



MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME INC.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ag Hall of Fame Announces Inductees for 2009

Brandon, Manitoba – The Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame Inc. today officially announced its inductees for 2009. The nine individuals judged to have made a significant and lasting contribution to agriculture in Manitoba during their lifetime are:

**Allan and Edythe Arnott of Darlingford
Mabel Britton of Killarney (deceased)
Murray Cormack of Winnipeg
David Gislason of Arborg
Peter Peters of Winnipeg
Bert Sandercock of St. Andrews
Alex Stow of Winnipeg
Clint Whetter of Boissevain**

The mandate of the Manitoba Agriculture Hall of Fame Inc. is to formally and publicly recognize persons who, in the course of their residence in Manitoba, have made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of agriculture and the betterment of rural living in the province.

A formal induction ceremony will take place on July 16, 2009 to recognize these individuals.

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BACKGROUND to Media Release

ALLAN and EDYTHE ARNOTT Darlingford, Manitoba

Allan and Edythe have both been involved in many agricultural enterprises for more than fifty years. These enterprises included Extension Service co-operative programs and breeder seed-trials for triticale. Allan promoted introduction of canola to Manitoba and grew and marketed certified seed. He worked with an Illinois seed company testing over 1200 hybrid wheat varieties on his farm during the 1960's.

Edythe's involvements included the day-to-day activities of managing staff, marketing and accounting. She owned a hog operation of 120 sows which were Specific Pathogen Free stock. Her twenty-five acre U-Pick raspberry business supplied root-stock to North Dakota growers.

Locally the Arnotts served on the church board, school board and parent-teacher association. They also did volunteer work with C.I.D.A. in Nigeria, Africa.

MABEL (McALPIN) BELL, BRITTON Killarney, Manitoba

Mabel Britton was raised and educated in the Killarney area. She received teacher training in Winnipeg and later earned her BSc in Home Economics. She had a long and successful career teaching basic homemaking skills to young women. As Food Specialist with the Manitoba Extension Service she developed adult learning programs. Her skills and farm record-keeping programs became the base for home economics education in Manitoba.

In addition to her professional career and as a farm wife, Mabel was very active in the community serving more than twenty-five years on the Killarney Agricultural Society and on the Manitoba Agricultural Society Advisory Board. She judged 4-H public speaking and demonstration competitions. Mabel was a founding member and charter president of the Jaques Women's Institute. She was instrumental in establishing and served as charter president of the Red Cross Region One, the first region established outside Winnipeg.

JOHN MURRAY CORMACK Winnipeg, Manitoba

Murray was raised on the family farm near Rosburn. He received his BSc in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba, his Masters from the University of Nebraska and his PHd from Iowa State University.

Murray's career began as an Agricultural Representative in 1957. He went on to serve as Assistant Deputy Minister and Deputy Minister of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in the 1960's. Numerous career changes – all agriculture related – covered a span of several years in both western and central Canada.

Murray still found time to be involved in his profession and his community, including the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists, Biomass Energy Institute, the Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation, Agricultural Institute of Canada, Economic Development Winnipeg and the St. Vital and Beaufort church boards.

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DAVID V. GISLASON Arborg, Manitoba

David was born and raised in the Geysir district near Arborg. In 1963, he and his wife Gladys purchased the grain and dairy farm from his parents. In 1977, the dairy herd was sold to expand the forage seed enterprise.

David pioneered the use of leafcutter bees for the pollination of their forage crops. He is a founding member of the Manitoba Leafcutter Bee Association and of the Manitoba Forage Seed Association. David is also a founding member and shareholder of Northstar Seeds Ltd., a leading marketer of Manitoba forage seed. He served on the forage committee of SeCan, an organization which distributes stock seeds of new varieties in Canada. David is Chair of the Manitoba Farm Products Marketing Council.

