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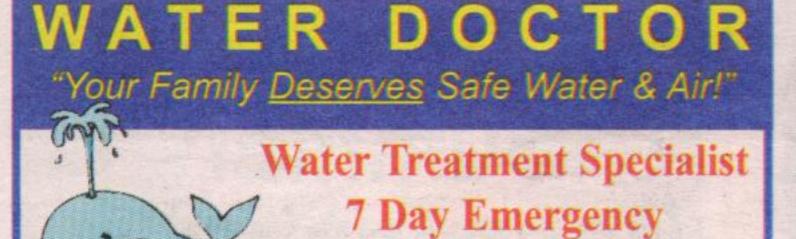
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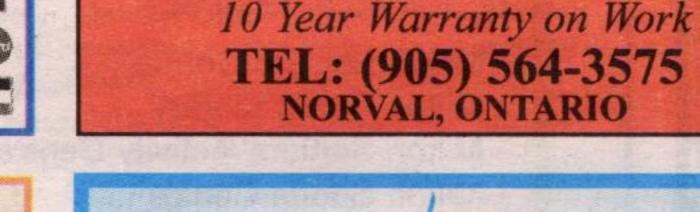
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Oakville's Thomas Hays inducted into Agricultural Hall of Fame

BY ANN KORNUTA

akville's Thomas Hays has been inducted into the Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to the agriculture and food industries. Tom has spent his life in both the livestock business and in a law practice when he was called to the bar in 1970. He has spent over forty years as an ambassador for Canadian livestock ensuring that Canadian producers have ample access to the world market. The Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame, created in 1960, honours and celebrates Canadians for outstanding contributions to the agriculture and food industry. Ceremonies for Tom's induction took place at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario on November 7, 2004.

Born in Alberta in 1941, The Hay family moved to Brampton when Tom was seven years old "We farmed in the Snelgrove area and then moved to Oakville where we had a two hundred acre farm, mainly dairy cattle. From there my family got into the livestock export industry. That was our major, selling dairy cattle to foreign countries," Tom explained. "We would buy from farms across Canada and sell all across the world." The Hays business is a third generation farming family.

Tom eventually moved to Oakville in 1957 and has lived there ever since. "There were farms everyplace when we were farming. I still have family out west and I see them often. I enjoyed farming in Ontario. It was physically, mentally and financially rewarding." Tom comes from one of the most highly decorated families ever inducted in the Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame with his

father inducted in 1985 alongside his uncle for promotion of purebred livestock around the world.

Tom got out of farming in 2000. Development was growing around Halton and Tom decided to sell. "When we stopped the farm business got into full time law, mainly real estate transactions. When I first started the practice, the office was at Hopedale mall in Oakville and it became very busy. We are now are a full service law firm with 17 lawyers and I cover the real estate transactions." Tom talked about moving from farming to law as a natural progression. "It is completely different, but the business concepts are the same no matter what business it is. We are the largest law firm in Halton," Tom said.

In his career, Tom traveled one hundred and thirty days a year across the world promoting livestock genetics. "I use the word genetics because it's livestock and frozen embryos." Tom said. His knowledge of the livestock industry and his legal expertise put Tom in a position where he could provide a strong voice for Canadian livestock exporters. He promoted Canadian livestock around the globe dealing with governments on animal health and the export market development.

Offering his advice to other farmers, Tom said "There are many different kinds of farmers but it is the same in any business: work hard and work smart because farming is definitely a business. The capital investment is staggering, and that is why you have to be smart."

"I am very proud and pleased with this honour," Tom said.

