

R. A. (ROSS) WALKER

Ross Allan Walker was born in Lindsay, Ontario. Growing up on a mixed farm, with emphasis on dairy cattle, he shovelled a lot of manure. One cold winter day he firmly resolved that, much as he liked cows, he would pursue a career other than in agriculture.

After graduation from Lindsay Collegiate in 1947 Mr. Walker joined Canadian National Railways. He began as Asst. Agent and progressed through increasingly senior positions. More recent examples would be Area Manager, Thunder Bay and Winnipeg, 1969-1971; Director, Accident Prevention and Safety, Montreal, 1971-1972; Chief of Transportation, Montreal, 1972-1979; Vice-President, Mountain Region, Edmonton, 1979-1985; Senior Vice-President, Western Canada, Edmonton, 1985-1994.

As Senior Vice-President, Western Canada, Mr. Walker had overall responsibility for a business with annual revenues in excess of two billion dollars, expenditures of \$850 million, annual capital expenditures of \$150 million, and a work force of ten thousand people. His management responsibilities included the development and implementation of financial, operational and human resource policies for CN's Western Canadian railway operations.

In addition to the regular day to day matters, he was directly involved in the following issues which had significant impact on the Province of Saskatchewan:

- the great Crow Rate debate.
- the Prairie Branch Line Rehabilitation Program and the expansion and upgrading of rail lines to Vancouver and Prince Rupert.
- development of incentive rates for grain movement.
- development of the port at Ridley Island for grain and coal loading.

Mr. Walker has served as director with the Western Transportation Advisory Council, CIC Canola Industries of Canada, Canac Consultants, Northwestel, CN Explorations, and Integrated Resources Inc.

He was held the office of Governor of Junior Achievement of Alberta, Governor of the Business Council of B.C., and received the award of Officer, Order of St. John.

It is interesting to note that, in retirement, Mr. Walker owns and operates a 1500 acre cattle ranch at Rocky Mountain House, Alta.

Inducted into the
Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame
June 2000