



## Joy Cox (1943 - )

Joy was born December 29, 1943 in Vancouver. Beginning at age 6, she was involved with Brownies, Girl Guides, and Sea Rangers. One of her greatest honours was when she received her Gold Cords as a Girl Guide, which covers numerous areas in terms of skills and badges.

Joy started university planning to become a P.E. teacher even though her father didn't think it was very appropriate for a woman. After attending UBC for just over a year, her father passed away. Disgruntled with the university and professors who were not sensitive to her loss, she quit and went to work.

Joy had chosen at age 14 to be baptized, and by 1964, her faith was calling her back to the church. She attended the Anglican Women's Training College in Toronto. At that time, women could not be ordained. One of Joy's practicums was at St. George's Episcopal Church in Seattle – her supervisor said, "I'm not sure what I'm going to do with you, because I've never had a woman student before", so she was invited to do everything. She felt honoured, because at the end of the summer, the male students were complaining that they didn't get to preach a sermon or lead a confirmation class, and Joy would say, "Well I did". It bothered her that she could give a sermon, but could not become a priest.

Upon graduating, Joy worked at a downtown Toronto church, then Willingdon School for Girls in Burnaby, and then as Program Director at the YWCA in St. Catherines, Ontario. It was there that she completed her B.A. in Psychology, attending evening courses at Brock University. As Joy was finishing her degree, one of her professors suggested that she apply for graduate studies at the University of Ottawa, which resulted in an M.A. in Criminology. Joy is presently working on her PhD in Health & Human Resources.

After a year as a Sessional Instructor at UCFV in Chilliwack, followed by several years as Executive Director for the Boys and Girls Club in Nanaimo, and five years as Diocesan Youth Coordinator for the Anglican Church, Joy moved to Mission in 1990, as Executive Director of Mission Community Services, which was then located in the Old Hospital. Visitors to her office would say, "I gave birth to my first child in this room". Her first priority was to create a Youth Centre; naysayers thought it wouldn't last six months. At the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Youth Centre, Joy received recognition from the District of Mission.

Under Joy's leadership, the "Heart of Mission" Red and Gold Card programs were developed to support Mission's homeless. They are so successful that other communities are looking at our model. Also, Mission Community Services is now providing crisis line coverage regionally, and is one of five centres in the province for the 1-800 suicide line. Joy not only works for Community Services; she also volunteers: "Mostly what I do as a volunteer is hands-on work, which is to me really important. As an executive director you often get overwhelmed with paperwork and organization. You don't get the opportunity to be out there, understanding the challenges of doing direct service. By doing that, I know more what people's needs are in the community".

Joy has been named Mission's Citizen of the Year, and included in both the B.C. Who's Who, and Who's Who Among Top Executives. She feels that "getting my Masters Degree is my biggest accomplishment; mom would probably say '...and the Gold Cords.'"

**Copyright © 2007 by Mission District Historical Society**

*All rights reserved. No part of this work covered by copyright may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the prior written permission from the Mission District Historical Society.*

