CLIFF CYRE POSTHUMOUSLY HONOURED WITH 2022 ALBERTA PULSE INDUSTRY INNOVATOR AWARD

Barrhead seed grower Cliff Cyre is remembered by his colleagues in the pulse industry for his efforts to advance pulse production in Alberta, as well as his enjoyment of interacting with people.

"As a young man in the '80s, I was surrounded by pulse pioneers and innovators - Cliff is definitely one of them," said Rick Mueller, former Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) president, adding that the APG Zone 3 tour was held at the Cyre and Mueller farms.

"Most of my memories of Cliff involve the pulse industry," he continued. "From zone meetings, to seed growing, to farm tours and research plots, Cliff was always invested in the pulse industry. The most important part of any meeting for Cliff was the social interaction before or after. He was a social convenor. Cliff's first seed crop was peas and his promotion of seed peas and faba beans helped develop the industry."

Cyre, 78, passed away on September 15, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Ida, their three children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

The APG Board of Directors selected Cyre as the posthumous recipient of the 2022 Alberta Pulse Industry Innovator Award.

"Cliff was a dedicated grower with a strong belief in diverse crop rotations, especially promoting the numerous benefits of pulse crops," said Mark Olson, former Provincial Pulse Unit Head. "There are two varieties that come to mind when I think about Cliff Cyre: Cooper, green field pea (2003) and Snowbird, zero tannin faba bean (2003). Snowbird faba bean is still grown on many acres of prairies today."

Cyre participated in many roles with APG's Zone 3 and on numerous committees to build Alberta's pulse industry over the years.

Olson recalled first meeting Cyre in the late 1980s when the latter was a member of the Alberta Regional Pulse Variety Trial Committee.

At that time there was an annual provincial pulse meeting that moved around the zones throughout the province, which Cyre and many other growers attended. Olson explained that the gathering consisted of the annual general meeting and a day or so devoted to pulse research in the areas of processing, marketing and agronomics. Olson recalled that since there was an overnight stay, growers, extension personnel, researchers, and company representatives from across the province got to know each other, especially through the evening

hospitality suite. Additionally, Cyre was a member of the Prairie Grain Development Committee, Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops for many years representing Alberta Seed Growers and/or Alberta Pulse Growers.

"Ken Lopetinsky and I, working for Alberta Agriculture and with the Alberta Pulse Growers' Zone 3, had numerous pulse research trials on Cliff and his son Greg's land over those years and were frequent speakers at the Cyre Seed Farms customer appreciation evening tour," Olson reminisced.

"Cliff was always welcoming with a warm smile and handshake," he continued. "He usually had a joke or two to tell or gentle teasing bringing a lot of laughter to those around him. He was a very sociable and likeable person, having a love for talking to people and seeing who you might know in common or possibly even be related to, and obviously he was a man way head of his time. Cliff was a great grower, advocate and supporter of field research and the pulse industry and he is greatly missed."