Sally Gribble

On June 15, 1981, Fred Gribble, a Douglas College student, was driving his motorcycle on the Lougheed Highway when it was hit by a car driven by a drunk driver. Fred died of his injuries the next day at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster – he was 21 years old.

The driver of the car that killed Fred Gribble was charged with impaired driving and failing to submit to a breath analysis test. He received a 30-day jail term (which was later reduced to 20 days). His licence was suspended for nine months. It was not his first impaired driving offence – he had been fined $400 in November 1979 on a similar charge.

Because of the light sentence and knowing that 850 other people were killed in alcohol-related crashes the same year, Sally made it her mission to eliminate impaired driving while providing support to victims of the crime.

Starting small in her living room in New Westminster, BC, her plan grew quickly, attracting more people. Eventually she sold the family home and used the money to lease and equip an office – the first Canadian chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). For the next 15 years, until her death in 1996, Sally Gribble devoted every waking hour to her cause.

Researched and written by A Sense of History Research Services Inc. and sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.