

LOCAL NEWS

Hall of Fame to honour farmer tonight

Allen Bruce Caughey honoured for his dedication to his community

By Lianne Elliott
and Christina Varga/The Whig Standard

AGRICULTURE AND THE AMHERST Island community have been Allen Bruce Caughey's livelihood, hobby and passion his entire life.

The Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association recognizes this dedication and will induct the 89-year-old dairy farmer into its Hall of Fame on June 17. Inductees are chosen based on their contributions to the advancement of agriculture in Ontario.

Caughey, who is currently at Kingston General Hospital, will be honoured by an Ontario Mutual Insurance Association presentation at KGH tonight. The induction ceremony will take place in Milton, at the Farm Museum, on June 13.

The association nominated Caughey for the Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Glen Johnson, president of the asso-

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ciation, said Caughey, through his abilities as a speaker, was able to set up a grassroots, rural Canadian system of insurance that is one of the largest, most financially secure in the world.

Caughey helped set up the Fire Mutuals Guarantee Fund in 1975. Created through the Ontario Mutual Insurance Association, this fund links all the Ontario Farmer's Mutuals, tying their assets together and providing them with financial security. Caughey was the founding chairman of the fund committee.

PRESIDENT FOR TWO YEARS

Caughey also was director of the Amherst Island Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Company for 51 years and served on the Ontario Mutual Insurance Association board between 1969 and 1977. He acted as the association's president for two years.

Johnson also said Caughey did much for the evolving community of Amherst Island.

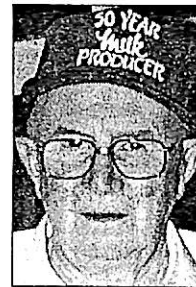
"He's one of those people that makes a community work," said Johnson.

A man who was born on his grandfather's dairy farm, and whose son has carried on the tradition, Caughey described a rural community where there was one telephone line and in the 40s and 50s he bused children to school in a covered sleigh in winter because the roads weren't plowed.

"My father was very dedicated to education," said the younger Bruce Caughey. "In 1978, he was cited by the Honourable Bette Stevenson, who was the Ontario Minister of Education, as having 45 years of education involvement."

VARIOUS SCHOOL BOARDS

His father served on various school boards, including the Amherst Island Township School Area Board, the



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Napanee District Secondary School Board and the Lennox Addington County School Board. He was founding chairman for the latter.

His father also helped modernize the telephone system on Amherst Island when he acted as secretary treasurer of the Amherst Island Municipal Telephone System between 1950 and 1964.

The elder Caughey has been involved with the Masonic Lodge, the Shriners and still serves as Clerk of Session at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

'VOLUNTEER POSITIONS'

"Most of these jobs were volunteer positions ... dollars were not my father's primary concern," the younger Caughey said, explaining his father's main source of living came only from his dairy farm.

"My father is a great orator, a great speaker. He has a mind that remembers details ... He was a real people person. He loved people and establishing friendships."

Caughey is one of only nine living inductees into the Agricultural Hall of Fame.