



*Celebration of Life*



**Frances Marguerite Clark**

March 18, 1935 - April 23, 2015

**Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 4pm - 6pm**

**Richmond Curling Club**

5540 Hollybridge Way, Richmond, BC



# A Look Back on Frances Clark's Life (1935 – 2015) May She Rest In Peace

**1935**

- Born on Mar 18, 1935
- Diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta at 10 days of age

**1950**

- Completed her education through Government Correspondence Course

**1953**

- First volunteer job: Secretary of Working Dog Association of BC
- Over the next 29 years took on many responsibilities including President, Show Chairman and Show Secretary

**1955**

- Moved to Richmond

**1957**

- Started Hi-Hope Kennels on Alexander Road

**1958**

- Founded the Shetland Sheepdog Club of BC
- Honored in the late 1970's as life member for her commitment & hard work

**1969**

- Moved Hi-Hope Kennels to No. 5 Road
- bred or sold more than 100 dog champions in its 35 years of business

**1970**

- Found inspiration from John F. Kennedy & that turned into a life-time passion
- Appointed by the Richmond City Council to Richmond's Advisory Planning Commission & served for 5 years - including a term as Chair

**1973**

- Established the Western Federation of Individuals & Dog Organizations (FIDO) to promote the benefits of the Human-Animal bond
- FIDO received international recognition for its work with community services & public education relating to responsible pet ownership

**1979**

- Asked by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce to take on the position of Civic Affairs representative to the City of Richmond
- Appointed to the Chamber's Board of Directors, served for 6 years

**1980**

- Started coordination and running of the Annual International Dog Show held in the Greater Vancouver area for a decade

**1985**

- Elected as President of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce
- Appointed to be Chamber representative on Richmond's Governing Committee of United Way of the Lower Mainland & served for 6 years
- Became a founding board member of the Richmond Community Services Centre Society (RCSCS)
- Founded the Task Force for Disabled People, which became the Richmond Committee on Disability and currently the Richmond Centre for Disability (RCD)

**1986**

- Started sitting on the Policy Advisory Committee, now Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC), as Vice Chair for 3 years
- Developed the Responsible Pet Ownership Guidelines for BC Social Housing
- Instrumental to BC Ferries allowing guide dogs on board
- Led the effort to establish the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society that trains dogs for the deaf and/or people with physical disabilities, & chaired for 4.5 years

**1987**

- Honoured by the City of Richmond, the BC Recreation Association & the Canadian Association of Disability Communicators for community volunteerism

**1988**

- Rebuilt the RCSCS Board of Directors when all other board members resigned & completed the project
- Fundraised for the society through a community "telethon" for the Caring Place Project

**1991**

- Received the Governor General's medal for community service
- Started serving on United Way's Community Committee until disbanded in 1996

**1992**

- Closed Hi-Hope Kennels & retired from business to become a full time volunteer
- Nominated for the YWCA's "Women of Distinction"
- Received the "Richmond Citizen of the Year" award from the Richmond Kiwanis Club

**1993**

- Built and moved into new home on Railway Avenue
- Represented RCD at the Richmond Emergency Services Team & on the Richmond Health Steering Committee

**1994**

- Appointed by the Minister of Health to the new Richmond Health Board for a 2 year term
- Left the Building Committee when Caring Place was complete and opened in 1994

**1995**

- Became Chair of the Finance & Human Resources Committee as well as the Treasurer of the Richmond Health Board
- Brought awareness to HIV/AIDS by bringing the play "Cost of Living" to Richmond & held 3 successful "Walks for HIV/AIDS"

**1997**

- Received the "Ethel Tibbetts Women of the Year" award for community service
- Received the "Merit Award" from BC Paraplegic Association for community service

**1998**

- Received the "Paul Harris Fellow" award from the Richmond Sunrise Rotary for community service

**2000**

- Received the "Chamber Member of the Year" award for Community Service
- Opened the RCD resource centre to provide direct services to people with disabilities
- Facilitated the completion of the Steveston Residence Project

**2001**

- Became the driving force to establish the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society (RTES)
- Served as RTES Board Chair until 2014

**2002**

- Received the "Queens Golden Jubilee Medal" for Community Service

**2004**

- Received the "Canadian Red Cross Humanitarian Award" for community Service

**2007**

- Received the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association "Volunteer of the Year" award

**2009**

- Received the "Ethel Tibbetts Pioneer Award" for Community Service

**2014**

- Received the Prime Minister's Volunteer - Life Long Achievement Award

**2015**

- Celebrated 80th birthday
- Passed away on April 23, 2015

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Frances Clark died April 23, 2015 at age 80.

Frances was born in 1935; she was diagnosed with brittle bone disease as an infant. She experienced dozens of bone fractures in her lifetime, and was totally deaf by her late teens, but never let her disability hold her back.

Moving to Richmond in 1955, Frances turned her successful hobby in breeding and showing dogs into a full business in 1957, resulting in operating the Hi-Hope Kennels for 35 years, which became one of the largest kennels of its type in the lower mainland of BC.

In 1979 Frances started to make visible social changes and build community capacity; she started working closely to, with and within many grass root organizations, assisting with various projects and covering essential social services along with issues relating to accessibility, cultural diversity and quality of life. In 1985 Frances founded the now Richmond Centre for Disability, and later also established the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society. Frances was a leader and achiever fulfilling community needs by being a catalyst, a pioneer and an inspiration. She effectively brought stakeholders together, and put the key in their hands to open doors. Over the years she created sustainable social impacts through addressing the needs of people with disabilities. Yet she saw herself as a representative of the broader community; her reach went far beyond the disability community to the general public.

Frances symbolized the essence of participation; she was the best example of how a person can live a full life, regardless of having a disability or not. She had shown determination, courage and dignity in her life; her accomplishments were beyond measure, and touched the lives of many people around her. More significantly, Frances was a role model of citizenship for all; she reflected the true Canadian value in diversity, respect and dignity. Many people respect her for her integrity and her fearless quest for equality; she was an exemplary model for inclusiveness that formed the guiding principles for the charities she founded. She was indeed an inspiration to many. Frances, we will miss you tremendously!