



# Betty Robertson

(1924 - )

Florence Elizabeth (Betty) was born in Calgary February 4, 1924. She grew up on a farm north of Calgary, attended a one-room country school – grades one through nine achieved Senior Matriculation in Crescent Heights High School in Calgary and graduated from the Calgary General Hospital Nursing School as a Registered Nurse April 30<sup>th</sup> 1946.

The nursing career path led to Wetaskiwin Community Hospital (south of Edmonton), private nursing in Vancouver, and Shaughnessy Military Hospital where she met her own prince charming , Thomas Robertson just getting his medical discharge from the navy.

Married in January 1952 in Calgary, they returned to Vancouver to take up their careers. Together they raised five children.

In 1955, Tom fitted out his salmon trolling vessel and with two small children, they sailed up the West Coast of Vancouver Island to Esperanza Inlet where Betty worked a few shifts in the 20 bed Esperanza Hospital and her third child was born.

On returning to the Mainland 2 ½ years later, they settled in Port Moody for 11 years and then moved to Mission 1969. Betty immediately got a job at the Mission Memorial Hospital as a Nursing Supervisor where she worked mainly night duty until her retirement in February 1987.

Betty's 17 years there were an exciting and challenging period in her career. As a night duty supervisor in a small hospital she had to be knowledgeable in every department including during the early 1970's the emergency nurse.

On retirement Betty and her husband joined the Lifetime Learning Centre Society, where Betty took classes in journal writing and family history studies. In 1988 she was asked by Catherine Marcellus and Betty Dandy to write the history of medicine nursing and community involvement in building a memorial hospital. Under the umbrella of Lifetime Learning these three women formed "The Mission Studies Group" and in October 1992 published "Mission's Living Memorials."

While researching at the Archives, Betty became so interested in this work that she could not leave and has been volunteering there for 23 years as the Volunteer Coordinator. Through her exceptional organizational skills and genuine interest in others, she helped build a team-oriented workplace and nurturing atmosphere for volunteers.

In 2006 the District of Mission presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Betty, and in 2010 she received the Certificate of Recognition from the Mission Community Heritage Commission as co-author of "Mission's Living Memorials."

On reviewing her life, Betty credits her highly respected, caring parents as role models and the leadership and professionalism of her nursing supervisors and instructors. She advises "be yourself, be confident, obtain all the education possible and continue to enjoy learning all your life. When you retire choose volunteer work you like and commit to it fully."

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