



## William Wallace Fraser

### 2008 Manitoba Ag Hall of Fame Inductee

William Wallace Fraser, eldest son of Kerr and Edna Fraser, was born October 6, 1921, in Hamiota, Manitoba. He attended school in Hamiota, graduating in 1937.

Wallace joined the RCAF in 1940 and served overseas until 1945. In 1949, he married Mildred Pollock. Following her unexpected death in 1970, Wallace married Dorothy McConnell. She was his supporter and helper during his career with Manitoba Pool Elevators (MPE).

Wallace was active in farming from 1946 until 1978. He grew certified crops for seed and raised quality Shorthorn cattle. Always trying to improve his own farming operation by keeping up with the latest innovations, he was a positive role model for other farmers in the area.

Wallace served on the boards of the Hamiota Consumers Co-op and the Rivers Seed Cleaning Plant. He also volunteered with the Hamiota Agricultural Society.

Wallace served for 20 years on the Hamiota Local of MPE, including 18 years as President. After a number of years as delegate from sub-district 504 to the annual meeting, he was elected to the Board of MPE representing District 5. He was elected 2nd Vice-President in 1974, Vice-President in 1978 and

President in 1980. He retired from MPE in 1985. During his time on the board, he was intimately involved in discussions leading up to controversial changes to western grain transportation policy (Crow Rate). He advocated a balanced approach to the consolidation of the country elevator system.

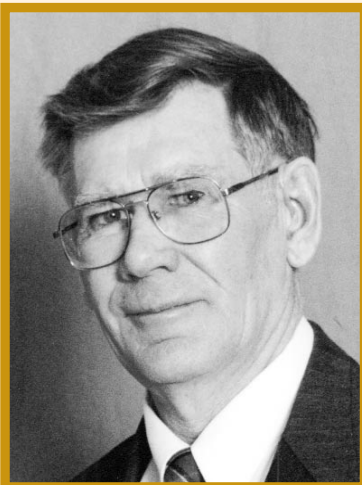
Wallace served as a Director and MPE representative on a number of cooperatives: XCan Grain Ltd.; Western Co-op Fertilizers Ltd; Pool Agencies Ltd.; Pool Insurance Company; and Canadian Wheat Producers Ltd., the political arm of the prairie pools.

Wallace was a Director of the Manitoba Farm Bureau and served as President in 1979-80. He was a Director and Executive Member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Director of the Great Lakes Waterways Association and a Trustee of the Wasagaming Foundation, which is responsible for the Riding Mountain Conference Centre and Camp Wannacumbac. Wallace was in the forefront of major changes taking place in the grain and agricultural industry.

A strong supporter of local community organizations, Wallace served as President of the Hamiota Curling Club, which became one of the first rural towns to have artificial ice. He was a member of the Hamiota Legion and the Hamiota Golf Club, where he served on the finance committee when the new golf course was established.

When he retired, the farm press was unanimous in declaring that farmers owed Wallace Fraser a debt of gratitude for his contribution to Canadian agriculture.

Nominated by the Rural Municipality of Hamiota - 2008



## Gordon Maxwell Sinclair

### 2008 Manitoba Ag Hall of Fame Inductee

Gordon Maxwell Sinclair was born April 6, 1931, at Strathclair, Manitoba, to Samuel and Christene Sinclair. Gordon attended Strathclair Consolidated School and the University of Manitoba. He graduated with a BSA in 1952, winning the Lieutenant Governor's Gold Medal. In 1958 Gordon married Donald (Donnie) Manson of Arden. They had two sons Sam and John.

Gordon began farming at Strathclair in 1953. The family's farming operation grew to 2,880 acres, producing elite seed and special crops. A seed cleaning plant and a feed lot complemented the operation. In 1985, Gordon received a 25 year merit award for his production and promotion of top quality seed. In 1995 he celebrated 40 years as an elite seed grower.

Gordon began his co-operative career in 1954 when he was elected Director of the Strathclair Consumers Co-op. He was also involved in the local credit union and the Strathclair local of Manitoba Pool Elevators. In 1961, Gordon was elected to the Board of Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL). He was elected Winnipeg Region Vice-President in 1964, First Vice-President in 1971 and President in 1974. He served as President of FCL until 1977. As a member of their board of directors, many organizations benefited from Gordon's leadership: Co-operators

Insurance Company, Co-op Trust, Co-operative Superannuation Society, Interprovincial Co-operatives Limited, Co-op Implements Limited, Co-operative Union of Canada, Northland Bank, Co-enerco, Canadian Co-operative Credit Society and Western Co-operative Fertilizers Limited.

In the early 1970's, Gordon served as a Trustee of the Wasagaming Foundation. His leadership contributed to many improvements in the Riding Mountain Conference Centre and the recreational and leadership programs offered to Manitoba youth. Gordon was a tireless worker for the Flying Farmers organization and was recognized in 1986 by the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association for his outstanding contribution to private flying.

Even though Gordon's activities took him to positions of leadership in the co-operative movement, he continued to be active in the Agricultural Institute of Canada and in community affairs. He served as a board member and Sunday school teacher at the local United Church and Master of the Strathclair Masonic Lodge. He was also a supporter of the local curling, skating and drama clubs.

He was recognized provincially, nationally and internationally for his outstanding leadership in the co-operative movement. In 1987, he was awarded an Honourary Doctor of Laws by St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Gordon's contribution to family, community and agriculture was cut short by his death in 1995 as a result of a traffic accident near his farm. In 2003, he was honoured posthumously with a Distinguished Co-operator Award by the Manitoba Co-operative Council.

Nominated by Strathclair Consumers Co-operative Ltd. - 2008

#### 1980 INDUCTEES

Hon. John Bracken  
Joseph Henry Ellis  
Daniel William McCuaig  
Alexander P. Stevenson  
William Whitelock  
Valentine Winkler

#### 1981 INDUCTEES

James Duthie  
Thomas James Harrison  
Leslie Victor Robson  
Mary Jane (Jennie) Watt

#### 1982 INDUCTEES

James R. Bell  
Norbert C. Jutras  
Nellie McClung  
David McKeand  
Dr. Alfred Savage

#### 1983 INDUCTEES

Dr. Frederick V. Bird  
Martha Jane Elliott  
Hon. Thomas Greenway

#### 1984 INDUCTEES

Anna Hicks  
Alfred "Eddy" Arnold

#### 1985 INDUCTEES

George Newton  
McConnell  
Rudolph Frederick  
Peterson  
Fawcett Wright Ransom

#### 1986 INDUCTEES

Cyril Leonard "Andy"  
Anderson  
Percy Beachell  
Francis John Collyer  
Sen. Thomas Alexander  
Crerar  
Dr. William Flowers Sirett  
Alfred John Strachan

#### 1987 INDUCTEES

William Sheppard May  
Willo Sterritt Forrester