

# DONALD McQUEEN SHAVER

## *Commerce/Agriculture*



*Inducted: 2003  
Years at GCI & VS:  
1932 - 1937*

Donald McQueen Shaver was born in Galt on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1920. He attended Galt Collegiate during the peak of the Great Depression. Even though he was only 12 years old at the time, Donald began breeding chickens for egg production. By the time he was 15, a pen of chickens that he had bred won a 350 day long Canadian National Egg Laying Test conducted in Ottawa. His goal was to produce a hen that was more prolific than any other so he always obtained the best stock available from other breeders.

As for many students of Mr. Shaver's era, World War II intervened and he served with the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps from 1941-45 in Africa and Europe. He returned to Canada in 1946 only to find out that fire had destroyed his entire stock and he had to rebuild his operation. After a few lean years, a breakthrough came in 1954 when his Shaver Starcross 288 won a number of trophies and in the process established a record unequalled by any other breeder. The Shaver Starcross 288 breed produced an average of 290 eggs per chicken per year.

This success allowed Mr. Shaver into the export market. Customers from all over the world wanted access to the Shaver Starcross 288. When Dr. Shaver retired in 1985 as President and CEO of Shaver Poultry Breeding Farms, his company was operating in 94 countries and these chickens produced one third of the world's white eggs. The worldwide success of his poultry operation allowed him to branch out into the beef industry where the Shaver Beefblend is exporting product to four continents.

Dr. Shaver's awards and accolades are numerous. He has received Honourary Doctor of Science degrees from McGill University in 1983 and the University of Guelph in 1995. In Japan he was honoured by being inducted as a charter member in the Hall of Fame for the World Poultry Association. He is also a member of the Waterloo County Hall of Fame, the Cambridge Hall of Fame, the Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame, the American Poultry Hall of Fame and the Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame.

In 1978, Dr. Shaver was named a Member of the Order of Canada. In 1990, Dr. Shaver was promoted to Officer of the Order of Canada where he was described as being one of the country's foremost leaders in increasing food production and "an extraordinary ambassador for Canada, whose numerous honours and awards have brought prestige to Canadian agriculture."