

Lethbridge College Pete McMahon memorial scholarship write-up

"Pete McMahon was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta. Pete's early life was filled with family outings and hunting with his dad and siblings. Mentored by his father as a youth, he was presented with his first shotgun when he was five years old. It was also during this time that Pete accompanied his father and uncle on out-of-town trips. One of those trips was to the newly designated Wilmore Wilderness Area. As a teenager, his friend's father was working in the Wilmore clearing new road allowances and had encouraged them to come and take a look at the beautiful country. It was on that trip that Pete decided he was going to expand his hunting opportunities. In keeping with that promise, at the age of sixteen Pete, along with his brother and a friend, purchased some horses and rented pastureland. It wasn't long before trips into the Wilmore were a regular occurrence.

In 1972 Pete started outfitting bird hunters. It wasn't long until he and his wife Lois expanded their outfitting operation to include trail riding and big game hunting in East-Central Alberta and out of Grande Cache into the Wilmore. Pete and his family have remained in the outfitting business for over forty years.

Pete always dedicated his best to being a conscientious steward of the environment and the wildlife resources. As the years went by he became more concerned about the wild country he loved and what would be there for his grandchildren, their grandchildren, and the world to experience and enjoy. Pete had a creative mind and a reputation for thinking outside the box in finding new and innovative ways to preserve and stimulate a healthy balance in what he called " The Cycle of Life " in the Wilmore and beyond. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Pete supported and became involved in movements and organizations working to ensure Alberta's wilderness will remain for future generations.

Pete made his living guiding and outfitting hunters, yet was first and foremost an advocate for all who would enjoy the diversity of wilderness experiences offered in Alberta. Pete never ducked away from the chance to offer an opinion or make a suggestion if doing so could create the possibility of maintaining or enhancing outdoor opportunities. Regardless of whether he was sitting in a boardroom or beside a campfire on the trail, Pete's presence carried a mix of philosophy, serious consideration for the well being of our wildlife resources that always made sense, and a wisdom born of experience and life's many lessons. Add a unique sense of humor and you had a man who could and did hold the attention of those around him.

Peter Harman McMahon passed away on October 19th, 2014, leaving a family dedicated to seeing that his legacy carries on. The establishment of this scholarship in partnership with Wild Sheep Foundation Alberta will ensure that this legacy does continue down the trail, providing opportunity to assist those wishing to be involved in protecting the wilderness that was so much a part of Pete's life.