

Saskatchewan Order of Merit 2020 Recipients

Dr. Gordon Asmundson, F.R.S.C.

Dr. Asmundson was raised in a military family, moving from his birthplace on a Canadian air-force base in Germany to various bases around Canada. Upon completing his undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral training and returning to Saskatchewan, he launched what has become an exemplary academic career that has brought him local, national and international renown. His research and dedication to the science of mental health and pain have contributed to innovative and widely accessible evidence-based treatments. His work has ultimately helped reduce functional limitations as well as emotional suffering and risk of suicidal ideation among Saskatchewanians and others worldwide.

He has a profound passion and commitment to mentoring the next generation of Canadian academic and research leaders, as well as mental health and other health professionals, within and beyond the borders of Saskatchewan. His more than 50 postdoctoral and graduate trainees have excelled, winning major local and national academic awards and going on to successful careers. His immense positive influence on the health research and mental health has reached the landscapes of our province and beyond. He has touched and inspired the lives of many, including those in the mental health research community, aspiring leaders of tomorrow and many thousands suffering from chronic and disabling conditions characterized by anxiety-related mental illnesses, chronic pain, childhood adversity and their co-occurrence.

Dr. Gordon Asmundson
306-539-6026
Regina

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Rigmor Clarke

It has been 70 years since Rigmor Clarke and her family immigrated to Canada from Sweden. In the years since, she has contributed significantly to this province through her life and her work. Inspired by the beauty of the northern Saskatchewan landscape, she has shown her impressionistic paintings in a host of solo and group exhibitions across the province. She has been the driving force behind initiatives that encourage the creation and appreciation of art in rural Saskatchewan.

Initiated by Rigmor 20 years ago, the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail (Blue Moon Studio Trail) was the first of its kind in Saskatchewan and continues to flourish. Other studio tours have sprung up across the province, all taking their lead from this formative trail. Although she has retired from the tour, her support of the trail continues. At 85 years of age, Rigmor remains ceaselessly active in acquiring new skills and carrying out an astounding range of projects. Rigmor's is an "open studio" where she welcomes artists, tourists and locals, always taking the time to talk about her work, recite the poetry that inspires her and share her love of the Saskatchewan landscape. Rigmor is an inspiration to the Saskatchewan arts community and is one of the most significant and influential artists in Prince Albert and north-central Saskatchewan.

Rigmor Clarke
306-427-4915
Shell Lake

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Sally Elliott

Sally Elliott's name is synonymous with prenatal care in Regina. She is often called the "grandmother" of Regina's babies. She has been a nurse, specializing in maternal care for over 30 years, and is most prominently known as the instructor for prenatal classes at the Regina YMCA. She has been the steady guide into the exhilarating, and often terrifying, world of parenthood for three generations of parents. Sally has helped thousands of expectant families in our province over the years, making every soon-to-be parent feel empowered and cared for. Generations of Regina parents have known Sally's comforting presence and her practical advice calmed their concerns, helping prepare them for this new and exciting chapter of their lives.

She is a strong and tireless advocate for postpartum care and the mental health of new mothers. Many have received visits from Sally in the Mother Baby Unit and in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to check on how they were doing and whether they needed extra support. That support is always forthcoming and graciously given. Her "Y's Moms" support group helps new mothers deal with postpartum depression and anxiety, as well as the more general stressors inherent in becoming a new parent. Sally exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding citizen of our province. She shines in her profession and goes above and beyond in providing her services to the community, truly caring about each new parent and child.

Sally Elliott
306-530-3682
Regina

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Gerald Grandey

Since Gerald (Jerry) Grandey's retirement from his career in the mining industry, he has utilized the same skills that made him an outstanding business leader to provide leadership and invaluable support to a large number of community-based organizations. He is constantly drawn to causes and organizations that improve the quality of life for the people of Saskatchewan, with a special focus on his home community of Saskatoon. Jerry is a dedicated booster of Saskatchewan, an internationally respected individual in the nuclear sector, a global corporate leader who now devotes his life to community and an international business executive, having put down roots in Saskatchewan. Recognizing the value of mentoring, Jerry initiated a \$1 million legacy gift from Cameco to the University of Saskatchewan Edwards School of Business in 2011. The funds are intended to develop leadership skills through student mentoring and engagement of "fireside chats" with local business and political leaders. Jerry has been personally instrumental in raising more than \$45 million for the benefit of the residents of the province of Saskatchewan, including Ronald McDonald House, Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, Persephone Theatre and Royal University Hospital Foundation.

Throughout his distinguished career in Canada's nuclear industry, Jerry earned the reputation as a well-respected, influential leader who helped shape nuclear advancement and disarmament on a global scale. As a result of his extraordinary leadership and accomplishments, he has received recognition from across the globe, all while calling Saskatchewan home.

Gerald Grandey
306-261-4898
Saskatoon

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Dr. Donald Greve

Dr. Greve started his practice in Rosthern in 1961 during the medical care crisis and doctors' strike, ultimately practicing medicine for 45 years and serving as a Saskatchewan coroner for 39 years. During his practice he served on a number of committees for the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons. Don also served on town council for close to 30 years. His accolades and reputation are an inspiring example of rural dedication. He is known for his tireless efforts in growing and developing many aspects of Rosthern with hard work and grit. He has been instrumental in the development and support of the Station Arts Centre, the Seager Wheeler Farm into a national historic site, and the Valley Regional Park. He is involved in the Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp, Rosthern Trinity Lutheran Church and Communities in Bloom committee, having served on all their boards of directors. Throughout the last eight years he has sought to facilitate the replacement of the Rosthern Hospital, which serves the Twin Rivers district and beyond.

