

## Chatham-Kent's Ron Anderson Recognized by University of Guelph as Honorary Fellow

**Ridgetown, January 5, 2011** - Just prior to giving the feature speaker address at the 2011 Southwest Agricultural Conference, Alastair Summerlee, President of the University of Guelph, recognized local agricultural community leader Ron Anderson as an Honorary Fellow of the University of Guelph.

The Honorary Fellow recognition is given to an individual who has made a significant difference in the life of the university. The University of Guelph's Ridgetown Campus has benefited from Anderson's initiation, development, and implementation of countless campus and municipal partnership initiatives, which serves as an example of his agricultural leadership.

"It is my pleasure to recognize Ron Anderson for his passion for advancing agriculture. His dedication has been exhibited throughout the Chatham-Kent community and today we take a moment to recognize his dedication to advancing innovation at the University's Ridgetown Campus," said Summerlee.

Anderson is remembered for his leadership roles in the following areas:

- His initiation of the campus' Ag Business Centre, a Ridgetown Campus and Municipality of Chatham-Kent partnership that supports grassroots rural organizations and special projects.
- His support to the development of the Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre as a strong political advocate with municipal and provincial government.

- His leadership as an inaugural board member of the Centre for Agricultural Renewable Energy and Sustainability (CARES).
- His support in engaging and directing research investment to the campus in several areas, particularly environment and agricultural economics.
- His two decades of commitment to the Agriculture in the Classroom Program working with campus staff and the Lambton and Kent School boards.
- His unwavering support of the campus' people and programs whenever he had the opportunity.

“Ron has been a forward thinker and innovative leader for Ridgetown Campus. When obstacles came to any project, Ron always found a creative way to address it. As the former Agricultural Economic Development Co-ordinator for Chatham-Kent, Ron was quick to put the needed folks ‘around the table’ to discuss campus opportunities and ideas and he stayed steadfast to any task at hand,” said Art Schaafsma, Campus Director.

In thanking his supporters, Anderson stated, “We live in a great agricultural community with countless possibilities and I’m proud to have farmed and worked in this community for over six decades. Many times I have told people that I never completed a formal post-secondary education, but I always wished that I had a diploma from Ridgetown; today’s recognition is even better than a diploma. I’ve had the privilege to serve agriculture in many capacities and I’m very proud of the campus’ current working relationship with our municipality which I had the chance to foster over several years.”

The Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) fully supported Ron’s nomination to the University’s Senate Honours and Awards Committee and appreciates all the efforts of Ron Anderson in helping to advance OAC’s southwestern Ontario campus.

Ron lives in Dover township with his wife Joy and they are proud parents of four children and several grandchildren. Ron remains very active in his rural community. He is a cash crop farmer and is currently employed by Kruger Energy as the Liaison Co-ordinator between the local green energy company and local farmers.

Ridgetown Campus is a provincial campus of the Ontario Agriculture College with a focus on four service pillars: Agriculture, Food, Rural Communities and Environment.



L-R: **Art Schaafsma** (Ridgetown Campus Director), **Ron Anderson** (University of Guelph Honorary Fellow Recipient), **Alastair Summerlee** (University of Guelph President)

## contact us

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**For further information Contact:**

**Liz Meidlinger**

Manager, Communications and Advancement

519-674-1500 ext. 63587

[lmeidlin@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca](mailto:lmeidlin@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca)