

The Redboine Watershed District (RBWD) is pleased to present Gordon and Val Turner with the 2021 RBWD Conservation Award. This award recognizes the outstanding contributions and impact that the Turner family have had on our landscape.

Gordon and Val were married in 1974 and purchased Val's family farm in 1994. They expanded their property in 2001. Gordon worked in construction most of his life and as a semi-retiree, he is currently working at Swansfleet Alliance. Val worked for Treherne/South Norfolk as an assistant for 8 years then as CAO for R.M. of Lorne for over 20 years. She has been retired since 2008. They have 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

Although Gordon and Val weren't active producers, they were always looking at ways to protect and improve their land. Reg Marginet, RBWD board member comments, "I've known Gordon and Val for many years, and they are a very community minded couple that has always been interested in conservation and nature. They have been such a benefit to our district. We are pleased to be able to showcase their efforts in soil and water conservation." Gordon and Val have worked with the district to implement a number of BMP projects over the years. Some of these include erosion control programs, riparian area protection and management programs, offsite watering systems, cover crops, and small water retention projects. They were also the first applicant to the RBWD GROW program and are continuing to come up with GROW projects. "The Turners are enthusiastic and forward-thinking landowners" said Jennifer Corvino, RBWD GROW Coordinator, "I have had the privilege of working with them on GROW projects and their commitment to the health of the watershed is very evident in the practices they implement."

Because Gordon and Val are environmentally passionate people, they also like to spread the word on the watershed district's programs. According to Gordon, "If given the opportunity, I will always share and pass any information to other landowners. We have to work together. I also take great pride in being a landowner and I think it is very important to help preserve the land for future generations. I feel very fortunate to have had the assistance on many projects from Reboine Watershed District to make it possible for me to achieve these improvements and hope to continue to work with them."

The Redboine Watershed District would like to congratulate Gordon and Val on their commitment and direct and positive impact to the Boyne Watershed. They will be recognized at the Manitoba Association of Watersheds Annual Conference in Brandon, December 6-8th, 2021.