



Joan MacLatchy

(1937 -)

Joan MacLatchy, nee Fladmark, was born a ship-captain's daughter in Oslo, Norway on March 31, 1937. She lived in Norway during the turbulent times of the Second World War with her father fighting in the resistance while she and her Canadian mother were forced into hiding. When the war ended her family moved back to Canada, eventually settling in Salmon Arm.

With a love of history and geography, Joan took to school very well. She was extremely active in the newspaper, drama, and debating clubs; foreshadowing her future in politics. She fought to stay in university; earning scholarships, taking loans, and working part-time jobs to be able to pay for her education, graduating from UBC with a Bachelor of Arts in 1959.

Joan was a teacher in Salmon Arm, Celista and Sicamous. In Prince George she was a school trustee and School Board Chair before returning to teaching and serving as president of the Prince George teachers during the provincial Solidarity unrest of 1983. In 1984 Joan moved to Mission with her two sons, marrying Shool Superintendent Peter McLoughlin. Six years later she began her political career in Mission, finding success by speaking "straight to issues, whether or not people agreed with me," and was elected to council. She was vital to the construction of a new library and archives, believing in initiatives that would aid the future and sustainability of Mission.

Joan was actively involved in the Mission community during her twelve years on council, including on the board of the Fraser Valley Region Library for several years and Chair for three. She also pushed for construction of the Cedar Connector and the creation of the Mission Junction. She was a board member of Community Futures North Fraser and Chair in her final year. Since retiring from Council in 2005, she has been a board member of Lifetime Learning, President for three; on Mission District Historical Society board, and Mission Community Services board.

For her extensive contributions to the community, on a political and volunteer scale, Joan was honoured as a Freeman of the City of Mission in 2008. In relation to her involvement she says: "I like to be part of the community and I like to be a part of the solution rather than part of the problem."

Currently Joan spends her time volunteering at Lifetime Learning, the Historical Society, and travelling extensively. Since 2006, she has visited China, South America, England, and Norway, to mention a few. Today Joan devotes her life to "people, family, and friends; that's what is important."

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