



Celebrating **Dalminder (Del) Virk** BC Notary Public of the Year, 2007

Del was born in 1946, in the Karyal district of Sheikhpura, in Punjab, India—now in Pakistan—about 20 miles away from Nanakana sahib, the site where Nanak Devji, the first guru, was born.

Del's Early Life

The fourth child of Sardar Harbans Singh and Surjit Kaur, Del had 3 older sisters and 1 younger brother, who passed away in March 2007.



Del on the day of his marriage to Paramjit (Pam) Kaur in 1974

After the partition of India in 1947, Del moved with his family to Sheikhpura, district of Karnal in Punjab, now the province of Haryana in India. Barely surviving the savagery of the times of partition on both sides of the border, the family moved to India penniless—with just the clothes on their backs.

The lad was awestruck by his grandfather's dedication to service and care.

Their new village had no school and the nearest paved road was 5 miles away, but it was home—and it gave the family a safe place to make a fresh start.

Del's grandfather Sardar Dargah Singh was head of the village. He could not bear having his grandson and the other children attend school in a neighbouring village and worked hard to get plans approved for a local school. While the new building was being built—with bricks hauled 7 miles to the village on a bullock cart—the children attended school under the shade of a Neem tree in Summer and inside an old temple building in Winter.

Grandfather did not stop until a middle school, a hospital, and a veterinary hospital were also built in his village, and he lived to see a paved road link to other villages.

Del's Beloved Mentor

Del's grandfather, whom he dearly loved, was his mentor and had a huge influence on young Del's early life. The lad was awestruck by his grandfather's dedication to service and care. Other people's needs always came before his own personal needs.

Sardar Dargah Singh garnered much respect, both regionally and at home. As he walked through the village streets, children would call out to him, *Sat Sri Akal Bapuji* ("Hello, Grandfather")—even if they saw him five times in a day.

His grandfather always told Del, "When the moon comes out, the world notices it," meaning, "You do your part and when things get done, the people will take note."

Sardar passed away in 1960, just after arriving home from delivering a truckload of building supplies for the expansion of the original school.

Del biked 10 miles to high school every day, then in 1965, attended Bearing Union Christian College in Batala, Gurdaspur and Karnal Dyal Singh University College. He served on the student council and on various student bodies and clubs. He was Senior Under Officer for the National Cadet Corps.

Del says he wanted to be a fighter pilot or, failing that, join the army as a commissioned officer or move to another country or be self-employed.



Del at Avola, BC, in 1971

Emigration to Canada

As Fate would have it, Del moved to Canada. He says that is the best thing that has happened to him and his family.

The move to Canada has given him every opportunity he hoped for—and then some. He loves Canada as his home—“It’s the best country in the whole wide world . . . the country that is peaceful, progressive, caring, and helpful to people of the world, without strings attached.”

Del emigrated to Canada in 1970, arriving in Montreal then travelling by transcontinental train to Vancouver in the middle of February. “After leaving Montreal,” he says, “all I could see was snowy cold, especially on the Prairies. Going through heavy snow there was quite an experience for a farm boy from a warm part of India.”

As the train traversed the Fraser Valley, the lush green fields reminded him of the farms he had left behind. He felt beautiful British Columbia was truly amazing, with its mountains, ocean, and snow on the mountains—where it belonged!

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Del worked for 2 weeks on a farm in the Fraser Valley before getting a job in the forest industry in the BC interior. In June 1974, he went back to India to marry Paramjit on July 3, 1974. They had become engaged in 1965, when they were both in their teens.

Del’s Growing Family

Paramjit (Pam) came to Canada to join Del in October 1974. Del and Pam’s first son Harman—now a Notary Public in Abbotsford, who married Simrita in 2002—was born October 11, 1975, in Kamloops’ Royal Inland Hospital. It was quite an experience for Del and Pam. The couple had first waited 2 days in Clearwater Hospital, which was not equipped to handle the cesarean section Pam needed.

Then Del and Pam moved to Nanaimo, where they had their second son, Nev—now a BC Notary student—on November 21, 1997. Nev is married to Preet.

Their third son Vicker Paul was born in Vancouver on November 27, 1980, and is still a bachelor.

Del became a grandfather when Savin Virk was born on June 6, 2007, to Harman and Simrita.

His Work Experience

Del worked in the forest industry for 28 years, including 24 years as a Trade Person with MacMillan Bloedel and Weyerhaeuser Canada.

