

# *Jean Mackenzie House*

*On March 8, International Women's Day, 1995 the West Kootenay Women's Association House, home of the Nelson & District Women's Centre, was officially designated Jean Mackenzie House. We are honoured to bear this name, celebrating the memory of one of our community's most beloved and active citizens.*

*Jean moved with her family to the Kootenays in 1956, and was active in the Women's Institute and the Parent-Teachers Association in Nakusp. They then moved to Blueberry in 1961, and in 1962 settled in Genelle. While she lived in Genelle, she was a leader in the fight against uranium mining in the watershed. This fight was instrumental in causing a moratorium on all uranium mining in B.C. During this time she was a member of the founding group of the Doukhobour Museum, and was active in its ongoing work. She was also President of the Board of the National Exhibition Centre.*

*Throughout her life she and her husband, Tom, were active members of the NDP, and she was at one time Membership Secretary of Rossland-Trail.*

*Both the elder Mackenzies were recipients of the Canada 125 Medal in recognition of their contribution to their community.*

*Since moving to Nelson in 1984, Jean continued in her community activism, and was involved with the Central American Support Group, the Nelson Museum, various seniors' groups, Nelson University Centre, and the West Kootenay Women's Association.*

*Her open countenance, ready smile and calm energy were a welcome feature of many women's events in this area.*

*Part of her legacy are her two daughters, Sally and Suzanne, who benefited from their mother's guidance to become two of our women's community's very active members. When Jean died, donations in lieu of flowers were directed to the Nelson and District Women's Centre for the new house.*