



July 30, 2008

SEED GROWERS SPONSOR MINI HALL OF FAME IN KEMPTVILLE

The Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association is sponsoring a mini Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame at Kemptville Campus of the University of Guelph.

Details of the project were finalized during the OVSGA annual meeting held at Eganville July 27 which also confirmed Mary Joynt and Tom Van Dusen respectively as secretary-treasurer and general manager of the 2009 Ottawa Valley Farm Show set for March 17-19 at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa. Eganville is home turf for OVSGA president Bob Dick, a Douglas farmer whose father Barclay is a member of the hall of fame.



The mini hall project was spearheaded by OVSGA director Garnet Ralph who's a member of the Milton-based agricultural showcase. Ralph's \$700 nomination fee was covered by the association which has done the same for several other nominees, including Barclay Dick who was awarded posthumously.

At Ralph's encouragement, the association agreed to cover \$1,400 in scanning, printing and framing costs to reproduce the artistic likenesses and descriptions of 20 Eastern Ontario hall of fame members which will soon be displayed in a Kemptville Campus meeting room. Ralph said the idea of the mini hall was to focus on natives of Eastern Ontario who made their mark in the region. The parent organization is ensuring that the set-up in Kemptville meets its requirements in terms of presentation and use of its logo, he explained; an official opening will be held this fall.

Showing even greater support for the non-profit hall of fame, directors voted to give it a \$5,000 donation to help with general expenses. As director John Joynt of Smiths Falls pointed out, the hall in Country Heritage Park doesn't get any government assistance, relying on fees, sponsorships and donations.

In other business, directors committed \$10,000 to a Kemptville cereal leaf disease research project, \$250 to the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, and \$300 to eastern districts of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies for whole wheat bread competitions. Financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2008 were approved, and Barry Dean of Carp was elected as a director-at-large.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Tom Van Dusen, GM, 613-445-3407.

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[Tom Van Dusen, General Manager,](#)
613-445-3407.