

## **Kim Thorson**

**It has been such a pleasant surprise and pleasure to reacquaint with the family of a student I taught in Grade One, some 21 years ago. Just before Kim Thorson moved into William Albert House, his daughter and grandson came over to check out some of our available rooms. Even with her mask on, I recognized Janet, and with her, was her son, Thomas, now 27 years of age. I wouldn't have recognized him, of course, but Janet hadn't changed much at all!**

**Kim is a very welcome addition to the William Albert House family. He has been taking part in many of the music related activities, both the sing-a-longs and entertainment. He enjoys working on word puzzles and keeping up with the news of the day. He is an avid reader and a very interesting conversationalist. He warmly welcomed me in for a couple of visits, while we worked together on creating this article. Humble, kind and intelligent, Kim is a true gentleman.**

**Born in Macoun, SK, Kim was only 3 months old when his father died. His mother was only 21 years old. She remarried and Kim was lovingly raised by his mother and step-father. Childhood memories include enjoying school, both in the classroom and outdoors at recesses. He especially enjoyed softball. He spent time after school helping with chores, like feeding pigs and milking cows. He fondly remembers his two ponies, Sandy and Star. Life, growing up on the farm was good.**

**Kim went to the U of S in 1950, and graduated with a degree in Agricultural Economics. An international scholarship in 1954 allowed him to tour west Africa as a student “– quite the trip for a farm boy from Saskatchewan!” He “was working on a Master's degree in economics when he was approached by friends in Estevan to run in the provincial election of 1956, in the constituency of Souris-Estevan.**

**At 24, he was elected and held the record as the youngest person ever elected in Saskatchewan until the 1970s. Today, he is the last surviving MLA who sat in the Tommy Douglas government.”**

**In 1957, Kim married Myrtle Lipsett. Together, they raised three children, Eric, Janet and Vanessa, and have eight grandchildren.**

**Other accomplishments in his life include graduating with an LIB in 1963 from the U of S. He practiced law in Estevan, Regina and Weyburn. In 1971, Kim ran in a by-election and was elected. He was appointed as a Cabinet Minister in the Blakeney government, and held several portfolios – Liquor and Gaming, Industry, Commerce & Mineral Resources, and SaskPower. Defeated in 1975, he joined the law firm of Griffin, Beke, and Thorson in Regina and after some 15 years moved to Weyburn where he practiced law until 2012, when he retired at the age of 80! In Janet’s words, “Dad is interested in reading, photography, genealogy, his Norwegian heritage (he and Mom were founding members of the Scandinavian Club in Regina), and his family.” “Fun fact – Dad designed and built three houses over the years of his marriage – two in Estevan, and one in Regina. In Weyburn, Dad and Mom modified their bungalow by adding a dining room and family room (with gas fireplace) and an enclosed front porch.”**

**Janet tells me that both her Dad and Mom “had excellent senses of humour and that they routinely looked for the bright side of life. They gave their children (and grandchildren) stability, morals and the knowledge that home would always be their rock, a place of safety that was steadfast. They gave their children the opportunity to know and spend time with their extended families, and to appreciate that family is everything.” Myrtle passed away just last December and the**

**adjustment to life without his partner of 63 years has been challenging.**

**We are very happy that you have chosen William Albert House as your new home, Kim. It is a great pleasure getting to know you, day by day. Thank you for all you do and for all you have done. You make this world a better place! We love you!**