

Dave & Normand – Mutual Admiration

By Maurice Rees

If you needed a lesson on how respect and admiration should exist in the corporate world, look no further than the mutual admiration co-chaired by Dave Wilson and Normand Caissie.

Dave Wilson, who turned 90 this year and is still active, sprouted his own wings at age 20 in 1949 to start Kerr Controls, while Normand Caissie, now in his late 60's, with four workers started the remarkable story on Imperial Manufacturing Group in 1979 toiling in a 6,400-square-foot

sheet metal shop in the small Atlantic Canadian community of Richibucto, NB.

In the years since 1979, the two have become close friends, and used their talents to mentor and help each other. If you had been at the May 31st celebration, it was a lesson not often seen to watch the two elderly founding entrepreneurs demonstrate how mankind should interact with friendship, respect and admiration.

Caissie's presentation to Wilson was a collage of framed pictures showing Dave Wilson

receiving Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Award in 2009, with Caissie right behind him and an enlarged photo of their handshake.

Their corporate successes have been similar. Wilson's corporate empire including Wilson's Fuels, Kerr and others has grown to over 500 employees. Along the way, Wilson has been recognized by being the recipient of numerous business awards.

Caissie was awarded Entrepreneur of the year 1991 from

the Economic Council of New Brunswick, along with many other citations, has seen the company Imperial Manufacturing Group of Companies grow to a team of more than 800 people working from six locations across Canada and one in the United States.

Both executives grew their companies from the philosophy, offer the best products and service available; work hard for you customer, and above all take care of your employees.

It's hard to find the appropriate words to describe "their mutual admiration".



Staff of Kerr Controls presented founder Dave Wilson with a plaque featuring a photo of one of Kerr's first delivery vehicles.



Normand Caissie's presentation to Dave Wilson was a collage of photos when Wilson was selected as the Ernst Young Entrepreneur in 2009, couple with an enlarged photo of their handshake. (Rees Photo)



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A small portion of the staff, suppliers and customers, who attended Kerr Controls 70th Anniversary celebrations on May 31st. (Rees Photo)



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