

CAPTURING OPPORTUNITIES AWARDS RECOGNIZE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RURAL COMMUNITY LEADERS: WOWCHUK

Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Minister Rosann Wowchuk honoured outstanding rural community leaders and organizations with Capturing Opportunities awards at a special presentation during the Manitoba Hydro's Celebration Banquet at this year's Capturing Opportunities business forum.

"One way to encourage rural Manitobans to aim high and continue to achieve great things for their communities is to celebrate those achievements," said Wowchuk. "We include community achievements for and by young people in this awards program because we want to encourage growth of an achievement-oriented culture over the long term. We believe provincewide recognition for rural achievers will encourage continued rural excellence."

Capturing Opportunity awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding community leadership and innovative economic development by individuals, organizations and businesses, and achievements by rural youth.

The Outstanding Community Leadership award was presented to William (Bill) Blackburn for the notable volunteer roles he has assumed in Pilot Mound. Blackburn's skills and knowledge as a journeyman carpenter and contractor were valuable for interpreting architectural and engineering plans, directing and motivating an extended team of volunteers and finding innovative ways to successfully complete the construction of the multi-faceted Pilot Mound Millennium Recreation Complex. He was also credited for establishing the multi-point parish for Pembina Hills, the Gathering of Nations summer cultural event and his involvement with the Rock Lake Roundtable program.