

# New Award Honours the Legacy of Renowned B.C. Farm Journalist David Schmidt

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CHILLIWACK, BC – In November 2023, the agricultural community in British Columbia lost one of its most dedicated voices with the sudden passing of veteran farm journalist David Schmidt. Today, the B.C. Farm Writers' Association is proud to announce the creation of the David Schmidt Legacy Award to honour his remarkable contributions to the agriculture industry and agricultural journalism in B.C. and across Canada.

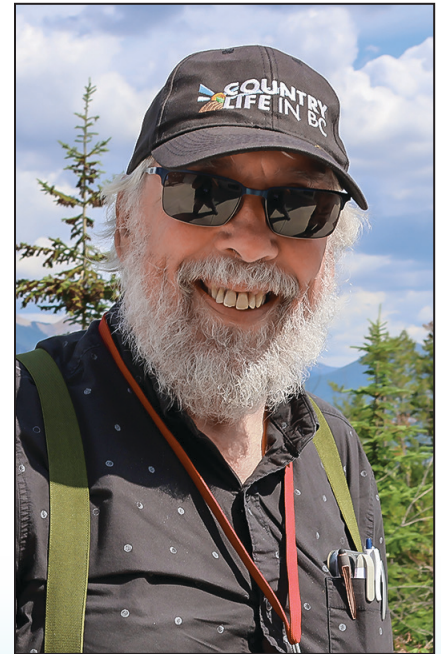
Raised on a mixed farm in Chilliwack, where he remained a longtime resident, David was the face of *Country Life in BC* for more than four decades. His writing chronicled the evolution of B.C.'s agricultural sector, from its small-scale roots to the commercial operations we know today. Known and respected for his commitment to accurate and insightful reporting and his passion for sharing the stories of B.C. farmers, David's grasp of agriculture production, policy and economics had a rare breadth and depth. As a result, his influence spanned every sector of B.C.'s diverse agricultural landscape, including producers, industry, and government.

As David's longtime colleague at *Country Life in BC*, Cathy Glover, aptly stated: "No one has written more words about B.C. agriculture than David Schmidt."

David received numerous accolades, including the 2018 Scotiabank Champion of Agriculture Award, 2018 B.C. Dairy Industry Achievement Award and a 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Farm Writers Federation. In 2000, he was named B.C.'s Agriculturist of the Year by the B.C. Institute of Agrologists—the only journalist ever to receive this honour.

Inspired by David's example, the David Schmidt Legacy Award will recognize B.C.-based journalists, communicators, and storytellers who produce research-based stories that delve into the heart of B.C. agriculture. Funded through an endowment held by the Vancouver Foundation, this annual award aims to uphold the values David championed: integrity, depth, and a commitment to sharing the stories of B.C. farmers.

David Schmidt's dedication to B.C. agriculture left an indelible mark on the industry—the B.C. Farm Writers' Association invites the community to honour his legacy by contributing to the endowment fund. To donate, go to [www.vancouverfoundation.ca](http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca) and search for "David Schmidt." Donations over \$25 will receive a charitable tax receipt.



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