

# Burlington Plaque Marks World Wheat Championship

A historical plaque which honours William E. Breckon of Burlington and commemorates his achievement in bringing the World Wheat Championship to the Province of Ontario in 1954, now stands on the grounds of the W.E. Breckon School, 345 Tuck Drive, Burlington.

This plaque is one of a series erected throughout the province by the Department of Public Records and Archives, acting on the advice of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.

Winner of the World Wheat Championship at the 1954 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, William E. Breckon of Burlington was born on the Nelson Township farm where he grew the championship wheat. In 1954 this farm contained some 350 acres lying along the north side of the Queen Elizabeth Way west of Burloak Drive. His grandfather had located on the original 100 acres and the farm was worked and enlarged by William Breckon's father before William took over its operation and added to its acreage.

Primarily a dairy farmer specializing in Jersey cattle, Mr. Breckon became a strong supporter of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association which was fostered by and worked closely with the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Participation in this organization led not only to executive responsibilities as a director and president of the Association, but inspired a keen interest in the growing of seed grain. The cultivation of wheat and oats for seed purposes led in turn to Mr. Breckon being elected by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association to the Canadian Seed Growers' Association which he served for many years as an Ontario director. The C.S.G.A. was and is a private association of pedigreed seed growers which is authorized under the Canada Seeds Act as the official and sole seed pedegreeding agency for Canada.

The growing of pedigreed seed grain by members of the C.S.G.A. is closely supervised by the Plant Products Division, Department of Agriculture, Canada. The seed grain is inspected in the field and in the bag, and must meet high standards before receiving an official Department of Agriculture, Canada, tag and seal. Thus approved, the growers of such pedigreed seed grain may then sell their seed with the designations "Foundation", "Registered" or "Certified" as a guarantee of its excellence e.g. in purity, freedom from disease, germination qualities, etc. The C.S.G.A. bestowed upon Mr. Breckon its highest honour, "The Robertson Associate Award". The award is given only to members distinguished for marked leadership in community affairs as well as for the successful production of pedigreed seed over a long period of time.

Mr. Breckon exhibited samples of his seed wheat at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair from 1947 - the year the world wheat title was established - until 1954, the year he won the coveted award. Eight world grain championships at the fair were recognized internationally. The wheat championship was organized on the basis of six competing classes and the winner of each of these advanced into the final competition for the world title. There were two soft winter wheat classes (red and white), two hard spring wheat classes (red and white), Durum, and a special 4-H category for junior farmers. Most of the wheat grown in Ontario is the white winter type used for making cake and pastry flour, while most of the wheat grown in western Canada is the hard red spring type used for making bread flour. Nutritionally the two types differ in the proportions of protein and starch they contain. Durum is an especially hard spring wheat used in the making of spaghetti and macaroni flour, and grown in limited quantities in the West. Some Ontario farmers use the term "fall" rather than "winter" in referring to Ontario wheat for it is generally planted in September and grows a few inches before frost sets in. It resumes its growth in the spring, generally maturing for harvesting in July.

The entries that Mr. Breckon placed in the white winter wheat class continuously from 1947 to 1954 topped that class seven times in those eight years. In 1954 he climaxed his splendid performance by taking the world championship with a sample of Genesee, a recently-developed variety. The judges gave Mr. Breckon's entry the world title over exhibits of western hard red spring wheat which had dominated the wheat competitions at the Fair for the previous 25 years.

Genesee wheat originated at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and was first brought into Ontario for experimental purposes in 1951. A year or two later Mr. Breckon and a number of other growers each received 2 bushels of the first Genesee seed exported to Ontario farmers for cultivation. Professor N.F. Jensen of Cornell spent many years crossing and re-crossing varieties to produce Genesee. He was particularly happy when Mr. Breckon received the top award in 1954. The "wheat king" had hand-picked the winning sample of Genesee with great care and the judges' comments expressed their admiration and enthusiasm in a manner rarely voiced.

Mr. Breckon's closest rival and the reserve award winner in 1954 was Ronald R. Leonhardt of Drumheller, Alberta, showing Chinook, a new variety of hard

red spring wheat. Leonhardt, while a 4-H Club member, had won the world title the two previous years with entries of the famous Marquis, a variety of hard red spring wheat developed by Charles (later Sir Charles) Saunders, one-time Dominion cerealist. Marquis had also won the grand award the two years preceding Leonhardt's victories and with related western varieties had, for a long time, almost monopolized the championships at the Toronto and Chicago agricultural shows. From 1947 when the World Wheat Championship was first established at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, till the present day, it has been won by exhibitors from Alberta all but five times. Twice it has gone to British Columbia, once to Saskatchewan, and to Ontario only on that single occasion in 1954. The only time the award has been won by another country was in 1957 when it was captured by England with an entry of winter wheat, Chinook, the western variety which gave Mr. Breckon's championship entry tough competition, has taken the world title at least ten times since 1954, including the last six years in succession.

Mr. Breckon's triumph in 1954 was acclaimed not only in Ontario but right across the country, and several "firsts" are noted in connection with the wheat championship. It was the first win for an Ontario grower, the first for winter wheat and the first for an imported wheat. It was also the first time that western Canada's growers of spring wheat failed to carry off the "wheat king" crown. Mr. Breckon received hearty congratulations from the principal political figures of the day as well as from the leaders of Canada's agricultural community. Many newspapers, in addition to the agricultural press, gave the victory story front page treatment - for example, The Toronto Globe and Mail of November 12, 1954, carried the banner headline, "Ontario Wins Wheat Title". Materially the award meant little - the inscribing of the winner's name on the Canadian National Railway Challenge Trophy (which remained with the Fair), plus a cheque for \$100.00 and a silver tray. The real rewards for the "wheat king" were the satisfaction of achievement and the tributes showered upon him in recognition of the signal honour he had brought to his province.

