



Huronian



Agriculture Update

Hall of Fame adds three more

Three men who had a significant impact on farm organizations in Simcoe County were inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Midhurst Sept. 11.

There was an outdoor unveiling of their portraits and biographies in the courtyard of the Simcoe County Museum with members of each nominee's family present.

The induction was in co-ordination with the museum's annual Pioneer Day.

The men included: Roy Hickling (1892-1984), a former reeve of Vespra who displayed leadership in the milk producers group, soil and crop improvement work and the Federation of Agriculture.

He was nominated by the Township of Vespra. Five sons attended the ceremony.

W.J. Wood (1875-1971), former Essa Township reeve, who had a varied career in agriculture. As a close associate of T.P. Loblaw,

another county native, he managed over 100 Loblaw's stores in Illinois prior to his return to Stevenson Farms near Alliston in 1935.

Wood was instrumental in organizing local cream producers, the Alliston egg grading station and the Farm Forum in the 1940s.

An active churchman, he served as Essa reeve during its centennial year of 1950 and taught a men's Bible class for many years in Alliston.

He was nominated by the Beeton Agricultural Society and his daughters, Jean Corrigan and Elspeth Milne of Alliston were present for the unveiling.

Harry Cross (1911-1987) was also nominated for the hall of fame by the Beeton Agricultural Society. He was secretary and manager of the Beeton Fall Fair between 1948 and 1979. He was a 4-H leader and coach and promoter of youth sports.

Cross was a member of

Tecumseth Township council for a number of years. His wife, Blossom, was present for the induction.

The chairperson of the Simcoe County Agricultural Hall of Fame committee, Will Knap, acted as master of ceremonies for the proceedings. Warden Ken Knox brought greetings.

The former secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame, Robert Carbert, was guest speaker.

He called the hall of fame an excellent means to acquaint the non-farming population with the achievements of the agricultural community.

The induction Sept. 11 marked the fifth unveiling for the county Hall of Fame since its inception in 1984.

Cross, Hickling and Wood join other prominent county residents in the hall. They include former North

Simcoe agricultural representative Stewart L. Page and former agricultural activist from Tay Township, Ronald Jones, who was a prominent leader in the county agriculture federation before his

death in 1982.

The Simcoe County Agricultural Hall of Fame is in the Simcoe County Museum. All portraits of inductees have been painted by Churchill artist Joan Saunders.

Education grants awarded

Six young people from North Simcoe have received scholarships totalling \$1,050 to assist with post secondary education in agriculture, family and consumer studies, and animal health.

This money was provided by the Stewart L. Page Scholarship Fund. This is the 21st consecutive year for awarding these scholarships, making a total of ninety-eight recipients.

The six young people are: Nicola Tofts, R.R.2, Coldwater; Frank Robbins, R.R.2, Coldwater; Monique VanOstaaen, R.R.1, Stayner; Leslie Campbell, R.R.3, Wasaga Beach; Krista Etherington,

6 Belcourt Avenue, Barrie; and Lisa Chappell, R.R.1, Barrie.

They are attending the University of Guelph, Centralia College of Agricultural Technology, Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology, and University of Western Ontario respectively.

The S.L. Page Scholarship Fund was established in 1967 when Page retired as agricultural representative in North Simcoe. Money was provided by farm people in North Simcoe in appreciation of his service. Further contributions have been made since then by Page's family.

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