

Richard & Lois Foss Named Pittsfield's Citizens Of The Year 2008

Richard and Lois Foss have been named Pittsfield's Citizens of the Year for 2008. They did something extraordinary in 2008 - they gave \$1,000,000 to benefit Pittsfield Middle High School graduates. This will empower Pittsfield's future citizens and leaders to bring something back to this community which has afforded them the opportunities of a small town with a not so small heart. This domino effect will reach out and empower more people to energize this town to a potential not yet dreamed of. They have believed in Pittsfield, never giving in to what can't be done, but underwriting what can. This, not the money, is what the Fosses have done that is extraordinary.

Sometimes it takes only one great action to bring the Citizen of the Year plaque to someone, but in this case there are many other things that recommend the Fosses for this honor. Mr. Foss served his country and upon returning was active in the Peterson-Cram Legion Post. He was long a business owner in Pittsfield with many contributions being made through his construction business. He is responsible for our senior housing apartments just off Main Street which have provided our elderly with comfortable, inexpensive places to live. He developed the subdivision on Molly Lane and erected all of its houses. He later developed the property around White's Pond, better known as Winsunvale, a name that he gave the development.

His company completed the work of raising the Episcopal Church and placing the addition on the holding tomb at Floral Park Cemetery. He also built the Globe Building and his former office building serves as the location of Brown Engineering, the Paige Insurance Agency and Jefferson Pilot Investments. While being involved as businessman, he also served personally as selectman and budget committee member. He was instrumental in planting the spruce Town Christmas Tree next to the Episcopal Church.

It takes a team to make the decisions and direct the actions necessary to be involved in so much. Lois was the impetus and balance necessary for the Fosses' insightful involvement. When they retired to Gilmanton the Fosses remained a support to Pittsfield projects - helping the Pittsfield Players with renovations and placing new bathrooms in the Scenic Theatre; helping to remove the bell from the tower of what is now the Community Center and placing it on the Police Department lawn; creating the Foss Family Foundation to support worthy undertakings on a personal and community level; working with the Historical Society and Legion to erect the two wings on the Veterans Monument in Dustin Part last year; serving as Clerk of the Works and donating to the Youth Baseball Athletic Park.

What does it take to be named Pittsfield's Citizens of the Year - a willing spirit, a generous heart and neverending optimism.