



SASKATCHEWAN
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2026 Southeast Saskatchewan Legends Award Recipients



Bruce Miller



Dale Ziegler



Don Spearing



Hugh Borgland



Kenney Cugnet



Mel Trobert



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Bruce Miller

Bruce Miller was born to Alex and Shirley Miller and raised on the family farm near McTaggart, along with his sister Shelley. He was a true farm kid, busy playing hockey, curling, farming, riding dirt bikes, and snowmobiling.

Bruce learned early from his dad how to weld, fix, and operate just about anything. At 15, he was already renting land to farm on his own. By high school, he was juggling farm work, his own land, and two other jobs — as a busboy at the Weyburn Inn and as a gas attendant at Petro Canada.

In 1987, Bruce got a call from Laurence Woodard asking if he wanted to come work — that call changed his life. Not only did he find his career, but he also met Laurence's daughter, Shannon, who he later married. Together they raised two kids, Nikole and Cody. Bruce worked his way up through Woodard Well Servicing, then Penwood, and later Arc Resources as an operator. He enjoyed that experience, but his heart was still with the rigs. In 2001, Bruce, along with Kerwin and Del Mondor, started Miller Well Servicing Ltd. They bought their first rig and never looked back. By 2003 they had three rigs, then more followed — adding another six rigs over eight years.

Today, Miller Well has been going strong for 25 years in Southeast Saskatchewan. Miller Well has grown steadily and employs an average of 45–50 people.

Through market changes, slowdowns, and uncertainty, he's managed to keep his crews working — a testament to his resilience and dedication to both his employees and the community. He recognizes the value of having good workers and the importance of keeping them.

Bruce is one of those rare people who never forgets where he came from. His leadership shows in every corner of Miller Well. It's not just about running a successful company; it's about keeping people safe, treating them right, and making sure they go home at the end of the day. He doesn't take shortcuts — and he won't let anyone else take them either.

Family means everything to Bruce. If he's not helping his oilfield family, he's teaching his grandchildren how to weld, fix, or build something from scratch.

In March 2024, Bruce and his family faced an unimaginable loss when Cody tragically passed away in a farming accident. Yet, through the heartbreak, Bruce's strength and leadership continued to shine. He carries Cody with him every day showing his employees what resilience truly looks like.

Bruce Miller is the heart of Miller Well Servicing and a pillar in our oilfield community. His leadership, work ethic, and kindness have impacted many people.



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Dale Ziegler

Dale Zeiger was born in 1967 and raised on a farm near Francis where he currently resides. During his high school years, he worked at a seed plant in Sedley.

After high school Dale went to work for Lorne Stoppler with Regina's Midwest Pipeline. There he worked as a labourer, parts runner, side-boom operator, bending machine operator, excavator operator, foreman, assistant superintendent and superintendent. That work took him across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

In 2000 he married Charity Knoll, also of Francis. They had three children – Brett, Breanna and Brodie.

In 1998 Dale started work with Carson Welding and Maintenance out of Lampman. With Carsons his roles included foreman, assistant superintendent, superintendent and Project Manager responsible for managing larger pipeline projects while actively pursuing work with existing and new clients.

In 2011 Carson Energy sold to Flint Energy. Shortly after, Flint Energy sold to URS, and then URS sold to AECOM. Dale went from operations manager to central area manager and then vice president plains area as Ron Carson was working towards his retirement.

In early 2016 with the guidance of Ron Carson, some key managers and Dale started planning to start up a new entity, Canadian Plains Energy Services (CPES). It specializes in pipelines, facility construction, fabrication and crew work, principally in Saskatchewan. Discussions started with Stephen Smith of Strike Energy, and it was decided that they would be a perfect fit to join forces with. CPES would be their Saskatchewan footprint.

Locations were quickly reopened in many of the old Carson Energy locations including Virden, White City, Alida and Carlyle, with North Battleford eventually added. Purchases of Brent Gedak Welding in Estevan and Quakes Oilfield Construction in Lloydminster were next.

“The key reasons for the success of CPES was due to the dedication and hard work of each and every employee, and I was very proud to work with every one of them,” Dale said.

In 2018 Dale participated in raising over \$500,000 for a STARS fundraiser called “Rescue on the Prairies.”

In 2024 Dale retired from his president role, then briefly returned as a business development advisor before officially retiring in the fall of 2025. Dale will continue to attend management meetings periodically going forward.

Dale's retirement plans include operating a small business out of Francis, traveling with his wife and spending time with family and friends.

In 2000 Dale's wife, Charity, opened, owned and operated Ziggy Mart, a convenience store/gas station/bakery in Francis. It was sold in 2009. She, Breanna and Brodie now work with McDougall Auctioneers. Breanna has a degree in human resources and Brodie is working towards her degree in speech pathology. Brett works as an equipment operator with Canadian Plains.



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Don Spearing

Don Spearing was literally born into the oilfield. His father, Ken, started hauling fluids from some of the first wells drilled in Saskatchewan, near Frobisher, in 1956. That company was Bowman & Spearing Service Ltd, operating out of Frobisher.

