



Ann Mohs

(1947 -)

Ann's philosophy on life is simple: "...what I do today shapes my tomorrow." Born in 1947, Margaret Ann Mohs (née Heyman) was a year and a half years old when her family emigrated from England to Cloverdale, BC. Several years later, her father, an accomplished farmer, established a farm in Upper Sumas where she has happy memories of swimming in the crystal-clear Sumas River, spending time in the warm cow barn, and playing alongside her sister and twin brother.

A turning point in Ann's life came in 1957, when her father was killed in a farm accident. Her mother moved the young family to Mission, where Ann attended Mission Central Elementary School, and then Mission Junior and Senior Secondary. A natural athlete, Ann participated in a number of sports in school, later working at the local pool as a lifeguard, and eventually the pool manager.

Following her graduation, Ann attended the University of British Columbia, obtaining an undergraduate degree in Anthropology and, subsequently, a diploma in Media Resources from Capilano College. She also travelled extensively, meeting her future husband, Gordon Mohs, in Amsterdam in 1970. They have two children, Ferren and Simon, and four grandchildren.

In 1981, after living in Chase for two years, Ann and her family moved to Mission where she began working in the Media Department at Fraser Valley College, followed by a position at Coqualeetza Cultural Education Centre in Chilliwack, where her long career working with Indigenous communities began, completing many projects aimed to document and preserve Indigenous culture – notably, through photography and multi-media production.

Volunteering for the Mission District Historical Society for Heritage Week, Ann especially enjoyed working with Mission schools' Art Departments and senior citizens. Longhouse Publishing – a venture which Ann considers a "bookend" of her career – began as a way to publish her husband's Indigenous murder mystery novel and other FN related works.

Later in life, Ann found her heart belonged to the sport of competitive Outrigger racing, and so began her new journey. It has shaped her later life, and taken her to places including Hawai'i, United States, Cook Islands, Australia, New Zealand and England.

In August 2022, Ann won Gold and set a world record in her solo event at the IVF World Sprint Championships in England, 29 seconds ahead of 2nd place...surpassing her "holy grail" to be on the podium! Upon reflection, Ann is not sure why her life has taken the direction it has, but she remembers thinking, "if there is going to be meaning in my life, then maybe this is what it was meant to be." Ann is an avid gardener, loves to spoil her grandchildren, and always has a good book on the go.

Copyright © 2022 by Mission District Historical Society

All rights reserved. No part of this work covered by copyright may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the prior written permission from the Mission District Historical Society .

A Program of the Mission Community Archives to Document the Women of Our Community

33215 2nd Avenue PO. Box 3522 Mission, BC V2V 4L1 TEL: 604.820.2621 manager@missionarchives.com

An operation of the Mission District Historical Society www.missionarchives.com