

## E.D. (Ed) ZSOMBOR

Edgar Donald Zsombor was born in Wakaw, Sask. and raised on a farm near Ens. After graduating from Wakaw high school Ed was accepted to the University of Saskatchewan where he obtained a Civil Engineering degree in 1967.

His transportation career began with the Canadian Pacific Railway shortly after his university convocation. During his eleven years with the company Ed worked throughout Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario in various positions related to ensuring tracks, bridges and other related railway infrastructure were in safe operating condition for the locomotives and rail cars travelling on it.

In the late 1970s Ed became general manager of a private Ontario company that manufactured components for railway tracks before moving back to his home province of Saskatchewan to work as a rail transportation consultant.

As a contracted consultant from 1979 to 1982 Ed helped the Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation, a provincial Crown corporation, purchase their fleet of 1,000 rail cars, which moved agricultural commodities throughout Canada, the United States and Mexico. He also prepared a feasibility study for Southern Rails Co-operative, which later became Saskatchewan's first shortline railway in 1989.

Subsequently, Ed worked for the City of Regina where he provided expertise related to railway relocation projects and other engineering services before moving to the Government of Saskatchewan in 1997,

Within the provincial government Ed has been key to fostering Saskatchewan's shortline railway system, thanks to his role in developing a variety of programs at the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure that support this important component of the transportation system. Safety has also been Ed's top priority as the provincial railway inspector and he has overseen the development of safety programs for children and for Saskatchewan's shortline railway companies. His work later earned him a deputy minister's award, a prestigious honour within the provincial public service.

In 2007 his rural railway expertise was sought overseas when he was invited to speak in Australia about the future of shortline rail in that country at a symposium presented by the Railway Technical Society of Australasia (RTSA) and Charles Sturt University. During the same trip Ed testified about his Saskatchewan shortline railway experience to the Government of Australia's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services.

Ed is a charter member of the Lions Club, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and served as mayor of Pilot Butte, Sask. for over 20 years. He and his wife Marian have three daughters.

**Inducted into  
The Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame  
June 2011**