

Myrtle Vickberg Made Things Happen

"From rickshaws to speed boats to horses, 'Texas Myrt' runs to the gamut," wrote Thomas Sexton, editor of the Credit Union Magazine in 1969. "What an interesting life you lead in your beautiful province rimmed with mountains and set by the sea."

Who's Myrtle Vickberg?

Mr. Sexton was writing to a force of nature named Myrtle Vickberg. This groundbreaking woman was manager of Courtenay Savings Credit Union, now amalgamated into Coastal Community, from 1952 until she died unexpectedly in 1977 at 57. As Sexton pointed out, Vickberg was a woman who knew how to have fun, and the papers took great glee in covering a series of zany races she took part in with other community leaders to celebrate what was then Dominion Day. Word has it that she always won!

But Myrtle offered far more to her community. She was active in the credit union movement and at one point was the director of B.C. Credit Union League. One of the first women to be a city alderman, serving from 1958 to 1961, she also worked tirelessly for organizations like the Historical Society, Home Nursing program, Canadian Cancer Society, Mental Health Association, and Big Brothers.

Empowering Women

Myrtle had a special interest in supporting women, and was a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club and the Courtenay Soroptimist Club, an organization aiming to empower women by providing access to education. She had a wonderful combination of innovative ideas and organizational know-how, which she put to great use when she was named chairman of the Courtenay Centennial Committee for both the B.C. Centennials and the Canada Centennial. She raised the profile of the area so well she was awarded the Canadian Confederation Medal of Service to the Nation in the late 1960s.

According to the Courtenay Community Heritage website [A Walk Through Time](#), Myrtle was also honoured by K'omoks First Nation for her work with their community. Local Credit Union members may remember the "Children's Wicket" she created in 1964 so children as young as four could open a savings account.

Dr. J. Melville, President of the Board of Directors of Courtenay Savings Credit Union at the time of her death, said Myrtle "lived by the code of the three Ds: Devotion, Diligence and Determination." We couldn't be prouder of the contributions she made to our Credit Union and to Vancouver Island as a whole.



Myrtle Vickberg helps two young members at the Children's Wicket