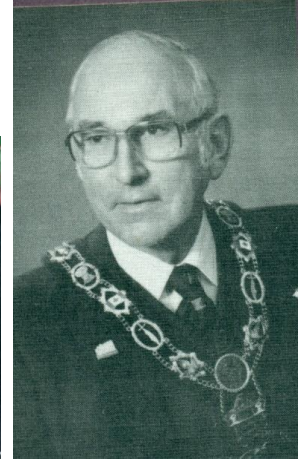
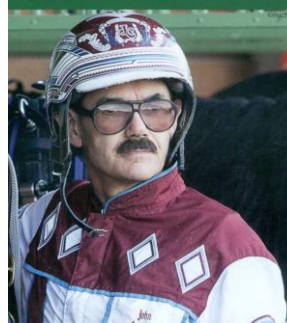
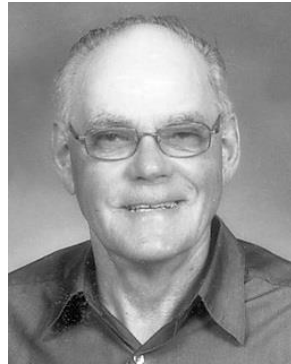


Middlesex County Agricultural Hall of Fame Announces 2018 Inductees

For immediate release February 8th, 2018 - (London) – The Middlesex County Agricultural Hall of Fame, founded in 2000, recognizes the history and tradition of agriculture in Middlesex County. The primary objective of the Agricultural Hall of Fame is to recognize those who have demonstrated unselfish achievements within the realm of agriculture and service to the rural community in Middlesex County and beyond. In 2018, the **Campbell Family (Duncan, Ray, Jack & John)** and **J.J. Johnson** will be honoured during the London Farm Show in March.



DUNCAN (1900-1992), **RAY** (1928-2007), **JACK** (1931-2012) & **JOHN** (born in 1955) **CAMPBELL** – The Campbell family, from the Ailsa Craig area is being recognized for three generations in a harness racing dynasty. Beginning in the 1930s with a mare named Babe Grattan and continuing with generations of colts with the Argyel name. The children of Duncan and Bernice; daughters Mary, Margaret, Pat and sons Jack and Ray were all involved in aspects of the family's accomplishments over the years. Jack and Ray spent their childhood and adult years around horses and the sport. In a September 1972 race, three generations of Campbells competed against each other and placed; Jack 1st, Dunc 4th and John 5th. The family was involved in their small, farming community, in their church, Junior Famers and in bringing rural infrastructure to their area. One of Jack's sons, John spent his childhood learning and loving the sport. John travelled as a young boy with his father and grandfather to racetracks, continuing this into his high school year. In 1972 John earned his racetrack driver's license at the age of 17. Within a few years John made the move to Meadowlands in New Jersey, where his racing career became the success it is known for today. This also where he met and married his wife, Paula and raised their three daughters. John has won a Breeders Crown in his 20s, 30s, 40s 50s and 60s, in a career that continued until as recently as 2017. Each member and generation of the Campbell family has had an impact, from the horsemanship and breeding to training and driving success on the track. They are recognized locally and internationally for these contributions to the racing industry.



JOHN J. (J.J.) JOHNSON (1901-1989) – Known as J.J., John J. began his fulltime life on the farm after his father died in 1915. He left school after grade ten to take on more responsibility, working on the family’s dairy farm and apple orchard with his uncles. In 1923 J.J. purchased a warehouse building in the town of Parkhill near the tracks to be used as a location to pack and ship apples. In addition to farming, J.J. began working for the Canadian Department of Agriculture in 1928, as the supervising inspector of fruit and vegetables in the area covering Middlesex, Lambton, Oxford, Elgin and Huron counties. He would continue working for the department for the next 37 years. He contributed to establishing the rutabaga farmers as well as the marketing of the Grand Bend Marsh vegetable farms. In the early 1930s, J.J. joined other apple growers to start the Middlesex Growers Cooperative, providing cold storage in Strathroy and a successful marketing opportunity for them from 1931 until 1965. During this time, the family farm was recognized as a prominent Holstein herd “Maple Grove”, started by J.J.’s father John W. in 1887, and continues today operated by J.J.’s grandsons; Pat and Kelly. J.J. has always had a keen interest in his community and its history, as well as involvement in his church and cemetery board. His contribution as a dairy farmer, as well as his work in developing fruit and vegetable cooperatives and marketing groups is being recognized with this nomination.

The induction ceremony will be held in the Carousel Room (Slots Building, 2nd Level) at the Western Fair District on **Wednesday March 7th, 2018 at 11:30am**. For tickets or further information, contact **Hugh Fletcher at (519) 666-1572**. The portraits of these individuals will be displayed with the Middlesex Agricultural Hall of Fame Inductees in the lobby of the Western Fair Agriplex.

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