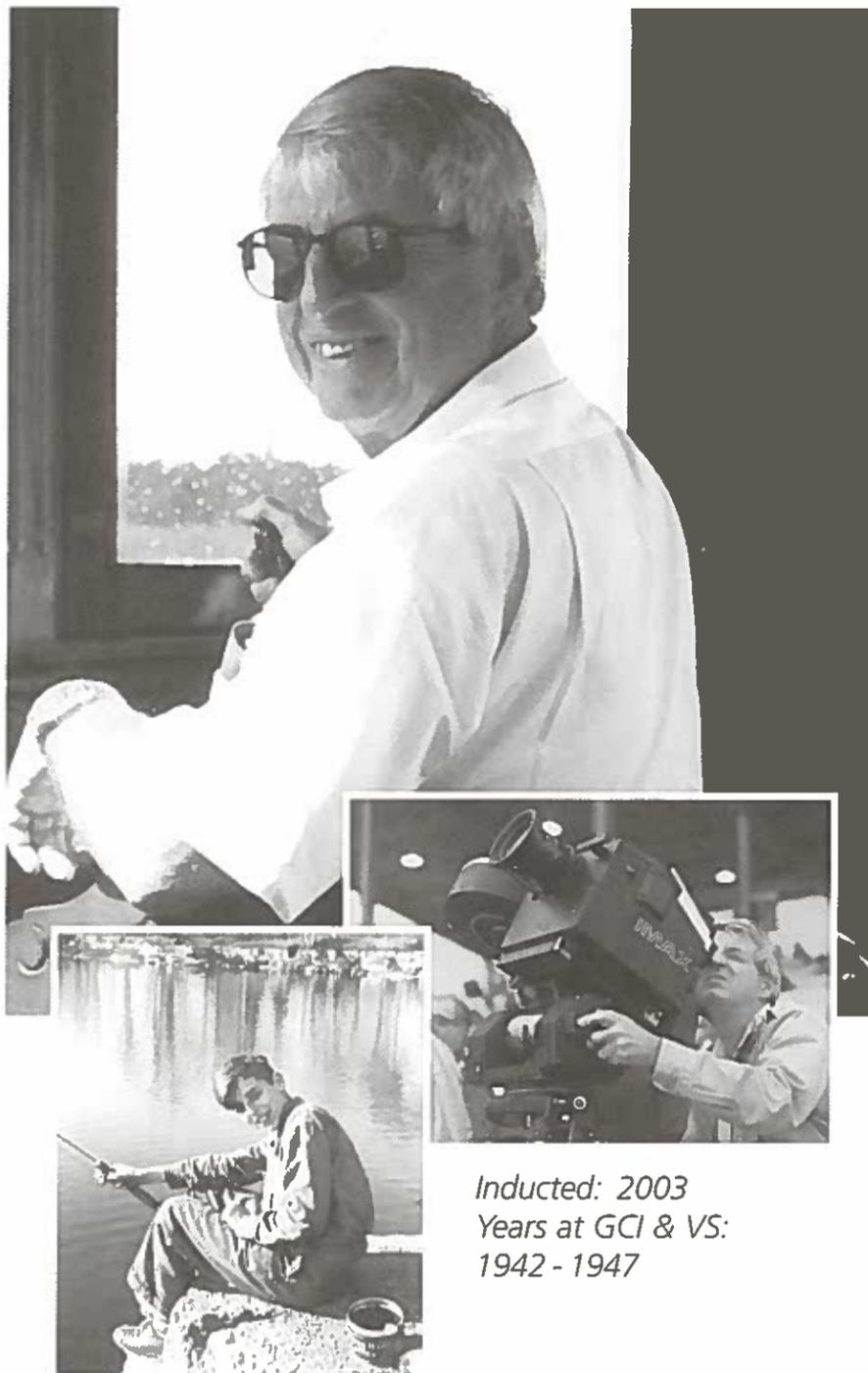


# GRAEME FERGUSON

## Filmmaking



Inducted: 2003  
Years at GCI & VS:  
1942 - 1947

Graeme Ferguson, one of the founders of the IMAX Corporation, was born in Toronto in 1929. When he was young he moved with his family to Galt. Graeme attended Dickson Public School before moving to Galt Collegiate in 1942. The son of Frank Ferguson, arguably the most popular teacher in the history of GCI, Graeme grew up in an atmosphere of 'truth and discovery'. This carried into the school with science teacher C. Gordon Clarke. According to Graeme, "any sort of experiment we wanted to do Gordon Clarke would encourage. He was always up to supporting anything we were curious about."

Not surprisingly, with his father's political background as a the CCF candidate for South Waterloo, Mr. Ferguson attended the University of Toronto where he graduated with a degree in Political Science and Economics. From the U of T, he became the National Secretary of the World University Service of Canada from 1953-1955. Mr. Ferguson then served a film apprenticeship in India and Sweden while working as a free-lance film director and cameraman in New York.

Perhaps the most significant moment in Mr. Ferguson's film career came when he was invited back to Canada to create a multi-screen spectacular, *Polar Life*, for the "Man and the Polar Regions" Pavilion at Expo '67 in Montreal. He chose as co-producer GCI classmate Robert Kerr, then mayor of Galt. Responding to the popular enthusiasm for expanded cinema at Expo '67, Mr. Ferguson joined with Robert Kerr, William Shaw, another GCI

classmate, and Roman Kroiter to invent a revolutionary new motion picture experience which they named IMAX.

For the next 23 years Mr. Ferguson served as president of IMAX Corporation. During this time the partners saw their dream realized as IMAX theatres proliferated around the world to more than 150 specialized theatres in 22 countries.

Currently Mr. Ferguson continues as a filmmaker, challenged to make new discoveries using the film medium. Among his IMAX films are *North of Superior*, *The Dream is Alive*, *Blue Planet*, *Into the Deep*, and *Destiny in Space*. Most recently, he produced *L5: First City in Space*, a large-format 3D film, and was honoured with NASA's coveted Silver Snoopy Award for outstanding contribution to the space industry. Mr. Ferguson's numerous honours include two honorary doctorates, the Canadian Government Environmental Achievement Award, the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts Medal and a Genie for Special Achievement from the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television. In 1993, Dr. Ferguson was invested into the Order of Canada.