

PROMINENT INDUSTRY LEADERS

INDUCTED INTO CANADIAN SIMMENTAL ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

The Canadian Simmental Association (CSA) Board of Directors, on behalf of its membership, is very pleased to announce that well-known industry leader Little Pipestone Ranch and the Mapletofts has been inducted into the Canadian Simmental Association Hall of Fame. With CSA membership number 2702, Little Pipestone Simmental Ranch Ltd. was among the early pioneer breeders of Simmental cattle in Canada. Their first imports arrived in Frenchman Butte, Saskatchewan in 1969; the same year the Canadian Simmental Association was incorporated. Their research and knowledge of the breed made the Mapletoft family an early authority and a name synonymous with Simmental. Frank, and his wife Gail, became the face of LPSR and in the early years, Frank made 3 separate trips to Europe to select cattle for importation to Canada. In addition to selecting cattle for the Little Pipestone Simmental Ranch herd, his nod of approval was the green light for over one hundred imports that would soon find new homes on North American soil. These imports helped establish the foundation of the breed as we know it today.

It was truly team effort with father Edgar Mapletoft serving as an original CSA director and Saskatchewan Simmental President. Oldest brother, Rueben who is a retired veterinarian, was on the CSA breed improvement committee and provided advise to the CSA in that capacity with a passion for Simmental as well. Brother Bill was a mainstay at home keeping the operation moving along and tending to other details.

Little Pipestone Simmental Ranch was an active promoter of Simmental cattle from the very beginning. In the early days, the marketing of the Simmental breed was truly a collective team effort. Little Pipestone participated in, and contributed to, all facets of purebred livestock production. This included years of consistent advertising in the Simmental Scene and Simmental Country magazines, participation in field days in multiple provinces, as well as participation in shows and sales spanning the continent. From sale barns to elevators in fancy hotels, the Mapletoft family could be found spreading the word and sharing the enthusiasm that led the charge in not only anchoring but growing the Simmental breed.

Frank earned the respect to be asked to judge numerous beef cattle shows in North America. A couple of the more noted events include Edmonton Farmfair and the "Canadian" in Brandon, Manitoba. Throughout the 70s and 80s, LPSR showed Simmental cattle all across Canada and the U.S.A. Some of the shows they regularly participated in, include the Lloydminster Stockade Round-Up, Farmfair International, and Canadian Western Agribition.

An animal search of the LPSR prefix on the CSA website shows hundreds of registered animals. Without question, LPSR cattle were paramount in the development of many other breeding programs throughout the 70s, 80s, 90s, as well as into the next century. Perhaps the most significant contribution made by LPSR in later years was the recognition and promotion of Fleckvieh influenced genetics. LPSR was ahead of the curve in recognizing that Fleckvieh genetics were and are the type and kind of cattle that were needed not only to encourage a positive change in breed direction, but for breed survival.

When Frank became the Fieldman for the Simmental Country Magazine, he travelled thousands of miles and took hundreds of pictures. One would be hard-pressed to guess how many pockets full of rocks Frank carried to help a breeder get a good picture of their sale animal! He often took this task on alone but always with a smile and sense of adventure. And not only did Frank never forget; he also gently reminded, that the Purebred Business is also a People Business. Whether it be parents, grandparents, relatives, friends or even family pets, every subject close to the heart received appreciation and value from behind Frank's camera. There is no question he built sense of "Community in the Country."

The Canadian Simmental Association (CSA) Hall of Fame recognizes past or present Canadian Simmental Association (CSA) members who have contributed to the growth and advancement of the Simmental breed in Canada. The recipients of this award are chosen by their fellow breeders who comprise the CSA Board of Directors.

