

Class Z-3: Meritorious Service Award

formerly the Agricultural Service Diploma



The Meritorious Service Award is a very prestigious award of merit which is intended to recognize outstanding contributions to an Agricultural Society (Fair Board) or to the agricultural community.

Sponsored by the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies, the award is presented annually by a member society.

At the April 2025 Board of Directors meeting, it was unanimously decided to present this year's award to Ken Shirley. During the past 53 years, Ken has been a strong supporter of several local Agricultural Societies including Delta, Lombardy, Perth and Carp. Ken's methodical approach, exceptional attention to detail, and dedication to excellence consistently result in well-executed events that offer first class entertainment value for all attendees. His ability to coordinate logistics seamlessly while ensuring a fun, engaging atmosphere has made a significant impact on the success of each fair. Ken's commitment and passion truly elevate every experience and have set a high standard for event planning.

Presentation of the award will be made as part of the Official Opening Ceremonies of the Fair on July 24th at 6:00 p.m.



Vice-President Melinda Held-Cowan (left) presented Director Marlaine Hart with the award in 2024.

Recipients

Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies

Meritorious Service Diploma

(formerly the Agricultural Service Diploma)

- 1989 Herb Reed, Delta
- 1990 Dr. D. W. Wilson, Delta
- 1991 Howard Chant, Portland
- 1992 Howard E. French, Delta
- 1993 George & Joan Tackaberry, Athens
- 1994 Ross & Marion Stone, Forfar
- 1995 W. Ronald Morris, Delta
- 1996 Ron & Alma White, Delta
- 1997 Malcolm Davison, Elgin
- 1998 Charles Nichols, Toledo
- 1999 Clara H. Townsend, Harlem
- 2000 Marie Flood, Delta
- 2001 Bruce Teepell, Elgin
- 2002 Paul Ostrom, Delta
- 2003 John Willows, Delta
- 2004 Sam Fleming, Delta
- 2005 Baker's Feeds, Forfar
- 2006 Weagant's Farm Supply, Brockville
- 2007 Sugar Maple Farms, Portland
- 2008 Ernie and Adam Curtis, Delta
- 2009 Art Cowan, Delta
- 2010 Mensen Farms, Delta
- 2011 John Bongers, Delta
- 2012 Brenda & Sam Dunster, Mallorytown
- 2013 Dr. James M. Reid, Athens
- 2014 World's Finest Shows, Simcoe
- 2014 Bev Carr, Athens
- 2015 Evan and Mary Jane Wills, Odessa
- 2016 Don and Debbie Gordon, Elgin
- 2017 Ruth Vogel, Portland
- 2018 Brian Seeley, Prescott
- 2019 Ronald E. Holman, Lombardy
- 2020 Vivian Morris, Delta
- 2021 Wendy's Country Market, Lyndhurst
- 2022 Willows Agriservices Limited, Delta
- 2023 Melinda Held-Cowan, Delta
- 2024 Marlaine Hart, Delta
- 2025 Ken Shirley, Smiths Falls

