

Ray Redfern - Brandon Chamber of Commerce - Lifetime Business Builder Award 2017

Ray's remarks to the gathering upon the announcement of his award

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman(s), and: the REAL Important folks –all of you who continue to support the Brandon Chamber, to make it a success for ALL of us.

I am provided an opportunity here to recognize that there are many who have given freely to me - of their time and talent, their commitment to excellence.

Our team at Redferns (my extended family), are those who toil every day for Redferns, and our partners- our customers and suppliers. Those who are with us today and those who were there for us (for me) over many days gone by, –you have truly made us better. They have brought their passion to their work. Passion for doing it right, for dedication -sticking it out, and for going the Extra Mile. This award is really to recognize you –and I'm privileged and lucky to be one of you.

To my other Redfern family – my home family, you are all the big part of my life. Meanwhile my son and my sister also work with me and that qualifies you as saints and so this award should surely be to recognize you.

Redferns has been in my life for longer than some of you can even imagine. Success for many of us is just getting through the day - but along the way we're tackled more than a few big hills and are a part of the never ending reality called "Change". Our business like all others represented here tonight has evolved. We've always known that we have a real responsibility to our customers and suppliers too, who are all our partners, and we are committed to them, and are passionate too about our community, and the future of Agriculture in Westman.

My dedicated associates at Redferns have always been there for me and have enabled and supported my own activities on behalf of us, which have sometimes taken me far from my regular workplace. My interests have been varied, and these many activities have all allowed me to contribute while gaining some perspective that comes with life's experiences.

Agriculture, and also our responsibility to support our community, have both been important to me. Every day we all make the leap of faith into our future. I'm now a part of a group that is building a coalition and who together have an objective to seek to attract a soybean processing plant to Manitoba, and to Westman, There is however an much broader mandate awaiting, with the many value added opportunities that would then be much enhanced – and which would be so important and valuable to the future stability of Westman, and with it of Brandon, and of career opportunities for our young people right here – so that we can retain our most valuable resource here at home!

Thanks to you all – I'm so proud of all the folks who toil with me in my workplace in agriculture at Redferns, and those who have been with me as a part of the work of our community. Both roles of life demand much of us - but we're truly blessed, and we too often forget just how lucky we are – we're Canadians who also get to live in our community of Westman, and get to work and live with the Great people – You!

For this, tonight –I'm humbled, –but it truly is for my role as only just another representative of All of US - who try to be all that we can be as builders in our workplaces and our community.