

HALLOFFAME

For nearly three and a half decades, **Patrick Beebe** has been giving back to the township that has been home all his life.

A Township Fixture

Patrick Beebe

Tuscarora Township, Bradford County
34 years of service

BY AMY BOBB / ASSISTANT EDITOR

Patrick Beebe is a well-known fixture in Tuscarora Township, Bradford County. He was born and bred in the rural community, and he and his wife, Nancy, still reside on property where his father once milked dairy cows.

The couple raised three children there, all of whom live in the nearby area with their families, including five grandchildren. Over the years, Beebe helped to coach baseball and basketball teams, served as a Boy Scout leader, and has been a long-time hunter safety instructor and training coordinator.

To top all that, he has spent nearly half his life as a township supervisor, giving back to the community that his family calls home.

“He’s always willing to help others,” says township secretary-treasurer Susan Berkley, who has worked alongside Beebe for 43 years, first at a local sheet-metal shop and for the past two decades at the township. “If there is ever any problem, he is right on top of it. He listens to what people have to say. He’s just great to work with and is a good neighbor and friend.”

A focus on roads

Beebe first became involved in



township government in 1985 after a group of people, unhappy with the incumbent supervisor, asked him to run for office.

“They said I was young and would be a good person for it,” he recalls. “I ended up beating the guy.”

The rest, as they say, is history, as he has easily won five more elections. During his time in office, Beebe has sought ways to improve the community and make the township’s operations better. One of his first projects was the purchase of four acres for constructing the township’s first-ever office and equipment shop. It’s an accomplishment that he is still most proud of today.

“We got our equipment under cover in one spot where before it had been

Patrick Beebe puts his money where his mouth is when it comes to serving his country and community. As a young man, he served in the military for five years, including a year in Vietnam, and in addition to volunteering in his community in other capacities, he has been a township supervisor for 34 years.

scattered around the township and sitting out in the open,” he says. “We could now hold meetings at a township building instead of in the secretary’s home, and that was more welcoming to the public.”

Improving the township’s 43 miles of roads has also been a priority for Beebe, who has served as roadmaster for the past 10 to 12 years. Under his guidance, the township has purchased additional equipment and implemented a solid maintenance program, which has resulted in noticeable improvements to the mostly dirt roads.

“Years ago, we didn’t have the money we do now,” Beebe says. “We were lucky if we had one tractor and one grader with an old stone rake. Now, we have two or three trucks, a grader, a roller, and an old fire truck that we use to water the road surface and keep the dust down until we can spray oil.”

Having the right equipment means a two-man crew can clean out roadside ditches and grade and shape the dirt roads annually to minimize drainage problems and control dust. The township has also been able to pave six miles

of road in recent years. Complaints, he has observed, are way down.

"We used to get 10 to 12 people coming to our meetings to complain, mostly about the roads," he says. "Now, only one or two people show up. That tells me they are pretty content."

'One big, happy family'

Beebe credits impact fee revenue from the Marcellus shale industry, which the township began to receive a decade ago, with providing the funds necessary to make quality road improvements. The township is home to 49 gas wells and last year received close to \$280,000 in impact fee money.

"It's benefited our township a lot," he says. "We have bought equipment and recently installed an enclosed shed to keep our cinders dry. We have been able to do all kinds of stuff that we couldn't afford before."

Although the industry did not create many jobs for local folks, some of the township's 1,100 residents have benefited from the royalty checks that come from hosting wells.

"It's made a big difference to the farmers in this area," Beebe says, noting how small-time farmers find themselves unable to compete with larger-scale farms.

"When I was a kid growing up, every other house was a farm," he says. "Now except for a handful of big farms in the township, they are nearly all gone. The barns are falling down, and the land is overgrown."

He and his brother still own their father's 300-acre farm, where they both have houses. His brother keeps a few cows and grows hay, while Beebe uses the land to cut firewood, hunt, and shoot.

"Shooting is one of my hobbies," he says. "I have my own range where I can practice."