Don ensures the town lives up to its reputation of being a clean, vibrant and beautiful community. He promotes unity among religious groups and volunteer agencies. He has also worked well with youth as a Scout and church youth leader, giving his effort and time to ensure that they have opportunities, regardless of their means.

Donald Greve
306-232-7794
Rosthern

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Dr. Lorne Hepworth

Dr. Hepworth was raised on a farm near Assiniboia; these farm roots served him well in his professional life. After graduating in 1971 from the University of Saskatchewan with a degree in veterinary medicine, he successfully practiced in Weyburn. From 1982 to 1991, he represented Weyburn as their member of the Legislative Assembly, holding several Cabinet positions, including agriculture and finance. For the next nearly 20 years, he was involved in leadership roles in the plant science industry, serving as president and CEO of CropLife Canada, the trade association representing companies involved in crop protection and plant biotechnology. During that time, he was a tireless proponent for innovation and a staunch defender of science-based regulatory systems. His honesty, sincerity, knowledge and passion in speaking for the value of plant science technologies, and the agriculture industry, has been widely recognized by government officials, politicians, regulators, academics and, importantly, farmers.

His experience and leadership attributes led to him being named chair of Genome Canada, a founding board member and, subsequently, chair of the Global Institute for Food Security. His recognition of the benefits for mankind from the application of biosciences, genomics and other emerging technologies made him a leading spokesperson and supporter of science and technology in agriculture and the agri-food industry. While now retired, he continues to serve on various boards and committees.

Lorne Hepworth
519-902-1373
Weyburn and London, ON

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Pamela Klein

Pamela Klein is a visionary, an advocate, a strong business leader and a mentor. She is passionate about Saskatchewan and making it the best place to live, work and invest for everyone. Pamela is a formidable business leader, whose corporate accomplishments as president of Phoenix Group have been noted and include multiple accolades, such as induction into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame and international IABC awards. Pam is a cancer thriver and uses her platform to help others living with the disease. She conceptualized and chaired The Power of Pink event, which raised close to \$1 million for breast health awareness. She donates her time and leadership to kids who have been touched by cancer for Camp Circle of Friends.

She is an exemplary role model, leading with integrity and by example. Her leadership and counsel have been sought on the University of Regina Board of Governors, the Saskatchewan Roughriders Foundation and the MacKenzie Art Gallery. In 2019, she was named the ninth chancellor of the University of Regina. She is a passionate member of her community and her life's work has been making Saskatchewan a better place for all.

Pamela Klein
30-591-5151
Regina

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Silvia Martini

Silvia Martini is a pillar of the Saskatoon community. She is a well respected business owner, entrepreneur and community leader, with a passion for successful outcomes for her clients and her community. She is a visionary who believes in the power of a collaborative approach and courageous, intelligent decision-making. As a leader and mentor, she is currently chair of SaskWater's Board of Directors and has served on numerous other boards, including the Manek Mentorship Program, the Word on the Street Festival, the Princess Shop and the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. One of her current companies, Martini Consulting, assists organizations in addressing and meeting meaningful strategy, effective board governance and leadership excellence.

She is a tireless supporter of, and advocate for Saskatchewan. She is an entrepreneur with a strong commitment to integrity in leadership, and follows the philosophy that the business community is a valued, integrated member of the overall community. She is empowered by the opportunity to contribute to a strong, healthy, vibrant and sustainable Saskatchewan.

Silvia Martini
306-281-9019
Saskatoon

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Eloise Sitter

Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Eloise Sitter is a renowned director and choreographer who was trained by her mother Doris Sitter at the Doris Sitter School of Dance. She studied with some of the world's top master teachers and choreographers and has been a driving force in the province's dance scene. Her work has won accolades from national and international dance professionals, and she has been nominated numerous times for best choreographer in a variety of events. Her students can be seen performing professionally throughout the world in the most diverse genres, from professional classical companies to commercial work, and with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, the Royal Ballet (London), the Performance Dance Program (Ryerson University), the Dutch National Ballet (Amsterdam) and the American Ballet Theatre (New York), to name a few. She is the director and owner of the Sitter School of Dance, which opened its doors in Saskatoon in 1978. Throughout her 40 years and beyond, "Miss Eloise" has taught thousands of students the art of dance.

Eloise's devotion to dance has instilled a work ethic and attention to detail. She has taught thousands of students discipline, perseverance and the reward of hard work. The seed of the art of dance and culture that Eloise plants in every one of her students reaches far beyond the dance studio.

Eloise Sitter
306-270-6454
Saskatoon

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Dr. Walter Streelasky

Dr. Streelasky has been the mayor of Melville for the past 14 years, previously serving as city councillor. His exemplary commitment to the citizens of Melville and his progressive views on leadership, community development, engagement and community service has been displayed and valued by the city's constituents. Walter's "Spirit Walk" initiative of 150 kilometers from Melville to Regina secured federal and provincial funding for Horizon Credit Union Centre – a landmark recreational facility. His commitment to education was evident throughout his 29-year career as an administrator, as well as his work as a faculty advisor for the University of Regina and Brandon University, during which he mentored teacher interns throughout southeast Saskatchewan. With a dedicated contingent of volunteers, he has established a welcoming and capable host city, attracting events such as the Painted Hand Casino 12th Annual Powwow, and the combined Provincial Women's Scotties and Men's SaskTel Tankard Curling Championships.

Walter's exceptional commitment to the betterment of his community through selfless service has been unwavering. His trademark optimism, tremendous passion and genuine enthusiasm for his community is unparalleled and have contributed to his unprecedented footprint in the city of Melville.

Walter Streelasky
306-728-6933
Melville