

Merle Ellis Byrnes

With heavy heart, we announce the passing of Merle Byrnes of Eston, Saskatchewan, Thursday, May 24, 2018 at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon. Merle was a husband, father, athlete, friend, farmer, mentor and successful business man. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends sharing jokes and laughter. Growing up on a family farm, Merle was introduced to farming operations early in life. He was a forward thinker and a builder... from a basic family farm to a thriving enterprise, leaving a "legacy" for his family. It became his passion to pass on his knowledge of business and farming to the whole family. He was proud to have a 5th generation grandson living on the Byrnes farm homestead.

Merle graduated from University of Saskatchewan in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, and a Diploma in Education in 1960. He was a Lecturer in the Chemistry Department while pursuing farming. Merle was an active community builder. He served on the Eston recreation board for 10 years. He was also President of the Eston Riverside Golf for several years. Over the years he quietly engaged in many community supporting activities.

Merle excelled in sports and competed at a provincial and national level in baseball, curling and golf. He enjoyed competing, coaching and building teams. Merle also played hockey for the University of Saskatchewan Huskie Hockey. He was captain and MVP for two of the five seasons he played with the team. Merle was a natural athlete, simply exceptional.

Merle is survived by his wife Laine, Natalie (Simon and Rebecca), Pennalee (Efrem), Joanna (Wayne and Nigel), sister Beverly (Cam Gesy and family), sister-in-law Linda (Wayne Aiken and family), and many cousins. Celebration of life will be held Friday, June 1, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at Eston Riverside Park, Tyner Hall. Donations may be made in memory of Merle to Eston Riverside Park or Eston Community Complex, Eston, Sask, S0L 1A0.