



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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City of Maple Ridge Mourns the Passing of Tom Cameron

Maple Ridge, BC: On December 17, 2016 past Citizen of the Year recipient Tom Cameron passed away after a long battle with cancer. Tom was recently honoured by Maple Ridge Council for his contributions to the City of Maple Ridge.

“On behalf of all of Council, City staff and the citizens of Maple Ridge I would like to express the profound sadness that we all feel at the passing of one of our most extraordinary citizens - Tom Cameron,” said Mayor Read. “We are a week away from Christmas and one of Tom’s many volunteer efforts was the Christmas Hamper Society. In between times at the hospital he was down at the Albion fair grounds again this year making sure that families would have a little joy over the holidays. This says everything you need to know about Tom. Our community is a better place because of his dedication to causes, his volunteerism and his passionate advocacy on many issues. There’s a new angel in heaven.”

Tom had been recognized as the 2016 National Fair Champion and the City of Maple Ridge paid tribute to this honour and his incredible legacy of volunteerism by presenting him with a special caricature signed by those who he has worked with for many years.

This is the text from the presentation by Mayor Read at the November 29, 2016 Council meeting;

“One of the reasons that our Country Fest continues when others have fallen by the wayside is the power of leaders like Tom Cameron who put their heart and soul into this event. On behalf of Council and all of our citizens I want to acknowledge Tom’s award as National Fair Champion that he recently received from the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions.

Tom has dedicated over a quarter of a century as a volunteer to the Agricultural Association. There's a big team of people that work with him, but ask anyone and they will tell you that Tom's vision, leadership and sheer willpower have helped our fair evolve and prosper while others in BC have gone away.

Tom began as an announcer for the Musical Ridge back in 1992, and like so many volunteers he just couldn't say 'no' when they asked him to get involved. From a greenhorn back in those early days whose knowledge of chickens was reserved to knowing if it was roasted or fried, Tom has amassed a huge knowledge of farms, animal breeds and what makes a champion in the annual 4H competitions. He's no greenhorn anymore, and he is well respected by the agricultural community here in Maple Ridge.

For most people, that would be a pretty full slate of volunteer work, but Tom contributes so much more. He has been a key part of the annual Christmas Hamper Society and can sort and wrap presents with the best of us. He was also honoured this year outside City Hall for his work on the Cops for Cancer fundraiser. He was front and centre at the annual Remembrance Day ceremony and his expertise has helped many other organizations over the years.

It gives me great pleasure to honour Tom's contributions as a volunteer and his dedication to preserving and enhancing Country Fest for future generations with this small token of our admiration and respect.

This special illustration was done by local artist Daryl Stephenson and captures Tom's contributions to making our City amazing. Thank You Tom."