

DAVE RAYNER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.

Henry Nagtegaal was assigned by the AWET-M Board to give a speech leading up to the presentation of the AWET-M Lifetime Achievement award to Dave Rayner. The speech was the following:

“It is my honor and privilege on behalf of all AWET-M to give this speech recognizing an individual for his accomplishments for his work in the solid fuel burning industry.

“He started working in this industry in a year many of us were not even born---even our president of this affiliate, or others very young like our former president and current WETT National rep, who was too young to attend grade school. 1979 seems a long time ago. Big events happened in that year such as the signing of the SALT2 agreement between the United States and Russia, a Superman movie starring Christopher Reeve, was the most popular movie of that year. the Montreal Canadians won another Stanley Cup, and our beloved Jets won their third Avco Cup beating the mighty Edmonton Oilers including a young Wayne Gretzky. All these world changing achievements happened including an introduction of this individual.

“In 1979 we had very few codes for our industry, and we were in the wild west when it came to the solid fuel industry. There were no B365 editions yet (that came shortly thereafter), the editions were written often and quick in those early years since our best practices in the industry at that time were not very good practices. The phrase many say---sadly was true back in that day----'what do you use to start the first fire in the woodstove? The manual.' The thought was to remove the evidence of a poor install.

“Into this culture entered a young man named Dave Rayner. He worked in the industry for a few years before getting into the business side becoming the president and owner of Ye Olde Soot Sweepers.

“The late 80’s brought education into the industry, and an organization called Canadian Wood Energy Institute was born. In 1989 the first certification courses were conducted in Winnipeg. Dave became certified that year in the first course taught in Winnipeg, and shortly thereafter entered the train the trainer program and started teaching in 1990. Many of us gathered here today were blessed to have Dave as an Instructor.

“Throughout his career he stayed abreast with codes, and he worked with WETT. I remember vividly when AWET-M was resurrected on that bus ride from Barrie Ontario to Toronto, we had a steering committee born in which he was part of.

“Some Insurance companies hired him as an expert witness on post fires and I heard he did well. He worked with Prairie Loss Prevention League and helped in education.

“I have mentioned just a few of his accomplishments. It would be amiss if we did not mention some of his other accomplishments. He and his wife Nettie were and are very family orientated and successfully raised 5 children and now are blessed with numerous grandchildren.

“Dave and Nettie are also gifted actors and have been very active, starring in a yearly musical that is performed each year in Oakbank, MB.

“Dave, many here would like me to mention an account or 2 of their relationship with you. Let’s save that for our time of gathering here and in the days to come as we converse with you, Nettie, and some family members.

“It is my great honor to pass this over to our President as she presents Dave with a unique gift as we professionals honor one of our own with a lifetime Achievement award.”

Upon the closing of the speech Kristy Bakker (president of AWET-M) presented the award to Dave Rayner. Dave Rayner then accepted the award and said a few words of gratitude.