

Bud McKay Memorial Scholarship

Dear Recipient:

The award you are being presented with is in honour of a very much loved and respected Yukoner. It is hoped that through this award you too will be on your way to becoming a skilled tradesperson who prides themselves in making a difference in the community.

Bud was born July 1st, 1931 in Radville, Saskatchewan during the dirty thirties, and as times were very tough during the depression his parents ended up traveling north by covered wagon so his Dad could find work as a blacksmith. At the early age of 15, he rode his bicycle 102 miles to work on his uncle's farm stooking grain and working a team of horses from dawn to dusk harvesting.

His first car was a crank start 1924 Model T Ford. He only paid \$35.00 because it needed a lot of work. By then Bud was very resourceful and could pretty much fix anything, becoming very skilled with his hands. As a self taught and motivated young man he started Sheldon Business Equipment as a manual typewriter repair technician, Bud's Automotive Upholstery and played a mean fiddle in a dance band in his spare time. Bud always had a grin on his face and shared a great sense of humor.

In 1973 Bud moved his family to the new mining town of Faro, Yukon. He worked his way up to Town Foreman and Superintendent of Public Works. He served as the Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Volunteer firefighter and Auxiliary Conservation Officer, and often called upon by the RCMP for assistance as a trustworthy and respected member of the community. He later was employed by YTG doing Building Maintenance in Faro, Ross River and North Canol. Throughout these years he diligently studied and worked very hard to get his trade tickets which he was very proud of. He was always eager to share that knowledge with others who came seeking answers. Bud built a garage which turned into a plumbing and heating repair supply shop in his backyard. He started up Bud's Furnace repair to meet the needs of the community after the mine shut down. He allowed locals to come and help themselves to supplies using the honor system. Attached to the shop, he built a northern greenhouse complete with heating and watering systems with giant tomatoes and cukes to give away (or sometimes help themselves too!) A true Faroite, he was always the first to lend a hand whenever someone was in need. Bud was honored and received many accolades throughout his working years. On his retirement we presented him with a "Bud" Yukon specialty license plate.

Bud was officially recognized for his community service on his 75th birthday as the recipient of the Yukon Commissioner's Award for Public Service.



Bud McKay Memorial Scholarship

It wasn't all work and no play. Bud loved the outdoors all his life and at every opportunity headed out into the Yukon wilderness hunting or fishing especially at his favorite fishing hole, Dragon Lake on the North Canal. He loved camping with his 3 grandchildren and always had a video recorder handy to capture these moments and he watched those videos over and over again until we could get together again (or videotaped WWE wrestling). The grandkids (who are now adults) remember the suspenseful twilight trips to the Faro dump and silently watching as the grizzlies, wolves and eagles battled it out for scraps while listening to Grampa Yukon's real outdoor adventure stories. "Margo the Argo" took them up into the mountains exploring where no man had ever been before or going for gold panning adventures at Gru creek. He built them chain saw thrones, log cabin shelters and tiger torch campfires where we listened to lively music and corny Grampa Yukon jokes. On rainy days it didn't matter, under the tarps we played Frustration Rummy, Queen of Spades and there was always a cribbage board wherever we went.

Bud passed away April 20, 2014 and was laid to rest in a shiny red toolkit adorned with a fireweed bouquet tied up with duct tape bow. His signpost marker in the Faro cemetery points the way to his favorite Yukon adventures.

We sincerely hope that you also reap the rewards of a career in the trades and this bursary helps you out on your own Yukon pursuits.

Shelly (McKay) Thierman and family



Left to right: Louise Eberts, Jenna Kern, Braiden Neilson, Jacey Parker, Shannon Eberts,

Shelly (McKay) Thierman, Greg Thierman, Mike Eberts and Janelle Eberts