Jasmine and Jordan

and we are members of the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce. In fact, Sadru was a Director and Chairman of the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce for a number of years."

In 1996, the couple started playing golf. In the very first year, Gulshan hit a hole-in-one at Gallagher's Canyon Golf Course in Kelowna. "I guess it was beginner's luck, but it certainly encouraged me; I now play more golf than tennis! **[Newsflash:** Sadru hit a hole-in-one in May at the Northlands Golf Club, catching up with Gulshan at last!]

In Winter, we ski and play bridge, both socially and at a duplicate bridge club. Our involvement with sports clubs and the Chamber of Commerce



Addressing the North Shore Chamber Mexican night function

has been very satisfying, both for business and community service reasons."

She and Sadru believe in integrating with and adapting to the ways of "our country of adoption." We have been very active participants in the community at large, instead of isolating ourselves within our own ethnic group, and we have tried to be a part of mainstream Canadian society.

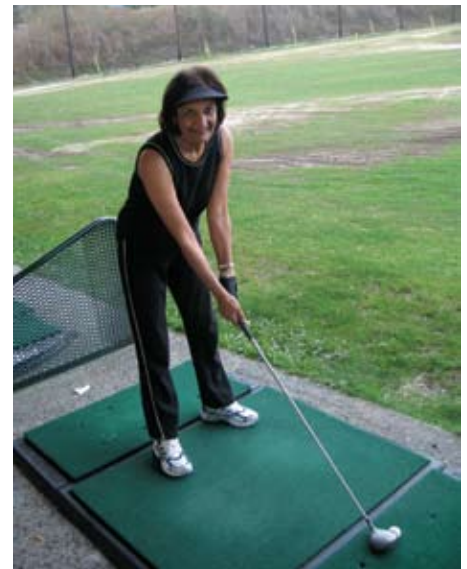
"I was very active with the North Shore Cancer Society and Variety Club for a number of years. For the last 10 years, I have been on the Board of Directors of Family Services of the North Shore, which brings 'Hope, Help, and Healing to the Families of the North Shore.' I do free community services for a seniors' group in North Vancouver and visit their homes, if necessary, to notarize documents."

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Travel is their passion; they visit a different place every year. They have travelled to Japan, Australia, New Zealand, China, Thailand, Bali, Europe, Turkey, Greece, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Egypt, Dubai, South Africa, and various resorts in Mexico. "We are planning to visit Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Peru in November 2006. I have been very fortunate to connect with a very



With her husband Sadru Mitha in Egypt



Practising her favourite sport

capable and efficient freelance legal assistant, Teri Hodgins, who looks after my practice while I am travelling. Teri coordinates with a lawyer nearby who has my Power of Attorney."

Daughter Salma and her husband Moe Somani and their two children, Jasmine and Jordan, live in the same North Shore neighbourhood as Gulshan and Sadru. "My greatest satisfaction comes from my involvement with my family—especially my grandchildren—along with my participation in various community services, which allows me to try to make a difference and provides me the opportunity to give something back to a community that has allowed us to flourish." ▲

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On a recent trip to South Africa