



**Dr. Bud Ings to be honoured with
Atlantic Award of Excellence in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Care**

November 5, 2009

Dr. Bud Ings, a pioneer of veterinary medicine in Prince Edward Island, will be presented with the Atlantic Veterinary College's Atlantic Award of Excellence in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Care this Saturday, November 7.

Throughout the years, Dr. Ings has become an icon for veterinary medicine, improving the lives of animals, and inspiring young veterinarians. As one of the first professionally trained veterinarians in the province, Dr. Ings played a monumental role in improving the lives of farm animals, setting a benchmark for the set up of veterinary practices, and shaping the role of veterinary medicine throughout Island communities.

"The Atlantic Veterinary College's Atlantic Award of Excellence is in many ways a life time achievement award," says Dr. Donald Reynolds, Dean of the Atlantic Veterinary College. "The award symbolizes excellence, a tireless commitment to make a difference, and outstanding contributions to veterinary medicine and animal care. Dr. Ings who is an incredibly deserving recipient and we are honoured that this award will carry his name."

The Atlantic Award of Excellence is determined through a public nomination process. Nominations are reviewed by representatives of the four Atlantic veterinary medical associations. Previous award winners include Dr. Ross Ainslie (Nova Scotia), Dr. Bob Curtis (Prince Edward Island) and Dr. George Irving (New Brunswick).

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Media: Dr. Ings will be presented with the Atlantic Award of Excellence in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Care during the Prince Edward Island Veterinary Medical Association's Annual General Meeting at The Charlottetown Hotel on Sat., Nov. 7 at 3:30 pm. The award is hand crafted from Nova Scotia Crystal. A portrait of Dr. Ings will also be unveiled. Dr. Ings is currently scheduled to attend.

Dr. Don Reynold's speaking notes and citation for Dr. Ings is as follows:

Atlantic Veterinary College
Atlantic Award of Excellence in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Care
Dr. Albert “Bud” Ings

One of the greatest privileges of being a Dean of a Veterinary College is awarding degrees to graduates who have worked hard to attain their dreams of becoming Doctors of Veterinary Medicine.

Similarly, it is a great pleasure to be asked to recognize those who have inspired our students and faculty – those who have shaped our profession and have provided a level of care that many of us can only imagine.

The Atlantic Award of Excellence in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Care was developed for this very reason. Established in 2005, it is in many ways a recognition of life time achievement.

To-date, Dr. Ross Ainsley, Dr. Bob Curtis and Dr. George Irving have been recognized with the Atlantic Veterinary College’s Atlantic Award of Excellence in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Care for their significant and outstanding contributions to veterinary medicine and animal care in Atlantic Canada.

The recipient of this year’s Atlantic Award of Excellence in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Care was determined through a public nomination process.

Nominations were reviewed by representatives from the four Atlantic Veterinary Medical Associations. I think it’s important to make mention of the fact that the VMA representatives were unanimous in their decision of who would receive the award this year.

This afternoon, I have the distinct pleasure of presenting this award to a pioneer of veterinary medicine – Dr. Albert “Bud” Ings.

And boy, does this gentleman deserve it.

Bud Ings has spent most of his life caring for animals.

Born to a farm family in 1926, Bud spent his early years helping raise milk cows with his father, brothers and sisters.

At the time, veterinarians were rare on the Island so Bud learned basic animal care at his father’s side. He started his training, as he says in his recent book, *Mud, Sweat and Tears*, “at

the age of six.” His early childhood experiences on the farm would solidify Bud’s life-long commitment to improving animal health through veterinary medicine.

In 1952, Bud graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College, returning to the Island to set up a private practice in Souris, focusing on large animals. As the only veterinarian in King’s County, he traveled far and wide in his faithful Volkswagen Beetle, winter, summer, spring and fall.

In those early years, Bud worked non-stop to prove to farmers that veterinary medicine was a good thing for their animals. His actions spoke loud. As his reputation grew, the health of livestock improved.

In the late 1960s, Bud, with his wife Connie and their three girls—Jeanne, Joanne and Jayne—moved to Montague where he built his own clinic, which became a model for small animal services at that time.

He could see changes coming to veterinary medicine with the focus shifting from large-animal to small-animal medicine. Small farms were disappearing on the Island with fewer farm animals needing veterinary attention and with more women entering the work force, money was available for companion animals. Up to 30% of his time was now devoted to dogs, cats and other pets.

In 1970, Bud entered the world of politics, serving as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Minister of Agriculture, and Minister of Health and Social Services for Prince Edward Island.

He was one of the strongest supporters of building a veterinary college on the Island and campaigned hard to achieve this goal. In 1982, Bud retired from politics and returned to practicing veterinary medicine.

For more than 50 years, Bud dedicated his life to improving the lives of animals, shaping veterinary medicine and how it is practiced, helping establish our Atlantic centre of expertise for veterinary medicine – the Atlantic Veterinary College – and serving as a role model for many young veterinarians. There is no question that he has made a tangible and lasting difference.

In the 1990's, Bud retired. In his own words he says that, “It was a fine time to be a rural veterinarian. I wouldn’t have missed it for the world.”

Bud has been called “our very own James Herriot” which proved especially poignant after writing *Mud, Sweat and Tears: Tales from a Country Vet* in 2008.

In recognition of his incredible and lasting contributions to veterinary medicine and animal care, Dr. Bud Ings was presented the Atlantic Veterinary College’s Hon. Eugene F. Whalen Green Hat Award in 2003.

More recently, Bud was chosen as PEI’s inductee into the 2009 Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame.

And today it is my pleasure to present him with the 2009 Atlantic Award of Excellence in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Care.

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