In the early ‘70s, he served as an advisor for numerous special enquiries



Del’s Dad and Mom: Sardar Harbans Singh and Surjit Kaur in 1979



*Front Row: (left to right) Preet Virk, Simrita Virk with baby Savin, Manjit Johal, Paramjit Virk
Back Row: Nev Virk, Harman Virk, Vicker Virk, and Del Virk*



Son Harman giving his dad a gift in 1985

from new immigrants who could not afford legal counsel. He would drive them in his own car, free of charge, on his own time. For the next decade, Del spent many hours a day helping new immigrants with translation, filing immigration forms and income tax forms, and doing interviews. It gave him great satisfaction to know he had made a difference in somebody's life.

In August 1973, Del flew his first solo flight on a Cessna 172 and, in December 1973, passed his pilot's licence and obtained his Millwright certification. Del became Plant

Chairman for IWA for 1 year, 1973 to 1974, and served as Safety Captain for 7 years.

He was an evening continuing-education instructor for trade upgrading courses for 2 Years at Malaspina College in Nanaimo, while he worked full-time at the pulp mill.

The Notary profession enjoys great public trust and respect and offers excellent service for value.

Del's enjoyed an 8-year stint as an inventor of kitchen gadgets. He designed and patented the Samosa Maker and the Roti Flufer, which he marketed in North America and Europe in the '80s. The inventions were very well received by the public. Son Harman participated in the video commercial and Del's wife and the boys did all the packaging and shipping of the orders.

Del had been the only earner in his family for many years. The invention ventures vaulted him and his family to a very promising and secure financial position.



Paul Martin with Del's sons Nev and Vicker Paul in 1989

Career as a BC Notary Public

Del has been a Notary Public since 1998, practising in Delta, BC, where he has lived since in 1992. He bought the Tsawwassen practice of John Howard McCarthy and moved the Notary Seal to North Delta on Scott Road.

Del says being a BC Notary was a perfect fit for him—he was looking for a change of career . . . to enter a profession where he could serve the needs of the public and earn a good living. The Notary profession enjoys great public trust and respect and offers excellent service for value. Del's son Harman was so impressed with the Notary profession, he wanted to become a Notary, too. Del became Harman's mentor and now Del is mentor to his other son, Nev, who is currently studying to become a BC Notary Public.

His Community Service

Del's commitment to community service is highly impressive. He ran



Notary of the Year (2007) Del Virk with Secretary/Executive Director Wayne Braid (left) and The Society's President, Ken Sherk



Dr. Gulzar Cheema, Del, and Jimmy Pattison in 2005



Del presenting his invention, the Samosa Maker, to his friends Joe and Banso Dodd



Del, BC Premier Gordon Campbell, and Wayne Braid, Secretary/Executive Director of The Society of Notaries Public of BC

for the City of Surrey City Council in 1993 and again in 1996, missing by a scant 1400 votes. He served as a Member of the Campaign Committee for the Surrey Electors Team

Association, representing nine council candidates.

as Treasurer and Vice President for the Surrey Electors Team Municipal Party. He was a member and Chair of the Surrey/White Rock Home Support Association, which served the community with approximately 130 full- and part-time employees.

Overall, Del has been continuously serving his community in various roles and at many levels.



Charanpal Gill and Del receiving Life Membership in the Progressive Intercultural Society

He served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Surrey from 1994 to 1996 and on various committees including seniors, youth, and the local museum. Del is current Chair of the Fees and Charges Committee for the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Surrey.

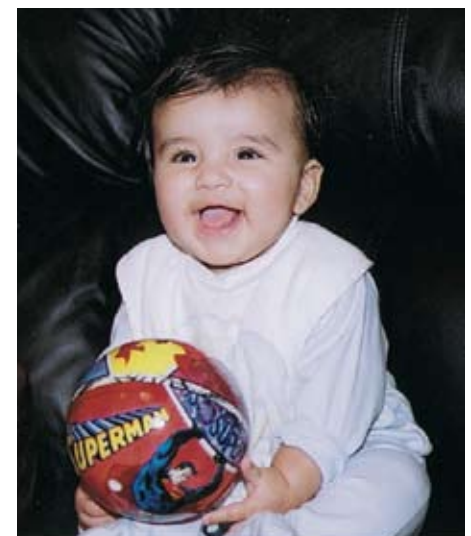
Overall, Del has been continuously serving his community in various roles and at many levels. He has a personal desire to contribute to the community, the province, and the country, to the best of his ability because he feels he is fortunate to be a member of a thriving society.

Del served on the Newton Recreation Complex Study Group and

Del enjoys golfing, social activities, and political activities. The family, public service, and his profession are all very important to him. ▲



BC Notaries Wayne Braid (left) and Del Virk (right) with Kelowna-Mission MLA Sindi Hawkins, Surrey-Tynehead MLA Dave Hayer (centre), and BC Attorney General Wally Oppal in 2007



Del's grandson Savin Virk in 2007