



Mary Bryant

(1959 -)

Mary Bryant, a native of Mission, was raised on a dairy farm in Hatzic. The second of three children, she became actively involved in 4-H at age 6 and raised Ayrshire dairy cows.

At age 15, Mary was introduced to the idea of flying during Career Days at school and with the support of her family, she started her training.

In 1977, prior to graduating from high school, she obtained a private pilot license and the following year a commercial license.

Mary joined the military in 1981 and became one of the ten women selected over a 3-year period for a new program to train pilots. Earning her wings in 1983, she became the second woman in Canada to fly helicopters.

Over the next 9 years, her assignments included search and rescue operations in Ontario and British Columbia and a peacekeeping tour in the Sinai Desert, Egypt.

She retired from the military in 1991 and flew the Air Ambulance in Southern Alberta. In 1993 Mary moved back to BC, returning to her roots and the family farm, and began flying for Interfor heli logging.

She retired from flying permanently in 1995 and pursued a career as a business manager & Consultant until 1997 when her two daughters were born.

Copyright © 2000 by Mission District Historical Society

All rights reserved. No part of this work covered by copyright may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the prior written permission from the Mission District Historical Society.

