



Dean Simpson

2023 NYM Athletic Wall of Fame

Dean Simpson was raised in rural New York Mills, graduating from NYM High School in 1968. Dean wrestled 4 years in high school; Mr. Schuller was his coach.

Dean has been an integral part of the community growth and success throughout his life.

Dean and his wife, Kathy, also a NYM graduate, settled into life in NYM in 1972. Their four children also graduated from NYM. They purchased Fritz's general store and Dean's Country Market was established. After 5 years on main street, Dean and Kathy built Deans Country Market, which continued to grow and expand over 45 years, including into the neighboring community, Perham, MN. Many NYM students worked at Deans throughout the years. Deans

Country Market was a strong booster of NYM school sports and clubs.

In addition to managing his grocery stores, Dean was very active in the local community. He was NYM Mayor for 25 years, starting his role in 1978. Prior to serving as Mayor, he served on city council for three years. During his terms, he advocated and invested in the new fire hall, Lund Park, Community Pool, NYM Clinic, and redeveloped parts of main street and various apartment buildings. Dean was also an active NYM Lions Member, NYM Fire Department and EMT volunteer for 20 years, City Council, and member of St. Peters Church. For his community service, Dean has been recognized by the Lions with the Melvin Jones award and in Rotary with the Paul Harris Foundation award. He continues to serve on the Perham Hospi-

tal Board, an area Bank Board and investing in ongoing projects in the NYM area.

Dean was elected to the MN State legislature in 2003 and served three terms. He was on the tax committee, natural resources, and commerce committees. He was chair of the tax committee during his final term. Dean was also President of the Minnesota Grocers Association where he was awarded Grocer of the Year and later inducted into the MN Grocers Association Hall of Fame.

In his free time, you can find Dean fishing, hunting, snowmobiling and spending time outdoors. His hard work and dedication to the community of NYM over the years continues to show as he supports and mentors new leaders.