



Ontario Institute of Agrologists
Ontario AGRICentre
100 Stone Road West
Suite 108
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 5L3

Tel: (519) 826-4226
Fax: (519) 826-4228

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ontario Institute of Agrologists Acknowledge 50 Year Memberships and Name New Honourary Member

The Ontario Institute of Agrologists recently held their Annual Awards Banquet and annual professional development conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Members were acknowledged for 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 50 years of membership. Recognition for excellence of practice and service is the hallmark of accredited Agrology practitioners and is personified in two OIA members who have supported the mission of the OIA for 50 years.

Arthur G. Bennett, (P.Ag. Sr., Dist.): Art maintains a legacy to this day in rural Ontario. He is recognized for leadership training and development and in farm management training. Art spent 25



years with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and served as Director of the Extension Branch from 1965 to 1981. At that time, the Extension Branch was the largest branch in the ministry. Art's contribution to the agricultural industry was through his ability to prepare, inspire and direct his staff to keep improving their capabilities. In retirement, Art and his wife Jean stayed active helping farmers and contributing to farm organizations. Art has served on the OIA Board of Directors and assumed many leadership roles with the Institute. In 1995 he was named a Distinguished Agrologist and was inducted into the Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2013.

Jack Riddell, (P.Ag. Sr.): Jack has served agriculture, his country, his province and his community as a politician, Minister of Agriculture and Food, as a farmer, as an agri-businessman and consultant, in ag extension and as a secondary school teacher. In particular, Jack served as an MPP from 1973 to 1990 and as

Minister of Agriculture and Food from 1985 to 1989. As Minister he was credited with 100 new and revised initiatives supporting agricultural interests in the province. He has served the OIA in many capacities including President of Institute and as President of the Western Branch. Jack could not attend in person but a ceremony acknowledging his achievements took place a week prior near London.



Also during the OIA Awards Banquet Len Troup was named an Honorary Professional Agrologist. (P.Ag. Hon.) Len was recognized as a strong and effective advocate for fruit growers in Ontario. He was also acknowledged for his leadership in contributing to government risk management programs, enhancing competitiveness in the marketplace and voicing sound recommendations related to land use issues in the Greenbelt. His leadership and service on numerous industry boards and associations is only a partial reflection of his wide-ranging influence on the horticulture and tender fruit industries in this province.



For over 50 years the Ontario Institute of Agrologists has served as a professional regulatory Institute under a provincial Act, offering professional designations for those practitioners in agriculture, environmental remediation, stewardship, and food quality assurance.

Media Contact:

Terry Kingsmill, P.Ag.
Registrar, Ontario Institute of Agrologists
519-826-4226

For more information about the Ontario Institute of Agrologists and a full list of service pin recipients please visit the website at: www.oia.on.ca