

# Community Celebration

## Maurice Butler

Maurice Butler (1939-) was born and raised in London, England. After leaving school at age 15, he worked in television and theatre. In 1960 he immigrated to Canada, eventually settling in Winnipeg where in 1967, Maurice joined the City of St. James Police Department. From there he relocated to Morden to work in Law Enforcement for thirty years until his retirement.

Maurice's commitment to making Morden a safe and healthy place to live drew him to municipal politics and election to the Morden Town Council. His volunteer work encompasses organizations such as the Canadian Blood Service, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, South Central Committee for Family Violence, Habitat for Humanity, Manitoba Society for Seniors and the Morden Corn & Apple Festival Committee. He has also been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for more than three decades.

Maurice has received recognition for his work at the local and provincial levels, including the Lieutenant Governor's Make a Difference Community Award.

In the words of a friend, "Maurice's efforts are a benchmark for the spirit of volunteerism. Through his example many have been inspired to get involved in community organizations and make their own contribution."



## Durwin Buchy

Durwin Buchy (1949-) was born in Dauphin to a family of Ukrainian heritage. An elementary school teacher in Morden for over 20 years, his imaginative teaching style was enhanced by his travels and love of nature. Now retired, Durwin still finds himself in schools on a regular basis as a valued substitute teacher and volunteer.

Team work is at the core of Durwin's involvement with countless local and provincial organizations in the community, just as it was in his career. His dedication to organizations is evident in the longevity and variety of his participation. He has been actively involved with the Festival of the Arts for 25 years, and has been a member of many boards including the Christmas Cheer Board, the Pembina Hills Arts Council and the Corn & Apple Festival Committee. Other volunteer hours have been dedicated to the local farmers' market, 4-H Clubs, drama presentations and many more local activities. Perhaps Durwin's most public volunteer presence is at the Morden Corn & Apple Festival, where he has graded the information booth for over 25 years. He is also the friendly face who organizes and delivers free apple cider and corn to all participating vendors.

Durwin's life philosophy is that "The youth in our society are our most valuable resource...we must concentrate on their personal strengths and minimize the negatives." For Durwin, this attitude translates into action that moves beyond youth and into the entire community.



## Wayne Bergman

Wayne Bergman (1960-2006) was born in Morden into a family of Romanian and German/Russian background. When he was four years old, Wayne was already playing "Radio Announcer". As an adult, he realized his dream - Wayne became a radio announcer and concert promoter whose charm and determination enhanced Morden's reputation as a great place to perform. Although he had other offers for work in Canada and the USA, he chose to stay in Morden, where he helped to establish the town's own radio station.

Following his parents' example, Wayne generously gave of himself. He and a friend initiated the "Grand Ole Opry", a showcase of local talent that played to sold-out audiences, with all proceeds donated to charities. Wayne organized the Kenmor Committee to rejuvenate the aging Kenmor Theatre and provided support and expertise for numerous local events. He helped establish the Morden Friendship Centre Kenmor Event and co-chaired "In the Mood - Honouring the Greatest Generation", a gala at which 500 veterans were honoured.

A Morden Citizen of the Year recipient, Wayne loved many aspects of his hometown, including the Redskins hockey team which he avidly supported. To his last days, he was dedicated to friends, family and community. Wayne really believed - and modeled - that "The show must go on".



## Ron Laverty

Ron Laverty (1949-) was born in Winnipeg into a family with Irish and Ukrainian background. In his capacity as a Children's Mental Health Worker, Ron touched the lives of many families who appreciated his calm approach and steady support. Now into retirement, Ron continues to use his skills to help others in the community.

Since he and his wife Vicki came to Morden in 1973, Ron has volunteered consistently in the community. He has provided leadership by chairing organizations such as the United Way, the Corn & Apple Festival Committee and the Morden Millennium Committee. He has coached minor sports, mentored through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and contributed to the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre as a board member. Perhaps Ron's greatest legacy is his role as a founding member of the Morden Area Foundation.

Ron is a visionary who rarely loses sight of the task at hand. A two term member of the Town Council, he is a tireless advocate for Morden. New problems, no matter how large or difficult, do not intimidate Ron. They simply provide opportunity for him to seek out new solutions - he thrives on "thinking outside the box".



# Morden