

FRANK WILSON

What can you say about Frank? There are so many things that he has been involved in that the list seems endless. Frank has unselfishly donated his time and energy. He is a Life member of the Legion, the Boundary Trail Commission and the Shorthorn Association. He served on the executive of many boards in various capacities. With a love of kids and sports, he has coached baseball, served as a club leader in 4-H, was President of the Pilot Mound Arena Board, served on the Library Board and the Pilot Mound Museum Board. He was ticket taker at the arena for many hockey games. There are likely many other organizations that have benefited from Frank's influence that aren't listed here.

He and Frank McKay started the Post Office cards for people in hospital over 43 years ago and it is still going strong today. Even to this day, he takes sweets for coffee breaks to the volunteers at the Millennium Complex and is one of the "broom boys" with Ez Collins and Tommy Taylor. They couldn't do without those guys.

Everyone knows Frank! His wife Beryl says that they can't go anywhere without meeting someone who shouts out a greeting. She also says that Frank has always been there for the other guy. He drops her off at the door of the shopping malls as he refuses to park close because, in his words, "That's for the old folks!"

Frank has always had a connection with young people. He appreciates their candour, their ideas and their energy. Speaking of energy, it's hard to believe Frank recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Frank received 80+ birthday greetings and cherishes each and every one of them but again in his words, he's "dashed if I can live up to them".

His most gratifying experience has been when some of his former 4-H "kids" came to him to get a recommendation for a job and later came back to tell him his letter sealed the deal. He is quick to point out that they were very deserving in their own right.

Along with all his other accomplishments, he carves beautiful birds. He has given away many of his works but still holds on to the first one he ever made, a wren sitting on a tree branch. The one and only painting he has ever done is proudly displayed in their living room. His talents are amazing and seem limitless. We encourage Frank to get his brushes out once more.

He still spreads his sunshine visiting people in the lodge and in the hospital. He thinks everyone should take the time to visit the sick or the lonely even if it's just to pop your head in to say hello. It could make a world of difference to that person and brighten their whole day and change their attitude. Frank does this everywhere he goes. People are naturally attracted to him because of his positive demeanour.

During the interview, he claims he's "done a little" for his community and is quick to turn the conversation to someone else's accomplishments.

Frank is a most valuable "door man and greeter" at all our Smorgs and he quite simply knows everyone and has a friendly word for all.

To quote Frank, "A community can't just sit there and not accomplish anything. We need people to push things thru."

It is with great honour and privilege the Pilot Mound & District Chamber of Commerce present to you Frank, with the Community Volunteer of the Year Award - to recognise your many years of unselfish dedicated volunteering and commitment to our community.

Carolanne Bayne, President