

## Harold E. Chapman 1943 College 2020 Honorary Life Membership

Harold Chapman was born in Saskatoon in the spring of 1917. He grew up on farms near Saskatoon and Meskanaw, Saskatchewan. He obtained his BSc in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan in 1943 and an MSc in Co-operative Extension Education from the University of Wisconsin in 1972.

Upon graduation from the University of Saskatchewan, Harold enlisted in the military service; however, the war ended soon after his officer training was completed. Harold married Mary Bonnett in 1943. From 1944 to 1952, Harold worked as an Extension Specialist and Director of the Provincial Department of Co-operation and Co-operative Development. One of the goals of the department was to help World War II veterans establish co-operative farms. Harold helped develop the Matador Co-op Farm, the first co-operative farm in Canada. In 1953, he was appointed to the secretariat of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Life, which had been established by the provincial government to report on the social and economic structure in Saskatchewan. Harold organized more than 100 meetings in towns all across the province.

Harold was named the first director of the Co-operative Institute in Saskatoon in 1955. Drawing inspiration from similar institutions in England and Scandinavia, the institute provided week-long courses on all aspects of co-operatives. They catered primarily to managers, teaching them about book-keeping and efficient business practices. Harold spent almost two decades at the institute, which was later known as the Western Co-op College, then the Co-op College of Canada. In 1973, Chapman left the college to become member and public relations director with Federated Co-operatives Ltd., where he worked for nine years before retiring in 1982.

Harold has contributed chapters to two books: *"The Contemporary Director"*, a handbook for elected officials of co-operatives, credit unions and other organizations, and *"Dignity and Growth: Citizen Participation in Social Change"*. In 2012, he wrote the book *"Sharing My Life: Building the Co-operative Movement"*, a book that is essential reading for anyone interested in the cooperative movement.

In 2016, Harold received the Order of Canada for his seven decades of leadership in the co-operative movement. Mary, his wife, passed away in 2005 after 61 years of marriage. Harold has 2 children, Bob and Gail, three granddaughters, and three great-grandchildren.