

Rudy Brown

1935 - 1999

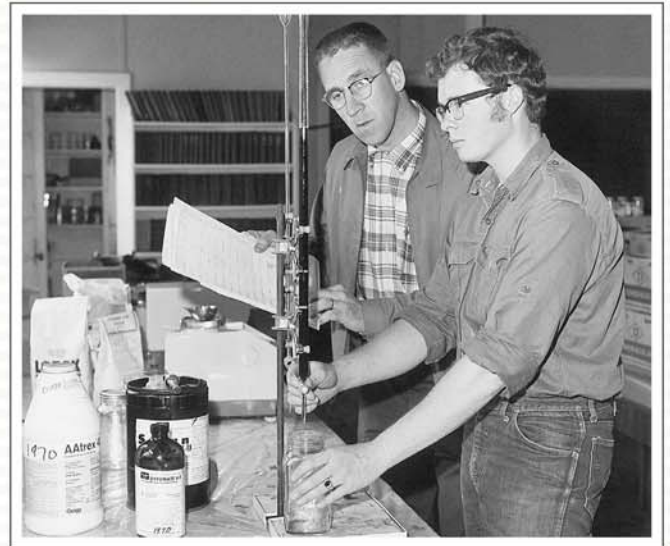
Mennonite Roots from Russia

Born in 1935, Rudy was the oldest of five children, with three brothers and one sister. He was the son of Mennonite immigrants from Russia. Growing up on a tomato and vegetable farm just a few miles north of Point Pelee, Rudy understood what real farm work was all about!



On Top Of A Wheel

It was 1954 and the Leamington Fair was the place to be. Rudy, a grade 13 graduate, with girlfriend Liz, later to be Mrs. Brown, met Mr. Harold Willson, W.O.A.S. Dean, and received diploma information. While riding the ferris wheel, Rudy and Liz were stopped at the top for a short delay. On top of the Leamington Fair, Rudy pulled out and completed his application to attend the Western Ontario Agricultural School in Ridgeway.



Best All Round Student, Class of '57

Nicknamed Rudy "Brain" Brown, Rudy was actively involved in college activities and received the Best All Round Student Award, \$100.00 presented by W.G. Thompson at his graduation ceremonies. After Ridgeway College, Rudy furthered his studies by completing his Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph.

Committed Ridgeway College Staff Member

Hired in 1959, Rudy began a very distinguished thirty-three year career focusing on diploma education, weed research and agricultural extension. Rudy became known across Ontario and Canada as the "weed man" and was a faithful contributor to Publication 75: The Ontario Guide to Weed Control. Rudy always enjoyed the enthusiasm of diploma students and the opportunity to help producers through farm extension visits. He received calls from farmers at all hours of the day and night. After only a few years, Rudy became Head of the Horticultural & Biology Section, a position he held until retiring in 1992. Rudy felt it was important to hire well, and he did!



A Snapshot Of Commitment & Courage ...At Ridgetown



Loved Children & Helping Others

Rudy and Liz celebrated their 40th anniversary in early June 1999, and were blessed with three wonderful children: Paul, Sharon and Gary. Rudy was actively involved in the Leamington United Mennonite Church, where he taught Sunday School for twenty five years, and was Pulpit Assistant for ten years. Rudy strongly supported the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a Christian response to hunger, and worked closely with the organization for several years.

Special Achievements

Rudy received a great deal of recognition for his tremendous commitment to Ontario Agriculture. A short list of his awards include:

- Excellence in Weed Science Award
- Meritorious Award of the Ontario Horticulture Association
- Westag Alumni Humanitarian Award
- Kent Agriculture Hall of Fame Inductee
- T.R. Hilliard Distinguished Agriculture Extension Award



Courage & Determination

Passing away in late June 1999, Rudy was an example for us all. His tremendous courage and determination in coping with a debilitating genetic, neuro-muscular disease for over a decade did not inhibit his continued volunteer efforts for Ridgetown College. In recent years, with Rudy's "scooter" aboard, Rudy and Liz continued to travel and enjoyed an extensive trip of Europe and a family vacation in Florida.

*"Rudy loved people
and he loved his work
- what more could
you ask? He would
have loved to have
seen the Millennium
Project completed."*

Liz Brown

