

J. (JOHN) KIMPINSKI

John Kimpinski was born in Strathclair, Manitoba and his family moved to Winnipeg when he was two years old.

Following Grade 12, he studied business accounting and administration at Success Business College in Winnipeg where he was encouraged to learn to type by the principal of the college. He went on to win a gold medal for completing the standard ten-minute typing test with no errors and a speed of 70 words per minute.

John joined CN Rail in 1953 and worked at various positions in the engineering and freight sales departments, earning his CITT designation in 1969. He was awarded the Charles Edsforth Medal for the highest standing in Introductory and Transportation Economics. This was followed by a four-year leave of absence to obtain a B.Comm. (Honours) degree at the University of Manitoba where he was listed to the Dean's Honour Role. He returned to CN in 1973 as Regional Freight Sales Analyst.

After resigning from CN in 1975, John joined the Canadian Transport Commission in Ottawa as Senior Economist. In 1980 he was appointed Executive Director of the commission's new Western Division headquartered in Saskatoon.

He served on the CITT Board of Directors in the mid-80s, including position of chairman in 1984. In 2009, he was inducted into the CITT 40-Year Club.

On relocation to Saskatoon in 1980, John joined the Saskatoon Traffic Club (now the Transportation Club) and the Saskatoon Golf & Country Club, serving on the executive of both, including president of each.

In 1985, the Canadian Transport Commission became the National Transportation Agency of Canada. John was appointed Regional Director, Western Region, retiring from the position in 1991.

In 1989, he cofounded the Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame. John was initially co-chairman and has been chairman since 1992. He chaired the 1997 National Transportation Day hosted by the Transportation Club and is five-time chairman of the annual National Transportation Week awards banquet hosted by the Transportation Club. He received the Transportation Club's Award of Excellence in 1995. In 2004, he rejoined the Transportation Club executive as club treasurer and has held this position for the past 10 years.

John and his wife, Grace, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in September 2012. They have four children—daughter Cheryl and sons Kevin, Trevor and Terry. Over the past 20 years, the family has grown significantly with the addition of 13 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Inducted into
The Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame
June 2013