

November 22, 2010

Ridgetown Westag Alumni Come Home to Campus in Record Numbers and Support Reek Building New East Wing Campaign

RIDGETOWN: Afternoon receptions followed by an evening banquet and dance provided the perfect opportunity for Westag alumni to reunite with old friends and classmates at the November 20, 2010 alumni celebrations at Ridgetown Campus.

Eleven classes, including alumni from 1955 celebrating their 55th anniversary, and recent grads from the class of 2005, all came together at the campus' Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre for a number of anniversary gatherings, special recognitions and celebrations.

Showing the support of campus alumni, the Westag Alumni Association made a \$5,000 cheque presentation to the Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation's Reek project capital campaign. The campaign is seeking \$2.5 million to build a new east wing student service and recruitment centre where the current old Reek gymnasium currently stands. "We're excited to give back to a staff and faculty that have given us so much, and we know that with growing student numbers and academic programs, the campus really needs this capital improvement," stated Joanne Thomson, Westag Alumni Association President.

In accepting the donation, Dave Baute, Campaign Chair, Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation, reminded all in attendance that "we need our alumni for their creative ideas, partnerships, leadership and financial support. This gift represents over 6,500 alumni and exhibits strong support for future Ridgetown Campus' programs and services."

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Westag Alumni Association Humanitarian Award to class of 1980 alumnus Bill Walters of St. Thomas. Bill has given to municipal and county council for a number of years and was recently one of three chairs that co-ordinated the successful 2010 International Plowing Match (IPM) in St. Thomas, Ontario. Bill and his wife Barb farm in Elgin county. The presentation was made by classmate John O'Brien of Blenheim.

Almost 400 guests from across the province, Michigan and Saskatchewan enjoyed coming back home to the Ridgetown Campus for great fellowship, friendship and a time of laughter and looking back.

\$5,000 Gift Presentation from Ridgetown Alumni to Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation



Left to Right: **Ken Monteith** (Foundation Past Chair, Alumnus), **Ron Pearson** (Alumnus), **Beth Eagen** (Alumnus), **Joanne Thomson** (Alumnus), **Peggy McFadden** (Alumnus), **Dr. Art Schaafsma** (Campus Director), **Dave Baute** (Foundation Campaign Chair, Alumnus)

Humanitarian Award Presentation to Westag Alumnus Bill Walters



Left to Right: **Bill Walters** (Class of 1980, 2010 Westag Alumnus of Honour Award Winner), **Barb Walters**

For further information Contact:

Liz Meidlinger

Manager, Communications and Advancement, Ridgetown Campus
519-674-1587

lmeidlin@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca