

Honour for a Brother

The late RW Bro. Leonard McNeil is the 2019 inductee to the Lambton Agricultural Hall of Fame. He is known within Sarnia District as a Past Master of Ionic Lodge No. 328, and Past DDGM for 1985-1986. The former mayor of Brooke Township – and first mayor of Brooke-Alvinston after the neighbouring communities amalgamated – was also a warden of Lambton County, an auctioneer, a cattle and cash crop farmer, and leader of a group that brought the International Plowing Match to the county in 1991.

McNeil was born in 1950 and died in 2002.

McNeil made an impression when he entered a room. “You couldn’t help but see him,” said Wor. Bro. Don McGugan, a former Brooke-Alvinston mayor and neighbour of McNeil and his family. “He was nearly 400 pounds and six-foot, six, roughly,” and was a “jolly” person who “always had a joke,” said McGugan, who became mayor following McNeil’s death.

PGM Gary L. Atkinson has explained “Leonard and my paths crossed quite early in life. We attended the same high school, joined our beloved Fraternity around the same time and I had the pleasure of serving as his Chairman of the Condition of Masonry when he was the Grand Master’s representative in 1985. A great honour for the McNeil Family and at the same time – for our Brethren in Ionic Lodge No. 328 -Napier.”

Inductees stretching back to 2010 are listed on the federation’s website, lambtonfederation.ca, where there is a link to a Lambton County Museums’ online exhibit about the hall of fame – www.lambtonmuseums.ca/exhibit/agricultural-hall-of-fame.

Based on a filed story in The Sarnia Observer by pmorden@postmedia.com