

# REMARKABLE WOMEN

*Honouring Women From Our Vancouver Communities*



*Photo courtesy Betty Baxter*

*Betty Baxter*

**Betty Baxter** played volleyball at the University of British Columbia as an undergraduate and was a member of the T-Birds team that won the National Interuniversity Sport title in 1972-73 and again in 1973-74. In 1974 she was named BC's University Athlete of The Year. A member of the national volleyball team, Betty was captain of the team that represented Canada at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games.

She began her coaching career at the University of Alberta in 1977. In 1980, she coached the University of Ottawa to a silver medal in the CIS National finals and was named Interuniversity Coach of the Year for the 1979-1980 season.

In 1979 Betty became full-time Head Coach of the National Volleyball Program, the first female, and the first Canadian, to achieve this position. She coached the national team until January 1982 when she was fired after months of speculation about her sexual orientation. She has since been an outspoken advocate for lesbian and gay issues in sport and the community.

A strong believer in developing equity in sport, Betty is a co-founder of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and the National Coaching School for Women. She was a board member and spokesperson for the 1990 Vancouver Gay Games. As a player/coach Betty capped off an impressive career with a gold medal win in volleyball at the 1986 San Francisco Gay Games and a silver medal at the 1990 Vancouver Gay Games.