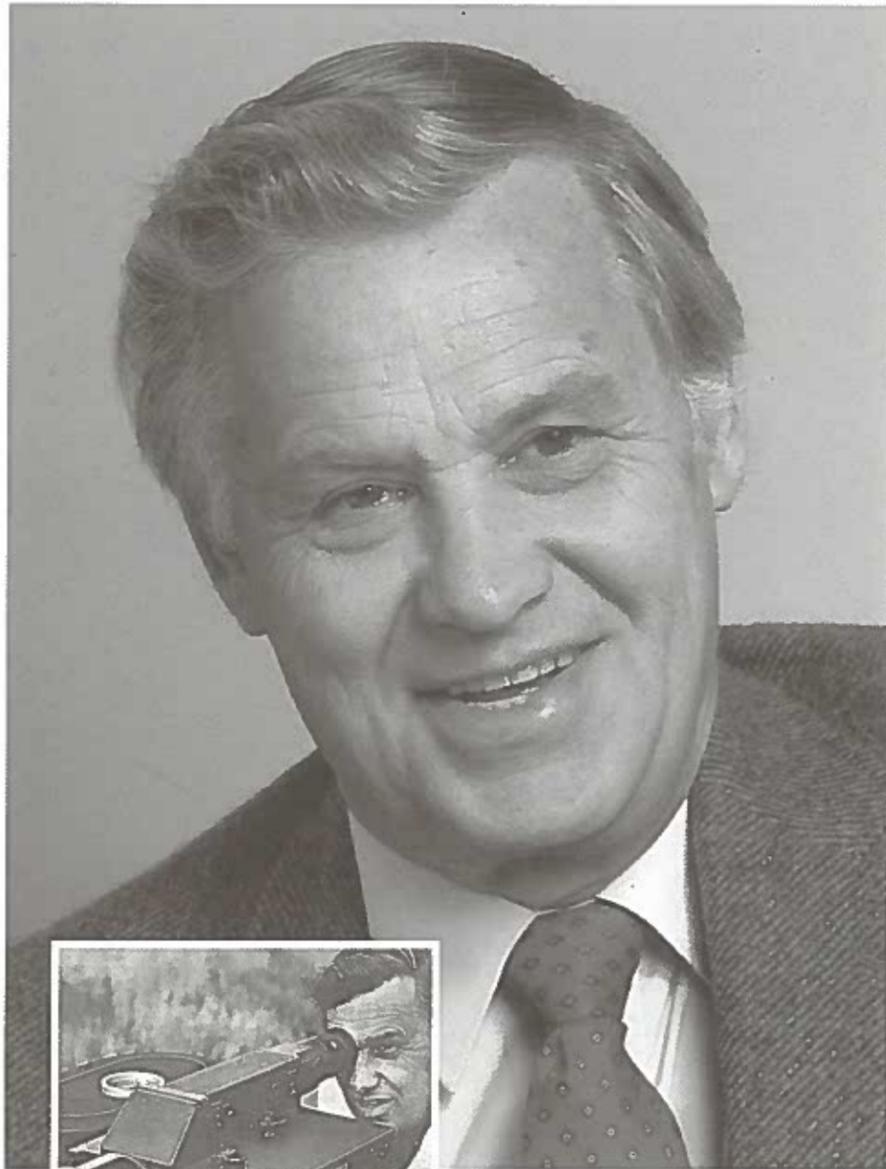


# WILLIAM CHESTER SHAW

## *Technology & Cinema*



*Inducted: 2003  
Years at GCI & VS:  
1944 - 1947*

Bill Shaw was born on October 31, 1928 in Hespeler and attended Galt Collegiate from Grade 11 through Grade 13. In his final departmental exams he received First Class Honours in no less than 7 subjects. Bill proceeded onto the University of Toronto, where he graduated in Engineering and Business. Later he obtained his MBA from McMaster University. After marrying GCI classmate, Barbra Cross, he worked for the Ford Motor Company in Windsor. Later he went to CCM where, as Manager of Manufacturing Services, he designed the first hockey helmet.

In 1968, Mr. Shaw joined with GCI classmates Robert Kerr and Graeme Ferguson as well as Roman Kroiter to invent the IMAX motion picture system. As a Mechanical Engineer, the success of the IMAX system rested on Bill's ability to make a camera and film projector powerful enough to project onto a large screen. Bill personally designed the revolutionary IMAX Projector and as a result, held a number of patents. The success of Bill Shaw's invention is evidenced by the more than 225 IMAX Theatres around the world and he has been called a Renaissance man as this was definitely a Renaissance in cinema. The first projector built in 1970 is still running at Ontario Place even though it was intended to be a prototype. Mr. Shaw and his IMAX colleagues always credited the team's motivation to their student years together in the GCI science lab and the encouragement of their youthful curiosity received from their wonderful science teacher, Mr. C. Gordon Clarke.

As a result of Mr. Shaw's work, IMAX Corporation was honoured with an Oscar by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for scientific and technical achievement. He also captured the John Grierson International Gold Medal from the Society of Motion Picture and Television in 1985 that recognized the significant technical achievements related to documentary motion pictures. The Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario awarded him with an engineering medal in 1988, an honour given to those who have improved the quality of our life through ingenious application of their engineering skills. In 1998, Mr. Shaw received the prestigious Leonardo Da Vinci Medal from the American Society of Engineers, which recognizes eminent achievement in the design or invention of a product which is universally recognized as an important advance in machine design. Mr. Shaw was among Canada's foremost inventors, truly a genius in the field of cinema throughout the world.