



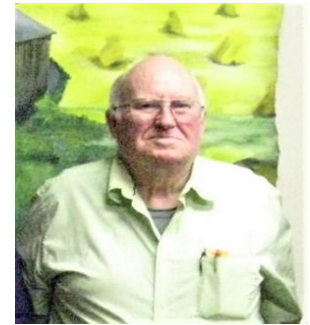
Preserving, promoting, and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR FEBRUARY CELEBRATES ROBERT MACDONALD

After a life of contributions to his community, Robert Macdonald passed away in January 2022. Having spent his younger years on a dairy farm near Inglewood and later raising purebred Angus cattle, Robert's dedication to agriculture continued throughout his life. Following his move to a farm near Arthur in 1973, his family bred, raised, and exhibited champion purebred horses and ponies.

Agriculture interests occupied other aspects of Robert's life. He participated in Junior Farmers, serving as President of the Peel County organization in 1962. As well he became a 4-H Leader. After working in manufacturing with companies such as General Steel Wares, Robert took a position at the Arthur Recreational Centre and joined the Agricultural Society. This led to his involvement in Arthur's Fall Fair, where he contributed to its great success as one of the remaining true agricultural fairs in the province.

Robert's interests and participation in the community branched out to other aspects of rural culture. He worked with Little Theatre and passed on his life experience to youths through the Big Brothers and Cubs. Other organizations such as the Opportunity Shop and the Horticultural Society received his support.



One of Robert's most appreciated contributions was to local history. He joined the Arthur and Area Historical Society from its beginnings. He rarely missed a meeting, helping members focus on conducting them well. Robert was often available to assist visitors during Wednesday afternoon opening hours. He shared his memories and ideas with anyone who came.

Robert regularly attended the annual meetings of the Wellington County Historical Society, bringing greetings from Arthur and Area, reporting back so that the Society was kept up to date. During his busy time at the Fall Fair, he always took care of the Society's display needs.



Robert's love of local agricultural history showed in the farming artifacts he contributed to the Historical Rooms displays. He joined in the work of preserving and reviving the Kenilworth Lynes Blacksmith shop, as part of the development of local tourism initiatives. His most recent work was with the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable, where he represented the Agricultural Society.

Robert Macdonald's most lasting gift was reminding everyone to retain those aspects of our rural past that laid the foundation of this close-knit community. As we mourn his passing, we also honor his dedication to our local way of life.

Submitted by Gail Donald Wellington North Cultural Roundtable