

In recognition of Tony Varilone – a “Soda Springs Super Hero”

Mayor Smith and the City of Soda Springs are proud to honor Tony Varilone as a “Soda Springs Super Hero” for his significant achievements and dedication to the community as a leader and volunteer.

Tony has been an intricate part of the City of Soda Springs economic & community development for the past 30 years. Tony was involved in the formation of the City’s Greater Soda Springs Community Development Committee formerly known as the “Gem Team” which was an Idaho Dept. of Commerce program. Tony received training for economic and community development through this Dept. of Commerce program. Tony was also one of the initiators of the Carriboo Development Foundation that was formed as a 501c(3) tax exempt organization to help attain community grants. Other organizations Tony has been involved in over the years include the Lions Club and the Bear River Heritage Area. He is still currently a member of the Caribou Historical Society and the Pioneer Country Travel Council.

The list of grants and projects made possible and lead by Tony’s selfless efforts are almost endless. Tony has provided numerous volunteer hours to improve the City of Soda Springs and help increase tourism in the area and was instrumental in attaining numerous grants that made the projects possible, but Tony emphasizes that none of the projects were accomplished by him alone, others suggestions and participation always had a positive influence on the project. The many projects include; several brochure and sign projects showing off the communities many unique and historical features, several tree projects including grants to plant trees along north Hooper Avenue, Octagon Park and Kelly Park. Large amounts of grant dollars were attained for park improvements including; the boardwalk and signage at Geyser Park, Kelly Park pathway development, the Octagon Park development, the new Corrigan (City) Park restroom and the restoration of the Conda Bus (Galloping Goose). Tony still continues to make sure the City’s amenities are clearly promoted through updated signage.

Starting in 2000 Tony provided the leadership for the development of the regions two scenic byways. The Pioneer Historic Byway and the Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway. These Byways provide national attention to our area. Tony continues to volunteer his time to maintain the signage along the Byways.

Tony has built a reputation as a tour guide due to his knowledge of the area’s history and his ability to play the character of Jesse ”Caribou Jack” Fairchild. Upon request Tony will act as a tour guide for groups and schools and any payment for his services is donated to the Caribou Historical Society. Tony provides this service in hopes of increasing tourism in the area.

Tony and his wife Jeanne of 45 years both strive to support and improve the community and in 2003 they signed up for the “Adopt-A-Highway Program” for the two miles on State Highway 34 from the south side of the 3rd East Street overpass out to the railroad crossing by Monsanto. They are the longest continuing Adopt-A-Highway group in Caribou County.

Tony was nominated by the following community members:

Tom & Janet Frankos	Bill Horsley
Terry & Teresa Poulsen	Kim Eisenbarth
Carl & Brenda Erickson	Gwen & Randy Cracroft
Chris & Heidi Thompson	Blake & Connie Parker
Bruce & Cindy Murray	Dale & Sue Mason
Cathy Baker &	Sandy Fugate