



Karin Edberg-Lee

(1940 -)

Karin Edberg-Lee is Mission's Wardrobe Mistress.

Coming to Silverhill in 1946 as a young child, she and her two sisters were the third generation to live on family owned homesteads, and her two children, Natalie and Eric, were also raised there.

Karin loved school: "Just the fact that I could read... every sentence gave me information about something else in the world." She found that every time you get an answer to a really deep rooted question, it brings more questions to mind, and therefore, more knowledge.

After almost 20 years of marriage, Karin & her first husband divorced, which she found to be "extremely liberating. It was a real epiphany in many respects. I learned a lot about myself and about other people; the kind of knowledge that paved the way for the rest of my life." She was married again in 1981, to Bob Lee, who died on the job, in a boating accident.

Around 1975, Karin joined friends to form a vocal quintet called Harmony. For over 25 years, they were in demand producing musical reviews, and being invited to perform at events throughout the Lower Mainland.

Karin learned from her parents that first, you look after yourself, and then you look after those in need. In this vein, her 65th birthday present to herself was permission to say "no". She was quite vocal about it and told people she was only going to do the things she enjoys "It's being able to do what you enjoy that gives you the energy, and lets your mind create and visualize and just go ahead."

Karin's volunteer life has extended from being a 4-H leader and baseball coach, to activities concerning cultural heritage and community support. She has been involved with the Mission District Historical Society, Silverhill Hall Committee, and the Canadian Legion entertainment committee. She was a Charter member of the local Swedish and Norwegian Fraternal Societies, and as a Lifetime Learning Centre member, has been producing multicultural programs & fashion shows, as well as developing historic programs including bus tours and the Porch programs at the Mission Museum.

Her deep interest in historical culture led to researching and maintaining vintage clothing, which she provides for special events and programs. She has produced historical fashion shows as fundraisers for such organizations as the Abbotsford Breast Cancer Foundation, the White Rock Women's Resource Centre, Chilliwack Seniors' Time Out program, and the MSA Museum.

Karin would like to be remembered as a person who cared about her community and its history. Although she seems to be immersed in learning about and preserving historical information, she maintains that her biggest accomplishment is that, on at least three occasions in her life, she has been able to provide the right words to people who were in a period of deep bereavement. She says it's not something that one sets out to do, but being there at the right time to help give another person the benefit of your experience and find that it's lifted the burden from them, is a most rewarding feeling.

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