

## [Newspaper clipping titled, Diwali lights up Abbotsford]

**Diwali lights up Abbotsford**

**BY ANNE WILSON**  
Abbotsford News -

Abbotsford's Diwali celebration will be a glow to the city this week.

The community is celebrating Diwali, a Hindu festival of light, on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the University of the Fraser Valley in Burnaby.

The whole concept of the festival is the victory of light over darkness, because as the sun rises, darkness vanishes, a light is shed and we are able to see our way through the darkness of our lives, said Rajan.

Abbotsford's Diwali celebration is a celebration of a festival of light, a festival of the Hindu city of Varanasi where they have been celebrating for centuries, with lamps and candles.

Anne Wilson said Diwali, "Hindi word for 'light' is the day of joy and happiness."

The festival involves lighting up homes and public places with lights, setting off fireworks and visiting with family and friends.

"People will raise Indian money to all their friends, neighbours, relatives and give them gifts they are not used to."

"They also exchange gifts, light up their homes and see how they get together."

Diwali will also gather at the grounds, or Diwali grounds, to celebrate the festival.

The temple will be adorned with lights, flowers, garlands and other traditional items.

Some devotees have been known to walk barefoot with a lit lamp, a traditional practice that is a symbol of devotion, said Rajan.

Diwali is a great festival with children because of the lights, the fireworks, the sweets, and the festival is celebrated as a festival to rejoice in the spirit of light.

"My daughter said as a child she was sitting all the time and I would be at a point where I had to be happy and I would be being thankful for what you've got."



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ANNE WILSON - Burnaby News

On Saturday there was a Diwali celebration at Hill Street secondary, held in partnership with the Charlton Library and Abbotsford Community Services.

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