



**News Release** – For Immediate Release Wednesday, January 30, 2013

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**Everton Family of Hythe named Farm Family of the Year**



Congratulations to the Everton family of Hythe for being chosen by County Council as the County of Grande Prairie's 2013 Farm Family.

"It is a true honour to have a family with such deep roots, love for farming and dedication to improving quality of life for their community as the County's 2013 Farm Family," said Leanne Beaupre, County Reeve.

The Everton's have been actively farming in the Hythe area for nearly 100 years primarily raising canola, barley and fescue.

Bennie and Audrey, along with their son Rob and wife Gisela and their four grown children are a family that has been actively involved in farming; and volunteering for several agricultural and youth programs in their community for many years.





Both Bennie and Rob served on numerous agricultural boards and Councils for several years. Bennie still judges provincial and national plowing matches; Rob is on the Valhalla 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration committee; and Gisela volunteers for many local youth programs such as minor hockey and girl guides. The Everton's are active members of the Valhalla Lutheran Church. They are also known to lend a helping hand to their neighbours whenever needed.

“These are only just a few of many ways the Everton family have demonstrated why they are the Farm Family this year,” said Sonja Raven, County Agricultural Fieldman.

The Everton's first settled in the Hythe area in 1919. Bennie's grandfather, father and five uncles left the US Army and Navy after the First World War. The family developed homesteads and farmed together until the stock market crash of 1929, when the uncles pulled out. In 1949, Bennie – out of pure passion for farming and wanting to be just like his father – carried on the family's tradition of farming and went on to raise four children with his wife Audrey. Their eldest son Rob followed his father's footsteps and joined the family farm in 1975. Rob and wife Gisela have four grown children, who also help on the farm during seeding and harvest. The Everton's continue to farm 1800 acres of land some of which are original Everton homesteads, though not all are still owned by them.

The Farm Family Award is a tradition in the County that dates as far back as 1969. To recognize the great accomplishments of this multi-generational farming family and previous farm family recipients, the County is hosting a banquet at the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

For more information on the Farm Family program, please contact the County Agriculture department at 780-532-9727 or visit [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca).

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