

IN MEMORIAM: LORNE ROWELL, 1928 – 2014
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Norman Lorne Rowell was born on a farm in the Chatsworth school district, northeast of Saltcoats, on 13 April 1928 to Nellie and Jim Rowell. To escape the stones on their rented land, the Rowell family in 1929 moved their belongings in three freight cars to Armley siding, then by team three miles west and north to a farm they had purchased along the Carrot River. The children attended nearby Manlius School. Armley boasted a municipal doctor and municipal nursing home, a store and a hotel, but no school. Lorne was active in the 4-H movement, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool committee and the United Church. He attended the Voc Ag program at the School of Agriculture at

the University of Saskatchewan in 1947-48. In 1957 his parents retired and Lorne, the youngest son, purchased the farm.

In the winter of 1959/60 Lorne attended the Prairie Christian Training Centre (PCTC) at Fort Qu'Appelle, where he met Doreen McLeod, a fellow student whose parents lived nearby. Lorne was employed for the summer of 1960 as manager of the United Church Camp Tapawingo at Candle Lake. By chance they met again as Doreen volunteered as camp nurse for CGIT (Canadian Girls in Training) Camp Council, held at Tapawingo that July. That fall their PCTC class held a reunion where they again met. Following

this third meeting they began corresponding, and were married April 3, 1961 in Fort Qu'Appelle. They farmed at Armley and for several summers Lorne managed Tapawingo with Doreen volunteering as camp nurse for several of the weeks each of those summers. Lorne and Doreen then rented the farm and moved to Fort Qu'Appelle where Lorne became maintenance manager for the PCTC for 22 years. For eight of those years he and Doreen also managed the Valley Trails Motel.

Lorne and Doreen spent increasing time and energy studying nature. He came on to the board of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society (SNHS) in 1981 as president of the Fort Qu'Appelle Naturalists, became second and then first vice-president of the SNHS, 1983-1987 and served as provincial president, 1987-88. He supported George Ledingham in his long effort that finally culminated in the establishment of Grasslands National Park; in his president's report in 1988, Lorne acclaimed that announcement as the highlight of the society's year. He and Doreen and sometimes their son Shawn, participated in the Fort Qu'Appelle CBC for 26 years beginning in 1976. Lorne established and maintained many miles of bluebird houses,

and gave geological tours of his beloved Qu'Appelle Valley. He believed that earth is a gift of God and that we must aim to be good stewards.

The SNHS assigned Lorne to be their representative on the Ecological Reserves Consultation Group, which designated Saskatchewan's first-ever ecological reserve, the Assiniboine Slopes in 1986. Lorne followed Mary Skinner as the society's representative on the Qu'Appelle Valley Public Advisory Council and as president signed the extension of the SNHS lease for the Maurice Street Bird Sanctuary. When the government established the Round Table on the Environment and the Economy in 1989, Lorne was named to the forestry advisory group when such groups were formed in 1990.

Lorne and Doreen "wintered" in Saskatoon for several years before moving into Luther Tower in 2009. When he needed extra care, he was moved to Luther Special Care Home next door where Doreen visited him daily until her illness and death on October 31, 2013. Lorne's final ten weeks were spent in Sherbrooke Community Centre where he died 16 May 2014.

