

**Dr. Brian G. Rossnagel – AOWC Outstanding Service Award**

Born in rural Manitoba, Brian received his B.S.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Manitoba in 1973 and 1978 respectively. In 1977 he began what has now been a 33-year career with the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre as an oat and barley breeder. His success in carrying two breeding programs is attested to by the impact of his cultivars both within western Canada and in their use as germplasm around the world. Brian has never been satisfied with producing "me too" cultivars and many have been pioneering, either being new types or setting a new standard for the crop.

Of the more than 80 cultivar releases with which he has been associated, Brian has been the primary breeder on 15 oat cultivars with three more oat lines recommended for registration earlier this year. Of particular note is his early recognition of the importance of grain quality, particularly high milling percentage and reduced tertiary kernels. Receipt of the Kirylochuk Award from the Prairie Oat Growers in 1998 recognized his contributions to the prairie oat industry.

During his career Brian has become recognised as an outstanding co-operator, always giving credit to others when due. He has developed innumerable working connections around the world and his credo of "if you don't give you don't get" has led to numerous exchanges of ideas and germplasm. This has served his breeding program and the western Canadian oat industry well.

Brian has served on numerous committees, locally, nationally and internationally, and has served in the capacity of Chair many times. He has also been a tireless and effective public servant, receiving the award for Distinction in Extension and Public Service Award from the UofS in 2004. He has provided sage advice to thousands of farmers at field days, through the press, radio, TV and direct contact by phone and internet. He has a colorful turn of phrase and is not afraid to state his opinions.

In addition to the awards already mentioned, Brian's contributions have also been recognized many times. In 1983 he was named Committee Man of the Year by Canadian Western Agribition and received an Honorary Life Membership in the Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association in 1991. He received the Canadian Society of Agronomy's Young Scientist Award in 1993, a CSGA Honorary Life Membership in 2000, was made a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada in 2003 and named as Distinguished Agrologist by the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists in 2004.

Brian is thus a deserving recipient of the AOWC Outstanding Service Award. Part of this award surely also goes to his wife Laurel who also deserves recognition for a part of each of Brian's cultivars and has spent many enjoyable hours in oat and barley fields, both at home and around the world.