

Richard Schomburg graduated from West Salem in 1961. As a lifetime resident of this community, he contributed incredible hours and service into developing and implementing plans for the Town of Hamilton. Because he was the town chairman from 2005 - 2016 and lead the completion of the Town of Hamilton Comprehensive Plan for 2009 - 2030, he displayed the skills to reach out to others and honestly listen to their ideas. As stated in his nomination form, "Richard's plan showed his ability to translate his unique understanding of the region and form a plan that allows for change and yet keeps the rural nature of a region," along with remembering "the natural resources and wildlife of the region." Richard's belief in taking care of the land is nothing new to him because of his work as a farmer. His over 20 state and national dairy awards for his Guernsey cattle were well deserved and a compliment to his devotion to the land and the farming history of the Coulee Region. After many years of farming and field work, he selflessly gave hours as the town chairman to make sure the community of West Salem could change to keep up with the times, but also keep its history in place. His vision of keeping this unique area safe for housing development and rural landscape was innovative and inspiring. Unfortunately, Richard passed away in November of 2016. West Salem was and is proud to call Richard a distinguished alum today.