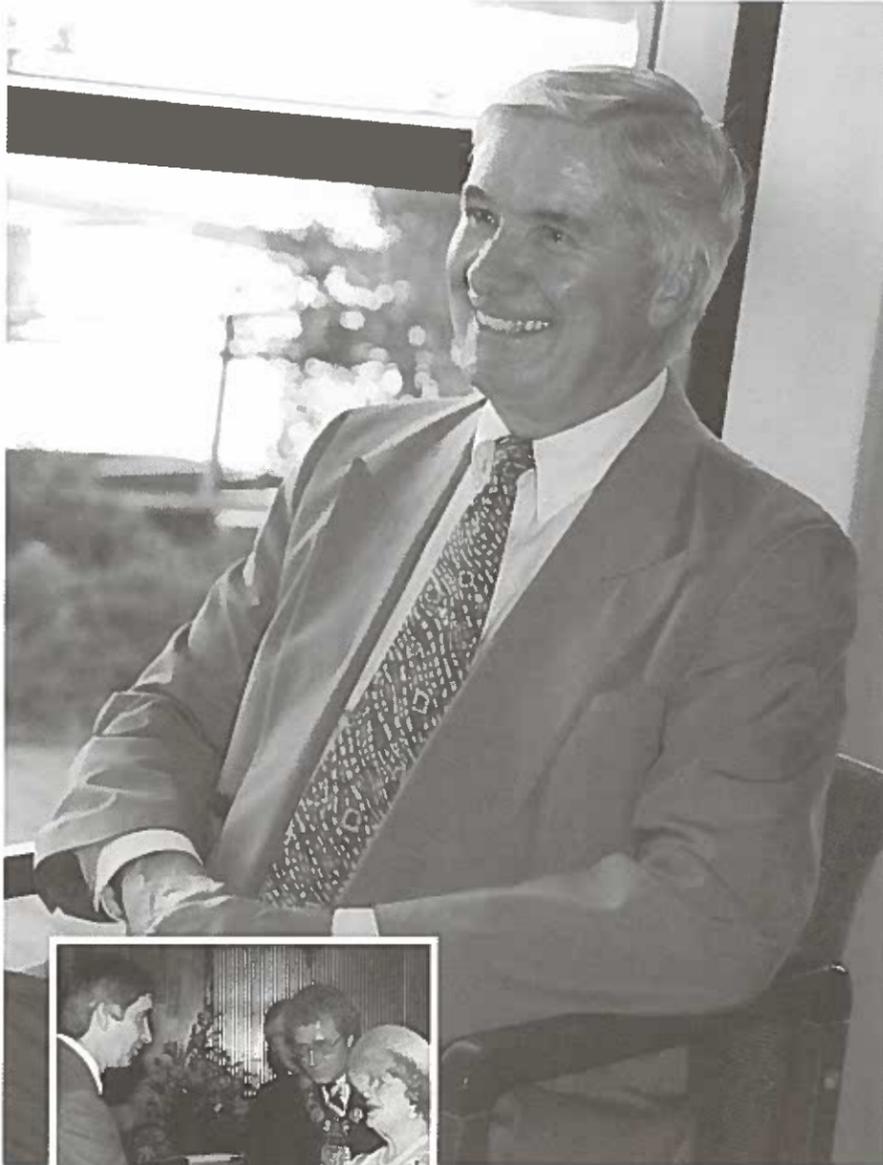


GERALD ELDRED

Performing Arts



Inducted: 2003
Years at GCI & VS:
1948 - 1952

Gerald Eldred was born on October 5, 1934 and from his youngest days in Galt, Gerry can best be described as ‘stage-struck’. One of his earliest memories is of a performance he gave in Tassie Hall, directed by Principal T.H. Wholton. Following graduation from Galt Collegiate in 1952 he trained and worked in the industrial accounting field in Galt and Toronto all the while continuing to participate in any stage work that could be fitted into his busy schedule. It was in 1960, following one of those performances, that Herbert Walker, then Drama Critic for the *Globe and Mail*, suggested that he audition for the newly created National Theatre School in Montreal. He was accepted for training in the Production/Technical division, graduating in 1965.

Mr. Eldred quickly moved from stage management through production management and ultimately ended with General Manager responsibilities. What is most unique about his career in Canada is that during his work in Canada from 1966 to 1986, he has successfully headed up four of our country’s leading arts organizations. Mr. Eldred has been Administrative Director of the Manitoba Theatre Centre, The National Ballet of Canada, The National Ballet School and The Stratford Festival. There is no other member of the performing arts profession in Canada who can make this claim.

Mr. Eldred retired in 1997 after spending ten years as consultant and Managing Director of Harbourfront Corporation in Toronto. For all of these accomplishments, he was listed in the “Who’s

Who” publications in Canada, U.S.A. and United Kingdom.

Gerry is known for his work as a Lecturer specializing in Arts Administration, speaking with the Canada Council Touring Office, York University-MBA Program and The Banff Centre-CRMP Programme.

Accolades he has received include the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Award in 1997, the 1989 Award from the Association of Cultural Executives and The Silver Ticket Award presented in 1998 at the Toronto Theatre Alliance (The Dora’s).

Mr. Eldred’s passion for the theatre has never waned since his early experiences at Galt Collegiate or after retirement. He continues to share his expertise on various boards such as The Pleiades Theatre in Toronto and The Waterloo Regional Arts Foundation.

