



Anna Kopanyas

(1946 -)

Anna was born in 1946 at Mission Memorial Hospital. She has been a resident of Hatzic Prairie and then McConnell Creek for the majority of her life.

Growing up, Anna and her brother were expected not to talk back, to behave and to help out around the house and the farm. As was typical at that time, if you misbehaved there were consequences; typically a spanking of which she only recalls happening maybe twice. Her parents also modeled patience, doing the right thing, being hard working and being good citizens. All of these values are apparent in Anna today.

Her schooling began in a one room school in Hatzic Prairie and ended when she graduated from Mission Secondary. Her favourite subjects in school were art, music and home economics. As a young child her aspirations were to become a nurse and then later after taking typing, short hand and bookkeeping she leaned more towards secretarial work. She eventually accomplished both of these aspirations with just a little bit of adjustment to the job descriptions.

In 1965, she married Ted Kopanyas and they had three children: Cheryl, Michael and Bradley. In 1980, she started work in housekeeping at Mission Memorial Hospital. Her area was the Extended Care Unit (ECU) where she enjoyed watching the interactions between the residents and nurses. Her time in ECU was a huge influence in her decision to go back to school, allowing her to work as a nurse's aide and eventually as an Activities Coordinator which brought her great pleasure. She recalls it was a difficult job because of the amount of mental work involved but very rewarding due to the interactions with the residents and their families.

She believes her biggest achievements have been her family and returning to school. Her parents, brother, husband and children have brought her a lot of joy and comfort and have enabled her to accomplish a lot. Her parents instilled many wonderful traits in her while her husband, Len, has supported her through her endeavours and her children have leant a helping hand when she needed it.

Before and after retiring Anna has volunteered her many talents. She was and still is an active and highly valued volunteer of the McConnell Creek Hall where she bakes, cooks, cleans, weeds gardens and cuts the grass. While working she realized the important work done by the Mission Health Care Auxiliary and now volunteers there. She has also volunteered for many other great causes. Anna likes the opportunity to help people, make new friends and stay connected to the community.

She believes you "Treat people the way you want to be treated. If you are good to people, good things will come back to you."

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