

MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ken Monteith Named Chair of Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation

Feb. 15, 2007, Ridgetown ON - Ridgetown alumnus, former Elgin Norfolk Member of Parliament, and St. Thomas area farmer, Ken Monteith, was recently named chair of the Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation. The Foundation participates in strategic planning and fund raising initiatives for the University's Ridgetown Campus.

"Monteith has been energetically involved with the Foundation at the University's Ridgetown Campus for the past ten years, and we are delighted to see him take this important volunteer leadership role," notes Campus Director, Dr. Art Schaafsma.

"I look forward to working with the entire Foundation team, as well as the staff at Ridgetown. I am excited by their commitment to serve rural youth through education programs, and their applied research and outreach to address the needs of Ontario agriculture," says Monteith.

In addition to Ken Monteith, Foundation board members include: Vice-Chair, Dave Baute (Tilbury), Anne Fisher (Morpeh), Betty VanHaren (Ridgetown), Jack Greydanus (Petrolia), Lynn Girty (Blenheim), Bill Parks (Bothwell), and Dennis Jack (Thamesville). The board will work closely with an additional compliment of five Ex-officio board members.

Monteith replaces Dennis Jack, the inaugural Foundation chair, who was invited to serve on the board by the late Rudy H. Brown. "Today, Ridgetown Campus is growing and thriving," states Jack. "I look forward to continuing my involvement with this fine education and research facility as it continues to grow," he adds.

"The time and talent that Dennis Jack provided as Chair of the Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation from 1997 – 2007 was simply stellar," notes former Ridgetown Director, Dr. Gary Ablett. "Dennis, Vice-chair Bill Parks, and the entire Foundation team of volunteers did a tremendous job in guiding the campus to where it is today and ensuring this institution remained a centre of agricultural excellence."

In November 2006, the Foundation celebrated the opening of the Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre and the completion of a successful \$7.1 million fund raising campaign. In their recent fund raising endeavours, the Foundation and staff worked closely with the expertise provided by the University's OAC Director of Advancement, as well as the offices of Alumni Affairs and Development.

Ridgetown Campus is a regional campus of OAC, the Ontario Agricultural College, at the University of Guelph.

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Contacts:

Dr. Art Schaafsma
Director
University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus
519-674-1505
email:aschaafs@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca

Liz Meidlinger
Manager, Communications
University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus
519-674-1587
e-mail:lmeidlin@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca