

# Kevin Ritchie *earns Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan*

**ON MARCH 15, 2022, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AWARD** for outstanding service to rural Saskatchewan was presented to the late Kevin Ritchie of Wilcox, Sask. Accepting the award on his behalf was his wife, Tammy. His daughter Sarah delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of the family.

Kevin was born and raised on a farm just south of Wilcox. After graduation, the local RM administrator at the time, Graham McNamee, suggested he consider a career in local government administration. With Graham's support and mentorship, Kevin embarked on a lifetime career that he loved. He was hired by the RM of Bratt's Lake No. 129 in May 1978. Kevin was always thankful that the council of the day took a chance on a local kid who was only 21 years old. Council hoped he would stick around for a few years, and he made good on their expectations. In 1979, Kevin was approached by the Village of Wilcox council to take on the responsibilities of village administrator as well. He accepted, and the offices were combined into one.

Education was very important to Kevin and he achieved his Superior A certification in 1990. He trained four administrators and mentored numerous others over the years. Rarely a week went by that he didn't receive a call from an administrator, reeve or councillor looking for advice, a chance to vent, or to bounce some ideas around.

Kevin took his commitment to his community very seriously. He served as the secretary-treasurer of the Bratt's Lake conservation and development area for 41 years, secretary-treasurer of the Wilcox Fire Board for nine years and was a volunteer firefighter for 11 years. He served on the recreation board for 12 years in various roles and on the Wilcox School Division Board for 10 years as trustee, vice and chairman. He also helped form and was the first president of the Wilcox Optimist Club. In 1992, Kevin and Tammy purchased the local insurance brokerage and the pair served their community as insurance brokers and motor licence issuers for the next 21 years.

At the provincial level, Kevin was the director of Division 2 for the RMAA for eight years beginning in 1993. He was then VP of the RMAA for three years and president from 2003-07. He also sat as the director ex-officio on the SARM board from 2003-07. He was appointed to the MEPP Commission from 2008-11,. He was also executive director of the RMAA from 2008-16 and secretary to the RMAA's rural board of examiners from 2012-17.

Life was not all work and no play. Kevin was an avid baseball player and coach who played on numerous championship teams at the provincial, western Canadian and national levels. He coached all levels of youth baseball, proudly watching the boys achieve their own successes at city and provincial levels. For these achievements he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame in the builder/player category in 2014. He played hockey and coached during the baseball off-season, leading those teams to provincial championships as well.

In the spring of 1996, on the way to a baseball tournament, Kevin was the first on the scene of a vehicle accident between a truck and semi. The truck was on fire and the driver was unable to get out. He and another passerby pulled the man from the burning vehicle and saved his life. Kevin later learned the man was a councillor in the RM of Craik, No. 222. For this act of bravery, he was honoured with the SARM Award of Valour, the Governor General's Commendation for Bravery,

and nominated for the Carnegie Fund Commission Bravery Medal. His joking response was that he'd practiced for years saving councillors' butts from the heat!

Kevin retired from the Village of Wilcox in March 2012 and from the RM of Bratt's Lake in July 2016. He spent his entire career at the same desk, humbly serving the community that he loved.



Their Honours, Russ and Donna Mirasty presenting the The Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan posthumously to Kevin Ritchie (accepted by Tammy Ritchie).



## Kevin Ritchie

1956 - 2022

**Administrator**, 1978-2016  
RM of Bratt's Lake No. 129

**Administrator**, 1979-2011  
Village of Wilcox

**Director Division 2**, 1993-2001

**Vice President**, 2001-2003

**President**, 2003-2007

**Executive Director**, 2008-2016  
RMAA

**Director Ex-Officio**, 2003-2007  
SARM