



# Wendy Diane Forrest Edelson

(1947 - )

“Every aspect of a city benefits when there is a strong volunteer core... it truly represents the wealth of the community.” A resident of Mission for 30 years, Wendy Edelson is an excellent example of what she believes in. Her support of municipal causes and environmental projects throughout her 30 years of residence has enhanced the growth of the community. Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, she lived in Calgary, Alberta, and Penticton, BC. At a young age independent thought developed with an adventurous spirit and defined many of her life’s experiences. Activities in childhood included time outdoors on the prairies and later in the Okanagan Valley.

In 1967, she joined the Okanagan Skydiving Club and because it “looked like great fun” went on to fly a Cessna 120, passing flight exams and obtaining a private pilot’s license. Moving to Vancouver in 1969, her interest in First Nations culture began at UBC with anthropology courses on the Coast Salish people. She met her future husband in Vancouver, Andrew Edelson from New York City, then taking medical courses at Burnaby General. They married in Berkeley, California, where Andrew completed his medical internship during the chaotic political climate of the Vietnam War.

They choose Mission to move to in 1974 because of the lovely countryside and its close proximity to Vancouver. A sixty-year old farmhouse on Ferndale Avenue became home for three children, now adults who appreciate living and working here.

Wendy has volunteered as a director for Mission Community Services, the Christmas Bureau, the Friends of the Hatzic Rock Society, and as a volunteer for the Mission Chamber of Commerce Bald Eagle Festival and Tourism Committee.

From 1991 to 1999, she worked with other committed volunteers to secure the Hatzic Rock site, gaining federal and provincial recognition for its ancient heritage. As a volunteer for the Tourism Committee, she saw the need for an up-to-date local hiking book and offered to write “Explore Our Trails”. Published in 2002, the book encourages safe and proper usage of the trails in “Mission’s backyard.”

Over the past seven years she has lead local hikes, mushroom identification walks and taught backpacking skills. With dear friends, she has hiked the West Coast Trail and the Stein Valley, and continues to camp and whitewater canoe on the Similkameen River. She believes in fair play; practices yoga in the Iyengar Tradition, and says “true change starts within your own consciousness.”

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