Along with becoming a founding member of the Quinte District Veterinary Association, Burns established a close working relationship with the Quinte Humane Society — one that has flourished to this day.

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He also spent several terms on the Ontario Veterinary Council, and was a member of the Deans Council at the Ontario Veterinary College.

Among his many contributions to the community, Burns has

served as president of both the Belleville Rotary Club and the Quinte Exhibition, is past director of the Belleville Cemetery Board and a former trustee of Bridge Street United Church, and one of the first people to successfully introduce a plowing match to the Belleville area.

"We as a community and as a Rotary Club are very fortunate to have a person of this calibre living here," noted Mayor George Zegouras, a close friend for more than 35 years.

Zegouras also presented Burns with a certificate of recognition from the city of Belleville for his efforts with the Rotary Club.

"Harry has been a great friend, a great citizen and a great Rotarian."

Long-time friend and fellow Rotarian Ron Cass recounted memories shared with Burns during his tenure with the club and offered his kudos.

"Harry, we your extended Rotary family join your family and friends to salute and congratulate you on 50 years in both Rotary and veterinary science."

The soft-spoken veterinarian took the stand after several presentations and remarks and thanked those gathered.

"I have many great friends here today," he said, surveying the crowd with a smile.

"Thank you, it has been a pleasure to be a part of this club... you have all made it most enjoyable throughout the years."

