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John Longley fondly remembered, sadly missed

Excerpted from an article by Larry Powell / The Spectator

John Longley is being remembered as a compassionate family and community man who had time for everyone, was the backbone of the Annapolis Valley Exhibition for many years, and a friend to all.

Longley, manager of the Annapolis Valley Exhibition since 1992, died suddenly at home in North Kingston Tuesday evening. He was 68. His death came less than a month after his retirement party October 10 in Lawrencetown, and just days after cleaning out his office at the exhibition grounds.

"He was someone anyone could approach and felt very comfortable with bringing up their opinions," said Elaine Marshall, president of the Annapolis Valley Exhibition board of directors. "He was a friend of everybody," said Jack Pearle who was exhibition president for nine of the years that Longley was manager. "He was the type of guy everybody liked. He was the type of guy who could solve problems without upsetting people. He was one of a kind, that's for sure."

And he was a great storyteller, said Pearle, who remembers 15-minute meetings stretching to an hour-and-a-half as Longley spun yarns.

"He had a memory like you wouldn't believe," said Pearle.

Longley, who was born in Middleton and grew up on the family farm in North Kingston, is survived by his wife Janet, three children, and six grandchildren.

Editor's Note: We at the Exhibitions Association of Nova Scotia would like to extend our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to John's family. For those of us who had the great fortune to work with John, it was truly an honour; his enthusiasm and dedication will be missed.

4-H Members and Leaders Participate in National Conferences

From The Province of Nova Scotia website www.gov.ns.ca



Nova Scotia 4-H members and leaders attended three national conferences during 4-H Month in November.

"4-H is a fabulous leadership development program that offers personal growth opportunities for our young people and volunteer adults," said Brooke Taylor, Minister of Agriculture. "The national conferences are a valuable networking opportunity for our delegates to promote the Nova Scotia 4-H program, to learn skills and more about 4-H in other parts of the country."

Sixty-five 4-H members from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States attended the 77th National 4-H Member Conference in Toronto, Nov. 5-9: Hillary Hudgins, Middleton, Annapolis Co.; Laura MacDougall, Antigonish; Carolyn Saunders, Marion Bridge, Cape Breton Co; Matthew Bryson, Amherst; Melody Sanford, Waterville, Kings Co.; Jason van Kessel, New Glasgow and Michael Withrow, Rawdon, Hants Co. were the delegates who attended the conference.

The National 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Conference ran concurrently with the 4-H member conference in Toronto and the theme for both was "Harnessing the Energy".

At both conferences delegates learned about using their personal energy in a positive way to enrich their lives, communities and the 4-H program, and discovered energy alternatives in business and agriculture through tours to agri-food or energy based businesses, presentations and workshops.

The Nova Scotia 4-H representatives who attended the leaders conference were: Marlene Maufort, Middle River, Victoria Co.; Cathy Tulkins, Heatherton, Antigonish Co.; Faye Lennerton, Clifton, Colchester Co.; Brenda Pick and Sarah Withrow both from Rawdon, Hants Co.; Pat Wentzell, Upper Branch, Lunenburg Co. and Sheila Floyd of Upper LaHave, Lunenburg Co.

Two delegates also attended the National 4-H Skills Conference in Brandon, Manitoba from Nov. 27 -30: Michelle Wentzell from New Germany, Lunenburg Co. and Lindsay MacDonald from Brook Village, Inverness County. The delegates explored the diversity of careers needed to support rural economies and improve employment skills needed in order to be successful in current and future job markets.

Growing Forward: The New Agricultural Policy Framework

Canada's federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of agriculture reached an important milestone and announced the completion of the Quebec agreement: the multilateral *Growing Forward* framework. The agreement is supported by a commitment of \$1.3 billion in funding over five years for non-business risk management (non-BRM) cost-shared programs. The announcement was made at the conclusion of their two-day annual meeting in historic Québec City.

The \$1.3 billion is cost-shared on a basis of 60/40 between the federal government and the provincial and territorial governments and represents an increase of \$330 million over non-BRM funding that was allocated under the Agricultural Policy Framework. The investment demonstrates the ongoing commitment of federal, provincial and territorial governments to a strong, competitive and profitable agricultural sector.

The new five-year multilateral framework is a significant achievement paving the way for new programs that support the Growing Forward vision of a profitable and innovative agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products industry that seizes opportunities in responding to market demands and contributes to the health and well-being of Canadians. Ministers credited input from more than 3,000 stakeholders and a strong partnership between federal, provincial and territorial governments as being the driving forces behind the development of Growing Forward.

Growing Forward is an integrated and comprehensive plan that focuses on key results in the areas of competitiveness and innovation, society's priorities and proactive risk management. Growing Forward will give farmers and others across the value chain the marketplace edge to capture business success, both domestically and in export markets. The new framework includes programs that enable greater adaptation and quicker response to changing consumer markets. A commitment to reducing governments' regulatory burden and providing better tools for entrepreneurs to plan and evaluate their businesses are other examples of how *Growing Forward* will help the sector achieve long-term profitability.

Growing Forward also focuses on supporting the enhancement of food safety systems and the continued implementation of on-farm environmental actions. In addition, the framework commits Governments to continue to work with the sector to put in place traceability and biosecurity systems.

For more information on this important initiative, please visit:

http://www.agr.gc.ca/index_e.php



Look for the "Growing Forward" link

**The Exhibitions
Association of Nova
Scotia**

40 Gateway Road,
Halifax, NS B3M 1M9

PHONE:
(902) 443-2039

FAX:
(902) 443-6721

E-MAIL:
glen.jefferson@ns.sympatico.ca

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.eans.ca>

Nova Scotia Farmers Honoured with Harvest Highway Designation

From The Province of Nova Scotia website www.gov.ns.ca



Outside Kentville on the newly named Harvest Highway

Highway 101 was designated Harvest Highway on Dec. 7, 2008 to recognize the important contributions of the farming community in Nova Scotia for centuries. The highway runs from Halifax, through the Annapolis Valley, to Yarmouth.

"Nova Scotia farmers are an important part of our rural communities," said Natural Resources Minister David Morse, on behalf of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Minister Murray Scott. "The naming of this highway calls special and deserved attention to the many farmers throughout the province and their many contributions to the landscape of the province."

Agriculture production and food processing contribute more than \$900 million annually to Nova Scotia's economy. The most recent figures show that agriculture in Nova Scotia employed 2,300 people full time and 700 part time, with food processing employing more than 13,000.

"The naming of Harvest Highway serves as a reminder of the province's efforts to encourage people to support local farmers and purchase locally grown products," said Mark Parent, Minister of Environment, on behalf of Brooke Taylor, Minister of Agriculture.

Richard Melvin, president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and area farmer is pleased with the designation.

"Nova Scotia farmers are an important element of our rural infrastructure and having signs and recognition reminds travellers to think local first."

Harvest Highway joins other highway designations including Miners Memorial Highway, Peacekeepers Way, and Veterans Memorial Highway. In the interest of safety, the highway will continue be referred to as Highway 101 by emergency personnel.