Though Mr. Breckon also grew oats for sale as seed, he did not exhibit oats in the competitions at the Fair. He was the only farmer in his district who specialized in seed grain and though he sold some to seed dealers, most of it went to neighbours and other farmers in the area who were eager to avail

themselves of his fine pedigreed seed products.

In addition to participation in the agricultural organizations that have already been noted, Mr. Breckon served as a director of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair from 1953 to 1960 inclusive. A leader in the movement for consolidated schools, he was a member of the Nelson Township School Board for fourteen years from 1943 to 1956, and for several of these was chairman of the Board. The "W.E. Breckon" school located on Tuck Drive in Burlington is named after him, as is the adjoining municipal park. Some years ago Mr. Breckon sold his farm and, with Mrs. Breckon is now living in retirement at Burlington.

## Two Heart Funds

Don't confuse the two Heart Funds currently raising money locally. A letter in the Herald's Mail Bag last week was signed by E. Wakefield chairman of the Heart Fund. That one is Georgetown Lions club project to buy a heart machine for the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

The other Heart Fund is the regular campaign run by the Ontario Heart Foundation of which Mrs. Betty Hull is the local chairman.

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

IN THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA FOSTER, deceased

All persons having claims against the estate of Patricia Foster, late of the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Halton, who died on or about the 29th day of July, 1971 are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of February, 1972, after which date the estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim he shall not then have notice.

DATED AT BRAMPTON THIS 20th day of January, 1972.

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**80 ACRES** of industrial land close to No. 7 highway adjoining the town of Acton. All services available, water, sewers and gas at the gate. Railroad available. Erected thereon is an 11-room 2-storey modern brick house. Bathroom. Oil heated. Large banked barn and garage. Full price \$200,000. with \$50,000. down.

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**86 ACRE FARM**—on 7th line. Paved road, 6 room house, 3 piece bath, oil heated. Drive shed, bank barn 40 x 60, 8 acres of bush, balance workable with spring water. Close to Georgetown. Price \$75,000 - 1/2 cash.

**25 ACRES**—of good garden soil on paved county road, north of highway 24. \$22,000 with good terms.

**25 ACRES**—of good garden soil on paved county road, north of highway 24, with spring at rear. .... \$30,000.

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**VALENTINE BEAUTY**—Modern brick bungalow with attached garage; 3 bedrooms; dining room; modern kitchen and bright cheerful living room. Broadroom in living room, bedroom and hall. This home has had excellent care. Lot attractively landscaped. Paved drive. Inspect today ..... \$31,950.

**LOOK THIS OVER.** A real country bargain, 3 year old ranch-style bungalow with attached double garage on large country lot, handy to school and highway. Note some of the features - 3 bedrooms, plus an extra downstairs; modern kitchen; separate dining room; living room with custom fireplace; centre entrance hall. Finished recreation room with bar; workshop; laundry room. Large in-ground swimming pool; 2 change houses with washroom. Patio fencing; professionally-landscaped. Price includes electric range, refrigerator, freezer, drapes, riding lawn mower, plus many other extras. Priced to sell ..... \$39,900.

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**DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN**—1 1/2 storey, solid brick, 7-roomed home. Features centre entrance hall and large rooms; 2 baths, broadroom in bedrooms, plus other extras. Good care is evident throughout. Convenient to downtown main intersection. Situated on one of the larger lots. Price ..... \$29,900.

**EASY COMMUTING** from Highway 27 location, where you can enjoy the advantage of country living in this attractive 1 1/2 storey brick home featuring seven good-sized rooms (4 bedrooms) gas hot water heating, 3 car garage, town water. Property shows well and is in an excellent location for active family with city interests. Spring possession. Call today, price ..... \$36,900.

**COLONIAL-STYLE HOME**—Features include 4 bedrooms (large master suite with private bath and balcony) den or guest room, separate living room and dining room, combination kitchen, family room, patio off living and dining room for full enjoyment of the surrounding countryside. 30 day possession time. Asking ..... \$15,000.

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**FARMS, LOTS & ACREAGES**—EXAMPLE—Vacant lot 125'x300' on paved road. Handy location to Steele's Avenue and No. 401. Priced for immediate possession at \$10,500 with one-third down payment.

**GEORGETOWN AREA FARM**—97 acres of gently rolling sandy loam on a paved highway. Attractive 4 bedroom, solid brick home. Bank barn and pole barn; silo with unloader; paved yard; implement shed and workshop. A good spring-fed trout creek crosses the full depth of the property (excellent pond possibilities). A real good farm in a choice location and priced for action ..... \$80,000.

**CANADIANA** 100 acres Sandy Loam complete with pond and woods. This house is a real Canadiana Classic with 6 large rooms and 2 fireplaces. Good barns. Asking \$75,000 with \$30,000 down. Owner retiring.

**70 acres** with the Credit River along one boundary. Spring fed stream along another boundary. Five room bungalow and very good barn. Just off No. 7 Hwy. Asking \$75,000, with \$20,000 down.

**NIAGARA ESCARPMENT VIEW**  
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