



# Lorraine Hughes

(1936 - )

"I consider myself lucky. I've had a lot of ups and downs, and a lot of bad times. But you know, we all survive and continue on."

Lorraine was born in 1936, one of seven siblings, in Sperling, BC, a tiny community which used to exist near Fort Langley.

Lorraine's first job at 14 years of age was making crepe paper flowers. She relates a story about her 6 year old grandson, Mick, coming over for a visit, and asking her to give him a job so he could earn some money. "He said, 'What did you do, when you were little?' So I said, 'Well, I made these crepe paper flowers. He didn't know what crepe paper was, so I went into my sewing room and dug out some crepe paper and I said, 'Sit down and I'll show you how to make them.' He said, 'Grandma, this is so much work; why didn't you just buy plastic flowers?'" She responded by saying that plastic flowers hadn't been invented yet. A couple of weeks later, Mick's mom asked Lorraine what on earth they had discussed on their last visit. Mick had been going around telling everybody, "Did you know my Gramma's older than plastic flowers?"

In 1955, marriage brought Lorraine to Silverdale, as her husband was a Donatelli descendant. They bought part of the old Donatelli homestead, and Lorraine says that like everyone else in those times, she "stayed home and had kids." Three, to be exact. She was divorced in 1981, and in 1983, Lorraine married Bud Hughes.

Over the years, Lorraine has been a 4-H leader; involved with the Mission Figure Skating Club, designing costumes for skating carnivals; Mission Minor Hockey Association, where she mended 274 uniforms for two seasons, prompting her to start an affiliated women's organization.

She has also served with the Mission Rotary Anns, Silverdale Hall Association and Ladies Auxiliary, and more recently, Mission Association for Seniors Housing. But her greatest contribution to the community of Mission has been her 47 year commitment to the Hospital Auxiliary, now called the Mission Health Care Auxiliary.

In addition to holding several executive positions, she was the first newsletter editor, and also the official historian of the organization, keeping scrap books of the Auxiliary's activities for about 10 years. The main fund raiser was the annual dance, and Lorraine designed and made costumes for the popular floor shows, which featured many of Mission's best known citizens. For the paediatric nurses, she made 70-80 cover-all type aprons. She still sews vests for the men in the Auxiliary, and also still knits for the gift shop.

At one time, patients were allowed to smoke in the hospital, and the Auxiliary sold cigarettes in the hospital gift shop. Lorraine says it was their biggest money maker. "Then somebody set their bed on fire, so they took away the matches at night; you could keep the cigarettes, but they took away the matches."

Lorraine says, "I don't keep tabs on the things I've done. I've been able to help my brothers and sisters when they needed help, and I've helped an awful lot of other people when they needed help with things."

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