



Mary Dick

(1910 - 1998)

The purpose of a woman's life is just the same as the purpose of a man's life- that she may make the best possible contribution to the generation in which she is living. Louise McKinney, Member of the Famous 5.

Mary was born at home, in Lady Lake, Saskatchewan, one of seven siblings. She eventually left Saskatchewan in the early 1940s, and arrived in Vancouver, where she worked at the original White Spot Restaurant on Granville Street.

One could say that Mary had a reputation for feeding others during most of her 45+ years as a Mission resident. She moved to Mission in 1952 with her husband, John, to buy the Jersey Lunch Café. After John passed away a year later, Mary continued to operate the Jersey Lunch, while raising her two small children. It was well-known that she never let anyone go away hungry, and in an interview with *The Record*, Mary said she just couldn't see anybody go hungry – especially when she had food on her own table. As a business person, she was the first woman to join the Mission Board of Trade in 1956 and remained a member until 1979, when she retired.

Mary provided catering services to the Mission Curling Club and Elks Club, served in the kitchen & provided sweets and treats for the Old Age Pensioners organization, and brought home made goodies as a volunteer visitor to residents of the Mission ECU and Pleasant View Care Home.

As a member of the Mission branch of the Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary for 30 years, Mary regularly volunteered for the annual poppy campaign. She was also active as a volunteer with the Mission Agricultural Association, Mission Mental Health, Canadian Cancer Society, and she was a frequent blood donor. In her spare time, she enjoyed bowling, which she took up in 1953, and enjoyed many years of curling with the Mission Curling Club.

After 30 years of contributing to the community as a volunteer, Mary was honoured as Mission's 1987 Citizen of the Year, to her great disbelief. She was described at the presentation, as a "kind and generous" person. For the next 10 years, she continued to be active in the Royal Purple branch of the Elks organization, where she had been treasurer for 18 years, a Past Honoured Royal Lady and, having been a member since 1955, was named as a Life Member in 1980.

Mary and John had a son and daughter, Ron & Jackie, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Ron recalls that he and Jackie both worked in the Jersey Lunch with their mom, and that she remained "wonderful and caring, even while putting in 16 to 18-hour days running the café." Many people in Mission today, fondly remember her good food and selfless contributions to the community.

by Lisa Kenney, Eagle Eye Editing
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