He also has more time to fish and hunt since retiring in August 2019 after 44 years at Arrow United Industries, a sheet-metal contractor in nearby Wyalusing.

Although Beebe no longer reports to his day job, he has no plans to step down yet as township supervisor. He helps out on the roads when he can and regularly plows snow in the winter.

"I like plowing," he says. "You're out there at 4:30 in the morning when no other fools are. You have this nice, beautiful blanket of snow, and you get to make the first tracks in it. It's beautiful."

Next year, Beebe is up for re-election, and he figures that he will end up serving another term as supervisor. "Up in this area, if you are good at what you do, you don't really have to run," he says, chuckling. "They just vote you in."

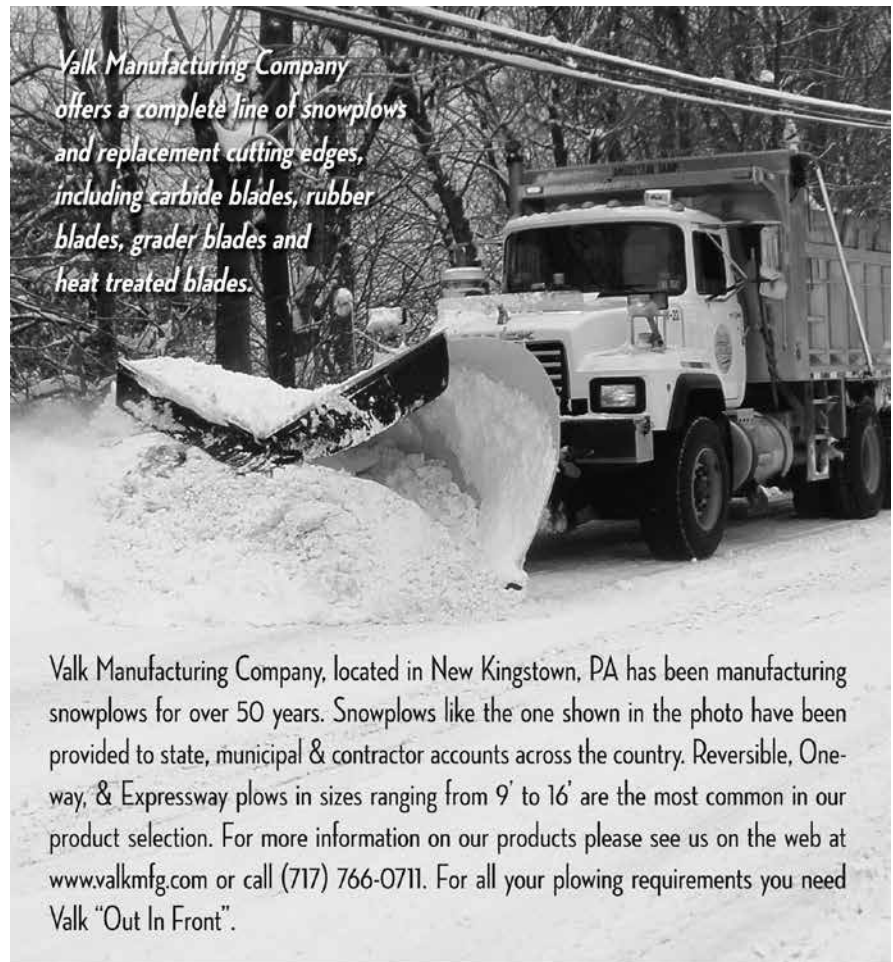
Still, as long as he stays healthy, Beebe really doesn't mind. He likes giving back to the township that has always been his home.

"We are like one big, happy family here where everyone gets along," he says. "It's a good place to live." ♦

How PSATS has helped this Hall of Famer

During his 34 years as a supervisor, Patrick Beebe figures that he has missed only two PSATS Conferences. He appreciates the networking and learning opportunities at the annual event.

"When you're mingling with 3,000 other supervisors and talking to different people, someone will usually have an answer to any problem you have," he says.



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