



Rhona Jacobsen

Freeman of the City Award

Rhona Jacobsen has been a volunteer in Mission since the 1950's. She is being presented today with the Freeman of the City Award in recognition of the many decades that she has volunteered with organizations such as the Legion, the Hospital Auxiliary, Pathfinders, the Heritage Park Association, and the Mission Museum. She is also a lifetime member of the Old Age Pensioners' Association and Lifetime Learning. This incredible lady will be 91 years old in July and continues to serve the community with energy and enthusiasm.

On October 11, 1941, Rhona married Ernie Jacobsen. Almost immediately, Ernie went overseas to fight in the war as a medic in the Army Medical Corps. While he was away, Rhona and her infant son moved to Matsqui. While she was waiting for her husband to return home, she spent hours and hours knitting sweaters and socks for the Red Cross. Upon Ernie's safe return in 1946, the family moved to Mission where, over time, they established an amazing rose garden totaling 701 bushes. When Ernie passed away in 2001, Rhona generously donated 300 of Ernie's roses to the Fraser River Heritage Park where they continue to be enjoyed by park visitors.

Rhona is truly a lifelong volunteer and an inspiration for all of us. For almost 60 years, she has been actively contributing to the well-being of our community. When asked why she does it, she simply states that it's "because I like helping others". One of her most recent projects was working with BC Transit to improve Mission's transit system for seniors and residents of Mission. She also dedicates time selling Poppies for Remembrance Day and supporting the Cancer Society campaign by selling Daffodils.