



Tanye Heath

(1933 -)

"I heard once that men use 1000 words a day and that women use 2000... and I thought 'Well, I can top *that!*'" This enthusiastic expression belongs exclusively to Tanye Heath, a woman of vivacious personality and unwavering confidence, who, as Mission's first Teacher's Aide, worked continuously with the District's challenged students, fostering a new approach to special education and giving her pupils a sense of belonging, esteem and friendship.

Beloved by all students and staff because of her generous, kind and young heart, Tanye left an indelible impression upon each of the students that she worked with closely, earning the commendatory distinction of being their "number one friend and helper."

Prior to her position as a Teacher's Aide, she had worked with Social Services and the Veterans Land Act in New Westminster as a stenographer, until starting a family with her husband Loyd. In 1973, Tanye, Lloyd and their three daughters and one son came to settle on their dream hobby farm in Ferndale. When her fourth child entered kindergarten, Tanye volunteered as a helper for School District No. 75 (Mission).

Three years later, Tanye opted to return to the work force and soon found herself helping out the appreciative Principal and staff at Mission Central with her infectious energy and lively disposition. This enthusiastic and dedicated work ethic became the hallmark of her 23-year career as a Teacher Assistant with the Mission School District and, upon her retirement, transferred to her current passion: square dancing.

Joining the Abbotsford "Grand" Squares in 1997, she has been President of the club for six years running. Under her accomplished direction, the non-profit group raises money for both the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Salvation Army, while encouraging healthy and happy lifestyles through dance. Though born in Vancouver, Tanye sees Mission as her true home and aspires to jump-start a square dancing club in the city. Her philosophy has always been: "...having a tolerance for life while keeping a youthful spirit."

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