

Citizen of the Year- Charmaine Wood

“I thought the Women’s Institute was having a supper meeting at the Moose Lodge, so when the suggestion was made to stop in at the Medicine Hat Lodge, I did not want to go in. I thought we had plans elsewhere. I sort of thought there was something going on.” Wood has been a contributing member of the community in Irvine for years and has tirelessly dedicated her time to many different endeavours. Her parents founded the museum and she has been active in the town’s historical society. A number of years ago, she reformed the Women’s Institute and every year, organizes the 20-Mile Post Days bench show. “Through the Women’s Institute we connect with other branches. We connect regionally, provincially and nationally. We donate to a number of organizations and take excursion when we can. Last year, we visited Empress. We try to do cultural things too,” she said.

Wood also sits on the board for the Agricultural Society, is secretary for the New Horizons Club, an active seniors’ club member in Irvine, and is an active member of her church.

“The New Horizons Club is a social club. We play cards every week, have bingo and pot luck supper nights each once a month, and go to dinner theatres,” said Wood.

Wood is modest in recognizing her contributions to the community. “I contribute wherever I can, mostly just by being there. I am not a big powerhouse. I just want to help out where I can. I would like to see small communities thrive, so I put my efforts towards that,” she said.

Cypress County Reeve, Darcy Geigle, said Wood is more than deserving of the Citizen of the Year Award.

“Whenever there is something that needs to be done, Charmaine is always around to help out. She is very deserving of the award,” said Geigle.