

4-H Saskatchewan Builders Honour Roll



CANADA
4-H Saskatchewan

2022 – Les Ferguson

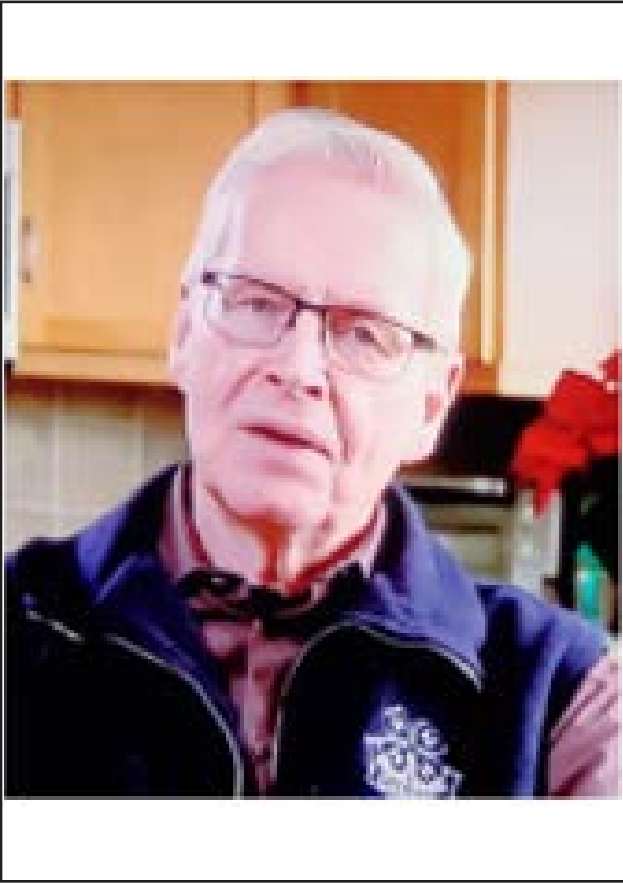


Les Ferguson grew up near Sonningdale Saskatchewan, north west of Saskatoon. He still leases the family farm there. Les' wife, Linda, is a city girl and they both have lived in Saskatoon since 1970. Les' 4-H background includes being a 4-H beef project member for seven years. He was also a summer staff person with the 4-H program while at university. From 1973 to 1993, Les coordinated what was then referred to as the Indian 4-H program, in First Nations communities.

Les served as a Trustee for the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation from 2004-2020. He is retired, while Linda is a professor within the College of Nursing at the U of S. They have four sons, two daughters-in-law, and four granddaughters.

We appreciate your dedication to the 4-H program, and all you have contributed to our organization. Thank you so much for your time and commitment.

2022 – Duane Bristow



Duane has enjoyed a successful career in the agriculture sector, working for the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool for a number of years, before applying his skills and knowledge to his research consultancy.

As a 4-H alumnus, Mr. Bristow continued to dedicate himself to the 4-H movement, playing a prominent role in the expansion of the 4-H Saskatchewan Centre “Camp Rayner,” and the provincial Centennial Anniversary Celebrations in 2017.

At the national level, in addition to being a member of 4-H Canada for nearly three decades, Mr. Bristow has served as a director and chair to the 4-H Canada Board of Directors, and as a trustee and chair of the Canadian 4-H Foundation.

We appreciate your many contributions to the 4-H movement, Duane. Thank you for taking the time and care to moving our organization forward.

2022 – William (Bill) Cooper



Bill Cooper, along with his wife, Gail, have been donating to 4-H Saskatchewan since 2007. Bill created the Entrepreneurial Scholarship for 4-H Members, which offers three \$3,000 scholarships to 4-H members entering or continuing in any program, at any post-secondary institution. These members must demonstrate exceptional enthusiasm and awareness of the entrepreneurial concept.

Apart from the scholarship opportunities, Bill Cooper has also donated to 4-H annually, and was instrumental in the creation of the 4-H Future Fund. This fund is managed through the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation, and is open for additional donations, so that contributions can be made for years to come.

Bill served as a Trustee of the Foundation, and when the Covid pandemic hit, he was quick to create the Covid-19 leadership scholarship for 4-H members and alumni serving on or supporting the front lines.

