

Pearl Holmberg



Pearl was born Pearl Baillie in 1906. She grew up near Dundee and immigrated to Toronto in 1925, working for many years at Eaton's. In 1939 she moved to Vancouver, and one day in Hudson's Bay Company she heard Scottish music wafting from a room on the sixth floor. Pearl searched for the source of the music, and discovered Mrs. Bingham leading one of her regular tea dances. Among the dancers were Nellie McKenzie and Mary Wattum.

That day began Pearl's long association with Scottish country dancing, which led her first to join Mrs. Bingham's night school classes and later to become a faithful member of the Vancouver Branch. She attended parties regularly, and even as she approached the age of 90 she was still able to attend functions and chat with her friends.

Pearl died in September 1997, leaving a large bequest to the Vancouver Branch. The Pearl Holmberg Fund has enriched the dance experience of all those who dance in Vancouver. It enabled the Branch to run the biennial Pearl Holmberg Memorial Workshop for Teachers and Musicians, the first event of its kind to bring teachers and musicians together. It helped to fund a regular dance held each fall, Pearl's Party. It continues to nurture our dancing in many other ways, providing music machines for classes and costumes for demonstration teams. We all remember Pearl with gratitude.

Rosemary Coupe
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