

IN FOCUS



Former members of the Indian armed forces and Parliamentary Secretary Dave Hayer with Indian Consul General Ashok Kumar and Deputy Consul General Zile Singh at the Indian Independence Day celebration at Kumar's West Vancouver residence. (Right photo) Women and children wave Indian flags.

Photos by CHANDRA BODALIA

The seesaw support for parties must unnerve Conservatives, Liberals

Polls will prove to be a poor indicator of a party's support until two events take place. First, the election of the federal Liberal leader and his policy statement on a raft of topics. Right now there seem to be too many voices on crucial topics such as Middle East affairs or Afghanistan. Second, the election itself - at which stage the apparent-

ly large number of undecided and swing voters will finally make up their mind which way to go.

And then, of course, there is always that unknown factor of world affairs - another terrorist crisis or another war somewhere and the position the government and the opposition parties take on it. Until then, my friends, you

can keep indulging in wishful thinking as one week a poll will show a certain party regaining popularity and the very next week another poll will show it's popularity plunging.

So when I read about the Decima Research Inc. poll conducted August 10-13 that showed the Conservatives at 36 percent support national-

ly, the Liberals at 29 and the NDP at 15, I just shrugged my shoulders.

Of course, you could analyze that and say it shows the government can't win a majority. But that really means little at this stage - and that "little" is because the Conservatives may be thinking of a snap poll when they feel the situation is just

right for it. But that again is speculation.

Also, even if a poll may indicate the Conservatives can win a majority and Harper goes for an election before the Liberals can elect a leader, he could end up losing it if the undecided and swing voters think he is being a rank opportunist. Right now, it seems his party

is really down in the crucial provinces of Quebec and Ontario. In Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois is ahead by 18 percentage points.

In Quebec, the Bloc had 41 per cent support, the Tories, 23, and the Liberals, 19.

In Ontario, the Liberals were at 37 per cent, the Conservatives, 36, and the NDP, 16.

Harpreet Lalli of Surrey's Lord Tweedsmuir awarded \$14,000 scholarship by Kwantlen

An Indo-Canadian is one of four South Fraser region high school students who have been awarded an entrance scholarship valued at \$14,000 by Kwantlen University. The four students are

Harpreet Lalli from Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary (Surrey), Morgan Meloche from Robert McMath Secondary (Richmond), Ava Shannon from Sands Secondary (Delta) and

Leeton McGinn from DW Poppy Secondary (Langley). The Leaders of Tomorrow awards were established in celebration of Kwantlen University College's 25th anniversary. Top academic

high school students entering a full-time, four-year program at Kwantlen for the first time were eligible for this scholarship. There were a total of four awards: one award for each school district including

Richmond, Surrey, Delta and Langley.

Kwantlen's mission is to create an exceptional learning environment committed to preparing learners for leadership, service and success.

Kwantlen became a university college with degree granting status in 1995, and has a mandate to develop and offer baccalaureate degrees that will prepare students for fulfilling careers.

Bombay Se - one of the 100 things to do in B.C. before you die!

The Province newspaper came out with this rather innovative section - "100 things to do in B.C. before you die" - last Sunday and the only Indo-Canadian item was a restaurant in

Surrey: "Bombay Se" ("From Bombay" - Bombay is the old name for Mumbai city in western India). Number 88 on the 100 list was entitled, "Mild is for sissies," and noted: "For a

bit of spice, go to Bombay Se, one of Surrey's best spots for Indian food. See if you can handle the lamb vindaloo or the murg angaar (angaar means "fire"), then see if you can still feel your

lips afterwards. Be sure to order plenty of steamed rice and naan bread, and keep a jug of water close by." So The VOICE's Vinnie Combaw, a veggie guy, went over to this joint at 112-

7500, 120th Street, in Surrey and dug into a juicy Aloo Tikki Burger (potato patty, lettuce, tomato, onion, veggie mayo) and our Lucky Randhawa, a meat guy, sank his teeth into a Frankie

Chicken (thin rolled roti layered with egg stuffed with chicken). Then they headed over to me to try and convince me to write this! Bon appetit!

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