

GOOD NEWS BITE

Great Attendance at Westag Alumni Anniversary Celebrations and Banquet

November 24, 2009 – Ridgetown

Spirits were merry as Ridgetown Campus Westag alumni and guests gathered to celebrate with former classmates and roommates at the recent Westag alumni gathering. Over 350 guests came together on November 21, 2009 for the chance to reminisce and catch-up with old college friends.

“We all enjoyed warm fellowship, great memories and excellent food as we gathered in the welcoming atmosphere of the Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre,” noted Joanne Thomson, President, Westag Alumni Association.

Mid afternoon activities welcomed back graduates celebrating their 50th, 40th and 25th year anniversaries. The class of 1959, celebrating their 50th anniversary, had the highest percentage of classmates returning to the event. This group took on a special project to celebrate their 50th milestone anniversary, raising money to support the Westag Building Priority Fund. Special thanks to Allister Cameron for his leadership role in this class project.

Evening banquet and dance celebrations welcomed back additional graduates from years 1954, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1994 and 2004.

During the evening Dave Baute, Chair, Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation thanked graduates for their on-going support to Foundation activities. Dr. Art Schaafsma, Campus Director, welcomed graduates ‘back home’ and highlighted the campus’ strong enrollment. Ron Pearson, Thamesville, and Class of 1969, was recognized for his community involvement and was honoured with the 2009 Westag Humanitarian Award. The Westag Alumni Association presented the campus with support of \$5,000 for needed new furniture for the Westag Alumni Lounge located in the Agronomy Building.

“We’re always delighted to have ‘old friends’ come back home to Ridgetown and appreciate the efforts that everyone made to be at the celebrations. One couple flew from Florida to attend the event! I encourage all graduates to keep in touch with us through our campus’ Alumni Services and Communication Offices. We’re keen to keep alumni, staff and students connected to campus and alumni developments and achievements, and we like to hear from Westag alumni anytime,” notes Liz Meidlinger, Manager Communications and Advancement.

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