

Peers pay fond farewell to retiring Milk Board treasurer MacPherson

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Special

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His official title was treasurer of the Ontario Milk Board, but five minutes with Bill MacPherson reveals his true identity is, simply, your prototypical Canuck.

Take a look at the facts.

After a stalwart 30 years of service with the milk board, teary-eyed employees at MacPherson's recent retirement bash at Lionhead Golf club recounted how stability and fairness were most characteristic of his tenure.

His wife, Dorothy, who shares her life with him, and also shares duties at the Streetsville Trinity Church, where the couple began attending 11 years ago, believes MacPherson embodies the very Canadian traits of integrity and loyalty.

His six kids and 11 grandkids could attest to that, if they weren't so busy snapping photos and filming videos of their father's retirement.

He'll complete his Canadian dream upon retirement, in Ottawa, the nation's capital, on a 70-acre spread where the hardy MacPherson can shuck his corporate gear for the more natural look appropriate for the drawing of water

and hewing of wood.

The Ottawa property is situated a mere 20 minutes away from the church where the MacPhersons were wed.

"We love the country," said MacPherson. "We'll be gardening and fishing and cutting wood. I'll not miss the job, but I will miss the people. We like to think that we have a family atmosphere at the board. We work with dairy farmers, who are salt of the earth people."

It's partly that atmosphere that kept MacPherson happily at the financial helm of the board after joining the team the year of its inception, 1966. Hired primarily to set up a data base for the company, MacPherson said that better efficiency in the board has



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not only whittled the staff from an original 169 to today's 104, but also made his job easier.

"Actually, my job has become easier over the years. The younger people have taken over the data," said MacPherson. "The milk industry is a good industry to be in. The product is good and our board staff is different in that we have a fair bit of longevity."

Even so, 30 years is a respectable haul for anyone, which is why milk board staff and the MacPherson family arrived in droves for the recent dinner and roast at Lionhead.

A dinner that was something of a surprise to MacPherson, who envisioned a smaller affair with friends, family, the board chairman and loyal board worker Pat Paines.

"He knew something was happening, but he was given no details at all," said Paines, who arranged the event.

For Paines, the goodbye gala was not just part of the job, it was her heartfelt way to send off the boss for whom she has happily worked for almost 28 years.

"He's very fair. He's very understanding. He has a great sense of humor," said Paines.

"I'm going to miss him. I'm giving him a cell phone so he can stay in touch from Ottawa."

PEEL BIOGRAPHY

MACPHERSON, Bill

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