

## **John Hickie 1956 School & 1959 College 2021 Honorary Life Member**

John Hickie was born on the family homestead near Loon Lake, SK in 1935. The family moved to Waldron, SK, near Melville, where he completed elementary and high school. John initially majored in Crop Science but switched to Farm Management, graduating with great distinction. He obtained his MSc. at the University of Guelph in Ag Economics.

He returned to Saskatchewan to work for the Ministry of Agriculture spending 27 years as a Farm Management Specialist. In this role John influenced hundreds of farmers over the years with his practical, common sense approach to the business of farming. He too was a farmer, on 1700 acres near his childhood home.

Upon retirement from Sask Ag and Food, he farmed this land full time. John had a strong sense of giving back to the community and to the institutions which influenced his life. In this spirit, he made a number of significant gifts to the University of Saskatchewan, including the establishment of the Major Alfred Frank Mantle Memorial Scholarship in honor of the province's first deputy agriculture minister. He had managed a similar award during his employment with the Ministry that ultimately ran out of funds, and the experience solidified John's belief that Major Mantle's contributions to the agriculture sector should never be forgotten.

Recently, John donated a section of cropland (known as Perseverance Farm) to the U of S. The earnings derived from this gift provide enduring support for students at the College of AgBio by funding another scholarship in his own name, while also ensuring the Major Mantle award remains viable in perpetuity. John Hickie derived a great deal from his own educational experience, which set him on a path of success. Through his generosity, countless students will be given similar opportunities to establish rewarding careers in the agriculture sector.