Don was born in 1961 in Oxbow, second of four children. He and his brother, Trevor, started working for Ken's company at a young age, sweeping floors and fixing tires. In 1978 he worked in the shop full-time. It was a very slow time in the oilpatch, so Don briefly worked service rigs in Oxbow, then Fort St. John, B.C., before returning to Oxbow.

By the early 80s, Spearing Service was running 10 trucks and based in Oxbow. Don got his 1A license and drove until 1987, when he moved into dispatch and management. Ken started spending winters down south, leaving the company to his sons to operate. In 1989, Ken sold the majority of the company to his two sons. Don recalls his father saying, "Okay smartasses – you've been telling me how to run the company for the last 10 years. I'm going south. You guys run it!"

At this point they were running around 15 to 18 trucks, specializing in hauling fluid in the oilfield. This grew to include vac trucks, frac heaters, hot oilers, steamers and more.

In 1992 Don married Charlene Allen of Sturgis, an EMT and later nurse. They had four children – Brianna, Jasmin, Courtney and Ryley, all of whom worked in the company at one time or another. Spearing Service bought out Koch Trucking in 1996, and Trans-X's oilfield division in 2003.

In 1999, Don started another trucking company, Great Northern Trucking USA, in North Dakota. The 2000s proved fruitful for Spearing Service, growing to over 60 trucks and bases in Oxbow, Carlyle, Pipestone and Waskada.

In 2005 Don talked to Murray Mullen about selling the company to Mullen Group. Don needed a break, and Mullen said, "Why don't I own the equipment and you run it?"

That deal was sealed in 2006, and took away a lot of the financial stress for Don.

While Trevor soon left to start his own hydrovac company, Extreme Hydrovac, Don stayed on for close to eight years. The Bakken Boom meant growth to over 60 trucks, 100 crude oil trailers and 150 frac tanks. Don left in 2014, just before things went sour in the oilpatch.

When his non-compete expired, he added a new company, Great Northern Trucking Canada.

The two Great Northern Trucking companies specialized in hauling oil for delivery across the border. Daughter Brianna and her husband, Joey, were heavily involved in their operations until 2022. Then Courtney took over until the USA version was sold in 2024, and the Canadian version has been wound down in recent years.

Don and Charlene live in Lakeside, Montana.



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Hugh Borglund

Hugh Borglund was born in Stettler, Alberta. He graduated from the University of Calgary in 1967 with a degree in economics. His first job was with Sun Oil, where he was exposed to the land department. He worked as a landman in the Steelman area.

In 1967 he married his high school sweetheart, Laureen Pickard, a nurse. They have three children – Craig, Brett and Stephanie.

Hugh credited his wife Laureen, saying “We’ve been married 58 years, and she’s gone through a lot of ups and downs over the years in this oil business, and she’s still hanging in.”

He worked with Anadarko Petroleum as division landman and went on his own his own in 1973 as a consulting landman to various oil and gas companies. This led to organizing and raising funding for three different small drilling funds.

Hugh worked on converting a mining company to an oil and gas company, Ashlu Exploration, in 1978, which worked in the Midale area. However, the 1980’s were a difficult period and a learning experience. Hugh sought a proper defined business plan and concentrated on southeast Saskatchewan, because he felt it was perfect for small oil companies.

In 1993, he formed Trego Energy Inc, concentrating in the Weyburn area. It was sold in 1998. Next was Landex Exploration Ltd, sold to NAL Resources Ltd. in 2003. Then subsequent Landex Petroleum Ltd. sold to Crescent Point Energy 2008.

Sons Craig and Brett joined in, with Craig as president of Landex Petroleum Ltd. and Brett was a geological assistant with the firm. After its sale, the Borglands formed Highrock Energy, with Craig as president, and Triland Energy Inc., a family company, with Brett as president. Hugh is chair for both. After Highrock Energy was sold to Legacy Oil Ltd in 2014, Craig formed Highrock Resources Ltd and subsequently sold to Whitecap Resources in 2021. After the Whitecap sale, Craig formed Taprock Energy Inc. which is also currently active in southeast Saskatchewan, alongside Triland Energy Inc. A short supply of drilling rigs led to the formation of Totem Drilling Ltd, with Hugh as president. It sold to CanElsion Drilling, with Hugh on its board prior to its sale to Trinidad Drilling.

He also acknowledged Ken Collopy, whose been working with their various companies for over 30 years, and is Triland’s operations manager. Ken’s son, James, also works for Taprock.

Their daughter, Stephanie is a neuro-scientist at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute, part of the University of Calgary. She is also vice president of Research at U of C and active on the board of Fresh Start Recovery Center of which Craig is currently Chairman.

The Borglund’s philanthropic activity includes Fresh Start Recovery; All in for Youth and Planet Youth programs with United Way; and the O2 research cancer program at U of C. They were also one of the financial founders of the Glands-Look Lung cancer data base, “We were honored to receive the Bill Siebens Award of Excellence granted by United Way in 2024,” Hugh said.



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Kenney Cugnet

The drilling of the Weyburn Unit discovery well near their farm in 1954 when he was just 8 years old began Ken Cugnet's love affair with the oil business. The drillers became heroes to Ken and his twin brother, Dick.

