



## In Memoriam: Dr. George Fedak



George passed away on June 11, 2025, after a brief illness. He was a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Ottawa and Winnipeg research stations for more than 50 years. George's main area of expertise was cytogenetics. He worked on many species of cultivated and wild cereals, including oats. A summary of some of that work can be found [here](#).

The following text has been taken from [George's obituary](#):

“... [George] was an exceedingly decent and humble man. As a devoted husband, friend, father and grandfather, he is survived by his loving wife of 55 years Rosaleen, and children Stephanie (Kevin Semeniuk) and Andrew (Sara Cannon). He adored his granddaughters Katya, Anna, and Ella, and grandson Theo. His surviving brothers Raymond and Alan (Audrey Harsh) remain on and near the original Fedak family homestead. ...

A son of immigrant pioneers, he was born in 1940 on a farm in Hudson Bay, SK. Academically, he earned his bachelor's degree in plant sciences in 1963, followed by a Master's degree in 1965, from the University of Saskatchewan. He went on to complete a PhD in cytogenetics at the University of Manitoba where he met Rosaleen, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship with Agriculture Canada in Ottawa.

Professionally, as a distinguished principal research scientist, Dr. Fedak made invaluable contributions to humanity breeding new varieties of barley and wheat propagated around the world. He specialized in molecular genetics and disease resistance genes often remarking that the research over this past decade was some of the most important. In 2018, he was [awarded the Vernadskyi Gold Medal](#) by Ukraine's Academy of Sciences for his outstanding achievements in the field of natural, technical, and socio-human sciences and was thrilled to have a variety of oat, '[AAC Fedak](#)', named in his honour by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 2023.



Resolutely guided by his Ukrainian heritage, patriotism, and Catholic faith, he was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus and parishioner at Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine. Forever the farmer, he spent free time on his hobby farm tending to his gardens and fruit trees, and riding his vintage tractors. He also enjoyed the passing seasons at the family cottage near Perth, watching hockey and cheering for his beloved Saskatchewan Roughriders. ...”

George was still working as an Honorary Research Associate when he passed away, and will be missed dearly by his family, colleagues, and many friends, both in Ottawa and around the world.



*George speaking at Ottawa RDC Oat Day in 2023 after the introduction of ‘AAC Fedak’ by oat breeder Weikai Yan.*