



Jean “Jenny” Stevens

(1936 -)

Jean Stevens, a highly respected citizen and Municipal Councillor, was born and educated in England. At the age of 12, she had to "learn to cope with the challenges of on-coming blindness."

She graduated from the Royal National Institute of the Blind at age 21 and began her remarkable career as a physiotherapist at St. Bartholemew's Hospital in London.

After working for several years, Jenny met and in 1961 married Brian Stevens. She had 5 children while continuing to work as the main wage earner.

In 1974, Jenny and her husband decided to sell most of their possessions to buy "Isabel", a 64 foot long gaff-rigged ketch and take their 6 children and family dog on voyage that ended in Brazil. There she opened and operated her own physiotherapy clinic and adopted her 6th child, Chico, an orphan paralyzed from the waist down that she turned into "a walking miracle."

In December of 1981 Jenny immigrated with her 6 children to Canada and got a job at Mission Memorial Hospital. A single parent with little possession, Jenny recalls "If it wasn't for the good-heartedness of the Mission people, I wouldn't have made it."

Through her resourcefulness and hard work, Jenny eventually established her own clinic that she operated until her retirement in 1996.

Wanting to give back to the community, Jenny became an active volunteer serving on the executive of local community groups, boards, and committees, including: Lifetime Learning Centre Society, UCFV Board of Governors and Ferndale Institution's Community Advisory Committee.

At age 63 she was elected to Municipal Council and recently re-elected for a second term where she continues to work tirelessly to "make Mission a place that every citizen can be proud to call home."

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