

Redboine Watershed District Builder Award – Roy Wood

The Redboine Watershed District is pleased to nominate Roy Wood for the Watershed District Builder Award. Roy's commitment, dedication and intellect, leadership, strength of character and warmth has touched all that know him.

Roy began farming at the age of 20 on a quarter section of land. During this time, he met and married his long-time partner, Mabel. They adopted five children and are now blessed with 15 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Roy and Mabel worked the land, milked cows and sold weanling pigs. His interest in pigs grew and Roy began a career with purebred Landrace Pigs. Once a purebred herd was established, he began selling breeding stock around Manitoba, the prairies and into the United States.

He encouraged and exemplified the virtue of good citizenship by joining the Canadian Landrace Breeders Assoc. as a member and president, serving as a councillor of the R.M. of Dufferin, acting as a director and President of the Pembina Valley Development Corporation (10years), and sitting as a committee member and chairman of the development team for the Stephenfield Lake Watershed Management Plan, which was the precursor to the current IWMP process. Through his role as councillor for the R.M. of Dufferin, Roy was instrumental in the formation of the La Salle Redboine Conservation District (LSRBCD) in 2002. He was appointed to the Boyne River Sub-District and elected to the Executive Board in the very first election where he shared his commitment to soil and water conservation for the next 18 years. Roy made an immeasurable impact as a passionate advocate for the District and the programming that we provide, and provided outstanding leadership as Chairman of the Executive Board for 9 years.

His role with the LSRBCD also led him to a position on the Board of the Manitoba Conservation District Association (MCDA) from 2011 to 2019. He rarely missed a meeting, and really enjoyed the camaraderie with the other directors. Throughout these meetings he was able to share and learn about the conservation activities all over the province. According to Roy, "An important part of my life was working with the Conservation District and Manitoba Conservation District Association."

Roy was the very last Chairman of the LSRBCD Executive Board before the transition to the Redboine Watershed District. Roy retired from the Executive Board in 2020 during the transition stage and then retired from the Boyne River Sub-District in 2021, saying that it was time to let some new members make their mark on the new Watershed District, but he continues to be a source of information and project ideas.

Roy has demonstrated innovation in delivering lasting results on our landscape. He was always on the lookout for projects throughout the district and has been involved with water retention projects, erosion control projects and shelterbelt projects on his own farm. One of his hi-lights on the LSRBCD Board was the Pelly's Lake project, which took 10 years from concept to construction. Roy was the driving force in leading the Board to successfully implement the Pelly's Lake Project, was one of the first members appointed to the Boyne River GROW Committee, and still sits as a member on the Boyne Morris River IWMP Project Management Team.

The Board of the Redboine Watershed District recognizes all of Roy's accomplishments and contributions throughout the 20 years he has been involved with the Conservation District/Watershed District program. His visionary leadership has been a tremendous asset in growing the districts programs and connecting with the local landowners. He can be heard saying "Aren't we lucky that we live in the best part of the best country in the whole world." His legacy with the Redboine Watershed District will continue to deliver lasting results for years to come.

In the words of Jane Goodall, "*You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.*" Roy has definitely made a difference on our landscape!