



This year's John Krall Award winner is Will Hobson.

2021 John Krall Award

This resident of Arrowhead will tell you that we truly live in Paradise, and are darned lucky to do so! Whether skate skiing the filing roads, leading a group to snowmobiles upcountry, building a bonfire, teaching cross-country skiing, felling a beetle killed Doug fir, running our Community's heavy equipment and doing road maintenance at all times of the year, Will Hobson is probably the most known face here at Arrowhead, but whether you personally know him or not, (as Will is a private kind of guy) you have definitely benefitted from his work. In fact, the one thing that Will Hobson doesn't do is meetings; I am sure he is out and around right now getting something done while we are here in this meeting.

Yes, Will receives a paycheck as our heavy equipment operator and for Road Maintenance, but most of Arrowhead's community do not realize how he goes beyond it being "just a job" nor all the things he does on his own time for this Community he loves.

For his job, Will goes way above and beyond. Getting up in the middle of winter at 4:00 a.m. so he can start clearing the roads from a snowstorm so that people can get to morning church on Sundays, or to an early doctor's appt in Montrose.

For years, Will would have to climb into the smelly, stinking garbage compactor to remove the aluminum chairs/packing pallets/toilets/ building materials that some had illegally put in and jammed up our trash compactor. Will regularly went up to the Winter parking lot late Saturday nights to make sure there was room for the trash that the weekend Arrowheaders piled outside of it each Sunday. Will took it upon himself to install locks on the trash compactors after bears got in, then uncomplainingly cleaned up the messes left by bears getting into the compactor after someone forgot to latch the lock.

Will gets busy each spring to clear the filing roads and grade the Alpine, knowing that people are itching to come up with their RVs. Will fielded countless calls each spring about whether or not lots were dry enough to bring up RVs. He made sure folks living here year round had their access open each spring after clearing the filing roads since driving in with snowmobiles was no longer possible.

But, the John Krall award is for volunteerism and Will is a great volunteer. For example, there was the time in the middle of the night during a blizzard that he met a nurse in the Winter Parking Lot to guide her safely to her home out on Crest, guaranteeing that she made it home safely from her double shift.

Those who have lived here through our winters know that Will was also instrumental in getting the Arrowhead Snowmobile Club up and running. He maintained the groomer which used to also groom our filing roads. Will was one of these groomers. Will helped each year to put out and take down the poles upcountry that mark our trails. He consistently led the most experienced riders on ASC club rides upcountry and always helped out those who found themselves stuck. He took the time to help the less experienced riders master the sport that he is such a great ambassador for. And wasn't it great to have a roaring bonfire waiting to warm yourself up when you got to the top? Thank Will for starting that fire, as well as cutting and splitting the wood and helping set up the "tables" there.

Before the AIA provided a trash compactor, Will had trash duty for many, many years, early-on seeing the need for that service and driving a trash truck so that Arrowhead had service prior to having a community trash compactor.

Whether it was community trees that needed to come down or heading to downed trees obstructing the roads, Will has been there, chainsaw in hand. Will helps our Forest Manager to take down standing dead, beetle kill or hazardous trees, protecting our community.

Will takes it upon himself to do pretty much anything Arrowhead security asked, including fielding calls from them that people were stuck and could he pull them out using the heavy equipment. Will does it all, quietly going about his job and doing it well.

Will is the guy we can thank for grooming two cross country skiing tracks, one behind the Lodge, one around Hazel Lake. Will, a professional skier in his younger years, even gave cross-county ski lessons to groups on the track behind the Lodge.

Happy that the road in front of your house got mag chloride? It would have not been possible without Will laying down water first. And where does that water come from? The Flint Lakes, which most of Arrowhead doesn't realize are located on his private property.

Volunteers
The **HEART** Of The
COMMUNITY

We owe a lot to Will and he deserves this recognition even though most will not be aware of his contributions until the day he finally retires. As Joni Mitchell sang, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone."

Thanks, Will, for quietly and expertly doing your job, loving Arrowhead and being willing to go above and beyond. You make our lives here at Arrowhead better.