



# Sharie Conroy

(1946 - )

Sharie was born in September 1946, in New Westminster, B.C. Her ½ sister, Carole was almost a generation older, so Sharie grew up as an only child. When she was 5 years old, her family moved from “the city” to a farm in Port Kells, Surrey. Identified as a wanderer at a very young age, Sharie says that when they moved to the farm, which had a forest, she had lots of room to wander, and this is where her love of nature came from.

Her Mom enrolled her in the Surrey 4-H Beef Club. Sharie thinks it was probably the best thing she could have done because not only did it involve working with animals; it offered many opportunities to learn new skills. “That’s where I learned to public speak.” She was terrified of public speaking at that point, but by her last year in 4-H, “I won top award for public speaking at the PNE.” A little known fact about Sharie: at the age of 18, she won the PNE herdsman competition!

While at UBC in the faculty of Education, from 1965 until 1968, Sharie lived in Fort Camp residence where she met John Conroy, and they married in 1969. In 1973 they settled onto a “magical” property in Mission. Sharie began teaching at Mission Junior High School, but only for a year, because her love of the land called her to look after the new little farm. Five years later, she started teaching a night course at Fraser Valley College on managing small acreages.

Over the past 41 years, Sharie has grown most of the family’s fruit and vegetables on their farm <http://foxglovesfarm.ca/index.html> and preserves the produce for the year by canning, freezing, & drying.

Sharie’s volunteer life in Mission has been directed toward being a supporter and activist for the preservation of nature and community. For the past 18 years, Sharie has volunteered for the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival serving as the Co- Chair and Exhibit Coordinator.

A resident of the Hatzic Valley area, she is currently the President of the Hatzic Prairie, Durieu, McConnell Creek Ratepayers Association, a position she has held for many years. Under her leadership, the association has played an active role in protecting its environment for the benefit of all. In 2011, she submitted seven recommendations for the proposed BC Water Sustainability Act, and this past year, she organized a meeting for residents of the Hatzic Valley area to voice their concerns to a logging company proposing to log 49.9 hectares of Crown land on the north side of Pattison Creek. She emphasized: “No logging should be considered until the creeks are cleaned and a plan is in place to keep them clean.”<sup>1</sup>

Sharie feels that her greatest accomplishment is being a founding member of the McConnell Creek Farmland Defence Association that in the 1970’s that lobbied successfully to have Hatzic Valley placed in the Agricultural Land Reserve. She has realized that “the more you get involved and give to the community, the more you can inspire others to do so as well.”

1. *Mission Record* 2014: <http://www.missioncityrecord.com/news/252940811.html>

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