

REMARKABLE WOMEN

Honouring Women From Our Vancouver Communities



Photo courtesy Lori Fung

Lori Fung

Lori Fung grew up in East Vancouver, roller skating on East 8th Avenue, making up routines and pretending she was performing. She took up rhythmic gymnastics in 1976 and two years later, as a 16-year old, she was competing nationally.

Determined to excel in her sport, she convinced her parents to let her train in Bulgaria where some of the best coaches of the time were teaching. Her ongoing hard work and dedication paid off with a series of championship wins: she won every BC Provincial Championship from 1977 to 1988 and won the Canadian National Championships from 1982 to 1988.

When rhythmic gymnastics was made an official Olympic sport for the first time at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, Lori made it her goal to qualify. She placed first overall at the 1983 International competition in Lausanne, Switzerland, and by the end of the year was ranked 23rd in the world. At the beginning of 1984, Lori again trained internationally, this time in Romania. She came in first at the Canadian Olympic trial meet, realizing her dream to compete at the Olympics. Lori upset the favoured Romanians and became the first person to win an Olympic gold medal in rhythmic gymnastics.

For her numerous accomplishments in sport, Lori was inducted into the Canadian Olympic Sports Hall of Fame in 1984; the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 1985; appointed to the Order of Canada in 1985; appointed to the Order of British Columbia in 1990; and was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.