

LEROY JAMES LARSEN
Honorary Life Member, 2004

*Presented by
Bill Bunt*

Leroy Larsen was born at Canwood, Saskatchewan in 1933. He attended Sugar Hill School and the University of Saskatchewan, graduating as Silver Medal recipient (top graduate) with a Diploma in Agriculture in 1953. That same year Leroy began a mixed farming operation in the Canwood district, a partnership he continues with his son. Leroy married Betty Isaachsen in 1956, and has a son Andy and a daughter Brenda.

Leroy has been a very active member of society at the local, provincial and national level, mainly through the cooperative movement. Locally, he served on the Boards of the Cookson Grazing Co-op, the Canwood Co-op Health Clinic, the Canwood Rural Telephone Company and the Shellbrook Rural Municipality Agricultural Committee. He led the local 4H Club for 14 years. Leroy joined the local Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Committee in 1965, became a delegate in 1970, and was elected to the Board of Directors in 1981. In 1987 he was elected Second Vice-President and in 1993 became the Pool's President, a position he held until his retirement in 2000.

During his tenure on the Pool's Board of Directors, Leroy was involved in overseeing the commercial operations of the company as well as the advancement of policies important to Saskatchewan Agriculture. On the commercial side he sat on the Boards of Prince Rupert Grain, Pacific Elevators Ltd., Western Cooperative Fertilizer Ltd. and Xcan Grain. In the area of public policy, Leroy served on the Western Grain Standards Committee and the Senior Grain Transportation Committee. He regularly met with Provincial and Federal Ministers on a wide range of issues, which affected Agriculture, and advanced and responded to policies that would strengthen Canadian Agriculture. Leroy's involvement with cooperatives continued, he is a past President of the Canadian Cooperative Association and was on the Board of the International Cooperative Alliance.