

Ed Segsworth inducted into Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame

By KAREN DALLIMORE

I never knew Edward Segsworth, but after attending the ceremonies that saw him, along with four other prominent agricultural leaders, inducted into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame on June 8, I wish that I had. Guests lined the balconies and filled the main floor of the Gambrel Barn at Country Heritage Park in Milton, singing the national anthem with a pride reserved for only the most special of occasions.

"He was a friend to all of us," said Councillor Barry Lee, who remembers Mr. Segsworth's role in founding the Halton Agricultural

Advisory Committee in 1974, which has been used as a model for other communities to deal with issues surrounding agriculture.

Mrs. Dianne Segsworth explained that her late husband "never sought the spotlight." He was more comfortable discussing matters around the kitchen table, but somehow he managed to perform leadership roles in the Halton Agricultural Society; Halton and Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Associations; Canadian, Ontario and Halton Federations of Agriculture; Ontario 4-H Association; Halton

County Junior Farmers; and the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario. Mr. Segsworth was one of the original members of the Kilbride Volunteer Fire Department, and he was an agricultural advisor to Conservation Halton and the Bronte Creek Watershed. He was also the driving force behind a consortium of 37 farm and commodity groups that combined to lobby federal and provincial governments regarding agricultural issues.

His biography describes him as "determined to help farmers have a good quality of life and [he] was genuinely interested in land use-planning, property taxes and nutrient management issues." Mr. Segsworth was Farmer of the Year in Halton in 1984. He also received the Volunteer Service Award from the City of Burlington, and the Agri-Food and Rural Communities Volunteer Recognition Award.

In accepting her husband's honour, Mrs. Segsworth noted: "Some of us take a lifetime to find a cause or a vocation that really consumes our interest. Ed was fortunate to know his passion right from an early age. He was involved in all manner of agricultural causes. This honour would have both surprised him and given him a great deal of satisfaction."



Pictured at the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame ceremony on June 8 are: Jack Riddell, vice-president of the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame (left), Dianne Sedgworth, wife of the late Ed Sedgworth (middle) and Stan Young, president of the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame (right).

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