



SASKATCHEWAN  
**OIL & GAS**  
SHOW

## 2003 Southeast Saskatchewan Oil Person of the Year Les Avery

Les currently works with ARC Resources Ltd. Les provides the leadership for all of our Saskatchewan operations, which are managed from ARC's Estevan office. ARC operates over 6000 boe's/day of production in ARC's SE Saskatchewan core area, which is the 14th largest volume for an operator in Saskatchewan. Les manages a large geographic area with significant operations in the Carnduff, Estevan and Weyburn areas. ARC is also a significant partner in both the EnCana Weyburn and Apache Midale Units. Les is being nominated based on his extensive experience and significant lifetime achievements resulting from his dedication to the oil and gas industry in Saskatchewan. Les continues to provide experienced leadership in the industry, which is based on years of honest dealings, commitment to excellence in all aspects of business and a passion to remain dedicated to his "home turf". Les has resided in the Estevan area for 28 years. He was born in Tuxford, Saskatchewan, and was raised and schooled in Findlater and has served the oil industry for 42 years. He has been a long time active member of the local Oil Spill Contingency group. In addition to his dedication to the oil industry Les has in many aspects supported the communities in which he has lived. His active involvement in the Estevan & area communities include serving on the Board of Directors for the United Way. Les also served for many years as an annual United Way Telethon camera man. Les has served as the President, treasurer and caretaker of the Portal International Curling Club. This involvement in his community provides further testament to the character of Mr. Avery. Les Avery is more than just an oil patch veteran. He is known and respected for the commitment he's shown to the Oil and Gas Industry in Saskatchewan for the last 42 years.

His career began in Oxbow in 1961 with Bazin construction. There he worked in general oilfield construction and as a relief contract battery operator for 3 years. He then began at Dome Petroleum in the Pinto field of Southeast Saskatchewan as a battery operator. During his 20 year time he spent at Dome, Les was promoted several times and was a head operator within 5 years of starting with the company. In 1974, he was promoted to Production Foreman in the Estevan office in charge of 125 wells in the Southeast Saskatchewan area. By 1979 he was offered the area superintendent position, and oversaw one foreman, 5 operators and one office clerk. In the early 1980's Dome increased their position in the Saskatchewan area with two large acquisitions. Les was resilient, and took on more staff to oversee 3 production foremen, 15 operators, an office support staff and approximately 600 wells in the Southeast and Southwest Saskatchewan areas. Les continued to show his dedication to the industry when Amoco Canada acquired the Southeast Saskatchewan properties from Dome in 1988. Amoco started to divest some of its wells and in August 1993, with a large portion being acquired by Northrock Resources. Les decided to take a severance package from Amoco, at the age of 51, yet he stayed faithful to the business and worked on a full time contract basis for 3 years until Startech came along. The commitment Les showed through his career continued at Startech for 3 years, until he received another promotion. ARC acquired Startech in December 2000 and Les became ARC's Southeast Saskatchewan area leader. Les currently manages 6000 boe/day of production, controls an operating expense budget of \$16,244,014, assists with completion of \$18,160,000 in capital activities (drilling, etc.) and manages a fulltime staff of 22 people (including ARC contractor). Les's well known high standard of safety awareness on the worksite had benefited all those who have worked for him over the years. During his years at Amoco, he was awarded a 30 year Safety Award for no lost time accidents, a record he maintains to this day. He has also been presented with many safe driving awards, and encourages his staff to follow his example with ARC's implementation of the Safe Work and Safe Driving Awards. There are many areas in which Les promotes high standards. The facilities he manages are well maintained, and he prides himself on the value he gives to preventive maintenance. Optimization of electrical power, recycling of surplus equipment, and good record keeping are also areas the Les Excels at. Environmental performance has always been on the forefront of Les's accomplishments. The facilities that Les operates are well as being very maintained and demonstrate leadership in the environment forum. Most recently Les's staff coordinated the startup and ongoing operations of Saskatchewan's newest gas processing facility located south of Weyburn. This \$5 million facility has significantly reduced leadership necessary for successful startup of this project. Les has a high level of integrity in all business dealings conducted in the oil patch. He is well known by many suppliers, vendors and regulators within the industry. His approach is always friendly and personable in the relationships with staff, contractors, landowners, SaskEnergy and Mines staff, and community members. Les's warm heartedness is displayed in all areas of his life, including his family, who are his pride and joy. Les and his wife Betty were married on June 26th, 1965. They have two grown children, Wade and Paula. Les is also a very proud grandfather of one granddaughter and one grandson. Les especially enjoys the holidays and when all his family is together. Les and his family moved to Estevan in Oct. 1974 and although he has lived in Estevan since then, certainly isn't any stranger to moving a household. This is due to the fact that he likes to build houses and over the past 28 years has built 10 houses. People say if you want a well built house then buy one of the houses Les built. Les always says that building houses is his own secret weight loss. For relaxation, Les enjoys driving his new speedboat on the Boundary Dam where Betty and he spend a good deal of the summer. He also enjoys camping, fishing and golfing in the summer and curling and woodworking in the winter. This nomination was prepared by his co-workers in the Estevan/Weyburn area in conjunction with ARC's head office in Calgary. ARC is very proud of the lifetime achievements of Les Avery and are honored to forward his name for the 2003 South East Saskatchewan Oilman of the Year award.