Thank you Bill for your unwavering support of the 4-H organization over the years. We are so very thankful for your many contributions.

2022 – Pat Katz



As a child, Patricia Katz twisted her mother's arm to start a 4-H Homecraft club, and once enrolled as a member she never looked back. Her club years included sewing and leadership projects, an exchange trip to Iowa, being crowned Provincial Dress Review Queen, and receiving the CNE Scholarship Award at Provincial Selections.

Pat worked as a Summer Assistant for the Provincial 4-H Office during her University years, was hired as a Provincial 4-H Specialist after graduating from the U of S College of Home Economics, and eventually moved into a seven year term as Provincial 4-H Supervisor.

Camps, conferences and leadership events were major areas of responsibility, and Pat once calculated that she had spent two entire years of her life at Rayner Centre. Pat is known for her versatility and for her strengths in building relationships and delivering creative programming.

Thank you Pat for your support of, and contributions to, the 4-H program over the years. You set the bar high for those who followed in your footsteps, and we appreciate everything you have done for the 4-H Saskatchewan organization.

2023 – Thelma Howard



Thelma Howard started her 4-H life as a dropout from a Beef Club, as she felt it was not fair to ask her “poor little calf to compete with the hefty pedigreed ones!” From there, in 1956 Thelma became what she describes it as MSH - mere summer help with the 4-H Homecraft Program. A year later, after she had graduated from Home Economics at the University of Saskatchewan, Thelma became a staff member with the 4-H Homecraft Program. In 1958 Thelma was appointed supervisor of the 4-H Homecraft program until the program united with the Agriculture 4-H program, at which time she still played an active roll in 4-H, rotating with her colleagues to be the Saskatchewan 4-H Club Supervisor. During this time, Thelma helped to introduce multiple project clubs, which resulted in expanding the scope of projects beyond the traditional projects.

Thelma’s personal 4-H Saskatchewan highlights consist of playing an intricate role in developing the 4-H camping program, which led to Camp Rayner and helping to develop the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation. Thelma has had other notable accomplishments throughout her life including working abroad to introduce community development programs related to women’s role in agriculture, being the secretary and University representative for the Saskatchewan 4-H Council, and just recently in 2012, Thelma was an inductee into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Thelma is proud of all her achievements, however, she is most fond of “working with a great staff, great leaders, and great members.”

2023 – Tracy Fitzsimmons



Tracy Fitzsimmons has been an active member with 4-H through various roles, most notably as a member, parent, leader, volunteer, and board member with the board of directors. Growing up, as a 4-H member, her most memorable moment was spending time at Camp Rayner, which influenced her to become an effective volunteer and leader using passion and positivity to engage the youth of 4-H.

Throughout her time at 4-H, Tracy has demonstrated strong leadership qualities, that are apparent in teaching Cloverbuds and Junior members the fundamentals of 4-H through fun activities utilizing her own farm and livestock. Tracy made sure to employ the 4-H motto “Learn to do by doing” whenever engaging with the youth and making sure the youth were supported in every 4-H capacity possible. Tracy was also a key contributor in ensuring the constitution for the Viscount 4-H Beef Club was established and updated during her time as the General Leader.

Tracy played a pivotal role in guaranteeing district level club events, such as district meetings and public speaking, were executed and that they properly represented 4-H. From there, Tracy moved on to assisting at the Regional level, leading the planning for the Northeast Regional Curling event that was hosted by District 21.

From 2017-2019, Tracy was elected as the Northeast Leader Delegate for the Saskatchewan 4-H Board of Directors, at which time, she attended the Saskatchewan 4-H Annual General Meeting. Other volunteering that Tracy has donated her time to was at the Prairieland Ag Showcase, where she was a Group Leader for the Cloverbuds and assisted in the Regional Judging. During her time as the Group Leader at the Prairieland Ag Showcase, Tracy’s demeanor promoted members to have fun, stay focused, and complete their tasks in a safe manner. Tracy prides herself on being a hands on teacher, and by doing so, many youth members talk fondly of their time learning as being memorable, fun, and inclusive for everyone.