

# Williams among inductees into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame

BY SCOTT LARSON, THE STARPHOENIX JANUARY 7, 2013



SASKATOON, SASK.: JANUARY 3, 2013 — A wagon train of farm equipment made its way through Saskatoon and up Circle Drive on their way to the Prairieland Park as part of Crop Production Week, January 3, 2013. (Gord Waldner/ StarPhoenix)

**Photograph by:** Gord Waldner, The StarPhoenix

Sara Williams is amazed at how many places she has been to in Saskatchewan to give presentations to agricultural and horticultural societies.

“It made me feel a part of the greater rural Saskatchewan community,” said Williams, who grew up in Washington, D.C.

Williams is one of four people who will be inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame (SAHF) this summer.

The other inductees, announced during Crop Production Week in Saskatoon, are Lorne Babiuk, Zenneth Faye and Gordon Rowland.

As the University of Saskatchewan’s extension specialist in horticulture, Williams developed programs to support Saskatchewan gardeners. She developed courses that could be delivered in person and through correspondence, wrote articles for publications and magazines, and engaged in radio and television programs on gardening topics. She gave presentations to agricultural and horticultural societies throughout the prairies and also wrote the award-winning book *Creating the Prairie Xeriscape*.

“When I first started out in Extension I would get all this information, put it together and get it out,” Williams said. “But I was cheating in a way because I didn’t create any of it.”

But after a couple of years she was able to extend the knowledge base in a form that is readily available, made sense and can be used by the general population.

“It has been very rewarding,” Williams said. “In some small way the whole concept of xeriscape changed the way people garden. It is more conserving of water.”

She has just finished the latest edition of her book that is scheduled to be released in February.

“There is so many new varieties of plants and species available now,” she said.

#### Lorne Babiuk

Dr. Lorne Babiuk was the visionary and strategist who made VIDO-InterVac (Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre) a world leader in animal vaccine development. Its products, such as vaccines for calf scours and shipping fever, have dramatically improved both the health of animals and the economic return for western Canadian farmers.

#### Zenneth Faye

Zenneth Faye was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission and served as the first chair of the organization. Faye is executive manager of Milligan Biotech in Foam Lake, the first commercial bio-diesel plant in Western Canada, utilizing non-food grade canola seed.

#### Gordon Rowland

Although he began his plant-breeding career at the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre in 1971 with a focus on fava beans, Rowland's greatest crop breeding contributions have been with flax. His first flax variety release was Vimy in 1986 and it became a catalyst for the tremendous growth in Saskatchewan's flax acreage in the 1990s. Many other varieties followed and for the past decade, Rowland's flax varieties have accounted for close to 80 per cent of all the flax acres in Western Canada.

The induction ceremonies will take place Aug. 3-4 in Saskatoon at the Western Development Museum. Information on the SAHF and all the past inductees can also be found at [www.sahf.ca](http://www.sahf.ca).

[slarson@thestarphoenix.com](mailto:slarson@thestarphoenix.com)

© Copyright (c) The StarPhoenix