

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Joe Hudson earns Economic Development Award**

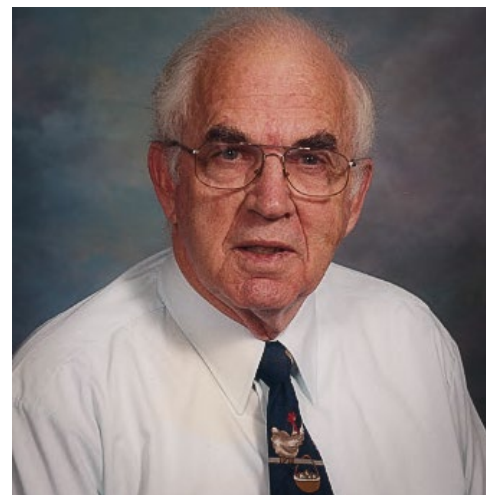
LYN – More than 80 years ago, a teenager named Joe Hudson bought some laying hens for a high school project. This action would, eventually, transform the dairy and crop-based Burnbrae Farms into one of the largest egg producers in the country.

Mr. Hudson is this year's recipient of the Bill Thake Memorial Award for Economic Development Leadership, also called the Warden's Award. He was honoured for his many achievements over the decades at the 15th Annual Leeds Grenville Economic Development Summit today at the North Grenville Municipal Centre.

"We are very proud," said daughter Margaret Hudson, President of Burnbrae Farms. Margaret and her sister Sue Hudson accepted the award on their father's behalf.

A letter of support for the nomination signed by Elizabethtown-Kitley Mayor Brant Burrow, states "Mr. Hudson has been a fundamental contributor to economic development in the area for over 50 years."

Mr. Hudson has earned many awards during a career that dates back to the 1940s, including the Golden Pencil Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made



***Now retired, Joe Hudson of Burnbrae Farms is known for his philanthropy and community leadership.***

a significant and worthwhile contribution to improving their community and the Canadian food industry overall. Other awards include the We Care Hall of Fame, the Canadian Grocery Business Hall of Fame and the Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame, to name just a few.

Burnbrae Farms has become an established and integral part of Canadian agribusiness. You can find their eggs and egg products in grocery stores and restaurants across the country. Burnbrae Farms is one of Canada's Best Managed Companies (Platinum Level) and employs approximately 1,700 workers across several provinces, including 400 employees at their facilities in Lyn and Brockville.

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year the Warden's Award has been presented to an individual who has shown outstanding commitment and leadership resulting in the growth and vitality of the Leeds Grenville economy.

Outstanding nominees for 2023 include: Susan Alford, Township of Rideau Lakes; Judi Baril, Township of Augusta; Shelley Mitchell, Municipality of North Grenville and Terry Wills, Township of Rideau Lakes. For more information on these local leaders, see the most recent edition of Leeds Grenville eNews at <https://conta.cc/46NiLgi>.

Since being introduced in 2011, the award has been presented to 19 individuals from across Leeds Grenville. More than 50 deserving women and men have been nominated. Last year's recipients were Dermid O'Farrell, of the Municipality of North Grenville, and Susan Warren, of the Township of Rideau Lakes.

During his lifetime, Bill Thake served 52 consecutive years on Westport Council to set a Canada-wide record as the longest serving head of a municipality. He was Warden of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville a record four times.

The summit is hosted by the Leeds Grenville Economic Development Office in partnership with Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes MP Michael Barrett, MPP Steve Clark, 1000 Islands, Valley Heartland and Grenville Community Futures Development Corporations, and the Eastern Workforce Innovation Board.

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