



SASKATCHEWAN
OIL & GAS
SHOW

2015 Southeast Saskatchewan Oil Person of the Year Dempsey Laird

Dempsey Laird is a respected figure in the oil and gas industry in Southeast Saskatchewan, known for his decades of dedication, entrepreneurial spirit, and unwavering commitment to both the industry and his community.

Dempsey's career began in the early 1960s when he took his first job on the rigs as a derrick hand. From those early days, he developed a deep understanding of the work, building his skills from the ground up. In the 1970s, after years of hands-on experience, Dempsey took a leap of faith and started his own company—Laird Drilling. Through hard work, determination, and a strong moral compass, he grew his operation into a respected and successful business, contributing significantly to Saskatchewan's oilfield landscape.

Throughout his career, Dempsey became known not only as a skilled businessman but also as a fair and principled leader. His high standards for safety, integrity, and professionalism earned him the respect of peers, employees, and clients alike. He valued his staff, treated them like family, and led by example—never shying away from hard work and always emphasizing the importance of doing the job right.

Beyond the oilpatch, Dempsey has been deeply involved in the Southeast Saskatchewan community. He has supported various local initiatives and causes, including youth programs, public facilities, and charitable efforts. His contributions extend beyond financial support—he's donated time, resources, and mentorship to ensure the growth and vitality of the communities around him. His quiet generosity and community-minded attitude have made a lasting impact.

Even in retirement, Dempsey remains connected to the industry that shaped much of his life. He continues to provide guidance and mentorship to the next generation of workers and business owners, sharing not only his technical knowledge but also his values of honesty, resilience, and perseverance.

Dempsey Laird's legacy is one of integrity, leadership, and community service. His journey from a young oilfield worker to a successful business owner and respected community figure embodies the very spirit of the South East Saskatchewan Oilman of the Year Award. He is a true role model whose contributions continue to inspire those around him.