

Big-time Bhangra!

By: Gerry Timbers

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A total of 267 people gathered in the Civic Square yesterday to set a new word record, old word style.

The record-setters were performing a traditional Punjabi dance in an event called BhangraFest. It was organized by Mississauga's Bhangra Nation studio and featured several performances in addition to the 3 p.m. world record event. Ranvir Rai, founder and director of Bhangra Nation, said the idea was to have some fun and create awareness of Bhangra dance in Mississauga.

It was also an informal kick-start to the 2007 world Bhangra championships coming to the GTA in November, hosted by Bhangra Nation.

Rai said yesterday's public event was "a little spark" for the November world competition that will attract 15 teams from around the globe.

Each year, the event draws 10,000 people over four days of competition.

Bhangra Nation was established in 1997. The name "symbolizes the unification of all nations to creating a global awareness" of the folk dance, the group says.

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Staff photo by Nikke Wesley

Tegi Sidhu (in yellow) helps to lead dancers in Civic Square yesterday afternoon during BhangraFest.