For Immediate Release

Feeding the Human Spirit - Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. Tim Henshaw

Guelph, Ontario - EastGen is proud to continue honouring the legacy of the late Dr. Tim Henshaw through the annual *Feeding the Human Spirit Leadership Award*. The 2026 award was presented to **Lori Chalmers of Oro-Medonte, Ontario**, by EastGen President Rob Bumstead on November 10 during the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

Lori Chalmers has made an extraordinary difference in the lives of agricultural youth throughout North Simcoe and beyond. Through her dedication to 4-H, her passion for agriculture, and her genuine care for young people, she has become a trusted mentor, role model, and friend to generations of youth.

As the current President of North Simcoe 4-H, Lori is deeply involved in developing opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and discover their potential. She leads numerous clubs and programs, including Beef, Cow-Calf, Cloverbuds, Gardening, and other creative activities, providing youth with opportunities to develop practical skills, build confidence, and strengthen their connection to agriculture.

Lori's impact is also recognized by the broader agricultural community. In its letter of endorsement, the Flos Agricultural Society praised her enthusiasm and dedication to youth, noting her ability to challenge each 4-H member according to their individual strengths and help them reach their potential. The Society also highlighted the confidence Lori instills in young people, qualities that will help shape them into tomorrow's leaders.

Her impact goes well beyond organizing clubs and activities. Lori takes a personal interest in the young people she mentors, offering encouragement through life's challenges, helping them pursue educational and career opportunities, and finding ways to make their ambitions possible. Her influence is evident in the many former 4-H members who have continued their involvement in agriculture, taken on leadership roles, and returned to the program to support the next generation.

One nominator shared how Lori encouraged a group of young 4-H members to develop, plan, and budget for a farm improvement project. Their work resulted in a barn retrofit that their parents agreed to undertake. More importantly, the experience gave the children the confidence to become stronger voices in their family farming operation. Today, those same young people are taking over their family's dairy and beef operations, with Lori continuing to offer her support.

Her mentorship has also inspired others to give back. Former 4-H member Ashley Miller credits Lori with helping her transition from a 4-H participant to a youth leader and, ultimately, a 4-H leader herself. As Ashley shared in her nomination, “Without Lori's guidance, I likely would not be a 4-H leader today.”

What makes Lori particularly deserving of this recognition is the selflessness with which she gives her time and support. Whether helping young people navigate difficult circumstances, providing a listening ear, writing letters of recommendation, or stepping in to ensure youth have opportunities to participate, she consistently puts others first. Her nominators describe someone who rarely seeks recognition and whose greatest reward is seeing young people succeed.

Established in 2023, the *Feeding the Human Spirit Leadership Award* recognizes an exceptional leader or mentor of agricultural youth who reflects the character and values of Dr. Tim Henshaw. An esteemed veterinarian, educator, and communicator, Dr. Henshaw was celebrated for his integrity, mentorship, and unwavering encouragement of young people to challenge themselves. He left a lasting impact on his community through his generosity, service, and spirit of support.

Lori Chalmers embodies these same qualities. Through her generosity, dedication, and genuine commitment to the next generation, she continues to strengthen her agricultural community and inspire young people to find their place and make a difference.

“Sometimes the greatest difference we can make is helping someone see what they’re capable of. Lori has done that for generations of young people, giving them the confidence and encouragement to find their place in Canadian agriculture. We’re proud to celebrate her and the values she shares with Dr. Henshaw,” said EastGen CEO Amanda Stokes.

EastGen congratulates Lori Chalmers on this well-deserved recognition and thanks her for the lasting difference she makes in the lives of agricultural youth.

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From left: Hugh Hunter & John Drummond, 2025 & 2023 recipients; EastGen CEO Amanda Stokes; Michaela (Chalmers) Stoneman, nominator; Lori Chalmers, 2026 recipient; Jarrett, Jane & Norah Henshaw; Dr. Christena (Henshaw) Rackus; & Rob Bumstead, EastGen President.

For further information, please contact:
Tara Reynolds, EastGen Marketing & Communications Specialist
Email: tara.reynolds@eastgen.ca

About

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