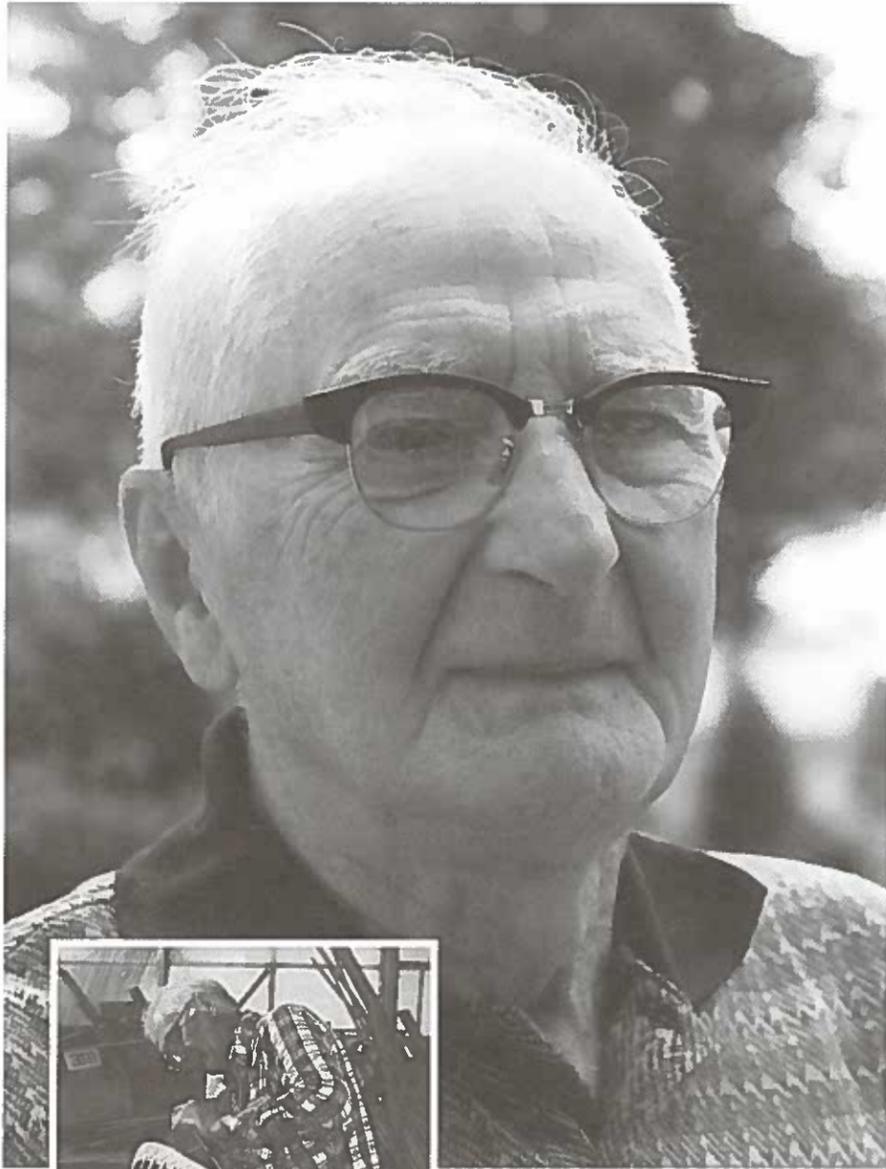


# WALTER WALKER

## *Canoe Builder*



Inducted: 2003  
Years at GCI & VS:  
1924 - 1926

Walter Walker was born in Ancaster, Ontario on November 4, 1907. Walter's father was a minister which cause them to live in several towns and cities during his youth. In his high school days, the family lived in Innerkip, which meant Walter had to make daily train trips in order to attend GCI & VS.

After graduating in 1926, Walter worked in the furniture making business. He made the move to Lakefield, Ontario where he started making canoes for various companies and settled as foreman for the Peterborough Canoe Company from 1942 to 1961. In later years Walter worked on his own much of the time at Peel Marine in Lakefield, building 20 and 30 foot racing canoes. At age 78, Mr. Walker retired from full time work but continued to build canoes in the basement of his home for many years. Walter, now 96 years old, still spends time making hand-carved paddles. His work is still in great demand by canoe enthusiasts.

Recognition of Mr. Walker's exceptional craftsmanship has been realized at numerous prestigious events. He was commissioned to present one of his canoes to Governor General Viscount Alexander of Tunis upon his visit to Peterborough in 1948 for the grand opening of their civic hospital. More significantly, Mr. Walker built and personally presented a cedar strip canoe to H.R.H. Prince Andrew upon his graduation from Lakefield College in 1977. He then followed up

in September 1999 by presenting H.R.H. Prince Andrew with a handcrafted paddle on his visit to the Canadian Canoe Museum.

Mr. Walker's lifelong passion for his craft was recognized by the Canoe Builder's Award from the Canadian Canoe Museum as well as his induction as the first "Canoe Builder Emeritus" into the Canoe Builders Hall of Fame in 1944. His canoes have been featured attractions at the annual Sportsman Show in Toronto. Mr. Walker has been featured in many articles in various newspapers such as the *KW Record*, *Peterborough Examiner* and *Hamilton Spectator*. Tourist magazines in the Kawarthas promote his passion and talents as human-interest stories during the summer. Boating magazines such as *Harrowsmith* and *Classic Board* have featured Mr. Walker for his 60 years of building excellence.