

Gabriel Comeau (Class of '72)
Distinguished Alumnus Award 2013

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the Faculty of Agriculture's most prestigious award, recognizing truly outstanding service and commitment to the Faculty of Agriculture, industry and the Alumni Association. The 2013 recipient of this award has done just that.

Gabriel Comeau is a well-known name that is highly regarded in the dairy industry, in particular. During challenging times, Gabriel made a significant impact on the industry in this province. His work is still evident today.

In 1989, Gabriel was appointed manager of the Nova Scotia Dairy Commission, a position he held for over 10 years. From that role, Gabriel became the first general manager of what is now Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia, until his retirement from that position two years later.

During his time in the dairy industry, Gabriel represented the province on numerous national committees, including the Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee. Gabriel participated in the negotiations leading to the establishment of Interprovincial milk pools in the mid 1990's. Provincially, he guided several initiatives, including major overhauls in producer pricing, milk transportation, merger of quotas into a single quota system and the eventually transition from a government commission to Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia, a producer-run marketing board.

Although Gabriel wasn't always heavily involved in the dairy industry, he's always had strong ties to agriculture.

After graduating from the former Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1972, Gabriel attended McGill University where he earned a B.Sc. (Agr.). In 1985 he studied at Cornell University, where he obtained a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics.

Upon his graduation from McGill, Gabriel joined the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, serving in various positions in the field of agricultural extension. This included work as assistant agricultural representative, agricultural representative, farm management specialist and farm management supervisor.

Since "retiring", Gabriel has operated a simultaneous interpretation company, Echovoix, which provides interpretation services to a variety of clients, primarily in the field of agriculture, across North America.

Gabriel is a member and a past president of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists. He was the recipient of the inaugural C. A. Douglas Extension Award, and is an honorary member of Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia.

Work is not the only task that keeps Gabriel busy. He enjoys a wide range of interests including travelling and sports. As a runner, Gabriel has participated in lots of events including the Cabot Trail Relay Race. He's a hockey fan, enjoying the sport as an athlete with a "gentleman's" league as well as

through a hockey pool. Gabriel also swings a mean golf club and has been known to ski down many a downhill ski slope.

He is proud of his Acadian heritage and retains a close connection to his home community of Meteghan, Digby County.

Gabriel has two children, Lianne and Matt and last year became a proud grandfather.

Gabriel has truly earned the honour of being named the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture's Distinguished Alumnus of 2013.