

Bill and Helen Sibbald Legacy Fund



William R. (Bill) Sibbald and Helen Ross began their lives together December 31, 1947, almost 70 years ago. Helen lived on the Ross family ranch and Bill, the handsome farmer from across the valley, kept “losing his horse” and eventually finding it on several occasions at the ranch. They shared a love of nature and animals, beginning their farming career together on the Sibbald farm NW 1-11-22 which overlooks the Assiniboine River.

Over the almost 60 years spent farming in the district, Bill and Helen became very involved in the community, sitting on many boards and committees. Some included the board to establish Rivers Hospital, Tarbolton church board and UCW, founding member of Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum and Order of Foresters (Philanthropy and virtue featured prominently in the principles and rituals of this Society). They also shared a love of music and fine arts. Bill was a very good piano player and Helen learned to play cello in her 50’s. Helen played with the Rivers Orchestra for many years and later in the Brandon Community Orchestra. They were season ticket holders to WSO in Brandon for many years.

Although they were not blessed with children of their own, many children came to visit the farm over those 60 years and had their lives changed by that experience. Some were relatives but many were not. Some stayed for short periods of time and others became regulars coming back year after year. Many learned to bake, cook for a crew, drive a tractor, stack bales, round up cattle, birth calves, ride horses and cool off in the river after a hard day’s work. All who spent time at the Sibbald farm learned respect, fair play and the rewards of working together. Over the years Bill and Helen would keep helping these young people as they went off to university or started up new businesses. Giving is second nature to this couple.

Although Bill and Helen have moved off the farm and into a personal care home, they continue to care for and give to their community.

The Bill and Helen Sibbald Legacy Fund directed towards agriculture, environment and fine arts will live on in perpetuity and continue their caring ways of helping others, to make our community a better place for all.