



Harold Everett Chapman

April 27, 1917 - November 14, 2023

Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana

Born in Saskatoon in 1917, Harold passed away at the age of 106, at Veterans' Village in Saskatoon. He was raised on farms at Floral and Meskanaw. He attended Melness School near Saskatoon, Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon, and Ethelton High School and he graduated from the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan in 1943 with a B.S.A. degree, and a Master of Science degree in Cooperative Extension Education from the University of Wisconsin in 1971. He married Mary Bonnett in 1943; they had two children.

During World War II, Harold took military training and became a Lieutenant. He was devoted to the co-op movement and he worked with the Saskatchewan Department of Co-operation and Co-operative Development from 1945 to 1955. This included a three-year leave to work on the Secretariat of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Life. During the 1940s and 50s, Harold was instrumental in the development of co-operative farms and fishing, trapping and housing cooperatives. In 1955, Harold was named the first director of the Co-operative Institute. In 1973, Harold became the Public Relations Director of the Federated Co-operatives. At the age of 95, Harold published his autobiography, "Sharing My Life, Building the Co-operative Movement". At 100, Harold was recognized for his work with co-ops, receiving the Order of Canada, an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Saskatchewan, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee medal in 2023, the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal in 2005, the Distinguished Graduate in Agriculture Award by the University of Saskatchewan in 1986, and the City of Saskatoon Centennial Medal in 1982. In 2019, Harold was named Saskatoon Citizen of the Year. Harold was a founding member of the Saskatoon Community Clinic in 1962. In later years, Harold was co-chair of the clinic's Senior Advisory Council and was instrumental in the establishment of Station 20 West, a project committed to improving the well-being of people in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods. In 2019, Harold was the focus of an Affinity Credit Union film in which he spoke of the struggles in the 1930s that gave rise to Credit Unions in Saskatchewan. Harold served for many years on the board of Grosvenor Park United Church and in the church choir. He was a long-time member of Saskatoon Nutana Rotary Club and served as president from 1973 - 1974. He was on the board of the Saskatoon Region Community College and worked on fundraising for CNIB, the Saskatoon United Way, and the McClure Place Foundation, where he and Mary moved.

After Mary passed away, Harold found a new love with Joan Bell. They spent many happy years together, raising money for social and political causes. They enjoyed golfing, choir, playing cards, square dancing, curling, and travelling in their motorhome. His secret to a happy life: "No smoking, drink in moderation, cultivate relationships, and no running around with wild women."