

# Rivers roots for honoured researcher

By Sheila Runions  
Banner Staff

David McAndrew was born in Brandon Hospital, a son of Les and Connie. He grew up in the district, graduating from Rivers Collegiate in 1971 when he left this area to further his education at University of Manitoba.

"While at university, I decided to connect my growing-up experiences with the studies I had taken at university. This meant that when I finished my chemistry degree, I decided to take graduate studies in agriculture, specifically soil science, at University of Manitoba. I obtained my MSc in soil science in 1980 and continued my studies in soil science at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. When I finished my studies with a PhD in 1983, I joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Swift Current, Sask. In 1984, I transferred to a research station in Vegreville, Alta. where the majority of my work was on soil conservation research. In 1994, I transferred to Morden Research Station."

Still employed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, McAndrew continues to work on soil conservation some 25 years later. It is those years of research that led to him being inducted into the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame earlier this month at an official ceremony and banquet in Ottawa which he attended. This award "recognizes deserving Canadians for their outstanding contribution to soil conservation," reads a press release from Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC).

Nominated by Manitoba Zero-Tillage Research Association, he was the only

person inducted into the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame this year and is the 23rd inductee since 1990. Although aware of the nomination, McAndrew says he was "surprised and honoured for the recognition by a national organization, SCCC, for my work."

SCCC president Don McCabe says, "One of Dr. McAndrew's most notable accomplishments was the creation of three producer-directed research farms in 1992 to address soil



Photo by Anfu Hou  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

conservation in Western Canada. He worked with producer organizations in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, in collaboration with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), for creation of the three farms to demonstrate soil conservation, wildlife conservation and beneficial management practices."

With more than 15 years of cumulative research from these farms, there is ample evidence to demonstrate the benefits of soil conservation which in turn, has influenced farming practices in Western Canada. Results on row spacing, seed row openers and crops in zero tillage

systems have been used by producers to implement zero tillage as a common cropping practice. The farms have also demonstrated how zero tillage increases on-farm biodiversity and waterfowl production.

"There's no question that significant progress has been made on the soil conservation front over the past 20 years," says McCabe. "At the same time, there is still much more work required to address long-term soil sustainability issues. That's why it's so important to celebrate 'soil champions' such as Dr. McAndrew who represent the goals and success of the soil conservation movement."

McAndrew's other studies have produced new information on landscape reclamation of eroded soils, greenhouse gas emissions and crop protection product residues, and he continues to work on innovations to cropping systems. Management techniques developed from McAndrew's more current research allows for the inclusion of pulse crops and soybeans in diversified cropping systems.

"The legacy of Dr. McAndrew's work with respect to establishment of the research farms has rippled throughout agriculture in Western Canada," says McCabe. "The farms reflect his vision of dynamic agricultural research based on communication between producers, researchers, extension workers, wildlife agencies and the public."

McAndrew was widowed in 2006 when his wife Diane lost her battle with cancer and he has two adult children, both in Winnipeg.

# Weed notes

By Sid Lewis  
Supervisor

Weed control districts and their supervisors are constantly challenged by activist groups claim that we are dominated by special interest groups (i.e. chemical companies) and have mind-set entrenched programs that only chemicals can control weeds. This is certainly as far from the truth as it can be and anyone seeing our agenda at our last training seminar will know we learned about new alternative methods we can use in our weed management programs in the near future.

Some may remember a few years ago the product Bio-Mal was tried for controlling round leaf mallow. In test plots, it worked well but once mass produced, severe problems occurred and the product was shelved. Now after a lot of research by Dr. Karen Bailey, scientist at the research station in Saskatoon, we see promise of control of club root in canola, and Canada

thistle, dandelion, wild oat and green foxtail control in crops using bacteria-based products. Apparently in 2012 we may see registrations for these products.

Since 1993, weed control districts have been totally financed by the municipalities within those districts. Most districts also contract to Manitoba Highways to control weeds and brush on their rights-of-way, so these contracts are another valuable source of revenue. Suggestions in an agricultural newspaper by one person of an activist group that weed districts and their supervisors should pull their heads out of their backsides and have a more progressive policy to control weeds actually shows who has their head in the wrong place.

If you have any questions or comments regarding Midwest Weed Control District, please call 764-2128.

# Our history, our country

By Ron Wolf

I can't speak for all Canadians but we are naturals in hockey. Reggie Joseph Leach is an aboriginal hockey legend Canadian born April 20, 1950 who was raised by his paternal grandparents; he grew up in Riverton, Man.

Nicknamed "Riverton Rifle," Leach was drafted third overall by the Boston Bruins in the 1970 NHL Amateur Draft. One of the greatest scorers in the history of Western Canada Junior Hockey League, he played 934 career NHL games scoring 381 goals and 285 assists for 666 points. His best season was 1975-76 when he set career highs in goals (61), points (91), game-winning goals (11) and plus-minus with a +73 rating. Those 61 goals gave him the goal-scoring title (now the Richard Trophy) for the season. Beantowners were in the midst of winning the Stanley Cup twice in three years and were too deep in talent to give the youngster a fair shot at the pros but his life was about to change.

On Feb. 23, 1972, Leach was part of the package sent by Boston to California to acquire Carol Vadnais. Golden Seals were blatantly overmatched most nights but Leach's talent began to shine through the depression of losing. In 1972-73 and 1973-74, he recorded consecutive 20-goal seasons. In the second of these years, he formed the team's top line with Walt McKechnie and Joey Johnston. A few days after winning their first-ever Stanley

Cup, Philadelphia Flyers took a giant step toward, repeating the triumph when they fleeced the Seals in a deal for Leach. In 1974-75, Leach teamed with Clarke and Bill Barber to score 45 goals and earn the respect of the tough fans in the City of Brotherly Love. While helping the Flyers repeat as Cup winners, Leach scored eight goals in 17 post-season games.

It was in the Flyers' failed attempt at a third triumph in the playoffs that Leach's star shone the brightest. During the 1975-76 season, he scored 61 regular-season goals but saved his best for the post-season. Leach's 19-goal effort in 16 games earned him the Conn Smythe Trophy even though Montreal Canadiens in the Stanley Cup finals swept his team. Of further significance was the fact that The Riverton Rifle scored 80 combined goals (regular-season and playoffs) to break Phil Esposito's standard set in 1970-71. Incredibly, in 1979-80 the wily veteran scored 50 times and helped the Flyers set an NHL record by going undefeated in 35 consecutive games from Oct. 14-Jan. 6. More important, Leach took on defensive responsibilities and killed penalties for the first time in his career. He also scored 16 points while helping Philly reach the Stanley Cup finals, where they lost to the New York Islanders in six games.

The fleet winger registered 60 goals during his last two seasons in Philadelphia before joining Detroit Red Wings as a free agent prior to the 1982-83 season. Leach scored his last 15 NHL goals wearing the famous winged wheel. In 1983-84, he skated for Montana Magic (Central Hockey League) before bringing his pro career to a close.

Leach finished with 381 goals in 934 regular-season games while earning a reputation as one of the top snipers of his day. He is best remembered as being one of very few players to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as the MVP of the playoffs from the losing team in the Stanley Cup finals. In late 2007, Leach joined Manitoulin Islanders (Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League) as an associate coach.



Soil Conservation Council of Canada



The face and voice of soil conservation in Canada