



Marion Katy Robinson

(1954 -)

“When you see something that needs to be done, why not do it?” For Marion, this altruistic spirit is virtually instinctive. Her volunteerism in the Mission community is legendary, due not only to the sheer number of organizations that can boast her participation, but also to the many groundbreaking achievements that Marion herself has accomplished. Her love of the Mission area blossomed in her early childhood when her parents built a cabin on Cameron Road as their weekend retreat in 1959. Absolutely “horse crazy,” Marion convinced her parents to purchase “Tonka,” her first horse and together they explored the community, making “every day an adventure.”

Graduating from high school in 1972, Marion moved to Gray Creek, BC and “pioneered” in a log house, living without electricity and running water. Enjoying this connection to nature, she worked with a guide outfitter in the area, taking international travelers on hunting excursions through the rugged terrain of the Kootenays.

Seeking change, in 1978 Marion moved back to the West Coast, obtained her pilot’s license and worked at the Pitt Meadows Airport as a flight instructor and commercial pilot. Marrying fellow pilot Alan Robinson in 1981, Marion returned to Mission and pursued her lifelong passion for horses, starting the first indoors equestrian centre in the community, boarding and racing horses and mastering the art of natural horsemanship. At the same time Marion was involved in community work as director of Community Services and working on social justice issues. In 1991 Marion initiated the campaign to save what later became the National Historic Site now known as Xay:tem Longhouse Interpretative Centre. She brought people together and established the Friends of the Hatzic Rock Society. As the PR Chair and later president of the Society, she worked ceaselessly with other volunteers to have the First Nations spiritual site recognized both provincially and federally.

Currently, Marion is appointed chair of the Mission Community Justice Council and is the Fraser Valley Region Manager for the Fraser Basin Council, an organization dedicated to social economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. Soundly convinced that “it’s the human element that makes Mission unique,” she is a powerful catalyst in many social movements and has devoted her time to housing initiatives, at-risk youth and the annual Celebration of Community. “I am a facilitator,” she confirms. “I like to bring people together and fix things.”

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