

Wallace Knapp honored for efforts in agriculture

NORVAL-Wallace Knapp, Eighth Line, Halton Hills, was honored recently when Walt Elliot, MPP for Halton North, delivered to him a certificate of merit recognizing his contribution to the agriculture and food industry in Ontario. Signed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food, the Hon. David Ramsay, the award acknowledges more than 35 years of active participation in this industry in our province.

Wally Knapp graduated with his degree in the science of agriculture from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1948, beginning his career as assistant agricultural representative for Perth County. In addition

to his work in junior extension, he successfully coached the Perth County Junior Livestock Judging Team to win top honors at the Royal Winter Fair.

Returning to take over the family farm at Cambridge (Galt) in 1950, he continued to work for excellence in agriculture, and hosted hundreds of foreign visitors to the farm operation. His flair for genetics produced one of the most widely known Holstein herds in the country, and in 1980 he was presented with a Master Breeder Shield, the highest award granted by the Canadian Holstein Association.

As a Holstein breeder under the

"Greenwood" prefix in Waterloo County and the "Lssia" prefix in Halton, he exported blood-lines to many countries of the world, and officiated at exhibitions across Canada and the United States as well as in England, Scotland, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Puerto Rico and much of Latin America. Major dairy shows in Canada and the U.S. found him in the ring as an active competitor, evidence of which can be seen in the collection of ribbons and trophies won over the years.

Always interested in type and production for the dairy breeds, Mr. Knapp served as a member of both the Type Classification and Breed Improvement Committees of Holstein Canada. For many years he served the milk producers of the province as a government-appointed member of the Milk Commission of Ontario and the Farm Products Appeal Tribunal.

During his years as a farm leader, he has always had time to spare for young people. As a 4H leader he organized the first senior 4H club in the province, realizing older 4H'ers needed increased skills and challenges. Young farmers across Canada know him as a fair and articulate judge at 4H Achievement Days as well as in the Lawara Class for Junior Showmanship and the national ScotiaBank Competitions at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Following retirement from active dairy farming in 1985, Wally Knapp is presently on the full-time staff of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, where he is the Agriculture Manager.

Still devoting his life to his chosen field of work, Mr. Knapp believes that "as a basic industry with everyone indirectly dependent upon it, the agricultural industry is the most important segment of our economy. On it depend the challenges in the production of abundant, wholesome food, and the preservation of the environment."

Having always been involved in the farming operation and rural organizations, the Knapp family continues to make its contribution both on and off the farm. Son David, long a full partner in the

business, now operates his own firm, Trillium Livestock Company, with help from his wife, Diana. Daughter Beth and her husband Murray Pearson own their own dairy farm, near Thamesford, where Beth is chairman of the Oxford County Milk Committee and Murray is vice-president of the Ontario Branch of Holstein Canada. Son Bob, a member of Canada's In-

ternational Figure Skating Team in the 1970s, is now a professional coach in Western Canada, having retired as a principal skater with Holiday On Ice.

Wally's wife, Peggy, sits as a public interest representative on the Ontario Veterinary Council, and is president-elect of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.



North Halton MP Walt Elliot congratulates Wally Knapp of Eighth Line for his contribution to the dairy industry. Mr. Knapp has been farming for 35 years, contributing prize-winning Holsteins to the industry. (Herald photo)

Library Week

Attention kids age eight and up! The Halton Hills Public Libraries needs your help in creating a banner to honor Ontario Public Library Week. The banner will be a collection of your ideas and talents and be hung for public viewing from Oct. 7 until Oct. 21.

This program will be held at both the Acton and Georgetown branches and creation will take place Saturday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. Registration begins Friday, Oct. 6 and spaces are limited.

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