

## **Sonny Lefebvre**

**One of the many pleasures of working as a Recreation team member here at William Albert House is having the opportunity to take walks outdoors with our residents in the summertime. Recently, I enjoyed a walk through the neighborhood with Sonny Lefebvre. This is one of Sonny's favorite pastimes, as he really enjoys the fresh air and exercise. We enjoyed some great conversation and shared some memories from the past. Sonny came to WAH on November 21, 2020 and has settled in well, despite all the Covid 19 restrictions. I like one of his comments regarding the settling in process: "Be happy and cheerful and the days go by good." Isn't that a great attitude to have in life?! Thank you, Sonny!**

**Sonny has always spoken fondly of his childhood days on the farm, near Sedley, where his cousins and neighbors were his everything. It was nothing for Sonny to run along behind his big brother on his bike (one bike was all they had!) to get to their cousins' and spend their days together.**

**Sonny attended elementary school in Sedley and then went to St Anthony's College in Edmonton and St. Thomas College in North Battleford, where he graduated. After college, he went to work on the oil patch in Alberta. After a couple of years, he decided to return to Sedley where he re-united with his childhood sweetheart, Jean Wingert. They were married on November 24, 1956 and it wasn't long after, that Sonny joined his father-in-law and together they formed the business, Wingert Construction. And so began Sonny's hard work and long days in the excavation business. He tells me that they always seemed to have more work than you can imagine. "I enjoyed my work and built up a large clientele. I always wanted to treat my customers right. Honesty is everything! That's how you build up your business." Truly, these are wise words of advice from a very fine gentleman!**

**In the late 50s and early 60s, twinning of the #1 highway began between Regina and Moose Jaw. Sonny and his gradall machine moved and planted all the trees we see today along this highway. He did the excavation work of the main power grid lines that we see today between Regina and Estevan, and beyond. He removed all the old rail bed for what we know today as The Scarth Street Mall. He planted the trees along Albert Street for Wascana Centre Authority.**

He excavated and groomed the burns we see today at Interprovincial Pipeline. As a donation, Sonny excavated the foundation for Christ the King Church. He dug swimming pools, driveways, took out sidewalks, dug a grave or two... you name it! Take Sonny for a drive today and he can point out many a parking lot that he excavated. But when the days of spring arrived, Sonny could hardly wait to start seeding! Those were mighty long days, but he loved the work! And then there was harvest!

Sonny and Jean raised three children, a daughter, Darcie, and two sons, Pete and Dean. In 1964, they moved to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in Regina and this is where they raised their family. Sonny remembers many great neighbors and lots of block parties. He built a “rumpus room”, where many wintertime house parties were hosted. Many photos of dances and games show the fun that was had in that basement, over the years. Sonny loved to play cards and Schmier was the game of choice for him and his buddies. They’d have “card nights” often throughout the long, cold winters. However, these games could not be held on Hockey Night in Canada evenings, when the Montreal Canadiens, Sonny’s team, were playing. 😊

Sonny has always loved his yard and flowers. He loves nature, the vast Saskatchewan blue skies, the wheat fields, the canola fields, and birds.

Sonny retired from Wingert Construction in 1997. Eventually, Sonny and Jean began spending a month down south, in Mesa, Arizona, and it wasn’t long before that month turned into three! They were fortunate enough to have spent 35 winters in Arizona with lifelong friends who were enjoying the sunny valley, as well. They made many, many new friends, too.

We appreciate your kind and caring nature, Sonny. Thank you for your daily expressions of appreciation and thoughtfulness. The staff and residents are so glad that you have chosen William Albert House as your new home. We love you, Sonny!