



# Valerie Lee Hundert

(1925 - )

Valerie Lee Hundert, "one of the community's best known volunteers", moved to Mission with her husband Mel from Whitby, Ontario in 1991. An astute businesswoman, mother and life-long volunteer, she was born in Saskatchewan and raised in Ontario.

After graduating from high school, she worked in radio, television and advertising before establishing and operating her own unique gift shop and antique businesses. Taught by her loving and influential grandmother to "think of other people", she had a distinguished record of volunteer community service when she arrived in Mission.

Almost immediately, she became involved in local community groups, including the Mission Artists' Association, the Mission Arts Council, the Mission Health Care Auxiliary and the Mission Heritage Association.

In 1994, she became President of the Heritage Association and through her visionary planning and creative collaborations she became a dynamic force in continuing Norma Kenney's dream for the park. Her countless accomplishments at the park include the ongoing success of the Twilight Concerts; and the construction of the Grotto, the gateway to the park entrance, the bell tower that houses the original St. Mary's School bell cast in 1875, the covered picnic shelter, and the administration building. In 2002, she was appointed the first *ambassador-at-large* for Fraser River Heritage Park.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements by 2002, Valerie has received the BC Senior's Award (1997) Citizen of the Year Award (1998), Myrtle Everett Award - Woman of the Year (1999), and Freeman Award (2002). In 1999, former Mayor Randy Hawes remarked: "Valerie's volunteer resume is extensive; however, it is her ability to operate in a thoroughly business-like manner which commands the greatest respect."

**Copyright © 2002 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.*

