

# Citizen of the Year-Darlene Doane

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Elkwater resident, Darlene Doane was pleasantly surprised when she learned she was named this year's Citizen of the Year for Cypress County at the county's annual employee and volunteer appreciation banquet.

"I was just flabbergasted. I just froze when I heard my name. I just can't explain how happy I am," said Doane, who was nominated by June Blaquiere and Bill Matuska.

The couple nominated Doane because of her ongoing dedication to helping out in the community, including being the current treasurer for the Elkwater Golf Club and has been involved with the club for the past four years.

"Her devotion to the Club goes above and beyond the typical treasurer's duties; opening the Club House at 7:00 am, working all day at the counter, cleaning and generally doing whatever needed to be done and usually the last to leave the premises at night! She chaired the casino for Golf Club for the past two seasons and chaired the last five casinos for the Elkwater Community Association," wrote Blaquiere in her nomination.

From 2004-09, Doane oversaw the Elkwater Community Association bingos, as well as purchasing supplies and looking after the concession. Doane spends a lot of time at the community hall, cleaning, washing towels, and doing preparations for upcoming events and rentals.

She also organized potluck suppers and card nights, participated in working at events such as pancake breakfasts and New Year's Eve parties. She also was treasurer of the Cypress Hills Crime Watch for three years.

"Whatever needs to be done, I will help out. I just want to be involved with the community," she said.

Doane was born and raised in Medicine Hat, the oldest daughter of Mabel and Allan Fretts. She started and finished her working career at the Bank of Nova Scotia in Valleyview, Calgary and Medicine Hat.

After marrying William Doane, better known as Bud, she became involved in the Medicine Hat Legion. Darlene and her family had a long history at Elkwater, her Grandfather Osborne was one of the workers on building the roads in and around the park and her family had a cabin at the lake since 1942 so it was a logical move when she and Bud purchased their own cabin in Elkwater. After Bud passed away, Darlene found herself spending most of her time at Elkwater and became very active in the Elkwater Community Association. After a year of looking after two homes, she decided sell her house in town, demolish the old cabin, and build a new home in it's place. She has lived in Elkwater full time since 2003.

*Article Courtesy of Cypress Courier  
Written by Jamie Rieger*