

# Opening Ceremony of Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar.

Medford, 11th Jan 2004. IT WAS A CEREMONY fit for a King. Filled with excitement to the brim, beaming with pride unimaginable, and emotions overflowing, hundreds of Sikhs gathered at the opening ceremony of the new premises of Gurdwara Sahib Medford and to give a splendid welcome to the Swari of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji Maharaj as the Holy Book entered the shrine to showers of thousands of rose petals

The Sangat, which had waited impatiently almost one year for the Gurdwara to be ready, began pouring in as early as 8 am. One hour before the opening, the entire car parking was full and many had to park in the neighboring lots. It seemed as if the Khalsa



*Panj Pyare Left to Right: Sardar Attinder Singh Khalsa, Bibi Manraj Kaur Khalsa, Sardar Resham Singh, Bibi Baljeet Kaur and Sardar Gurinder Singh, and*



*Junior Pyare Left to Right: Natasha Kaur, Brejoinder Singh, Amrit Kaur, Simran Kaur and Inderiot Singh*

Fauj had taken over the city.

The sewadars and children especially looked splendid with their Khalsa Baanas and saffron Kamarkasas. One could feel the excitement of a new Gurdwara, the joy of a new Guru Ghar and the satisfaction of finally having a permanent Ashram on virtually everyone's face. The ceremony, which was held in the langgar hall on the ground floor, began with an Ardas by Bhai Karminder Singh Ji at 10 am.

The stage secretary, Sardar Raghbir Singh then called upon the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Gurdwara, Sardar Bachittar Singh Sodhi to present the opening ceremony paraphernalia and ribbon cutting material to the Gurdwara President, Sardar Jaspal Singh Sodhi.

Sardar Jaspal Singh Pabla cut the ribbon, thus declaring open the Gurdwara on behalf of the Sangat to a roar of Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal. The Guru Nanak Darbar Kirteni Jatha comprised



*Stage Secretary Raghbir Singh hands over Opening Ceremony paraphernalia to Board of Directors Chairman Barhittar Singh Sodhi.*



*President Jaspal Singh Pabla cuts the ribbon.*

entirely of children and youth then led the sangat to sing Charan Chalo Marag Gobind, Mera Ghar Baneya and other shabads. The shabad singing sangat then lined on both sides of a red carpet to welcome three Saroops of Guru Granth Sahib Ji Maharaj.

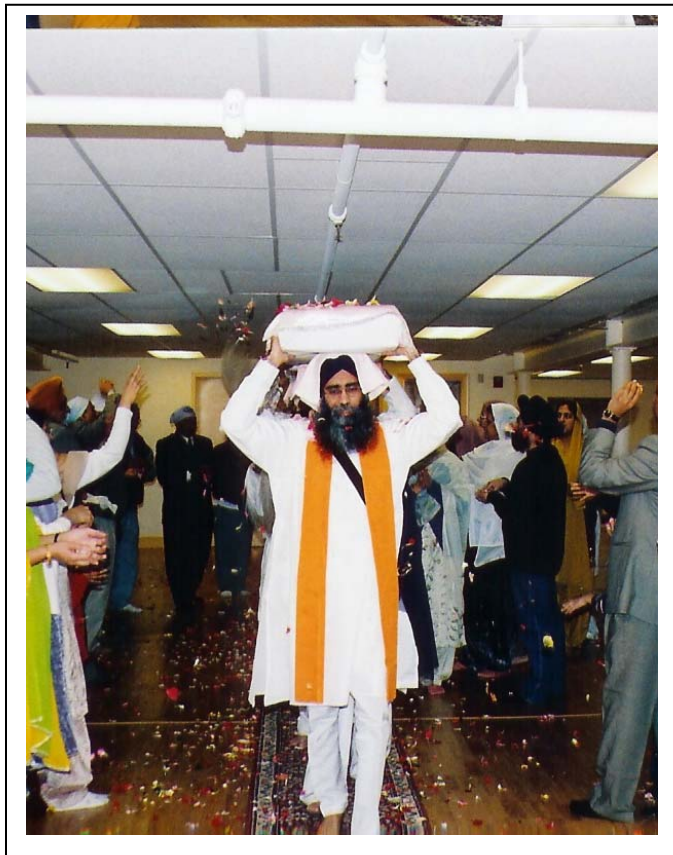
At 10.30 am, the excitement of the sangat exploded into Jaikaras. All present then joined the chorus of Jithey Jahe Bahe Mera Satguru as three swaris of Guru Granth Sahib Ji Maharaj arrived, carried by Bhai Karminder Singh, Sardar Raghbir Singh and Sardar Sukhdev Singh. Hardeep Singh, Gurpreet Kaur and Satvir Kaur followed, doing Chor sewa.

