

## Each life a legacy – lead on purpose!

By Bob 'Idea Man' Hooey  
Excerpt from *Legacy of Leadership*

*Our life and work is a portrait of who we are – autograph them both with style!*

The *tapestry of our lives* is inter-woven with the lives of those we connect with on a daily basis. Whether we realize it or not, our life leaves a *legacy*. The stories of our involvements, leadership, and activities become a *living legend*. **People will talk about you – why not give them something positive to say? ☺**

People we know, work, or live with have a lasting impression based on their personal experience with us. Why is it then that we wait until they are gone or have moved on to acknowledge the important people in our life? **Life is a *continuous* choice...**

I live in the country north-east of Edmonton, Alberta. It is a quiet, rustic, creative type of life; a place for me to write and prepare to present around the world. Driving the *rural* roads, I see dilapidated, boarded-up buildings, stores, gas stations, and shops that once housed thriving businesses, entrepreneurial dreams that profitably served their communities and customers. **I wonder, what happened?**

- Did the business thrive and move to a better location? Did they neglect their clients?
- Did it miss the changes in client needs and slowly die?
- Did their competition do a better job?
- Did they fall behind in technology? Service? Products?
- Did their clients desert them? What makes the difference?

I see thriving, prosperous businesses, too, in attractive, spruced-up, well-lit buildings; well-stocked and open for business to profitably serve both their clients and their communities.

I also see homes previously inhabited by families with dreams of building a life together. Houses left to fall apart, torn and worn by the winds and the rain. Houses left to the elements when the people who lived there moved on. I wonder, what happened?

Yet, I also see some older homes, lovingly cared for, passed on from family-to-family, still vibrant with life. What made the difference, I wonder?

**What legacy is being told of you and your team every day?**

When you're done working, what leadership legacy would you like to leave behind? What are they saying about you right now? What picture would you like your team, your clients, and the community to see and remember about your contributions and work?

**What would be the ultimate comment or testimonial on your life and contributions in pioneering and living life as an adventure?**

Why not leave a lasting legacy; a history of strong dynamic leadership that has contributed in a positive way? A legacy of leadership that has engaged, inspired, challenged, and cared for the many you led.

Once we understand that we *actually* leave a **legacy of leadership** behind, we can make a conscious choice to ensure it is a positive one. We can *choose* to invest our time, resources, and energies in those activities and organizations that create lasting value; as well as in the lives of those we love and respect. As leaders we have that opportunity to invest in the lives and success of those we lead. This investment can leave a lasting *legacy* in their lives and the lives of those they touch.

My parents both passed away in 1999, leaving a big hole in the lives of my sister and myself. More importantly, Mom and Dad left a *legacy of love and commitment to community service* that has been ingrained in our lives. Their *legacy* lives on in our lives and in the conversations I now share.

### **Acknowledge the accomplishments and contributions of those around you!**

I've learned that people too often die *un-acknowledged*, un-valued, and un-appreciated. This is one of the biggest losses in our rich culture and legacy as a culture. This is the biggest loss in the changing tapestry of any living organization or group. We have people who have made a *genuine* difference and *lasting* impact in our lives. However, ***they don't know – because we never told them!***

**Resolve to tell these men and women now!** Tell them often how *important* they are in your life and *where* they have made a difference! Share their legacy and their story. This can be the most valuable gift you can give them. This can be such a wonderful legacy as a leader – to tell your people **now** how and why you appreciate them and to share positive encouragement as they seek to grow in their respective roles.

### **Investing in the lives of others can be our best legacy! Let them tell your story!**

I've often heard, "*You can't take it with you!*" Interesting thought! This is true. When we pass away, we leave behind everything we '*once held*' important. I've yet to see a hearse pulling a U-Haul trailer.☺ When we take personal leadership with our time, skills, and resources, we can then *invest* them in the lives of people we want to help now.

**Think of each person who has invested in your life** and your success to date. Some have passed away and some have moved on to different roles and careers. Their investment in you is *still* paying dividends, *still* adding to their legacy; as you continue to grow and pass on what they taught you. You have been given an opportunity to ***pass it forward*** to your team and clients. Share their legacy or stories with your employees as examples of what they can aspire to become. Your most important activity and use of time is investing in your team for their success. Your gift, your real legacy as a leader, is based on equipping them to win.

**Realize the impact you have and choose to make it a positive and dynamic one!** As leaders, we influence and make an impact on the lives of others each day and in each encounter we have with them. This too is part of our lasting legacy as caring and courageous leaders.

We have an impact on people whom we may not even know. *The legacy continues...* as people tell *our* stories. Like the ripples on a lake that bounce off each other, we do have an impact and we change the patterns of those we connect with, as do those who connect us.

One of the most decisive decisions I made was striving to ensure my life makes a difference, to leave behind a **positive** legacy of leadership. To ensure the men and women in my life knew how much I *truly* appreciated them. To leave a **legacy of empowered** and encouraged people, audiences, readers, family, and friends who know I loved and cared enough to give my very best. Who know I believed in them and prayed for their success in life! Ensuring my words, both written and verbal, were based in truth, delivered in love, focused on enhancing the positive opportunities in life. I have stumbled at times, but I got up and continued to serve and lead. You can too!

**The world needs courageous men and women who are willing to step up and take their leadership role in tackling these pressures and challenges.** Whether your leadership path is personal, as a volunteer, serving as an elected official, or is organizational (positional) you do and will make a difference. Choose to make it a positive one!

Taking personal responsibility for your own growth and success in that leadership role is worth the investment. This is where you apply *'leverage'* to dynamically succeed!

**Personal leadership – ‘The Power of One!’ leads to engaging the passion of many and allows you to walk ‘In The Company of Leaders’.**

Thank you for investing your time in reading today and allowing me to be a part of your on-going legacy. **I wish you significance in your quest to be a more influential and effective leader.**



***“If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth the writing.”***  
**Benjamin Franklin**

**Note from the author:** Most leaders want to see those they lead grow and succeed. However, at times they go through frustrations leading their teams. You want to make a difference! We believe you, as leaders, can make a positive long lasting legacy in the lives of those you lead. We wrote Legacy of Leadership for that purpose. We have also created some special tools to help you in that noble quest to make a difference in the lives of those you lead. If you like this opening chapter invest in the book at: [www.legacyofleadership.ca](http://www.legacyofleadership.ca) Perhaps bring Bob in to work with your team.

**Here are the links to our special tools and our Leadership in a Box promotion**

- 1) [www.legacyofleadership.ca/Tools.htm](http://www.legacyofleadership.ca/Tools.htm) (Special Legacy of Leadership success packages)
- 2) [www.legacyofleadership.ca/Box.htm](http://www.legacyofleadership.ca/Box.htm) (Special Leadership in Box)
- 3) [www.legacyofleadership.ca/Presentations.htm](http://www.legacyofleadership.ca/Presentations.htm) (Bob’s Leadership Development programs)