

# Agricultural hall of fame inductees announced

By **ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER**  
Special to *The Champion*

The Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association (OAHFA) will induct five people deemed leaders in the agricultural industry into the Hall of Fame Gallery June 12.

The Milton-based OAHFA, in its 26th year, is a non-profit organization that "strives to acknowledge, record, and preserve the contributions made by leaders in the growth and development of Ontario's agriculture/food sector."

To qualify for the Hall of Fame, inductees "must have demonstrated visionary leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the advancement of agriculture in Ontario."

Joining the current 158 members in the Hall of Fame Gallery this year are Brian Scott Ellsworth, Murray Gaunt, Mary Birdell Hind, Garnet Alvin Ralph and Clayton Macfie Switzer.

Mr. Ellsworth of Mississauga used his leadership and advocacy to implement changes that drastically affected the evolution of the egg industry in Ontario and Canada by creating the Egg Quality Improvement Program as well as the "Get Cracking" advertising logo that reversed the decline in egg consumption and helped the egg industry thrive.

Mr. Ellsworth, nominated by the Ontario Egg Producers, has been involved with numerous groups and associations that have impacted the agricultural industry for many years.

Mr. Gaunt of Wingham was a farm news broadcaster, a member of the Ontario Legislature and an agricultural group leader for more than 40 years.

During his years in the legislature, Mr. Gaunt was instrumental in helping the agricultural industry through initiatives such as the Capital Grants program for farmers in the 1960s, the 1966 Milk Act, and the ensuing establishment of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board.

Mr. Gaunt, nominated by CKNX Radio - CKNX Broadcasting Ltd., the Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg & Chick Commission and the Huron East District Women's Institute, entertained and informed rural communities through his daily news, market, and special reports on CKNX radio and television and served on many boards including the Beef Marketing Agency Commission and the Ontario Agriculture's Special Task Force that studied the effect of high interest rates on farm families.

Ms Hind of Bear Line was instrumental in improving the quali-

ty of life for farmwomen and rural families. She encouraged the use of co-operative enterprise and consolidated purchasing in an effort for rural families to save money.

Ms Hind was a member of the United Farm Women of Ontario for more than 45 years and encouraged women to address the many rural community issues that existed in the 1920s and 1930s. She demanded that the government properly label canned goods in an effort for women to prepare nutritious meals for their families and was a leading voice in improving rural children's education. Nominated by Barbara B. Skipper, Ms Hind is said to be a "true pioneer whose enterprising efforts contributed to the quality of early rural societies."

Mr. Ralph of Richmond was active in 4-H and Junior Farmers and was continuously testing new techniques and technology to improve production on his farm then openly shared his achievements with other farmers so they could benefit as well.

Nominated by Harold Crawford, Mr. Ralph pioneered the con-

cept of bulk fertilizer in Eastern Ontario helping farmers achieve better crops and yields. His work as a judge of livestock and field crops helped farmers to improve the quality of both.

Mr. Switzer of Guelph was a professional educator, university administrator and government deputy minister. He's described as being a unique "person who translates experience into practice."

Through his positions at the Ontario Agriculture College, with the government, and on various boards, he has mentored many individuals who are scientists and leaders in the agri-food industry.

Mr. Switzer's contributions to the advancement of agriculture have won him numerous awards and his nomination for the Hall of Fame by the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation.

The induction ceremony will be held at Country Heritage Park at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$20 and can be purchased by calling the OAHFA office at (905) 878-8151.



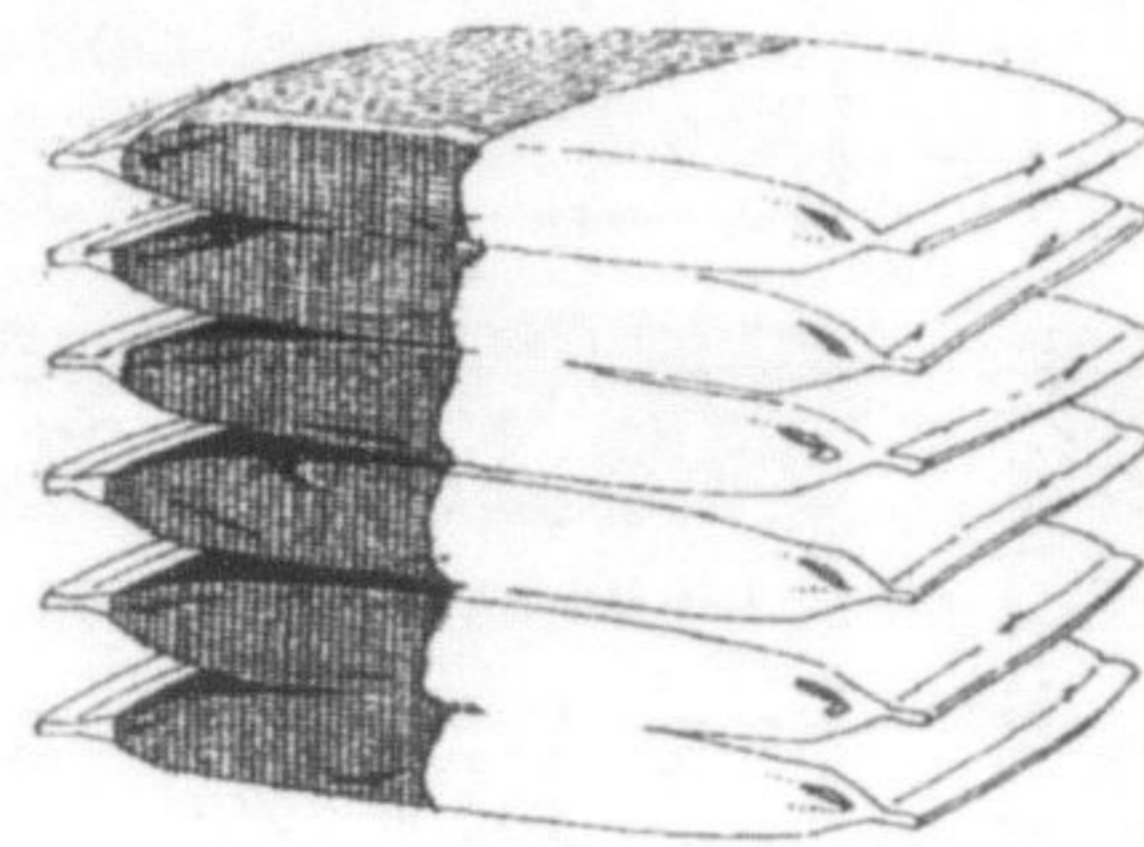
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