



Lorna Adair

(1931 - 2011)

"We are all here to make the world a better place, even if it's a little, we can all do it."
Lorna Jean Adair, a resident of Mission for over 50 years, dedicated her life to this belief.

Born July 21, 1931 in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, she moved to Vancouver at the age of seven where she completed her education. Pursuing her childhood dream of becoming a nurse, she trained at St. Paul's Hospital (1950-1953) and following her graduation, she went to William's Lake to work in a 28 bed hospital.

Shortly after her arrival there, Lorna met William Douglas Adair whom she married in February of 1954. Six months later, they moved to Mission where, in between raising four boys, Lorna amazingly continued her nursing career, working on call at Mission Memorial Hospital and later as a Home Care Nurse and Preventative Registered Nurse for the Central Fraser Valley Health Unit.

In 1982, she acquired a Health Management Certificate at Fraser Valley College and then, worked as a Lab Assistant at the college and taught home nursing skills to home support candidates.

Following her husband's retirement in 1986, the two decided to dedicate three years to missionary work in Papua New Guinea. Settling in the town of Mendi, Lorna served as an educator for the Southern Highlands Province Health Department. She taught and organized registration qualification courses for graduate nurses. There she revolutionized the lives of many people forgotten in the modern world. She helped local nurses, many with only grade six educations, to pass the written exams. "I had one nurse come and stand on my doorstep and cry because she had passed. She was so overwhelmed. It was very touching."

Through her managerial abilities and adeptness at organization, Lorna also played a leadership role in many local community groups, including the Kinettes, the Red Cross, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and St. Andrews United Church. Through her personal interest in art, she helped found the Mission Arts Council (1972), offering the use of own home as the first "gallery" for local artists and a place to hold children's summer art classes. She also served on the Board of Pleasant View Housing Society for 9 years, playing an integral role in attaining accreditation for the facility, establishing an Ethics Committee and opening a Special Care Unit. In addition, she was a dedicated volunteer for Mission Hospice and the Mennonite MCC Thrift Store.

In 1995, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mission Chamber of Commerce for her outstanding contributions to our community. Reflecting on her life of community service in 2005, she reverently believed, "Volunteering gives you the chance to give back what has been given to you."

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