

Four ag legends first to be on Wall of Distinction

➤ Induction ceremony
July 1 at Oxford
Centre

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The first four inductees to the Wall of Distinction at Oxford Centre Hall have a lot in common.

They've all made significant contributions to agriculture in their lifetimes, they've all been recognized at provincial or national levels, and they were all residents of the former East Oxford, now Ward 4 of Norwich Township.

Donald Lazenby, Erle Kitchen, Ross Butler and Charles Gracey will be the first to be inducted to the Wall of Distinction during a special ceremony as part of the township's Canada Day festivities at Oxford Centre July 1.

Bill Hampson, a member of the Canada Day organizing committee, brought up the idea of a Wall of Distinction to recognize the famous people of the township. Since this year's celebrations are in Oxford Centre, in Ward 4, it is fitting the first inductees come from that part of the township. Hampson said it's unique that there is so much agriculture knowledge and success within the boundaries of the former East Oxford.

Gracey hosted a luncheon for the Canada Day committee Tuesday, April 29 with the other inductees or their representative, to share memories and swap stories.

David Butler, representing his father Ross, listened intently while the other spoke. He said there is so much history among the group and he is "glad my father had a little contribution to that."

Ross Butler's contributions included his production of agricultural art and recognition at Canada's preeminent authority on farm animal portraits. He developed the ideal standards for various animals and was commissioned to complete several works.



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Kitchen, who died in 1965, is being honoured for what he accomplished for the Canadian dairy industry, including being part of and/or forming several dairy associations and developing national dairy policies.

Gracey has made many contributions in the cattle industry such as championing a primary source of information

on cattle prices and market outlooks, helping to advance the beef industry through standardizing procedures for dressing cattle at packing plants. He was instrumental in the formation of several industry groups.

Lazenby's contribution to the dairy industry included the development of herd management products and services, and the creation of dairy herd improvement computer software. He was

also behind the development of a dairy education program that exposes all of Oxford's Grade 5 students to the dairy industry.

All the inductees have earned many honours and awards over the years, but this one means a lot.

"To be recognized in the place where you grew up, its so wonderful," said Gracey.

"It's a humbling experience to be recognized for what you thought was just

The inaugural inductees to the Wall of Distinction at Oxford Centre Hall have each made significant contributions to the agriculture industry in their lifetimes. From left are Donald Lazenby, Charles Gracey, Glen Kitchen representing his father Erle Kitchen, and David Butler representing his father Ross Butler. The induction will take place during Canada Day celebrations in Oxford Centre on July 1.

what you were supposed to do," said Lazenby.

Glen Kitchen, who was representing his father, agreed.

"We're very honoured. Today a lot of our farm organizations are a result of my dad's work in the 30s, 40s and 50s, and we're very proud," said Glen.

Ox. Rec. D. 9 Mar 8 2014