In 1962 at age 16, Ken's first oilpatch job was tying steel for the Shell Plant in Midale. He briefly worked on a drilling rig then later on a service rig for Addison & Leyen. Until 1967, he worked off season (from farming) on a series of drilling rigs from Weyburn to the Northwest Territories. In 1968, he went to work for Halliburton cementing and acidizing from Weyburn to Rainbow Lake.

Gradually he evolved into land work, consulting, and investing.

Ken was a deal junkie, but he said the best deal he ever made was to marry his wife, JoAnne Bannatyne, in 1975. She was a public health nurse originally from Estevan. They would have four boys, Daniel, Craig, Tim and Matthew, all of whom ended up working in the various family businesses and farm.

In 1977, Ken became president of the family-owned Cugnet Petroleums Inc. He formed his own company, Valleyview Petroleums Ltd., in March 1979, and set up an office in Weyburn in 2002.

He first started joint ventures in Alberta and in 1985 became a joint venture partner with Saskatchewan-based Tappit Resources. He went on to run their field operations and later became a company director in 1987 and then chairman of the board in 2000.

He was a director for Cypress Petroleum Corporation from 1989 to 1993. Ken served on the Saskatchewan Surface Rights Arbitration Board from 1987 to 1992.

In 2003, Tappit Resources merged with Crescent Point Energy to form Crescent Point Energy Trust. The company became the dominant player in the Bakken boom. Ken was a board member until 2014. That year he was integral in the company's donation, just a month before his death, of \$4.5 million to the Weyburn and District Hospital Foundation. Ken and JoAnne also donated \$1 million to the hospital on behalf of their family.

Star Point Energy was a spin-off from the Crescent Point merger. Ken was a director from 2003 to 2005. That led to him serving on Mission Oil & Gas' board from 2005 to 2007.

In 2007 he was named Southeast Saskatchewan Oilman of the Year, along with Jim Boettcher.

Ken served on numerous boards, including Tappit Resources Ltd. as chairman, Mission Oil & Gas Inc., Star Point Energy Inc., Medora Resources Inc, Elkhorn Resources, Cypress Petroleum Corp., Panther Drilling, Aaron Well Servicing, Petrotherm, Alchem Energy Services, Cugnet Petroleums, Weyburn Security, Nickle Lake Regional Park Board, Queen Elizabeth School Local Board and the Saskatchewan Surface Rights Board.

He was particularly proud to work with his four sons who are following in his footsteps making their livelihood in "cows and oil."

Due to his own difficulties in school because of a learning disability, Ken has generously supported the Saskatchewan Learning Disabilities Association for many years.

As Dan said in his Ken's eulogy, Ken often asked, "Did we increase shareholder value today?" Indeed, he did.



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Mel Trobert

Mel Trobert was born in 1950 in Estevan and raised on a farm near Tribune. He soon found himself working on drilling rigs at a young age. That's not surprising since, as the youngest of seven children, nearly the entire family found itself working in the patch.

Mel was one of those irrepresible people who lived 24 hours in every day. That is, except for the one time Doris Frehlick asked why his time card said 25 hours. He replied, "Must not have stopped for lunch."

He worked at Bourassa's in Radville, assembling equipment, and bought his first truck before he had a drivers licence. He went to work on drilling rigs at the age of 15.

After a few years on the rigs, Mel went to work for Flint, first as an equipment operator then as a pipeline foreman. He spent about five years with Flint before going to work for his brother Joe's company CEDA in Williston. Mel spent about five years down south in the 90s before coming to work for Ray Frehlick in the rat hole business.

A rat hole rig drills and installs the cellar and conductor pipe for the main hole, the mouse hole and the rat hole. Mel entered the rat hole business in the 1980s. "We leased a rig from the States to get going. It was a bucket rig, a water well rig, more or less," he said in 2011.

They got their first screw rig in 1987.

Ray Frehlick, the owner of Prairie Mud and Prairie Petro-Chem, used to own the business. Trobert was working for Frehlick at the time.

Mel was partners with Ray for many years. He bought out his two partners in 2004 and 2008, becoming sole owner that year.

He also had two sideline businesses – M&N Rentals, an oilfield rental outfit, and Man Construction.

In 1998, Mel married Donna Paterson. It was a package deal, with Donna's kids Travis and Tasha as part of the package. They very much became his kids, too, and by 2005 Travis was working in the business, and Tasha joined in 2010. Donna joined Prairie Rathole in 2007. Then Tasha's son Bryce came onboard in 2016.

The company was an early adopter of the SECOR program.

In 2013 Prairie Rat Hole expanded its fleet and moved into a new shop on the east side of Estevan.

Mel decided to take up farming in 2004, pouring his heart into the farm and cattle. Prairie Rat Hole staff often spent spring breakup working on the farm. The farm was sold in 2018.

Mel did not retire, but he did pass away in 2021.

Prairie Rat Hole continues to be run by son Travis and wife Donna. Tasha and her husband Jayson King and their son Bryce own and operate JK Containments.