



## **Richard Hovey (1942-2020)**

YSC 's forest community lost a great partner in late December with the unexpected passing of Richard Hovey the owner of "Hovey's Husky Sales and Service" at the age of 78. Although Husqvarna made up the core of his small engine business, he also sold and serviced Homelite, Shindaiwa and Echo forestry and lawn and garden products over the years.

Richard was living proof that location was not the only attribute required to have a successful life long business. Few people would look at Canoose (Charlotte County) as being a prime location to establish a small engine repair and sales shop, but Richard made it work for 40 years and although he is likely best known for this business by those in the forest industry, he was known by countless children as Mr Hovey the school bus driver for 39 years.

If that sounds like a busy schedule, lets throw in farming and managing the 200 acre homestead (made up of fields and forest) that has been passed down through the Hovey family for 200 years.

Richard was cut from a different cloth than what would be considered normal today. His days were filled with work, but I don't believe he viewed that negatively, I believe he loved the variety that his work brought him and that's why he continued to do it.

His shop business schedule required him to work around the bus runs, but his flexibility in his business hours still allowed him to provide great service to his customers. Whether it was early mornings, mid day, after supper or Saturdays he was always available for parts and repairs and his regular customers knew when he was available and when he wasn't.

In order to better serve the local loggers, Lori Johnson (of YSC) would keep some parts on hand at her home office (chains, bars, files, spark plugs, mix oil, etc) to help out the local producers avoid a few trips out to Canoose. This relationship benefitted all parties and Richard was always quick to donate door prizes toward YSC's annual meeting as a thank you.

Richards life would not have been complete without the love and support of his wife of 57 years Eleanor (affectionately known as Peanut) his 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

In an age where many folks strive to do less to get by, Richard found a way to do more each day to create fulfillment in his life. Although we will miss him for all he did, I hope we can learn a bit about how much can truly be accomplished in our lives when we love what we do.

Jeffrey Sode

YSC General Manager