

# 2017 SOUTHEAST SASKATCHEWAN LEGEND INDUCTEE



Ronald J Wanner is the founder of Viking Oilfield Equipment, Venture Well Service, T.Bird Oil, Firesky Energy, and several other service and holding companies. Over the past 45 years, the Wanner group of companies grew to be a complete vertically integrated oilfield operation. Its customer base included 600 companies spanning almost 5 decades, 3 Canadian provinces, 10 oil producing States south of the border.

Ron Wanner grew up on a farm near Macoun Sk. and started working at the OK Economy grocery store in Estevan in the summer of 1961.

The following spring he attended college in Regina, and graduated with a bookkeeping diploma.

He married Dorothy Barnstable from Outram SK and had 3 children - Debbie, Kelly, and Cory.

He took a job in fall of 1962 at Auto Electric as labourer and waited for an accounting job to come calling. British American Oil was looking for an accountant in Estevan, and Ron was chosen. Over the next ten years, he worked his way up to yard manager and inventory control. He learned many skills such as oil accounting, accounts payable, logistics, and purchasing. This would lend itself invaluable when he started his own business full time.

In 1966, a close friend and himself bought a new backhoe together. His partner would run the backhoe Monday to Friday and Ron would run it on weekends and holidays after working the week for British American Oil. After 3 years, it was time to branch out on his own and expand. With two backhoes, a gravel truck, and a little loader, Ron's Trenching & Hauling was formed.

In 1972 he quit BA Oil and that same year started Viking Surplus Oilfield Equipment. Along the way, Viking Surplus grew into a multi faceted mfg and service provider of new and reconditioned oilfield equipment that still goes on today.

After participating in a few oil wells oil production grew into a business of its own. T. Bird Oil was formed in 1982. In the mid 1990's TBird Oil hired a management team to grow its production company. The Wanner family and its management team split the assets of TBird Oil and formed a second entity called Firesky Energy. Both companies grew to over a 1000 bbls day. TBird was sold to Crescent Point in 2014, and today Firesky Energy is still very active in the community and continues to grow production.

Ron always said his personal ability was very limited, so he made up for it with determination and hard work. His attitude that every customer, deserves the same price made it his mission to help serve every small or large company who called upon his service.

Ron worked tirelessly serving his friends, family and the oil industry until his near fatal stroke in 2014. Today, at the age of 75 he advises his family business and works hard to please his 12 grandchildren.



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