Nishan Sahibs were borne by Inderpreet Singh, Vikram Singh and Kirenjot Kaur. The senior pyares were: Sardar Attinder Singh Khalsa, Bibi Baljeet Kaur, Sardar Gurinder Singh, Bibi Manraj Kaur Khalsa, and Sardar Resham Singh.

The Swarees were led, in a grand procession, first by five junior pyares, who beamed in their Banaas, Kamarkasas, and small



*Sangat awaits arrival of the Swarees*



*Sangat showers Swarees with rose petals*

Sri-Sahibs. Junior Pyares were Natasha Kaur, Brevinder Singh Dhillon, Amrit Kaur Dhillon, Simran Kaur and Inderjot Singh.

The Swarees followed one by one, with the sangat joyously singing *Jithey Jahe Bahe* and showering the Guru with rose petals. Soon, the entire path of the Swaris was covered with rose petals. Next, the entire procession and swaris filled into the 5,500 square feet main Darbar hall. There, the Kirteni Jatha of Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar was singing *Deh Shiva Bar Mohe Ehey*. The Sangat filled into the Darbar hall, and the Swari of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji was placed in full style and splendor in the 54 square feet marble and granite palki, the pride of Gurdwara.

An arambhak Ardas followed with resounding Jaikaras – 16 in all – one each by the junior pyares, Nishan sahib bearers and senior pyares, and two by the ardasia – Bhai Karminder Singh.

After the Hukamnama was read out, the sangat



*Swarees head towards Main Darbar*



*Guru Nanak Darbar Kirteni Jatha sings Charan Chalo Marag Gobind*

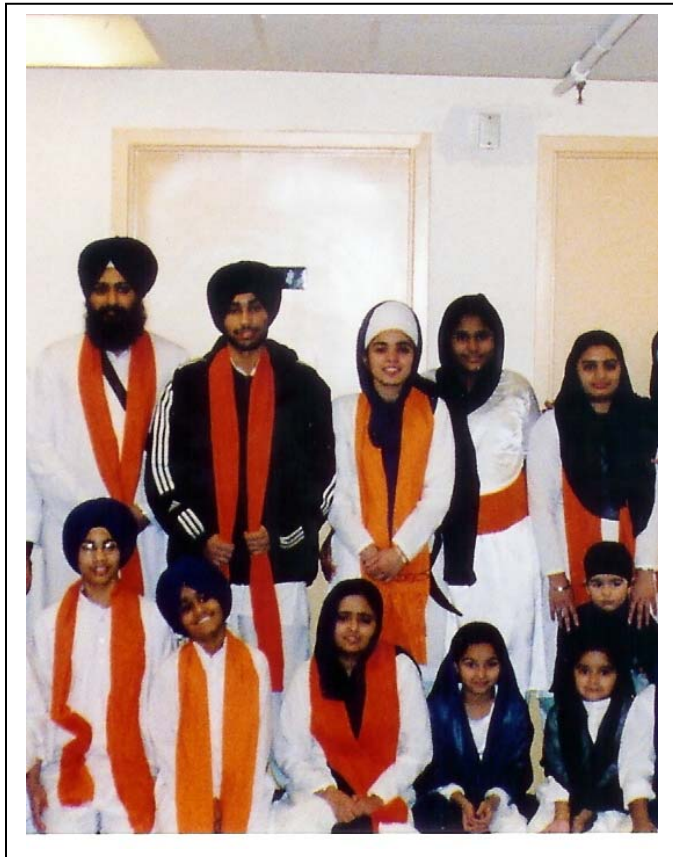
took a full half hour to bow their heads one by one and take their seats in the sangat. 15 children and youths sang various shabads for an hour. Bhai Karminder Singh's Jatha then did Arti Kirten for an hour.

The diwan ended at 1.30 pm with an Ardas As a token of appreciation for the sewa of Bhai Karminder Singh in the building of this new Gurdwara premises, Gurdwara President, Jaspal Singh Pabla presented a Siropao to Bhai Ji, who in turn dedicated the Siropao to the entire sangat.

Langgar was served at 2 pm. Hours later, a joyous sangat started returning to homes with the satisfaction and pride of a splendid Guru Ghar. An Akhand Paath was held in conjunction with the opening on the 16th, 17th and 18th of January 2004. The sangat left no stone unturned in making this Akhand Path a joyous affair. It was their way of saying thanks to Waheguru for his indulgence in His own home.



*Kirten in the Darbar*



The Sewadars



*The Sangat*



*The  
Sewadars*