



Biography



Robert McLaughlin Ph.d, P. Ag.

Chairman and president, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Appointed last year to the position of president of The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Robert McLaughlin is responsible for the governance of the organization including strategic direction. Rob has a strong background in agriculture, and extensive experience in leadership roles with the University of Guelph and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Jointly with his president's role at The Royal, he currently serves as Associate Vice-President Agri-food Strategies at University of Guelph and was Associate Vice-President (Research) Agri-Food and Partnerships at University of Guelph from 2003 to 2007.

From 2001 to 2003, Rob served as vice-president of alumni affairs and development, at the University of Guelph, managing the Science of Life, Art of Living campaign and was instrumental in raising more than \$70 million for the cause, and was recognized for strengthening the school's alumni programs by realigning staff resources in tandem with the deans' offices. Rob was dean of the Ontario Agricultural College for more than 10 years, assuming responsibility for the Guelph Food Council and the Council on Rural Communities.

Before working as a member of the university team, Rob acted as executive director of the education and research division of OMAFRA. As part of his portfolio he managed a decentralized network of eight line branches which included five colleges, 22 research stations and the contract for diploma teaching, agri-food research and technology transfer services with the University of Guelph. He first began with OMAFRA in 1982 as director of the Plant Industry Branch.

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Rob has served as a director of several boards including the Confederation of Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, OAC Alumni Foundation, George Morris Centre (Canada's AgriFood Thinktank), Agricultural Leadership Trust, Country Heritage Experience Incorporated, the Guelph Food Technology Centre and the 4-H Foundation. He remains actively involved with many other producer boards and councils.

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For more information on The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair visit www.royalfair.org

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