Locally David served as Councillor and Reeve of the R.M. of Bifrost, Director and Chair of the Arborg Credit Union, and Member of the local church council. He has also been very active on a chapter of the Icelandic League of North America.

PETER J. PETERS Winnipeg, Manitoba

Peter immigrated to Canada from the Ukraine with his family at age eleven. He took his schooling at Gretna and then enrolled in teacher training.

Peter enlisted in the RCAF and on his return from service attained his BSc in Agriculture. Following graduation, he worked with the Extension Service of Manitoba Agriculture as a potato specialist. Known as "Potato Pete" to those in the business, Peter paved the way for the commercial potato industry in Manitoba. He also applied himself to the Strawberry Experimental Demonstration program at Hadashville. As a result of his efforts the Strawberry Growers Association of Manitoba was established.

Pete served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Manitoba Horticultural Association and President of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture. Besides revitalizing the periodical "The Prairie Gardener," Pete wrote and published "A Century of Horticulture in Manitoba."

Pete was also very active in church and community activities, entertaining hundreds with his photography-poetry-musical presentations.

THOMAS ALBERT (BERT) SANDERCOCK St. Andrews, Manitoba

Raised and educated in the Morden area, Bert obtained his BSc and MSc in Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. During his undergraduate years, he worked at the Morden Research Centre. This job piqued his interest in horticulture.

Following a short stint with the Canadian Forestry Association, Bert took a job with Manitoba Agriculture first as an Agricultural Representative at Selkirk and then as a vegetable specialist working out of Winnipeg and finally as Chief of the Horticultural Division. His abilities and diplomacy led to the formation of the Manitoba Vegetable Commission. He played a key role in the relocation of the vegetable industry to Portage la Prairie and its subsequent expansion. Bert also had an important role in the establishment of a dill-oil industry in Morden and the establishment of a silverskin-onion plant at Portage.

Bert was active in the Selkirk area Kinsmen Club as well as the local golf club. He served as chairman of the school board and as a leader of the local Cub Pack. Bert played a major role in the establishment of the Planning Board for St. Andrews and the City of Selkirk.

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JAMES ALEXANDER STOW Winnipeg, Manitoba

Alex Stow was raised and educated at Graysville. Following graduation from high school, he took over the operation of the family farm and began expanding the variety of crops that were being produced. Alex introduced irrigation to his farm to better manage the risk associated with the types of soil that characterized his farm and the district. He established shelterbelts, sponsored fertilizer trials and introduced new and innovative machinery to his farm operation.

Alex introduced pedigreed seed oats and Selkirk wheat to his farming operation and developed international markets for them. He also introduced pulse crops such as peas, lentils and edible beans as well as grain corn, sugar beets and potatoes to his cropping program. Alex set up seed processing operations at Graysville, Elgin and Cardale.

Alex was actively involved in both the Manitoba and Canadian Seed Growers' Associations and served for eight years as a board member and Canadian President of the latter.

In the community, Alex and his wife Pam served as youth-group leaders at their church, directors of the Dufferin Agricultural Society, and 4-H leaders.

RALPH JACOB (CLINT) WHETTER Boissevain, Manitoba

Clint Whetter was raised and educated at Dand. In 1938, he enrolled in the Agricultural Degree program at the University of Manitoba. Upon graduation he enlisted in the RCAF going overseas in 1943.

Clint returned home in 1945 and began farming. He grew crops and raised purebred Hereford cattle. Having a strong commitment to conservation, Clint began strip-farming and planting shelterbelts. He also introduced a conservation project to the local 4-H club, an organization he was involved in for many years.

Clint's dedication to conservation has been noteworthy. He served on the board of the Turtle Mountain Conservation District and was chairman for ten years. He was the first Manitoban inducted into the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame in Ottawa.

Clint served on the Deloraine Fair Board and Agricultural Society for twenty years. He also served on the local Manitoba Pool Elevators (MPE) Committee, the MPE Advisory Committee, and the board of the Hartney Credit Union.

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