



PORTRAITS OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY SEED GROWERS

SEED GROWERS SPONSOR AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME EAST

By [Tom Van Dusen](#)

A luncheon was held Oct. 8 to celebrate establishment of the first satellite Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame outside the central hall in Milton. An initiative of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association, the mini hall containing 20 sketches and biographies is located in a meeting room at the Kemptville Campus of the University of Guelph. It may eventually be relocated to a more prominent location on campus.



Reg Cressman, General Manager,
Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame

farm groups which want to see their leaders honoured at home as well as in Milton where the central hall is located.

The Seed Growers have for years taken an active interest in the Milton facility, putting forward several successful nominations, paying \$1,400 to reproduce sketches and thumbnail bios for showing in Kemptville, donating \$5,000 for general upkeep of the Milton hall, and deciding during a meeting prior to the Oct. 8 ceremony to make a yearly contribution of an unspecified amount.

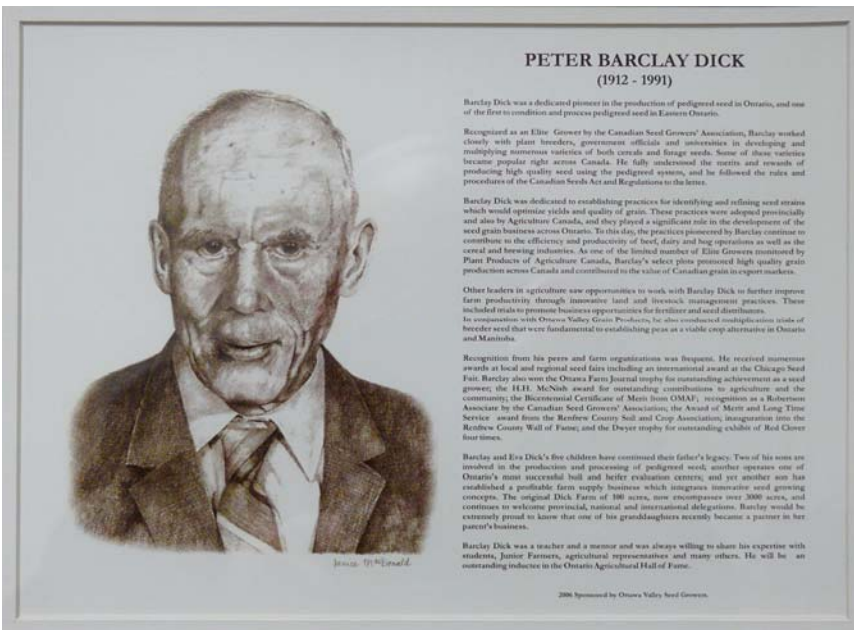
The project was led by OVSGA honorary director Garnet Ralph, a Richmond farmer and Hall of Fame member inducted in 2005. Ralph's father is also a H of F member.



Garnet Ralph
Hall of Fame Member

Paying tribute to Ralph's determination, Hall of Fame general manager Reg Cressman told about 100 people gathered at the luncheon that similar outreach programs should be appealing to





The mini hall consists of tributes to 20 eastern farm leaders already hanging in the central hall in Milton where the board of directors sanctioned the satellite and was pleased with the interest shown, Cressman said... so pleased that it thought other groups might like the same opportunity. Others might just want a few Ontario Hall of Fame members to add to existing county walls of fame; or they might want to create something similar to what has been done in Kemptville, Cressman suggested.

Ralph, 84, pushed for the mini hall and in rounding up members of most of the families represented to speak to the achievements of their forefathers in the all-male group of inductees. Ralph is the only member of the august group who's still alive. He joked that somebody had to stick around to represent the others. Family member after family member rose to thank him for his work on the project and to describe the importance of, and pride in, the honour.

Ralph said the task of getting family members to come out to the event was made that much easier by the fact he knew many of the eastern Hall of Fame members personally, especially from his days beginning in 1963 operating Eastern Ontario's first bulk fertilizer business. The focus, he explained, was

on hanging in the Kemptville hall inductees whose accomplishments were realized in Eastern Ontario rather than in some other part of the province.



The Gallery of 20 sketches and biographies is located at the Kemptville Campus of the University of Guelph.



Pat & Barb Burton honour their dad, inductee Ernie Burton



Hall of Fame General Manager Reg Cressman presents Ottawa Valley Seed Growers President Bob Dick With a plaque recognizing the initiative of the OVSGA in establishing the Eastern Ontario Hall of Fame Gallery



Dr. Mike Goss, Kemptville Campus Director



Tom Van Dusen, General Manager, OVSGA